

From the Top Shelf

A message from Stephen Fulchino, Library Director

When it comes to cutting a budget, there are no good options, only less bad ones.

So it is with the reductions the Library had to make. The parameters given by the Board of Trustees and the Mayor were clear: have as little effect on public services as possible and keep all four branches open.

Still, the Library had certain restraints on the places to cut. The biggest is that, in order to qualify for state aid, the Main Library needs to be open at least 64 hours a week. Given that New Bedford will receive approximately \$167,000 in state aid this year, that is a very important restraint.

Fortunately, the reductions asked of the Library were no worse than those asked of other departments. Unlike many communities, New Bedford realizes the importance of library service, especially when economic times are bad.

On February 13th and 14th, after many discussions with the Trustees, I had to lay off seven full-time and one part-time employee. The brunt of the layoffs will be felt in the branches and the Technical Services Department.

However, the Trustees have voted to use state aid to hire four additional 12-hour employees. While this will not allow the branches to remain open six days a week, it will allow for five days rather than four. (Thus the importance of state aid; see above.)

Realizing the necessity of Saturday hours, all four branches will remain open 9-5. The Wilks and Casa da Saudade branches will close on Fridays, and the Howland-Green and Lawler branches will close on Wednesdays. This means that both the South End and the more northern parts of the City will have branches open six days.

I would like to thank the Mayor, his financial staff, and the Board of Trustees for their help in minimizing the impact of the layoffs.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the staff, both present and former, for all their hard work. In order to make the plan work, the remaining staff have had to become more flexible and take on new responsibilities. In these difficult times, I hope that you will tell them how much you appreciate their work.

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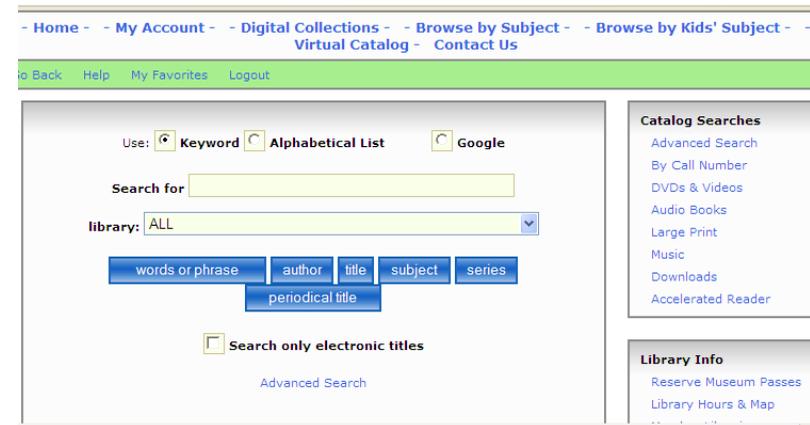
IBistro Gets a Makeover

If you search for items using IBistro, the library's online catalog, you probably noticed some changes. All the features you already use are still there, but a few bonus features have been added.

If you're like a lot of people, chances are that a year or even a few months from now, you might want to reread that great book you've got checked out right now. But what was that title again?? With the new IBistro, you will be able to view your checkout history. This feature is optional – ask your librarian how to opt-in, and from now on, you'll be able to see what you had checked out.

The look of the catalog has been updated to make heavily-used features easier to find. The library system is also testing a feature called, "Did you mean," which will help you find items even if you're not sure of the spelling.

You can access the library's catalog through our Web site: www.newbedfordlibrary.org.



Going Somewhere?

Planning a trip? Need a travel guide fast? Now you can access Fodor's travel guides through the library's databases!

Start your journey at our Web site: www.newbedfordlibrary.org.

- Log into the catalog by clicking on "My Account." Your user name is your 14-digit library card number; your password is usually the last four numbers of your telephone number. (If you have trouble, call your library.)
- Once you've logged in, click on "Online Magazines & Research Tools," which is located in the "Library Info" box on the right side of the page.
- Select "InfoTrac Onefile"

- On the Basic Search screen, type in the name of the country or city you want to visit, then click on "More search options."
- Type "Fodor's" in the "by publication title" box. (Yes, the apostrophe in "Fodor's" matters!) Click the search button.
- When you see the list of results, click on the article that interests you. Some locations, such as Cyprus, will only have one result. Others, such as Italy, will bring back more choices, since the database lists separate guides on different parts of Italy, such as Venice, Rome and other cities.
- The article contains the full-text of the Fodor's book. Future enhancements will include a table on contents to make the full-text document easier to navigate.

