“Thank you for the important work you are doing.”

— Evelyn
“Growing up in Newark in the 1960’s, every Saturday I walked to the Weequahic branch on Osborne Terrace. I would then spend the day there, browsing and reading, then checking out books to read during the week. Over the years, I read every book there, in the children’s section and then in the adult section . . . I am who I am today, in great part thanks to the Newark Public Library-Weequahic Branch, and to the librarians there.”

—Mark
A Message from the Director

It amuses librarians to hear someone say, “It must be wonderful to work in a quiet place where you can read books all day long.” Those words tell us that the person has not visited a public library in quite a while and is not aware of the incredible transformation that has been taking place over the past few decades. Today's libraries are veritable hubs of activity—and not always so quiet.

Public libraries have come a long way from the time when their primary mission was to store and disseminate books. While books are still very important, the library’s mission has expanded exponentially. Across the nation and around the world, libraries may function as: safe havens, early literacy centers, purveyors of knowledge and lifelong learning, job and career centers, local history resources, media centers, and technology hubs. They present lectures, workshops, ESOL classes, book signings, cultural and educational programs, exhibits and tours. They provide space for community meetings, tax-preparation, quiet study, conferences, and much more.

Such a long list may seem like a hodgepodge of unrelated activities, but there is a central theme that ties them all together. That theme is “Service to Community.” Public libraries have evolved into dynamic community-centered agencies where a plethora of programs and services are specifically designed to be of value to the neighborhood, city, region, or whatever geographic area they serve. Librarians have learned how to be very responsive to the wishes of their respective communities and are proud to provide services that will help those communities grow and thrive. While public libraries retain many common characteristics, they also have unique identities that mirror the environment in which they are located. The most successful libraries have healthy engagement with the citizens they serve and, in turn, are supported by those citizens.

As you review the work of the Newark Public Library over the past year, you will be able to identify the over-arching theme of “Community.” Whether providing educational and cultural activities for Newark’s children and teens, or showcasing Newark’s talented authors, musicians, artists, and speakers through programs and exhibitions, our staff strives to provide community-oriented services that make a difference.

Sincerely,

Wilma J. Grey
Director, The Newark Public Library

“I didn’t realize this was the place to hang out.”
Youth Services

The Library continued its tradition of providing excellent programs for children and teens in pursuits both educational and entertaining. Staff instilled a love of learning and libraries in our youngest visitors by offering a wide variety of activities such as cooking, crafts, movies, quiz and trivia games, Wii gaming, Yu-Gi-Oh tournaments, and, of course, story times for all ages.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a recreational literacy program designed to foster a love of reading and prevent learning loss during July and August. Performers Beth and Scott Bierko led the Challenge kick-off event at the Main Library with their Garden Party Concert. Library staff at all locations offered daily activities around the theme “Dig into Reading.” for children ages five through twelve, and on the theme “Beneath the Surface” for teens. Each location had its own closing ceremony at which readers of at least five books received a certificate and a prize, and the top achievers were rewarded with an additional gift. The Prudential Foundation provided funding.


Read to Achieve this Summer! Former NY Knicks star John Starks read to children and signed autographs as part of the literacy program, Cablevision Power to Learn/Knicks Read to Achieve, sponsored by Kia Motors.

The Newark Black Film Festival 2013 Youth Cinema screenings included: Follow the Drinking Gourd; The Outer Planets; George Washington Carver: His Life and His Work; Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa; Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain; Standing Up For Freedom: The Story of Rosa Parks; Barack Obama: The Story of Our 44th President; Myths, Legends & Traditional Holidays from Latin America; Portugal; and South Africa: How Tortoise Won Respect.

Field Station: Dinosaurs presented The Dinosaur Troubadour and the Mighty T. rex and hosted a dinosaur story time and sing-a-long. Children met a life-like, roaring, fifteen-foot T. rex.

Crabgrass Puppet Theatre presented The Pirate, the Princess, and the Pea.

At the Springfield Branch, volunteers Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder, and Cheryl Crawford taught classes for SAT and ACT preparation to high school seniors. They also helped students to complete college applications and gave college application essay writing workshops. The Branch hosted four college fairs featuring recruiters from many colleges, technical institutes, and the military.

