An exciting exhibition, entitled *More Than Words: Artists’ Books and Book Art From the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library*, will be installed on the 3rd-floor gallery from October 7 through January 4. It traces the trajectory of artists’ book and book art movements from their origins among European avant-garde factions in the early 20th century to the continued celebration today of the book as a medium for artistic experimentation and innovation.

The show supports the concept of “the book as art.” It includes books that are “bound” in tin cans, papier-mâché rabbits, and functioning ukuleles. Other examples have text printed on sandpaper, metal, or plastic, or are simply photocopied and stapled.

Artists’ books emerged as a way of subverting officially sanctioned channels of production and distribution, and continue to challenge established conventions of book design, structure, material composition, and content. Historically, the medium has given voice to minority and marginalized populations and individuals whose messages are considered too unconventional, controversial, or financially unprofitable to elicit interest from publishers.

Since the late-1960s, conceptual and visual artists have embraced the book as a means to make their work accessible and affordable to a larger population.

Themed programs and events for all ages will be presented during the run of the exhibition, including a Family Book Arts Day on December 13; curator-led tours of the show; and a November 12 screening of *Proceed and Be Bold*, a documentary about the life and work of Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr., a contemporary book artist and letterpress printer known internationally for his focus on themes of African and African-American heritage.

*More Than Words* is curated by Jared Ash, Librarian, Special Collections Division, and organized in conjunction with RESISTANCE!, the Fourteenth Annual New Jersey Book Arts Exhibition and Symposium, to be held at the John Cotton Dana Library at Rutgers University in Newark on November 7.

For more information about the exhibition or related events, please call Jared Ash at 973-733-7745, or email him at jash@npl.org.

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A common misconception about libraries is that they are static institutions. They are not. While retaining a core focus on reading and books, libraries have constantly reinvented themselves in response to changes in society.

For example, when mega bookstores became prevalent and forced the massive closing of small bookshops, it was predicted that they would have the same effect on libraries. But libraries began to adopt more modern promotional and marketing practices and thus retained clientele who ultimately realized that it was more economical to borrow books than to buy them.

When video rental stores came into prominence, libraries began developing media collections which were an immediate hit with the public. These collections are still among the most heavily used in most libraries.

As computers gained a foothold in our society and the Internet became a primary vehicle for information seeking, libraries embraced technology. The card catalog was replaced with the online catalog, book-based reference services were supplemented with electronic database searching, and electronic search tools, computer access, and computer classes were provided to an eager public.

In a time of economic difficulty, most libraries are taking steps to ensure that people have ready access to the tools they need to sustain themselves. Consequently, people are coming in droves to borrow bestsellers, attend family programs, participate in book discussions, listen to lectures, improve their English, research employment opportunities, write resumes, and learn a variety of new skills.

The ability and willingness of libraries to respond to a changing society makes them needed more than ever.

Wilma J. Grey, Director

Annual Gala
Set for November 13

We are proud to announce that Dennis Bone, CEO and President of Verizon New Jersey, will serve as Dinner Chair for our 5th annual gala dinner, Booked for the Evening, on Thursday, November 13th, at Nanina’s in the Park. Our exceptional Event Committee will be led by Susan Bass Levin, Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

Booked for the Evening, the Library’s signature fundraising event, provides us with an opportunity to recognize those who have made positive contributions to the fabric of the Library and the City of Newark. This year’s honorees are McCarter & English, for its continued support of the Library; Warren and Andrea Grover, for their community commitment; Marion Bolden, for her leadership of the Newark Public Schools; and Zachary and Trish Morris Yamba, for their years of professional and personal service to the residents of Newark and Essex County.

Our past gala celebrations have been a tremendous success thanks to the significant support of many individuals and civic-minded corporations. Please join us at this special event (cocktails at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm) that benefits the Library’s Annual Fund Campaign.

