

# WOMEN@NJ PAC IGNITE THEIR POWER ON WOMEN'S DAY

BY MABEL PAIS

On March 8, International Women's Day, the remarkable, diverse community of Women@NJ PAC members and partners come together for 'A Gathering of Givers: Igniting Our Power!'

Come for inspiration! Create new connections! Exchange ideas!

This intergenerational event will celebrate the women who guide our institutions, lead our state and shape our communities today - and introduce us to ambitious school and college-aged women who are preparing to take on leadership roles in Greater Newark, across New Jersey and beyond.

This event will engage the attendees in a well-paced, interactive program of story-telling, skill-building and inspiration designed to strengthen and energize women in all phases of their careers and journeys. They will share wisdom, create meaningful connections and exchange new ideas for building their collective power.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER, JANAI S. NELSON**

President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Janai S. Nelson is President and



Janai S. Nelson, Keynote Speaker

Credit/ [www.naacpldf.org](http://www.naacpldf.org)

Director-Counsel of the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), the nation's premier civil rights law organization fighting for racial justice. Nelson formerly served as LDF's Associate Director-Counsel and was one of the lead counsels in *Veasey v. Abbott* (2018), a successful federal challenge to Texas's voter ID law, and the lead architect of *NUL (National Urban League) v. Trump* (2020), which sought to declare President Trump's executive order banning diversity, equity and inclusion training in the workplace unconstitutional before it was later rescinded.

*Janai S. Nelson speaks - [youtu.be/7SIDCYqSu18](https://youtu.be/7SIDCYqSu18)*

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

Debbie Dyson, CEO, OneTen

Amanda Ebokosia, Founder and CEO, The Gem Project

Antoinette Ellis-Williams, Ph.D., Professor, Poet, Visual Artist, Playwright, Minister

Tené Adero Howard, Executive Director, Sadie Nash Leadership Project

Tamara Linde, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, PSEG; Board Member and Past Chair, Community Foundation of New Jersey

A'Dorian Murray-Thomas, Founder & CEO, SHE Wins! Inc.

**FOUNDING PARTNERS:**

In partnership with:  
Impact100Essex: Connecting Women, Strengthening Communities  
[women@njpac](mailto:women@njpac)

CFNJ: Community Foundation of New Jersey

Association of Black Women Attorneys (ABWL - NJ)

Braven  
Clinton Hill Community Action  
Essex County (NJ) Chapter of The Links, Inc.

Executive Women of New Jersey  
The Gem Project

Jewish Women's Foundation of New Jersey

Latina Surge

The Latinista  
Lupe Fund, Inc.

Project Ready & Be Ready  
Rutgers University-Newark BOLD

Women's Leadership Network  
Sadie Nash Leadership Project

SHE Wins! Inc.  
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of

Commerce of NJ  
YWCA Northern New Jersey

**THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJ PAC)**

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**FOLLOW NJ PAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:**

Website: [njpac.org/takeastand](http://njpac.org/takeastand)  
Hashtag: #NJ PAC Take A Stand  
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

## WHARTON ARTS CELEBRATES ANNUAL GALA

BY MABEL PAIS

Wharton Arts celebrates its Annual Gala on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**



Rufus Reid, Gala honoree

Credit / Wharton arts

At the event, award-winning jazz bassist, educator, and composer Rufus Reid will be honored with its Lifetime Achievement Award. An active presence in the jazz world since the 1970s, Reid has

recorded over 500 albums and can be heard on recordings with Dexter Gordon, Andrew Hill, The Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Quartet, Kenny Barron, Stan Getz, J.J. Johnson, Lee Konitz, and Jack DeJohnette, among others.

His reputation as an educator is equal to that of his musical achievements. Reid's book, *The Evolving Bassist* (Myriad Limited, 1974), remains the industry standard for double bass methodology. Reid and Dr. Martin Krivin created the Jazz Studies and Performance Bachelor of Music Program at William Paterson University, a program offering the first professional academically accredited Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies in the tri-state area.

Reid received the prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and the MacDowell Colony Grant. His 2014 release, *Quiet Pride - The Elizabeth Catlett Project*, received two Grammy Nominations for Best Large Jazz Ensemble and Best Instrumental Composition.

The prestigious Wharton Arts Lifetime Achievement Award distinguishes individuals who, during their lifetime, have made creative contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the performing arts and represent a beacon of inspiration to Wharton Arts' students.

Previous Wharton Arts Lifetime Achievement honorees were Jamie Bernstein, John Debney, Paul Shaffer, and Angel Blue.

**EDUCATION AWARD**



George Marriner Maull, Gala honoree

Credit / Wharton Arts

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, Wharton Arts will honor George Marriner Maull with its Education Award at the Gala. Maestro Maull's musical affiliations in New Jersey began with his joint appointment in 1979 as Assistant Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and founding Music Director and Conductor of the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS). He led NJYS, now a program of Wharton Arts, for eighteen seasons until 1997, including three performances at Carnegie Hall and on four European tours: Belgium and The Netherlands (1983), Belgium and England (1985), Romania and Hungary (1987), and Poland (1989).

Under his leadership, NJYS received First Prize at both the 1983 and the 1985 European Music Festival for Youth in

Belgium, and was the subject of a 1987 WNET New York Channel 13 documentary entitled 'Art Effects: Young & Noteworthy.'

Today, Maull is the Artistic Director of The Discovery Orchestra and three-time Emmy-nominated public television personality, touching the lives of millions of individuals nationwide and abroad by helping them to heighten their classical music listening pleasure through his Discovery Concerts distributed by American Public Television (APT) and APT Worldwide. These programs, including his signature listening course, 'Fall in Love with Music,' are available to stream on Amazon Prime and PBS Passport. His public radio show, 'Inside Music,' is broadcast on second and fourth Saturdays each month at 7:30 p.m. on WWFM, 89.1 The Classical Network in Princeton. Maull believes that everyone has the innate ability to become a virtuoso music listener.

Wharton Arts' Annual Gala will feature student performances and a live auction at the Westmount Country Club, 728 Rifle Camp Road in Woodland Park, NJ. For more information, attend the gala and support Wharton Arts, including its silent auction, visit [WhartonArtsGala.org](http://WhartonArtsGala.org).

**WHARTON ARTS**

Learn more at [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org).

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, Education, Cuisine, Health & Wellness, and Business)