

From the Top Shelf

A message from Stephen Fulchino, Library Director

2009 is likely to be a difficult year for many people and institutions.

As difficult times increase, so does demand for library services. (See, for instance, the front page article in the Sunday, January 4th *Boston Globe*.) Over the past year and a half, with the support and encouragement of both the Mayor and the City Council, the New Bedford Free Public Library has been able to increase its services, collections, and branch hours.

In the next year, the Library will focus on filling two additional needs: to fill a hole in our present services, and to expand and renew a service. For both, the Library is likely to receive help from outside the city, but will also need some private fund-raising.

First, we are planning a pilot project to create a Teen Room at the Lawler Branch. The Library has excellent programs for young children, but once a child reaches middle or high school, the programming falls off. We hope to receive a state grant of up to \$20,000, and with a modest amount of community support, hope to have the room ready to open in early 2010.

Is there anyone who doubts the need? These are the years when so many of our youths make life-altering decisions for the worse. A Teen Room at the Library provides a safe, fun and educational place for them to go, and is an investment in their futures.

Second, the Library has applied for and received a Gates Grant to purchase 36 new computers, peripherals, and IT infrastructure and support over the next two years.

The last grant we received from the Gates Foundation allowed us to purchase the public Internet computers currently used at the Main Library and all the branches. These computers have since become out-of-date and are beginning to fail. Without the grant, we will be unable to replace these computers.

In many communities, nearly every home has Internet access. New Bedford is not one of those communities. The public Internet computers at the Library are a vital service. For example, many jobs are now only posted and must be applied for on the Internet.

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Cape Verdean Church Records

For those patrons interested in tracing their Cape Verdean heritage, the Library has begun to acquire microfilms of the baptisms, marriages and burials of the Cape Verde Islands. The films so far account for over fifty percent of the Cape Verdean immigrants listed in our passenger lists for the port of New Bedford, which cover the period from 1820 to 1942.

The microfilms contain images of handwritten books in the Portuguese language. Although there are gaps for some years and some of the books have water or insect damage, the records contain a good deal of information.

On baptisms, for instance, you will find the names of the child, the parents, the godparents and even the grandparents. The records are in chronological order and there are no indexes.

These records were filmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) at the National Institute for Historical Archives in the Cape Verde Islands, who gave the Library permission to have the films copied. The Consul General's Office of Cape Verde in Boston was very supportive of us in acquiring these resources.

The films are in the microfilm area on the second floor of the Main Library. For assistance see the Special Collections staff on the third floor.

The microfilms that the Library does not yet have

can be borrowed for you by the Mormon Church on Cross Road in Dartmouth.

We hope that you would consider donating money to the library to purchase more microfilms. They cost \$50.00 per reel and, if you wish, we can attach a book plate to the boxes with your name or the name of anyone you would like to memorialize or honor. For more information call Paul Cyr or Joan Barney in the Special Collections Department at 508-991-6276.

The films from Santo Antão were purchased with a generous donation from James Lopes. So far we have the following films:

Fogo:
Church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição, 1787-1908;
Church of Nossa Senhora da Ajuda, 1801-1912;
Church of São Lourenço, 1814-1934;
Church of Santa Catarina, 1850-1914;

Brava:
Church of São João Baptista, 1806-1929;
Church of Nossa Senhora da Monte, 1884-1913;

Maio:
Church of Nossa Senhora da Luz, 1878-1899;

Santo Antão:
Santo António das Pombas, 1815-1913;
Church of São João Baptista, 1858-1897
[incomplete set]



New Bedford artist Albert Bierstadt has been honored with a U.S. postage stamp. His work, "Valley of the Yosemite," is the newest edition to the U.S. Postal Service's American Treasure stamp series. Bierstadt grew up in New Bedford, and patrons can view some of his works in the Art Room at the Main Library. (This particular painting is owned by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.)

L to R: Library Trustee Elsie Fraga, Postmaster David dosSantos, and Library Director Stephen Fulchino with an enlarged copy of the Bierstadt stamp.

Take a Closer Look

Among a number of the paintings recently returned from City Hall to the Main Library is a work by New Bedford native Margaret Peirce, *The Dance Lesson*, which has not been exhibited in the library in over three decades. Peirce is one of only four women artists represented in the library's art collection. As such she is an important link to the larger numbers of women active in the arts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Beyond her obvious gifts as a painter, not much is known about Peirce or her career. Born in New Bedford on August 14, 1867, Peirce's father was a trustee of Swain School of Design, giving her access to the local art scene early in life. Later she attended the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston before leaving the United States to study abroad.

