The Newark Public Library is more than books and bricks. In addition to housing reading materials, DVDs and music CDs, we offer numerous free educational programs. One unique example has had increased interest since the Library first offered it in 1993: American Sign Language (ASL) classes.

For the past five years Library Assistant Lolata Gregg has volunteered her time to teach both beginner and intermediate sessions. As a member of the deaf community, Lolata has a deep understanding of the issues faced by the hearing impaired. She is fluent in ASL and is able to utilize her personal knowledge and experiences when teaching.

Library Director Wilma Grey noted: “We are grateful to Ms. Greggs for her knowledge and willingness to provide a very special service, one that has been well received and is very popular with our patrons.”

“Lolata’s reliability and professionalism,” added Margaret George, Special Services Coordinator, “are a contributing factor to the success of this program.”

Curriculum includes the Alphabet and Numbers, Finger Spelling, Basic Signs of Emotions, Food, Animals, Family and Healthcare. The popularity of the classes, held at the Main Library on selected Saturdays from 10:30am to Noon, has expanded from family members of the hearing-impaired community to include nurses, social workers, college students, and children. Winter classes continue through March.

For more information on this vital service call the Library’s Special Services Division at 973-733-5412, or email Lolata Greggs at lgreggs@npl.org or Margaret George, Special Services Coordinator, at mgeorge@npl.org.
The Newark Public Library has always endeavored to fulfill the many roles proper to a metropolitan library. John Cotton Dana, our second—and surely our most famous—director was renowned for his efforts to make the NPL a people’s library. Dana encouraged entrepreneurs, industrial workers, skilled tradesmen, teachers, school children, and immigrants to use it profitably. He gave equal attention to the needs of scholars, lawyers, physicians, members of the clergy, and artists.

Dana was convinced that public libraries and museums could play an important role in hastening the development of American art by furnishing budding artists with the best possible resources for study. In 1902 he began to develop a collection of fine prints, which he conceived primarily as a study collection. To complement it he acquired the best books and periodicals devoted to the graphic arts. He also welcomed the opportunity to exhibit the prints—especially the works of American printmakers. By 1909 the collection included over 400 etchings and engravings. It then expanded to include engraved maps, 19th century song sheet covers, photographs, and thousands of original prints in virtually all media. Dana was especially fascinated by Japanese prints and ehon, of which the Library owns many. To the present day the collection has been maintained and developed to include works of such internationally recognized artists as Picasso, Matisse, Renoir, Sieglitz, Stuart Davis, Kandinsky, Miro, Dali, Vasarely, Hokusai, Escher, Pennell, and John Sloan.

Dana, who touted power of the print as an agent of social improvement, was equally enamored of printing as an art form. Richard C. Jenkinson shared Dana’s interest in fine printing and donated to the Library his collection of books exemplifying the work of the world’s great printers.

Apart from all these “works of art on paper,” the Library has developed an extraordinary collection of books and periodicals relating to the visual arts that is sought after for advanced study and research.

Those who use the Library’s special resources for the first time are invariably surprised to discover their breadth and depth. If you have not explored them, please do.

Wilma J. Grey, Director

NPL a “Homework Help NJ” Site

The NPL joined a major initiative to offer free online homework help to the students, residents and patrons of seven public libraries around New Jersey. This vital program is underwritten by PSE&G in partnership with the New Jersey State Library.

Homework Help NJ offers students in grades 4 to 12 free help with assignments and tutoring sessions in math, science, social studies and English via the Internet. Access is available from the Main Library or any Branch location and remotely with their NPL card number. Tutors are available online 7 days a week, from 3pm to 8pm; assistance in Spanish is offered Sunday to Thursday.

To access Homework Help NJ, go to www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/index.html, click on the letter H, and select homeworkhelpnj.org.

Mayor Cory A. Booker joins Katherine Williams-Platt and her sixth-grade students from Burnet Street School during the “Homework Help NJ” launch festivities at the Library.
A new year is upon us and perhaps it arrived with a few “resolutions,” one of which may be to improve school grades. Hundreds of students have already found the answer: joining Club Success.

