



ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL NEWSLETTER

A National Historic Landmark

FALL/WINTER 2021

Our Final, Most Challenging Challenge...

Maggie Forbes, Executive Director

If the last two years have taught me anything, it has been to expect the unexpected. The unthinkable happens – on personal and on global levels. Yet, in some way, we get to the other side.

My 18 years at the Library & Music Hall have been profoundly rewarding. That said, satisfaction has been leavened with setbacks, anxiety and loss. The Carnegie Carnegie has withstood floods, great recessions, mudslides and pandemics. It is resilient. It needs to be.

Of course, there is no finality to challenges. So I must modify the title of this article to “My Final, Most Challenging Challenge.” I so often use this space to mark milestones – the Library & Music Hall’s, the Borough’s, Civil War Sesquicentennials, the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, etc. It’s not historic, but I just passed a milestone of my own. I turned 70 in October. I enjoy health, a reasonable amount of energy and I almost always look forward to coming to work. But it’s time for me to contemplate finishing what I started with the Chartiers Valley Partnership and so many of you readers back in 2003.

In our spring newsletter, we announced our \$1.25 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program state grant. It’s exhilarating to have the end of the Library & Music Hall’s

remarkable transformation within our sights!

Step one of “Completing the Carnegie Carnegie” is finishing Library Park. We’re almost there! Landscaping will carry on into early spring and take time to mature.



But construction of Library Park will be complete before Christmas.

We will follow Library Park with ambitious upgrades to the Studio, Mezzanine and, most dramatically, to the Music Hall, upgrades that will help ensure the long term sustainability of the Library & Music Hall. (Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org for detailed descriptions of planned improvements. And read about the “hidden in plain sight” Mezzanine in the pullout box on p. 3.)

For the last several months the ACFL&MH has been working with The Design Alliance architects and Landau Building Company to finalize the scope, design and costs of “Completing the Carnegie Carnegie.” Anyone who pays attention to the

news knows that the pandemic has upended supply chains, labor availability and costs.

Board and staff understood that the scope of “Completing the Carnegie Carnegie” would exceed the dollar for dollar match required by state grants. We can value engineer; we can modify scope; spiraling costs may even come down. But

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PITTSBURGH FAVORITE
BILLY PRICE BRINGS THE BLUES
TO CARNEGIE CARNEGIE HALL
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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 (June 26 to August 28)

Saturday

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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Dear Friends:

It is Election Day as we write this letter. People from Carnegie Ward 2, Districts 3 and 4 are voting in the Lincoln Gallery.

The ACFL&MH celebrates Veterans Day with members of the Carnegie Post 82 of the American Legion and the 9th Pennsylvania Reserves. We erected a flagpole in 2017 as part of Phase I of Library Park. A Veterans Day ceremony is now an annual event.

It is gratifying when the Library & Music Hall is part of larger events. However, we don't need reminders to know that the Carnegie Carnegie is part of a marvelous community, a community with a very large geographic footprint. At one of our last all-virtual "Second Saturday Civil War Talks," people from 11 states, England, Ireland, Venezuela and Kuwait participated – as well as many from Allegheny County.

The Library & Music Hall connects to its community with ties that bind. A few weeks ago, the ACFL&MH received an online donation in memory of someone who'd passed away fifteen years ago. An email conversation ensued. On a recent visit back home from Virginia, the donor visited the Library & Music Hall. Her friend had worked as a library page in the 1970s. The Library had been meaningful to him. The donor commented on how much the building had improved.

As this newsletter makes clear, the building, the grounds, the services and the programming have indeed improved – dramatically!

The newsletter also makes clear that we are not yet finished with the improvements we started in 2004.

But we are close. Library Park will be done before Christmas. Work on the Studio is scheduled for January, the Mezzanine for May. The jewel in the crown of "Completing the Carnegie Carnegie" is our acoustically superb, regional draw of a Music Hall. If we have the funding, we can begin that ambitious work in July.

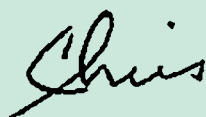
And we turn again to you, our nearby and far-flung community with whom we started on this incredible journey in late 2003. Our goal then was \$500,000. We did it!

Today our community goal is \$1 million. It will come in donations large and small. But it will come if each of us gives what we can.

We take nothing for granted. We anticipate a long, hard road. But we look forward to writing a celebratory letter in the next newsletter.

Until then, all best wishes for a happy holiday season. And for a 2022 that feels a little like home....

Thank you.



Christopher S. Green
President, ACFL&MH Board of Trustees



Maggie Forbes
Executive Director



**Every time you walk through our doors —
to take out a book, to enjoy a
performance, to visit the Espy Post — you
affirm the Library & Music Hall's value.
Spread the word about the Carnegie
Carnegie. Introduce us to a friend. And
please know what an honor it has been to
serve our community for 120 years!**

at this writing, total project costs hover around \$4 million.

We have submitted several proposals to foundations, and applied for other government grants. At its September meeting, the Board set a goal of raising \$1 million from our community.

Before you gasp, consider what the community has done to date. We launched the capital campaign in late 2003 with a half million dollar challenge grant. The grant stipulated that the ACFL&MH had to raise a dollar for dollar match from the community (no foundations, no government grants, no Pittsburgh corporate gifts). The community met that goal, donating \$517,000 in ten months. In a race to meet the challenge’s September 30 deadline, \$60,000 of that came in the two weeks following the 2004’s devastating flood. It’s the stuff of legend.

Community generosity resonates with me as deeply now as it did in 2004. The extraordinary bond between the Library & Music Hall and its community has moved and motivated me throughout my tenure.

More to the point, unwavering community support has played a starring role in the transformation of the ACFL&MH from barely hanging on to the vibrant and beloved organization it is today.

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall is beautiful. More importantly, though, significant improvements to services and programs have always followed upgrades to the building. This newsletter’s stories and photographs attest to a vitality and community value that was unimaginable not too long ago.

We turn to you again, asking you to be as generous as possible in “Completing the Carnegie Carnegie.” Individuals have already responded by contributing \$181,000.

Unlike in 2004, there is no hard and fast deadline. But I so want to be part of getting us to the finish line. Let’s do this together.

Contact me at 412-276-3456, x. 8 or forbes.mj@gmail.com with questions about memorial or honor gifts, pledges, different ways to contribute or just to check on our progress.



PHOTO BY JW RAMP

What and Where is the Mezzanine?

Most visitors to the Library & Music Hall have never heard of the Mezzanine. Most visitors don’t know there is a partial floor between the Library (1st floor) and Studio (basement) levels.

The ACFL&MH has an abundance of space in its 35,000 sq. ft. building, an abundance of large open space. But it has no space for programs that work better in an intimate setting or actually deserve privacy. Such programs include: tutoring, literacy and ESL classes; tax help; supervised visits; test proctoring; free legal advice and initiatives the Library hasn’t yet considered. Rehabilitating the Mezzanine will add great versatility to Library programming.

