



**Newark Museum Presentation  
Ridgewood AM Rotary  
March 15, 2007**

Speaker: Susan Smith, who heads Speakers Bureau at [Newark Museum](#)

Date: March 15, 2007

Presentation: New Jersey's Largest Museum in Service to the Community

It's been called "A Bountiful Museum" by *The New York Times*, and "The place where Shangri-La and New Jersey meet," by *Smithsonian Magazine*.

Those accolades refer to The Newark Museum, New Jersey's largest museum, which houses 80 galleries of arts and science, a planetarium, a sculpture garden, an auditorium for performing arts, the restored 1885 Ballantine mansion and much more.

In her lively presentation to the Ridgewood AM Rotary Club on March 15, Susan Smith, head of the Speakers Bureau at the Newark Museum, and a volunteer, gave Rotarians a quick, enlightening PowerPoint tour of the museum's extensive collections, educational programs and community outreach activities.

Founded almost a century ago with an educational focus, the museum has remained true to its original purpose. Of the top 160 U.S. museums, The Newark Museum devotes a larger percentage of its budget toward educational programming than virtually any of the others in this prestigious group, Susan Smith said.

Mornings are marked by the bustle of touring school groups who learn about the history of life on earth, enjoy an interactive exhibit on microbes and other science and cultural exhibits. The museum also hosts a large variety of distance learning and "Teach the Teacher" programs.

Adults who enter the museum's sculpted bronze doors benefit from free tours of exhibits with docents who have master's degrees in the subject area, hear jazz concerts in the sculpture garden or enjoy the beautiful tranquility of the Tibetan alter room.

If this was not enough motivation to put a trip to The Newark Museum on their calendars, Susan Smith gave each Rotarian a free entry ticket. Ample parking is available, which, for New Jersey drivers, may not be Shangri-La, but getting close.

For information on hours, directions, exhibits, and how business and other groups may benefit from the museum's facilities, visit [www.newarkmuseum.org](http://www.newarkmuseum.org).

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