A generous grant from the Victoria Foundation supported the purchase of books for the young adult collections system-wide in addition to fine and literary arts programs that included: graffiti art and embroidery workshops presented by Sumei Art Center; “Keepin’ It Real” book discussions with author Jackie Hardrick; Doc Gibbs World of Percussion; Misako Rocks! Manga drawing; and Vampire Drawing & Painting with artist Peri Panebianco.

“I finally got my G.E.D.,
Collections and Services

One day a woman enters the Library, excitedly hugs the librarian, and says, “I got an A on my paper! Thank you so much for helping me.”

Another day, a man who has consistently used a test preparation book from the reference collection approaches the desk. Seeing him, the librarian stands to grab the book again, but he stops her to proudly announce that he has passed the GED exam he has been studying for so diligently!

These are just two of the many grateful people whose lives were improved with help from librarians. Other patrons received help to write proposals, complete applications, to search for long-lost relatives, and to develop theses for academic papers. Librarians referred people to social services, and assisted patrons in using their laptops and other devices.

Authors made use of the unique resources for in-depth local history research in the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center (CFCNJIC). Others took advantage of the materials for genealogical studies, business histories, and architectural work; the photographs and clipping files were also invaluable.

The Statewide Services contract, funded by the State Library, provides for all New Jersey libraries to contact the Library for assistance in answering reference questions on any topic. Most requests were for the remarkably strong resources in art, business, music, U.S. patents and trademarks, U.S. documents, and Jerseyana.

Library staff assisted people working on the public computers to fill out forms for essential services such as college financial aid, housing, the Affordable Care Act health care enrollment, and unemployment benefits. Crucial too was the help staff provided to jobseekers for their employment searches. This included editing resumes as well as providing guidance in using the career and job databases. Almost one third of all questions asked system wide were employment related.

Mouse, Email, Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Internet, and Resume classes, funded by a grant from TD Bank, were offered in English and Spanish at both the Main Library and the Van Buren Branch. In response to the demand for job search related support, the Victoria Foundation gave the Library a significant grant for employment search classes. This grant also provided funding for the purchase of new career related materials and educational test guides for the collections, and funded additional staff support for the Victoria Technology Center.

Other instruction at the Library included Access Tech classes for visually impaired patrons, taught by a volunteer, and a ten-week program of American Sign Language, Levels I and II, taught by a Special Services staff person. Outreach to community groups is extremely important. The Library made many visits to schools and was represented at such events as the Newark Public Schools’ Night at the Museum for preschoolers and their families, the Music and Art in the Park festival in Riverbank Park, and the Monmouth County Archives and History Day.

Using funds from endowments and grants, selectors were able to purchase a limited number of titles. Customers and librarians again relied on the rich book collections from years past and successfully used databases for current information.

Through continued support from the NJ Council on the Humanities, the Ironbound Community Corporation further enhanced its history of environmental justice with additions to the archives at the Van Buren Branch.

The architectural firm Johnson Jones completed a Capital Needs Assessment and Plan to assist with long-term capital planning and budgeting, as well as facility management.

“Thank you for assisting me with my new resume.” — Derrick

and I did so by using the G.E.D. tutorial books at the Newark Public Library.” — Derrick
Exhibits

Bricks, Mortar, Memories and Pride: The James Street Commons Reconsidered from the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience, Rutgers University, Newark

From Bach to the Blues: A Musical Journey Through Newark

Mesoamerican Mosaic: New Jersey’s Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Honduran Communities

Newark Art and Artists: Prints, Photographs, and Other Works on Paper from the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library (Part II)

The 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Department of Labor

Philip Roth: An Exhibit of Photos for a Lifetime

“The librarian was able to help me over the phone and went above and beyond to help me access different websites. She also gave me very helpful suggestions for my assignment...another librarian was beyond helpful as well. He helped me find more credible sources for my assignment. They both were very helpful and really went out of their way to help me. This was very well appreciated. You have excellent employees! Thanks.” — Norma

Programs

Celebrating Philip Roth

In March, the Library recognized Philip Roth’s 80th birthday by mounting Philip Roth: An Exhibit of Photos from a Lifetime. Curated by James Lewis and Rosemary Steinbaum, the show included images from the Library’s Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center and photographs from Roth’s own collections, most never before seen by the public. With many captions by Roth himself, the photographs tell the story of his life from his youth in Newark to contemporary times, with images of his family, his friends from the Weequahic community, and his writer colleagues. The Library produced a handsome 36-page exhibit catalog and a reception was held with the curators to celebrate its publication. The Philip Roth Society, in Newark for their conference, visited for an exhibit preview. Other events in Newark included a bus tour of the City, a gathering at the Newark Museum, and a screening of Philip Roth Unmasked at NJPAC.