We are in our 14th year of offering this program that is funded by the Newark Public Schools. It affords Newark students, in grades 1 through 8, focused and aggressive teacher-supervised assistance with their homework while using Library materials and electronic resources.

Isn’t it time that you or a family member learned more about this free service? The box below lists the Branch Library, its address and phone number, and the Club Success teacher’s name. For more information or to join a Club, call or stop by any Children’s Room, or visit the Club at http://www.npl.org/Pages/KidsPlace/club.html.

The Design-A-Bookmark contest that was held during National Children’s Book Week was a resounding success. The top-three winners, with Branch Library affiliation, were Laura R., 1st place, Branch Brook; Janiya C., 2nd place, Springfield; and Tiffany M., 3rd place, Branch Brook.

Those receiving honorable mention were Alyssa B., Branch Brook; A’Dorian M.-T., Main Library; D’Ondre R., Springfield; Chancel S., Springfield; and Isa K., Vailsburg.

Pictured here are the top 3 winning entries. Selected other bookmarks are posted on our website at www.npl.org/Pages/KidsPlace/cbw2007.html.

The Library salutes all of the entrants for a job very well done!
More than 225 persons attended the Newark Public Library’s 2007 signature fundraiser, Booked for the Evening. The gala dinner was another tremendous success, raising more than $200,000 for the Annual Fund Campaign.

Dinner co-chairs were Jeffrey Vanderbeek, chairman and managing partner, and Michael Gilfillan, vice chairman and partner, New Jersey Devils. Marion C. O’Neill, PSE&G, and Steve Adubato, Jr., Ph.D, Thirteen/ WNET (PBS), were the event committee co-chairs.

The gala honored Newark residents Dr. Robert and Patricia Curvin; William J. Dane, the Library’s Keeper of Prints and Works of Art on Paper; Cogswell Realty Group and Arthur Stern, CEO of Cogswell Realty Group; and Joseph Yeadon, a longtime member of the Library’s Board of Trustees.
The Newark Public Library extends a special thank you to those who helped make the 2007 Booked for the Evening gala the great success it was.

**DINNER CO-CHAIRS**

Jeffrey Vanderbeek  
*Chairman and Managing Partner*  
New Jersey Devils

Michael Gilfillan  
*Vice Chairman and Partner*  
New Jersey Devils

**EVENT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

Marion C. O’Neill, PSE&G  
Steve Adubato, Jr., Ph.D., *Thirteen/WNET (PBS)*

**EVENT COMMITTEE**

Hope Gamble, *Devils Arena Entertainment*  
Alison Greenberg, Esq., *McCarter & English, LLP*  
Paul Jaffe, *Cogswell Realty Group, LLC*  
Howard Millendorf, *IDT Corporation*  
Michael Saltzman, *NEWWORK, LLC*  
Ted Zangari, Esq., *Sills Cummis Epstein & Gross P.C.*

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**Robert and Patricia Curvin accept the Community Service award from Steve Adubato, Jr.**

**Standing: Louis La Salle, Saint Barnabas Health Care System; Rosemary Steinbaum. Seated: Leonard Lieberman; Arlene Lieberman; Robert Steinbaum.**

**Left to right: Joseph Yeadon, President’s Award recipient; Trish Morris-Yamba, Board President; Wilma Grey; Timothy Crist, Board Member; Gayle Griffin, Board Secretary; Clement Price, Board Member; and William Dane, Individual Support Award recipient.**

**Richard Thigpen, PSE&G, presents the award for Corporate Support to Arthur Stern, Cogswell Realty Group.**

**A Heartfelt Thank You**
The exhibition for Black History Month celebrates black America’s love affair with books; the fact that African-Americans, at one point in their history, were not allowed to read, and that African-Americans currently maintain a newsworthy and steadily growing amount of reading organizations/book clubs/literary societies in Greater Newark, around the country, and abroad. Curated by local author and historian Sandra L. West, Entrusted To Our Keeping: The Legacy of African-American Literary Societies in Newark, The Nation, The World will be installed on the second-floor gallery from January 23 to March 22. The opening reception will be followed by a community discussion on the impact of the controversial hip-hop generation upon the sanctity of African-American literature.

