



# The Newark Public Library Annual Report 2018



## Vision

In serving the entire Newark community, The Newark Public Library will be a national model of innovation, collaboration, and service excellence.

## Mission

The Newark Public Library transforms lives and strengthens communities through innovative services, stimulating programs, and inspiring collections.

## Values

### COMMITMENT

We pledge to set a distinctive standard of excellence in all services for our Library users, for the City of Newark, and for our staff.

### COMMUNITY

We engage with residents to co-create a happy, productive Newark. We make the Library an active, integral community citizen.

### COOPERATION

We use our different strengths to work together and with partners throughout the city to achieve our mission and to encourage curiosity in Library users.

### ENRICHMENT

We shape and transform lives through our programs, services, and collections to fulfill the expectations and dreams of all who use Library resources.

### EXPRESSION

We provide a safe space, where all individuals are free to be themselves.

### INCLUSION

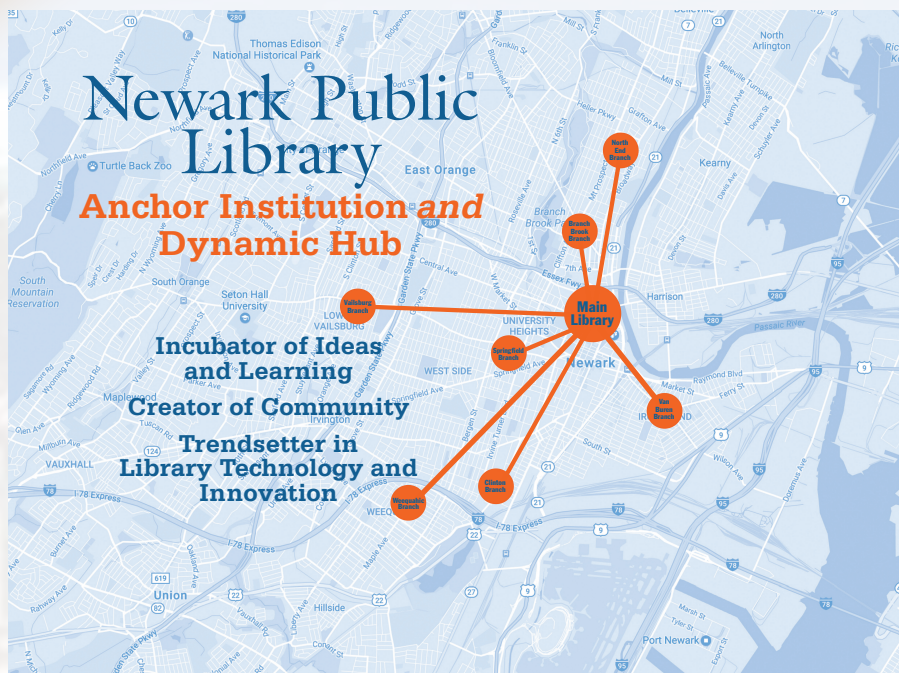
We welcome people of all ages, abilities, beliefs, classes, colors, ethnicities, genders, gender preferences, and shapes into these Libraries. Libraries are for everyone. Everyone belongs here.

### INNOVATION

We invite and encourage change as our communities' needs evolve.

### LEADERSHIP

We are a hub of the community. We use our skills and resources to help all Newarkers.



## THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Main Library** 5 Washington Street, 07102 • 973-733-7784

**Branch Brook Branch** 235 Clifton Avenue, 07104 • 973-733-7760

**Clinton Branch** 739 Bergen Street, 07108 • 973-733-7757

**North End Branch** 722 Summer Avenue, 07104 • 973-733-7766

**Springfield Branch** 50 Hayes Street, 07103 • 973-733-7736

**Vailsburg Branch** 75 Alexander Street, 07106 • 973-733-7755

**Van Buren Branch** 140 Van Buren Street, 07105 • 973-733-7750

**Weequahic Branch** 355 Osborne Terrace, 07112 • 973-733-7751

### Board of Trustees

Timothy J. Crist, Ph.D.

*President*

Trish Morris-Yamba,  
*Vice-President (deceased)*

Thomas J. Alrutz,  
*Treasurer*

Anasa Maat, Ed.D.,  
*Secretary*

Jeremy Johnson,  
*Alternate for Mayor Ras J. Baraka*

Gerald Fitzhugh, II,  
*Alternate for Roger León,  
Superintendent for  
Newark Public Schools*

Rosemary Steinbaum, Ed.D.

Lauren Wells, Ph.D.

### Leadership Team

Jeffrey Trzeciak, *Library Director*

Ingrid Betancourt,  
*Assistant Director for  
Special Collections*

James Capuano,  
*Interim Assistant Director  
for Public Services*

Leslie Colson,  
*Assistant Director for  
Human Resources*

Rodney Jefferson,  
*Assistant Director for Finance*

Spencer Scott,  
*Chief Development Officer*

George Williams,  
*Assistant Director for  
Facilities and Security*

## THE CITY OF NEWARK

Ras J. Baraka, *Mayor*

### Municipal Council

Mildred C. Crump, *Council President*

Augusto Amador, *Vice President and East Ward*

Carlos M. Gonzalez, *At-Large*

John S. James, *South Ward*

LaMonica McIver, *Central Ward*

Joseph A. McCallum, Jr., *West Ward*

Eddie Osborne, *At-Large*

Luis A. Quintana, *At-Large*

Anibal Ramos, Jr., *North Ward*

Cover photo: Updated,  
freshly painted, and relocated  
James Brown African  
American Room  
Photo credit: Risasi Dais



# A Message from the Director



Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. Where do I begin to sum up 2018? There was so much that happened in terms of programming, exhibits, partnerships, special guests, and upgrades/renovations to

the Main Library. You would be hard-pressed to find a week that did not include multiple programs, workshops, classes or special events occurring at the Main Library and the Branch Libraries. Newarkers were invited to participate in poetry slams, Drag Queen Story Times, STEAM workshops, book signings, yoga classes, jewelry making activities, holiday celebrations, crochet clubs, and the list goes on. These only supplemented our core programming of basic computer instruction, ESL and ASL classes, resume writing, and job search classes. And for the first time, in response to community need, we offered free basic Spanish language classes to both children and adults.

Outstanding programs for 2018 included three very special, internationally recognized speakers: Junot Díaz; U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor; and Sir Salman Rushdie, our Philip Roth Lecture presenter. The programs were among the best in Library history and the audience response was amazing. All the seats were taken and even backup areas were overflowing!

In fact, programs at the Branch libraries increased by 10% this year, and phenomenally by 25% at the Main Library compared to last year's numbers. In accordance with those impressive stats, program attendance also significantly increased. Last year, the Main Library saw over 38,000 patrons come through our doors for one of our special events — that is almost a 40% increase from our numbers in 2017. The Branches followed suit and hosted over 37,000 patrons for their special events as

well, which is an incredible 32% increase from their 2017 attendance. It's no wonder I am feeling both exhilarated and exhausted!

We are extremely grateful for the support from the City of Newark. Mayor Baraka and the Newark City Council were instrumental in providing the much-needed capital funding to launch a complete overhaul of the outdated HVAC system at the Main Library. We have also been working closely with an engineering firm to reduce the environmental impact and energy use at the Main Library, which will not only help to reduce our carbon footprint, but also lead to significant financial savings in the future.

If you have not been to the Main Library recently, I would encourage you to stop in to see how these transformations are contributing to the overall enhancement of the building. The beautiful new space where the James Brown African American Room has been relocated is a fitting tribute to the impact the beloved librarian, James Brown, had and continues to have on our community.

The Main Library welcomed our new partners, the Newark LGBTQ Community Center, to share space on the first floor as they were recently displaced from their headquarters. The media center resources have been moved to the first floor. This area, along with the new LGBTQ Community Center, offers perfect nooks for students and professionals to carve out workspace that is both highly functional and comfortable at the same time.

These advances were essential to position the Library for the 21st Century, while preserving the grandeur and beauty that makes the Main Library such a treasure. I am excited to be spearheading these efforts with our leadership team to ensure that Newarkers have a state-of-the-art library that celebrates the City's unique history and provides residents with the tools, resources, and information needed to succeed in today's world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey G. Trzeciak".

