



New Haven Reads'  
*25th* Anniversary  
*Celebration*



World Book Day  
April 23, 2026  
Yale School of Management  
6-8:30pm



## NOBLE WEALTH ADVISORS IS PROUD TO SUPPORT NEW HAVEN READS

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For more information about any awards referenced, including relevant criteria, please visit  
[Janney.com/awards-disclosures](http://Janney.com/awards-disclosures) or contact your Financial Advisor.

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# The Bailey-Desmet Foundation



**Congratulations to NHR for  
25 years of contributions to  
our community.**

# Celebrate!

We are here because of you, our community members, donors, volunteers, and supporters who have recognized the need to improve youth literacy in New Haven, and who have come together to help address this need.

Because of you, we have distributed 3 million free books throughout Greater New Haven to build home libraries and provided free one-on-one tutoring to 10,000 students reading below grade level.

Because of you, New Haven youth have new opportunities for success.

Because of you, New Haven Reads has grown over the past 25 years from a small storefront distributing free used books into an organization synonymous with youth literacy in New Haven. This couldn't have happened without you. *Our impact truly starts with you.*

Today, on this World Book Day, a global UNESCO-led event promoting the joy of reading, improving lives through literacy, and using books to bridge generations and cultures, **we celebrate**. We are thrilled to recognize our students' past tremendous accomplishments and their future successes as we continue our mission of spreading the joy and power of reading to help youth thrive in school and life.

Thank you for joining us!

Kirsten Levinsohn  
Executive Director, New Haven Reads

# EVENT SCHEDULE

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- 6:00 PM *Gather to Celebrate*  
Charcuterie, salad, pizza, and drinks.  
Live music by Fernanda Franco.
- 7:00 PM *Inspiration & Impact*  
Program featuring speakers:  
Executive Director, Kirsten Levinsohn,  
Long-time volunteer, Stacy Spell, and  
NHR Board Chair, Annette Charles,  
*and* a special screening of our impact  
video.
- 7:40 PM *Toast in Celebration*  
Led by Josh Barber, one of our first  
students.
- 7:45 PM *Festive Finale*  
Desserts, drinks, and more live music.

# IN GRATITUDE

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We would like to thank New Haven Reads' Board of Directors for their support for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration:

Annette Charles, President  
Ted Cohen, Vice President  
Stuart Warner, Treasurer  
Amy Chivetta, Secretary  
Janet Gipson  
Caroline Hendel  
Dean Johnson  
Alex Kleiner

Jodi Benjamin Schneider  
Fallon Thomas  
Kathryn Van Sickle  
Karla Wallace  
Sebastian Ward  
Andre Zagmout  
Sen. Gary Winfield (Honorary)  
Peter Goldsmith (Honorary)

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- **Our amazing 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee** for all of their hard work: Annette Charles, Katie Chatas, Cecie Clement, Cindy Kissin, Beth Miller, Kathryn Van Sickle, Fiona Bradford, Amanda Brown, Kirsten Levinsohn, and Christine Manuck
- **Dean Kerwin Charles and the team at the Yale School of Management** for welcoming us here tonight
- **Claire Criscuolo & Claire's Corner Copia** for sharing their baking talents with us
- **Fernanda Franco** for sharing her musical talents with us
- **Stephanie Anestis** for being our photographer tonight
- **Kristina Conroy** for creating our charcuterie boards
- **Big Green Truck** for doing an amazing job with our food and drinks this evening
- **Christopher Powell Productions** for our wonderful video
- **Night of Volunteers** for all of your help

