Wilma J. Grey named Director

Trish Morris-Yamba, President of the Newark Public Library’s Board of Trustees, announced that Wilma J. Grey has been selected as the tenth Director of the Library. Ms. Grey had been the Acting Director since July 2004, when Dr. Alex Board retired after sixteen years as Director. Previous to that, Ms. Grey was the Assistant Director of Community Library Services for nearly fifteen years.

In her new position, she is responsible for the administration of the Main Library and ten Branch Libraries, the development and implementation of a multi-million-dollar operating budget, supervision of nearly two hundred staff members, oversight of eight departments, as well as interaction with the Board of Trustees, City officials and community agencies and groups.

“Ms. Grey has served the Newark community for more than thirty-five years in various roles at the Newark Public Library,” said Ms. Morris-Yamba. “She was the unanimous choice of the Board to be the next Director of New Jersey’s largest municipal public library.”

“For the past months I have been privileged to serve as Acting Director,” commented Ms. Grey. “I look forward to enhancing our offerings to the residents of Newark, while at the same time encouraging them to be partners in our development and progress.”

Ms. Grey holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Howard University and a Master of Library Science from Rutgers University. Additionally she has a CPM (Certified Public Manager) Certificate from the New Jersey Department of Personnel and Rutgers University, and an LADP (Library Administrators Development Program) Certificate from the University of Maryland.

Her activities and memberships include the American Library Association, the New Jersey Library Association, The Newark Literacy Campaign (President of the Board of Trustees), the Newark Black Film Festival Committee, the Newark Chapter of Rotary International, the South Orange Public Library (Treasurer, Board of Trustees), and The Newark Arts Council (Board of Directors).

“I look forward to enhancing our offerings to the residents of Newark, while at the same time encouraging them to be partners in our development and progress.”

Wilma J. Grey
Although January is the beginning of the New Year, librarians share with teachers and students the anticipation of the “new year” that begins in September, when the school calendar commences. It is at this time that the Newark Public Library welcomes back students of all ages, and encourages them to partake of a multitude of services and activities designed especially for them.

For example, Club Success, our after-school, homework-assistance program that is open to students in grades one through eight, is offered at all eleven Library locations. A certified teacher is on hand to provide assistance in all subject areas, and there are computers available that students may use for their assignments.

Another program is one geared for kindergarteners. Through the Learning About Me and My World program, kindergarten classes are brought to Branch Libraries for an age-appropriate orientation designed to encourage reading and to set the stage for independent, regular library use.

Saturday morning children’s programs are provided throughout the school year at various Branch locations. These musical performances, plays and workshops are thematically based on the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and are not only fun for the children, but are educational. These and other programs receive support from the Newark Public Schools.

In addition to the Branch-based programs, monthly performances for children and families are held at the Main Library on Saturday afternoons. And, of course, there are regular story hours and reading activities in all of the Children’s Rooms.

I urge all students to utilize the Newark Public Library as their personal “doorway to knowledge” and center for lifelong learning.

Wilma J. Grey, Director

Join us on Thursday, November 10th as the Library celebrates Booked for the Evening, our annual gala dinner. We are proud to announce that James A. Courter, CEO of IDT, will serve as the Dinner Chairman for this special event. The gala will honor the Victoria Foundation and Catherine McFarland, Executive Officer, for their generous on-going support of the Library. Thomas P. Giblin, Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers-Local 68, and Ellen Marshall, President of Business Banking at Independence Community Bank, are co-chairing the Event Committee.

Booked for the Evening will be held at Nanina’s in the Park, Belleville, with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Library’s Annual Fund Campaign, the fund that guarantees access to cultural, educational and informational resources to all who seek them – free of charge! For more information or to purchase tickets to this signature fundraising event please call CDK Events Management at (973) 921-2880.

Wilma J. Grey

Gala Planned for November 10th

BOOKED FOR THE Evening
On the Branches

With the completion of many successful programs—Create Your Own Book Challenge, the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge, Anime Films for Teens by Hayao Miyazaki (held at the Van Buren Branch), and Summer Fun Activities—comes the expectation of even more fun events system wide.

