

From the Top Shelf

A message from Stephen Fulchino, Library Director

In January and February, the New Bedford Free Public Library was frequently in the news. Sometimes, the news was good – especially about the programs the Library ran. But most of the time, it was for a reason that every library employee and trustee dreads.

Because the legal proceedings are ongoing, I cannot go into details. What I could say about that night, you already know from the newspapers. Instead, I would like to discuss, in a general way, security in the Main Library and the Branches.

Past incidents at the Library – incidents serious but not nearly as serious as the recent one – caused the Trustees of the Library and the City Government to install security cameras in the Main building. These cameras did their job: they allowed for the quick identification of the

alleged perpetrator.

The seriousness of the latest problem has caused the Trustees (including the Mayor), the staff, and me to look at our policies, the staffing of the Main Library, and the physical layout of the Reference Department. As we go to press, discussion on some of these matters continues, but I have already implemented some policy changes at the instruction of the Trustees.

To the "Policy on Library Behavior," (see page 4) I have added two important rules:

Talking to minors by adult users is prohibited unless the adult is a parent, other close relative, or caregiver of the minor.

Follow the Internet Policy when online.

Meanwhile, I have added tough new punishments for violations of the Internet Policy, which presently bans, among other things, the downloading of obscene materials, especially child pornography, and the participation in chat rooms.

The punishment for violations is now as follows:

First violation: Warning by the person in charge of the location.

Second violation: Thirty days without Internet use.

Third violation: "No trespass" order against the individual for all Library locations.

The Library already has a "Policy on Unattended Children." (see page 5) The policy notes that "Children under the age of 10 should not be left alone in the library." The Library staff will be strictly enforcing this policy.

By themselves, these policies are not enough. In combination with other actions that the Library will soon take, however, I hope that all of you will feel safe in bringing your children to the Library.

In This Issue:

Page	Item
1	From the Top Shelf
2	It's in the Can!
3	The Hot List
4	Policy on Library Behavior
5	Policy on Unattended Children
5	Golden Girl
6	Kidz Korner
7	What's Going On?
8	New Home for Old Bookmobile
8	Hours & Locations

It's in the Can!

Patrons of the Wilks, Lawler and Howland-Green Branches have probably noticed some construction over the past few months. In FY2005, the New Bedford Free Public Library was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) as administered by the City of New Bedford to help make the buildings handicapped accessible. The three branches serve various parts of the city as a library and as a meeting space.

The original grant called for the upgrade of bathrooms, the installation of automatic door openers at the main entrances and the modification of the service desk areas of the three libraries. These changes would enable the buildings to meet the required standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Phase One of the project focused on the restrooms as they all dated to the original construction of the buildings – Wilks in 1958, Lawler in 1960, and Howland-Green in 1964.

After the Westport architectural firm of Clearwater Architects designed the necessary changes to the three buildings, Contracts Network was awarded the contract. The reconstruction of the bathrooms began in July 2007.

Challenges abounded as construction continued, due to the age of the original walls and the fixtures. The plans were modified as needed to accommodate issues undiscovered until the walls were torn down. These modifications ultimately allowed for better construction.

The new bathrooms at Howland-Green were opened to the public at the very end of December and the bathrooms at the other two branches were opened to the public in late February.

The second phase of the accessibilities project, the installation of automatic doors and the modification of the desks, will begin later this year if the monies are available.

While living with the construction has not been easy, we would like to thank our patrons for their patience as we make our libraries more accessible to everyone.



Wilks Manager Karen Stefanik performs the "toilet-paper cutting" ceremony as library assistant Marv Kruger watches.

The Hot List (Upcoming Books)

These popular authors are publishing new books in the next few months. They might not be in bookstores or libraries yet, but if they are in our catalog, you can still put them on hold and be at the top of the list!