# TO OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

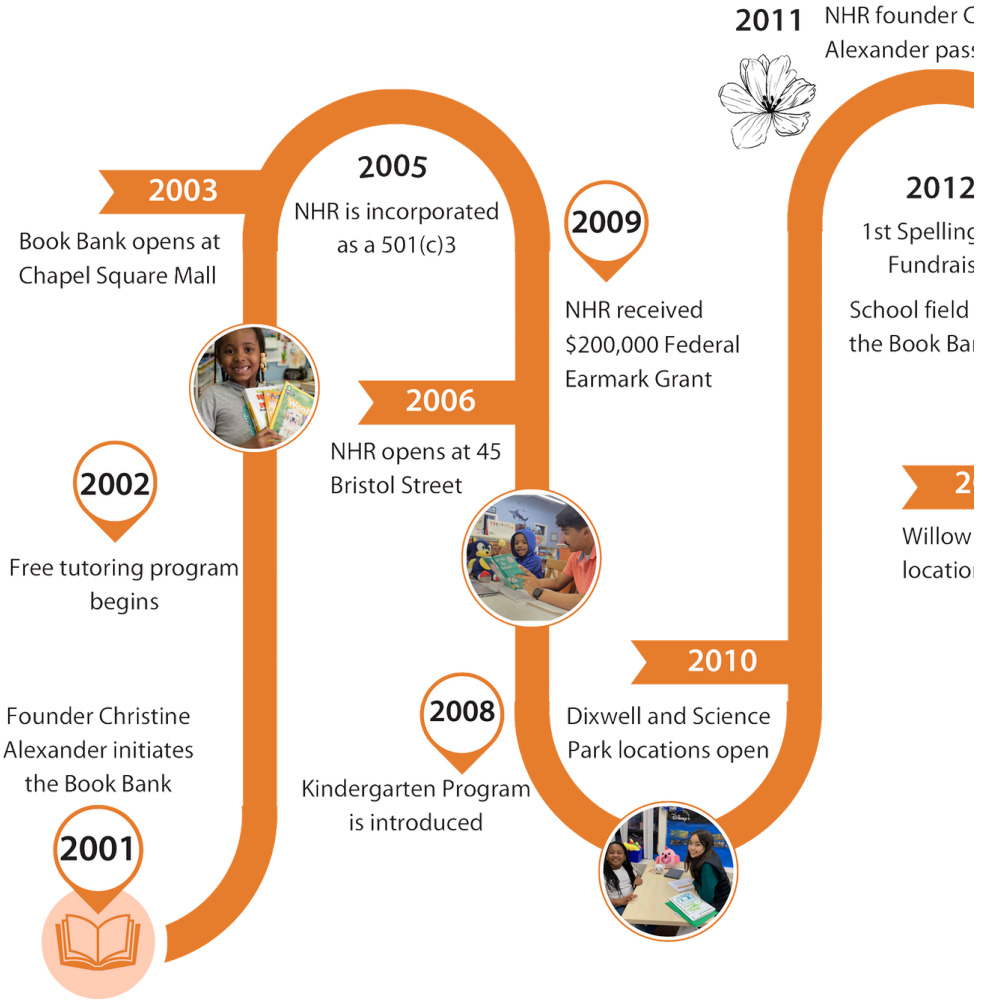


Your hard work and dedication have made our successes over the past 25 years possible. Your commitment helps us write a story of hope for countless youth empowered by New Haven Reads' one-on-one tutoring and Book Bank.



# A New Haven for Reading

## Our Journey Over 25 Years





NewAlliance Foundation  
HONORS

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# New Haven Reads 25 Years



*Advancing the joy and power of reading*

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**We are forever grateful for New Haven Reads!  
Congratulations on 25 years!**



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**Foote  
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The Foote School is an independent K–9 school located on an 18-acre campus in the heart of New Haven. [footeschool.org](http://footeschool.org)



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SUSAN NETTER



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*Proud Sponsors of the 25th Anniversary Celebration*

## NEW HAVEN READS

AND ITS COMMITMENT TO SPREADING  
THE JOY AND POWER OF READING.



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of Janney Montgomery Scott

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# KNIGHT ARCHITECTURE

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## Congratulations

to New Haven Reads  
on 25 Years of  
Bringing the Joy and  
Power of Reading to  
New Haven!

Yale

*Office of New Haven Affairs*



# **BURT LAW OFFICES**

**A proud supporter of  
New Haven Reads' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

M. Christine and Ned Burt

2583 Whitney Avenue  
Hamden, CT 06518

ned@burtlaw.us  
mchristineburt@gmail.com

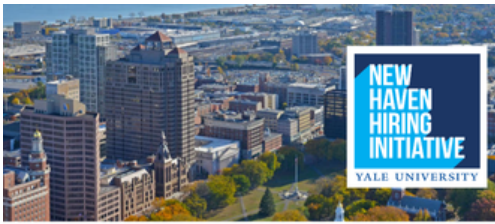
# YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY



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[artgallery.yale.edu](http://artgallery.yale.edu)

Scan the QR code to learn  
more about the Gallery's programs:





**NEW HAVEN HIRING INITIATIVE**  
YALE UNIVERSITY

WHAT WE DO



**Build**

NHHI is building a strong New Haven by connecting New Haven residents with opportunities at Yale University.



**Growth**

NHHI supports economic growth by hiring local talent.

The **Yale New Haven Hiring Initiative** works with New Haven Works, its union partners, Local 34 and Local 35, to create training and skills development programs that support employment opportunities at Yale.

**Job Opportunities**

Wages and benefits for clerical, technical, service and maintenance positions exceed the wages and benefits offered locally for comparable jobs.

**Internship Opportunities**

Yale is a major sponsor of the New Haven Promise college scholarship for New Haven high school seniors and its internship program helps to build a "community to career" jobs pipeline.



✉ [newhavenhiringinitiative@yale.edu](mailto:newhavenhiringinitiative@yale.edu)

**NEW HAVEN HIRING INITIATIVE**  
[your.yale.edu/working-at-yale/careers/new-haven-hiring-initiative](http://your.yale.edu/working-at-yale/careers/new-haven-hiring-initiative)

**CHOATE ROSEMARY HALL**  
congratulates  
**NEW HAVEN READS**  
on 25 years of community impact through literacy.  
Thank you, New Haven Reads!

