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Celebrating 16 Years of the Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash in Hartford

Hartford, Connecticut (October 26, 2011) — The Connecticut Center for the Book at Hartford Public Library and the Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens will celebrate the sixteenth annual Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash on Saturday, November 5, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street.

This special event marks the birthday of the noted poet who had such strong ties to Hartford. This year, Robert Pinsky, former Poet Laureate of the United States, and author of the recently published *Selected Poems*, will read from Wallace Stevens' oeuvre as well as from his own work.

"Every poem Wallace Stevens wrote is like a new planet, with kinds of life and landscape and rules of physics that are sort of familiar and sort of unprecedented: new planets, but most of the natural images in the poems, I've been told, Stevens could see in the Hartford park he walked through on his way to work," said Robert Pinsky.

Jim Finnegan, current president of the Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens, said "No other American poet has done more than Robert Pinsky to promote the art of poetry throughout American society. The Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens are very pleased he is bringing his energy and enthusiasm for poetry to the 2011 Wallace Stevens Birthday Bash."

Following Mr. Pinsky's presentation there will be a book signing, birthday cake, and champagne. Tickets are \$50 per person, and can be purchased online at www.wallacestevevents.eventbrite.com. For more information, please call 860-508-2810.

About Connecticut Center for the Book

Connecticut Center for the Book is a program of Hartford Public Library, and is Connecticut's affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Its mission is to celebrate books, writers and readers who engender and sustain the life of the imagination and to highlight authors, illustrators, printers, publishers and the literary heritage of the State of Connecticut.

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