



ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL NEWSLETTER

A National Historic Landmark

FALL/WINTER 2020

Focusing on the Magical Moments

Maggie Forbes, Executive Director

Throughout my tenure here, a twice-a-year newsletter has been a cornerstone of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall's relationship with its community. Thank you Knepper Press!

We've only missed two newsletters since 2004. In Spring/Summer 2018, the ACFL&MH and Library Park were entangled with the aftermath of the February 2018 mudslide. By the time we sorted things out enough to report on the outcome, the deadline for the Fall/Winter newsletter loomed.

No one needs a reminder about what derailed our Spring/Summer 2020 newsletter. We're still in the thick of it. In March, an Office of Commonwealth Libraries directive issued on Friday the 13th mandated all Pennsylvania's public libraries close their facilities. The directive was abrupt. It was shocking. What had seemed unthinkable had happened.

The last several months have not been easy for anyone. However, the Library & Music Hall has been more fortunate than many. We have been on the

receiving end of generosity and opportunity (PPP and SBA). And we have had more than our share of small triumphs, occasions for cheers and encounters of heartwarming affirmation. Random examples:

■ We welcomed Walker Evans as our new Library Director on March 16. He is tech-savvy. That along with his professionalism and deep commitment to libraries serving their communities made him the ideal person to lead Library staff and the organization through the pivot to remote services.

■ And serve staff did! We sorted through information and posted

links to the most reliable local, state, national and international information about the Coronavirus. We answered telephones Monday through Friday. We reached out to patrons who are older or living alone, just to check in. We walked patrons through the Library's myriad digital services and provided "device tutorials."

■ Like everyone else, we learned to ZOOM! (And helped patrons navigate this no longer unfamiliar medium.) We began with staff and

board meetings to figure out next steps and to maintain social connection as we physically distanced. Miss JoLynne offered her first virtual story time on March 24. These have become a staple for many families. I recently chatted with a family that is new to Carnegie. Though it was their first time in the building, little Elliot already "knows" Miss JoLynne from remote story times.

■ The 2nd Saturday Civil War Series talk scheduled for March 14 was the ACFL&MH's first lockdown "casualty." Espy Post Curator Diane Klinefelter and the speaker regrouped. Codie Eash presented "Slavery and the 1864 Election" on April 25. Virtual

Civil War talks have gone on to attract participants as far away as Canada, and at least one four-legged listener!

■ Libraries across the country observed April 23 as Library Giving Day. Staff took less than a minute to agree that the timing of this initiative did not work for the Carnegie Carnegie and its community. Instead, Music Hall Director Melanie Paglia led us in an effort to produce a love letter to the Library & Music Hall and its patrons in the form of a short video. We had no budget, no time, no

See "Magical Moments", page 3



AN ESPY POST ARTIFACT EXAMINED.

See page 4.



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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.

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Dear Friends:

How many lifetimes has each of us traveled since mid-March? That's when life as we took it for granted changed in ways that we are still processing. People have lost loved ones, livelihoods and togetherness. "Life in the Time of Coronavirus" is unlike anything we have ever been through before.

Fortunately, despite ripple-effect anxieties, disappointments and setbacks, most of us have adapted to forge the personal and professional paths we need to carry on.

The Library & Music Hall is no exception. Over the last 119 years, it has proven how resilient it is. So much of that resilience is thanks to the extraordinary support the Carnegie Carnegie receives from its community. What a community it is! In addition to Carnegie and the surrounding region, the ACFL&MH has supporters in 23 other states: from Connecticut to Florida to Texas to Montana to Oregon and 18 states in between!

"Beacon on the Hill," took on new meaning during the pandemic – for staff, for Board and for community members who turned to our grounds as a calming, outdoor oasis. Stakeholders' generosity since March has been both profoundly uplifting, and deeply humbling. Thank you.

We are committed to being here, to developing programs and forging partnerships to meet the ever-changing needs of families and communities. Don't hesitate to reach out. We are in the information business. We work not only to connect you to library materials but to the community resources you need.

We so appreciate your continued generosity. And we wish you well for a truly meaningful holiday season – no matter how untraditional – and to better times soon.

Warmly,

Isabel Ford

President, ACFL&MH Board of Trustees

Maggie Forbes

Executive Director

The Surprisingly Complicated World of Book Donations

"Do you accept donated books?" It's one of the most frequent questions we answer at the Library, and we love to hear it! The thoughtful generosity of our patrons means so much to us – and can save the Library money, too. But as it turns out, there's not a single simple answer to this question.

Sometimes, donors are hoping that we'll be able to add all of their donations to our circulating collection, but it's actually fairly rare that a donation fits our criteria for selection. Our collection is much more than a roomful of books. It's more like a garden: each element carefully chosen, with plenty of judicious pruning and weeding to keep everything healthy. We want our collection to be timely, accurate, visually appealing...and above all, useful and useable for our community. We're always thrilled to receive donations that we can use – and

when we do, they tend to be recently published, popular titles that are in pristine condition.

Sometimes a donated book is in great shape, but doesn't fit into our collection for other reasons – maybe we even already own a copy. In those cases, we may be

able to add the book to our ongoing book sale fundraiser. We greatly appreciate these donations, too!

Unfortunately, it's rare that we're able to do much with older books, or books that have seen even moderate wear. We

respectfully ask that patrons try to avoid donating such items.

Like the Library, your home probably has finite shelf space. You might want to check a book out of the Library before buying a copy. It helps to know if it deserves coveted shelf space!

Our sincere thanks to all of our considerate donors!



equipment...there's no danger of the video's going viral! But, it was heartfelt and well-received. Take a look...

www.carnegiecarnegie.org/about-us/

■ During closure, I made periodic visits to the ACFL&MH. On each visit, I encountered community members enjoying our “campus” – walking themselves or their dogs; riding bikes or scooters; enjoying ice cream cones on the mosaic benches; accessing WiFi from the Library steps; taking photographs of Main Street from the overlook across from the Music Hall steps. Community use of our grounds throughout the pandemic confirms how important it is that we finish Library Park. We're working on it!

Fast forward. On July 13, and with “an abundance of caution,” the



Library re-opened its doors. How wonderful to welcome back people we had been missing for months. (And our no longer brand new Library Director finally got to meet patrons he'd been

talking to and hearing so much about. Walker was not disappointed!)

Not for the first time in the last 16 years, I savored the ACFL&MH's shared history with Carnegie. If Chartiers and Mansfield had not merged to become Carnegie in 1894, Andrew Carnegie would not have made the legacy gift that enabled our forebears to build this beautiful 35,000 sq. ft. facility. Maintaining this building will always be challenging. However, our space and

expansiveness played a huge role in the protocols we developed to ensure patron and staff safety. Staff and patrons bask in the warmth of being together again.