Here’s some of what’s on tap for the fall: Saturday Programs @ the Branches (thanks to another grant from the Newark Public Schools), the third annual College Fair @ Springfield—September 24, from 10:00am to 1:00pm—and the resumption of Springfield’s SAT Prep program on most Wednesdays and Saturdays (both programs made possible by grants from the Community Foundation of New Jersey; call the Branch at 973-733-7736 for details), and the award-winning Club Success homework-assistance program that is funded by a grant from the Newark Public Schools.

For more information on what’s in store, visit any NPL location, or check out our websites: www.npl.org (programs for adults), kidsplace.npl.org (children’s programs).

The NPL concluded another very successful and fun Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge. At the August 20 awards ceremony for the Challenge, hundreds of young readers were recognized with special prizes and participation certificates. Pictured here are some of the “200-book” readers with their Branch librarians.
Future Tense for the College-Bound

With “back-to-school” here, you may already be thinking about the next step for yourself or perhaps for your children. You can find resources at the Newark Public Library to expedite difficult decisions and procedures.

Profiles of institutions, tips for application essays, financial aid and scholarship leads, advice on adjusting to college life, and other concerns are addressed by a host of books, magazines, and electronic materials. For authoritative Internet sites visit the Library’s webguide at www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/SubjectGuides/colleges.html.

As you prepare for college entrance examinations, such as the recently revised Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), you will find many books with chapters on test-taking skills and sample questions. Consider also the LearningExpress database—it’s available at any NPL facility, or at a remote location with your NPL card number. Visit www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/index.html and scroll to LearningExpress. Beyond the SAT, use this valuable tool to prepare for a variety of tests/careers: GED, TOEFL, GRE, MCAT, LSAT, Civil Service, cosmetology, firefighter, law enforcement, and others.

For more information, visit Central Reference on the Main Library’s second floor, or call them at (973) 733-7820 or 7779.

Robert Treat Endowment Established

Thanks to the generosity of Charles F. Cummings, Assistant Director for Statewide Outreach and Special Collections, the NPL has established the Robert Treat Endowment for the purchase of Newark and New Jersey materials for the New Jersey Information Center. The endowment is so-named for Robert Treat, a founding father of Newark in 1666, and to honor Newark’s rich heritage. Since its recent inception, the fund has grown to nearly $1,500. Those wishing to show their support may call Susan Mazzeo, Annual Fund Manager, at (973) 424-1832.
Annual Fund Needs Your Support

While excellence requires a clear mission and dedicated staff, it also relies on financial support. We need the assistance of individuals, corporations and foundations to enable us to remain New Jersey’s premier urban public library. Gifts made toward the Annual Fund Campaign help us to update our collections, enhance our programs and upgrade our technology.

There are many ways to demonstrate your support of the Annual Fund. You can start today by returning your gift in the attached envelope! Or you may purchase tickets, sponsorships or advertising for our main fundraising event, *Booked for the Evening*, which will be held on November 10th. Call CDK Events Management at (973) 921-2880 for more information.

We extend sincere appreciation to those who have already contributed to the 2005 Annual Fund. Your support helps to continue our commitment to excellence and enables us to provide quality resources, outstanding programs and superior service!

Golf Tournament Scores Big!

The Library hosted another successful “Book Classic” Golf Tournament in July at the Plainfield Country Club. Golf enthusiasts joined us at one of New Jersey’s top private clubs for a day packed with food, fun, networking and golf!

The Library wishes to thank all who supported the tournament—especially Independence Community Bank and Hillier Architecture Group for generously providing the dinner sponsorship and the hole-in-one sponsorship, respectively. We are proud to announce that the event raised over $10,000 in support of the 2005 Annual Fund Campaign.

Be sure to circle July 11, 2006 for next year’s “Book Classic.”
Colombians in New Jersey: Creating New Horizons showcases the presence of the Colombian community in New Jersey.