Jeffrey G. Trzeciak



# Nurturing Newark's Youth and Families

## Children

New to the Library (at all locations) was our **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** program, which challenges parents and caregivers to read aloud to their children with the goal of reading 1,000 books before kindergarten. This early literacy initiative promotes reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers and encourages parent and child bonding through reading. Library staff updated our bilingual Reading Together brochure with new book suggestions for preschoolers, and bought supporting materials in English and Spanish for all locations. In April, the Branch Brook Branch hosted the Partners in Learning program at which teen parents from Barringer High School visited with their children to learn about the Library and early childhood literacy.

Multicultural story times in Spanish, Portuguese, and English also supported early literacy. At the

Van Buren Branch, high school students provided reading and homework help to elementary students. At the Main Library, teens and children became summer “reading buddies.” The annual **Summer Reading Challenge** encouraged children to keep up their reading skills, and free lunches provided by the City’s Sun-Up Food Program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service were again served during July and August in the Children’s Rooms of all Library locations.

The Library purchased STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) kits to support learning in engineering, visual math, gravity, computers, and robotics, and circulated them throughout the Branches. They were also used at school outreach programs.

Partnerships with other Newark organizations helped to bring enriching programming to families. The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) provided the always popular **Jazz in the Stacks** program with performances at all Branches by the Wells Fargo Jazz for Teens musicians. The Latino Celebration featured a bilingual reading of *Tito Puente: Mambo King, Rey del Mambo* by Monica



Brown, a children’s book about the great pioneer of Latin jazz music. This interactive story time event was organized in partnership with NJPAC’s **Books on the Move** program and included an arts and crafts activity. The first 25 families attending the event received a free copy of the book.

The Library and The Newark Museum again teamed up for the **Black Film Festival** screenings for children at the Main Library. Our partner, Whole Cities, brought nutrition classes and cooking demonstrations to the Library. With the support of Newark Arts, Alicia Blanks brought the preschool dance program **Groovy Tots**, where our youngest patrons learned the basics of ballet, hip-hop and more as they danced to the beat. A grant from Newark Arts also supported the **Rhythm and Rhyme** story times for preschoolers.

## Teens

With generous funding from the Victoria Foundation, we were able to expand teen services. In 2018, the Library opened its first ever Teen Room for patrons in grades



Top: Students making popsicle stick characters at the Springfield Branch

Bottom: Girls painting at Van Buren Branch

Background photo: One of our younger patrons enjoying Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration



“To me living next to one of the branches as a young girl was a true blessing. Amazing experiences, beautiful people, wonderful memories & lifetime friends made at The Newark Public Library. Now I take my boys there and they love it too.”

— LISSA ROSARIO MARTE

7-12. Since opening, the Teen Room has seen over 4,000 teen patron visits. The Victoria Foundation also funded a part-time teaching artist to provide weekly art workshops in the teen room and at the Branch Libraries.

The Teen Room expanded the teen poetry workshops with teaching artist and poet Jasmine Mans. The Library also sponsored the first Newark Poetry Slam Team, flying four Newark teens to Houston, Texas, to compete in the *Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Festival*, the largest teen poetry competition in the world. The team made it to the semi-final round, qualifying in the top twenty out of fifty teams.

We received an action grant from the New Jersey Council for Humanities which allowed us to provide a 2-week poetry intensive bootcamp for teens with Jasmine Mans. The grant also provided weekly workshops for teens in the fall, and for the first time, provided free poetry workshops to young adults (ages 18-24).

Other activities offered throughout the year included: Book to Art Club; Point. Blank. PERIOD. (a menstruation workshop for pre-teen girls) and a Cyber Safety seminar provided by Curate Your Life; and Terrarium Building and Jewelry Making classes presented by Fern & Fossil. Branch Brook Branch provides a sewing space open to the community and the Van Buren Branch offers sewing classes to teens to make backpacks, pillows and scarves. The Library also co-sponsored the Brick City Collective monthly reading series.

The Library supported learning and college readiness for students throughout Newark with the continuation of its college preparatory classes at the Springfield Branch led by Lyndon Brown. Free weekly SAT/ACT classes were provided along with college essay writing and financial aid and scholarship assistance. The Library also hired a Manager of Pre-college Programs, who in conjunction with the Teen Services Librarian, coordinated free GED classes at the Main Library in November and December.



Top to bottom: Attendees at the National Jazz Appreciation Month and National Poetry Month Celebration

Sewing Classes at the Van Buren Branch

Teen headshot for Poetry Competition in the Main Library's stacks





# Contributing to the Personal Growth and Well-Being of All Newarkers

**Newarkers continued to view** their library as an information and referral hub. Our 21st century vision expands from using the Library to answer traditional research questions to helping people seeking to understand new ideas, and to those needing practical knowledge to navigate modern life. Students, teachers, parents, poets, athletes, job-seekers, new Americans, older adults, neighbors who find themselves homeless, and others visited, telephoned, emailed, and texted librarians with their requests for assistance in attaining their life-enhancing aspirations.

With further insights into the value of reading and the Library's commitment to providing information of all kinds, members of the public visited more, and increased resource purchases led to rises in circulation, in-house usage, and use of online sources. The Library instituted a no-late-fines policy, recognizing any financial burden can be a barrier to access for borrowing. One busy single parent expressed her thanks for the change adding, in the past, she had reluctantly discouraged her children from taking home materials because she often lacked the opportunity to return them on time and could not afford to pay the fines.

The library is an institution long associated with education. With a nationwide proliferation of online higher education programs, the North End Branch and the Weequahic Branch now offer proctoring of examinations. Among the brightest accomplishments in 2018 was the establishment, in cooperation with the Newark City of Learning Collaborative, of a series of classes for adults preparing for high school equivalency

examinations. The Library has long collected materials to help people pass a variety of tests, and this additional face-to-face service enhanced opportunities for success. Immigrants continued to flock to the Library's English language classes, provided in partnership with the highly regarded La Casa de Don Pedro and funded by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Other resources, such as the extensive web guide to organizations and agencies supporting immigrants and refugees, were heavily used by those populations and providers alike. One English language learner commented that thanks to his course at the Library he could communicate with the hospital doctors when he had to undergo emergency surgery. For U.S.-born Library users, Spanish language classes, taught by library staff, also drew enthusiastic participants, and ongoing American Sign Language classes remained extremely popular. All classes are offered at no cost to participants.

As part of the Library's Black History Celebration, **My 1ST HBCU Experience** was hosted by the Children's Room of the Main Library. This program was an interactive and immersive introduction to Historically Black Colleges & Universities for all ages. With over 200 people in attendance, the day included a panel discussion from five HBCU

Top: NJ Cares recruiting volunteers

Bottom: Bridges Outreach staff members at the Shaping Lives: Links to Homelessness Services event

Background photo: Family Connections with information and resources for the Shaping Lives event





# "I didn't know that libraries were so revolutionary."

— PARTICIPANT ATTENDING THE FORUM  
ON HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.



Top: Panel discussion from 5 Historically Black Colleges/Universities alumnae as part of the My 1st HBCU Experience

Bottom: Saint James Health providing shoes for the Shaping Lives event

alumnae, a band field show by Shabazz High School, a step show performance by the Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and resources ranging from the common application to FAFSA.

The Library offered diverse services for job seekers, including resume help, mock job interviews, guidance in finding job postings, pointers to training programs, and much more. Entrepreneurs too turned to the Library for information about finding employees, developing business plans, adhering to laws and ordinances, financing expansion, best practices, free services, and more.

Visitors benefited from librarians' help in navigating government and social services.

Online directories escort viewers to agencies and organizations that fulfill their needs. Students from the Rutgers University School of Social Work provided additional

counseling and follow-up to assure client satisfaction. The Newark Public Library is a safe place for confidential inquiries about housing, legal aid, services for immigrants, ex-offender programs for re-entry into the community, mental illness, domestic violence, and other sensitive issues. The second annual **Shaping Lives: Homelessness Services**, again produced with Bridges Outreach and Newark's Shani Baraka Women's Resource Center, highlighted over twenty-five providers for some 400 attendees receiving information, blankets, clothing, snacks, toiletries and haircuts—as well as generous lunches from Audible.com and Tree House Entertainment. Not only does the library serve individual people challenged by a lack of housing; its leadership also collaborates with the City and organizations like the Newark Homeless Coalition to eradicate homelessness. On May 2, as part of its second "Our Homes, Our Voices" week of action, the Coalition presented its Mayoral and Councilperson-At-Large Candidate Forum on Homelessness and Affordable Housing in the Main Library's Centennial Hall.

Throughout the history of The Newark Public Library, it has aspired to relevance and community leadership in enhancing the lives of people in every neighborhood, from every walk of life. Now, more than ever, staff attend community events: whether it is the Branch Brook Branch Library's participation in La Casa de Don Pedro's Festival de la Familia or a computer session at the Spencer Miller Community School, or a health fair at the Newark Beth Israel Hospital, the Library is there. Groups are similarly welcomed into Library buildings, and many are booking rooms for their events and meetings.

Truly, The Newark Public Library exists for all, and everyone belongs here.





# Strengthening Digital Literacy Skills for All

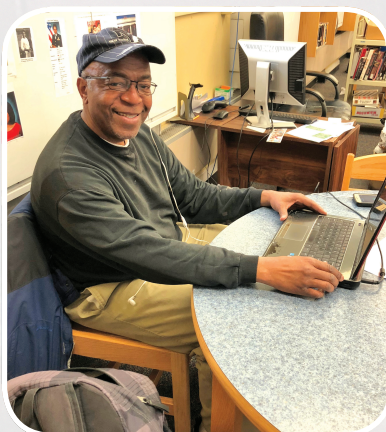
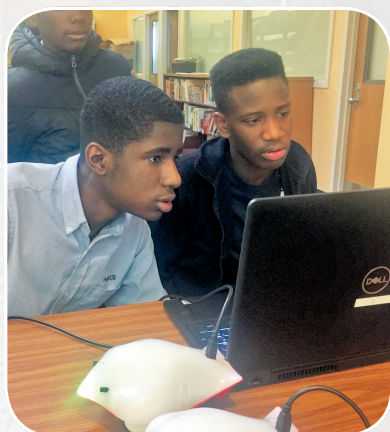
“Access to information in the 21st century is crucial, and not having the ability to have access to resources that can be easily used by visually impaired people is really a barrier to being fully engaged in the mainstream of our life. This is a great day for the Newark Public Library. Libraries can transform lives and this will be transformative.”

—LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
SHEILA Y. OLIVER

**One out of every five** households in Newark does not have a computer and/or an internet connection available in their homes. With that staggering inequity in mind, the Library strives to fill the gap by providing residents with access to updated computers and software. Last year, the Library invested in new computers for the Main Library and for almost every Branch Library. With a library card or a guest pass, patrons can log in to all of our public computers allowing them to browse the internet, create resumes and other documents, and search for jobs. A new feature, scan to e-mail has been made available for patrons in the Victoria Technology Center (VTC) and at all Branch Libraries. A new projector and sound system in the Main Library’s Technology Training Center let job seekers make video calls, which are often required for interviews.

Last year marked the launch of the Library Equal Access Program (LEAP) in the newly renovated Special Services Room of the Main Library. The LEAP initiative promotes easier access to the internet for the blind and visually impaired by utilizing new assistive technology software. This software is now available on the computers and iPads located in the Special Services Room. Through the LEAP initiative, training is also available for adults 55 years of age and older to provide basic computer skills on the use of assistive software, such as magnification and audio reading tools. These tools help users with vision impairments to more easily read websites, emails and other documents.

The LEAP initiative is a partnership between the NJ State Library and the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI). A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly equipped Special Services Room was held on October 9th. Both





Below, left to right:  
Teens using the computers  
at the Springfield Branch

Wifi user at the Clinton Branch

Kids using the computers  
at Van Buren Branch

Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver and  
Council President Mildred Crump  
participating in the LEAP Ribbon  
Cutting Ceremony

Background photo:  
Belmont-Runyon School and  
Friends participate in training in  
the Victoria Technology Center

Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver and Newark City Council President Mildred Crump shared remarks about the importance of this technology to empower those with visual impairments to live more independently, as well as the significance of having these technologies available in local libraries. This celebration was part of a series of events by CBVI to mark Blindness Awareness Month.

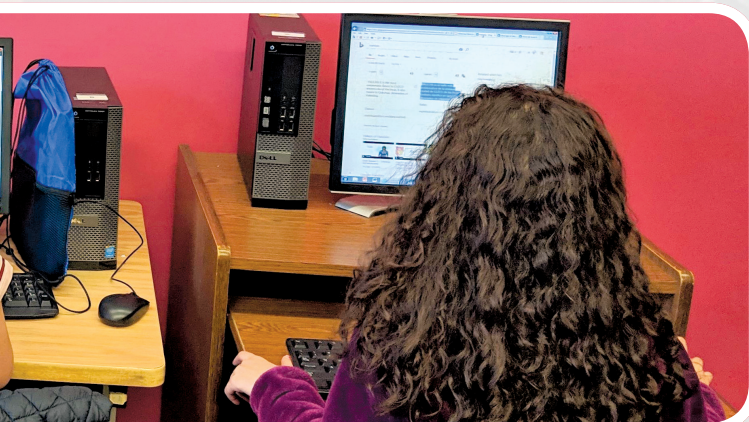
Residents appreciated the widening range of technological assistance programs, both classes and immediate interventions, and reported having found employment because of them. One senior citizen confessed that he had felt awkward that his grandchildren seemed to be born with computer know-how, but now he is sharing with them the technology tricks and tips that he has acquired at his library.

In the popular Girls Who Code program, girls in grades six through twelve learned the fundamentals of computer science — from robotics to building a webpage — while gaining exposure to the tech industry and mentorship from women working in technology. For the past three years, the Library has been working closely with Girls Who Code, a national nonprofit working to close the gender gap in technology. The students visited Google's NYC offices, toured facilities and met with female engineers. They also participated in the annual Girls Who Code NJ club conference at Prudential and were the winners of the Prudential Shark Tank Challenge.

The Teen Room at the Main Library received new computers last year; now teens may print their homework free of charge. In honor of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month,

Deja Jones from Curate Your Life facilitated a training session for teenage girls on cyber safety and cyber bullying last October. Teens were instructed on some of the guidelines around internet law, internet safety, and how to be better digital citizens.

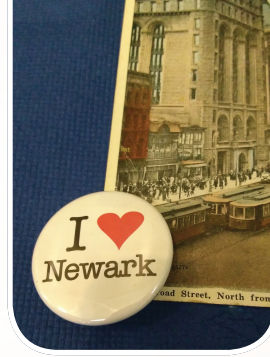
A number of iPads were purchased over the past year, many of which were customized for use in the children's room at both the Main Library and the Van Buren Branch. Younger students at the Van Buren Branch were introduced to coding using the Scratch and Google CS First programs. The Library purchased computer and robotic STEAM kits to teach basic coding concepts offline and with the assistance of Bee Bots. In addition, digital storytelling and stop-motion movie animation programs were offered to students using iPad apps.





# Enhancing and Promoting Newark Public Library's Distinctive Special Collections

Newark  
Memorabilia



**The Newark Public Library** is known throughout the state as the major repository for all things Newark. It is a fundamental destination for any researcher examining the history and culture of Newark. Thanks to the generosity of donors, it provides an unparalleled window into the past of one of the nation's oldest cities. Throughout last year, many archival collections were scanned and added to our digital archive, including the Hispanic Bar Association Records, the Newark Eagles Papers, the Newark Evening News, the City News, and the Al Henderson Collection. All of these treasures can be viewed in our digital archive @ [digital.npl.org](http://digital.npl.org).

Not only does the Library collect, catalog, and digitize riches of Newark's history, we also curate exhibits that highlight the best of those collections, as well as the collections of other local institutions and artists.

The Black History Celebration, **Brick and Martyr**, was a striking multi-media exhibition featuring works by Akintola Hanif, a renowned Newark photojournalist who founded *HYCIDE* magazine. The exhibition paid homage to the residents of Newark, examining how class and identity constructs fuel stereotypes about poverty and people of color. The works document life in Newark and encourage a culture of compassion.