Unfortunately, we do not know when we can welcome audiences back into the Music Hall and Studio. However, we have had wonderful hints



of what that will feel like. On October 3, jazz and blues vocalist Jessica Lee and guitar great Mark Strickland performed *Listen Locally Outside: By Request* on the piazza in front of the Music Hall steps. The concert began in full sunlight that crept into dark. Church bells chimed between songs. Swallows swooped as Jessica sang “Lullaby of Birdland,” and periodically planes flew by – low but silent. Jessica and Mark's music soothed and energized in turn.

Did I mention perfection? Live music, safely enjoyed with others. For all my engagement with our lovely facility over the last many years, this was the first time I'd sat outside for 90 minutes, taking in the architecture that is here for all to enjoy. I did so while experiencing a gorgeous and generous musical performance, one that usually takes place inside.

We will put this pandemic behind us. But outdoor performances will be a wonderful takeaway from now into those better times.

Carnegie Performing Arts Center Carries on its Holiday Tradition With The Nutcracker—ONLINE! December 15 - 25, 2020



The Carnegie Performing Arts Center, the ACFL&MH's resident youth dance company, is keeping our favorite holiday tradition alive. Their annual performance of The Nutcracker will be available to stream online in December!

Christmas time brings to life the magical story of a little girl named Clara and her handsome Nutcracker Prince as they battle an evil Rat King and sled through swirling snowflakes on their adventure to the Candy Kingdom.

1 Ticket/View.....\$30

1 Ticket plus DVD.....\$60

For tickets please call 412-279-8887 or email info@CarnegiePerformingArtsCenter.com. Visit www.carnegieperformingartscenter.com for more details.

Carnegie Celebrates the Season—Carefully! Sunday, December 6, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tradition! We can't gather indoors, but the Carol Covi Children's Event Committee and the Borough of Carnegie continue their holiday collaboration with the Library & Music Hall for the seventh season. This driveby experience on the ACFL&MH grounds (there will be provisions for walkers) will involve Santa, “mailing your list,” a take home craft, and a holiday gift.

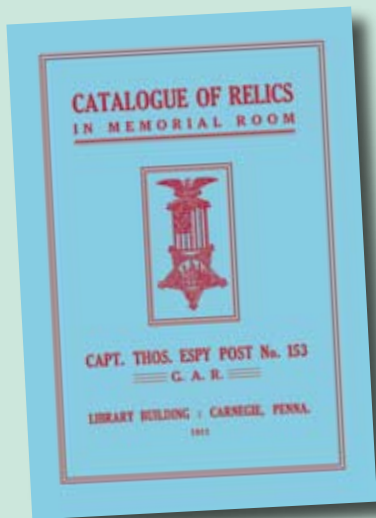
Details are being finalized. Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org for more information.

Item Number 129—BONE RING: Recovering A Civil War Story

Donna Chapman Chernoff

Donna Chapman Chernoff has a deep connection to the Capt. Thos. Espy Post. On an early 2010 visit to the Espy Post, she began the conversation that identified her great-great grandfather Jonathan A. Grinage as one of the veterans in the Post's iconic Memorial Day 1904 photograph. This excerpted article tells the story of one of the artifacts documented in the *Catalog of Relics* printed by Espy Post veterans in 1911 (to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War).

I first visited the Captain Thomas Espy Post in 2010, after reading an article on the restoration of the Post. My great-great grandfather, Jonathan A. Grinage, was a Civil War soldier from the 8th Regiment of the USCT (United States Colored Troops). He became a member of the Espy Post around 1906. I had recognized the name Thomas Espy from my genealogical research on my family. My great-great grandfather's membership in the Espy Post made this a very special place for me. Each artifact in the room has its own story, although some stories are not yet "discovered." Before



finishing my tour, I purchased the *Catalog of Relics* in the hope that I would learn more.

Reading the *Catalog of Relics* I was drawn to the descriptive story of a bone ring:

The ring was given to Bertha M. Johnston in May, 1863. About five o'clock P. M. five Union prisoners of war, who had escaped from the Danville, Va., prison came to my house on the plantation of my master, Wm. Egelston, in Giles Co., near Pearisburg, VA. The prisoners wanted me to take them over the New river, near my home, and give them the right direction to reach the Union lines. I told them they would have to wait several days, as the white people were looking for the escaped prisoners. They kept hid in the timbers, and I fed them on corn bread and little meat with butter milk to drink. Before day on the third morning I ferried them over the river. After I had them over, the only thing they had to offer me was this ring, which I refused, as I wanted no pay for my trouble. They requested me at last to take the ring and to keep it my lifetime. I do not know their names, only one was George and one Henry. I do not know the Company or Regiment they belonged to, I was only anxious to get them away, as it would have been death to me if found helping them. Has been in Mr. Johnston's possession almost 46 years. Secured from him for Memorial Hall, January, 1909. At this time Mr. Johnston lives at 104 Broadway, Carnegie.

To my surprise, these events occurred in Giles County, Virginia, where my paternal great-grandparents Robert Chapman and Eliza (Shavers) Chapman were from. They too were former slaves who settled in Carnegie (then Mansfield) between 1870 and 1880. Could "Bertha M. Johnston" have known my great-grandparents? The spelling of "Bertha" in the original catalogue later led some people to speculate that Bertha was a woman.

I was intrigued. I have spent years in the difficult task of trying to recover the histories and identities of my African-American ancestors. The ACFL's edited online "Artifact Collection" shows the name as "Bertheam M. Johnston." The ring itself is listed as "MISSING." I decided to learn more about this bone ring and about "Bertha M. Johnston," a hero whose story of bravery stood ironically on evidence of an artifact missing from the Espy Post.

In my search, I found a number of inconsistent records. Such inconsistencies, even in basic information about people's names are common in genealogical research, particularly for African-Americans who emerged from slavery.

