“I am so thankful to be able to use the Newark Public Library. It opens up a beautiful world to you.” — Joanne
“I've been to the @NewarkLibrary many times; it just keeps getting better and better. It feels like a museum and library rolled up in one.” — Cassandra
This year the Newark Public Library celebrated its 125th Anniversary, having opened its doors in 1889 at its first home on West Park Street, and moving to its present Washington Street address in 1901. In honor of this important milestone, an exhibit was mounted at the Main Library titled, *The Newark Public Library: 125 Years of Innovation and Service*. Not only did this highlight the proud history of the institution, it also provided an opportunity to reflect on many factors that have contributed to the Library’s ability to remain one of the City’s anchor institutions for so many years.

The Library’s talented and dedicated staff has always played a key role in its success. Many of our librarians have received state and national recognition for their professional achievements. Another major strength has been the Library’s expansive collection of books, periodicals, and other materials in a variety of formats numbering more than 1.7 million items.

Essential to the health of any organization is a strong Board of Trustees. To that end, current Board members Tim Crist, Trish Morris-Yamba and Sandra King welcomed newly appointed members Thomas Alrutz, Anasa Maat, Jeremy Johnson, Rosemary Steinbaum, and Shauwea Hamilton. Sadly, we lost our longest-serving and most beloved Trustee, Dr. Clement Price, who passed away in November. His wisdom and positive influence will be long remembered.

The Library is fortunate to have a very active “Friends of the Library” group that has contributed time, expertise, advocacy, and dollars that have sustained many programs and services.

Perhaps less well known is the importance of the Library’s relationships with outside agencies, organizations, and individuals. It would not have been possible to provide the thousands of programs and activities to children, teens, and adults for more than a century without the benefit of the active support of outside entities. Many such relationships are evident throughout this report. We are delighted to be included in Mayor Ras Baraka’s city-wide literacy initiatives and are grateful for the City’s generous book donations. We are also very grateful for the tremendous support given by the Friends of the Hispanic Research and Information Center.

Whether through collaborations with established organizations, partnerships with new groups, generous grants from our funders, or individuals who volunteer their time, effort, and donations, the Library is indebted to all who help provide life affirming experiences to our patrons. This has been true for the past 125 years, and will continue to be true for the foreseeable future.

Thank you all,

Wilma J. Grey
Director, The Newark Public Library
Children and teens are always warmly welcomed and are encouraged to visit for help with school assignments, to use computers, and to borrow books for homework and for recreational reading. Activities designed to engage and educate children include story times with singing, games, cooking, crafts, a comic book club, and movie nights.

“My dream career is computer forensic investigator.” This is the goal of one of the motivated students who joined the brand new Girls Who Code Club, which provides highly marketable computer programming instruction to girls in grades six through twelve.

Brick City Thinks provided coaching on excelling in math to students and their parents in weekly sessions.

Our Summer Reading Challenge, funded by the Prudential Foundation, encouraged children to read in July and August to help prevent summer learning loss. Young children participated in this year’s Challenge on the theme Fizz, Boom, Read. Students entering eighth grade and above participated in the teen Challenge on the theme, Spark a Reaction. The Essex County Environmental Center presented their Soda Bubbles and River Riffles programs, and magician Bob Conrad presented Fizz, Boom, Read, It’s Magic. In addition, staff in all Children’s Rooms held twice daily activities to support summer reading. All readers received incentives for participating in the Challenge, and were awarded certificates of achievement at the celebrations in August.

At Night at the Museum, organized by the Newark Public Schools Office of Early Childhood and held at the Newark Museum, Library staff led story times and promoted the Summer Reading Challenge by talking with families and engaging them at our interactive science activity station.

Mayor Ras J. Baraka, former NBA superstar John Starks, and retired WNBA player Teresa Weatherspoon visited the Main Library and read to children during the Read to Achieve this Summer! program sponsored by Cablevision at which the Mayor urged the children to read to ensure their academic success.

