



ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL NEWSLETTER

A National Historic Landmark

FALL/WINTER 2014

Library & Music Hall Commemorates Sesquicentennial with Wide Range of Civil War Programming

2015 marks the 150th anniversary of both the end of the Civil War and of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. To mark this milestone, the ACFL&MH has developed its most ambitious programming to date. The ACFL&MH's sesquicentennial programming is made possible through the generous support of Massey Charitable Trust and WesBanco.

ACFL&MH Acquires Rare Collection of Lincoln Photographs

When the Library & Music Hall opened the meticulously restored Espy Post on February 12, 2010 it was accompanied by a mesmerizing exhibit of 100 photographs of Abraham Lincoln. Now thanks to the generosity of Bill and Denise Brown, the benefactors who funded the Espy Post restoration, the ACFL&MH owns this collection.

See "Lincoln Photographs", page 4

Road to Appomattox

For Espy Post Curator Diane Klinefelter, putting together a Civil War symposium is the fruition of a long standing dream. "From the time I learned in late 2008 that the Library & Music Hall was going restore the Espy Post I thought we should do something like this...and now we are!"

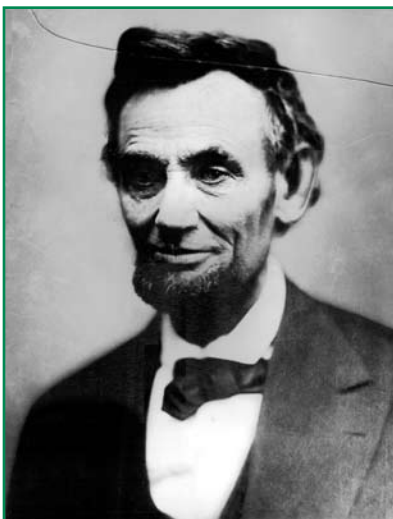
On Saturday, March 7, the ACFL&MH will be hosting "Road to Appomattox."

See "Appomattox", page 6

Congressman Murphy to Narrate Aaron Copland's *A Lincoln Portrait*

Congressman Tim Murphy, Republican from the 18th District, will join the ranks of distinguished actors, statesmen and women and other dignitaries who have taken the podium to narrate Aaron Copland's *A Lincoln Portrait*. The concert, which will be performed by the Allegheny Brass Band and include other works from the Civil War era, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. on Presidents' Day, February 16.

See "A Lincoln Portrait", page 5



Broadway Musical *The Civil War* Caps April Civil War Programming

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall has been offering annual Civil War Living History programming since spring of 2006. Programmatic offerings include speakers, re-enactors, special exhibits, sutlers, a book sale, tours of Chartiers Cemetery and, of course, tours of the Espy Post.

See "Musical", page 7

Turn Up the Heat!



BNY MELLON Presents

Michele Bensen & the Bensen Burners

Saturday January 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Michele Bensen returns to Carnegie Carnegie Hall bringing a little sizzle to ease the bleak mid-winter doldrums.

See article p. 10



Michele Bensen

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2 p.m.—7 p.m.

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Friday

10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m.—5 p.m.

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(Memorial Day to
Labor Day)

Saturday

11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Contacts

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412-276-3456

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ACFL&MH Website & Social Networks

www.carnegiecarnegie.org
Youtube: AndrewCarnegieFree
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A Message to Library & Music Hall Supporters

Dear Friends:

Five years ago on the 201st anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the ACFL&MH reopened the Captain Thomas Espy Post following a meticulous restoration. We had dreams for how this national treasure of a Grand Army of the Republic Post would impact people's understanding of the Civil War and the Library & Music Hall itself.

Those dreams are coming true! As this newsletter makes clear we have extraordinary programming planned for 2015, the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln's assassination: a performance of Aaron Copland's *A Lincoln Portrait*, our first Civil War symposium and a Broadway musical!

And we are going beyond sesquicentennial programming. The ACFL&MH's ability to foster interest in the Civil War grows exponentially with the opening of the new and permanent "Lincoln Gallery." The gallery will display 100 photographs of Abraham Lincoln. The photographs are compelling. Combined with the Espy Post, they will take the Library & Music Hall to a whole new level as a Civil War destination for school children, history enthusiasts and scholars.

The continued generosity of Bill and Denise Brown, which made the acquisition of the Lincoln photographs possible, is transforming the ACFL&MH.

And so too does your generosity – in any amount. Your support helps cover operating and special programming costs, and it brings us that much closer to beginning the interior restoration of the Library itself. Please support us in these efforts.

Thank you, and all best wishes for the holidays and 2015!



Isabel J. Ford
President, Board of Directors



Maggie Forbes
Executive Director

Voces Solis Returns for end of Holidays Concert

Last December was a very busy time at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall (ACFL&MH). In addition to its annual performances of *The Nutcracker*, the Library & Music Hall held its annual benefit, *Lenora Nemetz Brings Broadway to Carnegie Carnegie Hall*, on December 28. There just didn't seem to be time to squeeze in what had become a Carnegie Carnegie Hall tradition, a free holiday concert for the community. So Voces Solis performed in early January, a new tradition was established.

"The concert literally brought me to tears," says ACFL&MH Executive Director Maggie Forbes. The primarily a cappella concert included songs that ranged from medieval carols to contemporary works. "Voces Solis' sound was breathtakingly lovely."

Voces Solis, will perform a free end-of-the-holidays concert at the ACFL&MH on Saturday, January 3 at 2:00 p.m. The concert will be followed by a dessert reception.