Peirce maintained a studio in Boston. A one-woman show of her paintings was held at Swain School in April 1916. Among the 22 works was *The Dance Lesson*. The titles of the others – *Morning Lunch*, *State House*, *Mountain Sketch*, *Dutch Peasant* – give an idea of her subject matter. Her combination of loose, impressionist-style paint handling and strong draftsmanship are characteristic of the Boston School of painters at the turn of the 20th century.

From the Top Shelf (continued from page 1)

The Gates Foundation now requires that the libraries raise part of the funds. The Foundation expects to spend \$2600 per computer station. In the first year, the Library needs to raise 25% of the cost of 19 initial computer stations, or \$12,350. In the second year, the match increases to 50% for a total of \$22,100.

The Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library have kicked off the fund-raising for the Gates Grant with a contribution of \$500. I hope you will be generous. Without good public Internet

Although the title of *The Dance Lesson* implies vigorous action, the painting is anything but dynamic. Only the gentle movement of the girl slowly dancing in the sunlight disrupts the stillness of the uncluttered interior. Its quiet, contemplative quality is akin to that of the interiors portrayed by 17th century Dutch painters like Johannes Vermeer (Peirce in fact studied for a time in Holland).

The painting, a gift of Ellen R. and Thomas S. Hathaway, is on exhibit on the third floor of the Main Library.



access, many of your fellow City residents are at a terrible disadvantage in this electronic age.

We will be starting formal fund-raising soon, but if this article has moved you to make out a check today, we will gladly accept it. Make it out to "The City of New Bedford" and write Gates Grant on the memo line. Then, mail to: Stephen Fulchino, New Bedford Free Public Library, 613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 or, of course, you may bring it the Main Library or a branch.

The Green Bean (Simple Tips on Being Green)

These days, we are all trying to save money. One way to do that, and to help the environment as well, is to "go green."

Save money in your home by lowering the thermostat to 62-65 degrees. If you have baseboard heating, remove objects that are blocking the path for your heat, such as large boxes, computers, or desks. When the heat is allowed to circulate, you can keep the thermostat lower while keeping warmer.

Also try to keep doors closed so the heat doesn't escape from the room you are in or from the

Rooms you will be in later. Follow these tips, and you won't have to cringe when you get this month's heating bill!

Want to know more about what you can do? Take a look on our bookshelves!



ON THE SHELF:

The Green Book by Elizabeth Rogers is an easy-to-read book with simple tips for how you can help the environment while improving your life. (Nonfiction: 333.72 ROG 2007)

Activities for Active Adults

The Lawler Branch Library will formally kick off a series of programs funded through a \$3,000 "EqualAccess" Program Grant with a lecture entitled *Living with Meaning: A New Age of Aging* by professional gerontologist, Sharon Sokoloff on Saturday, January 31, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

With no role models for how to live well in the second half of life, everyone is a pioneer. In a workshop-like format Ms. Sokoloff will discuss how people are now living longer, healthier, more vital lives than ever before. A brief lecture will be rounded out with interactive exercises and group discussion in which participants will address the question: What gives you meaning and purpose in life?

Sharon Sokoloff, a professional gerontologist for three decades, is the founder and principal of Opus II, which offers keynote speaking, interactive educational programs and consultation related to making the second half of life a time of meaning and integrity.

Also the director of the award-winning Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Ms. Sokoloff is co-president of the praxis committee of the Life

Planning Network, a community of professionals from diverse fields who share a commitment to providing a broad spectrum of life planning services and resources for the Third Age.

Ms. Sokoloff earned a doctorate from the Heller School of Social Policy & Management at Brandeis University, a Master of in Gerontology and Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from Ithaca College.

Equal Access Libraries was developed by Libraries for the Future, a national non-profit organization that supports innovation and investment in America's libraries. The group was founded to fill the need for new programs for the changing demographics of the communities served by public libraries.

Out of the three categories of this grant available, Lawler chose this grant for older adults in order to focus on services for this growing population. Photography workshops, lectures, knitting classes and other special programs will be offered for Boomers and older adults at the Lawler Branch through September of 2009 with a focus on Lifelong Access. Please call the library at 508-991-6216 for more information.

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!