The Newark Black Film Festival Youth Cinema screenings included ten children’s films.

Mayor Baraka returned in the fall for the Read and Believe Newark literacy kick-off which included a visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog. The Mayor’s office coordinated a donation of books from First Book for children and teens. Newark Reads, for children up to the eighth grade, met at the Weequahic and
Clinton Branches to read and discuss current events.

In October, ninety preschoolers from the Unified Vailsburg Services Organization helped set the record for the Guinness Book of World Records “most children in a vocabulary lesson,” in an event sponsored by the PNC Financial Services Group at the Main Library.

The Library offered many workshops for the artistically inclined:

At the North End, Springfield, Weequahic, and Van Buren branches, Paul Merklein taught students to draw figures from comics, television, and movies in his How to Draw Super Heroes for Teens & ‘Tweens. At Van Buren, Yoland Skeete taught Summer Art Classes for Children, Tweens and Teens, and in December, Printmaking, at which students made holiday cards and gifts. Classes were funded in part by The Victoria Foundation.

The Fine Art and Multimedia Projects for Young Artists by Sumei Art Center, which culminated in a Midsummer Arts and Crafts Exhibit and Fair, was made possible by funding from Carol Duncan in memory of her sister, Ina Walker. Drawing & Painting for Young People was co-sponsored by the Sumei Art Center.

For high school students, the Springfield Branch Library hosted five on-site recruitment College Fairs, at which many students were given on the spot college acceptances! Volunteers Lyndon Brown, Cheryl Crawford, and Erika Jackson helped students to complete college applications, financial aid forms, and personal statements, in addition to teaching free SAT preparation classes twice a week.

Student Campbell Hester led Write Stuff, a writing group, at the North End Branch.

Girl Scout Troop 51027 meets regularly at the North End Branch. The troop made a video describing what they love about the Library for the NJLA’s I Love My Library Campaign. Leaders from the GEM Project, which conducts educational workshops at the Branches, also made a video tribute to the Library.
Programs

Black History Celebration

With the theme Africa, Oh Africa, A Celebration of the African Diaspora, the annual Black history programming was dedicated to the life and memory of Nelson Mandela. It featured Defining Moments: An Exhibition of Works by Bryan Collier, organized by the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature. The opening event included “What Happened to Mother Africa? Reclaiming Our African Roots” by Junius Williams, Esq., Director of the Abbott Leadership Institute at Rutgers-Newark, and a performance by the Seventh Principle Drum and Dance Ensemble.

Other programs included:

- African Influences in Cuba: Firsthand Accounts from Newarkers Who Went There, with host Ben F. Jones, panelists Maisha Amen and Mansa K. Mussa
- Africa: What We Don’t Know About the Motherland, Baraka Sele, host, with Leonard Jeffries, and La Francis Rogers-Rose
- The Black Jews of Newark, panel discussion, Joshua Nelson, host; Elder Simon Quittlebaum, Church of God and Saints
- Dance performance and talk: Capoeira, Maculêlê and Samba with the Afro Brazilian Center of New Jersey
- Folktale Fun presented by storyteller and musician TAHIRA at the Main Library and at the Weequahic Branch

Funding for the Library’s Black History celebration activities and exhibits was provided by a generous grant from the PNC Foundation.

Keynote Speaker

Junius Williams with Linda Bowden, New Jersey Regional President, PNC Bank

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

The exhibit, Edible History: How Latin American Food Evolved and Transformed the World, included paintings by Fernando Mariscal and photographs by Gery Vereau. Chef, author, and culinary historian Maricel Presilla keynoted at the opening reception.