Voces Solis is an offshoot of The Summer Singers, which prior to last year's ACFL&MH concert, had confined their performances to that season. The group is made up of professional musicians, music educators and singers who performed with elite choirs in college, but have had little opportunity to perform since graduating. The Summer Singers' goal is "to elevate our own standards of musicianship while rekindling our love for music making, enabling us to pass this fire on to our students and fellow musicians."

Becki Toth is one of the co-founders of The Summer Singers, a choral group that marked its fourth anniversary last summer. Toth is best known to ACFL&MH audiences as one of the standout singer/actors of the Library & Music Hall's resident theater company, Stage 62. Since joining the group in 1997, she has been involved with 33 Stage 62 productions: as a leading lady, as a director or as a member of the ensemble.

Voces Solis' free Yuletide Concert is a great opportunity to introduce children to live choral music and to the Music Hall. The intermission-less concert will last about an hour.

A Grand Night for Singing!

Menard Presents: Broadway's Other Steves...(via Pittsburgh)

Under the direction of Rob James, musical director Becki Toth and pianist Matt Brown ACFL&MH resident theater company Stage 62 and sixteen of its finest vocalists entranced its audience with the songs of Broadway titans Stephen Flaherty and Stephen Schwartz. Between them, Flaherty (Dormont native) and Schwartz (CMU alumni) have written songs to beloved Broadway hits that include *Rocky*, *Ragtime*, *Seussical*, *Wicked*, *Godspell* and *Pippin* to name a few....

Thanks to the support of very generous sponsors, hundreds of donors and attendees, a terrific event committee, a fabulous performance by Stage 62 and the always delicious food provided by Michael Lench catering, *Broadway's Other Steves* raised \$50,000 and showcased the Library & Music Hall at its finest.

Sponsors

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*Special Thanks to
MediaQuest.*

Please see page 5 for numbered captions.



LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL COMMEMORATES SESQUICENTENNIAL



The Lincoln Gallery, from page 1

Bill Brown said simply, “I know the power of these photographs. Combined with the Espy Post, they will make the Library & Music Hall a truly compelling Civil War experience. Denise and I are proud to do this.”

The photographs will be on display indefinitely in the newly named Lincoln Gallery—previously the Reception Hall — adjacent to the Espy Post. The Lincoln Gallery opens on President’s Day, February 16, 2015.

This collection of 100 photographs of Abraham Lincoln ranges from an 1847 daguerreotype to the only photograph of Lincoln in his coffin, taken on April 24, 1865. The original photographs were taken by Matthew Brady, Alexander Gardner and Alexander Hessler among others. The collection belonged to Norman Schumm, a fine arts photographer by avocation (and a Navy pilot, then a corporate pilot for PNC by vocation). He had worked with Stefan Lorant in his photographer capacity on three editions (1975, 1980 and 1999) of this landmark book, *Pittsburgh: The Story of an All American City*. Not too long before his death in 1997, Lorant had contacted Schumm to develop photographs from his collection of copy negatives from his book *Lincoln: A Picture Story of His Life*. Lorant intended these photographs for an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Mr. Shumm describes the collection as “one of two of a kind.” Prior to their showing at the ACFL&MH five years ago, the photos had only been shown, unframed, for one day in 2009 to Mr. Shumm’s colleagues at the Photograph Section of The Academy of Science and Art of Pittsburgh.

ACFL&MH Executive Director Maggie Forbes had contacted Mr. Shumm at the end of the summer about again borrowing the photographs, and learned that the photographs were for sale. “We could not be more thrilled to own these photographs, or by the Browns’ generosity! Lincoln is one of the most revered Americans. This exhibit will resonate deeply with young and old alike.”

Espy Post Curator Diane Klinefelter echoes Forbes’ enthusiasm. “What a difference this will make to attracting people to learn more about the Civil War! The Espy Post remains our historic treasure, but the Lincoln Gallery will be a magnet for attracting new visitors. I’m already thinking about all the complimentary programming we can develop!”

The Lincoln Gallery is free and open to the public during regular Library hours. The Espy Post, also free, is open every Saturday from 11 to 3 or by special arrangement.



A Lincoln Portrait, from page 1

Copland composed *A Lincoln Portrait* in 1942, during the dark, frightening years of World War II. The haunting orchestral score incorporates some of Lincoln's most stirring oratory, with the narrator reading over the music. A very short list of *A Lincoln Portrait* narrators includes Gregory Peck, Paul Newman, Margaret Thatcher, Walter Cronkite, James Taylor, Danny Glover and Neil Armstrong.

Congressman Murphy is a student of the Civil War who championed the Espy Post long before the capital campaign to restore the Library & Music Hall began in late 2003. "It is an honor to collaborate with the Allegheny Brass Band in performance of Aaron Copland's *A Lincoln Portrait* on President's Day," said Congressman Murphy. "This event will be made extra special, as it also marks the opening of the permanent Lincoln Gallery at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall. I couldn't be more grateful to be part of this momentous occasion as we honor President Lincoln with this beautiful piece of music."

Copland's piece was performed at the Music Hall in 2010 as part of the special programming surrounding the restoration of the Espy Post. Pittsburgh actor David Conrad narrated for Duquesne University's Wind Symphony.

Allegheny Brass Band, now under the baton of Stephen Baldanzi, has been performing since 1984 when a brass band movement swept the United States. The all-volunteer ensemble has 31 members drawn from some of the finest professional and amateur brass players throughout the region and from all walks of life: teacher;

surgeon; bus driver.

