

Books Discussions "*Terrorism & Takeovers*" Illustrate Strength of Human Spirit

Hartford, Connecticut (January 19, 2011): Hartford Public Library will offer a four-part book discussion series, *Terrorism & Takeovers*, led by humanities scholar Sara deBeer. The series begins on Saturday, January 22, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., participants will discuss *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer. The gathering will take place at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street.

On Saturday, February 5, *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett will be discussed. Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America* will be examined on Saturday, February 26. The series will conclude on Saturday, March 12, with *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. All discussions will be from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

These powerful and thought-provoking contemporary novels bring to life all of the emotions that erupt during times of terrorism and takeovers. The books are disconcerting and disturbing as they force readers to contemplate the consequences of events, whether actual or threatened. The incidents in each story irrevocably alter the lives of the characters and illustrate the strength of the human spirit.

Sara deBeer, the discussion leader, comments, "Although the title of the series, *Terrorism & Takeovers*, sounds bleak, the four books are replete with moments that celebrate caring relationships. Fear and human beings' responses to fear are topics we don't have enough opportunities to discuss with one another. This series gives participants a chance to discuss their feelings about the troubling worlds of the books and the troubling world in which we live today." ... "Our conversations will bring us together; we will leave feeling stronger than we felt when we began."

Elizabeth Davis, the Library's Reader's Advocate, adds, "I get much more out of a book when I know that I will be talking with other readers about it. We all see and feel individually and it can seem as though we each read a different story."

Terrorism & Takeovers is one of 48 theme-based discussion series from the Connecticut Humanities Council's Literature for a Lifetime reading program. Literature for a Lifetime offers adults throughout Connecticut opportunities to come together at their local libraries to discuss great books, share ideas and opinions, and explore the many relationships between life and literature.

All *Terrorism & Takeovers* discussions are free and open to the public. The Library has multiple copies of each of the books that will be discussed. Registration is requested in-person, online (www.hplct.org/calendar), or by calling 860-695-6295. If special accommodations to participate in these discussions are required, please contact Access Assistance at 860-695-6284 or TTY 860-722-6890, two weeks prior to the discussions.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Mary F. Crean
Hartford Public Library
500 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
mcrean@hplct.org
www.hplct.org

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 850,000 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 provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration.