

## From the Top Shelf

A message from Stephen Fulchino, Library Director

Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> was a very busy day at the Library. Four presenters spoke on Audubon and his *Birds of America* at the Main Library. The Casa da Saudade Branch Library reopened after an extensive renovation. And a photographic exhibit also opened at Casa: "Quatro Ventos, Sete Mares" — or "Four Winds, Seven Seas" by Pedro Mota. The exhibit was brought here through the support of the Portuguese Consulate.

These events show some, though not all, of the various roles the Library system plays in the City.

Most public libraries play some role in the cultural life of their communities. The New Bedford Free Public Library, however, has a museum quality art collection – a rather unusual situation.

We are pleased to be lending 32 of our Audubon prints to the New Bedford Art Museum for display through May 24<sup>th</sup>. I urge you all to go to the museum to see this impressive exhibit and to support this important institution.

And the Library has one of the largest – perhaps even the largest – Portuguese language collections in a public library at Casa da Saudade. This branch library plays a major role in perpetuating Portuguese and Cape Verdean culture in New England.

The renovation of Casa and of the rest of the Sister Aurora Avelar Community Center was made possible through a HUD grant arranged by Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Frank. The Mayor made the decision to use the grant to renovate the present facility. The Office of Housing and Community Development was the liaison with HUD and supervised the financial arrangements.

Much of the work was done by city employees of the Department of Public Infrastructure and the Department of Public Facilities, and beautiful work it is.

Finally, I would like to thank two staff members who worked tirelessly on these projects.

Art Curator Janice Hodson co-curated the Audubon exhibit, ensuring that the prints were handled in a manner conducive to their long-term preservation.

And Judith Downey, Head of Branches/Branch Manager Casa da Saudade, worked tirelessly to ensure that the renovated branch met the needs of its users and that the photographic exhibit was shown to its best effect.

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## You Read, They Read - Bringing Adults and Teens Together

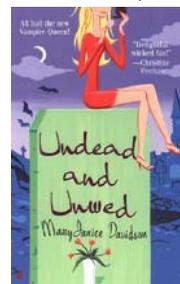
There's nothing like a good vampire book to bring a family together.

You may have noticed the sudden proliferation of vampire books, movies and TV shows lately. Vampire stories have been around for years, even before Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, published in 1897. The recent surge in popularity is due to Stephenie Meyer's wildly popular *Twilight* series.

Both adults and kids alike have been sucked into the vampire phenomenon. Thirsty for more? Here are some books you might try.

### For Adults

Davidson, MaryJanice – *Undead* series



The week of her 30th birthday, Betsy Taylor gets fired, hit by a car and becomes a vampire. All she wants to do is get on with her "life," but she has unusual powers, even for a vampire. Can it be that this shopaholic is the Queen of the Vampires? This funny series starts with *Undead and Unwed*.

Hamilton, Laurell K. – Anita Blake series



In a world where magic, vampires and werewolves exist, Anita Blake is a licensed vampire hunter. She also has the ability to raise the dead, owning a business called "Animators, Incorporated." These books are a blend of supernatural and detective fiction, as Anita works to solve murders and supernatural crimes. The books also follow her relationship with vampire master Jean-Claude. The first book in the series is *Guilty Pleasures*.

Harris, Charlaine – Southern Vampire Mysteries  
Sookie Stackhouse is an ordinary psychic living in a small town in Louisiana. In her world, vampires have "come out" to live among humans, and drink synthetic blood. She'd never met a vampire until Bill came to town. To her surprise, he is the only person whose mind she cannot read, giving her an instant fascination with him. This series, which begins with *Dead until Dark*, is also the basis for the HBO TV show *True Blood*.

(Teen Books continued on next page)

## Audubon's Birds

In 1820, an unsuccessful merchant with no scientific training and very little art education made the audacious decision to devote himself to studying American birds in their native habitat while creating painted renderings of each to life scale. John James Audubon's ultimate goal was to publish his several-hundred bird studies.

Such an immense undertaking required capital, leading the enterprising French immigrant to seek out subscribers for what would become known as *The Birds of America*. In New Bedford, merchant and horticulturist James Arnold proved to be the only man in town to purchase the original, complete double-elephant folio set consisting of 435 hand-colored engravings, which he donated

to the New Bedford Free Public Library in 1886.

Published over a span of 11 years, Audubon's work captured the public imagination in a way no other natural science illustrator's had before. The reason may lie in its sheer physical size (at almost 40" x 29", *Birds* still ranks as one of the largest volumes ever published), ambitious scope and particular viewpoint, one that saw birds not just as specimens but as subjects with histories.