Mother and son enjoying the summer sun on the beach at Belmar in 1935, from Philip Roth Photos from a Lifetime.
Black History Celebration
Opening reception for From Bach to the Blues: A Musical Journey through Newark—with speakers Jah Jah Shakur of Africana Institute at Essex County College and Sandra L. West from the Bethany Baptist Church Black History Committee.
Musical performances included Laurel Pryor, Return to the Source, Ashley Charles, and Richard Alston. Film Fest screenings included Lady Sings the Blues, The Temptations, and Dreamgirls.
Fearless: A Bold Approach to Reinventing Your Life, book presentation with co-author Caryl Lucas
The Annual African American Read-in featured the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks.
Jazz Concert: Jamil Mangan recited poetry by the late Arts High School teacher Halim Suliman. The Rudy Walker Quartet and the Camille Thurman Quartet performed.
Community Discussion: What Are the Black Issues of 2013? Diane Colson, New Jersey Black Issues Convention and Sandra L. West
The History, Evolution and Future of Black Music with Amiri Baraka, Jeff Billingsley, King Downing, Bobby Jackson, Dorthaan Kirk, Gwen Moten, and Nikoa Workman; moderator: Junius Williams, Sr.
Religious Allusions in the Poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks: lecture by Dr. Margot Harper Banks; poetry in memory of Brooks, recited by Dorothea Moore, Betty Neals and Sandra L. West
The Black Art Song featured literary works of Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and others, sung by Kevin Maynor, accompanied by Eric Olson.
Sankofa Stories, Shirley Johnson, storyteller, at the Weequahic Branch
Anansi, Spiderman of Africa! presented by the Crabgrass Puppet Theatre
The exhibit and programs were made possible by a generous grant from the PNC Foundation.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration
Opening Reception for Mesoamerican Mosaic: New Jersey’s Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Honduran Communities—remarks by representatives of New Jersey’s Central American communities and a dance performance by Grupo Folklorico Salvadoreno Cuzcatlan.
Screening of Latino Americans — The Peril and the Promise, co-sponsored by the Friends of the HRIC
Garifuna in Peril, commentary by Jose Francisco Avila, Garifuna Coalition USA
Niños de la Memoria (Children of Memory) followed by a discussion with filmmaker Kathryn Smith Pyle
Marimba Music of Guatemala: Marimba Maya Quetzal played Guatemala’s traditional marimba music and other popular songs from Latin America.
Traditional dances of El Salvador performed by Grupo Folklorico Salvadoreno Cuzcatlan

Programs and exhibits were made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.
“Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to our city.”

**Art and Music**

Kara Walker in Conversation with Nell Painter

Portfolio

Review and Art Resource Fair, in partnership with the Paul Robeson Galleries of Rutgers-Newark with curators Mary Birmingham, Kevin Darmanie, Evonne Davis, and Adrienne Wheeler

Crochet Club for teens and adults at the Clinton Branch

Gospel!!! Hosted by Dr. Albert Lewis

Youth Explosion—Gospel

**Author Appearances**

Mary Bruno—An American River: From Paradise to Superfund, Afloat on New Jersey’s Passaic, co-hosted by the Ironbound Community Corporation at the Van Buren Branch

The Reporter’s Newark with Brad Parks, author of The Good Cop, co-hosted by the Rotary Club of Newark

Valerie Wilson Wesley, When the Night Whispers, hosted by Anasa Maat

Reverend Al Sharpton, The Rejected Stone, co-hosted by Councilwoman Mildred C. Crump and the National Action Network

**Community Interest**

Immigration Law, presented in English, Spanish, and Portuguese by Shulman Law Group

George Hawley spoke about the Newark Eagles at the annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference.