The celebration also included screening of the award-winning Rutgers-Newark documentary featuring Dr. Clement Alexander Price, *In Our Neighborhood: The Once and Future Newark*, as well as the documentary, *13th*. The Third Annual #BlackLivesMatter-Newark panel discussion examined the systemic challenges families and communities consistently face. A memorialization of Newark visionary and artist Rodney Gilbert, an actor, director, teacher, and tireless promoter for a more creative community was also included as part of the celebration.

Treasures from Special Collections were displayed throughout the year. In the late spring through summer, the exhibit at the Library, **Newark: A Pictorial History**, featured fine prints and



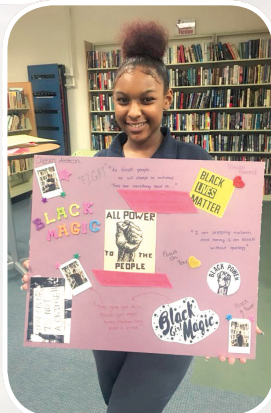
Top to bottom:  
My Newark Story activity

Kids at the Day of  
the Dead festivities

Black Lives Matter collage

Patrons at the 2018  
Black History Celebration  
and Grand Opening of the  
Brick & Martyr exhibit

Background photo:  
Patrons at the Grand  
Opening of the Synagogues  
of Newark exhibit





"I was just at the James Brown African American Room for the second annual Kwanzaa fest. So much history in the city of Newark. The community was looking beautiful tonight." — YUSEF SELLERS



Left to right: Two generations of NPL patrons posing for a photo during Community History Day; Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark's Legendary Neighborhood; Day of the Dead display in Centennial Hall; Newark: A Pictorial History Exhibit

photographs which chronicled the city's development. In the fall, several historic posters from Special Collections were included in a show, **Seeing Red**, at the Walsh Gallery at Seton Hall University. Additionally, the Library's Shopping Bag Collection received wide publicity when *Atlas Obscura* published an article about this unique archive.

The Library hosted two visiting exhibits mounted by local archives. **Old School: Collections of the Newark Public Schools Historical Preservation Committee**, opened in April. The exhibit included yearbooks, class photos, sports memorabilia, report cards, an antique desk, and other items borrowed from the Newark Public Schools Historical Preservation Committee. In December, the Library hosted the exhibit, **Synagogues of Newark: Where We Gathered and Prayed, Studied and Celebrated**, curated by the Jewish Museum of New Jersey, which explored the history of Jewish religious houses in Newark.

Diverse and engaging programming brought Newarkers and others into the Library. The Latino Celebration featured the exhibit **The Crossover: Are Latinos Transforming the US?**, which explored the ways in which Latinos have influenced mainstream America in areas such as music, film, television, food, politics, and literature. The exhibit featured the work of local artist Layqa Nuna Yawar. Included as part of the celebration were a keynote address by Latina feminist Professor Jillian Báez; a benefit known as

#PoetsforPuertoRico to raise funds for those on the island affected by Hurricane Maria; and Latin Wednesday dance parties. The Latino Celebration also featured a Day of the Dead Celebration, which included children's crafts and face painting followed by a screening of the Disney Pixar movie, *Coco*.

Other noteworthy events from the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center (NJHRIC) included participation in the Contigo en la Comunidad interview on Univision. Kevin Rosero conducted four interviews for the Latino Immigrant Experience Oral History Project and volunteer Vanessa Dutant taught Spanish classes for children in the summer. The **Newark '74: Remembering the Puerto Rican Riots** traveling exhibit was displayed at Monmouth University's Murry & Leonie Guggenheim Memorial Library, where Yesenia Lopez, our NJHRIC Director, delivered a lecture on how the history of the Newark '74 Riots tied into the establishment of the NJHRIC.

During the last year of the My Newark Story initiative, the Library continued to promote learning and outreach to children throughout Newark. The Library hosted a professional development day for staff at the Belmont Runyon Community School, a bus tour of Newark for parents of children enrolled in the NJ Regional Day School, and a Community History Day at the Main Library, which included participation from a vast number of community organizations, as well as a variety of performances, workshops, and lectures.



# Providing Welcoming, Safe, and Vibrant Environments

**In 2017**, The Newark Public Library received a grant from the Victoria Foundation to invest in the creation of “new” spaces at the Library. Those “new” spaces in the Main Library included the Teen Center, a mini Café, gallery seating, and an outdoor courtyard. Each of these new spaces were extremely successful. The popularity of the Teen Center and the Community Courtyard in particular are great examples of the impact that these spaces have had on fostering community. The Teen Center is filled to capacity every weekday and the Community Courtyard was home to weekly Friday Night Summer Parties, which attract on average 1000 people each week, and special events.

Building on these accomplishments, in 2018 the Library utilized funds from the City’s Capital Budget allocation to create even more special spaces in the Main Library. The plan was simple; design spaces for functionality and comfort. As in the previous year, the Library identified priorities based upon input gleaned from the community during the development of the Main Library Master Plan and our Strategic Plan. Those priorities included, in part, the new James Brown African American Room, intro-



duction of the LGBTQ Resource Center, and a new Media Center.

The new James Brown African American Room (JBAAR) is a beautiful sun-filled room with enough flexibility to accommodate researchers as well as major events such as the book signings with Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor and Sir Salman Rushdie. The Library’s dynamic affinity group, Friends of the James Brown African American Room (FoJBAAR), sponsored the Lorraine Hansberry Lecture Series in October in the new JBAAR space. This three-day event included a film screening and discussion of *A Raisin in the Sun*, an all-day viewing of films featuring Lorraine Hansberry, and a presentation by Dr. Imani Perry, the Hughes-Rogers professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, of her latest book, the critically acclaimed *Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant and Radical Life of Lorraine Hansberry*.

In November, the FoJBAAR presented a panel discussion on plant-based living. Local chefs,

Top to bottom:  
NPL’s Friday Night Dance Parties  
in the Courtyard

Participants at Audible Inc.’s “Walk Your Talk”  
Event in celebration of Women’s History Month

New Media Center space

Background photo: Drag Queen Story Time  
with Harmonica Sunbeam



# “I love my library because it feels like a home to me.”

— STUDENT/ PATRON FROM THE VAN BUREN BRANCH LIBRARY

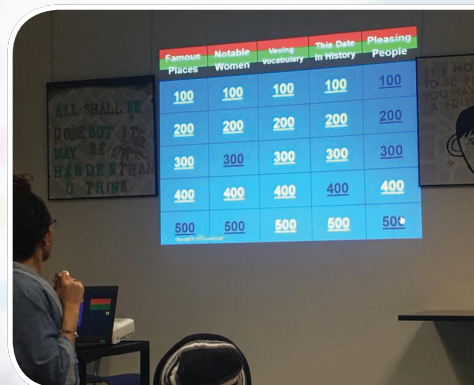


vegan/vegetarian caterers, and a holistic physician answered questions about the benefits of a non-meat diet. Well over 150 guests attended the FoJBAAR’s second annual Kwanzaa celebration, which included a performance by Zawadi African Dance & Drum, Inc., arts and crafts for children and families, and a ceremonial candle lighting.

In the LGBTQ Room, the Library collaborates with the Newark LGBTQ

Community Center, a local non-profit organization that provides services and resources to our LGBTQ community. In keeping with the Library’s dedication to giving equitable attention to underserved populations, programs for LGBTQ communities have increased, ranging from recruiting talented drag queens for story hours, to exhibits, such as one about the City’s club culture, to a prom party for local LGBTQ high school students. We expanded our collection of LGBTQ books and purchased databases dedicated to LGBTQ history. The Library is also working on developing an LGBTQ curriculum, as requested by the Newark Public Schools. New plans for inclusiveness are in development, thanks to partners like the Newark LGBTQ Community Center, Newark Public Schools, African American Office of Gay Concerns, Newark Police Department, Queer Newark, Newark Rutgers LGBT Students and Allies, Newark Pride, Newark Community Health Centers, and Project WOW. We began filling this area with a collection of books that are of particular relevance to the LGBTQ experience and started the work of planning LGBTQ focused exhibits, programs, and workshops for 2019 and beyond.