Few illustrators before Audubon engaged in fieldwork; instead hunters were paid to bring back specimen skins from which the artists

(continued on page 6)

# Kidz Korner

## New Releases for Young People

- Brian, Kate – *Beautiful Disaster* (6/09)
- Buckley, Michael – *The Sisters Grimm #7* (5/09)
- Cabot, Meg – *Being Nikki* (5/09)
- Clements, Andrew – *Things That Are* (6/09)
- Shan, Darren – *The Demonata #8* (5/09)
- Shan, Darren – *Night World #3* (6/09)
- Von Ziegesar, Cecily – *Gossip Girls, The Carlyles #3* (5/09)
- Von Ziegesar, Cecily – *The It Girl #8* (6/09)

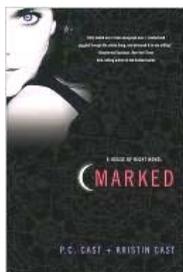
## You Read, They Read – Bringing Adults and Teens Together

Loved Twilight? Want more vampire books? Sink your teeth into these!

### For Teens (and Adults)

(Note that some of these books might have adult themes!)

Cast, P.C. and Cast, Kristin – House of Night series

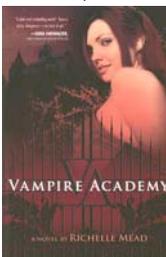


In 16-year-old Zoey Redbird's world, vampyres are tolerated by humans. Once marked to become a vampyre, these "vampyre fledglings" are sent to the House of Night (a school for vampyres), where they eventually either change into full vampyres, or their body rejects the change and they die. Zoey is no ordinary fledgling.

She has been given special powers, which she needs to fight evil and fulfill her destiny.

Mother-daughter writing team of P.C. and Kristin cast have written 5 books (so far) in this series. The first book is *Marked*.

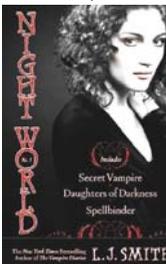
Mead, Richelle – Vampire Academy series



Lissa is a vampire princess. Rose is her bodyguard. After being on the run for two years, the pair are caught and returned to St. Vladimir's Academy, a school for vampires. There, Lissa and Rose must fight against sinister forces while still navigating the tricky waters of everyday teen life.

There are 3 books in this series, beginning with *Vampire Academy*. The fourth book is scheduled to be published in August.

Smith, L.J. – Night World series



In Smith's Night World books, vampires, witches, shapeshifters and werewolves live among humans in secret. One of the foremost rules of the Night World society is to never, ever fall in love with a human. But what happens when someone from the Night World meets his or her human soulmate?

There are 9 books in this series, currently being reprinted as omnibuses containing 3 books each.

## "Four Winds, Seven Seas"

On the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the Casa da Saudade Library and to mark the re-dedication of its renovated facilities, the photographic exhibition "Four Winds, Seven Seas," by Pedro Mota opened on April 25, 2009. The author also launched his book *Four Winds, Seven Seas – The World Through the Eyes of a Traveller*.

With a specialization in Astrophysics, Pedro Mota is researcher at the Astronomic Observatory, within the Center of Astronomy and Astrophysics of Lisbon. In spite of his scientific education in Theoretical Physics and his passion for knowledge of the Universe, he always found a relationship between poetry and astrophysics, mathematics and philosophy. The various forms of expression he uses reveal his multifaceted nature which allows him to develop cultural projects as diverse as poetry or the fine arts.

This exhibition and the book that accompanies it are the result of over twenty years of voyages to the most remote places on Earth, which produced an invaluable collection of photographs, stories, tales, legends, and rituals.

This exhibition is a joint initiative of the Consulate of Portugal in New Bedford and Casa da Saudade Library, with the support of the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture at UMass-Dartmouth, and it is also sponsored by Millennium bcpbank, Azores Express, and Reynolds deWalt.

"Four Winds, Seven Seas" will be open to the public, at Casa da Saudade Library, 58 Crapo Street, New Bedford, until June 13.

Admission is free.

## For Sale...

A limited number of *The Field Notes of Benjamin Crane, Benjamin Hammond, Samuel Smith* are now available for \$50 each in the Main Library's Genealogy Room. Funds from the sale will go toward the purchase of new volumes for the genealogy collection.

Published in 1910 by the New Bedford Free Public Library, this oversize hardcover clothbound volume will be appreciated by anyone interested in the early history of the land now consisting of New Bedford, Dartmouth, Westport, Fairhaven and Acushnet.

