Special Services Room Reopens

The SSR, which is located on the third floor of the Main Library, has reopened, featuring an extensive variety of services, equipment and programs.

“We have the generosity of several key donors to thank for making this room a reality,” noted Library Director Wilma J. Grey.

• **TD Commerce Bank** contributed valuable funds for collection development.

• **The Friends of the Newark Public Library** provided new materials for American Sign Language classes and furnishings for the room.

• **The Estate of Florence Miller** enabled the purchase of resources for the blind.

“With the help of our community partners,” Grey continued, “we welcome the opportunity to serve new and returning patrons.”

The SSR is proud to partner with the New Jersey State Library Braille and Talking Book Center to provide specialized equipment and media in Braille and recorded format.

Through a literacy grant, the New Jersey State Library provided generous funding for our ESOL classes.

“The staff is available to assist patrons with using our specialized computer software and other equipment,” noted Margaret George, Principal Librarian. “We offer the extra assistance that some patrons may need to take advantage of all of the Library’s collections and services.”

The Special Services Room offers collections, classes, training, specialized equipment, and programs.

**Collections**
- Books for the blind and visually impaired; seniors, retirement; deafness, deaf history; American Sign Language; ESOL materials.
- Large print books.
- A selection of items in Braille.

**Classes/Training**
- Access technology for the blind and visually impaired.
- ESL/ESOL Classes.
- ASL Classes.
- Deaf Awareness Club of Newark, NJ, and Beyond The Eyes.

**Equipment**
- Reading Edge.
- Assistive Listening Devices Loan Program.
- TTY and Video Phone.
- Computers with Jaws and Magic viewer.
- Reading Edge machine that reads printout to blind patrons.
- Computer with Sprint IP free Relay and Aim service for the deaf.
- SVRS-Sorenson Video display relay service-telephone hook up for the deaf.

The SSR is open currently from 10:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. For a schedule of classes, please call 973-733-5412 or email mgeorge@npl.org.
The economic downturn over the past year has had an unfortunate negative effect on business and institutions across the board. In most cases, activities and services have been drastically reduced, but in this struggling economy, people in every area of the country are visiting their local libraries in record numbers. Many libraries have been experiencing double-digit increases in attendance and circulation. Patrons have been flocking to libraries for free access to a wealth of information useful in sustaining themselves through hardship or rebuilding their careers.

One hot topic now is job hunting. Some individuals need assistance with writing résumés. Others want a helping-hand with completing a job application online or for establishing an email address, which is an essential mode of communication these days.

The Newark Public Library has also experienced this upsurge in activity. For many of the City’s residents, the Library is the only place where free computer and Internet access is available. There are also free classes for those who want to learn the basics of computer use, more advanced computer skills, or job-searching techniques.

Although libraries have been meeting the challenge of increased demand for services, they have also been affected by the economy. Budgets have remained static or have been reduced. Consequently, many libraries are having difficulty maintaining essential services. That is why it is more important than ever for patrons to realize that individual donations are needed by public libraries in every locality. The Newark Public Library is no different in that respect and asks for your support.

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Wilma J. Grey, Director

NPL Recognized by State Library Association

At its spring conference, the New Jersey Library Association presented the NPL with two Awards.

Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder, and Erika Jackson were on-hand to accept the Service Award for a Group for the High School Academic Support Program held at our Springfield Branch. Over the course of a school year, Brown, Holder and Jackson each volunteer more than 200 hours, providing SAT prep, college fairs, and assistance with college applications. More than 500 students, who have taken advantage of the Program over its ten-year existence, have earned college degrees.

Samantha Johnston and Rosie Uyola, two Rutgers-Newark students, received the Public Relations and Marketing Award for New Technology for their production of ART FOR ALL: The Special Collections. The eight-plus minute documentary begins with a brief history of the formation of the Division, and then discusses the impact of William J. Dane, the Keeper of the Prints, and his sixty-plus years at the NPL. The video is posted on the YouTube website and the Library’s.
A rare treat is in store this summer for children of all ages. The Library will present *The Global Artistry of Leo & Diane Dillon: A Retrospective*, a traveling exhibition from the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature. It will be installed in the third-floor gallery from July 9 to September 9.

*The Global Artistry* features selected original artwork of Leo and Diane Dillon from 1970 to today. The artists are among the most talented and versatile illustrators in the United States. Their work has been an outstanding contribution to children of all races and cultures. Versatility, diversity, research, and integrity have remained characteristics of the Dillons’ work, which ranges from African folktale to Scandinavian epics, from fantasy to science fiction. The Dillons have won Caldecott Medals for *Ashanti To Zulu* and for *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears*. They also received four New York Times Best Illustrated Awards, four Boston Globe/Horn Book Awards, two Coretta Scott King Awards, and the Society of Illustrators Gold Medal.