While smaller than the James Brown African American Room or the LGBTQ Community Center, the new Media Center had an equally significant impact on the Main Library. Relocating the Media Center served to revitalize a formerly desolate section of the building. With the addition of furniture for lounging or studying and device charging areas, our patrons now gravitate to this area to peruse CDs and DVDs, to meet in small groups, or to simply read and relax.



Top: New Teen Room

Right: Peruvian dancers at Community History Day, May 2018

Bottom: Black History Month's Teen Jeopardy program in Café



# 2018 Special Guests and Programming @ NPL

"The Newark Library is not only great for its stacks, beautiful building and programs but the best of all staff in the library world are right here. Thanks to the people it is a great library." — ROB BURROWS



**The 2018** Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Lecture hosted by Andrea McChristian, Esq., Associate Counsel for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ), featured Lecia Brooks, the Director of Outreach for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Her lecture, "Nonviolent Peaceful Protest in the Tradition of Dr. King: Still the Way to Counter Hate and Extremism," was the highlight of the afternoon which also showcased musical performances by Kim Armstrong, vocalist, and Jenice Grice, violinist.

Last year, the Library had the unique honor of presenting two outstanding family book events. In April, Pulitzer Prize winning author Junot Díaz presented his new children's book *Islandborn* (Lola in Spanish) to a packed room filled with fans of all ages. Díaz read from his book, chatted with a very appreciative audience, and signed copies for all who waited patiently. Over 400 people attended this event and all children present received a free copy of his book in English or Spanish.

Top: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor with a young fan  
Photo credit: Roy Groething

Below, left to right:  
Musical performers Kim Armstrong, vocalist, and Jenice Grice, violinist at the MLK, Jr. Lecture

Andrea McChristian, Esq. with Lecia Brooks, Director of Outreach for the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), who presented at the 2018 MLK, Jr. Lecture

Junot Díaz posing with some enthusiastic readers

Background photo: full house at the Philip Roth Lecture with Sir Salman Rushdie  
photo credit: Maxim Ryazansky





Top, left to right:  
Fan of Junot Diaz in complete awe

Jeffrey Trzeciak with Sir Salman  
Rushdie at the Philip Roth Lecture  
Photo credit: Maxim Ryazansky

Bottom, left to right:  
Liz Del Tufo excited for the  
Philip Roth Lecture

Sir Salman Rushdie on stage  
Photo credit: Maxim Ryazansky

U.S. Supreme Court Justice  
Sonia Sotomayor with young fans  
Photo credit: Roy Groething



In September, the Library was thrilled to host an afternoon with United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor to celebrate the release of her new children's book, *Turning Pages: My Life Story* and share her earlier book *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor*! During the standing-room-only event with more than 500 people, Justice Sotomayor shared how her life was shaped and propelled forward by her family, her own determination, and the books she read. She spent one-on-one time with the children, answering their questions, and signed copies of her books for all attendees.

The 2018 Philip Roth Lecture with guest lecturer Sir Salman Rushdie was presented to a full house in the newly renovated James Brown African American Room. Our friend and neighbor, Don Katz, Founder & CEO of Audible, Inc., gave a memorable introduction

for Mr. Rushdie, who then gave an amazing tribute to his friend, Philip Roth. As Mr. Rushdie so eloquently stated, "I felt that the first Philip Roth Lecture after Philip Roth's death should properly take, as its subject, Philip Roth himself. He was a writer through whose writing many American moments, past and present, can be explored and understood, and whose work, to use his phrase, has been a 'great stimulant' to me and many writers of my generation and the generations following mine." Mr. Rushdie spoke in detail about the profound effect that Mr. Roth's writing had on his life by way of reviewing Mr. Roth's collection of books and reminiscing about what was happening in his life at the time that made them so compelling and familiar to him. The evening proved to be an intimate view into the lives of two extraordinary authors and unforgettable to all who attended.





# Support for the Library



Linda A. Willett,  
Senior Vice President,  
General Counsel and Secretary,  
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield  
of New Jersey



Reginald Lewis,  
Executive Director,  
Newark City of Learning  
Collaborative



Ruth Molenaar,  
Publisher,  
*La Tribuna*



Tamara Remedios,  
Co-Founder, Newark Mommies;  
Founder, Cool CAT

## Booked for the Evening Gala 2018

Nearly 300 corporate and community partners and friends gathered to celebrate our honorees at the Library's premier fundraising event, the *Booked for the Evening* Gala, on November 29, 2018, at Nanina's in the Park.

**Linda A. Willett**, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

**Reginald Lewis**, Executive Director, Newark City of Learning Collaborative

**Ruth Molenaar**, Publisher, *La Tribuna*

**Tamara Remedios**, Co-Founder, Newark Mommies; Founder, Cool CAT

All of our honorees have demonstrated a strong commitment to the Library and the Newark community. Their staunch leadership and unwavering support helps to ensure the Library continues to serve our community as a cultural anchor institution.

In addition to the awards and dinner, guests perused and bid on items in our Silent Auction. Members of the Friends of NPL were instrumental in securing a large and diverse selection of artwork, novelties, experiences, and books for the silent auction, all of which were generously donated by a multitude of individuals and local businesses.

Many guests stayed late to enjoy the After-Party featuring a seamless mix of dance tunes by DJ Sienna and freshly rolled cigars from Jimenez Tobacco.

Special thanks to our Gala Chair, Dennis M. Bone, and the Gala Committee, whose dedication and persistent efforts helped to make the evening a success.

The *Booked for the Evening* Gala would not be possible without the continued vital support of ALL of our sponsors. We are particularly grateful to Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, who served as the Presenting Sponsor for this year's Gala.



Celebrating  
with our  
friends from  
Panasonic



Honoree  
Tamara  
Remedios  
together  
with some  
of her fans!



Recognition for Trustee Thomas Alrutz



Trustees Lauren Wells and Newark Superintendent, Roger León, enjoying themselves at the Gala





Newark Poetry Slam  
Team members



Display of books from the Plant  
Based Living panel discussion



Monique Jones and  
participants from Audible Inc.'s  
"Walk Your Talk" Event

## Grants

GRANT	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
CFNJ	2018 Philip Roth Lecture	\$30,000
CFNJ/NPL-Foundation (Prudential)	Working Capital	\$500,000
CFNJ/NPL-Foundation (Prudential)	Capacity Building	\$125,000
Charles Emil Thenen Foundation	High School Academic Support Program (HSASP)	\$5,000
Essex County	2018 Latino Celebration	\$2,000
Essex County	2018 Latino Oral History Project	\$3,000
Ezra Jack Keats Foundation	"Snowy Day" Activities for Children	\$475
George A. Ohl, Jr. Trust	For a Licensed Social Worker (LSW)	\$7,500
Hyde and Watson Foundation	Furniture for Centennial Hall	\$7,500
Newark Arts Council	Rhythm and Rhyme Story Time	\$3,000
Newark Arts Council	Groovy Tots	\$3,000
New Jersey Council for the Humanities	Poetry/Spoken Word Workshops for Teens and Emerging Adults	\$18,000
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development	Career Connections	\$150,000
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development	For Adult Literacy programming in partnership with La Casa de Don Pedro	\$86,294
New Jersey Historical Commission	History-related programming	\$54,300
New Jersey Historical Commission	Research for Women's Suffrage Exhibit	\$14,000
Nonprofit Finance Fund	For a public events consultant	\$100,000
PNC Foundation	2019 Black History Celebration	\$25,000
Victoria Foundation	Assistant to the Teen Librarian and Teen Programs	\$65,000
Victoria Foundation	High School Academic Support Program (HSASP)	\$10,000



# Donors

## \$100,000+

Community Foundation  
of New Jersey  
M&T Weiner Foundation  
New Jersey State Library  
Prudential Foundation  
Robert & Rosemary Steinbaum  
State of New Jersey —  
Department of Labor  
-Workforce Development  
Victoria Foundation, Inc.

