



Chappaqua Public Library, Westchester Library System Honor Children's Author Jean Craighead George

Chappaqua, NY – (August 30, 2007) – The Chappaqua Public Library and the Westchester Library System, together with the children's librarians of Westchester County, will honor Jean Craighead George, award-winning children's author and renowned environmentalist, with a lifetime achievement celebration on Tuesday morning, September 18, 2007, at the Chappaqua Public Library. The event will feature short readings, film clips, remarks from Ms. George, and tributes from distinguished authors, editors, illustrators, and friends. New Castle Supervisor Janet Wells will present a proclamation declaring September 19, 2007 as Jean Craighead George Day.

Ms. George was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in a family of naturalists. She has centered her writing career around nature, authoring over 80 children's books, among them, *My Side of the Mountain* and its sequel *On the Far Side of the Mountain*. Her inspiration for her book *Julie of the Wolves* evolved from two specific events during a summer she spent studying wolves and tundra at the Arctic Research Laboratory of Barrow, Alaska. Ms. George is a two-time winner of the Washington Irving Children's Choice Book Award (voted on by children in public and school libraries throughout Westchester) for *One Day in the Woods* and *On the Far Side of the Mountain* and received both the Newbery Medal and a Newbery Honor (the most prestigious awards in children's literature) for *Julie of the Wolves* and *On the Far Side of the Mountain*.

A long-time Chappaqua resident, Jean Craighead George has kept 173 wild animal "pets," not including dogs and cats, in her home and backyard. "Most of these wild animals depart in autumn when the sun changes their behavior and they feel the urge to migrate or go off alone. While they are with us, however, they become characters in my books, articles, and stories," explains Craighead George. Her children and grandchildren have benefited greatly from her love of nature, reading aloud, and storytelling.

The public is welcome, but reservations are necessary as seating is limited. To make a reservation, contact Carol Birch, Chappaqua Head of Services to Children, at 914-238-4779, ext 3.

For a complete list of programs and events throughout the Westchester Library System, visit the WLS website at 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 established in 1958 by State Education Law. WLS expands and enhances the resources and services of local libraries by enabling them to save funds through economies of scale and the cooperative sharing of resources and services. It also ensures that all residents have excellent library service on-site and online.



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