



## **Westchester Library System to Hold Open Annual Meeting**

*Sesame Workshop President and CEO Gary E. Knell to Speak*

**Tarrytown, NY – (October 31, 2007)** – The Westchester Library System (WLS) will hold its Annual Meeting at the newly completed Ossining Public Library on Tuesday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m. The evening features guest speaker Gary E. Knell, president and chief executive officer of the Sesame Workshop, producer of Sesame Street. At the meeting, Director Siobhan A. Reardon will be presenting the WLS State of the Library System. The evening is open to the public.

Mr. Knell's presentation will focus on the similarities between the nonprofit educational Sesame Workshop and WLS, both of which educate children to help them reach their highest potential. Just as Sesame Street has to continually reinvent itself and stand up to competition from new programs and media, so do libraries. Mr. Knell will share with the audience successful Sesame Workshop strategies that can be applied to libraries as well as other public services.

In addition to his position at the Sesame Workshop, Mr. Knell is active in numerous organizations. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, serves on the Board of Governors of the National Geographic Education Foundation and is a Board Member of AARP Services, Inc.; Save the Children; Business for Diplomatic Action; and American Public Television. He is also an advisor to WFUV, public radio at Fordham University, the Annenberg School of Communications at USC, and Common Sense Media. Mr. Knell is a frequent spokesperson in the media and has appeared on CNN, Fox News, NBC's Today Show, NPR, and CNBC.

The Ossining Public Library is located at 53 Croton Ave, Ossining, NY; telephone (914) 941-2416.

For further information regarding the Annual Meeting, contact Westchester Library System at (914) 231-3226. For a complete list of programs and events throughout the Westchester Library System, visit the WLS website at [www.westchesterlibraries.org](http://www.westchesterlibraries.org).

### **About the Westchester Library System**

The Westchester Library System (WLS) includes 38 member public libraries located throughout the County and is one of New York State's 23 public library systems. WLS and its member libraries have a total collection of 5.6 million items, including 4 million books, as well as audio recordings, videocassettes, DVDs, print serials, and other materials. Support from WLS helps expand and enhance the

services and resources of local member libraries, enabling them to better serve the public. WLS also ensures that all county residents have excellent library service on-site and on-line. A sponsor of year-round events, WLS helps coordinate featured author events, the annual Book and Author Luncheon, and seasonal reading initiatives. WLS offers improved access to library services for all residents, training and development of library personnel, services to disadvantaged youth, and the WEBS Career and Educational Counseling service. WLS celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008.

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Gary Knell, president and chief executive officer of the Sesame Workshop,  
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