The Library will be mounting a major exhibition, entitled The Irish in Newark and New Jersey, from March 14 to May 11, which is cosponsored with Seton Hall University. It will illustrate the cultural and civic contributions the Irish have made to our city and state from colonial times to the present. The project director for the exhibit is Brad Small, and the guest curator is Dr. Dermot Quinn, professor of Irish and British history at Seton Hall and award-winning author of The Irish in New Jersey: Four Centuries of American Life. The inspiration for this major two-floor show was the late Charles F. Cummings. A New Jersey Council for the Humanities (a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities) grant provided major funding for this exhibition.

A special reception has been scheduled for Thursday, March 15, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Patrons are invited to meet Dr. Quinn and Mr. Small and learn more about this fascinating retrospective.

The second-floor gallery will feature the Irish in Newark based on several articles Charles Cummings wrote in his Knowing Newark column for the Star-Ledger and additional research by the staff of the Library’s Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center (CFCNJIC). The materials on view will be from the collections of the CFCNJIC and will include photographs from the Library’s Newark Evening News collection, archival material, maps and more.

Dr. Quinn’s book will be the basis of the show on the third floor. On display for the first time will be many of the original materials from his book that are on loan from Seton Hall University’s Archives and Special Collection Department, with many additional images and ephemera from the CFCNJIC, other public institutions and private collections.

For additional information on this exhibition, the public is invited to call (973-733-7756) or email (bsmall@npl.org) Brad Small.

Letter from Erin Society to Leo P. Carlin, Newark’s second Irish mayor, regarding St. Patrick’s Day Banquet.

Saint Patrick’s Cathedral School’s sixtieth annual commencement, Newark, 1926.
Patrons come to the Newark Public Library for a variety of reasons: to find a book, to look at a newspaper, to take out a movie, to hear a lecture, to participate in a book discussion group, to learn how to speak English, to help their child with a homework assignment, or to use a computer. Many also come to the library to find answers to questions on every subject imaginable.

The individuals who regularly answer those questions are Newark Public Library’s reference librarians. These very active, knowledgeable staff members manage to handle more than 200,000 queries each year.

Requests are via personal visit, telephone, email, or snail mail. Many originate from another state or even another country. Each and every question is approached with the utmost care and professionalism.

Most questions come to the Reference Desk located on the second floor of the Main Library. Reference librarians who are stationed there answer inquiries on every subject ranging from agriculture, art and biography to religion, technology and travel. They have at their disposal a rich reference collection of books, electronic databases, periodicals, and government documents. In addition to conducting searches for the general public, this division also serves other libraries in its role as the statewide reference center for art, business, music, patents, trademarks and U.S. document questions.

Another group of reference librarians specializes in local history questions pertaining to Newark and New Jersey. They work in the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, which is located on the third floor of the main building. Their answers may be found in an extensive collection of books, manuscripts, newspapers, dissertations, photographs, maps, census records, genealogies and numerous other items.

If you have a question that you want answered quickly and accurately, whether it’s simple or complex, try the services of the Newark Public Library’s reference librarians. Contact the Reference Desk at 973-733-7779 or reference@npl.org, or The Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center at 973-733-7776 or njreference@npl.org. I’m sure you will be pleased.

Near the end of October, the NPL held a community summit in preparation of crafting our strategic plan for “A Public Library for the 21st Century.” Community representatives and librarians listened to distinguished speakers from the national library community discuss such topics as “The Urban Public Library: Present and Future,” “The Library as a Place of Discovery and Learning,” and “The Challenges of Serving the Wired Generation.” In the afternoon, the audience was given the opportunity to spend time with the speakers in breakout sessions. And the day ended with an open forum.

Since the event, NPL administrators have been taking the “raw data” from the community summit—as well as comments from focus groups, surveys, phone calls, and NPL staff—to shape our strategic plan for the future. In the next issue of The Second Century, we will announce this plan and its impact on those we serve.

A Public Library for the 21st Century

Some of the “Community Summit” speakers:
The “Saturday Programs @ the Branches” took off running in November and has continued to be the delight of children and their families. Stop by your local Branch to see what’s coming to your location. This entertaining and educational program series is funded by the Newark Public Schools.

The Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge was another huge success. Since its inception a decade ago, thousands of participating children have read—and reported on—more than 130,000 books.

Need help with your homework assignments? The award-winning Club Success program has been helping students in grades one through eight for more than ten years. Clubs meet Monday through Thursday during the school year at all NPL locations. Check one out! This program is funded by the Newark Public Schools.

For more information on the exciting programs planned for the months ahead, visit any NPL location, or check out our websites: www.npl.org and kidsplace.npl.org.

