

For Immediate Release DRAFT

**Contact: Name
Title
Phone #
Email Address**

**LIBRARY SEEKS COMPELLING LIBRARY PATRON STORIES
TO DEMONSTRATE VALUE OF LIBRARY SERVICES, BOOST LIBRARY CARD SIGNUP**

--About 50% of Westchester Residents Possess Library Card--

Westchester County, NY – In cooperation with the Westchester Library System, _____ Library is asking patrons to come forward and share compelling stories of how their local library impacted their lives. Currently nearly 50% of Westchester residents have a library card. WLS and Westchester’s 38 public libraries are looking to boost that number by sharing patron stories.

“In particular, we are looking for compelling stories. Maybe you were a stutterer who came to the library and learned how to read aloud; maybe you used our online genealogical research tools to reunite with a long lost relative; maybe there was one book that inspired you to study medicine. We know these stories are out there, we want to document and share them to inspire others to use the rich resources of the local libraries,” said Terry Kirchner, WLS executive director.

Patrons interested in sharing their stories should contact _____ at 914-____-____ or by email at _____.

The stories will be gathered in narrative form and presented at WLS’s annual breakfast program held in April. Of those submitted, six will be selected to be professionally-produced for a television public service campaign to encourage county-wide library card sign-up later in the year. This year’s theme, *Speak-Up @ Your Library*, is part of a system-wide marketing campaign funded through a grant from the Westchester Community Foundation. The campaign focuses on promoting library awareness through individual compelling patron stories.

WLS will highlight the many ways the County’s 38 public libraries influence their patron’s lives at the 2016 Annual Breakfast on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill Mansion, Tarrytown, NY. Not afraid to speak up in his political career, Barney Frank, former Massachusetts Congressman and fierce defender of civil liberties, will be the guest speaker. Individual tickets are \$80 and are available online at westchesterlibraries.org.

“This is a great way for the community to show support for the _____ Library. The storytelling project shows our collective impact; it helps us promote what libraries can do to positively impact the lives of our residents,” said Kirchner.

The Annual Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast is WLS’ only fund raising event. Proceeds from the event support the collective efforts of libraries to provide a rich variety of experiences for their patrons, from active learning programs, to new technologies, to the latest best sellers and the most current, reliable information on any topic. In addition to tickets, sponsorships are also available online at westchesterlibraries.org.

About Westchester Library System

The Westchester Library System (WLS) includes 38 member public libraries located throughout the County and is one of New York State’s 23 public library systems. The mission of the Westchester Library System is to ensure that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County. WLS is supported through member fees, government, corporations, foundations and individuals. For more information, please visit www.westchesterlibraries.org.

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