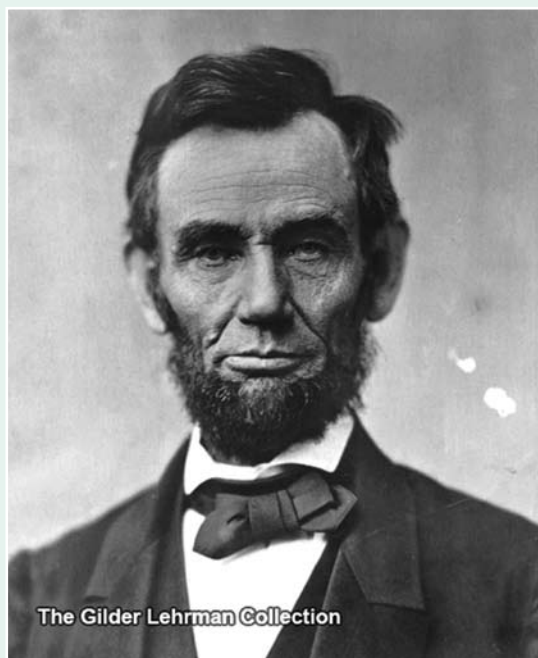
Baldanzi, a cornet player, says the full program, which will last about an hour, is not yet determined. "But I know we will also perform Jerry Bilik's *American Civil War Fantasy*." February's concert will be the Allegheny Brass Band's first performance in the Music Hall; Baldanzi has been playing with — and frequently conducting — Stage 62's orchestra since its 1996 production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. "I love this Hall!"

"We could not think of a more fitting program to celebrate the opening of the Lincoln Gallery or to mark President's Day," says Executive Director Maggie Forbes. "Sorry, George, this year it is going to be all about Abe!"

"A Lincoln Portrait" and other works from the Civil War era will be performed at 7:00 p.m. on Presidents Day, February 16. Tickets are \$15; \$5 for children 12 and under. The performance will be followed by a dessert reception in the new Lincoln Gallery, which will also be open from 2:00-7:00 prior to the performance. For tickets or information visit www.carnegiecarnegie.org or call 412-276-3456, x8.



Congressman Tim Murphy



Captions for photos from Broadway's Steves on page 3.

1. Show-stopper Cara Walkowiak with Chris Martin, Chad Elder, Rob James, Erich Lascek
2. Event Co-chairs John & Mel Luke, John Kosko, Event Committee
3. Adam Kessler, Pam and Seth Pearlman (he's Menard President & CEO) Lisa Kessler, Abe Bretton
4. Bill and Georgia Manby, Sharon Carothers, Anita LaLumere
5. Stage 62 Ensemble

6. Jan Chadwick, Augusta Kairys, Clare Goetz, Katie Goetz Kosko, Event Committee
7. Doris Weir, Haywood Vincent, Carnegie Councilman Mike Sarsfield
8. Event sponsors Ash Comer & Greg Romeo
9. Barb Becker, Espys Post Curator Diane Klinefelter, ACFL&MH President Isabel Ford
10. ACFL&MH Treasurer Bob and Valerie Moll, Robert Taylor
11. Curtain Call

Road to Appomattox, from page 1

The full day symposium will focus on the end of the Civil War and oblique aspects of Lincoln's assassination. The day's programming is geared towards educators, historians and Civil War enthusiasts. "We will be going into more depth than we do with our annual April Civil War Living History Day, or our Second Saturday Civil War Series," said Ms. Klinefelter, "but we don't want to scare anyone off. If you think you're interested, give it a try."

The symposium features two talks on Lincoln and two on the War's end.

- 9:00 a.m. **Remembering Lincoln by Those Who Knew Him**

Shawn J. Parry-Giles, PhD., University of Maryland

- 10:30 a.m. **Fall of Petersburg**

Kristopher D. White, Author, Co-Founder Emerging Civil War

- 1:30 p.m. **Bennett Place and Surrender at Appomattox**

Bert Dunkerly, Richmond National Battle Field

- 3:00 p.m. **The War Within: Mary Todd Lincoln's Triumph and Tragedy as First Lady**

Curator, Mahoning Valley Historical Society

Ms. Klinefelter has designed the day to be relaxed and allow plenty of time for questions and answers, chances to tour the Espy Post and Lincoln Gallery and "necessities." The day includes a catered brown bag lunch and time for author book signings.

Local historian Kris White, the very well received keynote speaker at the ACFL&MH's 2014 Civil War Living History day, was a tremendous resource in developing the symposium and lining up speakers. "Kris is helping us take Civil War programming to a whole new level," Klinefelter said. "This symposium itself will lead us in new directions."

Online full and half day registration available for "Road to Appomattox" at www.carnegiecarnegie.org. For additional information call 412-276-2346, x9.

*McLean House,
Appomattox Court House, VA April 1865
Timothy H. O'Sullivan, photographer*

*Photograph from the main eastern theater
of war, the siege of Petersburg,
June 1864-April 1865.*

*LC-DIG-cwpb-03957
(digital file from original neg.)*

*Library of Congress Prints and
Photographs Division Washington, D.C.
20540 USA*



Musical, from page 1

This year's program will include all that, plus the new Lincoln Gallery — and, of course, a Broadway musical!