Hooray for Children, the Library’s ever-popular series of quality programs for the entire family, will present five events for the remainder of the 2006-07 season. Each of these free programs will be held on a Saturday and begin promptly at 2:00pm. For further information, visit kidsplace.npl.org/calendar.html.

- **January 20:** Raps, Rhymes ’N Reasons. Celebrate the richness of African-American traditions as Sharon McGruder combines movement, songs and real-life experiences with a variety of African tales, myths and stories.

- **February 24:** Storyjourney. Join Joy Kelly on a journey all over the world through story and song. Discover the magic of the Amazon River, the power of fire and water in China. Learn about a tricky rabbit in South America and take a ride on the Mississippi River.

- **March 24:** Live in Concert. Join Beth and Scott Bierko in a program chock full of humorous story-songs in this audience-participation fun event.

- **April 21:** Paws, Claws, Scales and Magical Tales. Take a magical journey with Bob Conrad to the Great Coral Reef in search of the mysterious angel fish—visit an extraordinary pet store that features a magical menagerie of puppets, magic ventriloquism, storytelling and balloon fun.

- **May 5:** Snow White and the Eight Dwarfs. Enjoy a truly unique performance by madcap balloon artist Allynn Gooen, as he fills the stage with extraordinary balloon creations while leading children from the audience in the story of Snow White and the Eight Dwarfs.
More than 200 persons attended the Newark Public Library’s 2006 Booked for the Evening gala dinner at Nanina’s In The Park, making it another tremendous success. Ralph A. LaRossa, President and Chief Operating Officer of PSE&G, served as Dinner Chairman. This signature fundraising event honored posthumously Charles F. Cummings (1937-2005), our beloved Assistant Director for Special Collections and Statewide Outreach, recognized the achievements of Dr. Olga J. Wagenheim and her efforts in establishing the Library’s New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center, for which she is the founding Chair, and recognized Independence Community Foundation for its continued dedication to supporting the Library’s mission to enrich lives and expand horizons. The gala raised more than $100,000 for the Annual Fund Campaign.
A HEARTFELT Thank You

The Newark Public Library sends a special thank you to those who helped make the 2006 Booked for the Evening gala a great success.

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This year’s Black History Month exhibition is entitled *The Creativity and Imagination of African American Women Writers in New Jersey*. Its inspiration is the national and state award-winning book, *African American Women Writers in New Jersey, 1836-2000: A Biographical Dictionary and Bibliographic Guide, 1836-2000* (Rutgers University Press), by Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D. It is the first book to identify and bring together, in one place, information about the lives, intellectual contributions, and publications of more than 100 African American women writers in the Garden State from the antebellum period to the present. The exhibit is the first of its kind in New Jersey.

The guest curator is Sibyl E. Moses, a native Newarker, a product of the Newark Public School system, and a graduate of Weequahic High School. Dr. Moses’ publications have appeared in American, British, and Nigerian journals and she is currently the Reference Specialist in African American History and Culture at The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Dr. Moses conducted original research and held countless interviews with residents throughout New Jersey in order to bring these writers’ stories to life. The exhibition, and her book, introduce us to the books and lives of poets, novelists, historians, and other authors born in New Jersey, or resident in the state for at least 15 years, and provide a lens through which we may see and understand the lives of African American women in New Jersey. The NPL is proud to have her as the guest curator of this impressive exhibition.

“This salute to African American women writers is a natural for us at the Library,” affirmed Library Director Wilma J. Grey. “It is the highlight of our annual Black History Month celebration.”

The items on display are from the holdings of the Newark Public Library and from the personal collection of books, photographs and manuscripts amassed by Dr. Moses. The exhibition is open to the public from January 22 through March 3, the second-floor gallery, during library hours. A grand-opening reception is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. It will include a book signing with the author. For more information about the reception or the exhibition please call the James Brown African American Room at 973-733-5411.

The 20th Year

The Library’s *Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society* has begun its 20th year of unique programming that combines reading and conversation. Dorothea Moore, the long-standing Program Chair, has sustained the quality of the programming by arranging for many well-known authors to hold book signings and add poignant comments to the discussions.

The Society is planning an anniversary celebration for late spring. Call (973)733-5411 if you would like to receive an invitation and more details.

Following is the remainder of the 2006-07 schedule.

- April 4: Celebrate National Poetry Month with guest poet Cuz’s; includes “open mike” segment.
- May 2: 47, a novel written by Walter Mosely.
- June 6: A discussion of Immaculée Ilibagiza’s *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*.

Dr. King Remembered

The NPL is celebrating “Martin Luther King Day 2007” with a number of programs system wide. The Main Library event, funded by Prudential Foundation, will feature Alvin Poussaint’s discussion of the media and society. The event takes place on Thursday, January 18, and will be held in Centennial Hall, beginning at 6:00pm.
Tuesday, 2/27
A book signing with Sonya Simpson and other authors of *Chicken Soup for the African American Woman’s Soul*, a collection of inspiring stories that take readers on an intimate journey filled with defining moments of belief, loyalty, strength and conviction of the Black woman.