To purchase tickets, or for further information on sponsorships, please call CDK Events Management at 973-696-3783.
Pulaski Skyway Featured in Exhibition

On your next trip to the Main Library, be sure to visit the special 4th-floor display on the Pulaski Skyway. In conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Division of Project Development & Bureau of Landscape Architecture & Environmental Solutions, the NPL is proud to showcase this well-known New Jersey landmark.

Entitled Pulaski Skyway – NJ Treasure, the past and present of this remarkable structure is detailed in four exhibition cases. Covered are the construction, history, awards won, and special features of the cantilevered bridge, which opened in 1932, that spans the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, connecting Newark and Jersey City.

The show, co-curated by Reference Librarian Deirdre Schmidel of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, and by the NJ DOT, is on view through December.

“Reel Diversity” Is Focus of Hispanic Exhibition

The theme for this year’s Hispanic Heritage celebration is film—both as an agent and a reflection of change in the Hispanic world. Motion pictures by Latino filmmakers represent topics related to national identity, while addressing transnational concerns.

The exhibition, on view on the 2nd-floor gallery through December 20, is entitled Reel Diversity: Film in the Hispanic World. Curated by Ina Rimpau in collaboration with Ingrid Betancourt and Juan E. Cintrón, it focuses on five national cinemas: Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Spain.

Included in the show is a collection of DIVEDCO posters (Division de Educacion de la Comunidad—Community Education Division). In 1949, this government agency was charged with promulgating then-governor Munoz Marin’s ideas about Puerto Rican culture and citizenship through a series of educational posters. Also, there is a special section on the role and impact of Telenovelas (soap operas) in Latin America and around the world.

For more information on the Celebration call the Sala Hispanoamericana at 973-733-7772, or visit www.npl.org and click on Servicios en Español.
Dozens and dozens of kids came up winners in the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge. The Challenge encouraged children to put the fun of reading in their summer activities. Hundreds did, and we are pleased to list those who reached the top category: 200 books read. These outstanding readers are listed by their Branch Library location.


- Vailsburg: Charles Ale and Nene Diallo.

- Branch Brook: Gabriela Marmol and Ashley Camacho.

- North End: Campbell Hester, Deidra Moniz, Xavia Garcia, Rafael Perez, Guillermo Rosales, Jaelynn Murillo, Jennifer Murillo, Olivia Perez, Shirley Celi, Michelle Murillo, Ashley Perez and Alexander Perez.

- Van Buren: Grace Burga, Solcyre Burga and Andreia Pereira.

- Springfield: Latisha Robinson.

In the “Teen Challenge,” three achieved the top category of 60 books read: Marian Calle (First Avenue Branch Library), Gracia Marte (Roseville Branch Library), and De’Janee Jones (Springfield Branch Library).

Hundreds of children also colored their Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge posters. The top three winners in that category were:

- First Place: Anna Victor, First Avenue Branch Library.

- Second Place: Khaatirah Wilson, Springfield Branch Library.

- Third Place: Dwayne Hall, Weequahic Branch Library.

Another school year is upon us, and the NPL is reaching out via the Internet to students who need tutoring or assistance with their homework. This online tool is called Homework Help NJ and is powered by Tutor.com.

Underwritten by PSE&G in partnership with the New Jersey State Library, the service offers students in grades 4 to 12 free help with assignments and tutoring sessions in math, science, social studies and English—all via the Internet. Access is available system wide, or remotely with your 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 the site, go to www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/index/html, then click on the letter “H,” and select homeworkhelpnj.org.
Hooray for Children is for Family Fun

The Library’s Hooray for Children program series isn’t just for children; the once-a-month events are a fun-filled time for the entire family. From October through May, the series presents quality live performances by puppeteers, storytellers, magicians and theater groups. Each program is held on a Saturday and beings promptly at 2:00pm.

The programs for 2008, which will be held in Centennial Hall, are detailed below. For further information, call the Main Library Children’s Room at 973-733-7797 or visit kidsplace.npl.org/calendar.html.