March

- Archer, Jeffrey – *A Prisoner of Birth*
- Balogh, Mary – *Simply Perfect*
- Chabon, Michael – *Maps & Legends*
- Fairstein, Linda – *Killer Heat*
- Fielding, Joy – *Charley's Web*
- Graham, Heather – *The Death Dealer*
- Gross, Andrew – *The Dark Tide*
- Jackson, Lisa – *Lost Souls*
- Kane, Andrea – *Twisted*
- Kellerman, Jonathan – *Compulsion*
- Perry, Anne – *Buckingham Palace Gardens*
- Picoult, Jodi – *Change of Heart*
- Rice, Anne – *Christ the Lord*

April

- Albert, Susan Whittig – *Nightshade*
- Baldacci, David – *The Whole Truth*
- Barr, Nevada – *Winter Study*
- Berg, Elizabeth – *The Day I Ate Whatever I Wanted*
- Braun, Lilian Jackson – *The Cat Who Smelled Smoke*
- Clark, Carol Higgins – *Zapped*
- Clark, Mary Higgins – *Where are You Now?*
- Coben, Harlan – *Hold Tight*
- Harris, Joanne – *The Girl with No Shadow*
- Hoffman, Alice – *The Third Angel*
- Johansen, Iris – *Quicksand*
- Patterson, James – *Sundays at Tiffany's*
- Quick, Amanda – *The Third Circle*
- Robards, Karen – *Guilty*
- Vonnegut, Kurt – *Armageddon in Retrospect*
- Weiner, Jennifer – *Certain Girls*
- Woods, Stuart – *Santa Fe Dead*

May

- Buffett, Jimmy – *Swine Not?*
- Cornwell, Patricia – *The Front*
- Deveraux, Jude – *Secrets*
- George, Elizabeth – *Careless in Red*
- Hackman, Gene – *Escape from Andersonville*
- Koontz, Dean – *Odd Hours*
- Macomber, Debbie – *Twenty Wishes*
- Sandford, John – *Phantom Prey*
- Stewart, Mariah – *Mercy Street*

Policy on Library Behavior

Policy Statement:

Recognizing the need to maintain an environment suitable for studying, reading, browsing, and general use of library resources, the library board establishes the following rules of conduct to assure the safety of library users, personnel, and materials. We thank you for your cooperation.

Rules

1. Be considerate of others using the library.
2. Young children should be attended at all time (see "Policy on Unattended Children")
3. Cell phone use is prohibited in the library. Please shut it off when entering the building.
4. Shoes and shirts or the equivalent are required.
5. Smoking, eating, or drinking in the library is prohibited.
6. Sleeping or soliciting is prohibited in the library or on library grounds.
7. Disorderly or disruptive behavior is prohibited in the library or on library grounds.
8. Harassment of library patrons or personnel is prohibited.
9. Damaging library property is prohibited.
10. Littering is prohibited in the library or on library grounds.
11. Pets are not allowed on library premises, except for service animals.
12. Talking to minors by adult users is prohibited unless the adult is a parent, other close relative, or caregiver of the minor.
13. Follow the Internet Policy when online.

Entering the library or the library grounds implies agreement to abide by these rules while in the library. Violation of any of these rules may subject the individual(s) involved to exclusion from the library for a period of time.

The police will be called when:

- A disruptive patron (adult or child) is asked to leave and refuses;
- A child is left unattended in the library at closing time;
- There is a theft;
- A child is playing hookey and the truant officer cannot be reached;
- A patron or staff member is attacked, molested, or threatened by another patron;
- A patron is drunk, unconscious, or sleeping and cannot be awakened;

An adult is found violating Rule #12;

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the New Bedford Free Public Library.
 Contributors: Paul Cyr, Geoffrey Dickinson, Judith Downey, Dale Easton, Stephen Fulchino, Janis Gomes, Mary Kruger, Denise Plaskon, Karen Stefanik

Policy on Unattended Children

The safety and well-being of young children left unattended at the library is of serious concern to this library. Young children left alone may become frightened or anxious. Library staff have many public duties and cannot serve as baby-sitters. Children under the age of 10 should not be left alone in the library. We ask your cooperation in making the library a safe and happy place for children.

Parents, not library staff, are responsible for the behavior of the children using the library. Parents will be notified if their children are left unattended and require supervision. If parents or caregivers are unavailable, or refuse to take control of their child, the police will be notified. Disruptive children over age 9 will be asked to leave after receiving one warning. If they become abusive or refuse to leave, the police will be called.