This exhibition has been funded in part by a grant from PNC Bank and a General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

There will be memorabilia, current statistics, information about very early (1800) literary societies, wall quote about Sons of Freedom, (inaugurated by W.E.B. DuBois), documentation on Newark groups, Greater Newark groups, national organizations, and reading groups in Africa. Specific items include a photograph of Louis Reyes Rivera, editor of John O. Killens’ Great Black Russian, an original letter from late Ann Petry, author of The Street that discusses possible names for what eventually became the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society, a photo of Susan Robeson talking about her book, and memorabilia from Newark’s Phillis Wheatley Book Club of the early 1900s.

Emphasis will be given to the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society, a group founded by Sandra L. West and encouraged by the late James Brown, Newark Public Library Black Studies Librarian, that has been in-residence at the Library for more than 20 years.

For more information on Entrusted To Our Keeping visit us on the Web at www.npl.org.

Dr. King Remembered

The Library will commemorate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a number of programs at the Branches and the Main Library. Please check with your community Branch to learn of its program. The first program will be held at the Main Library on Thursday, January 17, beginning at 6:00pm in Centennial Hall. It will be a panel discussion on stories and personal memories of Dr. King and his visit to Newark shortly before his death.

Harper Society Celebrates Black History Month and More

The Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society, which is dedicated to discussing books on the African Diaspora, will hold a special program in celebration of Black History Month: “Remembering Their Voices.” It will be a staged reading of the “voices” of W.E.B. DuBois, Shirley Chisholm, Harriet Tubman, James Baldwin, Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., and Dr. John Henrik Clarke. The February 6 program begins at 6:30pm in Centennial Hall.

Four other programs remain in the 2007-2008 season, all of which are on Wednesdays and begin at 6:30pm. For more information on the Society and its programs call 973-733-5411.

MARCH 5
Celebrate Women’s History Month with a discussion of Victoria Rowell’s The Women Who Raised Me: A Memoir.

APRIL 16
Celebrate National Poetry Month with a program in memory of Sekuo Sundita and Yictove.

MAY 7
A discussion of And I Haven’t Had a Bad Day Since: From the Streets of Harlem to the Halls of Congress, written by Charles B. Rangel with Leon Wynter.

JUNE 4
A discussion of Kofi Annan: A Man of Peace in a World of War, written by Stanley Meisler.
Exhibition

Second-Floor Gallery
January 23 to March 22

Wednesday, 1/30
Author Talk: The Harlem Writers Guild. Members of the Guild will read from their works, discuss the writing life, and autograph books.

Centennial Hall, 6:00pm

Monday, 2/4
Read-In: Read Your Favorite African-American Author. The public is invited to bring a book by a black author and read a 2-minute snippet to keep alive these treasured works. Guest authors will also read and meet with the audience.

Lobby, Noon

Wednesday, 2/13
Conversations With African-American Authors: August Wilson. A video presentation and a discussion hosted by Sandra West, guest curator.

James Brown African-American Room, 6:00pm

Wednesday, 2/20
Conversations With African-American Authors: Alice Walker. A video presentation and a discussion hosted by Dorothea M. Moore, Chairperson, F.E.W. Harper Literary Society.

James Brown African-American Room, 6:00pm

Saturday, 3/1
Writing the Marvelous Real: Magical Realism for 21st Century Voices. Sheree Renée Thomas, editor of the Dark Matter series, is the instructor for this interactive/multimedia speculative fiction-writing workshop. Pre-registration required; call 973-733-5411.