How to Start a Small Business: workshop presented by Xplore Communications/NewarkPulse.com

The Special Services Room hosted monthly meetings of the National Federation for the Blind, North Jersey Chapter; New Jersey Black Deaf Advocates; and Beyond the Eyes.

Beyond The Eyes: Strengthening and Uplifting Minorities Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired, Open House with guest speakers, Dr. Doretha Smith and Claire Piasecki, NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; performance by the Beyond the Eyes Choir

South Ward Reads at the Clinton and Weequahic branches

Senior Library Director for a Day

Meditation and healthy eating classes led by David Israel

**The Frances E. W. Harper Literary Society**

Celebrating Black History Month — New World Drummers: An Appreciation of Black Historians, presentation and lecture by Zayid Muhammad

Celebrating Josephine Baker and Women’s History Month with performance artist and civil rights activist Angeline Butler

Celebrate National Poetry Month, a tribute to Louis Reyes Rivera, featured guest poets Layding Kaliba from African Voices magazine and Michael Richardson.

Book Discussions: The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander; Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial times to the Present by Harriet A. Washington; Freeman by Leonard Pitts, Jr.; The Mis-Education of the Negro by Carter G. Woodson; The Closing of the American Mind: How Higher Education Has Failed Democracy and Impoverished the Souls of Today’s Students by Allan Bloom
Awards and Accomplishments

Wilma Grey received a Culture Keeper Award from The Bibliophiles, Inc.; a Free Speech Defender Award from The National Coalition Against Censorship; and the Phillip Orlando Award from the Newark City Council.

Leslie Kahn was named Librarian of the Year by the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA). She presented poster sessions about the Library’s Statewide Reference Services at the NJLA Adult Services Forum and at the Annual Conference.

Thomas Ankner was elected Vice President of the New Jersey chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and was appointed a trustee of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee. His profile of the Library was published in the Genealogical Society of New Jersey Newsletter.

Paula Baratta chaired the Exhibits Committee for the NJLA Annual Conference.

Ingrid Betancourt presented Providing Excellent Customer Service Across Cultures at the NJLA Adult Services Forum and received a Community Service Award from the Essex County Latino-American Chamber of Commerce.

Joseph Casale served as president-elect of the Rotary Club of Newark, was named to the Board of Trustees of the Newark Downtown District, and continued as an Ambassador for the Newark Regional Business Partnership.

Heidi Cramer chaired the NJLA Publications Committee and spoke on “Outreach in the City” at the NJLA Annual Conference.

Elizabeth Parker spoke about the NJHRIC’s Puerto Rican Community Archives at the Puerto Rican Studies Association’s Symposium.

Heather Rivera served as Membership Secretary for the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants and as Registration Chair for the Association’s Annual Conference.

Nadine Sergeeff chaired the NJLA Public Relations Committee and participated in the NJ State Library Leadership Academy. She also presented at a LibraryLinkNJ technology program.

The Library received an NJLA Public Relations Award for the brochure, Reading Together.
Support for the Library

Booked for the Evening

Harlan Coben, New Jersey native and international best-selling author, was the featured speaker at the Library's annual signature fundraising event, Booked for the Evening, on October 17 at the Main Library. Preston Pinkett, III, President and CEO of Newark-based City National Bank, chaired the event. Two influential educators, Glenn Shafer and Nell Painter, were honored for their outstanding accomplishments and ongoing support of the Library’s mission. This festive event, which was attended by nearly 200 guests, raised over $200,000.

Sharpe James Book Signing and Silent Auction

Sharpe James, the former five-term Mayor of Newark and author of Political Prisoner, conversed about his newly released memoir with Dr. Clement Alexander Price, Board of Governors, Distinguished Service Professor of History, Rutgers University-Newark. The event was co-hosted by the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience and the Nutany Publishing Company. Mr. James also donated an extensive collection of memorabilia for a silent auction held that evening to benefit the Library.

