

Mardi Gras

*A Celebration to Benefit the
New Haven Free Public Library*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Event to Benefit



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- Schedule of Events -

Welcome

Michael Morand

*President, New Haven Free Public Library
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Shana N. Schneider

*President, New Haven Free Public Library
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Keynote Conversation

Toi Derricotte

Cornelius Eady

Reginald Dwayne Betts

Te Amo (Nguwe)

Thabisa

Noah Webster Award

presented to Elsie B. Chapman

Stetson Library: The Next Chapter

Special Announcement

Mardi Gras Goes Virtual!

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the New Haven Free Public Library's Mardi Gras celebration! While I wish we could gather in person this year to celebrate the vital role the New Haven Free Public Library plays in our community, the generosity and enthusiasm of Library supporters near and far give us much to be thankful for.

The New Haven Free Public Library is an essential source of connection in our community, here to share the information you need to stay safe and informed. E-books, audiobooks, streaming movies and music keep us engaged the broader world from home. Our databases and e-resources help school children complete assignments and supplement remote learning. Virtual programs -- like Mardi Gras! -- keep us connected to one another despite distance.

Amidst the turmoil of the past year, we have much to celebrate, tonight and looking ahead in the coming year. Together, we will face the challenges ahead and work to bridge the digital divide, nurture entrepreneurial innovation and economic recovery, and revitalize our community.

This year has truly underscored the importance of a vibrant public library, and your support is an essential investment in our shared future.

With gratitude,



John Jessen

City Librarian and Director

Guest Appearances by:

Monica Abbott, David Blight, Ryan André Brasseaux, Martha L. Brogan, Diane Brown, Lizzy Donius, Patrick Dunn, Mayor Justin Elicker, Toni Harp, Annie Lin & Family, Marina Marmolejo, Althea Musgrove Norcott, The O'Connell-Davis Family, Babz Rawls Ivy, Barbara Rockenbach, Peter Salovey, Caroline Tanbee Smith, David Weinreb, Rolan Joni Young

Special Thanks to:

New Haven Free Public Library Staff

*Shana N. Schneider and the Board of Directors
of the New Haven Free Public Library*

*Michael Morand and the Board of Directors of
the New Haven Free Public Library Foundation*

Mayor Justin Elicker, City of New Haven

*Tubyez Cropper,
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library*

*Patrick Dunn,
The New Haven Pride Center*

Elizabeth Nearing

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The Noah Webster Award presented to Elsie B. Chapman

The Noah Webster Award reflects the passion of Noah Webster, a Yale graduate and New Haven resident for many years, whose legacy remains a literacy building block today. The award recognizes a library supporter who builds community and advocacy coalitions in support of the Library and, in turn, the New Haven Community. It is our honor to present the 2021 Noah Webster Award to Elsie Blackshear Chapman.



Elsie moved to New Haven over 15 years ago following a successful 30-year career at IBM. Elsie quickly became an integral part of the local community, and her commitment to New Haven is unparalleled. Elsie is past president of the New Haven Free Public Library Board of Directors, the New Haven Free Public Library Foundation Board of Directors and the Historic Wooster Square Association. Currently, she is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the International

Festival of Arts & Ideas and a board member of the New Haven Preservation Trust. She serves on the Cultural Affairs Commission for the City of New Haven's Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism. She also is a member of the New Haven Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and the New Haven Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

Throughout her tenure on the Boards of the Library and the Library Foundation, Elsie has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the staff and patrons of the New Haven Free Public Library, forging connections and building capacity to sustain the library system into the future. Thank you, Elsie, for your leadership!

Stetson Library: The Next Chapter

\$2,060,000 RAISED!

Thanks to the thousands of donors, community groups, and neighborhood partners, we are thrilled to announce that the *Stetson Library: The Next Chapter* fundraising campaign has exceeded its \$2M goal to move the Stetson branch library into a new home in the Dixwell Community Q House!

As the anchor tenant of the revived Q House, Stetson Library will build on its impressive reputation as the center of learning, cultural exploration and community service for the residents of the Dixwell and Newhallville neighborhoods while expanding to meet the evolving needs of our City and its residents. The money raised will expand the print and digital collections, improve community services, outfit the new library with furnishings, state-of-the-art equipment, and technology, and ensure the stability of the library system for years to come.

