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175TH ANNIVERSARY GALA TO BE PRESENTED AT DOWNTOWN LIBRARY ***"A Rare Affair" Gala November 5 - Unique Location and Auction items***

More than 450 people will gather on **Saturday, November 5** in the downtown Central Library at Lafayette Square to celebrate and raise funds for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. *A Rare Affair Gala* is being held to honor the 175-year legacy of free public library services in Erie County.

Judi and Stanford Lipsey are the Gala's Honorary Chairs; Anne and Dan Leary are planning Co-Chairs of the event which highlights the many rare treasures from the Library's collections. Featured one-of-a-kind items to be auctioned at the Gala include a rocking chair in which author Mark Twain was photographed in 1906; a fine art framed reproduction of a 1776 letter written by George Washington, and a fine art reproduction of one of the earliest published maps of the world (1475).

Upon arrival guests will be greeted with the jazzy sounds of the Colored Musicians Club. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres followed by a full course sit-down dinner will be catered by Rich's Catering. Forty extraordinary items will make up the silent and live auctions before the evening winds down to the rollicking live music of Buffalo's own Nickel City Pimp Choir.

A Rare Affair is presented by the Library Foundation of Buffalo & Erie County. Masterpiece Sponsors are William S. Hein & Co., Inc.; William & Diane Hein Foundation; Hadley Exhibits; The Buffalo News; and Trish & Tony Brunsing. Novel Sponsors are Key Bank; and Webster Szanyi LLP and E-Reader Sponsors are Drs. Amy & Julio Alvarez- South Towns Surgical Associates; Rick & Nancy Berger; BlueCross BlueShield of WNY; Mary & Chris Collins; Jack Connors; Hodgson Russ LLP ; Dr. Dan & Anne Leary; M & T Bank; Manning & Napier Advisors, LLC; and Bridget & Rocco Termini. Auction sponsors are Getman & Biryła LLP and Dr. George & Allison Blessios - Surgical Associates of WNY.

Tickets for *A Rare Affair Gala* are still available starting at \$175 though this first year event is nearly sold out. Proceeds will benefit children's and literacy programming throughout the 37-branch free Public Library System.

For more information visit www.BuffaloLib.org or contact Joy Testa Cinquino at 858-7182.

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