



CONTACT:
Rachel Gary
Communications Manager
860-695-6352
rgary@hplct.org

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**Library's One Big Summer Night Sizzles with Surprises, Special Guests and
New Spaces**

Gala Fundraiser Features Author, Former Gourmet Magazine Editor Ruth Reichl

HARTFORD, Connecticut (November 20, 2013) – Hartford Public Library's highly-anticipated *One Big Sizzling Summer Night* event will not look like your traditional gala this year, as the major fundraiser returns to the Library's bright, modern Downtown building on June 12, 2014 with three floors of delicious cuisine and entertainment. Adding even more sizzle to the night, the well-known author Ruth Reichl, former New York Times food critic and editor-in-chief of *Gourmet Magazine*, will be the evening's featured speaker.

"This year's event will be unlike any you've seen," said Matt Poland, CEO of Hartford Public Library. "We're thrilled to welcome the incomparable Ruth Reichl to Hartford, showcase our state-of-the-art facility, and enjoy a night of food, fun, and celebration. *One Big Summer Night* directly supports the many valuable resources and opportunities the Library provides, and this year will surely be our most successful yet!"

Each year, *One Big Summer Night* brings a celebrated author to Hartford to delight and entertain guests. This year's gala will be held in the beautiful glass-front library overlooking Main Street - cocktails and chef stations throughout will feature locally produced, farm-to-table cuisine from some of the city's top restaurants, and exciting exhibits will highlight every nook and cranny of the facility and the many services the Library provides. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on enticing auction items and engage with Ms. Reichl, who will speak to all things writing and food.

A six-time James Beard Award-Winner, Ms. Reichl served as editor-in-chief of *Gourmet* magazine for ten years, has authored five critically-acclaimed, best-selling memoirs on the topics of food and family, and served as editor of countless collections of cuisine-inspired publications. Ms. Reichl is the host and executive producer of "Gourmet's Adventures with Ruth" and "Gourmet's Diary of a Foodie" on public television, and the recipient of numerous awards for excellence in food journalism. The New York Times has said: "While all good food writers are humorous . . . few are so riotously, effortlessly entertaining as Ruth Reichl. . . . [She] is also witty, fair-minded, brave, and a wonderful writer."

Ticket availability and additional event details will be available soon. For sponsorship and other opportunities, please contact Jane Penfield at (860) 695-6342 or jpenfield@hplct.org.

About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org.

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