The only unimproved programming space in the building, the Mezzanine has been used by staff for “behind the scenes work” and as a break room., Though its footprint is only 715 sq. ft., it is difficult to underestimate the impact of converting this floor into small programming space. A small private office will be salvaged.

There will be two adjoining rooms for programming, both of which can accommodate 12-15 people, but will work just as well for one to four people. A new kitchen and gender-neutral restroom will be added to the larger room. An electric lift between the Mezzanine and Studio will make the entire facility accessible.

In addition to the activities already mentioned, the Mezzanine will be used for group activities for pre-school through primary grades, teens and seniors. Each of these groups does well with programs designed just for them. Cooking demonstrations are popular with seniors. FOOD is popular with teens and tweens – who will learn to prepare it!

Looking back, looking forward

Mike Busovicki



At heart, Captain Thomas Espy Post docents are storytellers. If you were to visit on any given week with a different docent, you are going to hear some of the same facts, but you will also hear different stories. Mike Busovicki reached out earlier this year about joining the docent corps. As a combat veteran, and by profession an advocate for his fellow veterans, we knew Mike could offer a keen insight into the stories and lives of the Espy Post veterans. This is perfectly illustrated in the following article, first published on Emerging Civil War.

All warriors want to know their efforts were not in vain and the deprivations they endured were worth the outcome. As the Civil War metamorphosed into a great insatiable beast, devouring ever more resources, lives, treasure, and innocence, those involved in that conflict inevitably asked, “What is this all for?” Faced with endless rows of graves and ever-growing casualty lists, what answer could possibly suffice? Entire towns might be in mourning when their local militia marched off as part of a volunteer regiment and suffered catastrophic losses in a horrific battle. The country was engulfed in a vast sea of heartbreak. What were the limits we were able to sacrifice?



President Lincoln unquestionably felt the same cold comfort in his own answers to that question as well, for he dedicated his entire address at Gettysburg to framing that question another way – What principles do we hold as imperative in America? Is this fight anything less than a renewal of the foundation of this nation?

Must we resort to arms every time we diverge from those principles? How do we prepare for additional hardship as the contest of wills grinds on interminably? Though he elucidated the answers to those questions so thoroughly and succinctly, even Lincoln felt doubts that mere words could cover the scope and the scale of the matter. In the text of one of the most indispensable speeches in

history, the great orator confesses that “the world will little note, nor long remember” their attempts to answer what the great struggle signified and what cost they were willing to pay for it.

We are going to struggle to find meaning in the twenty years we spent in Afghanistan. As a Post - 9/11 Era Veteran, people often ask me how I feel about the unfolding events or for some insight on putting the upheaval into context. My first thoughts when the news broke that we were leaving Afghanistan for good were the same words I’d expressed to a fellow Veteran the night Usama Bin Laden was killed more than ten years earlier: “I hope it was all worth it.” I said the same thing later that same year when major combat operations in Iraq were declared over (though armed violence has yet to stop in that country). “What a waste” was the second thought, considering how much had been lost in the process.

Many Veterans’ reaction to the scenes of terror and agony from overseas has alternately been anger, hopelessness, and a renewed sense of loss. I’ve read that Vietnam Veterans had lots of negative emotions from their war triggered by watching the fall of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon on TV, and though I didn’t experience Vietnam personally, I can definitely see what they mean. Speaking recently with comrades, I’ve found it doesn’t matter that almost two decades have passed since some of us were in Southwest Asia fighting a rather undefined “War on Terror”. Some specific memories may have blurred, but that doesn’t mean our feelings of frustration, rage, and exhaustion associated with war aren’t imprinted any less deeply.

I was an Infantryman who spent a total of 24 months in ground combat operations in Iraq. I probably left that war with

more questions than answers. And I still do not regret choosing the profession of arms and defending the greatest nation on Earth. But after that experience, there has never been doubt in my mind that war – especially when experienced up close and personally – is only about destruction, and never about building anything. If you

want to actually build something, pick a different tool. I have no question that Civil War

Veterans felt the

same way. For one, the country they destroyed was their own. The refugees and impoverished displaced by the war were their neighbors and extended family. The former enemy became their countrymen again (if reluctantly). One can't help but be moved when faced with such ruin.

The Civil War, for those who actually fought in it, did not last from 1861 until 1865. It lasted for the rest of their lives. Those who had limbs blown off labored to not be defeated by that war every day. Those mentally scarred by the nightmares and trauma of combat camped with it every night. Civil War Veterans tirelessly lobbied for enhanced compensation for the maimed and fostered the memory of those who had answered the last roll call in monuments, parades, and anniversary services. They wouldn't have spent decades doing so without having felt there was an account somewhere, still unbalanced, between what was paid and what was gained. Such is the way of survivor's guilt.

Participation in these tributes was a manifestation of their unceasing quest to find significance in the battle they and their comrades had borne. There had to be something more valuable than possession of a hill overlooking an unknown town, or the junction of some great thoroughfares, or maybe a few yards of farmland that had been transformed into a slaughterhouse. They wanted people to remember the sacrifices and the lives of the fallen. At the start of the Civil War, the U.S. population was roughly 31 million people. No less than 3.4 million of them (at least 11% of the population overall) served in the ranks by the end of the conflict, though the percentage of southerners serving was far higher.¹ Thousands more served as nurses and as part of relief organizations to attend the sick and the maimed. The proportion of American society who were personally involved is unmatched. Contrast these figures with the one-half of one percent of the U.S. population is currently serving on active duty, and many of those have served multiple tours of duty.² Meanwhile, under ten percent of the Americans

today have ever worn the uniform in any capacity; far fewer engaged in actual combat.³

And yet Civil War Veterans still demonstrated the fear that the price of freedom was being lost on Americans. Why else would their fraternal organizations and auxiliaries appoint

officers dedicated to historical and patriotic education? They still needed to find meaning in the sacrifices made and to educate Americans about the costs of choosing the gun

rather than choosing diplomacy. Their lifelong quest confirms that there is no quick nor easy answer to "What was it all for?" Still, this may be some means of consolation for those of us who have not found quick reconciliation for shortcomings in our own time. The qualities of resilience, discipline, and the ability to improvise that served us well in uniform will serve us well again.

