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BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES BIG READ GRANT FROM NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS ~ *WNY to Read and Celebrate The Great Gatsby this Fall* ~

Buffalo, NY – The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) today announced that it has received a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host *The Big Read* in Western New York. The B&ECPL, in conjunction with Just Buffalo Literary Center, is one of 269 libraries, municipalities, and arts, culture, higher education, and science organizations to receive a grant to host *The Big Read* from September 2009-June 2010. *The Big Read* in WNY will focus on *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Activities will take place during the months of September, October and November.

“We are thrilled to be involved with an initiative that brings reading and family to the forefront in our community,” said Library Director **Bridget Quinn-Carey**. “We are planning a broad range of programs that celebrate the Jazz Age and the American Dream themes embodied in *The Great Gatsby*.” A movie festival, lecture series and Charleston dance parties, as well as programs geared toward preschoolers, middle school children and teens, are among the activities planned to date.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest, designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The latest Big Read grantees represent 44 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To date, the NEA has given more than 800 grants to support local Big Read projects.

For additional information on *The Big Read* visit the NEA’s website at www.neabigread.org.