## \$25,000 – \$99,999

Thomas Alrutz  
Timothy & Gloria Crist  
Horizon Blue Cross  
Blue Shield of New Jersey  
New Jersey Historical  
Commission  
PNC Foundation

## \$10,000 – \$24,999

Warren & Andrea Grover  
New Jersey Council  
for the Humanities  
Prudential Financial  
The Sharon Levine Foundation  
Verizon Foundation

## \$5,000 – \$9,999

Charles Emil Thenen Foundation  
County of Essex  
The Fidelco Group  
Friends of the Hispanic Research  
and Information Center  
Friends of  
The Newark Public Library  
The Hyde and Watson  
Foundation  
Donald & Margery Karp  
McCarter & English, LLP  
Newark Arts Council  
Newark Museum  
George A. Ohi, Jr. Trust  
Panasonic Corporation  
of North America  
PSEG  
Rutgers University – Newark  
White and Williams LLP  
Windels Marx Lane  
& Mittendorf, LLP

## \$1,000 – \$4,999

Anonymous  
Arthur J. Gallagher & Company  
Stuart Applebaum  
Becker, LLC  
Berkeley College  
Dennis & Denise Bone  
Mildred Davis Booker  
Joseph C. Casale  
Centers for Spiritual Living  
Mark Covey & Israel Ehrisman  
Edison Properties  
Newark Foundation  
Edison Properties, LLC



NJ State Senator Teresa Ruiz  
at the Drag Queen Story Time

Edwin & Mimi Feliciano  
Friends of the James Brown  
African American Room  
The Honorable Thomas Giblin  
John Golden  
Wilma J. Grey  
Michael Handler  
International Union of Operating  
Engineers - Local 68  
Jeremy V. Johnson  
Ketchum Inc.  
F. Gary Knapp  
Ben Korman  
L+M Development Partners  
Lotus Equity Group LLC  
Anasa Maat & Hadren Simmons  
The MCJ Amelior Foundation  
Michael Rachlin & Co., LLC  
NJ Hispanic Bar Association  
William Peniston & George Robb  
Mary Jean Potenzzone  
Michael Protzel  
Provident Bank  
RBH Group  
Rebecca Sawyer  
Carissa Shafto  
David & Sylvia Steiner  
Jeffrey Trzeciak &  
Michael Sieveking  
Lauren Wells  
Withum Tax Audit Advisory  
Zito Partners

## \$500 – \$999

Atlantic Federal Credit Union  
BCA Watson Rice LLP  
Robert G. Burke  
Elizabeth Del Tufo  
The Honorable  
Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.  
Document Solutions  
Evelyn R. Eskin & David Major  
William J. Fiore  
Laura E. Korfmann  
Love Newark Renaissance  
Foundation, Inc  
Kenneth Maiman  
Marcum LLP,  
Nanina's in the Park  
NJPAC  
Edith Oxfeld  
Nell I. Painter & Glenn Shafer  
Paramount Assets, LLC  
U.S. Congressman  
Donald M. Payne  
SAUL EWING ARNSTEIN  
& LEHR LLP  
Stephen B. Ravin  
Daniel Schulgasser &  
Patricia M. Connors

David & Karen Shuffler  
Neil Vasavada  
Steven & Anne Weisholtz

## \$100 – \$499

Peter & Jonnet Abeles  
All Solutions Inc  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Jared B. Ash  
Rehim Babaoglu  
Deborah W. Bailey  
John J. Bakum  
William E. Barnes  
Richard Besser  
David Bialoglow  
Steven & Jennifer Blum  
Marion A. Bolden  
Kathryn Broy  
Brandt Box & Paper Co., Inc  
Grissele Camacho  
Ada Caro  
Sigfredo Carrion  
CBRE  
Winster Ceballos  
Alejandra Ceja  
Chester Lioness Club  
Chester Lions Club  
Mahesh Chitnis  
Chin Chuen & Stella Ma  
Gregory Clay  
CNY Group  
Andrew A. Cohen  
Arnold Cohen  
Kenneth Colao  
Leslie Colson  
Christopher Cooney  
Alvin Cox  
David Deutsch  
Kathleen DiChiara  
Dolores DiLeo  
Kenneth Ding  
Mary H. Donelik  
Thomas F. Dorn  
Margarita Echevarria  
William Edge  
Robert D. El  
James Cook Embree  
Priscilla Eshelman  
Eversight  
Ezra Jack Keats Foundation  
LeRoy Faulks  
Joshua Feldman  
Maurice J. Freedman  
Elizabeth Gardner  
Genova Burns LLC  
Claudia Gentner  
Kirsten Giardi  
Globus Design Associates  
David Gold  
Morton Goldfein  
Pamela E. Goldstein  
David S. Greene  
Richard Grossklaus  
Armando C. Guerra

Angelique Harris  
Patricia Henderson-Kusen  
Sandra Holmes  
James & Karen Horton  
Hudson City Lions Club  
Nancy Jakubczyk  
Ruben Johnson  
Lavita E. Johnson  
James E. Jones  
Kirsch, Gelband & Stone  
Suzanne Klar  
Kevin Kosobucki  
Ansley LaMar  
Angelique Lampros  
Nicholas J. Landy  
Kenneth Laptook  
Lions Club of Newark  
Lions Club of Wyckoff  
Catharine Longendyck  
Les & Jared Lustbader  
M. Povinelli & Sons, Inc.  
Manhattan Welding Co  
Paulina K. Marks  
Maria Marrison  
Ronald McEachin  
Charles Menifield  
William R. Mikesell  
Kenneth Mirsky  
Janice Misurell-Mitchell  
Bruce Moehler  
Ruth Molenaar  
Ellen Montemayor  
Elspeth Moore  
Jeff & Barbara Morgan  
Linda P. Morgan  
Joseph J. Morley  
Michele M. Murchison  
Newark Preservation &  
Landmarks Committee  
Jose & Maria Nieto  
Ryan Novosielski  
Frank J. Pensiero  
John A. Pinkus  
Franz Reidinger  
Beulah Remedios  
Tamara Remedios  
Victoria M. Ridley  
Robert & Ethel Singer Fund  
Linda Rodrigues  
John Romano  
Christopher Rosica  
Lorraine Cutillo-Saa  
David & Susan Satz  
Martin Schwarz &  
Patricia Connell  
John Schweska  
Kaivan M. Shakib  
Floyd & Iris Shapiro  
Michael & Sara Shapiro  
Somia Sharma  
Peter & Ruth Simmons  
Robert J. Singer  
Martha M. Smith  
Shane Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Smith





Michael P. Spinella  
St. Benedict's Prep. School  
Geraldine Staadecker &  
Stephen Gilbert  
Kristen Sudol  
Gregory Taylor  
Patricia Thomas  
Paul A. Tumbleson  
Peter Twill  
Lucinda VanDine  
Roger & Gail Vellekamp  
Donald J. Wallace  
Gloria Washington  
Valerie Wilson Wesley  
Robert M. White  
Richard Willett  
George W. Williams  
Byron Yake  
YMCA of Newark and Vicinity

### Up to \$99

Salahuddin Abdul-Hamia  
Manoushka Adam  
Maisha Amen  
Anonymous  
Haneen Arafat  
Momita G. Bagchi  
Monique Baptiste  
Jerald & Jaclyn Baranoff  
Paula Baratta  
Marisa Baskin  
Louis E. Bennett  
Ingrid Betancourt  
Fredrica Bey  
Darlene E. Black  
Jacqui Bonavito  
Diane Bonavota  
Barbara G. Bornstein  
Laura Brayton  
Dennis Brooks  
Virginia L. Campbell  
James E. Capuano  
Joseph Carvagno  
Patrick J. Cassidy  
Louise Castronova  
Dennis Cavanaugh  
Walter D. Chambers  
R Chittum  
Diane Colson  
Che Colter  
Samuel M. Convissor  
Connie J. Crowell  
Charlene Cruz-Cerdas  
Richard & Anne Cummings  
Gloria Currey-Williams  
Constance Czekanski  
Maria C. Da Silva  
Sallie Days  
Rebecca Doggett  
Alice Dunston  
Phyllis Dupree  
Steven J. Dworkin  
Philip Easton  
Lucy Fitzgerald  
Sakhshat Flowers