Civil War Veterans undoubtedly grappled with a sense of loss – not only for fallen comrades but for the facets of their own lives that were given up; for the other paths they may have taken, or the for family they could have raised. "Oh, what might have been" crossed the minds of many. To mitigate feelings of doubt and unfulfillment, many threw themselves into fraternal organizations. There was no way to bring back those who had passed away. But Veterans organizations largely embraced community enrichment; if not always literally, at least metaphorically the country could be rebuilt. And though it was tragic that many were lost, it did not mean there could never be happiness and prosperity again. And the passion felt in loss could be reinvented in a new sense of purpose.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was the largest of these Veteran organizations. The GAR and their auxiliaries were centered around the

principles of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. Fraternity might be the memory of comrades who needed a drink from your canteen and some encouragement on a long forced march; now that comrade might need someone to lean on figuratively when finding it hard to carry on after the war. Charity was provided by

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Our Civil War counterparts definitely have another lesson for us: how to lay differences aside, coexist, and heal after conflict.



From “Looking”, page 5

those who were able to earn an honest living and could share with those who were less fortunate, including the establishment of homes for invalided Veterans. The sense that the nation owes a debt to its Veterans is largely a credit to this time period, a legacy they would be proud of. Their loyalty tied everything else together – continuously reaffirming their allegiance to a united country, rather than any other ideology, party, or person. That legacy continues today, as does the enduring message that comrades and their sacrifices will not be forgotten.

By holding these values sacred, these Veterans transcended the objectives of the conflict itself and constructed a new American society. This was the result of hard lessons, tempering rash action, and providing for those in need. In time, the decisions that led to Civil War would become unthinkable. That generation showed us how to heal the greatest rift this country has ever known, and how to be patient when success wasn't immediate or suffered a setback. Then, as now, most

Veterans were not consumed by the flames of war but strengthened – like hardened steel. It is important to remember it will take a long time to come to terms with the Post - 9/11 Era and its consequences. Not all of the lessons from this time have yet come to light. We still have the means to rescue those comrades who need us. We still have internal rifts that are not greater than the importance of a continued United States. Our Civil War counterparts definitely have another lesson for us: how to lay differences aside, coexist, and heal after conflict.

¹“The Civil War Facts.” National Parks Service. U.S. Department of the Interior. Accessed August 18, 2021. <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/facts.htm>

²Schaeffer, Katherine. “The Changing Face of America’s Veteran Population.” Pew Research Center. Pew Research Center, April 5, 2021. Accessed August 18, 2021. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/04/05/the-changing-face-of-americas-veteran-population/>

³“Demographics of the U.S. Military.” Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations, July 13, 2020. Accessed August 18, 2021. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/demographics-us-military>

A New Birth of Freedom: Civil War Symposium Returns

As Espy Post Curator Jon-Erik Gilot planned his roster of upcoming “Second Saturday Civil War Talks,” he was struck by the fact that April’s date would resonate profoundly with Civil War enthusiasts. Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

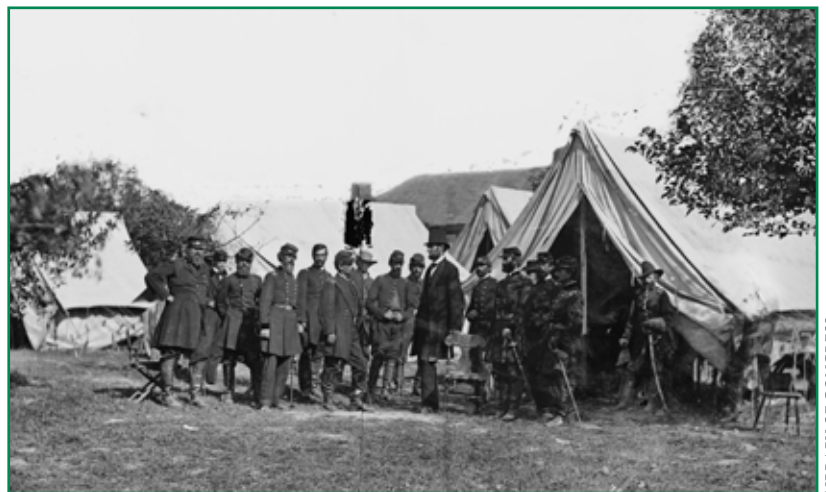
This and the fact that 2021-2025 marks the 160th anniversary of the Civil War years, prompted Jon-Erik to explore bringing back the ACFL&MH’s biennial Civil War Symposium. (The pandemic derailed ambitions for the 2021 event.)

Drawing on his connection to *Emerging Civil War*, a public-history oriented platform for sharing original scholarship related to the Civil War, Jon-Erik has assembled an impressive lineup of speakers. The program will focus on events that took place in 1862, from the battlefields at Antietam and Fredericksburg to the Emancipation Proclamation. Each topic will highlight significant events relative to the Civil War veterans who called the Espy Post home, including the battles that scarred them, the medicine that saved them and the words that freed them.

In marking 160 years since this focal point of the Civil War, the ACFL&MH is pleased to announce: **A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War in the East, 1862**, on April 9, 2022. The program features:

- **1862 Battle of Williamsburg, VA** – Drew Gruber, Executive Director of Civil War Trails
- **Battle of Fredericksburg, December 1862** – Chris Mackowski, Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief, *Emerging Civil War*
- **Lincoln, the Emancipation Proclamation and Western Pennsylvania** – Dan Welch, Seasonal Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park
- **Dr. Jonathan Letterman and his Plan that Changed Military Medicine** – Paige Gibbons Backus, Historic Site Manager at Prince William County
- **The Battle of Gaine’s Mill** – Kristopher White, Deputy Director of Education, American Battlefield Trust; Co-Founder, *Emerging Civil War*

Details are being worked out, but tickets are required. The full-day of programming will include lunch. Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org, watch social media or contact Jon-Erik at gilotj@einetwork.net.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

“A Music Hall & So Much More...!”

Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director



My name is Heidi. I live in Swissvale (on the other side of the Squirrel Hill Tunnel, at “the Kennywood exit.”) My home is filled with books, music in various physical formats, and a plethora of instruments to create more music of

multiple genres. And I’m the new Music Hall Director at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall in Carnegie. Or the Carnegie Carnegie.

In addition to the warm welcome from my new coworkers, I felt right at home in this building filled with books, history, and music-making. Having been entrusted with the content for the Carnegie Carnegie’s performance spaces, I solemnly swear I will never subject our audiences to music of my own creation. My accordion, saxophone, and theremin (look it up!) will remain safely in Swissvale. You deserve better.

This past August, I began my daily commute of driving through the Squirrel Hill tunnel. And, in less time than the time it takes for an extended jazz solo, I arrive at this beautiful historic building – *A Library and So Much More!* I’d heard of the Carnegie Carnegie before I started working here. I’d even attended a couple of events in the wonderful Music Hall. However, I didn’t visit all that often since I would have had to cross a bridge and go through two – TWO – tunnels to get there. But I didn’t *really* know what I was missing.

In my first few months at the Carnegie Carnegie, I had the pleasure of three unique live music experiences in three unique spaces. In the last days of summer, I was treated not only to a beautiful sunset over the town of Carnegie but also to the smooth & hot licks of RML Jazz with *Listen Locally Outside* on the piazza. Late September brought a much-anticipated return to our acoustically superb Music Hall.