- The 1865 U. S. Freedmen Bureau of Records lists "B. Johnson" and Lizzie Johnson as former slaves living in Giles County. They are employed by their former owner, Wm. Egleston.... They are both recorded as females.
- In the 1870 U. S. Census, the first census after the Civil War to include all persons, including former slaves, "Bertham Johnston," is 30 years old, a black male, and a farmer. He lives with his wife, Martha, and two children, Mary and Jawhline, in Pembroke, Giles County, Virginia.
- In 1880, "Bertha Johnson" is 40 years of age, a black male, and a coal miner. He lives with his wife Elizabeth and five children, Mary, Josephine, Jas, Alice and Marthia, in Mansfield, Pennsylvania.
- In the 1899 U. S. City Directory for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, "Berthea Johnson" is a laborer living at 35 Broadway Street in Carnegie.
- In the 1900 census, "Bertha Johnson" is sixty-one years old, a black male, born in March 1839. He does contract work and owns his house on Rail Road Street in Carnegie.
- In 1910 "B. M. Johnson" is recorded as a white male, 70 years old, living with his wife Elizabeth, two daughters (Ellis

and Martha), and a grandson, Howard. Elizabeth and the three children are recorded as mulattos. He owns a billiard room at 202 Pine Street and his house at 102 Broadway Street. This billiard room is listed in the 1912 and 1914 U. S. City Directory for Carnegie, Pennsylvania, operated by “Berthier M. Johnson” from 1910 to 1914, while living at 102 Broadway Street.



On a Memorial Day 2014 visit to Chartiers Cemetery, my twin sister and I paid tribute to our departed family members and planted flowers on their gravesites. While searching the area known as the “black” or “colored” section of the cemetery, I discovered Mr. Johnson’s grave marker. His burial stone reads, “Berthea M. Johnson - Died 1914.” Seeing his gravesite bought tears to my eyes. I felt as if I had found a dear old friend. I did further research into his family.

The next month, I found the death certificates of “Berthea” Johnson, and his wife, Martha. His name is recorded as “Bertha M. Johnson,” a black male, a barber, born in Virginia on March 1, 1839, and died on November 19, 1914, in Carnegie. Martha Elizabeth (Chapman) Johnson was born about 1857 in Virginia. Her father was Robert Chapman and her mother is unknown. She died at the age of seventy-three on April 15, 1930. She too is buried in Chartiers Cemetery.

As a Chapman, I wondered whether I might be related to “Berthea.” My research has not yet answered that question.

In February 2018, I found “Burther Johnston” and “Pleasant Johnston” registered in the 1867 Poll Book, 3rd District, (Colored) for Giles County, Virginia. This election was the very first time that

“Berthea M. Johnson” and his father, Pleasant Johnson, voted in an election as free African-American men.

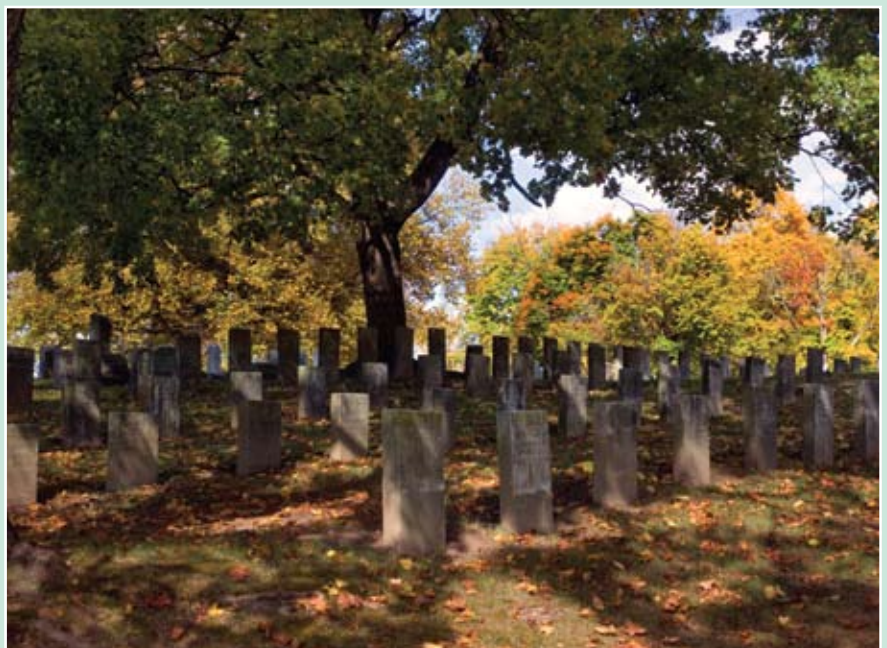
The final information I found was an article on “Berthier Meade Johnson” in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, dated March 7, 1966. “Ninety-four years ago, Berthier Meade Johnson, a former slave in Virginia, settled in Carnegie Borough and bought a piece of property on the Chartiers Creek bottom land.

Thirty-nine years later Johnson, by then a successful barber and pool hall operator, bought a nearby house and moved it onto his lot at 102 Broadway.”

“Berthier M. Johnson” was a resident of Mansfield. He lived a good, honest, working man’s life as a member of his community. In spite of his early life in slavery, after he was a free man, Mr. Johnson continued to work for his former owner for very little money. He secured his right to vote, took care of his wife and children, and safely protected that old bone ring when he traveled north to establish a new and better life for himself and his family. He was not a Civil War veteran, but he certainly was a friend to Espy Post members. When

those five Union soldiers gave him the bone ring, he was a slave who risked severe punishment and even death for helping to save the lives of five prisoners of war. He fed and hid the Union soldiers for three days. He risked his life to leave the plantation when he ferried the five Union soldiers across the New River with no guarantee of his safe return. He received no medal or recognition for the help he gave to these men.

Only the bone ring that Berthier Meade Johnson carried with him memorialized his actions.



Finding Light

Melanie Paglia, Music Hall Director

It is strange to watch the seasons change without the usual bustle of activity from the Music Hall: the sounds of power tools and pianos during tech weeks; the actors and musicians warming up for opening night; the roaring applause of a live audience... But our forced closure has made room for some wonderful and unexpected things to happen at the Carnegie Carnegie.

A quiet stage has allowed us to welcome Chatham Baroque and Chamber Music Pittsburgh to record virtual performances in small groups. We then opened our doors to The Collective acting classes and Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra for safe, distanced, Saturday rehearsals. Our youth company in residence, Carnegie Performing Arts Center performed a masked Treasure Island to a sold-out virtual audience. We even brought three open-air performances to the steps of the Music Hall entrance to distanced and appreciative crowds.

Though we weren't able to do all that we planned, the circumstances made doing what we could all the more memorable. Our *Woman's Hour* programming, for example, necessitated a major pivot that led to unexpected yet rewarding results.

Just before our March 2020 closure, we presented what became the first and last live *Woman's Hour* performance on stage: jazz vocalist Jessica Lee's tribute to Maxine Sullivan. If you received our last newsletter, you'd know that programming for the year had been crafted to center on the Centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, celebrating this milestone through music. It seemed that this commemoration would become a casualty of the pandemic until Robert Morris University senior, Breanna McCann, joined the team for our first entirely virtual summer internship.