October 25
Felix Pitre: Stories & Songs of Latin America
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Felix Pitre as he shares many of the Hispanic traditions that were passed down to him with puppetry, stories, songs, instruments and dance. Performed in English interwoven with Spanish.

November 15
Goowin’s Balloons: Fall Fest
Join balloon artist Allynn Gooen as he invites the audience to participate in a zany balloon story celebrating the arrival of Fall and Thanksgiving.

December 6
TAINO: Caribbean Holiday
Welcome winter and the holiday season with TAINO as they take the audience on a musical journey visiting several Caribbean countries sharing their holiday festivities with music, costumes, history and culture.

NPL Is a Bargain for College Students

To a college student, the word free is hard to beat. For those attending school in Newark, our library card is free. And it’s just the ticket to stretch a less-than-full wallet.

Want to take in a movie? With your NPL card you can select from thousands of current and classic DVDs.

Looking for a good book that doesn’t have the word “text” before it? Choose from thousands, including an expanded collection of graphic novels.

Computer skills a bit rusty? The Library offers a variety of free classes—in English and Spanish—to hone your proficiency.

Want to check your email or write a paper? There are dozens of computers available for use—free—at the Library. Or bring in your laptop and use WiFi.

Need the right music to study by and your favorite CDs are lost in your dorm room? The Main Library has a wide selection you can borrow.

For these and many other reasons, your NPL card can be your ticket to happiness in a pinch.
Hispanic Heritage Celebration 2008
September 15 – December 20
at The Newark Public Library

EXHIBITION
Reel Diversity: Film in the Hispanic World
explores film as both an agent and a reflection of change in the Hispanic world. While economics has been, arguably, the predominant factor shaping film in North America, the same cannot be said for Latin America and Spain. Most Latino countries are developing countries, and film — as an agent of social cohesion and often an educational tool — takes on an importance and significance no longer seen in North America. The Western world experienced a cultural awakening in the 1960s; in Latin America, the decade saw the birth or revitalization of several national cinemas. Films by Latino filmmakers represent themes related to national identity while addressing transnational concerns. The exhibit will focus on 5 national cinemas: Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Cuba and Puerto Rico, and will also include a special section on the role and impact of Telenovelas in Latin America and around the world.
Curated by Ina Rimpau in collaboration with Ingrid Betancourt and Juan E. Ctron.

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.

PROGRAMS

Tuesday, September 16
5 pm • Centennial Hall
Youth Event
21 Days of Clemente Essay Contest
Finalists from 3 Newark middle schools participating in the 21 Days of Clemente Essay Contest come together at the Newark Public Library for the final stage of the competition. Contest winners will receive scholarship awards. The program will include music and dance performances. This event is presented in partnership with the Newark Public Schools and the Puerto Rican Statewide Parade of NJ, and is part of a national campaign to permanently retire Roberto Clemente's jersey number 21, in honor of the player's achievements on and off the field.

Thursday, September 18
6 pm • Centennial Hall
Opening Reception
Carlos Gutiérrez, Co-founder and director of Cinema Tropical, a non-profit organization dedicated to the distribution, programming and promotion of Latin American cinema in the U.S., will be the featured speaker at the opening reception of the Library's 2008 Hispanic Heritage Celebration and exhibition.

Saturday, September 20
Auditorium
Mexican Films Screening & Commentary
Como agua para chocolate • 1 pm
(Like Water for Chocolate)
1992. 105 min.
Based on the novel by Laura Esquivel. Romantic fantasy set in the early 20th century about a young couple who are forbidden to marry. The young man marries his love’s sister, who expresses her passion for him through her cooking. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Angelitos negros • 3:30 pm
(Little Black Angels)
1948. 100 min.
This film is one of the gems of the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema. Ana Luisa and José Carlos, both white, give birth to a black child. Ana Luisa rejects the little girl who ends up suffering the injustice and pain of racism. But Ana Luisa doesn’t know that her own maid who is also black hides a secret that will change her life. One of Pedro Infante’s best-known films. In Spanish.

