



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

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022**

*Event to Benefit*



*Presenting Sponsor*



# Mardi Gras

## - Schedule of Events -

### **Welcome**

Michael Morand

*President, New Haven Free Public Library  
Foundation Board of Directors*

Lauren Anderson

*President, New Haven Free Public Library  
Board of Directors*

John Jessen

*City Librarian and Director  
New Haven Free Public Library*

### **Keynote Conversation**

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers

Reginald Dwayne Betts

### **Noah Webster Award**

Presented to Karen Pritzker

# Mardi Gras Goes Virtual!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for another virtual Mardi Gras program to benefit the New Haven Free Public Library!

While I wish we could celebrate in person this year, we are eager to welcome you into the library as we increase programs and services in the coming year. From collaborations with community partners across the city to explore Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* during "One City, One Read" to new passport services at Ives Main Library, you can do more at your library than ever before. And with an expanded presence across New Haven on our book bike, appropriately named "The Book Pedaler," we are also getting creative to bring the New Haven Free Public Library to you!

I look forward to welcoming you into the new Stetson Branch Library when it opens later this month and to celebrating this milestone together. The culmination of this project is due to the tireless efforts of staff, donors, community partners, and library advocates throughout the city, and I can't wait for you to see and experience this beacon of a contemporary public library.

We have much to be grateful for tonight, including the generosity and enthusiasm of library champions like you. Thank you for supporting a vibrant public library system!

With appreciation,



**John Jessen**  
City Librarian and Director

# **Special Thanks to:**

*New Haven Free Public Library Staff*

*Lauren Anderson 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*

*Patrick Dunn,  
The New Haven Pride Center*

*Erik Clemons*

*Roxanne J. Coady*

*Alana Dlubak and Azalea Deener*

*Melissa Lopez*

*Coral Ortiz*

*Molly Smith*

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

---

Presenting Sponsor

---



Seedlings  
Foundation

---

Krewe of Rex

---

Yale



The  
**COMMUNITY**  
Foundation  
*for* Greater  
New Haven

Yale  
NewHaven  
**Health**  
Yale New Haven  
Hospital

# Thank You to Our Sponsors

---

## *Krewe of Orpheus*

---



---

## *Gold Bead*

---

Jordan's Furniture

People's United Bank

---

## *Silver Bead*

---

ConnCAT  
Iovanne Funeral Home

Robert H Lord Co.  
Tweed-New Haven Airport

# Keynote Conversation



For over twenty years, **Honorée Fanonne Jeffers** has been lifting her voice on issues of Black culture, racism, American history, and gender through the medium of writing. Jeffers is author of the novel *The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois* (2021); an Oprah’s Book Club pick, *Love Songs* was long-listed for the

National Book Award in Fiction, short-listed for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, and was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize in Fiction. She is also the author of the poetry collections, *The Age of Phillis* (2020); *The Glory Gets* (2015); *Red Clay Suite* (2007); *Outlandish Blues* (2003); and *The Gospel of Barbecue* (2000).



**Reginald Dwayne Betts** is a 2021 MacArthur Fellow, award winning author, poet, lawyer, and outspoken advocate for criminal justice reform as the founding director of Freedom Reads.

Betts transformed himself from a sixteen-year old kid sentenced to nine-years in prison to a critically acclaimed writer and graduate of the Yale Law School. He has written three collections of poetry, the recently published and critically acclaimed *Felon* (2019); *Bastards of the Reagan Era* (2015) and *Shahid Reads His Own Palm* (2010).

# The Noah Webster Award

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 2022 Noah Webster Award to Karen Pritzker.

Karen Pritzker is an editor, writer, film producer, and philanthropist. As the co-founder of KPJR Films, she has executive-produced three award-winning documentary films: *The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia*; *Paper Tigers*; and *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and The Science of Hope*. Each film has served as a catalyst for social change, sparking global movements that have increased community awareness, created educational initiatives, and impacted all levels of policy.

