



# Woodhaven's Tree of Knowledge



Going to the library as a little girl was always so exciting for me! I felt so grown up when I got my first library card & carried my first set of books out by myself. The Woodhaven library was a wonderful place to go! The librarians there were the best. I visited the library often even as an adult! It is important to keep the library open!!

***Donna Labas Friedrich***  
***Mooreville, NC***



I support the Woodhaven library!! I used to bike there in the summer and spend hours reading. I still remember my blue dot! VC Andrews and Judy Blume. Betty Smith's house was across the street. For those of you who don't know who she is...she wrote "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"...what memories!

***Christine Arcella OSullivan***  
***Massapequa Park, New York***



The Woodhaven Library was a huge part of my childhood. I remember going for walks on a Saturday morning with my mom and brother to the library and just walking around looking at all the different books. Anytime we had some report to do for school we always went to the Woodhaven library. The Nancy Drew books were my favorite!!! I support the Woodhaven library!!!!

***Lori Leibold-Edwards***  
***Tannersville, Pennsylvania***



Childhood memories..many summers walking to the Woodhaven Library and relaxing in the sun with a great book! I support the Woodhaven library!!

***Lisa LaForte Gold***  
***Nassau County, New York***



I support the Woodhaven library. I spent a lot of time there as a child and must have read hundreds of the books there. From elementary to high school I used reference and take home books for most of my reports. i still have fond memories of the librarians that worked there for years :)

***Cheryl Gerchak***



I support the Woodhaven library!

***Sharon Augello Fahy***  
***Skibbereen, Ireland***



I can still remember the smell of that library. I would always walk in & go right to my favorite section. The librarians were so nice then too. Anytime a new book in the series I liked came out, one of the ladies would always let me know. Of course I support the library! We need to stop taking away positive influences from children. Especially in the city!

***Kerri Krauss-Paoletti***

I can remember this library as a child, there is nothing like the smell of the library- of all the wonderful things to be found. I remember having to go around the desk and down the stairs. I remember when the library was closed and needed to be rebuilt, a fire I believe. I remember taking my oldest son to the library when he was just born and until we moved out of the neighborhood. He is now 25. He can remember going there and the Woodhaven Library as being THE library for him.

The Woodhaven library, as well as all libraries need to be saved. They have changed throughout the years from just books to include story hours, movies, music, computers, community gathering places as well as a SAFE place for a child to be. They are an important part of our culture and deserve the respect of staying of the chopping block every time a politician needs to make a cut. Please support your libraries, especially the Woodhaven Branch.

***Patricia Swire***



I support the library, without public libraries where will the children go to learn, get tutored with there homework, and how about all the families that rely on the local libraries to keep education alive.. To take away the libraries is like telling the children of today that they have no future for them for tomorrow...

Also what about all the unemployed adults that rely on the local libraries to self educate themselves and count on utilizing the free access to the computers to help aide them to look for work... Alot of families simply cant afford to purchase books or a computer to help them or there family.

Not to sound mean, but this country is the first to help other countries in need, but look at us... who is going to help us when we cant even help ourselves...I think this country needs to buckle down and start

doing for us first...Beucase I cant believe that its actually coming down to this..

Fight to keep our libraries open.... Soo Please dont close the Woodhaven Library, actually dont close any libraries.... Please keep it open....Thank you

***Barbara Michalopoulos***  
***Glendale, New York***



I support the Woodhaven library  
***Kathryn Kennedy Gileno***



In troubling economic times it is even more vital to keep an institution such as the Woodhaven library open. For many people cutting back on nonessentials, the library can be a lifeline to the outside world.

***Russell Hoffman***  
***Lancaster, Pennsylvania***



As a writer and a teacher, I believe there are few places more important than our libraries. The access to free books is essential to a successful democracy and the key to an educated public. To close any branch, of any library, especially in this day and age and in this economy is a travesty and an insult to all of us who work to inspire and educate minds, both young and old.

***Diane Masiello***



I also grew up in Woodhaven, and the Library was a major part of my childhood. I'd like to add that I remember reading all the Curious George books that I "borrowed" from the Library.

***Joni Taylor***



I grew up in Woodhaven and went to this library all the time! Not all families can afford to just "buy the book". Kids have so few places to go today where their education is supported. Please support the Woodhaven Library... I DO!!!

***Tara Trimboli Azzarello***  
***Staten Island, New York***



I spent a lot of time in the Woodhaven library as a kid. Many new and different worlds were opened to me because of its very existence. Please keep it open so that more generations of kids can enjoy the world of books.

***Lorraine Heider Redling***  
***Levittown, New York***



I support the Woodhaven Library. I feel like I practically lived there in 5th grade, thanks to Mrs. Kramer's research reports!!