January

- Andrews, V.C. – *Delia's Gift*
- Brockmann, Suzanne – *Dark of Night*
- Cruisie, Jennifer – *Strange Bedpersons*
- Erdrich, Louise – *The Red Convertible*
- Evanovich, Janet – *Plum Spooky*
- Gear, Kathleen O'Neal – *People of the Thunder*
- Grisham, John – *The Associate*
- Higgins, Jack – *A Darker Place*
- Jackson, Lisa – *Wicked Game*
- Kaminsky, Stuart – *Bright Futures*
- Ludlum, Robert – *The Infinity Affair*
- McInerney, Ralph – *Wisdom of Father Dowling*
- Patterson, Richard North – *Eclipse*
- Perry, Thomas – *Runner*
- Phillips, Susan Elizabeth – *What I Did for Love*
- Woods, Stuart – *Mounting Fears*

February

- Beaton, M.C. – *Death of a Witch*
- Binchy, Maeve – *Heart and Soul*
- Bradbury, Ray – *We'll Always Have Paris*
- Child, Lincoln – *Terminal Freeze*
- Cruisie, Jennifer – *Dogs and Goddesses*
- Delinsky, Barbara – *While My Sister Sleeps*
- Farstein, Linda – *Lethal Legacy*
- Greeley, Andrew – *Irish Tweed*
- Hannah, Kristin – *True Colors*
- King, Stephen – *He is Legend*
- Michaels, Fern – *Under the Radar*
- Miller, Linda Lael – *Logan*
- Palmer, Michael – *Second Opinion*
- Parker, Robert – *Night and Day*
- Patterson, James – *Run for Your Life*
- Robb, J.D. – *Promises in Death*
- Steel, Danielle – *One Day at a Time*

March

- Archer, Jeffrey – *Paths of Glory*
- Coben, Harlan – *Long Lost*
- Cussler, Clive – *Corsair*
- Deveraux, Jude – *Lavender Morning*
- Ellis, Julie – *The Long Weekend*
- Fielding, Joy – *Still Life*
- Gross, Andrew – *Don't Look Twice*
- Hart, Carolyn – *Dare to Die*
- Jackson, Lisa – *Malice*
- Kellerman, Jonathan – *True Detectives*
- Mosley, Walter – *The Long Fall*
- Oates, Joyce Carol – *Dear Husband*
- Perry, Anne – *Execution Dock*
- Picoult, Jodi – *Handle with Care*
- Robards, Karen – *Pursuit*

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the New Bedford Free Public Library.

Contributors: Paul Cyr, Geoffrey Dickinson, Judith Downey, Dale Easton, Kristen Emmett, Stephen Fulchino, Janis Gomes, Mary Kruger, Denise Plaskon, Janice Hodson, Karen Stefanik

Kidz Korner

New Releases for Young People

- Adler, David – *Bones and the Roller Coaster Mystery* (2/09)
- Brashares, Ann – *3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows* (1/09)
- Cabot, Meg – *Princess Diaries Vol. X: Forever Princess* (1/09)
- Kinney, Jeff – *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw* (1/09)
- Moss, Marissa – *Amelia's Science Fair Disaster* (1/09)
- Napoli, Donna Jo – *Ready to Dream* (1/09)
- Numeroff, Laura – *If You Give a Bear a Brownie* (1/09)
- Rylant, Cynthia – *Annie and Snowball and the Cozy Nest* (2/09)
- Hiassen, Carl – *Scat* (1/09)

Santa caught popping out of the fireplace on the 2nd floor of the Main Library. He made an appearance at the library on December 11 for the lecture *You Better Watch Out! The Many Faces of Santa* and to kickoff of the Christmas display of the same name. Children also enjoyed cocoa and cookies with Santa in the Children's Room.



A Friend in Need

The Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library will hold their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 28th at 7:00pm at the 3rd floor meeting room of the Main Library. There is no more important time to lend your support to the Friends, which relies on your membership dues to offer programs for children and adults. This past year the Friends were the sponsor of the summer reading program and assisted with the Wilks Library's 50th anniversary celebration.

If you would like to get involved and assist the Friends, please join us that evening. This coming year as the library rolls out new programming, patrons and Friends alike will have new chances to

participate in library events. The Friends have kick-started the fund-raising effort to fund the Library's new computers with an initial gift of \$500. (See *From the Top Shelf* on page 1.)

Following the meeting there will be a special preview tour of the library's newest exhibit *If There is No Struggle, There is No Progress* highlighting materials from the collection relating to African-Americans in the region. The preview tour will be conducted by the Curator of Art, Janice Hodson. Ms. Hodson has worked in the museum field for over 20 years, most recently as chief curator of the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge.

What's Going On?