Saturday, September 27
Auditorium
Puerto Rican Films Screening & Commentary
La gran fiesta • 1 pm
(The Grand Ball)
1987. 101 min.
La Gran Fiesta was the first feature-length film to be produced by the Puerto Rican film industry. In 1942, Casino de Puerto Rico, a lavish San Juan nightspot, is about to be turned over to the US Army as a recreational center. To celebrate their last night as a “civilian” nighterie, the staff members of the Casino stage one final all-stops-out Grand Ball. Everyone is invited, even those “undesirables” who would normally be shut out of the black-tie establishment. In Spanish with some English dialogue.

La guagua aérea
3:30 pm
(The Flying Bus — A Flight of Hope)
1995. 80 min.
Based on the short story La guagua aérea by Luis Rafael Sánchez. A comedy depicting a group of Puerto Rican immigrants taking the notorious midnight flight from San Juan to New York City in 1960. In Spanish with some English dialogue.

Stories from Puerto Rico
La vida en el rincón de la noche (1952)
1952. 84 min.
A boarding house, a dance hall, a brothel, a bowling alley, and the stadium. It’s one of the most iconic films in the history of Puerto Rican cinema. Also screening: La cabaña (1989) and Monólogos (1990). In Spanish with English subtitles.

December 20, 2008
6 pm • Centennial Hall
and the Puerto Rican Statewide Days of Clemente Essay Contest
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Memorias del subdesarrollo
3:30 pm (Memories of Underdevelopment)
1968. 97 min. Based on the novel of the same name by Edmundo Desnoes, this film chronicles the life of a middle-class intellectual caught in the midst of the rapidly changing social reality of revolutionary Cuba. Sergio is a landlord and writer who remained behind when his wife, family and friends, whom he ridicules, leave for Miami. But he is unable to commit himself to the revolution and remains a skeptical observer. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Saturday, October 25
Auditorium
Spanish Films Screening & Commentary
Volver • 1 pm (Coming Back) 2007. 121 min. Apparitions are made flesh and blood in Pedro Almodóvar’s latest film, a dynamic blend of hilarity and drama. Irene returns from the afterlife to reconcile with her estranged daughter Raimunda. But by the time Irene shows up in the trunk of her other daughter’s car, Raimunda, who lives in Madrid with her teenage daughter Paula and her perennially drunk husband Paco, has bigger things to worry about. In Spanish with English subtitles.

El espíritu de la colmena 3:30 pm (The Spirit of the Beehive) 1973. 95 min. In a small Castillian village in the early 1940s, as echoes of the Spanish Civil War can still be heard throughout the countryside, six-year-old Ana is introduced to an alternate world of myth and imagination when she attends a town-hall showing of Frankenstein, an experience that forever alters young Ana’s perception of the world around her. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Saturday, November 1
Auditorium
Cuban Films Screening & Commentary
Fresa y chocolate • 1 pm (Strawberry and Chocolate)
1993. 104 min. A chance encounter over ice cream between a middle-aged gay man and a young, fervent believer in contemporary Cuban Marxism sets the stage for a funny but serious film about difference and acceptance. Fresa y Chocolate swept all the top awards at the 1993 New Latin American Film Festival in Havana, won critical and popular acclaim at festivals from Berlin to Telluride, and was nominated for the Best Foreign Film Oscar in 1995. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Valcárce’s “Grandma’s Wake” to the poignancy of José Luis González’s “There’s A Little Colored Boy in the Bottom of the Water;” and in style from the baroque of Emilio Belaval’s “Spectraria” to the spare, tough prose of Pedro Juan Soto’s “The Champ.” Each story is published in both English and the original Spanish. Sometimes sad, and sometimes hilariously comic, these stories are in many respects an authentic voice of the Puerto Rican people.” — Schocken Books
After the untimely death in 2005 of Charles F. Cummings, NPL Assistant Director and Newark City Historian, many of his friends—including Liz DelTufo, Richard Grossklaus, and Essex County Executive Joseph Di Vincenzo—wanted there to be a lasting memorial for Charles. Their efforts came to fruition with the creation of a bronze bust. So that Charles will always oversee the City he adopted as his own, the sculpture has been placed in a park at the exterior of the Essex County Courthouse.