Bon voyage!

"That Rank Stew of Fanatics"

New Bedford in the middle of the 19th century was a vital part of the Underground Railroad. When the Virginia newspaper *American Beacon* dubbed New Bedford a "rank stew of fanatics and outlaws" in January 1854, the city had already obtained a reputation as a safe haven for people of color, free or fugitive. *"That Rank Stew of Fanatics: Slavery, Abolition & New Bedford"* is a new exhibit on the third floor of the Main Library highlighting the stories connected to just a few of the innumerable people who contributed to the perception of the city as a beacon of tolerance. The exhibit, which runs through April 3, contains documents, letters, photographs, books and objects related to prominent area individuals who helped shape the city's view of itself: Paul Cuffe, Henry "Box" Brown, Rodney French, Sergeant William H. Carney, and Corporal James Gooding, to name a few.

Mariner, patriot, abolitionist, and businessman Paul Cuffe, born to a former slave and a Wampanoag mother on Cuttyhunk Island in 1759, was a Quaker and founded the first school in Westport, Massachusetts to be racially integrated. The letters and petitions in the exhibit attest to the difficulty of his efforts to be recognized as a white man's equal.

Fugitive slave Henry "Box" Brown received his nickname when, as a slave in Richmond, Virginia, he had himself "boxed up" and delivered by railroad to a friend in Philadelphia. During the 21-hour trip he had only a bladder of water and a few crackers to sustain him. To obtain fresh air, he used a large gimlet, a tool for drilling small holes. Gripping stories like Brown's found a ready audience in the North, where published accounts of fugitive slave escapes were eagerly read by the book-buying public.

Trustees of the New Bedford Free Public Library: Mayor Scott Lang, Carl Cruz, Rev. Constantine S. Bebis, Mary-Ellen Bergeron, Dr. John Fletcher, Elsie R. Fraga, James L. Henry, Helen Rogers, Dr. Joseph Silva, Jr., Barry G. Trahan

New Bedford's Quakers had been anti-slavery supporters for over half a century when a new generation of abolitionists came to prominence. Rodney French, New Bedford mayor from 1853-54, assisted hundreds of runaway slaves after witnessing a slave auction in Raleigh, North Carolina. His business partner dissolved their company after pressure from southern business associates, but this did not end French's efforts to stop slavery. In thanks, the local black community presented him with a commemorative pitcher, which was donated to the library in 1931.

(continued on page 4)



This silver pitcher was presented to Mayor Rodney French in 1853 for his efforts to end slavery.

"That Rank Stew of Fanatics" (continued from page 3)

The Civil War provided African-Americans the opportunity to shatter common myths about blacks, who were thought not disciplined or brave enough to fight as soldiers. When the first northern black regiment was formed in Massachusetts in 1863, 46 African-Americans living in New Bedford enlisted.

Sergeant William H. Carney, an escaped slave, was a member of Company C of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment during the Civil War. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery during the famous Battle of Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863 that was depicted in the movie *Glory*.

Corporal James Gooding, an African-American, was also a member of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment. A former whaler, his

seaman's protection papers containing personal information to identify him as a valid member of the crew, are on display. During the war he wrote letters home to New Bedford that were printed in the local newspaper, *The Mercury*. Later, his letters were published in book form as *On the Altar of Freedom: a Black Soldier's Civil War Letters from the Front*. Gooding also wrote a letter to President Abraham Lincoln protesting the unequal pay given to black soldiers in the Union army after the passage of the Militia Act of July 1862 in which black soldiers received less pay than white soldiers.

The exhibit, mined from the library's archives, art and object collections, is a fascinating walk through New Bedford's history. It can be viewed during the Main Library's regular hours. Call 508-979-1787 for more information.

Ever Wonder Why...?

Ever wonder why Friday the 13th is considered to be unlucky?

This year Friday the 13th occurs in three different months, February, March, and November. Everyone knows it's an unlucky day, but do you know why?

Here are some thoughts:

- There is no documented mention of Friday the 13th being unlucky before the 19th century. However, it shows up in oral tradition.
- Friday has been considered unlucky since Chaucer's time. This may be because, according to Christian belief, it's the day when Jesus was crucified. It's also mentioned in Norse lore as "Witch's Sabbath." And don't forget Black Friday, which is associated with stock market crashes.
- The Knights Templar were arrested on Friday the 13th, 1307, a fact popularized by Dan Brown in *The DaVinci Code*.
- Friday the 13th is not always considered unlucky. For example, the Athens Olympics opened on that day in August, 2004.
- Approximately 17 to 21 million people are affected by fear of Friday the 13th, which is known as *paraskavedekatriaphobia*. But:
- It's Stephen King's favorite day!



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 – *Paths of Glory*
- Bowen, Rhys – *In a Gilded Cage*
- Childs, Laura – *Oolong Dead*
- 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*

April

- Albert, Susan Whittig – *Wormwood*
- Baldacci, David – *First Family*
- Balogh, Mary – *At Last Comes Love*
- Barr, Nevada – *Borderline*
- Berg, Elizabeth – *Home Safe*
- Butcher, Jim – *Turn Coat*
- Clark, Carol Higgins – *Cursed*
- Clark, Mary Higgins – *Just Take My Heart*
- Davidson, Diane Mott – *Fatally Flaky*
- Feehan, Christine – *Burning Wild*
- Goudge, Eileen – *The Diary*
- Grippando, James – *Intent to Kill*
- Johansen, Iris – *Deadlock*
- King, Laurie – *The Language of Bees*
- Loomis, Jon – *Mating Season*
- Miller, Linda Lael – *Montana Creeds: Tyler*
- Mitchard, Jacqueline – *Look Both Ways*
- Patterson, James – *The Eighth Confession*
- Quick, Amanda – *The Perfect Poison*
- Rice, Luanne – *The Geometry of Sisters*
- Roberts, Nora – *Vision in White*
- Ross, Ann B. – *Miss Julia Delivers the Goods*
- Scottoline, Lisa – *Look Again*
- Smith, Alexander McCall – *Tea Time for the Traditionally Built*
- Turtledove, Harry – *Give Me Back My Legions!*
- Woods, Stuart – *Loitering with Intent*

May

- Child, Lee – *Gone Tomorrow*
- Connelly, Michael – *The Scarecrow*
- Cook, Claire – *Wildwater Walking Club*
- Gunn, Elizabeth – *New River Blues*
- Harris, Charlaime – *Dead and Gone*
- Khoury, Raymond – *The Sign*
- Leonard, Elmore – *Road Dogs*
- Macomber, Debbie – *Murder on Blossom Street*
- Palahniuk, Chuck – *Pygmy*
- Pelecanos, George – *The Way Home*
- Sandford, John – *Wicked Prey*
- See, Lisa – *Shanghai Girls*
- Viets, Elaine – *Killer Cuts*

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, Janice Hodson, Karen Stefanik

Kidz Korner

New Releases for Young People

- Cabot, Meg – *Best Friends and Drama Queens* (3/09)
- Horowitz, Anthony – *Necropolis* (4/09)
- O'Connor, Jane – *Fancy Nancy: The Dazzling Book Report* (4/09)
- Osborne, Mary Pope – *Moonlight on the Magic Flute* (3/09)
- Pierce, Tamora – *Bloodhound* (4/09)
- Smith, L.J. – *Huntress, Black Dawn, Witch Light* (4/09)
- Stilton, Geronimo – *Thea Stilton and the Dragon's Code* (4/09)
- Willems, Mo – *Watch Me Throw the Ball!* (3/09)

And the Winners Are...

Every January, the American Library Association (ALA) chooses books that represent the best in children's and young adult literature for the previous year.



The winners for 2008 are:

- Caldecott Medal (for picture books): *The House in the Night* written by Susan Marie Swanson and illustrated by Beth Krommes (JE Swanson)
- Newbery Medal (for children's literature): *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (YFic Gaiman)

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

February Fun

More than 300 children and adults attended the series of diverse programs held by the New Bedford Free Public Library during the February school vacation week. Each library had a special performer and a variety of other events to entice children away from their computer games and televisions.

On February 17, Big Ryan told stories and used puppets and music to captivate his audience at the Main Library. The next day, the Lawler Library had Captain Jack, who dressed in pirate garb and told pirate tales. Magician Bob McLaughlin dazzled the audience at Howland-Green on February 19. Another magician, Lucky Bob,

confounded the children and adults at the Wilks Library on February 20. These special programs were sponsored by the Friends of the New Bedford Public Library.

Children also had fun at other programs held at the libraries that week. Adults and kids made beaded jewelry at Lawler during "Jammin' Jewelry with Janis." Each library location hosted both a coloring contest and a game day during the week which were attended by 55 people.

Join us for our next round of free events during the week of March 2 – 6, as we celebrate Dr. Seuss' 105th birthday with guest readers and cake.