***Karen Mullahy Wilkinson***  
***Poughkeepsie, New York***



My earliest memory of the Woodhaven Library was having 'Sibling Day' in the summertime with my younger brother and taking him up to the library to get books to keep us occupied during vacation. It was also my first job when I was in high school.

***Irene Hall Confair***  
***Hershey, Pennsylvania***



I support the Woodhaven library, as does the rest of my family. It would be a travesty to lose such a valuable resource in our community.

***Denise Porthun Jankauskas***  
***New York, NY***

The library is such a great place....I get lost in it for hours. It was part of my childhood and where my sons got their first library card.

***Linda Brienza Streppone***



The Woodhaven Library has become a haven for my daughter and I in this first year of her life and I can't imagine not having it for the coming years. I have been able to encourage her sense of books and literacy already, reading a great selection to her, listen to kid-friendly music. We can't wait till she's old enough to enjoy the classes the library offers. It would be a shame to shut down one of the only places children and adults can go to learn. This is what our community needs most especially in these economic times. Please don't close its doors.

***Karen Harper Matychak***



My first picture books were brought to me from that library by my sister who worked there. In grade school, I clearly remember proudly researching Ponce de Leon on my own and writing my first report. Summertime was always time for the Reading Club. I worked there as a teenager and brought my own children there to Toddler Times, movie days and fun craft days in the basement. As a new teacher, I stocked my class shelves with books purchased at the library book sales. In these hard economic times, I cannot imagine our neighborhood not having its library! Many children do not have the internet at home and need the computers for research along with books! It MUST remain open!

***Linda Luberto***



It is very sad to think that in these hard times, something as vital as the public library would be forced to close by the city. Very few things have as much value as the resources which this institution provides. Our children need those resources. They need access to books and ideas and information. Our adults need that and more.....not only are jobs largely only available thru internet access, but we in the courts are also directing people every day to their libraries just to download forms, etc. in order to conduct their necessary business from distant locations. EVERYONE needs the library.

I spent a number of years making monthly trips with my daughter and my niece, introducing them to the joys of reading and the pleasure of borrowing books. Every child should have that experience. I used the library myself as a college student to help defray the costs of textbooks. Everyone needs the library.

***Mary Fenter***



I remember getting my first library card at the Woodhaven Library! It's what started my love of reading.

***Anne Lombardi Petrenas***



The Library is full of knowledge--you have the Bible--History Books--all kinds of books--computers all kinds of resources that Library is part of Woodhaven Branch!!!

***Louise Tomeo Lupoli***



It is VITAL that a library is kept open in such a easily accessible location. Please help support the Woodhaven branch of the Public library -- do it in honor of your favorite library!! Thanks!!!!

***Eilish Foley***



The Woodhaven library helped me introduce my first two children to the wonders of reading. One of the best things, ESPECIALLY in this economy, is the library. It affords people a haven - knowledge, community, fun, help.

***Lisa Schulz***



A library is NEVER a place that should be closed. With all the waste of monies in this city, this Woodhaven Library or any library should be the last on the chopping block. Reading is so important to us all, from the youngest to the eldest. And with the economy the way it is, a library gives so many a place to go to do so much or to just get away from it all & relax & read.

***Alice Ribsam-Shelley***



I support the Woodhaven Library  
Nel Torres

No way should a Library be targeted to be closed for any reason. The Woodhaven Library is very important for the education of children, pleasure for adult, connection to computers for people looking for jobs or applying for one. The reasons of the importance for the Woodhaven Library to the community can go on and on. This is a good example of a big bully picking on a little guy!!!!

***Dee Royere***



I spent many hours in the Library as a child and teenager. It was an important part of the Woodhaven community and remains so to this day.

***Patricia Groves***



I'm no longer a resident however, my life long love of books started at the Woodhaven Library. I'd spend my summer reading as many books on many subjects to keep me busy.

***Erica McCabe***  
***Stroudsburg, PA***



Libraries provide an immense service to the community. I spent many hours in the Woodhaven library learning, reading, growing, imagining, working, and falling in love with books. I remember being a student at P.S. 97, in 5th grade, and being invited to read for an audience. It was an honor and a special moment for me. The Woodhaven library is absolutely irreplaceable.

***Lisa Jean Caltabiano***



The Woodhaven Library was often visited more than once a week for me and my 5 brothers and sisters as we grew up in Woodhaven and half of us are still there and still visit We need the Library to stay OPEN !!!!!

***Priscilla Bellucci***  
***Scranton, Pennsylvania***



Growing up in Woodhaven, the Library was part of my weekly ritual for all of my school projects. It inspired me to work in the Publishing field and become the bookworm that i am today!! Our kids NEED to have this library OPEN.

***Grace Cangialosi Rotondo***



The Woodhaven Library is a very important part of and too the community of Woodhaven and the surrounding areas. It gives access to information that kids may not have ways to get by any other means. It also helps to preserve the areas surroundings as well as the memories from the past community residents and encourage... and shape future ones.....