Karen also advocates for literacy and children's issues, and as the President of the Seedlings Foundation she directs resources toward programs that nourish the physical and mental health of children and families as well as institutions that foster an educated and engaged citizenship. Since its founding in 2002, the Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in grants, catalyzing advancements in medical research, social services, job retraining for adults, affordable housing, and online news sites dedicated to local, factual, ad-free reporting.



Karen's support of the New Haven Free Public Library has transformed the library system for the 21st century: from the Wilson Branch in the Hill to the new Stetson Library opening this spring at the Q House, New Haven's public libraries have been enhanced and expanded thanks to Karen's commitment to literacy and librarianship.



The Seedlings Foundation Community Challenge kicked off the capital campaign for the new Stetson Branch Library, matching gifts of \$50-10,000 from across the city and inspiring a groundswell of support from thousands of neighbors, school groups, congregations, affinity groups, social clubs, sororities, and community partners to invest in the success of their library.

Thanks to Karen's generosity, advocacy, and leadership the New Haven Free Public Library is a destination for children, families, and residents across the city to learn and grow through shared access to the information and resources that enrich our lives.

# Thank You to Our Mardi Gras Donors

## **\$500+**

Laura Clarke  
Roxanne Coady  
in honor of Karen Pritzker

## **\$250+**

Luis Chavez-Brumell  
Fran DeToro and James Cohen  
Susan Holahan

## **\$100+**

Ann Baker Pepe  
in honor of Karen Pritzker  
Martha and Jim Brogan  
Meghan Currey  
Elizabeth Greenspan  
Jillian Gregory  
Shana Schneider  
Rebecca Weiner

## **\$50+**

William Beckett  
Cynthia Cross  
James Kenny  
Jean Webb  
Michelle Zacks

## **Up to \$50**

Charlotte Anastasio  
Richard Callahan  
Miriam James  
Miyun Kang  
Shannon Mykins  
Shelley Quiala  
June Sachs  
Linda Sheehan  
Judy Sparer  
Robin Whitney

Ready. Set. Give!



THE  
great Give  
MAY 4-5, 2022

A 36-hour, online-giving event  
to support local nonprofits

Help your favorite nonprofits win  
thousands of dollars!

See the list of participating nonprofits to date:

[www.thegreatgive.org](http://www.thegreatgive.org)



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation  
for Greater New Haven

VALLEY COMMUNITY



FOUNDATION

**Yale New Haven Health**  
**is proud to support**  
The New Haven Free  
Public Library

YaleNewHaven**Health**

# Yale University

salutes

## The New Haven Free Public Library

*for all their years of service and support  
of the New Haven Community*



Community Investment



Support for Education



Strong Neighborhoods



COVID-19 Resources

- Creating a vital downtown through Yale's community investment program
- Supporting public school education through New Haven Promise
- Strengthening neighborhoods by helping Yale employees buy homes
- Partnering with our neighbors throughout the pandemic

Yale *Contributing to a Strong New Haven*

[onha.yale.edu](https://onha.yale.edu)



**York Hill Trap Rock  
L. Suzio Concrete  
L. Suzio Asphalt  
L. Suzio Construction**

**Leading Connecticut Construction since 1898.**

Plants in Meriden, Wallingford, New Haven,  
Milford and Derby

Main Number:  
203-237-8421

Toll Free:  
888-789-4626  
(888-SUZIOCO)

[www.suzioyorkhill.com](http://www.suzioyorkhill.com)



[beinecke.library.yale.edu](http://beinecke.library.yale.edu)



# Happy Mardi Gras



arts council  
GREATER NEW HAVEN

Join today; become  
part of the Conversation

Membership is Free



## LEARN MORE. DO MORE. SHARE MORE.

Internet Essentials™ from Comcast brings affordable, high-speed Internet to your home and greater access to what's important to you. You may qualify if you have at least one child who is eligible for the National School Lunch Program or if you receive HUD housing assistance.