Judith A. Franklin  
Deborah Friedell  
Walter & Pamela  
Gibson  
Patricia E. Giese  
Virginia Greene  
George Hawley  
Carrie Herrera  
Susan Helber  
Cecelia A. Hines  
Claus Holzapfel  
Theodora Immerso  
Dolores A. Jackson  
Elizabeth B. Jefferson  
Bill Jones  
Carol Jones  
Barbara A. Kaplan  
Robert & Frances Kaufmann  
David M. Kristol  
Heidi Learner  
Howard Levine  
Rehana Lewis  
Judith Lieberman  
Mageline Little  
Carolyn Logan  
Joan Loiacono  
Christopher Loo  
Sue Hwa Loo  
James Lukenda  
& Maura Lockhart  
Management Information  
Systems Association (MISA)  
at RU-N  
Mary E. McCarthy  
Lorelei McConnell  
Felicia McDougall  
David S. Millen  
Abdul Muhammad  
Charlotte Munnerlyn  
Henry Murad  
Alan Neaigus  
Dianne M. Nicolette  
David Padilla  
Henrietta Parker  
Karen Patton  
Mollie N. Plumm  
G. K. Piehler & Susan Contente  
Peter Regan  
Kelly Richardson  
Janet Rodgers  
Elliot A. Rosen  
Barbara K. Sacks  
Magaly Santiago  
Richard Schaeffer  
Victor M. Scott-Hearn  
Ameera Shillingford  
Abigail Shure  
The Honorable Patty Shwartz  
Atno Smith  
Deborah Smith-Gregory  
Trevor Smith  
Victoria J. Snoy  
Irene Steinberg  
Eric Stokes  
Mattie Ruth Stubbs Jones  
Studio Creative Group

Meyrick F. Sykes  
Shakima Thomas  
Alejandrina Torrens  
Kathleen Turpin-Merritt  
Linda H. Umans  
Barry Waldorf  
Nariman Walli  
John J. Wiegartner  
Tara Williams-Harrington  
William F. Wisneski  
Geraldine Woods-Coles  
Peter "Souleo" Wright  
Beth Yingling  
Nancy Zak  
Bennet Zurofsky

### Matching Gifts

Chubb Matching Gifts  
Johnson & Johnson  
Family of Companies  
Prudential Matching Gifts  
Sony Matching Gifts Program

### In-Kind Donations

Philip Alagia  
Gail Alba  
Architect Studios  
Audible, Inc.  
Eve Banister  
Gregg Banks  
Barcade  
Barnes & Noble at  
Rutgers-Newark  
Dra. Carmen Benítez-Morales  
Bradford Portraits  
Ray Castellano  
Benjamin Che  
Carlene Colston  
Joel Connaroe  
County of Essex  
Nancy Crampton  
Timothy Crist  
Peter Cusack  
Kendra Daniel  
Habiba Dauda  
Elise T. Dillard  
Ralph DiMare  
Linda Caldwell Epps  
Essex County Executive  
& Turtle Back Zoo  
Fern & Fossil  
June S. Fischer  
Friends of NPL  
Alan Good  
GRAMMY Museum Experience  
Prudential Center  
Veronica Grimsley  
Roberta Hartlaub  
Courtney Marie Musick Harvey  
Hobby's Delicatessen  
& Restaurant  
James & Karen Horton  
Carol Jenkins

Donald & Margery Karp  
DJ Kool  
Harold Kravis  
Barbara J. Kukla  
La Tribuna  
Vaughan Lee  
Les Seasons  
Maxine & Severiano Lisboa  
Amy Lowenstein  
Jim Lowney  
Marcus B & P Restaurant  
Charmaine Matthews  
Bill May  
Fred E. Means  
Michael Rachlin & Company  
Ruth Molenaar  
Dorothea Moore  
Morey's Piers & Water Parks  
NAACP-Newark  
Gratia Williams Nakahashi  
Newark Downtown District  
Newark Museum  
New Jersey Devils  
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra  
New York Giants  
New York Philharmonic  
Nico's Kitchen + Bar  
NJ PAC  
Juan O'Neill  
David D. Oquendo  
Perfecto Oyola  
Nell Painter  
Henrietta S. Parker  
Victor Parsonnet  
Spanish Pavillion  
Peapack-Gladstone Bank  
William Peniston  
Ortiz Porter  
Prudential  
Tahane Rabb  
Alan Rosenberg  
George Robb  
Emily Roth  
Philip Roth  
Magdalena Sarnas on behalf  
of Americas Society/Council  
of the Americas  
Sarah Schanz-Bortman/  
Windham Fabrics  
Andrea Silk,  
Integrative Wellness Specialist  
Howard & Jayne Silver  
John Steigerwald  
Guy Sterling  
Barbara Tedesco on  
behalf of NJTESOL - NJBE  
Mellie Torres  
Jose Velasquez  
Martha Vogeler  
Kal & Olga Wagenheim  
Brenda Williams  
Junius Williams  
Esther Wright  
State Theatre New Jersey  
Susan & Alexander Wood  
Lisa Zeiger



# Special Recognition

“Trish Morris-Yamba was an incredible part of this community and her impact can be felt across this county,” said Newark Mayor Ras Baraka. ‘She distinguished herself as an advocate for children, for the health and welfare of our families, and for the uplifting of our community.’”

— *NJ.COM* ARTICLE  
POSTED ON MARCH 12, 2019

**Although this falls** beyond the 2018 parameters, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the tremendous void that exists in our community with the passing of long-time NPL Trustee, **Trish Morris-Yamba**. The positive impact that Trish had on the children of Newark cannot be overstated. For thirty-two years, Trish led the Newark Day Center and strived to provide kids from Newark with memorable, life-changing experiences through the Greater

Newark Fresh Air Fund. Her dedication and hard work enabled hundreds of children to experience life outside of Newark and spend a week enveloped in nature. These opportunities helped to broaden the perspectives of generations of Newarkers and open their eyes to the possibilities that exist when you challenge yourself to go beyond your comfort zone.

Through her tenure on The Newark Public Library’s Board of Trustees,

Trish served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Trish’s vision to promote a strong, healthy, invested community will be a guide to help gauge the success of the Library’s progress and priorities. We will miss her stylish hats and no nonsense/can-do attitude, but The Newark Public Library will work to keep her legacy alive by continuing to support and uplift our community, assisting those in need, and nurturing and inspiring the children and families of Newark.



Library Director, Jeffrey Trzeciak with long-standing Library Trustee, Trish Morris-Yamba

Trish Morris-Yamba celebrating with Barbara Kukla

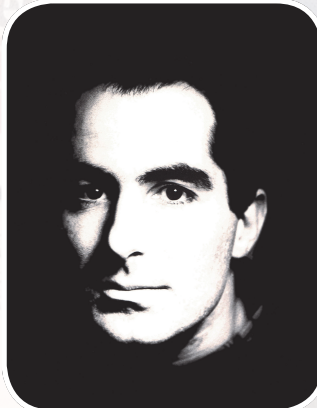




**We were saddened** to learn of the passing of one of America's greatest writers and Newark native, **Philip Roth**, last May. Roth was born and raised in the Weequahic section of Newark, where he spent his childhood growing up in the 1930s and 1940s. Roth was quite nostalgic about his hometown and used both the City of Newark and the Library as focal points for several of his most memorable stories. Roth described himself as a "library-intoxicated" young man whose interest in reading and writing was formed at The Newark Public Library. Roth was a prolific writer and completed thirty-one books for which he received numerous accolades and awards.

In 2013, The Newark Public Library celebrated Roth's 80th birthday with the extensive exhibit Philip Roth: Photos from a Lifetime. In 2015, Roth announced the Main Library would be the beneficiary of his personal book collection, prompting the groundwork to secure funding for the design and construction of the Philip Roth Personal Library at The Newark Public Library. He also left the Library a generous financial donation to create an endowment fund to support the acquisition of new books and related materials to be included in the Philip Roth Personal Library. We are honored to have the opportunity to create a space at the Library where his genius and legacy will continue to inspire others.

Since 2016, the Library has hosted an annual Philip Roth Lecture in his honor. Guest speakers have been handpicked by Roth himself, and have featured renowned author Zadie Smith (2016), illustrious journalist and biographer Robert Caro (2017), and esteemed novelist Sir Salman Rushdie (2018). His passing is a great loss to The Newark Public Library, the City of Newark, and the world of literature.



