



ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL NEWSLETTER

A National Historic Landmark

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Carnegie SWINGS!

Fresh Retro Comes to the Library & Music Hall

Maggie Forbes, Executive Director

The annual benefit is the Library & Music Hall's night to shine! That's when our event committee, board, staff and performers pull out all the stops to ensure a memorable evening. The ACFL&MH's one major fundraiser of the year needs to be successful. Just as critically, though, the benefit turns a spotlight on the entire historic facility. Ticket prices are higher than usual; food and drink is plentiful and fabulous. But the annual benefit models what the Library & Music Hall is capable of doing on a day in and day out basis.

This year's benefit takes place on Saturday, September 28. Don't miss it!

It also takes place as Carnegie Borough celebrates its 125th anniversary. There is no benefit "mold," but 2019 seemed the year to break it!

Reggie Watkins is a Carnegie resident and trombonist whose talent and commitment to sharing his love of music lights up stages around the globe—as well as around town. I ran into him last summer on one of his visits to the Library with his kids. He mentioned an idea he had for a performance. Even in casual conversation it sounded like a mold-breaker... Reggie proposed *Carnegie SWINGS!*

Reggie Watkins has toured the world many times over with artists like trumpet phenom Maynard Ferguson, pop music

sensation Jason Mraz and currently tours with the wildly popular Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox.

Carnegie SWINGS! takes its inspiration from Postmodern Jukebox. Fortunately, Music Hall Director

Melanie Paglia is music savvy and was immediately excited by what Reggie proposed. *Carnegie SWINGS!* celebrates vintage music, dance and style from across the spectrum of Jazz and popular song. The performance features a sampling of classics and rarities from the "Great American Songbook" as well as Reggie's wonderful treatments of modern songs through a vintage lens.

The "fresh retro" parallels between *Carnegie SWINGS!* and the Library & Music Hall resonate. Our historic facility is the everyday backdrop for 21st century services, programs and performances. Staff make every effort to respond to changing community needs to keep services relevant.

Reggie's arrangements of contemporary tunes in Jazz Age-style are pure alchemy! As musical director and arranger he has prepared a blend of vintage and fresh, performed by the best. Pittsburgh's own Boilermaker Jazz Band is renowned for bringing new life and verve to classic Jazz Age music— 20s – 40s. On September 28, the Boilermakers will perform with



Alex MacDonald

See "Carnegie SWINGS!", page 3

We need to hear from you!

Our Library is participating in Allegheny County Library Association's "Libraries and Community Responsiveness" initiative. As libraries across the country rethink their roles and how best meet community needs, one constant emerges: *To decide what role the library should play in a community, ask the community.* We're asking! Your feedback will help us develop community-driven programs and services. Please complete a short survey at CarnegieCarnegie.org/Survey/ or pick one up at the circulation desk.

ACFL&MH Board of Trustees

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Library Hours

Monday

2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Tues., Wed., Thurs.

10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Friday

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday Closed

Summer hours

(Memorial Day to
Labor Day)

Saturday

11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Contacts

Phone: 412-276-3456

Fax: 412-276-9472

ACFL&MH Staff

Executive Director
Maggie Forbes, x8

Library Director
Mary Menk, x12

Music Hall Director
Melanie Paglia, x6

**Espy Post Curator/
Social Historian**
Diane Klinefelter, x9

**Assistant Library
Director/Facility
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Nate Wyrick, x5

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Katie Byerly, x7

ACFL&MH Website & Social Networks

www.CarnegieCarnegie.org

Find us on Facebook:

@CarnegieCarnegie and

@Captain-Thomas-Espy-GAR-
Post-153

Dear Friends:

We haven't printed a spring/summer issue of this newsletter since 2017. Finding a solution to last year's mudslide onto Williams Way took so long that publication would have nudged into the fall/winter issue of our biannual newsletter.

The complicated remediation work to stabilize the steep bluff between ACFL&MH property and Williams Way was completed last December. New trees and shrubs will be planted to replace those that had to be removed during the remediation. But not until Library Park is complete.

We wish we could tell you that would be this fall. But stabilizing the hillside not only added \$185,000 to the cost of Library Park. Just as critically, it derailed the Park's forward momentum.

Eyes on the prize! No part of the ambitious campaign to restore and revitalize our Library & Music Hall – launched in late 2003 – has generated more public excitement than Library Park. It drew Governor Wolf to the ACFL&MH in March, when he cited Library Park as an outstanding example of what his *Restore Pennsylvania* initiative would address. Shoulder to the wheel! We will get Library Park back on track.

In the meantime, as you can read in these pages, we are proud to report that there is no let up on the vibrancy and variety of Library & Music Hall programming.