Second-Floor Gallery
Through October 22

Exhibition

October

Saturday

1 Hispanic Arts & Culture Day
Celebrate Familia!
A family event that features storytelling, arts-and-crafts for children, family literacy sessions for parents, author readings, and more. Sponsored by Puerta al Futuro/Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Auditorium; 10:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday

Music & Dance
Grupo Orquídea de Oro de Colombia & Grupo Clase Aparte
Enjoy the music and dance of Colombia performed by two popular groups. Orquídea de Oro, traditional folk dancers whose objective is to promote the rich traditions of Colombia will delight the audience with dances from the different regions of Colombia. Clase Aparte will perform what is perhaps the most popular music emanating from Colombia since the 1970s: el vallenato.

Centennial Hall; 2:00pm

Music & Dance
Orquídea de Oro de Colombia

Centennial Hall; 2:00pm

This celebration is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

Centennial Hall; 2:00pm

All programs are free and open to the public.
For more information call 973-733-7772 or visit us on the Web at www.npl.org.
Colombianos en New Jersey: Creando Nuevos Horizontes destaca la presencia de la comunidad colombiana en New Jersey.

Galería del Segundo Piso Hasta el 22 de octubre

¡A Celebrar la Familia!
Una actividad para toda la familia que incluye narrativa de cuentos y manualidades para niños, talleres de lectura para la familia, charlas y lecturas por autores, y mucho más. Presentado por Puerta al Futuro / Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Programas

Jueves
15 Recepción y apertura de la exhibición y los programas, con la participación de Silvana Paternostro, periodista y escritora nacida en Colombia, seleccionada por CNN / Time como una de las principales voces de Latinoamérica para el próximo milenio.

Centennial Hall; 6:00 p.m.

Sábado
15 Música y Baile Grupo Orquídea de Oro de Colombia & grupo vallenato Clase Aparte
Disfrute de la música y el baile de Colombia con la presentación de dos grupos populares. Orquídea de Oro, un grupo de baile folclórico tradicional cuyo objetivo es promover la riqueza de las tradiciones colombianas, deleitará al público con los bailes de las diferentes regiones de Colombia. El vallenato es la música más popular que ha surgido de Colombia desde el año 1970. Disfrute de una tarde de folclor vallenato en la biblioteca con el grupo Clase Aparte.

Centennial Hall; 2:00 p.m.

Esta celebración recibe parte de sus fondos del Consejo para las Artes del Estado de New Jersey / Departamento del Estado, una Agencia Asociada a la Fundación Nacional para las Artes, y administrado por la División de Asuntos Culturales e Históricos del Condado de Essex.

Todos los programas son gratuitos y están abiertos al público.
The Library is mounting an exhibition, entitled *Photo by Dorer: American Photographer and New Jersey Chronicler*, on the second- and third-floor galleries from November 1, 2005, through January 7, 2006. It is a major exhibition co-curated by John T. Cunningham and Charles F. Cummings, with curatorial assistance by Brad Small, and technical photographic assistance from Richard Koles and Barbara Moss. Local historian Elizabeth Del Tufo is also lending her expertise to the project.

*Photo by Dorer* investigates the lifetime work of Harry C. Dorer, showing his knowledge and love of New Jersey. From its bustling cities to its rural retreats, New Jersey is on view. Among the many personalities included are Thomas Edison, Elizabeth White, the Prince of Wales, Joe Louis, Annie Oakley, and Gertrude Ederle. This exhibition was made possible by grants from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and from the Ralph C. Peck Family.

The photographs in the exhibition are from the Library’s New Jersey Information Center, as well as several photographs and other memorabilia that will be on loan from Mrs. Dorothy Peck. Three types of materials included from the Library’s collection are original portraits taken by Harry Dorer and autographed by the subject, selections of rotogravures from the Newark Sunday Call newspaper that include hundreds of Dorer’s action photographs, and a microfilm collection photographed thirty years ago from original glass negatives and safety negatives. After a review of several thousand candidates for inclusion in the exhibition, a series of topics has been provided which show Dorer’s knowledge and love of New Jersey.

A reception with the curators will take place on Thursday, December 1, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Please call Heidi Cramer at (973) 733-7837 for more information or to R.S.V.P.