Performances of *WesBanco Presents: The Civil War* will bookend the ACFL&MH's April 11, 2015 Civil War Living History Day. There will be three performances only of this moving musical treatment of a nation torn apart by war. Described as a "dramatic theatrical concert," *The Civil War* incorporates fictionalized diaries, letters and firsthand accounts from ordinary citizens as well as actual historic writings from Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglas and Walt Whitman. *The Civil War*, with a score by Frank Wildhorn and book and lyrics by Jack Wildhorn, Gregory Boyd and Jack Murphy, opened on Broadway in 1999, and earned five Tony nominations.

The Civil War does not incorporate a traditional narrative, but rather a series of musical vignettes highlighting the searing drama of war. The score includes gospel, country, rock and folk motifs.

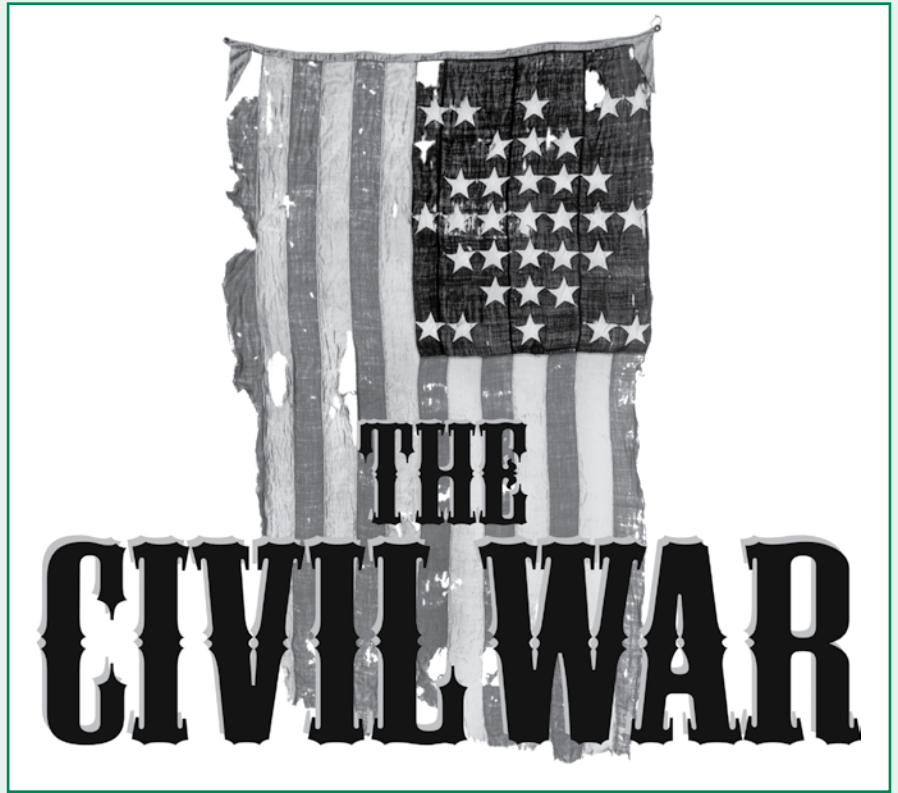
Stephen Santa, who has directed off-Broadway, at many venues in Pittsburgh and three runaway hits for Stage 62 (*The Full Monty*, *Avenue Q* and *The Producers*), will direct *WesBanco Presents The Civil War*.

"I've always been drawn to this musical because of its sweeping melodies and the way the story dramatizes the tragic events of the War. This stirring production will feature a company of over 50 local actors and singers, who will bring these historic events to life in a truly unforgettable way. It's not to be missed."

"When Steve said he'd love to do it — when he said that we *could* do it — I was exhilarated!" said Executive Director Maggie Forbes. Espy Post Curator Diane Klinefelter had seen a performance of *The Civil War* at Ford's Theater and was equally enthusiastic.

The ACFL&MH expects that *The Civil War* will attract not only Civil War enthusiasts but musical theater enthusiasts as well. The ACFL&MH will have the Espy Post and the Lincoln Gallery open an hour prior to performances. "We will be using the whole building for programming," says Forbes. "Some of those theater-goers will come back for future Civil War programming and for future Music Hall performances. We'll have to make sure they all have library cards!"

WesBanco Presents: The Civil War will be performed on April 10 and 11 at 8:00 p.m., and April 12 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00. For tickets and information about the ACFL&MH Annual Civil War Living History Day please visit www.carnegiecarnegie.org.




WesBanco

April 11, 2015 Civil War Living History Day

The ACFL&MH is planning a multi-faceted roster this year that will include ongoing special tours of the Espy Post, re-enactors, speakers, performances, special exhibits, and tours of the Civil War plot at Chartiers Cemetery. Put April 11 on your calendar and stay tuned to www.carnegiecarnegie.org for program details and updates.

Programming is made possible through the generosity of the Massey Charitable Trust and WesBanco.



LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL COMMEMORATES SESQUICENTENNIAL

Once Secret Masonic Initiation Rite Performed at Music Hall

The ACFL&MH's Second Saturday Civil War Series resumes after a holiday break on Saturday, January 10, 2015 when members of the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh will perform the "Lincoln Degree" in the Music Hall. The "Lincoln Degree" is the former 26th Degree of Scottish Rite Masonry for the Northern Masonic jurisdiction of the United States of America. The rite has been decommissioned and released for public viewing.