This special bust of Charles F. Cummings stands at the exterior of the Essex County Courthouse so that he may always oversee the City he adopted as his own. The memorial inscription, written by Pulitzer Prize author Philip Roth, reads: “We Doubt That Charles Knew Or Would Believe That He Has Earned Heroic Stature Through The Seemingly Workaday Labors Of Librarian And City Historian, But We Want To Declare That He Achieved Nothing Less And That He Will Be Remembered For Nothing Less.”

Special Donors Support Special Services

Our 2008 Annual Fund campaign, in addition to providing donations for general use, has seen an increase in gifts for specific projects. One of those areas is the Special Services Room.

Donations have been received to support Library plans to expand our special services offerings and to relocate them to a larger area on the third floor of the Main Library. Included will be computers and other equipment to meet the needs of the physically, hearing, and visually challenged and those of our senior citizens. The Library’s Deaf Awareness Club has also been expanded and revitalized. In addition, a core collection of materials will be purchased.

While the bulk of funding for the Special Services division will come from the general and capital appropriations from the City of Newark, funding has also been made available through the generosity of TD Commerce Bank, Florence Miller and The Friends of The Newark Public Library.

The Friends have allocated $5,000 for furnishings in addition to a gift of $500 for American Sign Language materials. TD Commerce Bank has made a generous $4,000 donation, which will be used for collection development. A gift of $5,000 from the estate of longtime NPL friend Florence Miller will be used for materials for the visually challenged.

Donors to the Library’s Annual Fund may designate the use of their gifts for the aforementioned Special Services section and other dedicated funds. Memorial donations and bequests can also be designated. Please call 973-424-1832 or visit our website at www.npl.org and select “Support the Library.”

Charles F. Cummings established the Robert Treat Endowment for the purchase of Newark and New Jersey materials for the Library’s collections. Over the years, numerous patrons have donated to this endowment, thus helping to preserve his memory.

Those wishing to make donations in Charles’ name to his special endowment may send checks (made payable to The Newark Public Library–Robert Treat Endowment, c/o The Development Department, The Newark Public Library, PO Box 630, Newark, NJ 07101-0630.)

Presenting the TD Commerce Bank check were Eric R. Radell, Vice President, Retail Market Manager/Essex County (far left), and John J. Falco, Regional Vice President, Essex County (far right). Accepting for the Library were Joseph C. Casale, Assistant Director for Finance and Development, and Director Wilma J. Grey.
The Library’s annual “Book Classic” golf tournament came up aces again, raising monies in support of the 2008 Annual Fund Campaign. The July 22 event at the Plainfield Country Club was filled with fun, food, golf and networking. The Library thanks everyone who made that possible, especially Dinner Sponsor HSBC Bank.

NJCH Awards $10,000 Grant for Archives Project

The Library has received a $10,000 grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to support the continuing work of our Puerto Rican Community Archives project.

This is the first archival collection of Latino materials in the state. It is one of the key components of the Library’s New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center, the division that is dedicated to expand, preserve, and make accessible information about the history and culture of Latino communities in Newark, Essex County, and New Jersey.

The endeavor is under the direction of Supervising Librarian Ingrid Betancourt and Project Archivist Yesenia Lopez.

