A New Door Opens . . .

Lobby Renovations Completed

Phase I of the plan to renovate the Main Library has been completed. The transformation of the widened Washington Street entrance—with two sets of new doors—welcomes our patrons to a lobby that features a modern checkout/return desk, attractive new shelving for a wide assortment of new books, and—adjacent to the lobby—a Media Center with a more-visible, expanded collection of DVDs, videocassettes and CDs. Included in Phase I were the restoration of 108 historically significant windows and the relocation of the Information Desk to a convenient area just inside the inner lobby doors.

At the festive February dedication ceremony, Library Director Wilma J. Grey stated: “This was the first of the Library’s planned three-pronged project of renewal, refurbishment and enlargement to meet the technological and cultural challenges of the 21st Century.”

During the ceremony, the Library recognized the financial partners that made this $1.3-million project possible: The Prudential Foundation 125th Anniversary Fund and the New Jersey State Library Public Library Construction Bond Program. The City of Newark provided additional funding for this rejuvenation.

As part of their individual remarks, both Mary Puryear, Program Officer for The Prudential Foundation, and Norma Blake, New Jersey State Librarian, commented that the new entrance and lobby are very welcoming, spacious and functional.

If you haven’t visited the Main Library in a while, be sure to stop by and see the new face we put on for you—it’s sure to put a smile on yours.
Does the name John Cotton Dana sound familiar? It is a name that should be known to many, for Mr. Dana was one of the most famous and influential Newarkers of all time. He was the second director of the Newark Public Library, serving in that capacity from 1902 until his death in 1929. In addition to being a librarian of the highest order, Mr. Dana had other very impressive pursuits. He founded The Newark Museum, played a leading role in the institutions that became Rutgers-Newark, was an expert in the printing arts, served as the president of the American Library Association and wrote prolifically.

To say that Mr. Dana had a profound influence on the library profession is an understatement. In many ways he “invented” the way that library services have been delivered throughout the 20th century and into the present; libraries throughout the nation have adopted his “modern” practices. Some of his innovations include open book stacks, library services to children, library advertising and printing, materials for the business sector, and collections in many languages for immigrant populations.

The subject of Mr. Dana has resurfaced recently for good reason. The Newark Public Library is celebrating the 150th anniversary of his birth with an exhibition and a special program. This year, Newarkers will have the opportunity to learn more about the life and works of John Cotton Dana. The legacy of this cultural giant who contributed so much to our City should be a source of inspiration and civic pride to all.

Wilma J. Grey, Director

NPL receives NJLA accolades . . .

The New Jersey Library Association honored the NPL with three awards during its Spring Conference: Heidi Cramer, received the President’s Award; Dr. Clement Alexander Price, the Trustee Recognition Award; and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Philip Roth, the Power of the Press Award.

NJLA President April Judge said, “My President’s Award goes to a very special, distinguished young woman who exemplifies the spirit of the NJLA . . . for exceptional leadership and service.”

Dr. Price is the most senior member of the Library’s Board of Trustees, having served for 20 years. In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Price noted: “Serving as a trustee of the Library and a director of the Urban Libraries Council has deepened my commitment to the centrality of the book in our lives.”

Dr. Clement Alexander Price

Philip Roth received the award for his December 25th op-ed piece in the Star-Ledger that paid tribute to his friend, Charles Cummings, who had died the week before. Mr. Roth spoke of Cummings as “a great Newark hero.”

Congratulations to our award winners.

Heidi Lynn Cramer

Philip Roth
Summer is fun @ the NPL

No sooner did the Library complete many successful children’s programs—including Create A Bookmark Contest, N.J. Devils’ Essay Contest, Club Success, Create-Your-Own-Book, and Saturday Programs @ the Branches—when all Children’s Rooms began preparations for the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge, which runs from June 26 to August 5, and other Summer Fun activities.

The theme for this year’s Challenge is Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales! A festive rally—Tuesday, June 27, 10am to Noon, Centennial Hall—will kickoff this ever-popular summer program that has seen children read more than 130,000 books since the program’s inception. The rally features entertainment by Beth & Scott and Friends—who will present “Just Wild About Books,” a laugh-filled and musical program—refreshments, and a free gift. Corky, our Kids’ Place website mascot, will be there to meet and greet the children.

In addition to the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge, all of the Children’s Rooms will host numerous Summer Fun activities. For more information, stop by any of the Children’s Rooms or visit Kids’ Place on our website: www.npl.org.

Wins of the “Create A Bookmark” contest that was held during National Children’s Book Week are pictured with their Children’s Librarian: Rekha Gandhi (Branch Brook Branch), Marco Tueros, Nicole Thompson, and Clara Wilson (Springfield Branch).