Masonry or Freemasonry is a fraternity that traces its symbolic origins to the times of the building of King Solomon's Temple, c. 587 BC. The modern version of Masonry dates to end of the 14th century. The first American Masonic Constitution dates to the early 17th century. Core Masonic values included fraternal love/brotherhood, love of country, love of humanity, honor, integrity and reverence for a supreme being.

Masons were sorely tested during the Civil War, as was the country. Masonic Brothers, who vow never to hurt each other, were forced to fight each other under their given flags. There are numerous documented cases of "Brother aiding Brother" across the Blue/Gray line, especially wounded or imprisoned brothers, because of the fraternal bond they shared.

Donald W. Boehm, 33rd Degree Mason and Commander in Chief of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Pittsburgh has organized the January 10 program. He met with Executive Director Maggie Forbes and Espy Post Curator Diane Klinefelter in August, and was struck by the strong Masonic design of the Espy Post. (Ms. Klinefelter has since confirmed that John A. Logan, the third and one of the most influential Commanders in Chief of the GAR, was a Mason.)



The "Lincoln Degree" is a three-scene mini-play, that runs about half an hour. It features Lincoln, a presidential aide, a field hospital doctor, a young Southern boy and his older brother, who is a wounded and captured Confederate officer. It teaches the lesson that Masonry was a house undivided, even during our nation's worst internal conflict. Although a fictional rendition, it incorporates historic Lincoln readings and is set in the context of historically documented facts. It celebrates both American history and core Masonic values.

Mr. Boehm will precede the "Lincoln Degree" performance with a brief explanation of Masonry. Light refreshments will be served in the Reception Hall following the performance, at which time Mr. Boehm and his Brothers and fellow performers will answer any questions. The program is free and open to the public.

Local Author's Book A Helpful Guide

Thornburg resident John Barber is a longtime supporter of the Library & Music Hall. Indeed, with his wife Dolores, he introduced Mezzo Soprano Marianne Cornetti to the Music Hall. Marianne performed two benefit concerts for the ACFL&MH, including one that the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette named "one of the top ten classical performances of the year."

But he's been an ophthalmologist for lots longer. Dr. Barber has recently published his second book, *Hey, Doc! What's Wrong with My Eye*. His first book *The Joy of Medical Practice: Forty Years of Interesting Patients* reminisced about the doctor/patient relationship.

He will talk about his book Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 in the Reception Hall.

After decades of being asked at parties or the grocery store to address friends' – and strangers' – concerns about their eyes, Dr. Barber decided to give people a general guide. "I really wanted them to recognize symptoms that range from minor irritations to cause for a trip to the retinal specialist or emergency room." His book includes a special section on eye problems in children, who are always so good at recognizing, let alone describing that something is wrong.

Dr. Barber's free talk will be followed by a book signing and light refreshments.



Smitten With the ACFL&MH

by Geoff Zak, ACFL&MH Music Hall /Rental Manager



Despite the fact that I am a newlywed, I must confess: I have a new love. Over the past five months, I have fallen in love with the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall in my new position of Music Hall/ Rental Manager.

What's not to like? This 113-year-old library and music hall boasts a directly endowed provenance from Andrew

Carnegie, intricate Italianate architecture, and the most intact Civil War-era Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post in the nation.

That said, despite having a collection of 24,000 items with 39,000 visits per year, library does not adequately describe the facility. As the Rental Manager, I'd be remiss not to note that the ACFL&MH also houses a reception hall (2,360 sq. ft.), a multi-use studio (2,653 sq. ft.), and a 423-seat historic music hall. The revenue from these assets serves to not only offset our yearly operating budget, but also to facilitate the community involvement and artistic programming that advances the ACFL&MH mission.

Perhaps what enamors me the most about the ACFL&MH rental spaces is the versatility of each room, and our ability to customize each space for patrons' needs. A sampling of this year's events includes: community classes, theatrical performances, academic programs, recitals, corporate training sessions, elementary school orientation, cocktail receptions, fundraisers, weddings, speaker events, musical recording sessions, class reunions, and more. Next spring we look forward to hosting the premier screening of the *Italian Film Festival USA- Pittsburgh* on March 26 and the *Women Read/Women Write* book festival on March 29. Both are new events to the Music Hall.

I have a soft spot for weddings right now. The versatility of our Studio was best exemplified in September by Matt Taylor and Michelle Smith, Cincinnati-based entertainers. They returned to Michelle's hometown for their "Do- It-Yourself," Harry Potter-themed wedding. The Studio really worked for them.

Our historic facility is not without its challenges, and like a new husband learning to fold the laundry correctly, we still have work to do. We must continue vital renovations to our Music Hall, increase lighting and technical capacity in all of our spaces, and establish new funding to expand our own cultural programming.

The ACFL&MH will always be a work in progress. As it evolves, you can make your memorable family or organizational event part Andrew Carnegie's lasting legacy.

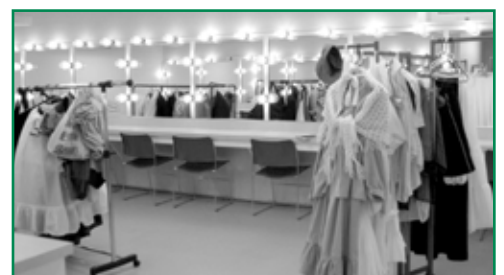
If you are interested in renting our facility, please contact me at 412-276-3456 x6. Booking is recommended well in advance.



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SHIMPENO PHOTOGRAPHY



Turn Up the Heat!

