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Press Contacts:

DeLauné Michel deLaune@deLaunemichel.com

Kate Meyer kmeyer@wlsmail.org

New Online Literary Series, *Library Author Talks*, Allows Westchester Readers to Connect with Award-winning, Bestselling Authors

Kick-off to feature Pamela Paul, author, and editor of the *New York Times Book Review*

Elmsford, NY January 5, 2021 - Westchester Library System (WLS) and Westchester Library Association (WLA), in partnership with the new online literary platform, Book YaYa (www.bookyaya.com), is pleased to announce the launch of a new virtual book talk series, ***Library Author Talks***. Produced and hosted by DeLauné Michel, creator of the popular Spoken Interludes reading series (www.spokeninterludes.com), ***Library Author Talks*** will feature award-winning, bestselling authors in discussion about their new books. The FREE online series is open to the public, and will be promoted to all library patrons in Westchester, and in neighboring Hudson Valley libraries, reaching almost half a million readers.

Library Author Talks kick-offs on **Thursday, January 28th ONLINE at 7:00-8:00pm EST** with **Pamela Paul**, bestselling author, and editor of the *New York Times Book Review*. **Registration required** here: <https://bit.ly/3rFkZu9>

“We are thrilled to launch this new author series that will foster a vibrant online community,” said Terry Kirchner, Executive Director of WLS. “Best of all, it will connect readers with their favorite writers whom they otherwise wouldn’t get a chance to see. The book discussions with these top authors will entertain and enlighten, adding a vital contribution to our dialogue as a community.”

Pamela Paul, bestselling, critically-acclaimed author of six books, is the editor of *The New York Times Book Review* and oversees all books coverage at *The New York*

Times. She is also the host of [the weekly Book Review podcast](#) for *The New York Times*.



How to Raise a Reader An indispensable guide to welcoming children—from babies to teens—to a lifelong love of reading. Combining clear, practical advice with inspiration, wisdom, tips, and curated reading lists, *How to Raise a Reader* shows you how to instill the joy and time-stopping pleasure of reading.

Divided into four sections, from baby through teen, and each illustrated by a different artist, this book offers something useful on every page, whether it's how to develop rituals around reading or build a family library, or ways to engage a reluctant reader. A fifth section, "More Books to Love: By Theme and Reading Level," is chockful of expert recommendations. Throughout, the authors debunk common myths, assuage parental fears, and deliver invaluable lessons in a positive and easy-to-act-on way.

Rectangle Time This spunky, self-assured cat has always loved Rectangle Time—when the boy and the man he lives with curl up with their rectangle and read aloud from it. The cat knows how helpful he is during Rectangle Time—his presence is vital to the very ritual! But when the rectangle starts to get smaller, the stories start to get quieter, and the boy no longer needs the cat's "help," the cat must find a way to reclaim his part in Rectangle Time.

In this fun, funny, and sweet story about growing up, embracing change, and the ways we all can misread social cues, we see how there's always room for everyone at story time.

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About Westchester Library System

The mission of the Westchester Library System (WLS) provides services and support that assist Westchester's 38 public libraries' efforts to empower and improve communities with extensive open access to information, technology and personal development tools. The Westchester Library System is a 501©3 nonprofit organization and is located at 570 Taxter Road, Suite 400, Elmsford, NY 10523. Visit the WLS website at www.westchesterlibraries.org.



About Westchester Library Association

Since 1937, the WLA has flourished into an organization based on core principles bringing librarians together from all fields (public, school, special, academic) to discuss issues, learn from one another, and publicize library events. The mission of The Westchester Library Association is to provide for the exchange of ideas and experiences among members and to foster library services to all residents of Westchester County. For more information, please visit <https://www.westchesterlibraryassociation.org/>.



About Book Ya Ya

Book YaYa is an online platform created by husband/wife team DeLauné Michel and Dan Fried where writers and readers can connect through online events. Since it launched this past July, BYY has had hundreds of events with writers including New York Times bestselling, award-winning writers such as: Rumaan Alam, Melissa Clark, David Enich, Jane Green, Lisa See, Bill Clegg, and Darin Strauss. For more information, please visit www.bookyaya.com



Book Ya Ya

About DeLauné Michel

Raised in a South Louisiana literary family that includes her first cousin André Dubus III, and second cousin James Lee Burke, Ms. Michel has spent over two decades in the literary world – producing an acclaimed reading series, empowering marginalized voices, and writing fiction and nonfiction. Her career telling stories began with her work as an actor in theatre (including her critically-acclaimed one-woman show), television (including *NYPD Blue*), and feature films (including Harry Shearer’s directorial debut). In 1996, Ms. Michel created the critically-acclaimed reading series, *Spoken Interludes*, to sold-out audiences. Ms. Michel then developed, taught in, and continues to run outreach writing programs for at-risk youth in inner-city schools, juvenile institutions, and prison reaching over 450 children a year in New York and Los Angeles since 2000. Through *Spoken Interludes*, she also runs a book-drive, putting over 6,000 free books into the hands of underprivileged children. The first two short stories Ms. Michel wrote won recognition in the Thomas Wolf Short Fiction Competition. Her novels, *Aftermath of Dreaming* and *The Safety of Secrets*, were published by HarperCollins. After completing a third novel, she is currently working on a memoir. She lives in Westchester with her husband and two sons. For more information, please visit www.deleunemichel.com.