James Brown African-American Room, 6:00pm

Saturday, 2/9
Nell Painter, Ph.D., former Director of African-American Studies at Princeton University, will discuss and sign copies of her book, Creating Black Americans.

Centennial Hall, Noon

Funding for this celebration has been provided in part by a General Operating Support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission and a grant from PNC Bank.

PNC BANK

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information call us at 973-733-5411 or visit us on the Web at www.npl.org. In case of inclement weather, please call 973-733-7784 to determine whether the NPL is open.
Discover the Roots of Your Family Tree With HeritageQuest

Genealogy is an appealing hobby for anyone who wants to know more about family history—or history in general. A new research database from the Library, HeritageQuest Online™, is simple enough for beginners to use, and it even provides deep and broad content that will help veteran genealogists to advance their research. HeritageQuest is provided with funding from the New Jersey State Library as part of its JerseyClicks program.

Access to this powerful tool is possible from any NPL location or remotely with your NPL library card number. Simply visit www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/index.html, click on the letter H in the Electronic Resources list, and select HeritageQuest. Before you log on, make a list of the names of every direct ancestor known to you.

When you connect, you will find several paths to information:
- U.S. Federal Census
- Genealogy & Local History Book Collection
- PERSI (Periodical Source Index) to nearly 2 million magazine articles with genealogical information
- Revolutionary War Pension Applications
- U.S. Serial Set from 1789 through World War II.

After entering a name, the program retrieves matches. Click on a hyperlink, and an image of the matching record appears. The results will enable you to learn about your forebears: places where they lived, names of relatives, birth and death dates, etc. Names can be added to fill in your family “tree”—and they can also be searched for more clues.

Need help? Call the Library’s reference staff at 973-733-7820 or email reference@npl.org.

Forthcoming Exhibitions

The Library will mount two major exhibitions over the next several months: one on shopping bags, the other on the 80th anniversary of Newark Airport.

William J. Dane, the Library’s Keeper of Works of Art on Paper, will curate Shopping Bags From Around the World. This eye-appealing show will be installed on the 3rd-floor gallery from January 28 to March 22. It will feature a wide selection of colorful merchandising examples, many of which have been gifts from world travelers. For more information on this fascinating exhibition call Mr. Dane at 973-733-7745.

The history of Newark Airport is filled with “firsts” and “mosts.” The Library will illustrate this exciting story with historic photographs of the airport’s original construction in 1928 and its successive expansions. James Lewis, a staff member of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, will organize this show that will be on view from April 2 to June 14 on the 2nd- and 3rd-floor galleries. For more information call James Lewis at 973-733-7756.
Our partnership with Independence Community Foundation continues to thrive. To the delight of the hundreds who participate in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, the Foundation has provided another $25,000 grant. Additionally, $20,000 in support was received through a literacy grant from the New Jersey State Library with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through its Grants to States Program.

“With the added ICF support,” explained ESOL Project Director Margaret George, “we can continue the winter schedule to March 22 and expand it to include five Branch locations: Branch Brook, First Avenue, North End, Van Buren, and Main Library.”

Stuart Post, Program Officer at ICF, has been encouraged with the continued success of the ESOL program to improve critical literacy skills among Newark residents. As he noted, “Helping the community is our major goal.”

For more information about this program, call the Library at 973-733-5411 or 973-733-7772.

Save a Stamp, Donate Online

Now you can contribute to the mission of the Library through our secure on-line giving option. Simply log on to our website (www.npl.org), select the “Support the Library!” key near the top, make a selection among the donation options, then click on the “on-line donation” button, and you will be directed to a secure site.

Please take advantage of this new on-line feature. Your gift increases the support that we receive from our community and allows us to enhance our resources and services. Thank you.
In a thrilling ceremony at the Library, four former Tuskegee Airmen from New Jersey—Dr. William Neal Brown, Shade Lee, Odell McLeod, and Malcolm Nettingham—received the Congressional Gold Medal from Senator Frank Lautenberg in recognition of their service during World War II. The medal was minted when Congress passed a resolution that was signed by President George W. Bush, acknowledging the dedication of the all-African-American airmen in the Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute and their service in the European Theater.

