



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Worcester Public Library Presents  
Community Conversations***

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library will hold six Community Conversations on a variety of topical subjects at the Main Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester. The conversations will cover topics such as Supporting Worcester's Refugees, Addiction and Recovery, and Urban Planning. All are welcome to attend.

The first program, *Traveling with Purpose: Making a Difference Overseas*, will be held on Tuesday, July 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Are you interested in traveling outside of the tourism box? Come listen to experienced travelers share their journeys of volunteering, studying abroad, and making a difference overseas.

On Tuesday, July 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. the library will host *Returning to Community After Prison*. Join Anne Keyworth, AmeriCorps Attorney with CLA, and Steve Denson, Volunteer Coordinator from EPOCA in a discussion of post-incarceration obstacles that individuals face after paying their debt to society, and how these obstacles impact the community.

*Civic Engagement: Serve and Be Heard* will be held on Wednesday, July 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Want to learn how to be heard? Join us for a panel explaining how you may run for political office; serve on a board; and participate in your community by attending committee, board, or other meetings. Join us, and be part of the discussion.

*Supporting Worcester's Refugees* will be discussed on Tuesday, July 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Worcester's diverse community has long welcomed refugees: from eastern Europeans post-WWII, to the Vietnamese in the 70s and 80s, to those escaping today's crises in the Middle East and beyond. Come find out how you can help newcomers in our city at this panel with representatives from local resettlement agencies and other

humanitarian groups.

During Addiction & Recovery: Book Talk and Discussion join Worcester authors James DiReda and Jack Maroney and School Safety Director Robert Pezzella as they discuss their experiences leading to and during the writing of their biographical tale of substance abuse addiction and recovery *The East Side of Addiction*. This program takes place Tuesday, August 1 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Finally, Urban Planning with the People with Dr. Tom Conroy will be held Wednesday, August 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This interactive presentation and discussion with Thomas E. Conroy, Ph.D., will explore ways that cities such as Worcester can include citizens in early stages and throughout the urban planning process.

The Community Conversation Series is part of the "Build a Better World" Summer Reading Program. Special programs and activities will be held all summer, and readers of all ages are encouraged to track their reading online.

The Adult Program will offer classes at the Main Library on improving yourself, your community, and your world, including learning about gardening, civic engagement, health and wellness, and computer and business classes.

For more information contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or [lsheldon@mywpl.org](mailto:lsheldon@mywpl.org). Check <http://www.mywpl.org/> for updates on the Summer Reading program, and for a complete listing of all programs, please visit: <http://www.mywpl.org/?q=classes-events>

Events and prizes were made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, UniBank, Enterprise, Fallon Health, Cornerstone Bank, the Price Chopper Golub Foundation, and the Worcester Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Worcester Public Library.

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Worcester Public Library, A department of the City of Worcester

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