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**Library to Host Arianna Huffington at One Big Summer Night in 2012**

**HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT (December 16, 2011)** — Hartford Public Library announced today that Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief of the AOL Huffington Post Media Group, a nationally syndicated columnist and author of thirteen books, will be the featured speaker at the Library's annual fundraiser, ***One Big Summer Night***, on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Downtown Hartford.

***One Big Summer Night***, which has grown in popularity since it began in 2002, features noted authors, an elegant reception, exciting live and silent auctions, and a summer supper. Previous featured authors were: Dominick Dunne, Jacques Pépin, Wally Lamb, Francine du Plessix Gray, Colin McEnroe, Nora Pollard, Paul Weidner, Malachy McCourt, Julie Powell, and this year Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski, stars of MSNBC's **Morning Joe**.

"Public libraries, one of the nation's truly democratic institutions, are essential to developing civically engaged communities," said Ms. Huffington. "I look forward to coming to Hartford where the Library is a leader in civic engagement."

Proceeds from the event allow the Library to purchase books and other materials and to sponsor wide ranging literacy, digital access and educational programs to serve the thousands of men, women and children who visit, and depend on, the Library every day.

**About the speaker**

Arianna Huffington is the president and editor-in-chief of the AOL Huffington Post Media Group, a nationally syndicated columnist and author of thirteen books, including her most recent publication, *Third World America: How Our Politicians Are Abandoning the Middle Class and Betraying the American Dream*, and the international bestseller *The Woman behind the Legend*, a biography of Maria Callas, published in 1981.

In May 2005, she launched *The Huffington Post*, a news and blog site that quickly became one of the most widely-read, linked to, and frequently-cited media brands on the Internet. In 2006 and 2011, she was named to the TIME 100, *TIME* magazine's list of the world's 100 most influential people as well as *Fast Company*'s list of the 100 Most Creative People in Business; *Financial Times*' 50 People Who Shaped the Decade; *Newsweek*'s Top Ten Thought-Leaders

of the Decade; *Forbes'* lists of Most Influential Women in the Media and The World's 100 Most Powerful Women and *Vanity Fair's* 2011 Top 50 New Establishment list.

Originally from Greece, she moved to England when she was 16 and graduated from Cambridge University with an M.A. in economics. At 21, she became president of the famed debating society, the Cambridge Union.

Huffington has made guest appearances on numerous television shows, including *Charlie Rose*, *Oprah*, *Nightline*, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, *Hardball*, *Good Morning America*, the *Today* show, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and *The O'Reilly Factor*. She serves on several boards that promote community solutions to social problems, including A Place Called Home, which works with at-risk children in South Central Los Angeles. She also serves on the board of EL PAÍS and the board of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

**About Hartford Public Library:**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 800,000 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 the Hartford Public Library is to promote and support literacy and learning; to provide free and open access to information and ideas and to help people participate in our democratic society.

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