***Pamela Kokolski Amatucci***



I so support the library! I have wonderful childhood memories of being there. It is an important part of the community and everyone should show their support!

***Colleen S. Lyman-Helms***



I support the Woodhaven library. Not only was it essential when I attended school at PS 85 and St. Thomas Apostle, it also served my children many years later. From winter 2000 to spring 2001, my wife home-schooled my children in Woodhaven, and the Woodhaven library was an invaluable resource.

***Ramon Olivier***

***Princeton, NJ***



I support the library. I was first president of the Friends of the Woodhaven Library--we started this group to help support the library. As the mother of 5 grown children I can't imagine how we would have been able to do class projects and papers. The cost of a set of encyclopedias was too expensive so we used the library. The computers available in the library today are as valuable as encyclopedias were then.

KEEP THE LIBRARY OPEN

***Donna Marie Caltabiano***



I grew up in Woodhaven and used the library when I was in school and when I started working in the city I went to the library often to have something to read while on the J train.

Please do not close the Woodhaven library.

***Mary Twomey***

***Quogue, NY***



I have fond memories of my Dad taking me there for my first card. It had a J in the corner and I couldn't take out big people books. I remember the day I got my big peoples card and I could read everything. They closed the library one year for renovations and that was the worse. Keep it open, kids need it, adults need it, everyone needs it.

***Bill Addiss***

***Shirley, New York***

I lived around the corner. During the summer I would be sitting on the steps in the morning waiting for it to open, get a book, go home and read it, and return it and get another before the library closed that evening. I loved my library.

***Kathy Mathis Laudicano***



The Woodhaven library is a MUST for Woodhaven. I remember my mom bringing us up there as children for story time and then we continued going there through out the years. A library is the last place that should be closed because of budget cuts!

***Mallory Busterna***



My mother loved to read and passed on her love of reading to me. We weren't a rich family, so the library was the only real access I had to books - as many as I could read, about everything I could imagine! I learned so much from the books I borrowed from the Woodhaven library! I would not be the person I am today if this library hadn't existed.

***Andrea Pastorelli Smith***  
***Piedmont, South Carolina***



I have very fond memories of the library. I must have checked Bartholew Cubbins and his 501 hats a million times. I remember bring my daughter there for story time. She still loves going to the library til today for all our trips to Woodhaven library.

***Donna Eagle Hildebrandt***  
***Davenport, Florida***



I LOVED the library! i passed it everyday on my way to and from school, and still fondly remember my mother taking me there often as a little girl and couldnt wait to take out books. I wrote a book report in 1st grade from a book i took out there and still remember the picture i drew for the cover and was so proud of!...

***Jennifer Engstler***



My daughter's first visit to the library was here... lots of memories. Please don't take this away!

***Althea Philippou***



I have fond memories of the Woodhaven Library. I got my first library card there and felt very important using it to take out books - sometimes so many because I couldn't make up my mind and wanted to read them all at one time! It would be such a shame to close a facility that provides such important services to both children and adults.

***Keri Hardina Magrath***  
***Trumbull, Connecticut***



My children grew up using this house of knowledge. They learned how interact with people, think, use there imagination and through books how to grow into 3 wonderful adults. Taking this away from the children in Woodhaven today is putting them in a box of video games and TV because they are to young to get on a train and bus to use the nearest house of Knowledge. This is truely a crime against the young, I thought it was to be "no childs left behind".

**Suzanne Rowan**



The education system in the USA is already lagging behind those of other countries. It would be foolish to close a library within one of the greatest cities in the world. Nothing can replace the wealth of knowledge that can be found in a library-including the outstanding librarians that cannot be replaced by the internet. I graduated with honors from STA and frequently utilized numerous resources at the library. Shouldn't every child have the same opportunity?

Jan Huts



Life at home wasn't always a happy one...but the library allowed me to go wherever I wanted to go and be whoever I wanted to be...books allow us to dream and grow and escape when necessary, and hope!! I support the Woodhaven library!!!

**Christine Wortman**



I grew up going there with my mom and sisters and was looking forward to doing the same with my son. It is such an important part of our community and one we can not afford to lose.

***Tracey Gallagher***



I remember hot summer days going to reading room in the cool lower level of the library. Great when no one had air conditioning. Libraries are the backbone of our education system, please keep Woodhaven branch open

***Jeanne Athas Parrinello***



The library is the partner of our education system at all levels. And it's a safe haven where people of all ages can go.

***Helen***

***Denver, Colorado***



Growing up in Woodhaven, the library was one of the few places my parents were happy to let me frequent on my own or with my sisters. We were crushed when a fire ravaged it in the late 70s - it felt like an eternity before it reopened, and we were so happy when it did. It was then and still is a beacon in Woodhaven, a safe place to go and nurture intellectual curiosity and learning. Woodhaven would be lost without it.