For more information on *Photo by Dorer*, which is free and open to the public during Library hours, call Mr. Cummings at (973) 733-4870, or visit www.npl.org. Group visits to the exhibition may be arranged by calling Mr. Cummings.
Greek Heritage Remembered

Childhood friends Angelique Lampros and Peter Markos had a vision to share the story of Greek immigrants who arrived in Newark at the turn of the 20th Century. They collected photographs and other ephemera from many of their community contacts and worked with Charles F. Cummings, Assistant Director for Special Collections, to compile the materials.

The resulting exhibition, Remembering Newark’s Greeks: An American Odyssey, was on view at the NPL at the end of 2002. Exhibition materials were contributed to the Library to become the Hellenic Heritage Collection, housed in the New Jersey Information Center. Since the closing of the show, Ms. Lampros and Mr. Markos have been raising funds to preserve and expand the collection to include materials that document Greeks who settled throughout New Jersey. Thanks to the generosity of many Greek-American individuals and businesses, the collection has been preserved on microfilm and is available in the NJIC.

Ms. Lampros and Mr. Markos are also authoring a book with many photographs and interviews that were collected for the exhibition. This commemorative volume will be published in October 2006, and proceeds will be used toward the maintenance and development of the Hellenic Heritage Fund.

Another exciting development is that materials from the collection will be digitally preserved and accessible through the New Jersey Digital Highway, a user-centered information portal for cultural heritage institutions. The New Jersey Digital Highway is funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, with Rutgers University and the New Jersey State Library as the principal grant partner organizations.

Gertrude Fund Update

In the last issue of The Second Century, we proudly announced the establishment of the Gertrude Fine Print Endowment Fund by William J. Dane, Supervising Librarian and Keeper of Prints, Posters and Works of Art on Paper. The Fund, named in honor of his sister, has since grown by an additional $13,000 gift from Mr. Dane.

To showcase some recent acquisitions, many of which were purchased thanks to a $10,000 donation from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Library has mounted an exhibition, entitled New Visual Treasures, on the third-floor gallery through October 15. The NPL is holding a reception on Thursday, September 29, at 6:30pm in Centennial Hall. The reception, which is free and open to the public, will be an opportunity to view this exciting exhibition and meet Mr. Dane.

Those wishing to pledge their support of the Gertrude Fund, or to learn more about the reception, may call Susan Mazzeo at (973) 424-1832.

Cord by Michael Pellettieri, color lithograph, 1994
New Seasons Planned

As this issue of *The Second Century* went to press, two of the Main Library’s popular program series—*Hooray for Children* and the *F.E.W. Harper Literary Society*—were making exciting plans for their 2005-06 seasons.

The *Harper Literary Society*, which is dedicated to discussing books on the African Diaspora, will hold a registration on Saturday, September 17, from Noon to 1:00pm, in the James Brown African-American Room. The Society’s first program, which begins at 6:30pm on Wednesday, September 21, will be a viewing of *Ain’t Gonna Shuffle No More (1964-72)*. For more information, call (973) 733-5411 or visit www.npl.org and select Programs & Exhibits.

*Hooray for Children*, which is in its 34th year of presenting quality live performances by puppeteers, storytellers, magicians and theater groups, will present its first program on Saturday, October 22, beginning 2:00pm. Entitled “The Last Dragon On Earth,” it is a timeless modern tale of tolerance and compassion performed by the Crabgrass Puppet Theatre and their blend of beautiful puppets, fabulous scenery full of castles and caves, and hysterically funny action. To learn of future events, visit kidsplace.npl.org/calendar.html.

A Ceramic City

The Vailsburg Branch is the proud recipient of a sculpture, created by students from the Alexander Street School, that is entitled *Newark Neighborhood: A Ceramic City*. “This is a major work of more than 100 ceramic pieces ‘mapping’ the streets around the library and the school,” explained Vailsburg Branch Manager Edward Small. Anker West, the resident artist, and Andrea Goodman, the art teacher, sponsored the project.

A dedication reception will be held on September 21, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm; call the Branch at (973) 733-7755 for details.

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The Second Century is published by the Development Department of the Newark Public Library, Wilma J. Grey, Library Director, and the Board of Trustees: Trish Morris-Yamba, President; Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez, Vice President; Newark Public Schools District Superintendent Marion A. Bolden, Dr. Gayle W. Griffin, Alternate, Secretary; Joseph Yeadon, Treasurer; Alberto Coutinho; Dr. Timothy J. Crist; Mayor Sharpe James, Dwayne Ashley, Alternate; Dr. Clement Alexander Price.