Your generosity and support helps ensure no reversal of that remarkable and most important forward momentum.

Thank you.

Isabel Ford

President, ACFL&MH Board of Trustees

Maggie Forbes

Executive Director

And Away She Goes!

Lexie Jolly remembers exactly when she started working at the Library: September 6, 2016. She just turned 15, and recalls feeling a combination of excited and anxious about her first day on her first job. Lexie's recollection about her earliest memories of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library are a little vaguer. She and her family moved to Carnegie when she was two. Her mom, Chrissy Best, made sure that the Library was always part of Lexi's and eventually younger brother Nate's lives.

Lexie turns 18 in August and will be heading off to her first choice school, Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. She plans to major in English and Creative Writing. Allegheny wooed the soon to be Carlynton graduate with a persuasive scholarship.

Lexie's favorite author is the prolific Young Adult novelist Sarah Dessen, though she said Shel Silverstein's iconic *The Giving Tree* is one of the first books she remembers loving.

Lexie describes the Library as "my second home," and her colleagues and patrons as "my extended family." Working here has been memorable and confidence building experience. "I love to read. I love helping people. The Library is a great place for both."

The ACFL&MH family will miss Lexi, but is proud to be even part of her launch....



Lexie Jolly



The Boilermaker Jazz Band

New York tap dancer extraordinaire—and Fulbright Scholar—Alex MacDonald. Also from New York, Lisa Gary brings amazing vocal stylings to the show. Her interpretation of Reggie’s arrangements of contemporary songs dazzles!

Dance is a key component of Carnegie SWINGS! In addition to Mr. MacDonald’s jaw-dropping moves, young “swingers” will perform throughout the evening. A dance party in the Studio follows the performance. Join in or just enjoy! Dancers will offer micro lessons to get you started.

The ACFL&MH has a terrific event committee. Library & Music Hall, jazz, dance and Carnegie boosters John Butera, Vanessa & Terry Lee and Lisa Moretti

have stepped up as benefit co-chairs. (The full committee is being finalized as of this writing.)

In the spirit of the evening, attendees are encouraged to flaunt their favorite brand of Retro with that special dress, tie, shoes or hat. Dress up or dress comfortable. *Carnegie SWINGS!* is a decades-spanning evening. Anything goes is the flavor of the night!

A lively after-theater supper throughout the ACFL&MH’s beautiful historic landmark facility follows the performance.

For information or tickets visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org or call Maggie Forbes at 412-276-3456, x. 8

Carnegie SWINGS! Saturday, September 28 at 7:30p.m., in the Music Hall, tickets are \$125 (\$75 tax deductible) for reserved orchestra seats; \$75 (\$25 tax deductible) for open balcony seats.



Reggie Watkins

See You in November!

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall is proud to serve as the new polling place for the 3rd and 4th Districts of Carnegie’ Borough’s 2nd Ward. Carnegie citizens cast their primary ballots here on May 21.

- The 2019 General Election takes place on Tuesday, November 5.
- The polls open at 7:00 am, and close at 8:00 p.m.
- Voting takes place in the second floor Lincoln Gallery.
- Voters may enter through the ramped entrance on the side of the building. The ramp leads straight to the elevator to the 2nd floor Lincoln Gallery.
- There is ample parking for voters around the building, with handicapped parking spaces near the ramped entrance.

The Library’s hours are 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Voters are welcome to enter through the Library during those hours – stop by and visit! The ACFL&MH serves as a polling place on behalf of Allegheny County. Any questions you have about voting or where to vote should be directed to the Division of Elections, 412-350-4500. www.alleghenycounty.us.

Let’s all exercise our civic privilege/responsibility and vote on November 5. We’ll welcome a crowd!



A Time for Reflection

by Diane Klinefelter

April is always a time for reflection when it comes to Civil War history. The War began in April 1861 when Southern forces fired upon Fort Sumter, South Carolina, and it essentially ended in April 1865 when General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. At noon on April 14, 1865 the U.S. flag that had been surrendered to the Confederates at Fort Sumter, was once again raised over its ruins. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater the evening of April 14, 1865, Andrew Johnson became President, and the era of Reconstruction began.

For Union Civil War Veterans, April 1865 started a time of healing and renewal. We often forget that there were no social safety nets for these men who so nobly served the call to arms to defend the Union. Not until 1930 was there a Veterans Administration as we know it today.