Grants

Charles E. Thenen Foundation — $7,000 for the High School Academic Support project

County of Essex — $4,000 for Hispanic Heritage Month

County of Essex — $2,500 for historic preservation

M&T Weiner Foundation — $18,000 for architectural studies

NJ Historical Commission — $61,573 for general operating support

PNC — $20,000 for Black History Month

Prudential Foundation — $75,000 for capacity building

Prudential Foundation — $20,000 for the Summer Reading Challenge

Phillip Roth — $50,000 to establish an endowment for new acquisitions

Victoria Foundation — $45,000 for teen programs, collections, and job skills classes and materials
Friends of the HRIC

The Friends of the New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center donated over $40,000 to support the Puerto Rican Community Archives and for the purchase of equipment.

Dr. Gloria Bonilla-Santiago, Ph.D., Director, Community Leadership Center, Rutgers University–Camden; Maria Teresa Feliciano, President of the Dominican American National Roundtable; and Luis López, Newark educator and Founder of the Roberto Clemente Little League, received the 2013 María DeCastro Blake Community Service Awards at the biennial Awards Dinner held at Mayfair Farms in West Orange on May 9.

The Friends of the
Newark Public Library


Book-lovers flocked to Centennial Hall to purchase novels and non-fiction, magazines, posters, and music and movies for children and adults at the 22nd Annual Book Sale in April. During the summer, the Friends continued their community outreach and fundraising activities in picturesque Washington Park at “Wednesdays in the Park,” the outdoor market sponsored by the Washington Park Commons Association.

The Friends’ Annual Meeting featured poetry readings by notable local poets.

Characters Walk

In October Rutgers Undergraduate Women in Business organized a benefit for the Library that included a walkathon, face painting, music, and other activities. This fun-filled event on the Rutgers Newark campus raised almost $2,000 for the purchase of children’s books.

NJ Direct Install

The Library was granted approval from the State for New Jersey’s “Direct Install” program at six of the branch libraries. This program helps reduce energy costs by replacing outdated equipment such as the HVAC and lighting with energy efficient alternatives. Through the program, light fixtures were upgraded at each of the branches, and dimmer switches and light sensors were added. New air conditioning units were installed at three of the branch libraries with the Van Buren Branch receiving an extensive upgrade that included rooftop air conditioning units.
The Newark Public Library enriches the lives of everyone in our community. Generous donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations help to ensure that the Library remains a vibrant, vital part of greater Newark. The Library’s resources and programs allow patrons to explore new ideas, improve their lives, and enjoy a unique sense of community. Charitable contributions from those who believe in our mission of providing opportunities for lifelong learning make the Newark Public Library a richer place for everyone!

It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge our donors who have contributed to our 2013 Annual Fund Campaign or to one of our many restricted funds. Their support is essential to our success! For further information on making a donation, please visit the Library’s website at www.npl.org.

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<th>Donor Details</th>
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<td>Over $100,000</td>
<td>Prudential Foundation, etc.</td>
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<td>$50,000 – $99,999</td>
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<td>$100 – $499</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Leonard H. Berkeley, etc.</td>
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“Just updated my Free Newark Public Library Card! Support our institutions! Get a library card!”
“I went to the library on Summer Ave, and it broke my heart to hear there was no funding to purchase new books.”

**Facts and Figures**

- Patron Visits: 496,991
- Circulation: 201,396
- Questions Answered: 204,394
- Employment Questions Answered: 68,220
- Computer Use Sessions: 203,700
- Computer Class Attendance: 482
- Sign Language Class Attendance: 116
- Access Tech Class Attendance: 66
- Library Card Registration: 9,323
- Items Cataloged: 12,194
- Programs (Library and Community Organization sponsored) Programs/Attendance: 1,826/36,696

These statistics reflect the effect of the sustained budget cuts and consequent reductions in branches and services.

**Financial Summary**

**Support and Revenues**

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<td>City of Newark Allocation</td>
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<td>E-rate Reimbursements</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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**Expenditures**

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Wilde, Stephanie. "In or Out." I’m a 950 but Want to be 1000. 2003. Color plate etching and aquatint. Special Collections Division, The Newark Public Library. Gift of the artist.
“You guys do a great job, and you have a lot of patience! Thank you so much for being so great!”
—Pat and Eddie