The new Stetson Library will be a sterling showcase of the contemporary public library: a significant increase in space and services to empower the community and reaffirm the library's role as a leader to improve education, build cultural connections, and shape the workforce of tomorrow.

Thank you for making the dream of a new Stetson Library a reality!



Thank You to Our Mardi Gras Donors

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Ruby Melton and Gail McAvay
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Thank You to Our Mardi Gras Donors

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Lisa Stanger, in honor of Elsie B. Chapman
Jean Webb, in honor of Elsie B. Chapman

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Jo-Anne Basile
William Beckett
Anthony Billings
Lauren Bisio and Philip Boulanger
Rebecca Bombero
Elaine Carroll
 in honor of Elsie B. Chapman
John Cavaliere
Marian Chertow and Matthew
 Nemerson
Rosemarie Conforti
Kathleen Cosgrove
Claire's Corner Copia
Jennifer Detoro-Belton
Karen Dubois-Walton
Deborah Elkin
Brin and Joy Ford
Susan Fox
Giulia Gambale
Andrew Giering
Susan Godshall
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Kathleen Hayes

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Connie Konya
Katherine Krasney
Kathrin Lassila
Suzanne Levine
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Elsie Chapman
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 from the
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Congratulations on the Mardi Gras festivities celebrating the New Haven Free Public Library.

Wooster Square Celebrates Elsie B. Chapman



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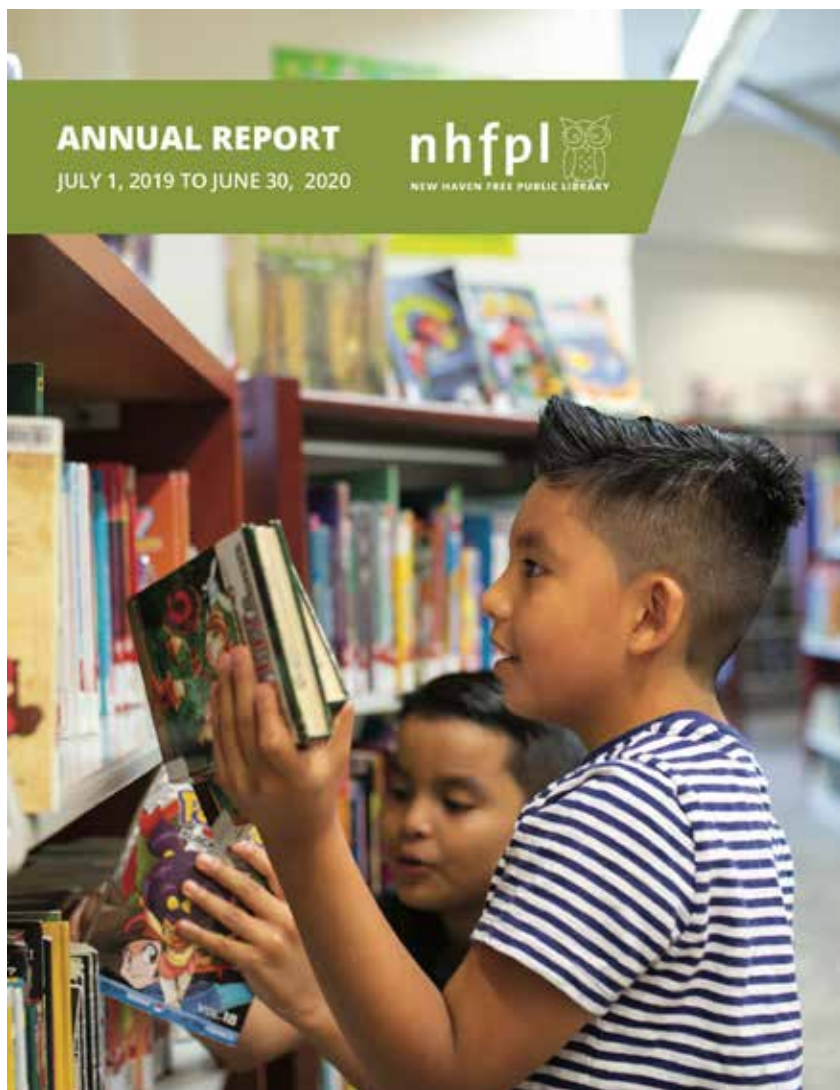


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