Centennial Hall, 6:00pm

Thursday, 2/8
A book signing with Ralph Burgess, author of *No Bandanas for Me*, which deals with why children should avoid joining gangs and the danger it brings. He will also highlight the steps involved in publishing a book.

Centennial Hall, 10:00am

Thursday, 2/15
A musical Winkeyco Production entitled *Neighborhood* that involves a woman who takes a look at how much she surprisingly has in common with people of various cultures.

Centennial Hall, 10:00am

Thursday, 2/22
George R. N’Namdi, with galleries in New York, Detroit and Chicago, will present *The Art of Fine Art Collecting*, a slide show with an emphasis on African American women artists.

Centennial Hall, 6:00pm

Wednesday, 2/14
A book signing with romance novelist Shirley T. Hailstock, author of *My Lover, My Friend*.

Centennial Hall, 6:00pm

Thursday, 1/25

Auditorium, 6:00pm

Thursday, 2/1
A tribute to Dr. Ivan Van Sertima with speaker Dr. Leonard Jeffries; the master of ceremonies will be Dr. Clement Alexander Price. The cornerstone of Dr. Sertima’s legacy is his book, *They Came Before Columbus: The African Presence in Ancient America*, for which he received the Clarence L. Holt Prize for “works of excellence in literature and humanities.”

Centennial Hall, 6:00pm

Tuesday, 2/6

Auditorium, 6:00pm

Exhibition

Second-Floor Gallery
January 22 to March 3

Reception on January 31 at 6:00pm
A gala exhibition of architectural drawings, photographs and precise models and relevant historic records celebrates the 101 years of the Grad Associates of Newark. As one of city’s most successful architectural firms, it has a unique record of accomplishment for public and commercial structures of recognized distinction. In addition to the visual record of Grad Associates, this dual-themed show includes a few of the notable books from the Library’s Special Collections that encompass the great saga of architectural history.

Entitled A Salute to Grad Associates: One Hundred and One; and A Selection of Great Books on Architectural History, the exhibition is on view on the third-floor gallery through March 3.

Frank Grad, the firm’s founder, was born in Vienna and, after architectural studies, set up his organization in Newark in 1906. Joined by his sons, Howard and Bernard, the Associates flourishes today with contemporary projects for a variety of purposes and sites. A few of their historic Newark buildings include the Young Men’s and Young Women’s Hebrew Association, the Mosque Theater (now known as Symphony Hall), and Beth Israel Hospital.

Some of the notable books showcase such personalities as Gaudi, Addison Mizner, Piranesi, and Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as picturing the Imperial Palaces of Peking.

For more information on this display of regional and historic architecture call the Library at 973-733-7745, or visit us online at www.npl.org.

The NPL celebrated “Library Card Sign Up Month” (September) with a festive program. Here Mayor Cory A. Booker displays his new library card that was presented to him by Library Director Wilma J. Grey.
A lot has happened since our last newsletter when we mentioned that Independence Community Foundation and the Library formed another partnership, this time in support of our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) endeavor—the program that improves critical literacy skills among Newark residents. Along with Stuart Post, Program Officer at ICF, we visited one of the classes at the Van Buren Branch Library and learned how successful the program truly is.

Seminario has been attending classes since 2003. When he came to this country, he started working in a position where no English skills were required. After taking classes, he was able to speak and understand some English and began getting better-paying jobs in factories and restaurants. He was able to get his driver’s license, which is important for work. Now he can go shopping in more places—he especially likes New York City—because he understands people more and feels more comfortable. Seminario wants to continue improving his English skills so that he can go back to Peru some day and teach English.

At present, classes are offered two days a week. On average there are 40 students in a class—the classes were designed for 20 participants—so they’re “filled to capacity.” System wide, there are more than 350 registered, including a number of college professors and lawyers attending “intermediate” classes. Many of the “350” had not been to the NPL before and many didn’t have a library card. Now we have 350 new, active cardholders!

During his remarks, Mr. Post mentioned that ICF is “all about helping communities to help their residents.” The success of this program validates ICF’s mission statement. Further confirmation came when one of the students presented Mr. Post with a number of thank-you letters from the class. And when Mr. Post asked what “more” the Van Buren class would like to see, one student answered immediately: “Have classes 7 days a week.”