The show complements the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge that is detailed in the page 5 article entitled “Be Creative.”

For more information on *The Global Artistry* please call the Main Library Children’s Room at 973-733-7797, or visit our website: www.npl.org.

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A reflective look at a bygone era is the focal point of a summer exhibition at the Library. Entitled *Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark’s Legendary Neighborhood*, the show will be installed in the second-floor gallery from July 8 to September 4.

Curated by Linda Forgosh, and organized by the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest, *Weequahic Memoirs* tells the story of the neighborhood from the 1930s through the 1960s. There are historical views of many landmarks that remain today, including Weequahic High School, Weequahic Park, Beth Israel Hospital, and even the Weequahic Branch of the NPL.

For more information on this nostalgic show and related programs call the Library at 973-424-1831, or visit our website: www.npl.org.
And the Winners Are...

Hundreds of entries came pouring in for our Create Your Own Book contest that was held during National Library Week. Selecting the top winners in the two grade-level categories was a monumental task for the judges, because all who entered were authors-in-the-making.

Following is the list of the top-three in each category, along with the honorable mentions, including their Branch Library affiliations. Congratulations to all who entered.

Grades K – 3
1st place – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
by Quinn Gilmore, Branch Brook
2nd place – The Famous Child
by Tito Cruz, Branch Brook
3rd place – Escape From Raptor Island
by Latrell Williams, Branch Brook

HONORABLE MENTIONS
A Day in the Park by Karina Casanova, Branch Brook
Animals by Valentina Chifa, Main Library
A Book of Poems by Sherley Arias, Roseville
Zenda’s Garden by Janiya Copper, Springfield

Grades 4 – 8
1st place – The Things I Think of Myself
by Saul Torres, North End
2nd place – A Girl’s Best Friend
by Larissa Portilla, North End
3rd place – My Lucky Sneakers
by Carlos Serrano, Branch Brook

HONORABLE MENTIONS
The Dragon by Daniel Gonzalez, Branch Brook
BFF Forever by Crystal Perez, North End
Poems Around the World
by Ashley Perez, North End
Playground Wars
by Jonathan C. Butler, Weequahic

Club Is a Success

The Library’s popular homework-assistance program, Club Success, completed another triumphant year. Thanks to the continued support of the Newark Public Schools, hundreds of children received the guidance they needed from a board-certified teacher at each NPL location. Pictured are three First Avenue Branch Library participants—Katherine Mendoza, Yudissel Ovalle, and Jacqueline Lopez—who are hard at work on a poster project for Language and Art Class at the First Avenue School. All three are A students and belong to Aspira, a Latino youth-leadership program.
The theme for this year’s Challenge, which runs from June 22 to August 1, is **Be Creative @ Your Library**. A festive rally—Tuesday, June 23, 10:00am to Noon, Centennial Hall—will kick off a major program that has seen children read more than 50,000 books since its inception. The rally will feature master magician Mark Wurst and his The Library Magic and Creativity show—and refreshments. Corky, our Kids’ Place mascot, will be there to meet and greet the children.

Additionally, all of the Children’s Rooms will host daily **Summer Fun** activities, including board games, puzzles, movies, arts and crafts, and story time. For more information, stop by any location or visit [kidspace.npl.org](http://kidspace.npl.org) and click on Summer Reading Challenge.

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**Teens: Express Yourself**

Included in the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge is a teen program for those entering 8th grade and up. Participants will enjoy the theme **Express Yourself @ Your Library**. Teens may report on books that they have read at the teen blog, nplteen.space.blogspot.com. They may also give traditional written or verbal reports.

Teen collections are available at all NPL locations, and students may count school summer reading assignments towards their Challenge participation as well.

The Main Library will screen a series of expressive dance films for the teen audience on Thursdays at 3:00pm in the Main Library’s Auditorium.

- **Stomp the Yard**, July 9
- **Save the Last Dance**, July 16
- **Save the Last Dance 2**, July 23
- **Take the Lead**, July 30
- **Shall We Dance?**, August 6

For more information call (973) 733-7797.
Celebration to Honor N. J.’s Peruvian Community

Mark September 17th on your calendar now to note the date of the Opening Reception for this year’s Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

The exhibition, which will be on view in the second-floor gallery from September 17 to December 31, is entitled *A Journey from Ancient Times: Peruvians in New Jersey*. It will showcase the history, cultural traditions and American experiences of this community, which is one of the fastest growing Latino groups in our state. Public programs will feature Peruvian art, music, theater, film and literature.