BNY Mellon Presents Michele Bensen & the Bensen Burners

Football is anathema to arts and cultural programming. “You just can’t fight it in Pittsburgh,” laughs ACFL&MH Executive Director Maggie Forbes, who always checks the Steelers’ schedule before scheduling a special performance.

Which is why Forbes has had her eye on the weekend between the last NFL playoff game and the Super Bowl. “We’d like to carve out that weekend without NFL football as one that belongs to Carnegie Carnegie Hall. We can’t think of a better performer to end the ‘Bye Weekend Blues’ than Pittsburgh jazz great Michele Bensen.”

Michele Bensen is a standout jazz vocalist, a hometown girl (since age 6) who has been singing professionally since she was 18. Her career has taken her up and down the East Coast and to the Caribbean, and her talents are widely recognized. She was inducted into The Pittsburgh Jazz Hall of Fame in 2009 and, in 2013, was the first of only two women honored by the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild as a Living Jazz Legend.

Ms. Bensen has sung at Carnegie Carnegie Hall once before. She was a last minute substitute for indisposed vocalist Maureen Budway in *BNY Mellon Jazz Presents A Gala Tribute to Joe Negri* at the Music Hall in 2011. There was instant chemistry between her and Carnegie Carnegie Hall’s superb acoustics and intimate historic character.

She has since been a headliner at the last two *Carnegie Celebrates Jazz* events in September. Michele was part of a long and impressive roster of performers this fall, and sang a short set that brought the audience to its feet. Forbes thought it was time that Bensen had a night to herself. “I contacted her and she said she’d love to come back to the Music Hall!”

The stage will belong to Ms. Bensen for January’s concert. She will perform with featured musicians Robbie Kline on sax and flute, “Catch 22’s” gifted guitarist Ken Karsh and

pianist, bassist and percussionist to be determined.

Ms. Bensen will open with a 45-minute set and take a break. Wine, beer and snacks will be for sale in the Studio before the concert and during intermission. Ms. Bensen & the Bensen Burners will return after intermission for a longer set. “We’ll just see how long it goes,” promises Bensen.

Turn Up the Heat! BNY Mellon Presents Michele Bensen & the Bensen Burners takes place on Saturday,

January 24 at 8:00 p.m. The doors open at 7:00. Tickets are \$20, available at www.carnegiecarnegie.org or at the door. For information call 412-276-3456, x6.

The concert is the second in the ACFL&MH’s Listen Locally series, which is underwritten by Papa J’s Ristorante.



Joe Negri and Michelle Bensen in the Music Hall in 2011.

Hard Days, Hard Nights, Pat DiCesare Has Stories to Tell



Pat DiCesare grew up with nine siblings in Trafford, PA. His father, an Italian immigrant, put a lien on the family home to get Pat the \$5,000 guarantee needed to bring four musicians from Liverpool to Pittsburgh.

Fifty years ago in September 1964, DiCesare and his mentor Tim Tormey partnered to bring the Beatles to the Civic Arena. When Tormey left for Hollywood to work with Dick Clark, DiCesare continued the concert business on his own, acquiring exclusive leases on the Civic Arena, Three Rivers Stadium and the 3,700 seat Syria Mosque. He partnered with Rich Engler (a drummer with “Grains of Sand”) in 1973 to form DiCesare Engler Productions. The company turned the Stanley Theatre into a top-grossing auditorium before selling it to the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in 1984, and became one of the top-grossing concert promoters in the country.

The list of performers that DiCesare promoted includes the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, The Who, Janis Joplin, Chicago, Bruce Springsteen, Elton John, Simon and Garfunkel.

Mr. DiCesare will talk about his experiences as a concert promoter on Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 in the Music Hall. The free talk will be followed by a book signing *Hard Days, Hard Nights* and light refreshments.

Hitchhikers Guide to the Library

Occasional Book Reviews by Melissa Beall



What If?

by Randall Munroe

“Technetium is not a hat.”

If you just giggled, cocked your head, or became even a little bit curious reading the phrase above, then Randall Munroe’s *What If?* is the book for you.

Billed as “serious scientific answers to absurd hypothetical questions,” Munroe’s first literary effort is clever, funny, and approachable all at the same time.

It might, however, be unfair to say that the book is Munroe’s first literary effort; while it is his first foray into writing an ink-on-paper book, Munroe is probably most familiar as the creator of the popular webcomic *xkcd* (www.xkcd.com), “a webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language,” as the site’s header proudly declaims. The comic launched September 2005, so to say that Randall Munroe has no experience writing for an audience would be nothing short of a lie. In addition to the site’s pictorial format, Munroe has always included his personal blog, and indeed, the idea for the *What If?* book grew out of what was originally a segment on the website, also titled, “What If?” where Munroe would take questions from the comic’s readers and try to answer them to the best of his abilities, answers which would sometimes require, to Munroe’s own admission, days or even weeks of hard research and extensive calculations.

Just what exactly are Randall Munroe’s abilities, then, that he is able to answers such absurd questions so scientifically? Graduating from Christopher Newport University in 2006 with a degree in physics, Munroe went on to work as an independently contracted roboticist for NASA — yes, that NASA — until he was able to support himself on the sales of *xkcd* merchandise alone. Munroe also tours the lecture circuit and has given speeches at such notable locations as Google’s Googleplex in California. Yes, that Google.

