

# **Concord Poetry at the Library Series**

**Saturday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.**

A reading and Q&A with

# **Gregory Pardlo**

*Winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize*



Photo by Rachel Eliza Griffiths

Introduction by **Robert Pinsky**

*Three-term Poet Laureate of America*

Followed by book signing and reception

Concord Free Public Library, 120 Main Street. Doors open at 6:20 p.m. Seating limited.

Winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, **Gregory Pardlo** will read from his award-winning collection, *Digest*, on Saturday, December 10 at 7 p.m. in the Concord Free Public Library. **Robert Pinsky**, three-term Poet Laureate of America, will deliver the introduction.

Following a Question and Answer period with Pardlo, the audience is cordially invited to attend a reception in the Reading Room. Books by the poets will be available for purchase and signing.

**Representative praise for *Digest*:**

“Clear-voiced poems that bring readers the news from 21st Century America, rich with thought, ideas and histories public and private.”— *The Pulitzer Jury*

A brainy, compassionate book (Pardlo’s second) that uses a pleasingly large stylistic palette to paint a portrait of fatherhood, racial politics and Brooklyn before it became a place to buy \$30 glasses of bourbon.” — "David Orr's 10 Favorite Poetry Books of 2014," *New York Times*

“Gregory Pardlo renders history just as clearly and palpably as he renders New York City, or Copenhagen, or his native New Jersey. But mostly what he renders is America, with its intractable conundrums and its clashing iconographies. With lines that balance poise and a jam-packed visceral music, and images that glimmer and seethe together like a conflagration, these poems are a showcase for Pardlo’s ample and agile mind, his courageous social conscience, and his mighty voice.” —*Tracy K. Smith*

“A bright-red thread of fatherhood runs through this book—at times tenuous, at times mythic—always searching and revelatory, grounded in our present moment while wrestling with eternity—a thrilling, brilliant, and deeply moving ride.” —*Nick Flynn*

“In an age of poems crafted to resemble linguistic balloon-animals or sheets of floral wallpaper, it is rare to find an American poet thinking seriously about anything. I suppose that’s what makes Gregory Pardlo’s engaged, intelligent poetry, with its exuberant range of cultural and historical reference, feel a bit like stumbling out of the desert to encounter the Nile River. Smart and humane, *Digest* engages in lyricized textual analysis, playful philosophical exegesis, and satirical syllabi building, even as it evokes a Whitmanesque Brooklyn of the 21st Century that Pardlo inhabits with a ‘neighborknowing confidence and ease.’ These are poems that delight the ear, encourage the heart, and nourish the brain.” — *Campbell McGrath*

*Digest* (Four Way Books, 2014) was also a nominee for the 2015 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, finalist for Foreword Reviews' 2014 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award in Poetry, and nominated for the 46th NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Poetry. Pardlo's other honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts; his first collection, *Totem*, was selected by Brenda Hillman for the 2007 American Poetry Review/Honickman Prize. Pardlo is also the author of *Air Traffic*, a memoir in essays forthcoming from Knopf.

"Pardlo's poems, reviews, and translations have been widely published and are noted for 'language simultaneously urban and highbrow ... snapshots of a life that is so specific it becomes universal.'" – Poetry Foundation. His poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *The Nation*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, and two editions of *Best American Poetry*, as well as anthologies including *Angles of Ascent*, *the Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*. Pardlo is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and a fellowship for translation from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has received other fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the Lotos Club Foundation and Cave Canem. He serves as an Associate Editor of *Callaloo*.

Born in Philadelphia in 1968, Pardlo is a graduate of Rutgers University, Camden. As an undergraduate, he managed the small jazz club his grandfather owned in nearby Pennsauken, NJ. He received the MFA from NYU as a New York Times Fellow in Poetry in 2001. He is a doctoral candidate in English at CUNY Graduate Center and has been a teaching fellow in the Undergraduate Writing Program at Columbia University. Pardlo is currently a member of the faculty of the M.F.A. program in creative writing at Rutgers University-Camden. He lives with his family in Brooklyn.

Sample some of Pardlo's poems, essays, and reviews of his work at his website: [www.pardlo.net](http://www.pardlo.net)

Please join us for a memorable evening of poetry with Gregory Pardlo and his introduction by the eminent poet and literary critic, Robert Pinsky.

This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main Street, MA

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