Ongoing

Story Hours - Winter story time runs from February 2 to March 14

- Lawler – Mondays @10am
- Wilks – Wednesdays @10am
- Lapsit Story Hour – Lawler, Wednesdays @10am
- Howland-Green – Thursdays @3:30pm
- Main Library – Saturdays @10am

Exhibits

“Pulaski Remembrance Day”

December 22 – January 31; Wilks Library Meeting Room
 Display of coloring contest entries on “The First Polish Settlers in America” from Pulaski School.

“If There is No Struggle, There is No Progress”

January 29 – April 3; Main Library, 3rd floor Art Room
 This exhibit includes broadsides, letters, photographs and objects (dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries) relating to African-Americans in southeastern Massachusetts.

January

- 1 *New Year's Day – All libraries closed*
- 10, 17, 24 **Origami Workshops** – Learn the ancient art of origami. For ages 10 and up.
Lawler Library; 12 – 1pm
- 13 **Lawler Library Book Club** – January's book is James McBride's *The Color of Water*.
Lawler Library; 6 – 8pm
- 14 **Lawler Library Book Club** – January's book is James McBride's *The Color of Water*.
Lawler Library; 2 – 4pm
- 17 **One-Man Play – Mr. Lincoln's Public Opinion Bath** – Local actor in a one-man play dramatizing Abraham Lincoln's twice-weekly meetings with the public.
Main Library, 3rd floor meeting room; 2pm
- 19 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day – All libraries closed*
- 20 **Wilks Library Book Club (Book Bites)** – January's book is David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars*
Wilks Library; 6 – 7:30pm
- 31 **Lecture: “Living with Meaning: A New Age of Aging”** – Professional gerontologist Sharon Sokoloff will lead a workshop on how to live well in the second half of your life.
Lawler Library; 1 – 3pm **Snow Date February 7, 1 – 3pm.**

February

- 2, 9, 23 **Purls of Wisdom Knitting Classes** – Please call Lawler for information and to register.
Lawler Library; 3 – 5pm
- 7 **Portrait Unveiling** – Lee Charlton, former president of the New Bedford Chapter of the NAACP
Main Library, 3rd floor meeting room; 2pm
- 16 *Presidents' Day – All libraries closed*
- 17 **Wilks Library Book Club (Book Bites)** – February's book is Dodie Smith's *I Capture the Castle*.
Wilks Library; 6 – 7:30pm
- 18 **Big Ryan's Tall Tales**
Main Library; 2pm
- 18 **Captain Jack's Pirate Adventures** – “The Real History of the Pirates of the Caribbean”
Lawler Library; 3pm
- 19 **Bob McLaughlin Magic Show**
Howland-Green Library; 3:30pm
- 20 **The Lucky Show** – Magic and juggling
Wilks Library; 3pm
- 24 **Poetry and Popcorn** – Poetry slam – open to all high school students.
Lawler Library; 6pm **Snow Date March 3, 6pm**

Hours & Locations

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: 1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
- Tuesday: 1pm – 5pm
- Wednesday: 1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
- Thursday: 1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
- Friday: 9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm
- Saturday: 9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm

Art Room

3rd floor of Main Library
 508-979-1787

- Monday: closed
- Tuesday: 1pm – 5pm
- Wednesday: 1pm – 5pm
- Thursday: 1pm – 5pm; 6pm – 9pm
- Friday: 9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm
- Saturday: 9am – 1pm; 2pm – 5pm

Branch Libraries

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

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

Bookmobile

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

What's New in 2009?

Playaway Audio Books

The New Bedford library has started buying Playaway audio books. Like a book on CD, these can be abridged or unabridged, but unlike CDs, all you need to do is plug in your headphones and press play! These digital audio books look like MP3 players, so they are small enough to fit in your pocket for on-the-go listening. Get interrupted and have to stop the book? No problem! You can easily “bookmark” that section and return to it later.

Ask your librarian about Playaway audio books today! If you're searching IBistro, click on “Audio Book Search” and type the word “Playaway” into the Keywords box for a list of items in the entire SAILS library system. Because the SAILS network is still building its collection of Playaways, you will not be able to put these items on hold yet. Search only New Bedford's holdings by selecting “New Bedford libraries” (or a particular branch) from the Library drop-down box.

New Magazines

The New Bedford Libraries has added some new magazines:

| Adults | Children |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Knitting • Family Tree • Frommer's Budget Travel • More | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys' Life • Dogs for Kids • Game Pro • Girl's Life • New Moon • Shojo Beat |
| Portuguese <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Guia • Seleccoos Readers Digest | |

Don't forget! The Casa da Saudade Library remains temporarily closed for renovations. You can find some Portuguese materials at the Howland-Green and Wilks Branches.

Cut here for an Hours & Locations bookmark