What's Going On?

Ongoing

Story Hours - Winter story time runs from March 30 to June 6

- Lawler – Mondays @10am
- Wilks – Wednesdays @10am
- Howland-Green – Thursdays @3:30pm
- Main Library – Saturdays @11am

Children's Programs

Come celebrate Dr. Seuss's 105th birthday with special guest readers, birthday cake and punch!

- Monday, March 2 – Main Library @3:30pm
- Wednesday, March 4 – Lawler Library @3pm
- Thursday, March 5 – Howland-Green Library @3pm
- Friday, March 6 – Wilks Library @3pm

Exhibits

"That Rank Stew of Fanatics: Slavery, Abolition & New Bedford"

January 29 – April 3; Main Library, 3rd floor

This exhibit includes broadsides, letters, photographs and objects (dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries) relating to African-Americans in southeastern Massachusetts.

Audubon Revisited

March 20 – May 24; New Bedford Art Museum, Heritage Gallery (**Admission fee**)

This exhibit will allow the community to see a portion of the library's John J. Audubon's *Birds of America* prints for the first time in over 10 years. *Audubon Revisited* will feature 31 of the 435 hand-colored engravings in anticipation of a major exhibition slated for the summer of 2010.

March

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 **Purls of Wisdom Knitting Classes** – Please call Lawler for information and to register.
 > Lawler Library; 3 – 5pm (Every Monday)
- 5 **Presentation: *The Maritime Historical Context of the Cape Verde Islands, 1498-1904***
 Michael Dyer, Maritime Curator at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, will give a historical overview of the Cape Verde Islands, with special emphasis on their relationship with New Bedford whaling voyages.
 > Main Library, 3rd floor; 6:30 – 7:30pm
- 10 **Lawler Library Book Club** – March's book is *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd.
 > Lawler Library; 2 – 4pm
- 12 **Lecture: "The Last Hanging in Bristol County"** – As part of the 150th anniversary of the Superior Court System of Massachusetts, Paul Cyr will talk about the 1894 execution of Daniel Robertson for the murder of his wife.
 > Bristol County Superior Court (County and Union Streets); 6:30pm
- 17 **Wilks Library Book Club (Book Bites)** – March's book is Nicole Krauss's *The History of Love*
 > Wilks Library; 6 – 7:30pm
- 28 **Stamp Your Art Out!** – Learn the art of rubber stamping. All supplies provided. Open to ages 16+. You must register in advance!
 > Wilks Library; 2 – 4pm

April

- 6, 13, 27 **Purls of Wisdom Knitting Classes** – Please call Lawler for information and to register.
 > Lawler Library; 3 – 5pm (Every Monday)
- 7 **Lawler Library Book Club** – April's book is *Midwives* by Chris Bohjalian.
 > Lawler Library; 2 – 4pm
- 10 *Good Friday – All libraries close at 12:30pm*
- 20 *Patriot's Day – All libraries closed*
- 21 **Wilks Library Book Club (Book Bites)** – April's book is *Saving Graces* by Patricia Gaffney.
 > Wilks Library; 6 – 7:30pm

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

Casa da Saudade

58 Crapo St.

508-991-6218

Wilks

1911 Acushnet Ave.

508-991-6214

Mon:	9am – 5pm
Tue:	12pm – 8pm
Wed:	9am – 5pm
Thu:	12pm – 8pm
Fri:	closed
Sat:	9am – 5pm

Lawler

745 Rockdale Ave.

508-991-6216

Howland-Green

3 Rodney French Blvd.

508-991-6212

Mon:	9am – 5pm
Tue:	12pm – 8pm
Wed:	closed
Thu:	12pm – 8pm
Fri:	9am – 5pm
Sat:	9am – 5pm

Bookmobile

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

Hot Spot

The New Bedford Main Library downtown is the newest Wifi Hotspot!

To connect, simply bring your wifi-enabled device to the library. Under your list of available networks, you will see **nb-library**. Connect to this network and you are on your way, no password, no hassles.

Please keep in mind that there are no printing capabilities on this network. If you wish to print, you must save your work and transfer it to one of our internet workstations. If you are having trouble connecting, the library staff is not familiar with every network configuration and cannot be relied upon to help troubleshoot your connection. The signal is strongest on the second floor reference area, but reaches both the first floor and the third floor meeting room. Limited power outlets are also available for your laptop computers.



It's That Taxing Time of Year Again!

Pick up the basic state and federal forms, schedules and instructions at your local branch.

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.