***Stacey Riggio Kenny***

I still remember getting my first library card. I was in the second grade and the only student in class who didn't have one. We took a class trip to the Woodhaven Library and after I filled out the form the librarian said I could take out one book. I chose Audobon's Birds of America. She told me it was from the adult section and I wasn't allowed to take those books out yet. The librarian must have felt badly when she saw my crestfallen look because then she told me it would be okay just this one time.

The library became my refuge. A quiet place to read. To think.

Our family couldn't afford encyclopedias so the library is where I did all my research. When my peers were teaching each other all the things they knew about sex – all the wrong things they'd learned on the street - I went to the library and researched and came back with corrections for each of their misconceptions.

I grew up in a two-family house and as soon as each of the three children upstairs were able to read I took them to the library and got them their first library card. I wanted them to be as excited about that building and everything it held as much as I was.

And when I was 16 and my grandfather died and my boyfriend's grandfather died soon after we each bought a book in their names, which were donated to the library.

My home is filled with books and I like owning them so I can re-read them. But I still use the public library all the time because I love the feel of their books and the book covers and the knowledge that this book is one I'm sharing with so many others.

CareneLydia



I remember back in the late seventies to early eighties (I'm not sure of the year) I was in P.S. 60 and there was an arson fire in the library. I think we lost the use of the facility for close to a year before it was reopened. I remember taking the long bus ride to the Richmond Hill branch. It was really out of the way and so many kids were put out of a good resource close by due to this. Some parent's would car pool kids there for reports it was truly out of the way. I could'nt think of my children traveling that distance safely to attend a library, I find it a real crime on the City to close a place that is used for the education of Children. I think Bloomberg needs to look somewhere else to "Trim the Fat" and leave that great resource alone. The Woodhaven Library to close, write across the street from where a Tree Grows In Brooklyn was written, "What Irony".

***Anthony J. Vanaria***  
***Boca Raton, Florida***



I always took my children to the library when they were little. We would walk down Jamaica Ave - of course stopping in Lewis' - and then go take out a bunch of books. It saddens me that the children growing up in Woodhaven today may not have the library to go to anymore. Where are they supposed to go? To instill the love of reading at an early age is to open the door to the love of learning later on.

***Ann Vehstedt Morgado***



My two best Woodhaven memories involve going up Forest Parkway. On weekends, with my Dad, in the car, on the way to Victory Field where he would hit grounders to me. During the week, with my mom, walking, to the Woodhaven library to fetch some books.

***Frank Paul Venis***  
***Chicago, Illinois***

I've been in Woodhaven for almost 20yrs now and I still love going to the library to do a little escaping.I now take my son there and he enjoys the same pleasures I did many yrs ago and still do.

***Sue Pena***



As a kid I lived on Forest Parkway, one block from the library. I spent so many hours there - first downstairs in the children's section and then finally upstairs with the big people. It was there that I learned to love reading, both for pleasure and to get information about anything I was interested in (no computers then!)

Closing the Woodhaven library would be a big loss to the community.

***Mary Newman Coyne***



Please do not close Woodhaven Library! It has been great to be able to go there on Saturdays when my son and I are both off in case he had a project due, this is where we went for the info. I was looking forward to being able to go and start taking books out again to enjoy for myself. Plus, they just changed the compressor for the air conditioner, I know cause my company sold it to the contractor. Keep Woodhaven Library open!

***Debbie Weber Gamble***



The library helped to foster my love of reading, which I now share with my children. It helped to open my eyes to the world beyond my neighborhood. The library sparks children's imagination, and shows them that there are no limits to what they can accomplish. The entire community benefits from the library and the services that they offer.

***Diane Adickes Austria***



I grew up in Woodhaven and lived next door to the library from 5th grade to 12th. My love of books grew over those years thanks to that library. Closing it would do a great disservice to the community of Woodhaven--especially the children who have yet to experience that simple joy. I support the Woodhaven Library.

***Christene Forrester***



I support Woodhaven Library!!! A source of knowledge that you can't take away.

***Jerilynn Kelly***



I grew up in Woodhaven from 1949 to 1963. The library was the first place my parents allowed me to go on my own. My father took me for my first library card and the first book I checked out was Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder -- and have been reading voraciously ever since. I have such a warm feeling for that place. I live in California now but often remember "my library". My family name was Kromer.

***Judy Sparanese***  
***Mission Viejo, California***



I lived in Woodhaven from 1957 until 1974. We were a family of readers and I LOVED the library. When I got my first library card, it was like I had received my drivers license....but I was about 5!! I now work in a library in a Univeristy in PA and am a patron of our local public library - thank you Woodhaven Library for a lifelong journey!

***Colette LaMarche***