Listen Locally’s season opener featured the electric Cello Fury, their symphonic sounds driven by a rock beat. Next, Irish voice, fiddle, and feet came together for a show steeped in Irish tradition. Dublin-born, singer/songwriter Mark Dignam, Molly ‘the fiddler’ Thompson, singer/guitarist Kathy Fallon, certified Irish Dance teacher Catie McCarthy, and students from the Bell School of Irish Dance gave a rousing performance.

Next was *Listen Locally Downstairs* in the Studio. Did you know there was a downstairs space? I didn’t. In November, we were pleased to host our second Open Mic Night and the return of *Listen Locally Downstairs* with local Americana, folk-rock artist, and celebrated writer Tom Breiding. Tom chronicles small-town America through original music, and his songs tell stories that history has all but forgotten – stories that sink so deep into a person’s psyche that they have to be told again.

Executive Director Maggie Forbes told me, “You’re not a waitress until you drop your first tray.” Our first post-pandemic *Listen Locally Downstairs* with BGVs was postponed on October 21 due to a major water main break in Carnegie. A very disappointing ‘dropped tray.’ Fortunately, the ladies of BGVs and I found a new date for their evening of Motown favorites: **Thursday, January 13, 2022!**

Special holiday season Library events, a visit from Drag Academy, Nandanik Dance Troupe’s “Dance for the Cure,” and literal visions of Sugar Plum Fairies thanks to Carnegie Performing Arts Center take place throughout December. Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.com – often!

Rolling full steam ahead into 2022, Pittsburgh’s favorite blues man, Billy Price is coming to the Music Hall. It turns out I’m not the only one who fell in love with Carnegie Carnegie Hall. Billy attended the Jimmy Adler Band’s *Locally Outside* performance last spring. Jimmy invited him up to sing a few songs. After the concert, my predecessor Melanie Paglia gave him a glimpse of the Hall. Billy was wowed! Mark those new calendars for Saturday, February 5, 2022 for a *Listen Locally* concert in the Music Hall with 2016 Blues Music Award (BMA) winner Billy Price.

I’ve just described plenty of ticket opportunities to surprise your loved ones with gifts to make them smile long after the holidays. If you need help gift-wrapping after your ticket purchase, stop by my office next to the Lincoln Gallery. I’d be more than happy to help with an extra pair of hands to tie that ribbon.



Countless Community Connections, Throughout the Years

Walker Evans, Library Director

As Library Director, I spend most of my time tucked away in my office and out of sight. But once a week or so, I like to spend some time at the beating heart of our Library: the main checkout desk. I love chatting with our patrons, seeing what they're checking out, and sharing help and recommendations.

Any time I'm out staffing the desk, there's one refrain I hear from patrons more often than any other sentiment. It's most commonly heard on the hottest days of the summer, usually as the patron walks through our doors, wiping sweat from their brow: "Oh, that *hill*!"

The location of our beautiful building has always been something of a double-edged sword. Yes, the Carnegie Carnegie looks striking and iconic from its perch atop Library Hill, and we love our view of downtown Carnegie. But sometimes it can feel a little isolated up here.

That's one reason I'm so looking forward to the completion of Library Park. The inviting new walkway will meander up the hill gently, weaving among lovely trees and benches. The connection between the Carnegie Carnegie and the rest of the community – always significant, but more figurative than literal throughout our 120-year history – will finally become tangible.

Of course, our physical walkway is far from the only kind of connection we are working to forge between the Library &

Music Hall and the broader community. Looking to the past, I think of the dedication of the Chartiers Valley Partnership, a community-led organization that spearheaded a heroic effort to restore our damaged building beginning in 2003. Plaques on the comfortable seats in our Music Hall bear witness to deep connections with the hundreds of music and theater lovers whose donations helped replace the older, uncomfortable seats.



Today, community connections lie at the center of our mission. A partnership with the Attawheed Islamic Center powers our popular Bilingual Storytime program, and helps us connect with Carnegie's growing community of immigrants. Conversations with the Artsmiths of Pittsburgh (visit their shop on East Main Street!) led to the creation of monthly art classes at the Library for kids and adults. And we look forward as always to our collaborations with the Carol Covi

Children's Event Committee, including our eighth annual holiday festivity, *Carnegie Celebrates the Season*.

If the past two years have taught us anything, it's that we need each other. The pandemic has disrupted our connections and left many of us dealing with isolation and loneliness in ways we may not have experienced before. In such times, the Library & Music Hall remains committed to finding, building, and strengthening those vital connections within our community. We hope you'll stroll up our new walkway and connect with us soon!



Make Your Event Memorable!

Weddings, reunions, meetings and fundraisers are all special when you hold your event at the Carnegie Carnegie. Our historic venue holds multiple options for your special event. The stately Lincoln Gallery offers great space for a sit-down luncheon, stand-up cocktail party or lecture. The lower level Studio serves up fresh club vibes for versatile events, performances and parties that continue after the sun goes down.

Call 412-276-3456 x6 today for a tour and ensure something special for your event!

Slow Burn Scary

Reviewed by Nate Wyrick, Assistant Library Director

My viewing/reading tastes are all over the spectrum, eclectic if you will. I will give practically any kind of genre a chance to win my interest and can count on one hand the things I refuse to digest and consider a hard no.

From a fairly young age I have been drawn to scary or horror-based books, movies and shows. When I was a kid I was reading the Dean Koontz book *Hideaway*. Something happened in a bedroom closet at the end of one of the chapters that scared the crap out of me. I loved it, and though I have also not slept with the closet door open since then. But I was hooked! The thrill I got from words on a page frightening me like that was incredible, and very much like an addiction, I began a lifelong chase for any media content that could unnerve me the way that book had.



I have absorbed so much scary content that as an adult, spooking me is not a very easy thing to do. Things that I watch with my wife that give her bad dreams, typically will merely make me chuckle or worse yet, roll my eyes. We recently finished a new Netflix show, *Midnight Mass*, and for the first time in years, I was left

feeling unsettled. More than once it made me jump. It was fantastic! I hesitated to review this series at first because I was worried that in order to speak about it and make it sound in any way kind of interesting, I would have to include spoilers. But this show was so thought provoking and powerful, but and at the same time creepy, that I had to give it a shot. This also seems appropriate given how close it is to Halloween that as I'm writing this review.

Mike Flanagan is the creator and director of *Midnight Mass* as well as the creator of *The Haunting of Hill House* and *The Haunting of Bly Manor*. Flanagan uses the same actors for each season of his Haunting series much like the creators of *American Horror Story* uses the same actors from season to season of its anthology series. He has recently been lauded for focusing on themes and people to create terror rather than

generating content with the purpose of making the viewer jump. (This season did make me jump some, whether it was intentional or not.)