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Telephone: 973-733-7793
http://www.npl.org
ISSN 1049-5509

Editor, J. Dennis Papp
Design and Production by Jenkins Graphics
Printed by Mariano Press

The printing/distribution of The Second Century is funded by the Library’s administrative budget.

The URL for this issue is: http://www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/SecondCentury/vol16num3/vol16num3.pdf
Trading Spaces: NPL Style

Nothing is more constant than change. Even in libraries. As new formats for information and knowledge evolve, so too do libraries. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Main Library where the facility has been redesigned many times in response to changing needs. To make it even easier to find the information and services patrons need, several areas have recently been consolidated, relocated, and expanded.

Library users can now find all general reference resources and periodicals in one area, Central Reference, on the second floor. The Fiction and Biography collections have also been moved to new, larger areas on the second floor. Both the Victoria Technology Center computer lab and the Technology Training Center have been expanded and relocated to a new area on the third floor.

Stop by and see how “trading library spaces” has made your Library a more convenient and comfortable place to visit for your information and technology needs. You may also “visit” them at reference@npl.org, or phone (973) 733-7779 or 7820.

With the merger of the Arts & Humanities and the Business, Science & Technology departments, patrons may now receive assistance with their reference needs at one consolidated location: Central Reference.

Free Computer Classes @ the Library

As technology changes rapidly, look for help @ the Library. You can consult our significant collection of books and magazine articles about computers, software, and networks. Or you can visit the page of computer tutorials listed at www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/SubjectGuides/comptut.html.

Those who prefer to work with an instructor will want to take hands-on classes at the Library. As part of the reorganization of the Main Library, the Technology Training Center, now equipped with 15 computer stations, has been moved to the third floor. Instruction, in both English and Spanish, resume this month with an expanding array of classes, including Using the Mouse, Microsoft PowerPoint, Internet I and II, Microsoft Excel, Email I and II, Typing, and Word Processing.

An expanding array of classes will address establishing your own website, blogging, completing tax forms online, and more. Sessions for parents and children on safe, savvy Internet searching are also planned.

Registration or reservations are not required. Simply sign in at the Victoria Technology Center desk 15-30 minutes in advance of the class you wish to take.

To find current offerings, please see the diverse calendar and descriptions at www.npl.org/Pages/Computers/Classes/index.html or telephone the Victoria Technology Center at (973) 733-3603.
Friends continue community outreach

With a successful participation in the 2004 Ironbound Cultural Festival at Riverbank Park as the benchmark, the Friends of the Newark Public Library took part in the 2005 event with enthusiasm and anticipation. Their planning and hard work were justly rewarded.

The Friends sponsored an artwork station this year—last year it was story writing—asking the students to draw their favorite impressions of the park. The collection of drawings, from students of all ages, will be preserved in the Van Buren Branch Library, to become a part of the living history of the Ironbound community.

Special thanks go to Nancy Zak, Outreach Coordinator of the Ironbound Community Corporation, who has been a catalyst in the continuing partnership between the NPL and the Ironbound.

Another outreach endeavor of the Friends benefited student writers who “dread staring at a blank page.” The program, Tell Your Story: A Workshop for Young Writers, focused on Newark students in grades 5 to 9. It was a collaborative effort among Rutgers-Newark, Newark Project GRAD, the Friends, and Charlene Baskerville, Educational Consultant, Project GRAD Newark.

The first class of students completed the two-year program earlier this year. Plans are underway to enroll a new group of students at the beginning of this school year.

“Lights” continue to shine

The Friends are continuing Your Name in Lights, a project to raise funds to replace exhibition lighting and make additional improvements to the exhibition galleries. A special “behind-the-scenes” tour of the Library’s Special Collections will be held in October—exclusively for donors to this Friends’ initiative. This will be an opportunity to see the Library’s fine prints, artists’ books and rare posters—up close—with commentary from William J. Dane. To make a donation to Your Name In Lights, visit the website friends.npl.org, or call Heidi Cramer at (973) 733-7837.