Once archived, these primary-source documents will be available to researchers to demonstrate how Puerto Rican individuals and organizations have participated in New Jersey’s economy, civic life and culture.
NPL Staff “Eat It Up” on Munchmobile Trip

It began with decadent baked goods in Andover and ended with yummy ice cream in Lawrenceville. Along the way, six NPL staffers—Jim Capuano, Dale Colston, Curt Idrogo, Ann Miele, Maureen Ritter, and Deirdre Schmidel—sampled a variety of foods on the “Munchmobile” trip along Route 206. The librarians took part in one of the Newark Star-Ledger’s weekly excursions of sampling the fare at New Jersey’s favorite roadside eateries that are led by reporter Peter Genovese.

How was the food? Our judges rated it: Delicious! Tangy! Stupendous! At the end of the trip, one was heard to say: “Stick a fork in me. I’m done.”

Stopping for a breather along the way, the six NPL staffers pose for a photo by the Munchmobile: Dale Colston, Ann Miele, Curt Idrogo, Deirdre Schmidel, Maureen Ritter, and Jim Capuano.

Robert L. Wooten, Jr., was named Senior Library Director for a Day 2008. A lifelong Newark resident, he is “Friend, Helper, and Sure Support” for his family, friends, and other seniors. Mr. Wooten, pictured here with family members, enjoyed the special luncheon held at the Library in his honor.
Heidi Cramer has been elected president of the New Jersey Library Association. Ms. Cramer has been with the NPL for 13 years. Her responsibilities include public relations, programming, website management, and Main Library reference.

The NJLA has more than 1,700 members and is the oldest and largest library organization in New Jersey. It provides vision and leadership for the library community and serves as the voice of the state’s libraries and librarians.

The NPL has a longstanding history of involvement, support and leadership of the NJLA.

“My goals as president,” explained Ms. Cramer, “are involving more librarians in our work and increasing the avenues of participation, especially through electronic meetings.”

Joseph Casale has been named the president of the Newark Rotary Club. Mr. Casale is the Library’s Assistant Director for Finance and Development. He has been a staff member for 40 years.

The Rotarians are a community service organization dedicated to assisting the children of Newark. There are 32,000 clubs worldwide with a total membership of more than 1.2 million.

“Our motto is ‘Service Above Self,’” noted Mr. Casale, “in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. As president,” he continued, “my primary objective is to instill that doctrine in the Newark membership.”

The Library will present its annual Dr. King commemoration on Thursday, January 15. The program, Celebrating the Dream: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will be held in Centennial Hall, beginning at 6:00pm.

The event is a blend of the spoken word, theater and music written and performed by Lois Moses and Rhetta Morgan. It includes their reflections on the sacrifices and injustices that people of color have suffered throughout the history of the United States.

For more information on Celebrating the Dream call 973-733-5411.

Dorothea Moore, Chairperson of the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society, has selected a number of items on the African Diaspora for the Society’s new season of insightful commentary.

To learn more about the Society, come to the informal registration in the Main Library’s James Brown African-American Room on Saturday, September 20, from 11 am to Noon.

September 24, 6:30pm: film and discussion of Brother Future, in which an inner-city youth is knocked unconscious and wakes up in 1822 South Carolina where he is a slave.

October 1, 6:30pm: The Bond, three young men learn to forgive and reconnect with their fathers.

The Friends of the Newark Public Library are continuing to gather oral histories from founding Friends board members and key NPL staff. This important project, funded in part by the Victoria Foundation, seeks to capture the richness of what the Library has to offer.

To date, interviewees include Friends founding board members and longtime Library staff. They have lent their perspectives to both the history of our Friends group and the Library itself.

As any good book filled with memorable characters prompts call for a sequel, this project will continue to gather stories for some time to come.

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The Friends of the Newark Public Library are making plans to raise more Book Sale bucks than this year’s successful event and have selected dates for their 2009 sale: April 18, 21, 23 and 25.

So mark your calendar now and plan to be on hand to secure some great values for yourself and the book enthusiasts you know.

The Library has a blog on the “Newark Live” site on nj.com that tells what’s happening at the NPL. Have some fun and check us out today by visiting www.nj.com/newark/npl.