**\$9.95**

PER MONTH + TAX

NO TERM CONTRACT  
NO CREDIT CHECK  
NO INSTALLATION FEE  
IN-HOME WIFI INCLUDED

APPLY NOW AT  
[InternetEssentials.com](http://InternetEssentials.com) 1-877-592-2050

  
COMCAST

INTERNET  
ESSENTIALS  
from Comcast 



Jordan's Furniture is happy to support  
The New Haven Free Library.

Your life. Your style. Your home.  
We'll help you create the one that fits YOU.



## COMPLETE COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS



Phase Integration is **proud to support**  
the New Haven Free Public Library's  
vision of the new Stetson Branch  
Library at the Q House.



### COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Audio Visual

Lighting and Control

Security and Access Control

Structured Cabling

Sound Masking

Building Management Systems



LET'S WORK TOGETHER.

877-778-8885 | [www.phaseintegration.com](http://www.phaseintegration.com)

We are proud to sponsor the

# New Haven Free Public Library Mardi Gras Event



 [www.peoples.com](http://www.peoples.com)  
 800 772 1090

©2022 People's United Bank, N.A. | Member FDIC



## Powerful Partners

Serving our communities means providing reliable, essential electricity and natural gas service. It also means investing our energy in the organizations and events that make our communities special. We are pleased to lend our support to the New Haven Free Public Library's Annual Mardi Gras Event.



Part of the AVANGRID Family



## Town Green District

Keeping Downtown New Haven a vibrant and exciting place to **live**, **work**, **learn** and **play**.



Town Green  
District  
Downtown New Haven

    
@DowntownNHV

# Thank You



for sponsoring NHFPL's  
Mardi Gras fundraiser!

# IOVANNE FUNERAL HOME, INC.

*Proudly Serving the Greater New Haven Area with  
Honesty, Integrity & Trust Since 1928*

*We Specialize in All Types of Funeral Services  
We Also Offer Pre-Arrangement Services*



11 Wooster Place New Haven, CT  
(203) 865-8961

[www.iovanne.com](http://www.iovanne.com)

*Our Family Available to Your Family  
24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week*

Congratulations to the New Haven  
Community and the “Next Chapter” with  
the opening of the NEW Stetson Library!



ROBERT H LORD CO.

Providing Library Furnishings for  
over 55 years.

860.645.8700

[www.rhlco.com](http://www.rhlco.com)



Connecticut Center for Arts and Technology  
**CONN-CAT**



**PAVING PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY**

[www.conn-cat.org](http://www.conn-cat.org) 203-823-9823 4 Science Park, New Haven, CT 06511

# Have you read our **ANNUAL REPORT?**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021



Visit [nhfpl.org/annual-reports](https://nhfpl.org/annual-reports)  
to read online!

John Jessen  
*City Librarian and Director*

**New Haven Free Public Library**  
*Board of Directors*

Hon. Justin Elicker, *Mayor, City of New Haven*  
*Ex Officio Member*

Dr. Lauren Anderson, *President*

Shana N. Schneider, *Vice President*

Susan S. Lamar, *Treasurer*

Lee Cruz

Dr. Dolores Garcia-Blocker

Andrew Giering

Irene Logan

Claudia Merson

Hon. Jeanette Morrison, *Aldermanic Representative*

**New Haven Free Public Library Foundation**  
*Board of Directors*

Michael J. Morand, *President*

Mary Ellen Savage, *Vice President*

Sean C. Koehler, *Treasurer*

Elsie B. Chapman

Fran DeToro

Patrick J. Dunn

Barbara E. Feldman

Keith Bradoc Gallant

Lindy Lee Gold

Edward C. Harris

Thomas M. Haskell

Caroline Tanbee Smith

Tina C. Weiner

Tiana Williams