Politicians had made promises, from the President on down, to "care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." Immediately following the end of the War there was little political pressure to see that these promises were kept. Consequently, on April 6, 1866 the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was founded in Decatur, Illinois by former Union officers to serve as a united voice in holding the government accountable to make good on those promises. Local GAR Posts scattered all across the U.S. provided a place for veterans to turn to for fellowship, networking, and, if needed, charity. The GAR founded soldiers' homes, was active in relief work and in gaining more liberal pension legislation. Orphan Schools were founded in Pennsylvania to care for and educate the children of veterans who had either died or were so disabled that they could not work nor provide for their families.

Archives of the GAR are filled with the powerful stories of these men. The ACFL&MH is fortunate to hold the manuscript collection of the Capt. Thomas Espy Post 153 which was founded in 1879 and dissolved in 1938. Within the pages of our records the stories of Chartiers Valley Civil War veterans are waiting to be told, but volunteers are needed. If you are interested in local history and want to contribute towards our project to abstract their records, please contact Diane Klinefelter by email klinefelterd@einetwork.net or at 412-276-3456, x9.



A Civil War Destination

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall is Pittsburgh's most significant Civil War destination. The historic landmark facility, located a short walk above Carnegie's charming Main Street, is home to:



The Captain Thomas Espy Post No. 153 of the Grand Army of the Republic

Civil War veterans who served in the Union armed services met at the Library from 1906 until the late 1930s. Restored in 2010, the Espy Post has been documented as the most intact GAR Post in the country. Once there were 7,000...

Lincoln Gallery

A rare collection of 100 photographs of Abraham Lincoln from the 1847 daguerreotype of the young U.S. Congressman from Springfield, IL to the only known photograph of Lincoln lying in state in 1865.

The Espy Post and Lincoln Gallery are free and open to the public:

- Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or by special arrangement
- Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org or call 412-276-3456



Books and so Much More! Make the Library Part of Your Summer

Mary Menk, Library Director

Summer reading is not just for kids anymore! At the Carnegie Carnegie we promote lifelong reading and learning. Summer Reading Clubs or programs have been around since as far back as the 1890's. They've evolved, but they're still going strong.



No matter what you like to read, we have something for you: comic books, non-fiction, genre fiction, and audio books available in a physical format. For those who prefer the electronic version we have a wide variety of eBooks and eAudio titles as well. Remember, your card gives you access to materials from throughout Allegheny County. Come browse the shelves, browse on our website, or come in and ask staff for guidance.

The Summer Reading Club begins on Monday, June 17 and will run until Saturday, August 10. The purpose of the club is to encourage reading (or being read to) in all ages. We will have three levels of reading clubs for the different age groups, Children, Teen, and Adult. As we want reading to be part of your summer, we're offering modest incentives/prizes for registering and completing the Summer Reading Programs for each of the different age groups.

In addition to our regular Tuesday and Thursday story times for toddlers and pre-schoolers, we will have an afternoon story time on Wednesdays once a month and an evening story time on Mondays once a month. Our very popular **Math & Science 4U** (school readiness for entering kindergarteners) will be back. We will also have a special reading therapy dog, Virginia Woof, on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to help encourage reading aloud skills for those beginning readers who need to build confidence.

And we encourage you to get out of town! As part of our Summer Reading and Lifelong Learning experience for the whole

family, and new this summer, will be the opportunity to visit other special locations around the greater Pittsburgh area with our **"Experience Kits"**. You can check out a pass for one week, beginning on a Tuesday, to be returned by the following Monday. The pass admits up to four people free of charge to one of the following places: The Quecreek Mine Rescue Site, The David Bradford House, Harmony Museum & Historic District, Senator John Heinz History Center, and Old Economy Village. We will take requests for these passes just as we would any library material. Ask for more information at the Circulation Desk.

"Know Your Neighbor" is part of the Library's yearlong celebration of the Borough's 125th anniversary. Carnegie has long been known as a community of bars and churches. It's tempting to think about sampling all the food and drink choices around town, but we are focusing on Carnegie's houses of worship. We have two exhibit cases that flank the Library's entrance that lend to introducing your faith community to Library patrons.

We started with St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church and continued with a display from our friends at the Attawheed Islamic Center. If you're interested in putting together a display, please get in touch with me and we'll get you on the calendar. (The Library's exhibit cases can also be used to showcase a collection you have, to pay tribute to a family member or community organization, etc.)

Don't miss out. Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org or stop by and visit. We're here for you!



The Carnegie Carnegie is a Bronze Star Library!

The ACFL reached the first level of this initiative from the Pennsylvania Library Association to connect Libraries and their communities through promoting five literacies: Basic, Financial, Civic & Social, Health, and Information. Look for programs going forward that address each of these literacies across all age groups.



Read Any Good Books Lately?