Breanna was key in transitioning our *Woman's Hour* programming to a digital platform on our website with 19th Amendment trivia, biographies, educational resources and more. It was important to us to honor those who paved the way for women's suffrage.

The long and hard fought battle for the 19th Amendment prohibited states and the federal government from denying citizens the right to vote based on sex, but the journey toward universal franchise did not end in 1920. In fact, the fight carries on today.

With our performance season on pause, we took an unprecedented leap into virtual programming with "100 Years & Counting...". We assembled an expert panel to explore the continuing journey. Moderator Dr. Jessie Ramey led panelists Jessica Benham, Dr. Dana Brown, Monica Ruiz, and Ciora Thomas in an important discussion on the barriers that many populations face today with regard to voting. The virtual discussion, broadcast on Zoom and Facebook brought to light gaps in equality and in voting rights that still exist today. I'd like to imagine that somewhere within our faceless virtual audience sat tomorrow's change-makers – the women who will follow our panelists and work to close these gaps.

As our Centennial commemoration comes to a close, it seems fitting to celebrate one additional, contemporary trailblazer in the fight for equal voting rights, the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Justice Ginsburg spent her career working to dismantle gender discrimination and was perhaps best known for her famous dissent of the 2013 Supreme Court



decision invalidating the part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that restricted states from creating discriminatory voting laws.

I write this just weeks ahead of a monumental election, days before the seat left vacant by Justice Ginsburg may be filled again; voting is at the forefront of many American's concerns. It is simple to state that all citizens should have access to this democratic process and far more complicated to work toward achieving that. I look forward to encountering the brave women like the 19th century suffragists and Justice Ginsburg whom future generations will celebrate as pioneers in the journey toward universal suffrage.

With warm wishes for good health and peace as we finish out a trying year, we look forward to welcoming you, all of our artists, audience and friends back to the Music Hall as soon as we can.

Reflections on a Remarkable Year

Walker Evans, Library Director

What a roller coaster this year has been! Looking back over the past seven months, I'm struck by how improbable this time would have seemed to me before I arrived at the Carnegie Carnegie. I certainly didn't expect that hand sanitizer would play such a large role in managing a library!

Naturally, it's hardly possible to disentangle the coronavirus pandemic from my memories and feelings about my time with the Library so far. But I want to focus on more than that – more than the masks, the special signage, the safety protocols, the curbside pickup system. I want to set aside this pandemic, which we're all so tired of living through and thinking about, and remember an unexpected moment of connection and community that stands out in my memory.

I remember the Monday in mid-July when we opened our doors to the public for the first time in months. So many hours of research, planning, and discussion had led us to this moment, and there I was wondering whether anyone would bother to come to the Library. Would our patrons feel safe in our building? Would they miss visiting

the Library? Would they even remember us?

Unlocking those big front doors to find people waiting eagerly on our front steps was a watershed moment for me. As masked patrons filtered into the building, a deep feeling of appreciation and gratification passed through me, and I reflected on the vital importance of the word "public" in the phrase "public library." I love our beautiful building and its fantastic collection of books, but without our beloved patrons, none of those resources would matter. Our patrons are the force that animates our library, turning inert printed pages and public PCs into new skills, experiences of beauty and empathy, and a broadened understanding of our complex world.

That's what motivates and inspires me in my work here, as it has for the last seven months. Times are strange, and each day brings its own unpredictable challenges. But in the end, if the work that our caring staff does can help enable these moments for our patrons, I know

that our efforts aren't wasted. The longer I spend here, the better I've come to know Carnegie and our patrons, and the more driven I feel to help build the Library into the best community resource it can be.



On behalf of all of us at the Library, thank you to our wonderful community for sticking with us this year. We don't know what's coming in 2021, but whatever it is, we will travel through it together and support one another as we go. I can't wait to explore the future with you!

Carry the Library On Your Phone! All About Library Apps

For an avid reader, there's nothing worse than being without a book. When libraries across the country closed their doors in March, many readers were left wondering when they'd have the chance to revisit their most beloved authors and characters.



After all, there are so many wonderful books out there – far too many for anyone to read in a lifetime. It just doesn't feel right not to be reading!

Apps to the rescue! If you haven't heard, anyone with a library card can check out ebooks, audiobooks, movies, music, magazines, and more – streaming directly to your phone, tablet, or computer! It's easy to get started, and there are tens of thousands of great titles available. Here are the three best library apps to know about:

Libby lets you check out tons of popular ebooks and digital audiobooks.

Hoopla is packed full of hit albums, comic books, movies and TV shows, plus a good selection of ebooks and audiobooks to stream.

Flipster offers over 70 of the most popular magazines, including years of back issues.

Need a hand getting set up? We're here for you! Stop by the Library, or give us a call at 412-276-3456.



A Wolf Called Wander

Reviewed by Nate Wyrick, Assistant Library Director

I've had a love for wolves and dogs my entire life. So, when Maggie Forbes, who seems thoroughly determined to keep me reading books outside my literary comfort zone, suggested that I read *A Wolf Called Wander* by Rosanne Parry, I was immediately intrigued. The family dynamic amongst wolves and their loved ones is quite beautiful. Unless a mate prematurely dies, a wolf chooses a partner and remains with them their entire lives. Each and every member of a wolf pack serves a specific purpose in his or her family hierarchy. Very often, the entire pack's survival depends on each wolf performing his or her assigned role.

Wolves are among the most misunderstood animals on our planet. Parry opens a window on this amazing species, through the eyes of a young wolf named Swift. The author shows her readers what life, very existence involves for wolves. Life for a wolf is a kill or be killed dynamic. Being at the top of the food chain in their habitats, wolves are natural predators. Parry keeps her book very real. She shows the fierce and graphic side of wolves' lives, never whitewashing the violence that exists in their everyday lives. On the other hand, the author makes you feel the bonds and crippling pain of the loss of loved ones that Swift experiences.

Change can be very dramatic and quite sudden. Almost instantaneously, this young wolf had everything he has ever known taken away from him when his pack was viciously attacked by a rival clan. His survival depends entirely upon how he reacts and adapts to these extreme circumstances. The loss of his home, way of life and literally his entire family forces Swift to struggle through the unknown to continue some semblance of his way of life. Driven by his severe losses, he goes on an arduous yet transformative journey to discover if any members of his family remain alive. Through encounters with a raven, he

develops a relationship that leads him to life-sustaining water. However, Swift simply refuses to stop until his thirst for true companionship is quenched.

Did I mention the artwork? There are splendid black ink drawings by Mónica Armiño throughout the entire book that sucked me even further into the story than Parry's humanizing narrative would have done on its own.

At times, this story took me back and made me feel like I did when I first read *Bambi*.

Other times it reminded me quite a bit of *White Fang*. And, for those of you who have read *Pax* (if you haven't, you should read Sara Pennypacker's book) this book made me reminisce about that novel as well.

I was beyond impressed with Parry's unique ability to tell Swift's story while keeping the anthropomorphic at a distance. The imagery the author uses, like "black river" to describe a highway, is excellent and allows Swift to tell us his first person story from an animal rather than a human perspective.

Yet the book made me feel deeply and empathize with all the suffering and triumphs Swift went through as a wolf – an animal that humans are typically taught to fear and hate.

I'm not sure exactly what age group this book was written for, but I am pretty sure that I'm in it.



"THE GRAY WOLF" PASTEL BY BERNADETTE E. KAZMARSKI



Espy Post Curator Diane Klinefelter's November 14 talk, "Mothers, Mams & Madams: Women's Role in the Civil War," wrapped up the Second Saturday Civil War Series for 2020, as well as the ACFL&MH's Women's Hour programming.

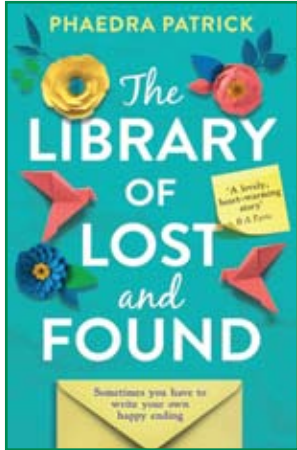


Staff Recommendations

Our Library staff don't just love helping you find your next favorite book – as you might expect, we're all avid readers ourselves! We asked each staff member to share the last book, TV show, film, or music that they fell in love with. Try one of these recommendations the next time you visit the Library!

Katie Byerly

The Chain by Adrian McKinty will keep you on the edge of your seat the whole way through the story. It is a very suspenseful book. Who will be the next victim and can the chain be stopped? Check it out to find out!



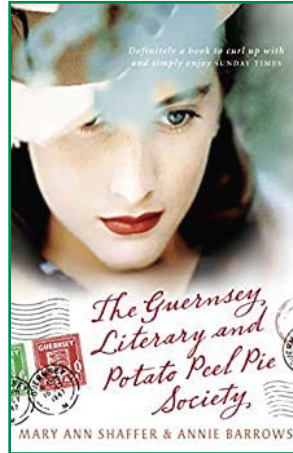
JoLynne Dougherty

Set in England, *The Library of Lost and Found* by Phaedra Patrick features Martha, a middle-aged woman who works at her local library. She has filled the majority of her life looking after her aging parents and after they pass, she struggles with how to build a life of her own. A mysterious book from the past appears, and leads her on a journey where she chooses to take

control of her own destiny. If you like this one, you may enjoy *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by the same author.

Walker Evans

When elderly widow Vesta Gul discovers a mysterious note in the woods, she is plunged into a what seems to be a murderous conspiracy in Otessa Moshfegh's latest novel *Death in Her Hands*. But matters aren't so simple, and the reader is left to interpret just how much of this plot exists only in Vesta's mind. Packed with black humor and written with Moshfegh's unmistakable voice, this metaphysical detective novel is a gripping page-turner.



Alice McWreath

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society is a work of historical fiction by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. The writers tell their story through a series of letters revealing the realities of the German occupation of Guernsey, an island in the English Channel, during World War II. The title is the name of a hastily formed book club as a cover when the members are discovered

out after curfew. Even though they were together for a contraband dinner of roast pig, they decide to carry on as a book club. We learn of their stories, based in actual happenings on the island and their friendships that help them get through this time of fear and loss.

Nate Wyrick

Here's the three best books I've read recently: *No Ordinary Dog* by Will Chesney, *Bone Song* by John Meaney, and *If You Tell* by Gregg Olsen.

I'm crazy about a lot of different shows, but here are just a few: *Vikings*, *Penny Dreadful*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Dexter*, *Peaky Blinders*, *Hannibal*, *Schitt's Creek* and *American Horror Story*.

I've recently discovered Dark Ambient music and am currently making my way through all of the albums by Atrium Carceri. My wife calls this stuff "music from Mars."



Staying Connected to My Storytime Friends

JoLynne Dougherty, Youth Services Coordinator

Had I known on March 12 that it would be my last in-person storytime, I might have kept the children just a little bit longer. I would have enjoyed watching young chefs play with the kitchen set – I am always up for an impromptu picnic – or young engineers reconfigure our wooden train set. Watching the children interact with the adults and each other is one of the most enjoyable things that I do at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall.

Making the switch to offering storytimes through Facebook Live and Zoom has been a bit of a challenge, but the transition has not been too, too difficult for me. For many years, I have said that I have the best parents, grandparents and adults at storytime because they are so engaged in singing the songs, reading the books and doing the finger plays with their children. Asking people to put their phones down has never been something that I have had to do. Now, when I have a storytime, I see a computer screen and while I miss being with my storytime kiddos, it is easy to imagine that they are still watching with their adults and they are all participating right along. Thank you to those of you who have sent emails, messages, and pictures as your child has continued to participate in storytime. That feedback feels like a big hug!

The Library has re-opened, but with many necessary precautions. Many of the children are anxious for the kitchen set, wooden trains, puzzles and blocks to come out of storage. We don't yet have the "all clear" for that kind of interactivity. So I developed our outside sidewalk obstacle course. I am amazed and gratified by how engaging it is.



Figuring out the logistics of how to make it put me through my paces. I think I painted it four times. I wanted it to have some staying power, but I didn't want it to last for generations! I started with tempera paint mixed with tapioca flour. That

lasted through some light rains. I touched it up when it was looking faded. Unfortunately, a super heavy rain washed the obstacle course away the very next day. It takes kids only a few



POORANI NATARAJAN

minutes to complete the obstacle course. I am slow. It takes me hours to paint it!

In the end, I used acrylic paint and some Krylon Clear Coat with success. I am happy to report that it is still going strong as a magnet for interaction! Staff have enjoyed watching the children jump, leap, spin and twirl and "roar like a dinosaur." When kids come in to get their prize, it has been fun listening as they recount what they did. It's not just little kids. We've watched teens complete it, and even kids on scooters. Once, when we were having a staff meeting, we heard a bunch of yelling outside. It was a group of teenage boys following the direction to "Stop and yell your favorite book!" However many times you complete the sidewalk obstacle course, please come into the Library to claim your prize.

Finally, we are well into what is a very different school year. Know that Library staff are here to help to connect you with resources to support your family in their pursuit of education.

