

The Stars Aligned for Library's "One Big Summer Night" Gala

HARTFORD, CT (July 7, 2011) —Hartford Public Library and nearly 750 of its supporters, including State and local government leaders, business executives, media and literary celebrities, came together for the Library's spectacular annual gala, ***One fabulous Big Summer Night*** at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on June 22.

The event, sponsored by **Connecticut Light & Power** and chaired by **Governor Dannel P. Malloy and his wife Cathy**, raised more than \$153,000 to support high quality public education for all ages. **Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski**, *New York Times* bestselling authors and hosts of MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, were the featured guests and speakers. Mika Brzezinski commented, "Joe and I were both honored to be at the Hartford Public Library for a wonderful evening of food and intelligent conversation. I already knew the Library was a vibrant and vital contribution to community. Now Joe is asking when we can come back!"

Jeffrey D. Butler, president and chief operating officer of Connecticut Light & Power, said "Education is an area of focus for CL&P. And libraries, like the Hartford Public Library, play a critical role in fostering a learning environment for both children and adults. On behalf of our employees, it is an honor to be this year's Presenting Sponsor."

Highlights of the event included pre-event cocktail receptions sponsored by The Hartford and First Niagara, exciting auctions, a sumptuous meal, and performances by the Hall High Jazz Quartet, jazz pianist Steve Johnson, and the Classified Steppers. Matt Poland, the Library's chief executive officer, introduced the Library's new logo with a brand video created by The Pita Group and he launched a fundraising campaign for a new bookmobile raising nearly \$25,000 towards the goal of \$150,000.

Of the event, Governor Malloy said: "Cathy and I were delighted to help our new hometown public library with this very successful event. Public libraries are vital to our democratic society because they provide free access to all who need information and knowledge to support themselves and their families. And Hartford Public Library, a place like no other, is among the best in the nation."

***Attachment – HPL OBSN Photo 1:** *Masters of Ceremonies Gerry Brooks and Duby McDowell interview featured guests Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough from MSNBC's "Morning Joe" at Hartford Public Library's annual gala, "One Big Summer Night."*

****Attachment – HPL OBSN Photo 2:** *Hartford Public Library's featured guests Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski with Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy and his wife, First Lady Cathy Malloy, and Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra.*

For more information please contact: Mary Crean at 860-695-6360 or at mcrean@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 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 provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. www.hplct.org