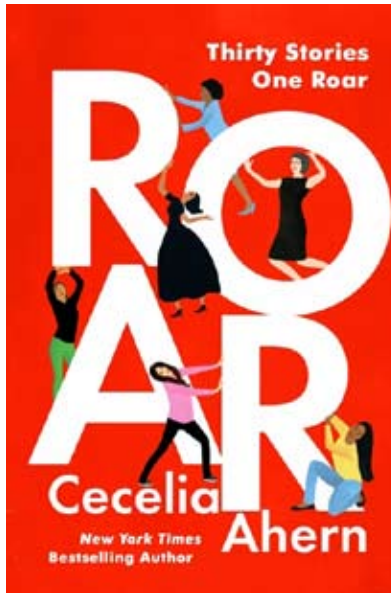
Nate Wyrick, Assistant Library Director/Facilities Manager

Since I've been reviewing books for our newsletter I've found that I have been gravitating towards reading materials that are slightly out of my literary comfort zone. I've ventured into some young adult books as well as a fairytale about a humanoid amphibian. My latest read, *Roar* by Cecelia Ahern, is no exception. If you're looking for something to read that you can legitimately classify as original—this is it.

(Ahern, the daughter of Ireland's former Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, published her first novel when she was 23.)

I love going through the many donations we receive at the Library, which is how I came across this book. On the bright red cover was the word ROAR in giant white letters and then it says—*Thirty Stories. One Roar.* So, I immediately opened it and read the first story, "The Woman Who Slowly Disappeared." And I was blown away. It also turned out to be one of my favorites of all the stories.

Ahern took a different direction with this book (she wrote the best seller turned movie, *PS I Love You*) and I found it to be quite impressive. This collection of what I like to think are fables in a sense, is written from a feminist angle as well as from a very fantastical standpoint. Yet by the time you reach the end of many of them you realize that that story could have been written about or just for you. The author covers such topics as birth control,



aging, racism and so much more. I would caution that some of these stories are seemingly very farfetched and you likely won't LOVE every one of them. I found that they were more impactful if I read two or three of them at a time and then took a couple of days off before coming back for more.

I don't want to give away too much of the subject matter, but most of the stories' main characters are nameless and each one focuses on specific character traits of an individual woman, frequently to an extreme. There was a woman who forgot her name, a woman who grew wings and a woman who likes to exchange everything, as she is never satisfied with what she has. One that resonated with

me personally was about a woman with a birth defect where she literally had to wear her heart on her sleeve all the time.

Ahern manages to make you think deeply about the issues she writes about, despite presenting them in ways that have little to do with reality. She also has this ability to make you smile and laugh even when she's relating something heart breaking. Clearly she wrote this collection of metaphoric stories mainly for women, but I can tell you that there are a lot of men in this world who could benefit from giving this book a chance. Be prepared to experience a whole range of emotions if you decide to read this one.

Which is precisely what a good book is supposed to do.

Do It Yourself Car Repair!

Databases may sound scholarly and daunting, but they give you access to a wealth of practical information. Now that the weather is nice, you may want to get outside and tinker with your car.

The *Chilton Guide to Complete Auto Repair Manuals* will help you keep your car running for all of those short or long summer trips you want to take. The *Chilton Guide* includes information about recalls as well as routine maintenance. I checked on different options of vehicle makes and models, and you can find information going all the way back to your grandparents' Buick Roadmaster from the 1940's right up to 2018—the *Chilton Guide* stays current through the previous year's models.

I used this repair manual to change a timing belt, pre-YouTube. To learn more about the car you're driving now or the luxury car of your fantasies—or to take a practice test for mechanic certification—try the *Chilton Guide*. Just go to the Library tab on www.CarnegieCarnegie.com, and scroll down to our new Databases, Ebooks & More option. You'll find Chilton under Resources A-Z. Type in your library card to get started.

Or please stop by if you want some guidance on Chilton or other databases.

~Mary Menk



Music Matters

Listen Locally Downstairs Brings You Closer to the Music

By Melanie Paglia, Music Hall Director

Since its inception in 2017, *Listen Locally Downstairs* has featured dozens of unique regional music acts right here in the heart of Carnegie. It means a lot to us to be able to provide right-priced, quality entertainment for Carnegie and our surrounding communities. (You don't have to cross a bridge for great live music!) Now in its third season, the "laid-back, happy hour, monthly concert series" is becoming less of a well-kept secret. *Listen Locally Downstairs* tickets are only \$10 online, by phone, or at the door, and now you can reserve your seat in advance.

Regular attendees know to arrive early to get a prime seat at one of our quirky, fruit-shaped tables – a perfect place to rest your beer, wine or snacks when a conga line breaks out – which does happen from time to time. Most of the time the atmosphere is relaxed; musicians freely share their stories and their music and audience members comment or ask questions during and after the show. The intimacy of the space allows for this kind of conversation.