I am so happy that the Library is open again. It is a joy to welcome back so many of our patrons. Our interactive activities may be in storage for a while, but I look forward to seeing you in the Children's area soon!

Welcome aBOARD!

The ACFL&MH welcomed three new trustees to its Board of Trustees last March -- via Zoom. Chris Green, Joan Massella and Sienna Watkins have had to make do with that medium for board meetings since then. Indeed, when Chris and Joan inadvertently encountered each other on random visits to the Library & Music Hall, they had to introduce themselves. Zoom has been a lifesaver, but falls short on many fronts.



If strangers to one another, Chris, Joan and Sienna are not strangers to the ACFL&MH. **Chris Green**, a CPA who lives in Rosslyn Farms, is managing partner of Green & Bridges, LLP -- a Carnegie Main Street business for more than 30 years. "As a life-long resident of the area, I have always been intrigued by the stately structure on the hill

overlooking the community. Due to visionaries like Charlie Goetz and Bill Manby, the facility has been significantly restored and is getting close to its original magnificence."

A long-time supporter of the Carnegie Carnegie, Chris co-chaired (with his wife Kathy) the ACFL&MH's annual benefit from 2016 – 2018. "Along with the facility's restoration has come a commitment by the staff and Board to become a hub for the informational, educational, musical and performing arts interests of the entire community. There is something here for everyone and I feel fortunate to participate in its continued growth."

Like scores of other people, **Joan Massella** was introduced to the Library & Music Hall by ACFL&MH and Carnegie booster Stella Sienicki Szafranski. Stella had brought Joan and a few other colleagues from St. Clair Hospital to see the Espy Post. Joan, who lives in South Fayette, is now retired from her position as Administrative Vice President and Chief of Nursing at St. Clair.



"When I had my first tour of the Carnegie Carnegie, I knew that my future included some type of volunteer work with the organization," said Joan. Indeed, she volunteered to transcribe Espy Post records and became a regular patron of Music Hall and Studio performances. When she was overheard sharing the ACFL&MH's history with the guests she brought to the 2019 *Carnegie's Maid* program, Joan emerged as an ideal Board candidate. "It is a mesmerizing facility that is rich in history, character and full of possibility. It is staffed by tremendously dedicated and innovative employees who have a true passion for their work." Joan went on to say that she hopes to get involved in outreach to ensure that community residents of all ages are aware of this precious asset. "Whether it is selecting a book, participating in one of the many children's activities or listening to some of the best jazz in the area, the ACFL&MH has something for everyone!" The Library & Music Hall has a wonderful new ambassador.

Sienna Watkins's affinity with the Library & Music Hall is very much a family affair. A Carnegie resident, her children Cora and Isaac are 4th and 1st graders at Carnegie Elementary School. Sienna brings an eclectic background to the board. She is the Research Center Manager for the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. She is also the co-owner of Move Makers, an entertainment company that coordinates and provides musicians for private and charity events, as well as public performances.



People are still talking about "Carnegie Swings," the dazzling performance that Reggie Watkins – trombonist, music director and Sienna's husband – pulled together for the ACFL&MH's 2019 annual benefit. The Library & Music Hall has been a touchstone for the Watkins family, never more so than during the pandemic says Sienna. "The Carnegie Carnegie is not only an invaluable resource for our community, but an integral part of my family's routine. Whether it's our daily walks to the lovely Library grounds to ride scooters, explore the wide selection of books, or attend one of the fun and creative events; we can always find a reason to visit! The staff is always welcoming and knowledgeable, eager to assist and engage us. I am honored to be a member of the Board and the Carnegie Carnegie 'family.'"

The Collective Comes to Carnegie

Michael Campayno and Rob Michael fell head over heels for the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall on their first visit – it was love at first sight. They knew immediately that our charming, historic building would be the perfect location for their acting program, The Collective.

During this unplanned pause of the live arts, Broadway actor Michael found an opportunity to return to his native Pittsburgh and to his core values in acting. Pairing up with Moon Area High School theater director, Rob, the two aimed to help keep art alive for young actors in our region. The pair make an excellent team with Rob physicalizing the structure of the program and Michael developing the curriculum. Classes got off the ground quickly with all appropriate safety precautions in place.

The Collective centers on a process-based teaching program, allowing students time and space to learn the foundation of acting through personalized mentorship. This group is unique in that it welcomes students from throughout the region. It offers them a sense of relief, the chance to learn from one another and build a community.

Michael shared that the classes, which began in mid-September, have been a testament to why he fell in love with acting in the first place. His students' growth gives him purpose.

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon School of Drama, Michael has been coaching students throughout the country for the last six years while simultaneously developing his own career in

NYC. Highlights of his impressive resume include originating the role of Rob Camilletti in *The Cher Show* and starring as Fiyero in the hit musical *Wicked* on Broadway. He also made his television debut as Rolf in the NBC live telecast of *The Sound of Music* starring Carrie Underwood.



The ACFL&MH looks forward to welcoming The Collective back in spring, 2021. Students can expect an offering of more specialized classes in acting as well as Musical Theater.

For information on classes, please visit www.wearethecollectivepgh.com or @wearethecollectivepgh on social media.

Get Connected: Check Out the Internet!

During the pandemic, it's more vital than ever to have access to accurate, timely information – and that means internet access! If you are one of the many people in Allegheny County who lack reliable access, we invite you to check out one of our free wireless hotspots. Connect your phone, tablet, or computer to a hotspot and enjoy unlimited internet! Complete school work, search for jobs, chat with friends, stream movies, and more. Our hotspots circulate for seven days, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Ms. Marilyn: A Remembrance

Nate Wyrick, Assistant Library Director

This past July the ACFL&MH and Carnegie Borough lost an amazing lady: Marilyn Cameron. Although originally from Crafton, she lived here in Carnegie at Washington Gardens until she was 90 years old. I only knew her for 10 of those 90 years but I am extremely happy to have gotten to know such a wonderful woman. Marilyn was one of the nicest and most genuinely kind people I have ever met.

And boy did she love her Library! She loved our beautiful building and what it meant to the community of Carnegie. She was pretty sure everyone felt the same as she did. She was a voracious reader and depended heavily on the Library to provide her with a constant stream of reading materials. If she kept a book past its due date she would come armed with her fine in her hand and wave away any suggestion of forgiving said fine as she “broke the rules” and was prepared to make things right. She wasn’t overly picky about her reading either; she read an immense variety of books, provided they didn’t involve much swearing, graphic violence or sexy stuff.