Golden Girl

In March 1958, the Wilks Library opened its doors to a flood of eager patrons. The library was built with funds left in trust to the library by Sylvia Ann Howland-Green Wilks, daughter of famous New Bedford native Hetty Green. Patrons in the north end were thrilled to have a local library branch nearby. Within the first two days of business, librarians registered more than 500 new borrowers, and 1,122 books were circulated.

Many things have changed since that first day. The old newspaper picture of the 1958 circulation desk looks very bare without the computer monitors and barcode scanners. The internet – let alone providing public computers to access the internet and other software – wasn't even a gleam in the librarians' eyes back then. Librarians checked books out by hand; these days they use barcode scanners that instantly update a book's status in the online catalog.

Many aspects of the library and its patrons have remained the same, however. Then, as now, people came in for the latest bestsellers. Now it's James Patterson and Danielle Steel. Back then, perhaps it was *Doctor Zhivago* or *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.

Children came to the library to finish homework assignments or do research projects. The Library also held story hours and other programs for children and adults.

And today, as in 1958, the Wilks Library has a friendly staff dedicated to helping you, our patrons, find whatever you need. Whether you want a fun book to read or you need information to complete a project or to research a personal interest, you can still get it at the library.

Please join us in celebrating Wilks' 50th anniversary this spring. The first event will be "Remembering Hetty," to be held on Tuesday, March 25. There will also be a presentation from the Hetty Green Historical Society, and refreshments. See "What's Going On?" for further information.

More events are planned for June. Stay tuned for more details!



Kidz Korner

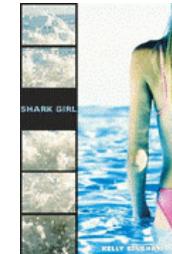
New Releases for Young People

- Patterson, James – *The Final Warning* (3/17)
- Danzinger, Pamela – *Amber Brown Wants Extra Credit* (3/18)
- King, M.C. – *Sweet Revenge* (Hannah Montana series) (3/25)
- Griffiths, Andy – *Just Shocking* (4/1)
- Christopher, Matt – *Lacrosse Firestorm* (4/1)
- Stilton, Geronimo – *Geronimo and The Gold Medal Mystery* (4/1)
- Moss, Marissa – *Amelia's Itchy-Twitchy, Lovey-Dovey Summer at Mosquito Camp* (4/8)

Kids' Reads

Bingham, Kelly – *Shark Girl* (Y FIC Bingham) (ages 11-15)
Reviewed by Jennifer, age 12, Lawler patron

Shark Girl is a real, masterfully told story. You go through the ups and downs of Jane's teenage life made harder by a shark attack and an amputated arm. It talks about life after an accident and how dealing with the losses associated with it is sometimes more painful than the injury itself. This story is about dealing with grief and learning to accept yourself for who you are. This book is very creatively written. I love it and I know that others will, too.



Children's Book Awards

Every year, the American Library Association (ALA) awards several prestigious honors to children's and young adult books. This year's winners, announced at ALA's mid-winter meeting in January, are:

- Caldecott Medal (for picture books): *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick (JFic Selznick)
- Newbery Medal (for children's literature): *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz (J 812.6 Sch)

Ask for these books or other award-winners at your local branch.

What's Going On?

Story Hours

The Main Library and library branches hold story hours for children ages 3-5.

Winter story time runs from January 28 to March 15.
Spring story time runs from March 31 to June 7.

- Lawler – Mondays @10am
- Casa da Saudade – Portuguese story hour – Tuesdays @6pm: March 25, April 15, May 13, June 3
- Wilks – Wednesdays @10am
- Howland-Green – Thursdays @3pm
- Main Library – Saturdays @10am

Holiday Hours

Friday, Mar. 21 – Good Friday – Libraries are open 9am – 12:30pm
Monday, Apr. 21 – Patriot's Day – closed

Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday – March 3-7 – Come Hear "Who" Reads

City officials and community leaders celebrate the 104th birthday of Dr. Seuss. Each library will host these guest readers, and will give out Dr. Seuss books and bookmarks, courtesy of the Trustees of the New Bedford Day Nursery, who is sponsoring this program. We'll also have a birthday cake!

Monday March 3 rd	Main Library @2:30pm
Tuesday, March 4 th	Lawler @4:30pm
Wednesday, March 5 th	Casa da Saudade @10am
Wednesday, March 5 th	Howland-Green @3pm
Friday, March 7 th	Wilks @3pm

Wilks Anniversary Program – "Remembering Hetty"

March 25 @6:30pm, Wilks Library
Local actress Lucy Bly will portray Annie Leary, a philanthropist and longtime friend of Hetty Green. "Annie" reminisces on her friendship with Hetty, reflecting that the Hetty she knew was different from others' perception of her. After this program, the former Hetty Green Historical Society will present a donation to the New Bedford Libraries to honor the late Edie Nichols, founder and executive director of the society. Refreshments will be served.

Portrait Unveiling

March 29 @2pm, Main Library
Unveiling of the portrait of Dr. John Fletcher in honor of his 50th Anniversary as an educator. Dr. Fletcher is a Trustee of the New Bedford Free Public Library, a member of the New Bedford School Committee and an educator with the Dartmouth Schools. His portrait was painted by local artist Deborah Macy.

AHA! Night – "Emergence"

April 10 – Main Library
Students of the elementary schools of the City of New Bedford will have recent art work on display in the Children's area on the first floor of the Main Library.

New Home for Old Bookmobile Hours & Locations

Margaret and David Philbrook of Rhode Island wanted a moving van.

When the city of New Bedford bought a brand-new bookmobile in spring of 2006, it traded the old bookmobile, built in 1972, to Big Wheels Truck Sale. Mr. Philbrook saw Big Wheels' ad in a trade magazine selling the bookmobile, and thought it could be the perfect vehicle to transport some large items. He sent his wife to take a look at the bus and buy it.

But after bringing the bookmobile home, both Mr. Philbrook and his wife fell in love with it and couldn't bear the thought of tearing out the interior shelves and desks. Instead, they cleaned and polished the bookmobile and fixed the starter.

The Philbrooks, truck aficionados, belong to several local and national truck organizations, such as the American Truck Historical Society and the Ocean State Vintage Haulers Chapter. New Bedford's former library on wheels is a shining addition to their collection of vintage trucks.

The couple brings the bookmobile to local vintage truck shows, where the vehicle brings joy to the attendees. A hobbyist for over 30 years, Mr. Philbrook says that he has never before seen a bookmobile at any show.

The Philbrooks keep books on the bookmobile, and some show attendees often stay and rest a while, chatting to the couple about their unique vehicle. Some folks step on the bus and are drawn back to their own youths, having used a bookmobile when growing up. Others have never even heard of a bookmobile, and are amazed at the idea of a library on wheels.

The couple enjoys the truck even when they are not showing it off – Mrs. Philbrook often uses the space and peace and quiet to catch up on paperwork.

In addition to truck shows, the couple has shown the bookmobile at local events and parades.

Main Library
613 Pleasant St.
508-991-6275
TTY: 508-991-6258

Monday: 9am – 9pm
Tuesday: 9am – 9pm
Wednesday: 9am – 9pm
Thursday: 9am – 9pm
Friday: 9am – 5pm
Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Genealogy Department
3rd floor of Main Library
508-991-6276

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 1pm – 5pm,
6pm – 9pm
Wednesday: 1pm – 5pm
Thursday: 1pm – 5pm
Friday: closed
Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Branch Libraries

Monday: 9am – 5pm
Tuesday: 12pm – 8pm
Wednesday: 9am – 5pm
Thursday: 12pm – 8pm
Friday: 9am – 5pm
Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Casa da Saudade
58 Crapo St.
508-991-6218

Howland-Green
3 Rodney French Blvd.
508-991-6212

Lawler
745 Rockdale Ave.
508-991-6216

Wilks
1911 Acushnet Ave.
508-991-6214

Bookmobile
The Bookmobile visits schools, adult centers, and neighborhoods in New Bedford. For the Bookmobile schedule, please call 508-991-6214.