**BerryDunn**  
BerryDunn is proud to support **New Haven Reads** and its numerous contributions to the people and families of Greater New Haven.  
Visit [berrydunn.com](http://berrydunn.com)

**CARMODY**   
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Congratulations to **New Haven Reads** on 25 years of spreading the joy and power of reading  
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Proud to support New Haven Reads as they celebrate their

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CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW HAVEN READS ON 25 YEARS  
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# EXPLORE

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**New Haven Reads**  
on 25 years of  
opening eyes to the  
power of literacy



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CELEBRATING *NEW HAVEN READS* AT  
25

AND THE ENDURING  
COLLABORATIONS THAT  
BUILD A STRONGER, MORE  
CONNECTED  
COMMUNITY.



**Eli Whitney**  
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CELEBRATING

**25**  
YEARS

**Congratulations, New Haven Reads!**  
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New Haven Reads

# MERCH STORE!

Share your enthusiasm for New Haven Reads with new 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gear from our limited-time merchandise store! Running now through May 25<sup>th</sup>



<https://newhavenreads.org/new-haven-reads-merchandise-store>

# LITERACY HERO

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NOBLE WEALTH ADVISORS  
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Noble Wealth Advisors of Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC recognize that wealth needs to be created, managed, and then planned, preserved, and when the time is right, passed along.

Located at 321 Whitney Avenue in Downtown New Haven, Connecticut, our team of ten finance and planning professionals brings one hundred and forty years of combined experience managing over two billion dollars in client portfolios.

We are the resource of trusted service for our business and multi-generation families and committed supporters of many wonderful local and national organizations who need it the most, like New Haven Reads.

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# LITERACY PARTNERS

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The CazBee Fund supports education-oriented nonprofit organizations, courtesy of the funds from the estate of Carolyn J. Beardsley. Ruth Beardsley and Tom Sansone have been longtime supporters of New Haven Reads. Ruth has been a dedicated tutor for many years. She also served on the New Haven Reads Board of Directors from 2015 to 2022 and was the Board President for her last 3 years.

## The Bailey-Desmet Foundation

Long-term supporters of New Haven Reads, the Bailey-Desmet Foundation is the philanthropic foundation of Carol Bailey and Laurie Desmet. Laurie has previously served on the New Haven Reads Board of Directors and is a long-time tutor. New Haven Reads is incredibly grateful for their sustained support over many years, helping extending NHR's mission of bringing the joy and power of reading to even more youth and families throughout New Haven.

# LITERACY PARTNERS

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The New England Air Museum is the largest aviation museum in New England with three large hangars, outdoor exhibits and more than 100 aircraft ranging from early airships and flying machines to supersonic jets and helicopters. Located adjacent to Bradley International Airport, the New England Air Museum is committed to presenting the story of aviation, the human genius that made it possible and the profound effects that it has had on the way in which we live.



Founded in 2004, NewAlliance Foundation serves 42 communities across Connecticut, supporting organizations that advance literacy, build communities, and work to dismantle systems that perpetuate poverty and racism. Since its founding, the Foundation has invested over \$30 million in local initiatives, helping to create lasting opportunities and impact. NewAlliance Foundation is proud to celebrate New Haven Reads' 25 years of fostering a brighter future for all through the power of literacy.

# LITERACY SUPPORTERS

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Claire's Corner Copia is a vegetarian restaurant serving New Haven since 1975. They serve organic, sustainable, kosher, Vegan, and gluten-free dishes and are located at 1000 Chapel Street. Visit [www.clairecornercopia.com](http://www.clairecornercopia.com).



The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven was established in 1928 as a permanent charitable endowment for the community. It is the largest grant maker to nonprofits in Greater New Haven's 20-town region.

More than 1,200 named funds have been established by individuals and families to support the causes and organizations important to them, and more than \$30 million in annual grants and distributions are made to nonprofits and to support programs that further The Foundation's mission.

**Mission:** To inspire, support, inform, listen to and collaborate with the people and organizations of Greater New Haven to build an ever more connected, inclusive, equitable and philanthropic community.

**Vision:** A community of expanding opportunity in which all people share a sense of common destiny and have the support and connections needed to build successful lives.

# LITERACY SUPPORTERS

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Foote is the kind of school where your child runs inside when you drop them off and is smiling when you pick them up. It's a place where students, faculty, and staff feel fully engaged, fully alive. Everyone is working at the top of their game, thinking in new directions, and taking confident risks. There's a lot of learning by doing: experimenting, collaborating, revising. Students are always digging deeper, asking hard questions, and looking for new challenges. As a K-9 school, we dedicate every resource to meeting students where they are, while challenging them to reach that next level. We're a community where childhood has integrity, where joy and wonder are prized, and where students have the space and the support to grow into their most authentic selves.



Pebbles Toys & Gifts is New Haven's local toy shop located in historic East Rock. At Pebbles, we offer a whimsically curated collection of both international and hyper-local brands. Our focus is on offering children high-quality, responsibly sourced and sustainable toys that foster creativity and provide families with opportunities to slow down and play!

# LITERACY SUPPORTERS

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# LITERACY ADVOCATES

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New Haven Reads is incredibly grateful to our Literacy Advocate sponsors for their support of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:

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25  
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10,000  
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14,000  
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3 million  
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