She loved our PALS book club and only missed the monthly meetings if she was feeling particularly badly. Always

considerate, she would stop by to pick up her book club book and take her Washington Garden neighbors their books as well. Marilyn attended many of the other programs we offer here at the AC Free, and would almost always bring at least one other person.

She usually brought someone who had never been to our Library before, so that they could experience her favorite place.

Marilyn was generous. She contributed as much as she could to us in a number of ways. She supported Love Your Library. She frequently used our memorial/honor book program to celebrate a friend’s birthday or mark the passing of a loved one. As she and I got to know one another better and she learned that I did our book purchasing, she would call me and ask if I had purchased a certain book. If my response was no, she would say “well don’t.” Then Marilyn would appear a day or so

later, usually with more than just the one book she had asked me about.

Some years ago, I moved into an apartment across the street from Marilyn. That was when I truly got to know her and understand just how much she loved our Library. We would often see one another in passing. What began as my returning her library books turned into my stopping by after work to help fix her cable, computer or any other electronic device that was trying her patience. I would check my feet and make sure they were clean before entering her cozy, but spotless home. It wouldn’t be long before she poured me a glass of milk.

Once I had repaired her device or called Verizon and yelled at them for her, we would sit and talk – sometimes for a very long time.



Marilyn was kind and incredibly smart. Despite her gentle nature, she also had some very strong opinions on things that occasionally would surprise me. The one thing that she was always adamant about, though, was her love of our Library. I cannot tell you how many people have come to the

Library, saying that Marilyn told them that someone here would help them. She knew that our purpose is to serve this community and she was “very proud to be a member of such a place.”

Following her own practice, Marilyn asked that any memorials for her be made to the Library. We were then humbled and so deeply moved to learn that she made the Library the beneficiary of her life insurance policy.

We miss Marilyn. Losing her left a hole in the heart of the Library itself. At the same time, we are both grateful and better for the pleasure of having her as a patron and a friend.



Dorothy Rubino: An Appreciation

Katie Byerly, Public Services Manager

If you stop by the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall on a Tuesday morning, you will see our dedicated volunteer, Dorothy Rubino, at the desk working hard on various volunteer responsibilities. Dorothy has lived in Carnegie for 35 years and has always been a fan of the Library. She used to visit different libraries throughout her life and has always loved to read. Dorothy retired in 2000 and, as she loved to read books, thought it would be a fabulous way to get involved in volunteering by helping out at her local library. In January 2002, Dorothy started to volunteer her time at the Library.

At that time, there were seven other Tuesday volunteers, but they either moved to a different area or passed away over the last 20 years. We are so very grateful for Dorothy's commitment and hard work.

Every Tuesday morning, she comes in half an hour before we open and stays until noon. Rain or shine, Dorothy is always on time and ready to work. Over her many year of volunteering Dorothy has worked the circulation desk, answered the phone, checked patron's items in and out, shelved items, covered books, scanned in the books from the morning bins and more. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, no matter what the project.

When we reopened after four months of COVID closure in July, Dorothy was eager to come back and resume her volunteer work. The first Tuesday we reopened, she was here and ready to start checking in books, reshelving the books, and anything else we needed her to do that day.



I asked Dorothy what her favorite part of volunteering was and she said "All of it! Interacting with the kids, conversations with the staff and patrons, and it keeps me busy."

When Dorothy isn't volunteering at the Library, she enjoys walking -- outside or at the mall, depending on the weather -- spending time with her loving family and lunch with friends. And, of course, she is a huge fan of reading! She loves to listen to the books on her phone and to have the physical copy in front of her. When it comes to reading books, Dorothy mostly enjoys thrillers and mysteries. Some of her favorite authors are Michael Robotham, Alafair Burke and Robert Crais. There are too many wonderful authors out there for her to pick just one.

All ACFL&MH staff love having Dorothy here with us. She is such a delightful, wonderful, hardworking, intelligent woman. She brings such joy to the Library. If you are ever in the Library on a Tuesday morning, stop by and say hello to Dorothy.

Lynne Franks: A Lifelong Love

On her sixth birthday, Lynne Franks earned permission to cross the street on her own. She'd long awaited this privilege; her library stood on the other side of the street. Lynne fondly remembers growing up at the West End Carnegie Library, working her way through the book collection in the lovely old building.

Today, Lynne satisfies her affection for lovely old libraries right here at the Carnegie Carnegie.

A regular Library patron and Music Hall attendant, Lynne enjoys sharing hidden treasures within our building with guests and renters, especially with wedding couples in search of the perfect photo. Lynne expresses a sense of ownership for our historic site: "It feels like our house and I love to share our house."

This year, Lynne shared her birthday with us. She created a Facebook fundraiser on our behalf that quickly surpassed her expectations. 20 Facebook friends donated a generous \$750. Lynne attributes the kindness of her friends to the fundraiser's fast success. We thank Lynne and her friends for caring so very much!



Thank You!

Nancy Batko
Susan Bryan
Erich Engel
Andrew Franks
Lynne Franks
Melanie Steiner Franz
Denise Pitrone Guarnaccio
Bo Hess
Lonnie Jantsch
Jeff Keenan
Kate Madey
Melanie Paglia
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Regina Sauer Martin
William Schulz
Bill Super
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A Benefit (Very Successful) that Wasn't



Until We Can Be Together Again

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Georgienne Hein
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One of the highlights of the year for the ACFL&MH has always been its annual benefit – a late September/early October performance that pulls out all the stops. The benefit raises critically needed funds. Perhaps even more importantly it draws a regional audience while shining a spotlight on how magical the Library & Music Hall is.

Early fall 2020 was not a time to gather. But we reached out, and were overwhelmed by how generous ACFL&MH supporters are. We raised nearly \$25,000 via the annual benefit that wasn't.... Thank you!!!

Marta Honores
John & Berenice Hooton
Audrey Hormel
John & Pam Iaconis
Della & Mark Iacono
Patrica Prattis Jennings &
Charlie Johnson
Pat & Frank Kurtz
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Sienna & Reggie Watkins
Jeffrey Weixel, PNC Carnegie
Dick & Carolyn Westerhoff
Jeannine Westlock
Dee White

The Woman's Hour

1920-2020

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall Celebrates the Centennial of Women's Suffrage with a year of special programming.