So if you’ve ever found yourself wondering things like, “What would happen if you made an actual periodic table of elements out of actual elements,” or “What would happen if you gathered together a mole, that is, $6.02214129(27) \times 10^{23}$, of moles, that is, the small furry mammal,” and you’ve wished that someone could explain these answers to you in simple, exceedingly relatable ways, then pick up *What If?* by Randall Munroe and wonder no more.

For the full version of this review visit www.carnegiecarnegie.org.

Making the Most of YOUR Library



Now that the chill of autumn has made its way here, it’s time to come inside AC Free and enjoy the warmth of our end of year programming. We have a few fun events that we are planning that should be a good time for all ages. We have had the honor and pleasure of

having JoLynne Dougherty step in as our children’s programmer, and in the past year we have enjoyed watching her develop and implement many wonderful events for the kids and parents in our community.

In September we had a Pirates party and we just held a *Peanuts* party, as in Charlie Brown and Snoopy. There was a short movie screened in the Music Hall, story time, some fun crafts and games and snacks served after all the fun concluded. Parties loosely take their inspiration from all the neat materials one can check out at the Library.

Around Christmas time we normally have a tree lighting/ornament decorating party that caters to all ages. But this year we are changing it up a bit and teaming with Carnegie Borough for an “Carnegie Celebrates the Season” on Saturday, December 6 from 12:00 to 2:00. We have planned to do some stories and songs in the Music Hall, making some ornaments (one to take home and one to hang on the Library’s tree), some snacks and perhaps even a visit from jolly St. Nick himself. This celebration should prove to be a ton of fun for all the members of your family and we can’t wait to see you there!

As we continue on into the New Year, JoLynne and I have begun to brainstorm about programs and parties for January and onward. So far we are batting around some ideas like a *Polar Express* party or a *Boxtrolls* party. If you have any party/program ideas for us to consider, please do not hesitate to contact JoLynne or myself and tell us what you think! We are both just a phone call or an email away, and my office door is open.

As always, you can call the circ desk, check our website or our Facebook page to find out what we have in store for you in the future. Have a wonderful fall and hope to see you soon!

Carnegie Celebrates the Season!

Crafts, stories, songs, ornament-making, refreshments and — a visit from Santa!

Saturday, December 6, 12:00 noon — 2:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Reception Hall

A collaboration between the Library & Music Hall and Carnegie Borough’s Carol Covi Children’s Events Committee.

Upcoming Programming

Some of the Happenings at the Library & Music Hall. www.carnegiecarnegie.com is the best place to find the most current information on upcoming programming at the ACFL&MH. Below is a list of performances booked to date. Please visit www.carnegiecarnegie.org or contact the presenting organizations for the most up to date information. Information is subject to change.

In the Music Hall



Evita: Stage 62. November 13-15, 20-22. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 pm. Sunday at 2:00pm. \$18 Adults, \$15 Students/Seniors. www.stage62.org, 412-429-6262.

The Nutcracker: Carnegie Performing Arts Center. December 5-7, 12-14, Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm. Sunday at 2pm. \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors and \$8 for groups of 10 or more. Tickets available at door. www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com, 412-279-8887.

Snowed In: The Musical: Accelerando Music Conservatory. Friday, December 19, at 7pm. Sunday, December 12, at 2pm. Tickets available at the door. \$15 general admission, \$10 for students and seniors. Email: accelerandomusicconservatory@gmail.com

Put a Little Holiday In Your Heart (Talent Showcase): Accelerando Music Conservatory and PA Cinderella Pageant. Saturday, December 20 at 6pm. Tickets available at the door. \$15 general admission, \$10 for students and seniors. tanyanicole82@yahoo.com.



Voces Solis. Sunday, January 4, at 2pm. The ACFL&MH's holiday gift to the community. A reception follows the concert. FREE and open to the public. www.carnegiecarnegie.org, 412-276-3456, x6.

The Lincoln Degree: Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh (Freemasons). ACFL&MH "Second Saturday Civil War Series." Saturday, January 10 at 1pm. Light refreshments follow the program. Free and open to the public. www.carnegiecarnegie.org, 412-276-3456 x9.

Listen Locally: BNY Mellon Presents: Michele Bensen and the Bensen Burners. Saturday, January 24 at 7:30 pm. \$20 general admission. www.carnegiecarnegie.org, 412-276-3456 x6.

Yo Vikings!: Stage 62. February 6-8 and 13-15. Fridays at 7:30pm. Saturdays at 12pm and 4pm. Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$10 all ages. www.stage62.org, 412-429-6262.

A Lincoln Portrait: Allegheny Brass Band, with special guest, Congressman Tim Murphy. Monday, February 16 at 7pm. \$15 adults, \$5 children 12 and under. www.carnegiecarnegie.org, 412-276-3456 x6.



The Mikado: The Pittsburgh Savoyards. March 6-8, 12-15, Thursday-Saturday at 8pm. Sunday at 2:30pm. www.pittsburghsavoyards.org, 412-734-8467.

Madeline: Carnegie Performing Arts Center. March 20-22, Friday and Saturday at 8pm, Sunday at 2pm. Adults \$15, students and seniors \$12. www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com, 412-279-8887.

Italian Film Festival USA-Pittsburgh: Organized by the Italian Program at the University of Pittsburgh. Thursday, March 26 at 7pm. Free and open to the public. www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu or www.italianfilmfests.org.

Listen Locally: Freya String Quartet. Saturday, March 28 at 7:30pm. \$15 general admission. www.symbioticcollusion.com/freya-string-quartet, 412-276-3456 x6.

