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NEW YORK NEWS

WLS' 10th Annual African-American Literary Tea

by RENEE MINUS WHITE
Fashion & Beauty Editor
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Four African-American authors will be honored at The Westchester Library System's 10th Annual Writers & Readers Literary Tea on Monday, January 21, (Martin Luther King's birthday) at Abigail Kirsch's Tappan Hill in Tarrytown, NY, from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

This year's literary honorees are Dominic Carter, Beverly Jenkins, Rene Syler and Terrie Williams. As one of New York State's 23 public library systems, the Westchester Library System (WLS) includes 38 member public libraries located all across the county. WLS will also be celebrating its 50th year anniversary in 2008. Co-sponsored by the Westchester chapter of the Links, the Literary Tea also kicks off Black History Month, a month long celebration of African-American history, literature and culture.

"Our Literary Tea is a wonderful tradition that's now in its tenth year, said Siobhan A. Reardon, WLS director. "We feel that it's important to recognize the significant literary contributions made in the African American community. The enthusiasm of the authors, sponsors and committee members, coupled with the importance of the topic, makes this a truly special event in Westchester.

This year's event will be hosted by Elise Finch, meteorologist for WCBS-TV, and chaired by Barbara Edwards, chair of the Westchester County African-American Advisory Board.

Ticket prices are \$75 for general admission and \$100 for Tea Friend, which includes an author reception and a contribution for African American library materials and programs. To purchase tickets, call 914-231-3226 or visit www.westchesterlibraries.org. Here's news about the authors to be honored. Veteran newsman Dominic Carter has been described as one of the best political reporters on TV. A fixture on NY1 since the news channel was launched in 1992, Carter has released a book on his own life titled "No Momma's Boy." In his book, he chronicles the triumphant struggle to overcome his mother's mental illness while growing up in a Bronx Housing Project.

As the host of NY1's nightly political show, "Inside City Hall," Carter has handled some of the station's most challenging assignments. He has also interviewed every major political player in the state, as well as many national and international leaders. Carter received a BA in Journalism from the State University of New York in Cortland, and attended graduate school at Syracuse University's SI New house School of Public Communications before starting his career in radio. Somewhere between her first and second kids, and coming to grips with her imperfections, media personality Rene Syler realized her first novel, "Good Enough," was perfect enough for her. During her distinguished media career, including a 4-year anchor stint on CBS' "The Early show," Syler has always shown the courage to stand behind her convictions. She has talked with several well-known parents including First Lady Laura Bush, Senator John McCain, as well as a host of celebrities.

Through her book "Good Enough, Mother" Syler is building a platform in which mothers will find other women like themselves. Syler is a lifetime member of the National Association of Black Journalists, and a Gracie Allen Award winner in the category of National Best Anchor for her series on Breast Cancer.

In "Black Pain," top publicist and former clinical social worker Terrie Williams uses her therapeutic training to take readers into the heart of African American pain. Forty years after the book "Black Rage" explained to all of America what was boiling beneath the surface of brown skinned people. Many African Americans have turned inward, and Black America is suffering from depression. Williams is the first person to



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name that pain in a way that lets folks see its on-the-ground base.

A social worker by training, Williams launched her PR firm in 1988. Her company quickly became one of the most successful PR firms in America, representing top names in entertainment, sports and business and politics including Eddie Murphy, Stephen King, HBO and Time Warner. Williams has a BA from Brandeis University and a Masters degree in social work from Columbia University.

Beverly Jenkins is a historical romance writer. She has written 16 books to date. Jenkins has received numerous awards for her works including the Detroit Free Press Book of the Year, three Walden Books Best Sellers Awards, two Career Achievement Awards from Romantic Times magazine, a golden Pen Award from black Writer's Guild.

In 1999, Jenkins was voted one of the Top fifty Favorite African American Writers of the 20th Century by AABLC, the nation's largest African American Book Club. Born in Detroit Michigan, she graduated from Class Technology H.S., and attended Michigan State University, where she majored in Journalism and English Literature.

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