The NPL and the N.J. Devils sponsored an essay contest to bring hockey awareness to Newark’s youth. The winners were honored at a City Hall ceremony. Front row, from left: winners Ty-Kwon Allen, Jesus Moran, and Niruban Bahetharan. Back row, from left: Devils’ owner Jeff Vanderbeek, Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Devils’ owner Michael Gilfillan, and “N.J.” the New Jersey Devils’ mascot.
Two exhibitions are on view at the Main Library until mid June: Shopping Bags: Infinite Design Solutions for an Everyday Product (2nd-floor gallery to June 15) and A Salute to Two Great 20th Century Artists: Picasso and Lichtenstein (3rd-floor gallery to June 17).

August 19 marks the sesquicentennial of the birth of John Cotton Dana, the second director of the Newark Public Library, a nationally respected leader in the fields of librarianship and museum studies, and for almost three decades the primary agent for the advancement of education and culture in Newark. William J. Dane and Bruce E. Ford will curate an exhibition, entitled A Sesquicentennial Celebration to Honor John Cotton Dana, The Newark Public Library Pays Him Tribute, that focuses on Dana's multi-faceted contributions to the city of Newark. It will be on view on the 2nd-floor gallery from July 1 until August 31.

The 3rd-floor exhibition, which will run from July 3 to September 8, will feature original artwork by Robert Sabuda that was reproduced to create some of the most-popular and stunning pop-up/movable books. The exhibition includes examples of these books, some of which are from the Library's Special Collections. Entitled Robert Sabuda: Travels in Time and Space, the show is on loan from the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature.

For more information, visit www.npl.org and click on “Programs & Exhibitions.” Those interested in a group tour should call Mr. Dane at 973-733-7745.

For those seeking articles and information from authoritative sources, the databases available through the Library’s EBSCOhost interface are an excellent resource. EBSCOhost contains sixteen databases, with two that are particularly helpful with research: Academic Search Premier and Business Source Premier.

Academic Search Premier provides full-text access to over 4,600 journals. The database is searchable by keyword, and results may be restricted by publication date, publication name, full-text availability, peer-review, and publication type. It is also possible to browse each journal by issue. Chasing citations? There is a cited references option, which allows searching and linking to the article with the requested citation, if available.

For those searching for business information, Business Source Premier provides access to numerous full-text online articles and information. It provides full text back to 1965, with access to over 8,800 publications. Searches may be restricted by publication type, date, or name, as well as full-text availability and peer review. Browsing by journal title and issue is also available. This database provides business and company profiles from Datamonitor.

The New Jersey State Library—through the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative—provides the EBSCOhost databases. Remote access of these databases is possible at www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/ by entering one’s NPL card number.

For more information or assistance, contact the Reference Center by phone (973-733-7779) or by email (reference@npl.org).
Charles F. Cummings Remembered

More than 400 persons attended our January 18 memorial to Charles F. Cummings, the Library’s Assistant Director for Special Collections and Statewide Outreach, who had passed away on December 21, 2005. More than a dozen notables spoke in tribute of Cummings, and the audience viewed with enthusiasm and admiration a video of Cummings’ life and achievements. The Newark Boys Chorus added poignant musical selections.

During the evening’s program, Library Director Wilma J. Grey announced the institution has dedicated the New Jersey Information Center—the department Cummings headed—in Cummings’ honor. The room would now be known as the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center.

On January 30, Senator Frank R. Lautenberg honored the immeasurable contributions Cummings has made to the City of Newark and the State of New Jersey by reading a floor proclamation into the record of the United States Senate. A framed copy of the proclamation was presented to the Library in March. It reads in part:

“Mr. President . . . there has hardly been a person, past or present, who has cared about the history of Newark the way Mr. Cummings did. He was an indispensable resource for journalists, historians and citizens alike. While Mr. Cummings will be missed by the people of New Jersey, he will be forever cherished as a loyal friend, a great man and a true Newark treasure.”

Many have remembered Charles by making a donation to The Robert Treat Endowment, a fund initiated by Cummings to purchase Newark and New Jersey materials. Since its inception, the endowment has grown from a handful of donors to an outpouring from more than 130 donors giving in excess of $45,000, including $15,000 from The Prudential Foundation. Those wishing to remember Charles Cummings may send their checks—made out to The Robert Treat Endowment/The Newark Public Library—to the Library’s Development Department.
Hugh Price, bestselling author and the former President and CEO of the National Urban League, presented the keynote address at the opening reception for the Library’s Black History Month celebration. Pictured are Mayor Sharpe James, Library Director Wilma J. Grey and Mr. Price.

2006 Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Keep your calendars open for these important Hispanic Heritage Month events @ the Main Library:

• Opening Reception: Thursday, September 14, 6:00pm, Centennial Hall

• Exhibition: Roots of Rhythm: Dance in Latin America, September 12 to November 11, 2nd-floor gallery

For more information call 973-733-7772 or visit www.npl.org and click on Servicios en Español.

NPL celebrates John Cotton Dana

The Library will open for a special evening program on Thursday, July 13. The event begins at 6:00pm and will be a reception and celebration of John Cotton Dana, the NPL’s legendary second director (from 1902-1929). Confirmed speakers include Ezra Shales, Steve Diner, Wilma J. Grey, and Mary Sue Sweeney Price. Those wishing to attend may R.S.V.P. to 973-733-7793.

Zonta Club honors Wilma Grey

The Zonta Club of Essex County named NPL Director Wilma J. Grey as “Woman of the Year” at its Annual Scholarship Brunch held in April. Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a global service organization of executives in business and the professions working together, across political and social boundaries, to advance the status of women worldwide, and to eradicate violence against women and children.

Summer Hours
June 26 to September 9

Main Library
Monday, Tuesday 9:00am to 5:30pm
Wednesday 9:00am to 8:30pm
Thursday, Friday 9:00am to 5:30pm
Saturday 9:30am to 1:30pm

Branch Libraries
Monday, Tuesday 9:30am to 5:30pm
Wednesday 1:00pm to 8:00pm
Thursday, Friday 9:30am to 5:30pm
Saturday 9:30am to 1:30pm

In case of inclement weather, please call (973) 733-7784 to determine whether the Library is open.

Sharpe James, Mayor, City of Newark
Donald Bradley, South Ward, City Council President
Newark Municipal Council
Augusto Amador, East Ward
Charles Bell, Central Ward
Mamie Bridgewater, West Ward
Hector Corchado, North Ward
Gayle H. Chanyefield-Jenkins, At-Large
Luis A. Quintana, At-Large
Ras Baraka, At-Large
Bessie Walker, At-Large

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. Clement Alexander Price.

Address all correspondence to:
The Second Century
The Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street, P.O. Box 630
Newark, New Jersey 07101-0630
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/vol17num2/vol17num2.pdf
The Library's Annual Fund Campaign has seen unprecedented growth over the past few years, and 2005 was no exception. We raised nearly $200,000 last year—a 25% increase over 2004—thanks to the generosity of many individuals, corporations and foundations. This outstanding support enables the Library to continue providing free programs, services and resources.

We would like to offer special thanks to those whose financial contributions have helped the Library to remain a vibrant center for lifelong learning, and have given to all who seek it the opportunity to enrich their lives and expand their horizons.

Annual Fund Thrived in 2005

SAVE THE DATE

BOOKED for the Evening

Thursday, November 9, 2006
Nanina’s In The Park
Belleville, New Jersey

6:00pm—Cocktail Reception
7:00pm—Dinner and Awards

For further information, please call Sue Mazzeo at 973-424-1832.

The 2006 Paul A. Stellhorn N.J. History Award

Paul A. Stellhorn, the Assistant Director for the Library’s Development Department until his death in 2001, was a distinguished historian and public servant with a love of the humanities and New Jersey’s libraries. He held a Ph.D. in American History from Rutgers University, with a specialty in urban history, and taught history and urban studies at Rutgers University and Kean University.

This award, established in Stellhorn’s name, acknowledges an outstanding undergraduate course paper written on any aspect of New Jersey history. For 2006, it was given to Rider University student Christopher Antanaitis for his paper, “Chambersburg and North Trenton: Varieties in the Experience of Italians in Trenton, New Jersey, c 1900-1980.”
If you happen to be watching TV while at home and suddenly remember the book you had wanted to checkout but forgot, do not despair. You can search the NPL’s catalog and reserve it with Clavis. Simply go to your computer and visit us at catalog.npl.org and place a hold on the book you had wanted.

The Second Century
The Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Nonprofit Organ.
U.S. Postage Paid
Newark, NJ
Permit No. 4502

Book sale registered smiles and dollars.

With another successful Book Sale behind them, the Friends of the Newark Public Library have now turned their efforts to an oral history project that will include two parts.

The first part is called “Stories From the Stacks,” and the Friends want to capture as many examples as possible. In an effort to begin compiling some of the richness that the Library offers us, we need you to tell your story about what the Library means to you, or how you came to be a patron. To do so, print out and complete the form found online at http://www.npl.org/Pages/AboutLibrary/stories.pdf. Return completed forms to the Friends in care of the Library. Or you may email your comments to friends@npl.org.

The second component of the oral history project will be interviews conducted by Friends members under the guidance of noted historians Clement Alexander Price and Giles Wright. Several long-time staff members and community leaders will be the first to be videotaped and audio taped.

The Victoria Foundation has provided partial funding for this important project.

From Book Sale to Oral History

P atricia Bender, President of the Friends, paid a sweet visit to the Library on Valentine’s Day. The organization expressed its appreciation of the staff by giving each department and each branch a box of chocolates. We expressed our appreciation of the Library’s advocacy group by saying: “Encore!”

F-R-I-E-N-D-S spells the very best chocolate

Books “R” the NPL

I f you happen to be watching TV while at home and suddenly remember the book you had wanted to checkout but forgot, do not despair. You can search the NPL’s catalog and reserve it with Clavis. Simply go to your computer and visit us at catalog.npl.org and place a hold on the book you had wanted.