Midnight Mass is a story of an old priest who gets lost on a holy holiday and winds up in a cave where he encounters an angel. He returns to his home, transformed into a much younger version of himself, and brings this angel with him. Upon returning to his small island with a slowly diminishing community, miracles and unexplainable things begin to happen. This produces a sort of religious reawakening, which quickly creates a tight grip on the residents of Crockett Island. I can't go into much more detail than this because you need to see for yourself, and I don't want to ruin it for you.

Characters and themes are what make this series as compelling as it is. It's heavy stuff too, stuff that grows more vivid with each passing episode. Flanagan prompts the viewer to examine how the intersection of faith and religious fanaticism can go very wrong. He also drills down into how important forgiveness is in our lives, and how it's actually a fundamental need for human beings to be not only forgiven by others, but to also forgive themselves. Acceptance is another theme explored that is interwoven tightly with forgiveness. The show does an excellent job making it clear how both of these go hand in hand in keeping us in touch with our very humanity. We're also shown the backgrounds of the many characters and exposed to their sins and traumas in depth. Yet somehow Flanagan causes you to feel empathy for these people, some of whom have done simply awful things.

There were moments where I was anxious while watching and other times where I felt like my heart was just breaking for some of the folks in this series. This is definitely designed to make you think long and hard about the varying themes explored, and hopefully by the end of your viewing, you're able to discern what the actual motif of this series is.

Midnight Mass won't be for everyone (especially not kids) as it has lots of very bloody violence, potent religious overtones, and also because of its slow burning nature. Shock and awe lovers will likely be bored by this show. However, if you can get past the show's slow build, it will grip your brain and not let go until its chaotic and ambiguous finale.

I've personally enjoyed all of the seasons from the Haunting series so far and am very much looking forward to what Flanagan puts out next...which, I just read last week, is going to be a series based on adaptations/blendings of several Edgar Allen Poe works called *The Fall of the House of Usher*. This can't come out soon enough.

A Meaningful Mission

JoLynne Dougherty, Youth Services Coordinator

Autumn brings many changes – the leaves, the weather, our wardrobes change with the season. At its last meeting, the Board of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall voted to change our mission statement. The new statement reads, “The Mission of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall is to build community with a library, theater, and historic site that welcomes, informs, entertains and engages the region in lifelong learning.”

The change was subtle, but powerful. To build community was added and put front and center.

In my work at the Library with area children and teens, building community is the basis for so much of my programming and the books that we choose to add to our collection. Even though the wording is new to the mission statement, it is something that we’ve been doing for a very long time.

Please forgive me if I share a personal story with you. I spend so much of my time sharing other people’s stories. My daughter Mary went to the local homecoming dance this year with a group of her friends. She shared a picture of them posing in their dresses. As I looked, I saw that several of the girls were friends that she had made when she attended storytime here at our Library as a preschooler. In elementary school, they had separated and gone to different

schools, but somehow, they all ended up at Carlynton Junior-Senior High School, and had renewed their friendships. As children, they enjoyed getting together and having friends to play with after Miss Erin Tipping’s storytimes.

(Elena Johnson, who attended Miss Erin’s storytimes, is a featured poet in this newsletter.)

As an adult and stay at home mom, meeting and talking with the other moms and grandmas at storytimes was a life line for me. How much I appreciated their wisdom, kind words, and generous natures. Also, on those hard mornings, when just getting my clothes on and getting out of the house seemed like a huge accomplishment, it buoyed my spirits to find out that I wasn’t alone in discovering that raising children wasn’t as easy as they made it look on television. I cherished my community at the Library and am glad for the families that currently provide that feeling for a new generation at our current storytimes.

It’s that same feeling of community that we are trying to build with our teens and tweens. We began a new program this summer called Snack & Chat which currently meets on Wednesdays at 3:30. As the name implies, we have a snack and we chat. Sometimes we play a game of Uno or we do a craft. We want to know what the members of the

Snack and Chat group are interested in learning, talking about and doing.

I’ve lived in Carnegie now for more than 25 years. It’s a great community to belong to. The Library & Music Hall is part of that. I look forward to building community with you as we continue to welcome, inform, and help you engage in lifelong learning.



In the photo above the girl in the red sweater in the center of the photo is Elena Johnson, and the girl in the red sweater on the right edge is Mary Dougherty on her mother JoLynne's lap.

Carlynton Student Wins Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest

Ralph Munn served as the Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh from 1928 until 1964. An endowment named in his honor funded creative writing workshops, beginning in the 1970s. Since 2007, the Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest has recognized creative excellence among Allegheny County teens.

This year, the Contest was judged by author Deesha Philyaw (Short Prose) and Emerging Poet Laureate of Allegheny County Paloma Sierra (Poetry). Congratulations to Carlynton tenth-grader Elena Johnson, who received first place honors for her powerful poem *Fell a Victim*.

Elena writes: "I enjoy music and acting; I am a member of



the Carlynton Golden Cougar Marching Band; and I'm in the cast for our school play this year, *The Best (Worst) Christmas Pageant Ever*. I also am on the bowling team. Currently, I have no idea what my future holds, but I suppose I'll get there soon."

Fell a Victim

by Elena Johnson

Running shoes slap the sidewalk,
Drips of sweat fall
grazing the Green grass
freshly trimmed and so meticulously cared for.
Paced breathing of a man

enjoying his afternoon jog,
A strong man with deep skin.
He admires cerulean skies
and welcomes the warm glow of the Georgia sun.
Tires screech on the asphalt,

A pickup truck comes to an abrupt stop
next to the jogging man
who is too late
to catch a glimpse of what waits for him.
Gunshots pierce the afternoon calm

Death carried by men with pale complexions
is stricken upon the jogging man.
Red corrupts the formerly Green
for color warps the public eye.
I feel that true sentiment is a delicacy

when tragedy is commonplace
"What a shame"

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.

Tax-Smart Charitable Giving Strategies

Chris Green, CPA, President, Board of Trustees

As another article in this newsletter has explained, ACFL&MH is near the end of the planning phase of major renovation projects for the Music Hall, Studio and Mezzanine. This comes on the heels of the development of Library Park, currently under construction, which is designed to connect the business district to the Library & Music Hall. The total cost of these projects is estimated to be slightly over \$4 million.

Although we've applied for government and foundation grants for much of the funding, the Board of Trustees has established a community fundraising goal of \$1 million needed to complete the projects. With that in mind, we thought it would be helpful to provide a few tax-smart charitable giving strategies. The information provided below should be discussed with your tax advisor.

Receiving tax benefits when making charitable contributions lowers the donor's actual cost of contributing due to income tax savings. Receiving these benefits has traditionally been done by itemizing deductions on your federal income tax return. However, changes in the tax law that were effective in 2018 included an increase in the standard deduction. The result is that many people don't itemize any more.

If you are close to the standard deduction limit, however, there is a way to get a tax benefit. You can "bunch" two years of donations into one year. This could allow you to itemize in one year and take the standard deduction in the next year, thereby obtaining a higher total deduction amount over the two-year period.

If you have investments in marketable securities in a non-retirement account, consider an "in kind" donation of securities that have increased in value. With the current up stock market, many stocks and mutual funds have increased in value substantially. By gifting the shares of appreciated securities rather than selling them and donating cash, you can deduct the value of the securities (assuming you itemize) and never pay capital gains tax on the appreciation. If you sell the securities and donate the proceeds, you will be subject to capital gains taxes. The Library & Music Hall has an investment account that can directly receive gifts of stock. Again, this strategy only works for securities that are not in a retirement account or IRA.

There is a different tax saving strategy for using assets in an IRA in charitable giving. At age 72 taxpayers are required to annually take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from IRA's. Generally, these distributions are taxable. However, if you have your IRA trustee make a payment directly from your IRA to the charity, the distribution counts toward your RMD and is not taxable. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you take the same distribution from your IRA and then contribute it to the charity, it will be taxable and the charitable contribution could still be limited due to the higher standard deduction. The key here is that the Qualified Charitable Distribution goes directly from the IRA trustee to the charity. Note there is a \$100,000 annual limit to a QCD.

Personal finances and the related tax implications are unique to each of us. The three ideas noted above described here –

bunching deductions, gifting securities that have appreciated in value and making Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs – can be tax effective strategies to reduce your taxes and therefore the cost of charitable giving depending upon your individual circumstances. You should check with your tax advisor to see if any of these strategies makes sense for you.

Needless to say, the Library & Music Hall deeply appreciates all donations – whatever form they come in – to help us reach our ambitious goal.



Crusaders for the Carnegie Carnegie

Mac Johnson

When I was in 2nd grade, my grandfather started taking me to the Carnegie Carnegie. I was so excited when I received my very own library card! Going to the big mansion on the hill with him and choosing my books are fond memories.

In middle school, I started volunteering at the Library. My grandfather would sit and read while I worked. When I turned 16, I became a docent in training for the Espy Post Room.

Sadly, the Library had to close down due to Covid-19. This past summer, I reached out to the Library to see if the docent program had restarted. It was still on pause; however, the Library needed volunteers. I met with Maggie Forbes, executive director of the ACFL&MH, to see how I could help. From our discussion, we came up with an idea to try to form a partnership with my high school, Bishop Canevin.

I wrote a proposal to the principal and the activities director at BC. They were enthusiastic about it and gave me permission to form the club, Crusaders for the Carnegie Carnegie.

ACFL&MH stands only two miles from Bishop Canevin, yet there are many students who have neither been there nor knew it was there at all. A goal of the club is to introduce students to

the Library, its history, and the many opportunities there. Students interested in history could attend a Civil War lecture. Music students could enjoy the plays and concerts there. Students can also volunteer to help with these events.

Our first event was to help usher guests at the Cello Fury concert. During the Carnegie Fall Festival, my brother and I assisted at the ACFL&MH table. Our biggest club-sponsored event to date was a groundskeeping mission with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The event was a great success. We weeded and mulched around the green spaces of the Library. The club looks forward to future projects and a long-lasting bond with this special place.



Free Legal Advice at the Library

Walker Evans

It was late 2020 when I first encountered criminal defense attorney Giuseppe Rosselli. I had heard from the Library Director of the Wilksburg Public Library about an exciting partnership at her library: for the past several months, Giuseppe had been offering appointments for legal advice to the patrons there. Half an hour of time with a dedicated, qualified legal expert – completely free of charge.

I've worked in public libraries for long enough to know how challenging it can be for patrons to navigate the legal landscape. When someone needs legal help but lacks the resources to hire a lawyer, the public library is often their best option. As Library staff we do our best – searching for legal forms online, ordering books on various legal aspects – but the gulf between our

research prowess and the expertise of a trained lawyer yawns wide. I knew folks in Carnegie would greatly benefit from a partnership between the Library and an attorney like Giuseppe.

When I reached out to Giuseppe, I was immediately

impressed by his principles and commitment to equity of legal access. Since we launched our own partnership, Giuseppe has offered free appointments at the Carnegie Carnegie on eight different occasions, guiding over a dozen Carnegie patrons through their legal issues. Giuseppe's dedication and care for each individual he serves are readily apparent – patrons who meet with him praise his kindness, skill, and understanding.

"I take great pride in my relationship with the Andrew Carnegie Free Library," explains Giuseppe. "I was raised to believe that the law is the great equalizer between those who have and those who have not. What's right is right and what's wrong is wrong. Unfortunately, not every citizen has access to affordable and competent legal advice. My goal is to ensure that everyday citizens have someone or something to bridge that gap. I am thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Carnegie Free Library to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to understand and exercise their rights."

We thank Giuseppe Rosselli for his work with the patrons of the Carnegie Carnegie, and look forward to the future! If you are interested in learning more or scheduling an appointment, please me at evansw2@einetwork.net, or call 412-276-3456 x12.



Upcoming Performances at the Carnegie Carnegie

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

Drag Academy presents

DRAG ACADEMY CHRISTMAS PARTY

An annual event hosted by Drag Academy, bringing fabulous drag artists from all over and connecting the community more than ever! Vendor market, preshow reception, and guest star, Asia O'Hara from *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

Thursday, December 2, 2021, Pre-Show Reception 5:30pm and Performance at 7:30 pm.

Music Hall

Carnegie Performing Arts Center presents

THE NUTCRACKER

Our youth company in residence presents their annual performance of the charming winter classic, *The Nutcracker* ballet. December 10-12; 17- 19, 2021

Music Hall

Carnegie Performing Arts Center presents

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Our youth company in residence presents their annual children's play, the enchanting fairy tale of a beautiful young girl who grows to love a fearsome beast.

February 19 & 20, 2022

Music Hall

ACFL&MH Listen Locally

AARON COPLAND'S LINCOLN PORTRAIT

Copland's stirring tribute in honor of our 16th President performed by the Duquesne Wind Symphony led by James Gourlay. Marianne Cornetti narrates. See article p. 20.

Monday, February 21, 2022, 7:00 pm Presidents Day

Music Hall

Stage 62 presents

DISNEY'S DESCENDENTS

Based on the popular Disney Channel Original Movies, *Disney's Descendants: The Musical* is a brand-new musical comedy featuring the beloved characters and hit songs from the films.

March 4-6; 11- 13, 2022

Music Hall

The Pittsburgh Savoyards present

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta of a young man who leaves a band of pirates, with hilarity to ensue.