The series caters heavily to some of the best jazz in the region with artists like Maggie Johnson, Howie Alexander, Tania Grubbs, Jessica Lee, Kenia, Mark Strickland and so many more. The line-up varies month to month also featuring classic rock, R&B, world music, indie/folk, and singer/songwriter. It's a great, eclectic series unlike any other in the region.

The Studio itself is at the heart of what makes the series so special. We could easily showcase these remarkable musicians in the Music Hall – but the Studio lends an extra sense of intimacy with the artists. Neither space is better; each one offers a totally distinct experience. The multi-functional basement Studio space has served a number of purposes throughout the history of our 118 year old building. Patrons and friends of the Library & Music Hall often share memories of attending Girls' Club, roller skating, and even playing basketball when the space was a gymnasium. In the last decade, the Studio housed dance classes and rehearsals and functioned as a "popup" library during renovations to the first floor. Today, the Studio is active with public performances and private events from bridal showers to book launches, lectures, after school programs and everything in between.

The industrial finish with exposed brick and cement block gives the room a "coolness" that you don't get from a hotel ballroom or corporate meeting center. We affectionately call it our urban-hipster space, but it speaks to guests of all ages and backgrounds.

We invite you to join us mid-week and unwind; to do something good for yourself while celebrating and supporting local music. You can find a full list of upcoming events on our Facebook page @CarnegieCarnegie and on our website at www.CarnegieCarnegie.org

Celebrate Great Times

We'd love to celebrate your next special event with you!

Our Lincoln Gallery and Studio are available to rent for private events including birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, or dinner parties, showers, weddings, and more.



photo by Jim Ferguson

Our beautiful historic building houses two unique event spaces in addition to our 400-seat Music Hall. No matter the occasion, we have the perfect room for you.

THE LINCOLN GALLERY

2,300 sq ft - sit down up to 60 or 75 cocktail-style

THE STUDIO

2,600 sq ft – sit down up to 80 or 125 cocktail-style
Our affordable rates start at \$50-\$100/hr and include event furniture, a kitchenette for food preparation, free parking, and much more!

Call to schedule a tour today! 412-276-3456, x. 6

Special Programming at the Carnegie Carnegie!

New programs are always being added, and all programs are subject to change. Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org, follow us on Facebook@CarnegieCarnegie, or call 412-276-3456 for the most current information on special and ongoing programming. Free shuttle service from the parking lot on E. Main Street is available for most Music Hall performances.

Music Hall and Studio Programming

*Listen Locally Downstairs**

RML JAZZ

Wednesday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.

Kicking off Jazz All Summer in the Studio is RML Jazz, offering up something for everyone with a repertoire that draws inspiration from the likes of Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Cannonball Adderley, Chick Corea, Bonnie Raitt and Steely Dan.

Tickets: \$10

*Listen Locally Downstairs**

JESSICA LEE

Wednesday, July 17, 7:00p.m.

Jazz & blues vocalist, Jessica Lee, returns with a tribute to the great men of jazz, blues and American music like Louis Armstrong, Nat King Cole, B.B. King, Sam Cooke, Ray Charles, George Benson, Luther Vandross, Eric Clapton and more!

Tickets: \$10



Stage 62 presents

MAMMA MIA!

July 18-21 and 25-28

The hilarious musical story of a young woman's search for her birth father told through ABBA's greatest hits. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

Tickets: \$15-\$20

*Listen Locally Downstairs**

THE RICK FINKELSTEIN QUINTET

Wednesday, August 21, 7:00 p.m.

The Rick Finkelstein Quintet featuring Marti Aggazio returns in August to complete our Jazz All Summer series. Join us mid-week and relax with Rick & Marti and tunes from the Great American Songbook across many genres.

Tickets: \$10

*Listen Locally Downstairs**

THE DANTES

Friday, August 2, 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a special evening of "Oldies but Goodies" with Pittsburgh's Dantes.

Rick Funaro (tenor, guitar/keys), Patsy Molinaro (bass) and Bob Palombi (baritone) are lifelong friends from Carnegie who started singing together at quite a young age.

Let The Dantes' sweet harmonies take you back to the golden days of doo-wop with hits from The Four Freshmen, Perry Como, Pittsburgh's own Skyliners and so many more.

Tickets: \$10

*Listen Locally Downstairs**

THE STAPLETONS

Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 7:00p.m.



Kate and Casey Stapleton are a husband and wife harp and guitar duo. Together, they write baroque folk music, rich with hints of Appalachian balladry and Delta blues.

Their performances include songs and stories inspired by Civil War era Pittsburgh, the journey of Lewis and Clark, and the people of the Western frontier.

Tickets: \$10



CARNEGIE SWINGS!

Saturday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

ACFL&MH's annual benefit concert and reception.

See article p. 1.



91.3 WYEP is a media sponsor for the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music

Hall's annual benefit, *Carnegie SWINGS!*

Tickets: \$125 reserved orchestra seats, \$75 open balcony seats.

The Pittsburgh Savoyards Present

RUDDIGORE

October 11-13, 17-20

Ruddigore, or *The Witch's Curse*, the tenth of fourteen comic operas written together by Gilbert and Sullivan. This spirited tale follows the Baronet of Ruddigore as he is confronted by supernatural forces in effort to break his family curse.

**Listen Locally and Listen Locally Downstairs are made possible through the generosity of the McKinney Charitable Trust and the Opportunity Fund.*

*Listen Locally Downstairs**

RACHEL WHITCOMB

Wednesday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.

This singer songwriter has always been drawn to the emotional side of country and Americana music, where the melodies and lyrics intersect in simple yet meaningful ways to tell heartfelt stories. Rachel's honest and sensitive storytelling draws audiences together across many walks of life.

Tickets: \$10

*Listen Locally**

THE BLUES ORPHANS

Friday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.



The Blues Orphans have been performing original genre-bending roots music since 1979. Based in Blues and Bluegrass with punk-funk hip-hop-polka flavors, it's a cauldron of hysterical new Americana for the 21st century. Founded by Carnegie's own, brothers Andy & Bob Gabig, The Blues Orphans have recorded 6 albums of original songs featuring local themes and topical humor about life in the 21st century, wrapped in blues, jazz and bluegrass styles. This concert celebrates their continuing 40 year odyssey, and will have Matthew Kweder on drums, Roger Day on tuba, Dr Nelson Harrison on trombone and Lou Schreiber on clarinet & saxophone.

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$5 youth 12 & under.



91.3 WYEP is a media sponsor for the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall presenting Listen Locally with the Blues Orphans.

Special Programming at the Carnegie Carnegie!

Library and Civil War Programming



HARRY POTTER BIRTHDAY PARTY

July 31, 12:30-5:00 p.m.

Happy Birthday Harry! We're celebrating this magical day with fun activities based on Harry's classes, cake, and a screening of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*!

Grades 4 and up. Registration required.

CARNEGIE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

August 10, 2-4 p.m.

August 10 marks the end of the Summer Reading Program. Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of Carnegie with the Borough. Turn in your last reading logs for a chance at prizes. A special afternoon party will be held here at the ACFL&MH. Open to all ages.

FILM CAMP

August 12-16, 12:00-3:30 p.m.

Do you love movies? Have you ever wondered what it's like to work behind the scenes? This is the program for you! Jeff Biers, a professional film maker, will be teaching you everything you need to know about the magic of movies! On Monday you'll start production and by Friday you'll have a movie to show to your family and friends. Grades 5 and up. Registration required.



CARNEGIE'S MAID

Monday, November 25, 7:00 p.m.

Author Marie Benedict speaks about her best selling historic fiction novel. (See back page article).

Tickets \$10, \$5 youth 12 and under.

Continuing Programs:

We have two programs for adults with special needs that will continue throughout the summer and into the fall.

Morning Movie Classics on the 1st Friday of the month at 10:30 am. Each month we will watch a wonderful film from times gone by. Could be animated or live action. Look for more information on the website or in newsletters for the title. In the Lincoln Gallery.

Color Outside the Lines the 3rd Friday of the month at 10:30 am. This is our arts and crafts program for adults with special needs. We provide all of the supplies. Depending on the interest of the individual, we will have coloring pages or simple crafts. In the Lincoln Gallery

Evening Family Story Time will continue through the summer and into the fall. Join Miss JoLynne for fun stories, music and more. The 2nd Monday of the month. 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Gallery.

Many more programs will be added before the next newsletter is printed. Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org, look for our monthly e-Newsletter, or stop by!

The **Second Saturday Civil War Series** takes a break for the summer. Programming, yet to be determined, will resume in September. The Espy Post is open every Saturday from 11:00 – 3:00, or by special appointment.

A Centennial Celebration



Mary Ann Steranka recently paid a visit to the Library & Music Hall with her daughters—Trish Kaufman, who lives in Virginia, and Marilyn Gordon, who lives in Connecticut. They were here to finalize plans for Mary Ann’s upcoming 100th birthday party.

Maggie Forbes met the family, and gave them a tour of the facility’s three floors. Mary Ann is having her party in the Studio, the ACFL&MH’s “urban hipster” space. Mary Ann may not be a “hipster,” but Maggie marveled at her vigor, vitality and interest.

Mary Ann Semianczak was born in a house on Cabbage Hill in June of 1919. Her father died two months before her birth, a victim of the Spanish flu pandemic that killed tens of millions of people around the world. Mary Ann’s mother eventually remarried. Her step-father had been a miner in Carnegie and moved the family to Yukon, PA for work.

Mary Ann returned to Carnegie as a teenager for a job and has lived here ever since. Her first husband, Frank Solominsky, died in the Pacific arena during World War II.

Mary Ann and her second husband, Steve Steranka, had three daughters. Trish, her twin sister Pam Naddeo, and Marilyn. The family lived on 5th Avenue until the girls were grown, then moved to Boden Avenue. Steve passed away in 1987 from ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Mary Ann’s fortitude and resilience may be the key to her vibrant longevity.

Mary Ann still has her driver’s license. She is a member of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, and she loves attending Kyiv Dance Ensemble’s annual performances in the Music Hall.

Trish, Pam, and Marilyn have fond memories of walking to the Carnegie Girls’ Club a few times each week as children and experiencing “cooking classes, piano lessons, crafts, roller skating, independence.” The Club met in the ACFL&MH’s then-basement gym. Last fall, Mary Ann’s niece and god-daughter, Sally Dawson, brought her to a Listen Locally Downstairs jazz performance. Sally’s husband, Jim, gives Pittsburgh History & Landmarks tours of Carnegie that end at the ACFL&MH. He thought the Studio, the sisters’ old Girls Club haunt, would be a fine venue for a centennial birthday. Mary Ann and her daughters agreed.

The Library & Music Hall is honored to be part of decades of family memories, and Mary Ann Steranka’s milestone birthday in particular. Happy Birthday, Mary Ann!

-Maggie Forbes



ACFL&MH patron Carol Ertel has been living in Carnegie since 1995. However, her family roots go much deeper. Her great, great grandparents, Henry and Katherine Laun (paternal) and William and Christina Rahner (maternal) came to Carnegie (when it was still Mansfield) in the 1880s. Their children, Henry Laun and Augusta Rahner, married and built their home on Bouquet Street, where Carol now lives.

Her feelings for family, community and the Library & Music Hall prompted her to donate a family plaque for a Library chair. Carol’s house is one of the homes glimpsed through the trees on the hillside over her left shoulder.

Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall's Campaign Contributors

*Heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, groups, corporations and foundations who generously contributed more than \$125,000 to ensure the vitality and viability of the Library & Music Hall since the Fall/Winter 2018 newsletter. * Indicates more than one gift. If your name was omitted in error, please contact Maggie Forbes.*

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People and Events at Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall



Governor Wolf visited in March.

Jimmy Adler Band brought the Blues to Music Hall for ACFL&MH's 118th anniversary.



ACFL&MH celebrates Carnegie Borough's 125th with Chris Laitta's TV Tunes.



Centenarian Mary Ann Steranka congratulated by PA State Representative Anita Kulik.



Pals Maria and Katie



Cello Fury



Her writings as Marie Benedict developed from a dream of unearthing the hidden historical stories of women. She embarked on a new, narratively connected series of historical novels. *The Other Einstein* (2016) tells the tale of Albert Einstein's first wife, a physicist herself, and the role she might have played in his theories. *Carnegie's Maid* was published in 2018. Benedict's third installment in the series, *The Only Woman in the Room* (2019) tells the story of glamour icon and scientist, Hedy Lamarr. Lamarr developed a system to track German torpedoes that went ignored by the U.S. military. Only recently has the significance of her groundbreaking work been rightfully acknowledged.

Carnegie's Maid tells the story of a woman who may have spurred Andrew Carnegie's transformation from ruthless industrialist into the world's first true philanthropist. The novel departs from the other two books in Ms. Benedict's (so far) trilogy in that its heroine, Clara Kelly, is not a real historic figure. Rather, Clara is an amalgam of Ms. Benedict's very bright Irish ancestors, several of whom worked as domestics, but took advantage of all the doors the Carnegie Library in Oakland offered to becoming self-educated and well read.

Conjecture and imagination are a critical part of the historic fiction genre. Unlike many authors, Ms. Benedict does her own careful and thorough research to inform her novels. In its opening pages, *Carnegie's Maid* quotes an actual letter penned by Andrew Carnegie in 1868, long before he became a fabulously wealthy philanthropist. “*Thirty-three and an income of \$50,000 per annum!Beyond this...make no effort to increase fortune, but spend the surplus each year for benevolent purposes.*”

Ms. Benedict had the germ of the compelling novel that became *Carnegie's Maid*. And the Library & Music Hall is so grateful that Andrew Carnegie followed his own advice!

