

Please join us!

2026 Mark Strand Memorial Reading: Elizabeth Alexander – 4PM November 4, 2026, at Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. In conjunction with the exhibition “Cave Canem: A Home for Black Poetry” on view at the Library, October 19, 2026–May 30, 2027

The reading will be followed by a CELEBRATION at the library with members of the Cave Canem and Yale Poetry communities – 5-7PM. These events are free and open to the public.

Information for out-of-town visitors

--*Driving directions and parking information:* [Getting Here | Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library](#)

--*Traveling by train:* New Haven Union Station is served by the MetroNorth commuter line: [Metro-North New Haven Line New Haven commuter rail - Connecticut](#) (campus shuttle information: [Getting Here | Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library](#)). *NOTE for train travelers:* at 7PM there will be a free shuttle from the Beinecke Library to Union Station, New Haven (space is limited – first come, first served!)

--*Accommodations:* [Hotels & Lodging | Yale Visitor Center](#)

NOTE: A block of rooms at the discounted Yale rate is available at [the Omni Hotel](#) – book by October 5th at this link: [Cave Canem - Beinecke Event | Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale | Omni Hotels & Resorts](#)

Exhibition Information

Cave Canem: A Home for Black Poetry

ON VIEW at Beinecke Rare Book Manuscript and Library, 121 Wall Street, New Haven
October 19, 2026–May 30, 2027

Cave Canem: A Home for Black Poetry celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the groundbreaking poetry collective founded in 1996 by poets Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady. Recognizing a need for spaces dedicated to the development of Black poetry, Derricotte and Eady created Cave Canem, a summer meeting exclusively for Black poets. They invited individuals at all stages of their writing lives to come together to read, write, and revise new work in an intensive weeklong workshop. In the years since, this flagship retreat has become a legendary annual event. Simultaneously, Cave Canem has evolved into a dynamic and enduring poetry community and a force in literary arts advocacy.

Drawing on archival materials and poetry from the Cave Canem Records and from the literary papers of the two founding poets, collections now held by Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, *Cave Canem: A Home for Black Poetry* explores the formation and progress of this influential and constantly growing organization. Manuscripts, correspondence, office files, photographs, books, and poems explore the impact of the organization and highlight the extraordinary ways Cave Canem and its poets have changed the face of American poetry.

More Information

Information: [Home - Mark Strand Memorial Reading - Yale University Library](#)

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