Other programs included:

- Tasting Peru: Pre-Columbian to Novo-Andean Cuisine with chefs Yeny Huerta & Milagros Santos
- Savoring the Rhythms: Food and Music in Latin America with José Obando, Director of the Musical Instrument Archive at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Andean multi-instrumentalist Patricio Paucar, and a Dominican merengue dance lesson
- Gente Y Cuentos/People & Stories: weekly discussions on food–themed short stories in Spanish by Latin American writers, Alma Concepción, facilitator
- Tortilla Soup, film screening facilitated by Ingrid Betancourt
- Cooking Up Dreams (De Ollas y Sueños), film screening with commentary by filmmaker, Beni Matías
- Children’s Book Presentation—A Day in the Life of La Gatita de Oro in Apt. 6-J: Salsa Dancing with author Ivette Méndez and illustrator Carlos Luis Méndez
- The Coquito Workshop presented by Beni Matias, producer/director of ¡Coquito! with partners Tami Gold and Sonia Gonzalez-Martinez

This year’s 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 and by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“Your establishment contributes greatly to the cultural fabric of our city.” — Juanita

“I’m a Newarker now, so I had to come, this is my library now.
**Art and Music**

From Russia to Balanchine to Harlem, a panel discussion with Robert Garland, Dance Theatre of Harlem; Bill Stepney; Jennifer Weber, Decadancetheatre; and Dister Rondon, organized by NJPAC

In the Words of a King, a selection of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s speeches performed by Camille Yarbrough, Jamil A.C. Mangan, Count Stovall, and Marie Thomas with the Provenance Music Group; keynote by Lawrence Hamm, People’s Organization for Progress

John Padovano, “The Ironbound Crooner”

And Never Elsewhere, a flag procession led by artist Dahlia Elsayed, from the Newark Museum to the Library, two institutions that shared the historical leadership of John Cotton Dana

Beyond the Eyes, Inc., an organization serving the visually impaired, Annual Spring Concert

**Author Appearances**

Johwa Choi, *The Art and Science of Harmony Meditation*

Kathleen P. Galop and Catharine Longendyck, *Forest Hill*

Barbara J. Kukla, *America’s Music: Jazz in Newark*

“Oh my goodness. The beauty of this building is completely worth the trip to Newark.” — Emily (on YELP)

**History and Literature**

The New Jersey Center for the Book hosted their inaugural event for 2014, recognizing New Jersey’s 350th anniversary. This special day included a talk by Elizabeth Del Tufo, President of Newark’s Preservation and Landmarks Committee; tours of *This is New Jersey: 350 Years of Garden State History*; and a children’s program presented by The Mythmakers.

*Newark ’74: Remembering the Puerto Rican Riots: An Unexamined History*, co-sponsored by the Friends of the HRIC, presentation by Aldo Lauria Santiago, Ph.D., history professor at Rutgers University, and by eyewitnesses and community leaders

A Celebration of the 193rd Anniversary of the Independence of Peru in partnership with Grupo Cultural Tradiciones del Perú, talk by historian Artemio Oporto, traditional music and dances with Pedro Caycho, and a display of Fernando Mariscal’s paintings

Speech-Defying! Newark Celebrates Poetry, presented by the Drama Department of the Newark School of the Arts

Rosa’s African American History Museum presentation

**Community Interest**

Teen Dating Violence Prevention Workshop in collaboration with La Casa de Don Pedro

Lens on Newark brunch, sponsored by Rutgers-Newark

Job Fair provided by Express Employment Professionals—North End Branch

Senior Library Director for a Day

Affordable Healthcare information sessions at Main Library and at the Vailsburg Branch

Bergen Crafters—Clinton Branch

Yoga/Meditation for Everyone—Van Buren Branch

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

Celebrating Black History Month: The Constitution and You with speaker, Gloria J. Browne–Marshall, Associate Professor of Constitutional Law at John Jay College and Founder/Director of The Law and Policy Group, Inc.

Celebrating National Poetry Month with a Community Poetry Read, in memory of Amiri Baraka


Film Screening: *Mandela*

Talk and book signing with Dennis Morrow, author of *A Fevered Land*
We reflected this year on 125 years of Innovation and Service. We remain wholly dedicated to our mission of serving the community, inspiring young and old (and those in between) to pursue their passions and dreams, and providing them with the tools to reach them.

