

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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***Bestselling Author Harlan Coben Featured at
Newark Public Library's Booked for the Evening Benefit***

Harlan Coben, New Jersey native and international best-selling author, was the featured speaker Newark Public Library's annual signature fundraising event, *Booked for the Evening* on Thursday, October 17 at the historic Main Library at 5 Washington Street. The event was chaired by Preston Pinkett, III, President and CEO of Newark-based City National Bank.

With over 50 million books in print worldwide, Harlan Coben's last six consecutive novels, *Six Years*, *Stay Close*, *Live Wire*, *Caught*, *Long Lost*, and *Hold Tight*, all debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Mr. Coben is the first author to win all three top honors for mystery writers –The Edgar Award, the Shamus Award, and the Anthony Award.

Two influential educators, Glenn Shafer, Ph.D. and Nell Painter, Ph.D. were honored for their outstanding accomplishments and ongoing support of the Library's mission. Dr. Shafer serves as the Dean of the Rutgers Business School for the Newark and New Brunswick campuses. He holds both an A.B. in mathematics and a Ph.D. in mathematical statistics from Princeton University. During Dr. Shafer's tenure as Dean, the school has seen a twenty percent increase in the number of graduate degrees awarded. On the Newark campus, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded has increased by sixty percent.

"The Newark Public Library is a historical resource for the residents of Newark and a wonderful neighbor for the Rutgers Business School," Dean Shafer remarked. "It has a great business collection and offers an architectural environment treasured by our faculty and students."

Nell Painter received her Ph.D. in American History at Harvard and is a renowned historian and author of and editor of several books, including *The History of White People* and many articles. Dr. Painter pursued a formal education in the arts, earning a BFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts of Rutgers University in 2009 and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2011. Dr. Painter has been a frequent guest of the Library as a presenter and speaker. As a visual artist, Dr. Painter has been in residence at Gallery Aferro in Newark, the Newark Public Library, Yale University, and the Yaddo artists' colony in Saratoga Springs, New York. She currently shows her work in northern New Jersey and works in a studio in the Ironbound section of Newark.

“Libraries have been home to me forever, but the Newark Public Library--where I have presented my books, been artist-in-residence, and am represented in its visual collection by several pieces of my art work--is a very special and deeply cherished place for me personally,” Painter explains. “As a citizen, of course, I wholeheartedly support the Library's work as a public resource and want to see it prosper.”

Prudential was the event sponsor, having awarded the Library a major capacity building grant. Additional generous donors include Audible.com, City National Bank, Timothy and Gloria Crist, PSE&G, and Verizon.

About the Newark Public Library

The Newark Public Library is the largest municipal library in New Jersey with a collection of more than 1.5 million books, audio and visual materials, and unique collections of prints, photographs, and historical documents. The historic Main Library is at 5 Washington Street in downtown Newark and seven branches are located throughout the City. As it celebrates 125 years of innovation and service, the Newark Public library remains a vital part of the civic and cultural fabric of Newark.



Newark Public Library Director Wilma Grey with Booked for the Evening honorees artist and historian, Nell Painter, Ph.D. and Dean of the Rutgers Business School, Glenn Shafer, Ph.D.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/newarkpubliclibrary/10413043025/in/set-72157636816235363>



Best-selling author Harlan Coben; Lata Reddy, President of the Prudential Foundation; and Preston Pinkett, Chairman of the Booked for the Evening benefit for the Newark Public Library and President and CEO of City National Bank
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