Why Pay More Taxes When You Can Help the Library & Music Hall Instead?

Last December, the Library & Music Hall received a phone call from a patron who wanted to make a **QCD** to the **ACFL&MH** from her **RMD**. Two of those acronyms prompted us to do a little research.

An *RMD* is a required minimum distribution. Once you reach age 70½, you must withdraw a required minimum distribution from your heretofore tax-free IRA. (Okay, individual retirement account. RMDs apply to simple, inherited or SEP IRAs, but not to Roth IRAs.) Failure to withdraw the distribution elicits a 10% tax penalty on the RMD. Your RMD amount grows slightly with each passing year.

RMDs can suddenly raise your taxable income. New tax laws nearly doubled the standard deduction between 2017 and 2018, making itemizing charitable deductions impossible for most taxpayers. In 2019, if you file singly, you may claim a \$13,300 (\$26,600 for married couples) standard deduction or itemize allowable deductions (i.e., charitable giving or medical expenses). You may not do both.

However, if you claim the standard deduction, you may also donate a portion, or all of your RMD directly to a charity or charities—such as the Library & Music Hall—as a qualified charitable distribution (*QCD*). This *QCD* reduces your taxable income by the exact amount of the donation. (Up to \$100,000 ...a number not relevant for too many of us.)

You must direct your bank or other organization that holds your IRA account to make a payment from your RMD to your chosen charity. You cannot simply write a check to the ACFL&MH.

This sounds complicated, but isn't really. (Even this English major understands it!) Talk to your financial advisor or a CPA to help you with your decision. This *MarketWatch* article explains RMDs and QCDs in more detail, but in a very straightforward manner: “Beat the System with Charitable Donations from your IRA”.

You may take your RMD or designate a *QCD* any time during the year.



Andrew Carnegie Free Library
& Music Hall
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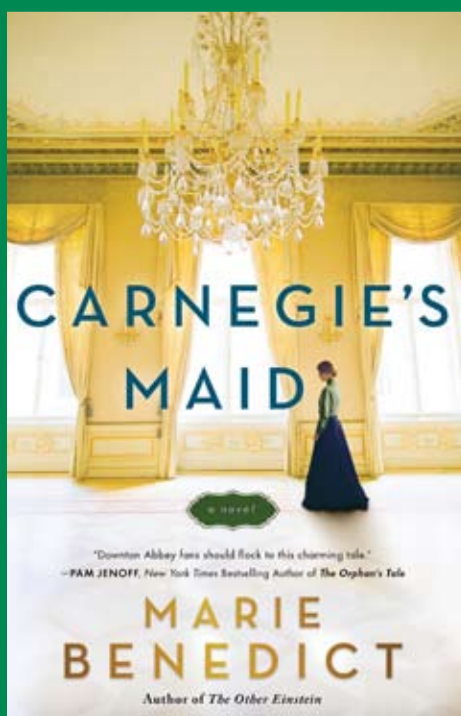


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A Plethora of Carnegies November 25, 2019

Monday, November 25, 2019 seemed the ideal date to invite to invite best-selling author Marie Benedict to speak at the Library & Music Hall. Andrew Carnegie was born on this date 134 years ago in Dunfermline, Scotland. The borough of Carnegie will be winding down its 125th or Quasiquicentennial Anniversary. The centerpiece of Ms. Benedict's program will be her 2018 novel, *Carnegie's Maid*. She will be speaking in the Music Hall at the Carnegie Carnegie!

Ms. Benedict's 7:00 p.m. talk will be followed by a dessert reception in the Lincoln Gallery, where she will be happy to sign books. Penguin Book Store will be on hand with several of her novels. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for youth 12 and under. The evening is made possible through the generosity of PNC Bank.



Marie Benedict (a pen name) did not set out to become the prolific and

successful author that she is today. A native Pittsburgher, she is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Boston College, who studied History and Art History. She is a *cum laude* graduate of Boston University School of Law with more than ten years' experience as a litigator in New York City.

Ms. Benedict published her first novel, *The Chrysalis*, in 2007, though under the name of Heather Terrell. (Some day we'll do a feature on *noms de plume*!) The novel was inspired by her law practice, but also stories about art stolen by the Nazis, now in gallery or museum hands, whose ownership is contested by private families.

The success of the novel, and the joy she took in researching it and writing it, persuaded Ms. Benedict leave law and become a full time writer. She has written seven other books as Heather Terrell.

See "Plethora of Carnegies", page 15