March 25-27; April 1-3; 8-10, 2022

Music Hall

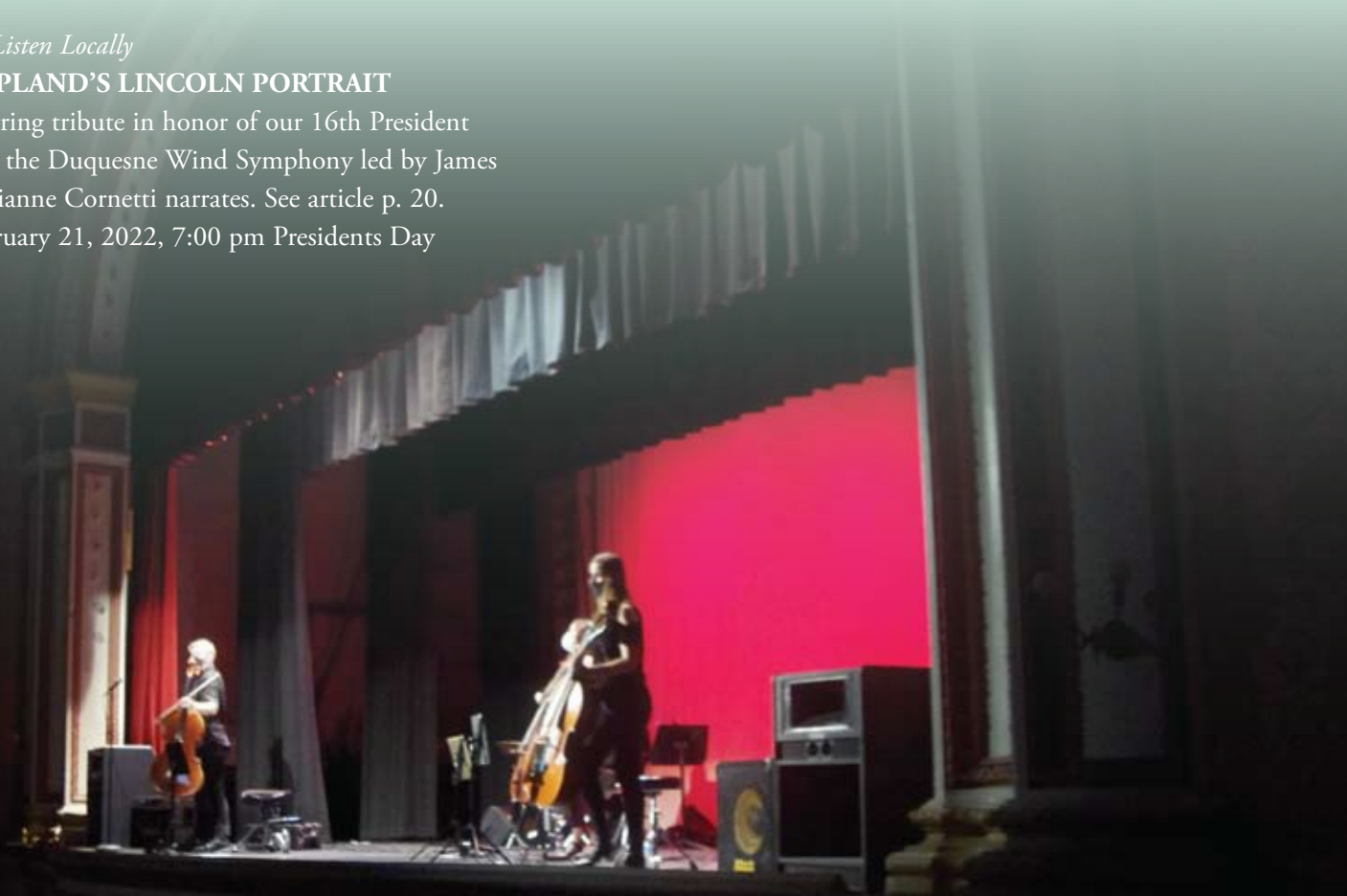
Carnegie Performing Arts Center presents

PETER PAN

Our youth company in residence presents a ballet of the classical tale of a free-spirited and mischievous young boy and his never-ending childhood adventures.

April 30 & May 1, 2022

Music Hall



Nandanik Dance Troupe presents
DANCE FOR THE CURE



A musical fundraiser gala for the American Cancer Society. Join in honoring cancer fighters, survivors, and thrivers and celebrate life together for an evening of Indian music and dance.

Saturday, December 4, 2021, 4:30 pm
Music Hall

ACFL&MH Listen Locally Downstairs
THE BILLY PRICE BAND



Pittsburgh's Favorite Blues Man and 2016 Blues Music Award winner Billy Price first attracted national attention during his association with guitarist Roy Buchanan. Welcome him to Carnegie Carnegie Hall!

Saturday, February 5, 2022, 7:30 pm
Music Hall

WARM UP THOSE WINTER MONTHS

ACFL&MH Listen Locally Downstairs
BGVs
(AKA BACKGROUND VOCALS)



The BGVs bring their astounding versatility, tight harmony, and beautiful clarity front and center with Motown hits.

Thursday, January 13, 2021, 7:00 pm
(Rescheduled from October 21, 2021)
Studio

JOIN US!

Upcoming Library Events

Visit www.CarnegieCarnegie.org for the most up to date information, changes, etc.



Carnegie Celebrates the Season!

Saturday, December 4, 2:00- 4:00 PM

Our annual holiday celebration carries on, though once again as a drive-through event. Let's stay healthy for the holidays. As it has for eight years, the ACFL&MH is collaborating with the Carol Covi Children's Event Committee. Join Santa (and maybe some special friends) for a wave, a gift, a treat bag, some take home crafts and lots of smiles! For safety reasons, walkers are encouraged to come after 3:00. (Rain date, Sunday, December 5, 2:00- 4:00 p.m.)



Traveling Our Road: An Author Visit with Gail Neustadt

Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 PM

Author Gail Neustadt shares and discusses her new book *Traveling Our Road*, which gently explores issues of

illness, caregiving, communication and love. This program is for adults. *Traveling Our Road* is for parents and other caring adults to share with the children in their lives.

An Alternative History of Pittsburgh: An Author Visit with Ed Simon

Date to be announced

You might not know Pittsburgh as well as you think! Join Ed Simon, author of the award-winning *An Alternative History of Pittsburgh*, for an accessible and funny four hundred year tour of the hidden history of our region.