For more information about the ESOL program, call the Library at (973) 733-5412, 5411 or 7772.
**Rejuvenated First Avenue Branch reopens**

The First Avenue Branch Library reopened its doors after completing a renovation project that resulted in a brighter facility, with an expanded collection of books (90% are new; more Spanish books for children & adults), 11 new public-access computers, and all new shelves and furnishings. Students from First Avenue School were thrilled that the Branch is back in business, and they have been frequent visitors, checking out books and using the computers—to the delight of Branch Manager Juanita Egovil and her staff.

**College-bound students pack Springfield Branch**

They just kept coming, and coming, and coming,” noted Clara Wilson, Springfield Branch Manager, when discussing the 4th Annual College Fair at her Branch Library. More than 1,000 students, parents, grandparents, church groups and service organizations visited the fair—making it the most-successful one to date. Mayor Cory A. Booker was at the September 23rd event and summarized his impressions with one word: “Awesome!” Dr. Garris, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and Councilmen Donald Payne, Jr., and Ronald Rice, Jr., added their praises. Wilma J. Grey, Library Director, expressed thanks to all of the college representatives and volunteers—and NPL staff—who made the event the tremendous success it was. A special thank you goes to the Community Foundation of New Jersey for funding the event, and to instructor Lyndon Brown.

**Library Hours**

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

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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
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A few months ago, the Victoria Technology Center, located on the third floor of the Main Library, introduced a new way to get connected @ the Library. All it takes is valid Newark or Irvington Public Library card to gain access to the Internet, Word, Excel and other Microsoft software. Patrons not eligible for one of those library cards will be issued a one-day visitor’s pass.

New software, called SAM™, automates the sign-in process and minimizes the wait—if any—for an available computer. Your library card or visitor’s pass is all you need to get online, provided you have no overdue materials or outstanding fines. And your NPL card also acts like a debit card to be used as a tool for printing after you add money to your account.

Computer time remains one hour, with a maximum of two sign-ins per day. As in the past, time between log-ins is a half hour.

The Victoria Technology Center staff will be happy to answer all of your questions and make your new online experience a pleasant one. For more information, stop by the VTC or give them a call at (973) 733-3603.

Database Helps Family Tree Grow

In response to a growing interest in learning more about one’s family history, the NPL has a new resource that uses technology to make tracing family trees easier. Known as Ancestry Library Edition, it is a genealogy research tool created for the library market. It gives patrons instant access to a wide range of unique resources for genealogical and historical research. With more than 1.5 billion names in over 4,000 databases, Ancestry Library Edition includes records from the United States census; military records; court, land, and probate records; vital and church records; directories; passenger lists, and more. These collections are continuously expanding, with new content added every business day.

Access to this powerful database is possible from any NPL location. Simply visit our homepage (www.npl.org), click on “Internet & Electronic Resources,” select letter “A,” and then “Ancestry.” After entering the name of the person you want to search, you have planted the seed for your family tree.

For more information about this or any other database, please contact the Reference Center by phone (973-733-7779) or by email (reference@npl.org).

Yes, please send me copies of Remembering Newark’s Greeks: An American Odyssey

The Newark Public Library is proud to announce the publication of Remembering Newark’s Greeks: An American Odyssey by Angelique Lampros. This memorable book documents the history of Newark’s Greek immigrant experience in the early 20th century. For more information call (973) 733-7793.

Yes, please send me copies of Remembering Newark’s Greeks: An American Odyssey

Name _______________________________ Phone # ______________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City________________________ State_____ Zip____________________
Quantity: _____ $40 per book: _____ $5 s&h per book ______ Total Enclosed: ______
Please circle method of payment:
(Checks payable to The Newark Public Library Hellenic Heritage Fund)
Check VISA MasterCard American Express
Credit Card Number ________________________________ Exp. Date __________
3-digit Security Code _____ Signature ____________________________

Please enclose payment and this order form in the envelope stitched into the centerfold of this newsletter.
Book Sale turns “Sweet 16”

This year marks the 16th Annual Friends’ Book Sale, and it’s sure to be a “sweet” one with sale dates on two Saturdays: April 21 and 28.

The sale will feature a wide selection of children’s and adult’s paperbacks and hardbacks, plus reference works, records, videotapes, cassette tapes, CDs and posters.

Those individuals and organizations wishing to help sort the book sale items before and/or during the sale should leave a message for Jerry Caprio by emailing friends@npl.org, or by calling the Library at (973) 733-7793.

See you at the sale!

Cunningham Presents Friends’ Dana Lecture

John T. Cunningham, noted historian and author of numerous books, articles and reviews on and about New Jersey, presented the 2006 John Cotton Dana Distinguished Lecture on October 18. The prestigious award, sponsored by the Friends of the Newark Public Library, is bestowed on Newarkers who have distinguished themselves in the state or the nation. Pictured with Mr. Cunningham are Rebecca Doggett, Chair of the Lecture, and Library Director Wilma J. Grey.