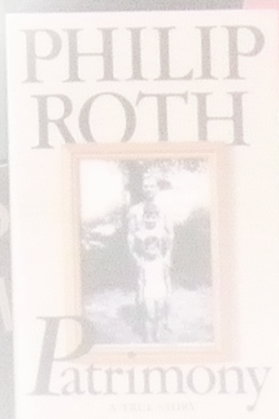
A young Philip Roth



Philip Roth shows off his Newark Public Library Card

"If you're from New Jersey," Nathan had said, "and you write thirty books, and you win the Nobel Prize and you live to be white-haired and ninety-five, it's highly unlikely but not impossible that after your death they'll decide to name a rest stop for you on the Jersey Turnpike. And so, long after you're gone, you may indeed be remembered, but mostly by small children, in the backs of cars, when they lean forward and tell their parents, 'Stop, please, stop at Zuckerman – I have to make a pee.' For a New Jersey novelist that's as much immortality as it's realistic to hope for."

—THE COUNTERLIFE 1986





# Scholastic Writing Contest



Background photo:  
American Voices nominee,  
Prisha Mehta, reading as part  
of the Scholastic Arts &  
Writing Awards Ceremony

Left to right: Teen Librarian Maisy Card with National Medal Winner, Sanaa Jennings and her mom

Grades 7 – 9 award winners

## Maisy Card, Teen Services Librarian

facilitated Newark Public Library's partnership with the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Now celebrating its 96th anniversary, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers in the United States. Many notable artists and writers like Richard Avedon, Truman Capote, Cy Twombly, Charles White, John Updike, Mozelle Thompson, Carolyn Forché, and Stephen King won a Scholastic Award when they were teens.

Jurors identify work that is fresh and relevant using the Scholastic Awards' time-tested criteria: originality, technical skill, and personal vision and voice. Students from grades 7 through 12 submitted writing in the categories of Critical Essay, Dramatic Script, Flash Fiction, Humor, Journalism, Novel Writing, Personal Essay & Memoir, Poetry, Science Fiction & Fantasy, Short Story, and Writing Portfolio.

Art work categories include Architecture & Industrial Design, Ceramics & Glass, Comic Art, Design, Digital Art, Drawing & Illustration, Editorial Cartoon, Fashion, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture. Students enter the contest on a regional level through their schools or out-of-school program educators, and then all gold key winners are then automatically entered into the national competition where they are eligible for additional awards and scholarships.

As the New Jersey Regional Writing Affiliate, NPL collected all the writing submissions statewide, as well as art submissions from the Southern NJ Art Region. The Teen Librarian reached out to students from local schools including Great Oaks Charter School, Marion P. Thomas Charter School, Bard Early College, and North Star Charter School. To date, the Library has processed nearly 4,000 submissions. Our 2018 judges included over 150 professional writers, artists, and librarians, as well as graduate students and seniors from Rutgers University-

Newark, William Paterson University, Seton Hall University and New Jersey City University.

On March 17, 2018, two awards ceremonies (for grades 7-9 & 10-12) were held at 15 Washington Street, courtesy of Nancy Cantor, Chancellor of Rutgers University-Newark, to honor over 500 award winners across the state. Monica Odom, literary agent from Liza Dawson Associates, was the keynote speaker for both ceremonies. Monica's clients include NYT bestselling authors Morgan Jerkins and Rachel Ignotofsky. She encouraged teens to value their work despite their age, and to continue working toward their goal of having a professional career in the arts. Student readers included Sanaa Jennings, a Newark resident and student at Great Oaks Charter School, who was introduced by her principal, Tyree Barnes. Sanaa won one silver key and two gold medals. She later went on to win a national gold medal. After the ceremony, attendees were also invited to view an exhibit of the winning art works in the lobby of the Main Library.



# 2018 Financial Summary

## Support and Revenues

City of Newark  
Appropriation. . . . . \$ 10,539,585

State and Federal  
Revenues. . . . . 405,871

Unrestricted  
Donations . . . . . 230,709

Grant-Related  
Revenues. . . . . 2,445,491

Investment Income . . . . . 63,305

Fines and Fees . . . . . 57,040

Other Revenues. . . . . 75,100

**Total Support  
and Revenues . . . . \$ 13,817,101**

## Expenditures

Salaries and Wages. . . \$ 5,714,914

Payroll Taxes and  
Employee Benefits . . . . 2,360,702

General and  
Administrative . . . . . 2,689,769

Services by Contract. . . 1,661,445

Books and Library  
Materials . . . . . 873,759

Capital Expense . . . . . 515,512

**Total  
Expenditures. . . . \$ 13,817,101**

*Please note: The annual financial audit had not taken place when this Financial Summary was prepared.*



Patron enjoying the newly arrived fiction collection in NPL's lobby



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor with some of the audience following her talk about her children's books  
Photo credit: Roy Groething

"I love my library because it's the only place that I can relax & have fun. It's my safe space where I can truly be myself and no one will judge me. Also, I met awesome people at the Library."

—VAN BUREN BRANCH PATRON



## The Newark Public Library

5 Washington St.

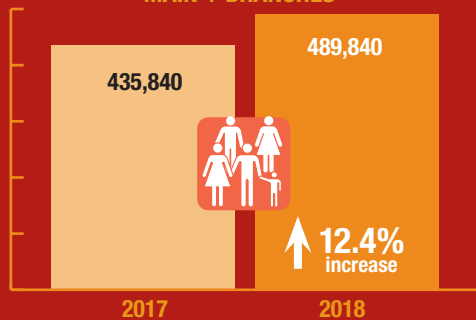
PO Box 630

Newark, NJ 07101-0630

# Snapshot of 2018

## Total Patron Visits

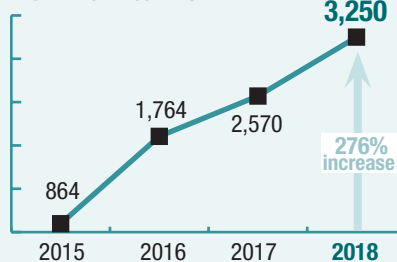
MAIN + BRANCHES



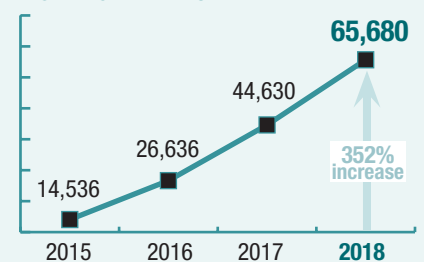
## Programs and Attendance 2018

LIBRARY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS

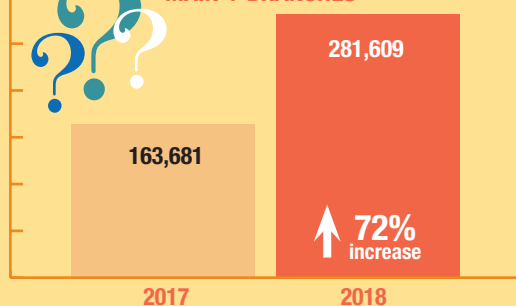


NUMBER OF ATTENDEES



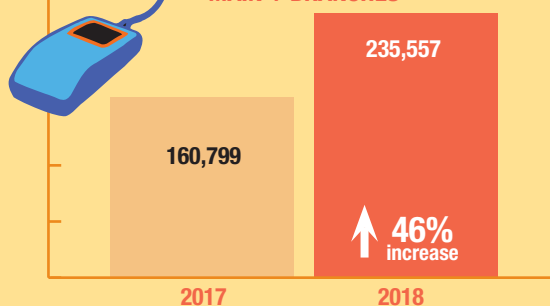
## Total Reference Questions

MAIN + BRANCHES



## Public Computer Sessions

MAIN + BRANCHES



## Employment Aid 2018

NPL helped **32,416** people with job search/employment related questions.



## Volunteers and Interns 2018

**262** Volunteers contributed **2,219** hours.

**39** Interns from high schools and colleges worked **1,348** hours in 2018.

## New Books & Memberships 2018

NPL purchased **14,546** new books and registered **7,747** new patrons.



## Wi-Fi Logins

**13,770**

in 2018