*Heartfelt thanks to the many women who **Stood Up to be Counted** and supported the ACFL&MH's Woman's Hour programming to celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage in the United States.*

Bonnie B Anton	Caitlin Green	Joan Massella	Judy Shock
Nancy Barsotti	Kathleen Green	Julia McCaffrey	Christine Simcic
Vicky Brilmyer	Gail Harper	Valerie Moll	Caitlin Forbes Spear
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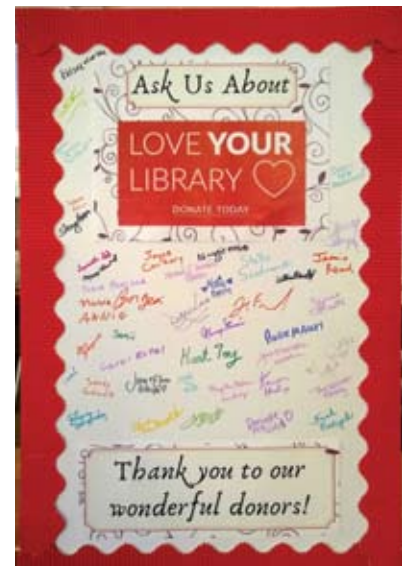
We Felt the Love During Love Your Library Month

This September, we celebrated our fifth year of participation in the county-wide *Love Your Library* fundraiser, managed by the Allegheny County Library Association. Once again, the Jack Buncher Foundation provided a generous pool of matching funds for gifts up to \$500 that will be distributed among all county libraries.

But it's you, our patrons, who really helped us feel the love! Over fifty individual donors contributed a total of \$3,623.75 to our campaign this year, sharing gifts of all sizes in a humbling outpouring of appreciation and care. An additional 124 people supported our benefit appeal to the tune of \$21,820 in September, half of which will qualify for the *Love Your Library* match. (The other half is allocated to the Music Hall cost center.) Even in this time of financial uncertainty for so many of us, you opened your hearts to let us know how much the Library & Music Hall means to you.

All told, our supporters contributed \$14,533.75 in match-qualifying donations. Patrons who donated specifically for *Love Your Library* month are listed here. Our deep gratitude to each and every donor!

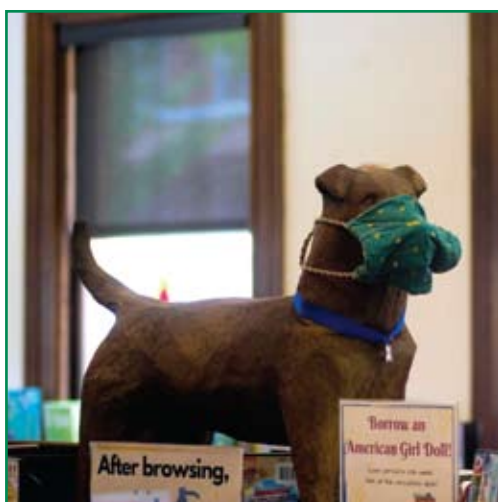
Anonymous	Walker Evans	Melanie Paglia
Kristen Anderson	Mary Lou Fink	Sara Plamz
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Maria Borgesi	Kathy Francken	Roseanne Riccardi
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Lorna Cabili	Carol Hickman	Nancy Steiner
Marilyn Cameron	Sherry Hoover	Stella Szafranski
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Tom Collins	Diane Klinefelter	William Walters
Joyce Corkery	Alice McWreath	Jeanne Williams
Carol Dlugos	Janet Miller	Tiffany Merovich Winter
Ken Dorsey	Jim Nagorski	Ann Zbezinski
JoLynne Dougherty	James F Nelson	The Marilyn Dean and Betty P.
Tim Erhard	David & Deborah Nowakowski	Ford Family Irrevocable Trust
Carol Ertel	Susan O'Connell	



Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall's Campaign Contributors

Thank you to the individuals, businesses and foundation that have contributed nearly \$340,000 since the Fall/Winter 2019 newsletter. We are sorry it took so long to acknowledge pre-COVID donations, and especially moved by the generosity of those who contributed since the pandemic began—acknowledged below and on other pages of this newsletter.

Bob & Pauline Aiken
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Memorial Gifts

The ACFL&MH is not only grateful, but deeply honored when gifts are made in someone's memory.

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 Eugenia Graser
 Bob & Barbara Hall
 Jack Hall, PC
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Betsy Bell Martin

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DOLORES GRIFFIN

Peggy Rutkauskas

BOB GUILIANI, CHRISTMAS 2019

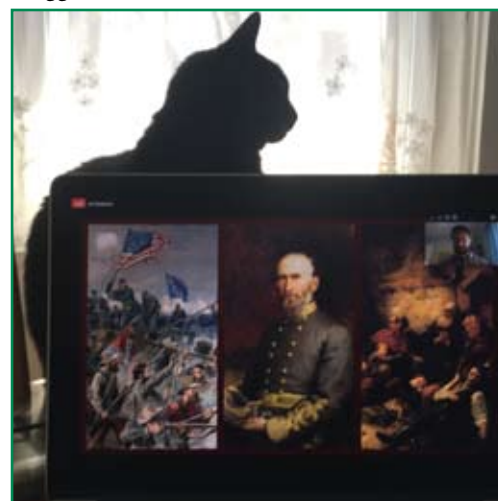
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Valerie Moll

WAYNE J. OLEKSA, CHRISTMAS 2019

Madeline Oleksa

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RUTH RUTKAUSKAS, CHRISTMAS 2019

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UNCLE TIM SMITH
The Raymond Family

DAVID WILSON
Linda Wilson-Fuoco



MAGGIE FORBES
Jane & Larry Breck

LYNNE FRANKS BIRTHDAY
Maggie Forbes

BETSY BELL MARTIN ON HER 95TH BIRTHDAY

Maggie Forbes
Isabel Ford
Marjorie O'Brien George & Stephen George
Chris & Kathy Green
John & Berenice Hooton
Anne & Vince Lackner
Bill & Georgia Manby
Lynn Pascoe & John Heiner
A.J. Pescuric & Doug Rossman
Marty & Debbie Powell
Betsy & Emil Ruderfer

ANNIE KORPIEL ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY
Stella & Ken Szafranski

ANA & ADDIE LEWIS
Denise Davis

SADIE
Maggie Forbes

JUDITH BOYLE STALDER
Stella & Ken Szafranski

Book Memorials

The following people made donations to the Library to purchase memorial books. When you check out a book, look for a memorial or honor plaque at the beginning of the book.

OSMAN BIRCAN
ACFL&MH Staff

MARILYN CAMERON
ACFL&MH Staff
Helen Banyas

MARILYN DETOMMASE
Claudette DeClemente

IRENE KIERSKI
Pete & Marilyn Townsend

KEVIN MANNING
Linda & Fred Majewicz

HOMER L. NIXON, JR.
Cynthia & Chuck Schultz

TOM POOLE
Bob & Donna Heinrich

Honor Gifts

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