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Press Release

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Bellmore Memorial Library selected to participate in "StoryCorps @ your library" national project

Bellmore, N.Y. – The Bellmore Memorial Library (BML) was selected by the American Library Association (ALA) and StoryCorps to participate in a national pilot program called "StoryCorps @ your library." Bellmore Memorial is one of only 10 pilot site libraries in the country chosen to collect interviews throughout the community and host related programs for public audiences. The particular focus of BML's program will be two-fold; long term residents will be asked to share their recollections of historic Bellmore, and those affected by Hurricane Sandy will be recounting their experiences throughout this recent extreme weather event. "StoryCorps @ your library" will bring StoryCorps popular interview methods to Bellmore.

StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit whose mission is to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives. Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 45,000 interviews with nearly 90,000 participants.

As part of the "StoryCorps @ your library" project, the Bellmore Memorial Library will receive:

- A \$2,500 stipend for project-related expenses.
- A StoryKit (a customized set of professional recording equipment) for recording on-site interviews during the grant period and retain for future use after the close of the pilot project.

Bellmore Memorial will retain copies of all interviews and preservation copies, and with participant permission, will also be archived at the Library of Congress.

From now through June 2014, the library will be recruiting volunteers to be trained as interviewers and facilitators as well as share their stories with us. Receiving this grant offers Bellmore Memorial a unique opportunity to further strengthen our ties with members of the community. This venture will also broaden the role played by the library in the lives of local residents. Please look for updates on our web page (www.bellmorelibrary.org) as this exciting project unfolds!

For information about "StoryCorps @ your library" and how to get involved, please contact Martha DiVittorio at 516-785-2990 AND/OR mdivittorio@bellmorelibrary.org.

"StoryCorps @ your library" is a two year program created by the ALA Public Programs Office in partnership with StoryCorps, and is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).