Women Read/Women Write Book Festival. Sunday, March 29 at 11:30am-5:30pm. 30+ authors, sales, book signing, seminars, workshops, food. www.womenreadwomenwrite.com.

WesBanco Presents: The Civil War. A Broadway Musical about the searing drama of war. April 10-12, Friday and Saturday at 8pm. Tickets are \$25. www.carnegiecarnegie.org, 412-276-3456 x6.

Listen Locally: Duo Cieli. Guitarist John Marcinizyn and Flautist Tara Yaney perform both traditional as well as contemporary pieces. Thursday, April 30 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$15. www.johnmarcinizyn.com, 412-276-3456, x6.

25th Anniversary One-Act Play Festival: A benefit revue for the Pittsburgh New Works Festival. Friday, May 1 at 8pm. Cocktail reception to follow. Ticket information TBA. www.pittsburghnewworks.org.

Next to Normal: Stage 62. May 8-10, 15-17. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 pm. Sunday at 2:00pm. \$18 Adults, \$15 Students/Seniors. www.stage62.org, 412-429-6262.

Catch A Rising Star: Carnegie Performing Arts Center. Spring student showcase. May 30-31. Saturday at 8pm, and Sunday at 2pm.. Adults \$15, students and seniors \$12. www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com, 412.279.8887.

The Drowsy Chaperone: Stage 62. July 16-19, 23-26. Thursday through Saturday at 8pm. Sunday at 2pm. \$18 Adults, \$15 Students/Seniors. www.stage62.org, 412-429-6262.



OTIS JAMES

Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall's Campaign Contributors

*Heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, groups and foundations who generously contributed more than \$100,000 to the Library & Music Hall since the spring newsletter. * Indicates more than one gift in this time.*

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Many people give gifts in memory of or in honor of a very special person or occasion.

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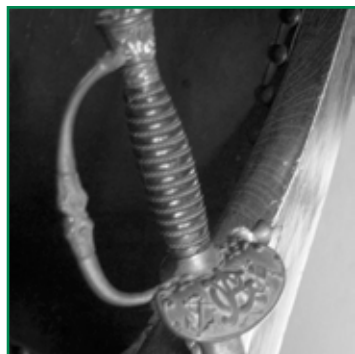
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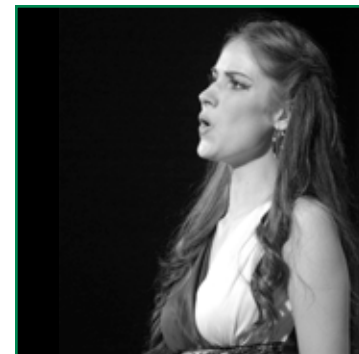


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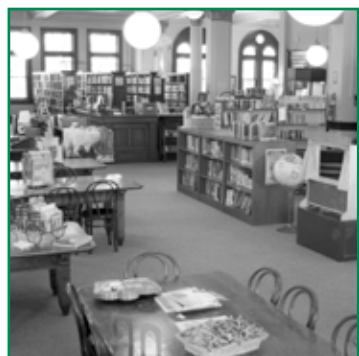


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Days of Giving

Turns out the May Day of giving was following by an Arts Day of Giving in October. In May, to some extent in response to our newsletter appeal to long time stakeholders, 62 people gave nearly \$7,500 plus a 17% match from The Pittsburgh Foundation.

Kenneth & Jan Bowman
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Vicky Brilmyer
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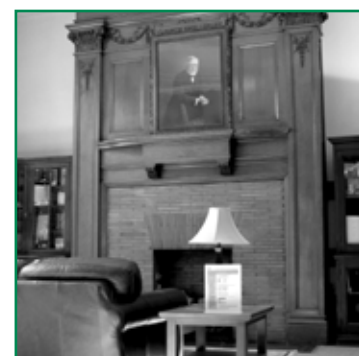


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Then Unexpectedly...Arts Day of Giving Donors

The following donors (plus 14 anonymous givers) contributed more than \$6,100 to the ACFL&MH on October 2. Their generosity elicited an additional 23% match from The Pittsburgh Foundation. Not only were these gifts unsolicited by the ACFL&MH – wow! – but most of the donors are first time givers.

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Women Read, Women Write

The Carnegie Carnegie will be hosting its first-ever book festival. Women Read/Women Write, Pennsylvania's largest women-oriented book festival, will be bringing their day-long event to the Carnegie on Sunday, March 29, from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm. Over forty national and local authors in the areas of literary fiction, nonfiction, historical fiction, mystery, romance, self-help, science fiction, and women's fiction are expected including Kathleen George, Madeline Hunter, Nancy Martin, and Teri Coyne.

According to WRWW co-founder Gwyn Cready, author of *Just in Time for a Highlander*, "The Women Read/Women Write book festival brings women and authors together to celebrate the books women love to read." Meredith Mileti, WRWW co-founder and author of *Aftertaste: A Novel in Five Courses*, adds, "You know the magic you experience at a book club? The talking, the laughing, the insatiable love of books? That's the magic we wanted to recreate at Women Read/Women Write."

Attendees will listen to four panel discussions, including one on the impact of *Outlander* on the romance genre and TV. Between panels, attendees can buy books, talk to authors and get autographs, shop the vendor tables including Sabika, and visit the outdoor food trucks including Pittsburgh Mac N Gold. The \$10 admission includes the panel discussions and entrance to the author and vendor areas. Two writing seminars are available at an additional price. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit womenreadwomenwrite.com. Tickets will also be available at the door on the day of the event.