In 1710 the Proprietors of Dartmouth hired Benjamin Crane as their first surveyor. He and the surveyors who followed created 14 books of field notes documenting land ownership and boundaries in Old Dartmouth through 1793; the original field notes are part of the library's Special Collections. *The Field Notes of Benjamin Crane, Benjamin Hammond, Samuel Smith* reproduces the handwritten notes in high quality half-tone photographs accompanied by transcriptions, along with an introduction by Alexander Goodspeed.

Get your copy while they last!

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, Janice Hodson, Mary Kruger, Denise Plaskon and Karen Stefanik

## 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!



### May

- Balogh, Mary – *Seducing an Angel*
- Child, Lee – *Gone Tomorrow*
- Connelly, Michael – *The Scarecrow*
- Cook, Claire – *Wildwater Walking Club*
- Gunn, Elizabeth – *New River Blues*
- Harris, Charlaime – *Dead and Gone*
- Ignatius, David – *The Increment*
- Khoury, Raymond – *The Sign*
- Macomber, Debbie – *Summer on Blossom Street*
- Palahniuk, Chuck – *Pygmy*
- Palmer, Diana – *Heartless*
- Parker, Robert – *Brimstone*
- Pelecanos, George – *The Way Home*
- Preston, Douglas – *Cemetery Dance*
- Sandford, John – *Wicked Prey*
- See, Lisa – *Shanghai Girls*
- Viets, Elaine – *Killer Cuts*

### June

- Box, C.J. – *Below Zero*
- Coulter, Catherine – *Knockout*
- Cussler, Clive – *Medusa*
- Daheim, Mary – *Loco Motive*
- Daheim, Mary – *Alpine Uproar*
- Deaver, Jeffrey – *Roadside Crosses*
- Evanovich, Janet – *Finger Lickin' Fifteen*
- Gardner, Lisa – *The Neighbor*
- Green, Jane – *Dune Road*
- Hamilton, Laurell K. – *Skin Trade*
- Hoffman, Alice – *The Story Sisters*
- Kellerman, Faye – *Prism*
- Koontz, Dean – *Relentless*
- Lindsey, Johanna – *A Rogue of My Own*
- Margolin, Phillip – *Fugitive*
- Patterson, James – *Swimsuit*
- Steel, Danielle – *Matters of the Heart*
- Thayer, Nancy – *Summer House*
- Updike, John – *My Father's Tears and Other Stories*

### July

- Adler, Elizabeth – *There's Something about St. Tropez*
- Bannister, Jo – *Liars All*
- Clark, Mary Jane – *Dying for Mercy*
- Gear, Kathleen O'Neal – *Children of the Dawnland*
- George, Elizabeth – *Two of the Deadliest*
- Howard, Linda – *Burn*
- Iles, Greg – *Devil's Punchbowl*
- Jance, J.A. – *Fire and Ice*
- Johansen, Iris – *Storm Cycle*
- Martini, Steve – *Guardian of Lies*
- Morrell, David – *The Shimmer*
- Patterson, James – *Daniel X: Watch the Skies*
- Roberts, Nora – *Black Hills*
- Silva, Daniel – *The Defector*
- Slaughter, Karin – *Undone*
- Weiner, Jennifer – *Best Friends Forever*

## Audubon's Birds (continued from page 3)

worked. The knowledge Audubon gained from his intensive study transformed his birds into living creatures with which an audience could identify.

His narrative scenes show intimate life and death dramas being played out, with hawks attacking small birds, vultures settling down to feast on a deer's carcass, birds defending themselves against snakes, blue jays wreaking havoc on a nest, small mammals being terrorized by raptors.



Audubon's birds often engage the viewer directly, looking straight at you in attitudes of playfulness, indifference or warning. His full-sized large birds twist and turn to fit the page, lending them a liveliness derived from the actual stances and movements Audubon closely observed in the wild.

A number of Audubon's images are prescient in their observation of man's impact on nature. Populated backgrounds, a hunter taking aim in the distance, gulls and ducks wounded by firearms hint at the devastation that would be inflicted on avian populations by humans.

Audubon himself noted the dramatic decline during his lifetime of many birds he had observed over a span of ten to twenty years, mainly through over-hunting. Today, six species represented in Audubon's work are extinct and four more are considered endangered.

John James Audubon gave his images an immediacy that still resonates with modern audiences. His personal obsession with birds and their habits resulted in the creation of a body of work that had profound influence on the future of ornithological illustration.

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"'Alive and Moving!' John James Audubon's *The Birds of America*," an exhibition of 32 of the library's Audubon engravings, continues at the New Bedford Art Museum through May 24.

## Art Exhibits

### "'...Alive and Moving' John James Audubon's *Birds of America*"

March 20 – May 24; New Bedford Art Museum, 608 Pleasant St. (Entry fee)  
Exhibit showcases 32 of the Library's engravings from Audubon's *Birds of America* folio.

### "Audubon and Assistants"

April 24 – May 14; Main Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

The roles of Audubon's closest *Birds of America* collaborators are looked at through a few of the engravings on which they made major contributions.

### "Four Winds, Seven Seas"

April 24 – June 13; Casa da Saudade Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Pedro Mota's photos celebrate 20 years of travel to the most remote places on Earth.

### "New Bedford – Not Just Whaling"

May 30 – August 22; Main Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

An exhibit on New Bedford's rich cultural, social and economic history from the whaling era and beyond.

# What's Going On?

## Ongoing

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

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

## Lectures

**"Alive and Moving! John James Audubon and *The Birds of America Exhibit*"** (AHA! Night)

May 14 @8pm; New Bedford Art Museum (**Free entry**)

Janice Hodson, the library's Art Curator, will discuss the Audubon prints in the Art Museum's current exhibit.

**"Whalers from the Pacific: Cholera and Mr. Congdon"** (AHA! Night)

June 11 @6:30pm; Main Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor lecture room

Tracing the 1834 cholera epidemic in New Bedford.

## May

- 4, 11, 18 **Purls of Wisdom Knitting Classes** – Please call Lawler for information and to register.
  - Lawler Library; 3 – 5pm (Every Monday)
- 8 **Current Eldercare Issues Affecting Seniors** – A specialist in elder and health law will provide an overview of eldercare service networks and government funding sources.
  - Lawler Library; 2pm
- 12 **Lawler Library Book Club** – May's book is *Widow's War* by Sally Gunning.
  - Lawler Library; 2 – 4pm
- 14 **Birds of Prey** – Live birds at the library with Marla Isaac
  - Main Library, children's room; 5:30pm
- 19 **Movie Madness** – See the movie *How to Make an American Quilt*. Free!
  - Lawler Library; 2pm
- 19 **Wilks Library Book Club (Book Bites)** – May's book is Adriana Trigiani's *Big Stone Gap*.
  - Wilks Library; 6 – 7:30pm
- 23 **Talking Points – "Herbal Remedies"** – Join an adult discussion group. Topics vary.
  - Lawler Library; 1pm
- 25 *Memorial Day – Libraries closed*
- 26 **Scrabble Group** – Test your skill at Scrabble. Call the Lawler Library to sign up.
  - Lawler Library; 2pm
- 30 **Digital Camera 101** – Learn how to use your digital camera (Whaling City Camera Club)
  - Lawler Library; 1 – 3pm

## June

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 **Purls of Wisdom Knitting Classes** – Please call Lawler for information and to register.
  - Lawler Library; 3 – 5pm (Every Monday)
- 9 **Lawler Library Book Club** – June's book is *Bound* by Sally Gunning
  - Lawler Library; 2 – 4pm
- 16 **Movie Madness** – See the movie *Calendar Girls*. Free!
  - Lawler Library; 2pm
- 16 **Wilks Library Book Club (Book Bites)** – June's book is *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris.
  - Wilks Library; 6 – 7:30pm
- 22 **Summer Reading Program – "Starship Adventure at Your Library"** – Sign up begins!
  - All library locations
- 27 **Talking Points** – Join an adult discussion group. Topic to be announced.
  - Lawler Library; 1pm

# 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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

# Staff Profile: A League of Her Own

Courtney Nunes is not your average librarian. Besides working at Wilks Library, she is also a reporter for the Standard-Times, and Public Relations Director for the New Bedford Bay Sox, a collegiate level baseball team.

Courtney contacted the owner of the Bay Sox to volunteer her time. She soon began creating press releases, which she publishes on the team's web site, as well as writing biographies of the players. She also helps plan various publicity events. It's a job well-suited for this avid baseball fan.

Courtney is also an intern at the Standard-Times, and earns college credit for it. She works on assignment, writing articles that have appeared on the front page of the newspaper. Her favorite assignment was hearing students at Roosevelt Middle School recite Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream Speech."

The Wilks Library is very fortunate to have her, because not only is she a good librarian, she also has an eye for design. She creates many of the library's program fliers. Last year, she designed the flyer promoting the Library's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. This flyer recently won a public relations award from the Massachusetts Library Association.

The University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth student is considering a career in journalism, as well as attending graduate school. There may be another option, however. "I love baseball," Courtney says. "I'd love to continue with baseball work."

Cut here for an Hours & Locations bookmark

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