With a generous grant from the Victoria Foundation we offered a variety of computer classes in English and Spanish to job seekers and those wanting to advance their careers. The grant also made possible significant additions to our collections of job search and technology related materials.

The Library was able to offer two levels of American Sign Language classes in both the spring and the fall.

As always, librarians worked very diligently and creatively to provide outstanding service to our customers whether it was for help in searching for jobs or housing, for assistance in using an electronic device, for a patent search, genealogical research, New Jersey history, or for homework help. And thanks to grants and Library endowments we made purchases in some important subjects despite continued reductions in the book budgets.

The Branches serve as vibrant community centers for lifetime learning and for recreation, offering clubs, programs, and activities in addition to collections of local interest.

Activities at the Main Library were hampered when a leak in the roof necessitated relocating public computer access and the Reference Division to the First Floor for several months. The book stacks were closed as well. In spite of these challenges, staff continued to provide service. Library Facilities staff worked with other City employees to repair the damage.

Among the gifts in kind received by the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center was **The Star-Ledger** photograph archive covering the 1970s to the 1990s. This remarkable donation has already been a proven asset to researchers.

"The teacher was so wonderful — really had time to share — he's helpful. The classes are truly a blessing."

"Your prompt and considerate response to my request for assistance has been heartwarming for me and my family. Thank you for helping us find peace of mind."

— Glen

"Let me say that I've visited your facility...and found helpful staff and other resources that have more than met my needs and expectations. Thanks again for all your good work."

— Ron

"Just wanted to let you know that my students came back to class today after having experienced their tours, and they all came back pumped and excited. Just wanted to convey my gratitude for everything that you did."

— Miriam, NJIT
Awards and Accomplishments

Wilma Grey served on the Arts, Cultural Development, and Tourism Transition Committee of Mayor Ras J. Baraka’s Transition Team. She also was appointed a Trustee on the Board of the Newark 350 Celebration.

Thomas Ankner became a Trustee of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey and chaired their Program Committee. He served as Secretary of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee and became a Trustee of the Friends of the Plume House.

Paula Baratta chaired the Exhibits Committee for the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) Annual Conference.

Joseph Casale served as President of the Rotary Club of Newark and as Ambassador for the Newark Regional Business Partnership. He also served on the Board for the Newark Downtown District.

Heidi Cramer served as Vice Chair of the NJLA Fundraising Committee. She presented at the orientation for My Very Own Library Project, a literacy initiative.

Leslie Kahn was elected Secretary of the NJLA Executive Board. She also completed her term as the NJLA Librarian of the Year and as a Board Member of the Reference Section of NJLA.

Yesenia López spoke at Bloomfield College’s opening of Newark 1974: Remembering the Puerto Rican Riots.

Two articles by Elizabeth Parker were published in Garden State Legacy.

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 Sergejeff chaired the NJLA Public Relations Committee and co-presented “If You Build It, They Will Come: Easy Infographics That Sell Ideas” at the NJLA Conference. She completed the NJ State Library Leadership Academy.

NJIT and Rutgers students, Newark Museum interns, local artists, and residents toured the exhibits and viewed some of the unique items in Special Collections. Among materials the Division shared with other educational institutions was a portfolio of prints, The New York Collection for Stockholm, that was loaned to the City University of Staten Island Gallery which used it for an exhibition.

In keeping with our Statewide Services Contract, we answered questions involving in-depth research in the subjects areas of art, business, music, U.S. patents and trademarks, U.S. documents, and Jerseyana to other libraries around the State.

Library staff engaged with the Newark community in a variety of ways, both on site and through outreach. We regularly welcomed students from the lower grades through college for orientations to our resources at our various service points. Visitors also included a group of 200 employees from Panasonic who toured the Main Library as part of their larger tour of Newark.
Support for the Library

Booked for the Evening

Arianna Huffington, featured speaker at the Library’s annual signature fundraising event, Booked for the Evening, is the chair, president, and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group, a nationally syndicated columnist, and author of fourteen books. Her latest, Thrive: The Third Metric to Redefining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom, and Wonder, was published in March and debuted at the top of the New York Times Best Seller list. Gala guests received signed copies of the book.