For additional information, please call our Sala Hispanoamericana at 973-733-7772, or email Ingrid Betancourt at ibetancourt@npl.org.

Ancient city of Machu Picchu in Peru, a World Heritage Site, is frequently referred to as The Lost City of the Incas.

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Booked for the Evening
SAVE-THE-DATE

Annual Gala
LOCATION: The Newark Club @ 1 Newark Center
Thursday, November 5, 2009
Cocktails: 6:00pm • Dinner: 7:00pm
For reservations and information call Sue Mazzeo at 973-424-1832.

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Summer Hours
June 29 through September 5

**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.

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Mark September 7th on your calendar now to note the date of the Opening Reception for this year’s Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

The exhibition, which will be on view in the second-floor gallery from September 7 to December 3, is entitled *A Journey from Ancient Times: Peruvians in New Jersey*. It will showcase the history, cultural traditions and American experiences of this community, which is one of the fastest growing Latino groups in our state. Public programs will feature Peruvian art, music, theater, film and literature.

For additional information, please call our Sala Hispanoamericana at 973-733-7772, or email Ingrid Betancourt at ibetancourt@npl.org.

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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 973-733-542.

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 049-5509

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http://www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/SecondCentury/vol20num2.pdf
Friends Support Book Budget

The doors closed on another successful Friends Annual Book Sale in April. Book Sale Chair Jerry Caprio and the entire committee recognized the volunteers and Library staff that contributed to the success.

At their May meeting, the Friends of the Library announced they are supporting the following this year: educational and career materials, and the acquisition of young adult/teen books.

Thanks, Friends.

ListenNJ User’s Guide

Free Audiobooks: Just Click, Download, Listen

Hundreds of titles of digital audiobooks are now available for free downloading at ListenNJ.com, a project of the InfoLink and Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperatives. This is a great way to bring along a book on vacation or a car trip, or listen to while relaxing at home. If you haven’t taken advantage of this free 24/7 service, here’s how easy it is.

You will need:
• A valid Newark Public Library card, and
• Internet access from your home computer. (Downloads are not available on Library computers.)

The first time you borrow materials at ListenNJ.com, instructions will be provided on how to download the free software needed.

After downloading a book to your computer, simply transfer it to an MP3 player or iPhone™. Some titles can even be burned to a CD.

You may check out up to five digital audiobooks at one time. The loan period is 10 days. After that, the title expires and the audiobook is automatically checked back in. Once expired, you can delete those files from your computer.

Want to know more? Visit ListenNJ.com and click on the Help button for a complete list of FAQ or take the Digital Media Guided Tour. If you would like assistance from someone at the NPL, please call (973) 733-7779.

People Need Libraries, Libraries Need You

Libraries all around New Jersey took a “snapshot” of their services on February 19, 2009. Snapshot: One Day in the Life of New Jersey Libraries documented the valuable collections, services, and expertise available to New Jersey residents every day. In just one day more than 161,000 people walked through the doors of New Jersey libraries. Over 18,537 questions were answered, 27,742 people used computers and 1,245 got employment help. Snapshot was coordinated by the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey State Library.

Here are two new ways to connect with the Library:
1. Fan our FACEBOOK link on our home page: www.npl.org.
2. Check out our blog on the “Newark Live” site on nj.com by visiting http://www.nj.com/newark/npl.

Najah (left) was pleased the Library has a wide variety of books of interest to her. Nai added: “If you need anything school related, you can come here for help.”
Return Service Requested

Do we have your current address? If not, fill out the form at right and mail it with your (old) pre-printed address panel above to:
The Second Century, c/o The Newark Public Library, POB 630, Newark, NJ 07101-0630.

Name ____________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________  State ______  Zip __________
E-mail __________________________________________________________________________

A Valued Place
Support the Library

The Newark Public Library is so much more than books, computers and DVDs. It is a site that encourages one’s intellectual freedom, enabling them to learn about most things. It is a safe haven where young and old can enrich their lives. It is a social-bonding venue where people experience cultural similarities and diversities. These are some of the qualities that make the Library a valued place worthy of your financial support.

During these difficult economic times, in order to minimize operating expenses, the Library did not mail a printed solicitation piece this spring. Instead, we are attaching a return envelope in this newsletter and asking for your financial support—support to help us continue our tradition of providing free and public access to our services and collections.

Please mail your gift today and keep the Library a valued place. To donate online, visit www.npl.org and click on Support.