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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Connecticut Forum & Hartford Public Library Collaborate to  
Extend Forum Topics, Focus on Local**



HARTFORD, CT – On Wednesday, March 25, at 6:00 p.m. The Connecticut Forum and Hartford Public Library will present *Explorers & Adventurers: Connecticut*, the first in a free series of innovative collaborations highlighting local experiences of topics covered on The Forum stage. The event will take place at the Downtown Library’s Center for Contemporary Culture, located at 500 Main Street.

*Explorers & Adventurers: Connecticut* is an extension of the third event in The Connecticut Forum’s 2014-2015 season, also titled *Explorers & Adventurers*, and is a part of an effort between Hartford Public Library and The Connecticut Forum to bring a more local focus to the topics covered on The Forum stage.

“We’re thrilled to partner with the Connecticut Forum to further engage the community and introduce local perspectives to a broad slate of important topics,” said Matthew K. Poland, chief executive officer of Hartford Public Library. “We love the Forum and welcome the opportunities it offers for national

discussion, and yet we also feel that Connecticut has a rich population of residents with fascinating knowledge, stories and experiences. We'd like to share in those too, and this new collaboration is going to give us a chance to do just that. A great pairing of two organizations."

An evening full of inspiration, *Explorers & Adventurers: Connecticut* will feature a panel of Connecticut-based thrill-seekers discussing their feats:

- **Anne Parmenter**, an inspirational coach, speaker, and climber who has twice summited Mt. Everest ;
- **Steve Grant, former Hartford Courant columnist**, writer, outdoor guide, and expert on Connecticut outdoor recreation; and
- **Rohan Freeman**, entrepreneur, climber, and the first African American to complete the Seven Summits.

The panelists will speak briefly about their adventures and experiences, and then will all take part in an unscripted, moderated conversation moderated by The Connecticut Forum's **Richard Sugarman**. The evening is free and open to all.

Seating is limited and registration is strongly encouraged. Visit [www.ctforum.org/explorers-connecticut](http://www.ctforum.org/explorers-connecticut) for more information and to register.

For additional information, please contact Jamie Daniel at [jdaniel@ctforum.org](mailto:jdaniel@ctforum.org) or (860) 509-0909 ext. 14.

#### **ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)**

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).



The Connecticut Forum is a nonprofit organization that serves Connecticut and beyond with live, unscripted panel discussions among renowned experts and celebrities, and community outreach programs including the Connecticut YOUTH Forum.

Its mission: *to encourage the free and active exchange of ideas in Forums that inform, challenge, entertain, inspire and build bridges among all people and organizations in our community.*



The Connecticut YOUTH Forum opera mise: stereotypes are challenged,  
prejudices are dispelled and communities are built when we talk,  
listen and connect. Each year, more than 750 youth from 40 Connecticut high  
schools connect across geographic, economic, social and racial divides to engage in the  
activities of the award-winning YOUTH Forum program.

**Other Upcoming CT Forum Events:**

**Explorers & Adventurers**

*Pushing the limits of human potential*

**Fri., Mar. 13, 2015**

With Diana Nyad, Cheryl Strayed and Paul Nicklen.

**A Conversation with David McCullough and Stacy Schiff**

*Looking back and looking forward with two Pulitzer Prize-winning authors*

Lead Underwriter: CT Humanities

**Sat. May 9, 2015**

With David McCullough and Stacy Schiff.



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