The evening’s honored guest, Mikki Taylor, Newark native and media veteran, was recognized at the Gala for her outstanding professional achievements. Ms. Taylor is editor-at-large for Essence magazine. A successful entrepreneur, writer, and motivational speaker, she is the founder and president of Mikki Taylor Enterprises, LLC. Ms. Taylor was born and raised in Newark and regards the City as the place where her dreams were nurtured and her purpose began. Over 200 people attended the benefit on October 28 at the Main Library which raised more than $120,000.

“I love...getting lost at the Newark Public Library where I used to dream a world as a child.” — Mikki Taylor

Grants

Charles E. Thenen Foundation — $3,000 for the Academic Support Program

County of Essex — $5,200 for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration

County of Essex — $2,500 for the preservation of the Charles F. Cummings Papers

County of Essex — $2,468 for Library’s 125th Anniversary exhibit

Friends of the Newark Public Library — $6,000 for collection development

The Hyde and Watson Foundation — $10,000 for a microfilm scanner for the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center

National Film Preservation Foundation — $18,000 for the preservation of New Jersey historical film

New Jersey Council for the Humanities — $2,755 for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration

New Jersey Historical Commission — $61,570 for general operating support

PNC Bank — $20,000 for the Black History Celebration

Prudential Foundation — $125,000 for a fundraising study

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

PSEG Foundation — $4,000 for the Academic Support Program

Victoria Foundation — $45,000 for teen programs, collections, and job skills initiatives

Victoria Foundation — $50,000 for capacity building
Friends of the HRIC

The Friends of the HRIC is a community support and advocacy group which fosters the ongoing development and operation of the New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center at the Library. Friends of the HRIC generously provided over $41,600 to underwrite activities for the Puerto Rican Community Archive. They also co-hosted several programs, including the reception for Newark ’74: Remembering the Puerto Rican Riots: An Unexamined History.

The Friends of the Newark Public Library

Volunteers from the Friends organized and staffed their 23rd Annual Book Sale in April which earned over $5,000. The Friends collaborated with the Military Park Partnership at “Tuesdays in the Park with NPL Friends.”

Mary Sue Sweeney Price, former Director of the Newark Museum, spoke on “The History of John Cotton Dana’s Vision for Art and Culture” at the John Cotton Dana Distinguished Lecture.

Artist Anker West spoke on “Newark: Studio and Office: The City as a Subject for Ceramics and Architecture” at the Friends’ annual program in December.

The Friends awarded a total of $6,000 in grants to the Library.

Characters Walk

In October, the Rutgers Undergraduate Women in Business (RUWIB) of Rutgers University-Newark raised $2,500 for the purchase of children’s books for the Library when they hosted their Second Annual Characters Walk in Washington Park. The Newark Downtown District co-sponsored this event in support of children’s literacy. The walkathon, which attracted over 200 people, included a reading corner, face painting, various games and crafts, and free books for all children.

“I love this place. Conveniently located next to the light rail, with ample bike parking for bikers like me! Pretty great spot. Support the Newark Public Library!” — Sasha

“It is no secret, childhood literacy is directly linked to academic achievement and graduation rates. The children in the City of Newark deserve to have access to books and resources that will aid in their long-term academic success. Reading can change the trajectory of a child’s life.” — LaToya A. Battle-Brown, Assistant Provost and Dean of Admissions at Rutgers University–Newark
Contributions 2014

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 2014 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.

Over $100,000

Prudential Foundation

$50,000 – $99,999
Victoria Foundation, Inc.

$25,000 – 49,999
PNC Bank

$10,000 – $24,999
Dr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Crut
Verizon Foundation

$5,000 – $9,999
Mack-Cali

$1,000 – $4,999
Mr. Thomas Alrutz
Friends of The Newark Public Library
Ms. Wilma J. Grey
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Grover
Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Karp, Esq.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Steinbaum
Stuart S. Applebaum
Giving Foundation

TCBA Watson Rice LLP

$500 – $999
Atlantic Federal Credit Union
Mr. Simon Young Bey
Mr. Timothy Brown
Ms. Mildred Davis Booker
Friends of NJHRIC
Genova Burns
Mr. Scott Greenberg
Ms. Carole Kahrs
Ms. and Mrs. George J. Kimmerle, AIA
Kirsch, Gelband & Stone
Marcum
Ms. Susan L. Mazzeo
O'Connor Davies LLP
Ms. Joanne Orozco
Mrs. Edith Oxfild
Dr. Neil Irwin Painter and
Dr. Glenn Shaffer
Dr. and Mrs. Victor Parsonnet
Ms. Angela Pepone

$100 – $499
Ms. Gail Alba
Aljira, A Center for Contemporary Art
Mrs. Vasilios B. Amyprazis
Mr. and Mrs. Jared B. Ash
Ms. Deborah W. Bailey
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Ms. Pamela E. Goldstein
Mr. Meyer Gottlieb and
Ms. Libby Heller
Greater Newark Convention
Visitor’s Bureau
Mr. David Green
Mr. Rodney Brown
Dr. Gayle Griffin
Mr. and Mrs. William N. Griggs
Mr. Melica Hampton
Mr. Robert Hartman
Ms. Patricia Henderson-Kusen
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Rutgers, Newark Business School
SAU Ewing LLP
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Ms. Norma C. Sheffield
Ms. Abigail Shure
Mr. Carl Smith
Ms. Victoria J. Snoy
Mr. Guy sterling
Seward Business System
SUAD, Studio for
Urban Architecture & Design
Mr. Morris Tannenbaum
The Sendell Family Fund
Tia Life Media
Touring Teddies World-Wide
TriarchNYC
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Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Vellekamp
Mr. Gregory Wadowsky
Dr. Olga J. Wagenheim
and Mr. Kal Wagenheim
Ms. Gloria Washington
Ms. Elizabeth Ann Watkins
WBGO Radio
Ms. Denise J. West
Ms. Dana Williams
Mr. George W. Williams
Mr. John B. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Yako Yafet

The Newark Public Library Annual Report 2014
New computers, generously donated by
The Newark Rotary, were installed in the
Main Library Children’s Room.

“I am an avid reader, particularly history and non-fiction.”
—Actor J.D. Williams
Facts and Figures

Patron Visits 426,514
Circulation 164,022
ELibraryNJ Circulation 6,897
Questions Answered 187,444
Employment Questions Answered 49,044
Computer Use Sessions 162,634
New Library Card Registrations 7,596

Programs (Library and Community Organization Sponsored)
Programs/Attendance 1,468/26,555

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

Financial Summary

Support and Revenues

City of Newark Allocation $10,080,901
State Library Aid 220,849
Donations 150,993
Grant Related Revenue 542,599
E-rate Reimbursements 256,000
Designated Fund Growth 23,236
Investment Income 5,432
Fines and Fees 40,076
Other 31,043

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES $11,351,129

Expenditures

Salaries and Wages 5,823,852
Payroll Taxes & Employee Benefits 2,144,597
General and Administrative 296,091
Services by Contract 2,323,456
Books and Library Materials 241,035
Capital Expense 74,383

TOTAL EXPENDITURES $10,903,414
The Library celebrated its 125th anniversary by highlighting its remarkable history and its dedication to the people of Newark with The Newark Public Library: 125 Years of Innovation and Service, an exhibit of photographs and other historic materials from the collections of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center and the Special Collections Division.

“Amazing history. Beautiful building.” — Roy

“Newark Public Library has been a light, an encouragement and a source of strength for many people in the community. May it go forward another 125 years.”