Edward Small, left, received the Justice William J. Brennan Award for public service from the Unified Vailsburg Services Organization. Mr. Small is the Vailsburg Branch Library Manager and has been with the NPL for 54 years, serving the patrons of the Vailsburg community for 37 years. He is pictured with Robert M. Farley, Executive Director of the LIVSO and Library Director Wilma J. Grey.

A number of our Branch Libraries are ADA Compliant: North End, Springfield, Vailsburg, Van Buren, and Weequahic. For more information on accessing our services and collections please call our Special Services Division at 973-733-5412.

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

Wally Amos, of cookie fame, visited the NPL to promote his “Read It LOUD With Uncle Wally” program that encourages children of all ages to read. As National Spokesperson for Literacy Volunteers for nearly a quarter of a century, he believes “reading makes a difference that lasts a lifetime.”
Hooray for Children Continues Through May

Five more Hooray for Children programs remain in the 2007-2008 season that ends on May 17. These free live performances by puppeteers, storytellers, magicians and theater groups are fun for the entire family. The events are held on Saturdays at the Main Library and begin promptly at 10:30am.

The Library has other live performances in our “Programs @ the Branches” initiative that is funded by the Newark Public Schools."

For further information, visit kidsplace.npl.org/calendar.html.

RAPS, RHYMES 'N REASONS
January 26, Centennial Hall

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.

THE FIRE CHILDREN
February 23, Centennial Hall

Join Lauren Hooker as she presents The Fire Children, a tale of the earth, celebrating the culture, language and traditions of the Akan people of Ghana through song and dance with life-sized Akuba dolls.

Lamoon’s Funny Tales & Fairy Tunes, featuring Flute Sweets & Tickletoons
March 15, Centennial Hall

Everyone has a fairy tale inside them! Keith Torgan of Tugboat Music creates and performs original tales and re-creates classic ones to delight and excite the young and the young at heart.

SAVE THE EARTH MAGIC SHOW
April 19, Fourth-Floor Auditorium

Celebrate Earth Day with George, the talking parrot. He will take you on a fun and magical journey to save the Earth and respect the environment. Visit wildlife throughout the world from the rain forests to the oceans. Presented by Full Earth Productions.

THE DAY IT SNOWED TORTILLAS
May 17, Centennial Hall

Hola! The Day It Snowed Tortillas is a delightful Mexican folktale in which a poor woodcutter and his wife have the chance of a lifetime: to become rich. All they have to do is keep a secret as his clever wife cooks up a plan, and all she needs are a few tortillas...a lot of tortillas...an unbelievable number of tortillas! Performed by Crabgrass Puppet Theatre.

College Fair @ Springfield Is Another Success

Newark dignitaries, including Mayor Cory A. Booker and City Council President Mildred C. Crump, joined the hundreds of teens and family members who attended the 2007 College Fair at the Springfield Branch Library. The annual event, which is funded by the Community Foundation of New Jersey, enabled high school students to register for the SAT/ACT, receive scholarship applications, and meet recruiters from more than 20 colleges and universities. The SAT Prep classes continue on Wednesdays and Saturdays thanks to funding from the Charles E. Thenen Foundation.
Free Computer Classes

Whether your computer literacy is low or in the mid-range, the Library has a free computer class that may be just right for you. Classes—in English and Spanish—are being held in the Technology Training Center, which is located on the third floor of the Main Library. Some are designed for first-time computer users (Mouse Clinic, Typing), while others are for those with more computer literacy (Word Processing, Email, Internet, Creating a Résumé).

Class size is limited to ten participants, and no pre-registration is required.

For more information on the calendar of classes offered, please call 973-733-3603 or visit www.npl.org and click on Computers & Classes.

Directions to the Main Library may be found at www.npl.org/Pages/AboutLibrary/directions.html.