EARTH DAY AT THE CARNEGIE CARNEGIE

Saturday, April 23

Celebrate the grand opening of Library Park with our annual Earth Day festival! Come enjoy crafts, activities, workshops, and more in this all-ages family-friendly event. Details will be announced at www.CarnegieCarnegie.org



Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall's Campaign Contributors

*Heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, businesses and foundations that have contributed \$162,311 since the last newsletter. Your generosity carries us through challenging times. An * indicates more than one gift in this time period.*

Jim & Catherine Angle
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Memorial Gifts

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

PATRICIA DROST BAESSLER

Matthew Baeroosh
Ryan Baessler
Sarah Baessler
Zach Baessler
Allison Kustra



VIRGINIA CONTI

Peggy Rutkauskas

CHARLES "CHUCK" FLAVIN

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EVELYN GAZELLA

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CHARLIE GOETZ, JULY 2021

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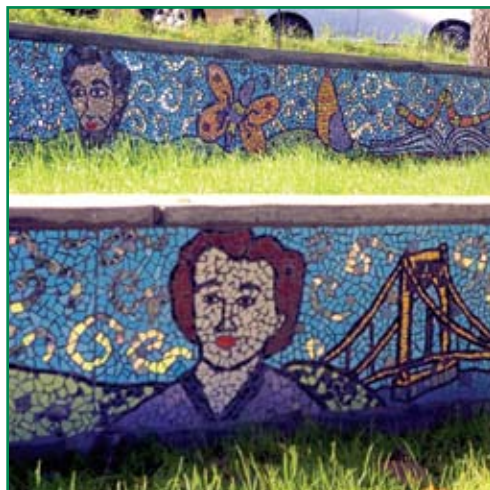
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Lynn Nelson

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Peggy Rutkauskas



Honor Gifts

Thank you so much to those who mark a birthday, anniversary or other milestone with a donation to the ACFL&MH.

CLARE GOETZ ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

Jane Eck
Ann Fronduti
Nancy Gannon

MAGGIE FORBES ON HER 70TH BIRTHDAY

Peggy Rutkauskas

SARAH PREVITE SIENICKI ON HER 95TH BIRTHDAY

Maggie Forbes
Len & Loretta Szafranski
Ken & Stella Szafranski

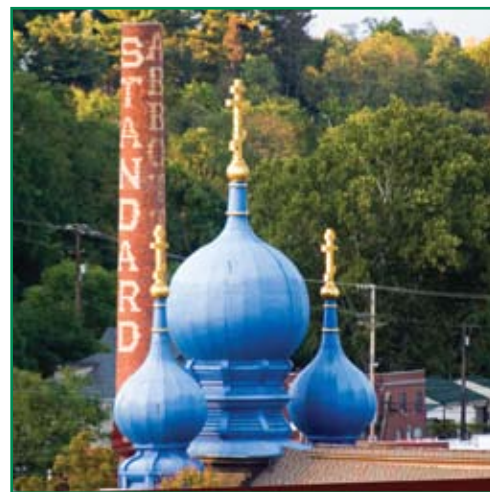
AL YACCINO & LORIE SCRABIS WEDDING, AUGUST 2021

Gary & Kit Handerman

*Many thanks to the following people who contributed to the **Love Your Library** campaign. Your generosity earns a prorated match from the Jack Buncher Foundation*

Pamela Beene
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ROSEMARIE PYSH HUGGINS
FEBRUARY 28, 1935 - MARCH 29, 2018
COUNSELOR TO ALL; BELOVED SISTER AND AUNT

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 plate at the beginning of the book.

HELENE DALCANTON

James & Maureen Nelson
William Fisher
Annette & Ron Stewart

JUDY GREGA

ACFL&MH Staff
Hal & Leslie Barbour

DONNA MORTIMER

ACFL&MH Staff

RUTH A. SCHREIBER

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



Denise Edeburn joins the ACFL&MH as Financial Manager. She's familiar face after years of accompanying her husband Chuck as an Espy Post docent, Welcome!

"Lincoln Portrait," from page 20

narrator speaking over the music. A short list of *Lincoln Portrait* narrators includes Gregory Peck, James Earl Jones, Eleanor Roosevelt, Walter Cronkite, Tom Hanks and Danny Glover.

Marianne Cornetti is no stranger to Carnegie Carnegie Hall. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* named her 2005 benefit concert here "one of the top ten classical performances of the year." She has performed two other concerts here, and planned to narrate *Lincoln Portrait* before a scheduling conflict derailed her planned 2017 appearance. Ms. Cornetti and the ACFL&MH are delighted their schedules finally aligned.

"What an honor to be a part of the Presidents Day concert with James Gourlay and the Duquesne Wind Symphony! Narrating Aaron Copland's stirring *Lincoln Portrait* is something I have been looking forward to doing for a long time at the magical Carnegie Carnegie Hall," said Cornetti. "What an emotional concert this will be!"

This will be the Wind Symphony's third appearance at the Music Hall. "They sound glorious!" said Executive Director Maggie Forbes, "and we are so looking forward to welcoming James to our Hall." Dr. Gourlay agrees. "The Duquesne University Wind Symphony Orchestra is excited to be celebrating Presidents Day at the iconic Carnegie Music Hall. The orchestra, made up of Duquesne's finest woodwind, brass and percussion players will perform a program including Joseph Willcox Jenkins' *An American Overture for Band*, Morton Gould's *An American Salute* and other patriotic works. The concert's highlight of course will be Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*."

Ms. Forbes knows that Marianne Cornetti cannot come to Carnegie Carnegie Hall and not sing, but leaves it to Ms. Cornetti and Dr. Gourlay to decide what her selection will be. "I just know that this will be a night of fabulous music that we are all so more than ready to hear."

Lincoln Portrait takes place at 7:00 p.m. on Presidents Day, February 21. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. \$10 for students with I.D and children 12 and under. The Espy Post and Lincoln Gallery will be open from 2:00 to 7:00 PM Tickets at CarnegieCarnegie.org.



Andrew Carnegie Free Library
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Lincoln Portrait Returns to Carnegie Carnegie Hall

Join us on Monday, February 21, 2022 for the ACFL&MH's fifth Presidents Day concert featuring Aaron Copland's beloved symphonic work, *Lincoln Portrait*.

The ACFL&MH first presented Portrait in April 2010 as part of its celebration of the restoration of the Captain Thomas Espy Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Actor David Conrad narrated; Duquesne University's Wind Symphony was the orchestra.

Since then the ACFL&MH has acquired a rare collection of 100 photographs of Abraham Lincoln – housed in the Lincoln Gallery. The Espy Post and Lincoln Gallery make the



Marianne Cornetti

Library & Music Hall a significant Civil War destination, and forged the idea of a Presidents Day concert.

Renowned mezzo soprano and Artistic Director of Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Marianne Cornetti will narrate the Copland piece. James Gourlay, well known to Pittsburgh audiences as the Music Director of River City Brass Band will lead Duquesne's Wind Symphony. Dr. Gourlay also serves as Director of Bands at Duquesne.

Aaron Copland composed *Lincoln Portrait* in 1942, during the dark, frightening years of World War II. The orchestral score incorporates some of Lincoln's most gripping oratory, with the

See "Lincoln Portrait", page 19