

## \$500,000 Grant

(Continued from p. 1)

Campaign Co-Chairs Charles R. Goetz and William E. Manby expressed their appreciation for the generous grant supporting the \$8.6 million campaign – the library's first major capital fund-raising effort in its 104-year history. With this grant, the campaign has raised more than \$3.46 million – or 40 percent of its goal.

“This is very exciting. More and more people are beginning to understand the vital role this facility plays in the Carnegie community.”

*William E. Manby  
Campaign Co-Chair*

“We are so grateful for this grant. It's a wonderful gift and a tremendous boost to our fundraising efforts,” Manby said.

“This is very exciting. We are hopeful that other foundations will follow suit with their support. More and more people are beginning to understand the vital role this facility plays in the Carnegie community,” Goetz added.

Goetz and Manby also expressed appreciation for continued contributions and support of benefit events, such as the recent concert featuring Marianne Cornetti (see story, page 4), which raised \$54,000. Other generous support included a recent \$75,000 grant from the Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation.

The Chartiers Valley Partnership, in cooperation with the Library Board of Trustees, is raising the funds needed to restore and revitalize the facility so that it will be accessible, attractive, welcoming and user-friendly. Funds will be used to secure the structural integrity of the building while dramatically improving its capacity to serve the public. Campaign leaders believe a revitalized library will help the economy of Carnegie and the Chartiers Valley. A.L. Brouman Associates, Inc., is serving as fundraising counsel for the campaign.

For more information on the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall Campaign, contact Maggie Forbes, acting executive director and campaign manager, at (412) 276-3456, ext. 6.

Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall Campaign  
300 Beechwood Avenue  
Carnegie, PA 15106

## Christmas Cabaret

Join us at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall for a Christmas Cabaret featuring Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Students from Duquesne University will perform a selection of traditional carols and Broadway songs. The concert will conclude with a sing-along.

The free concert begins at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Reception Hall following the performance.

## Bring Back the Beacon

You can help bring back Carnegie's crown jewel and community beacon. Support the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall Campaign.

Send your tax deductible contributions made payable to:  
The Chartiers Valley Partnerships, c/o  
The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, 300 Beechwood Avenue,  
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# ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER



A National Historic Landmark

WINTER 2005-06

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## Richard King Mellon Foundation Awards \$500,000, Boosting Capital Campaign Total to \$3.46 Million

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to be used in the \$8.6 million campaign to restore, renovate and revitalize the historic facility.

Ann Marie Helms, program officer for the Richard King Mellon Foundation, praised the Carnegie community for its support of the campaign – particularly following last year's devastating flood when it came through with \$500,000 to secure a matching grant from an anonymous donor.

## Civil War Expo to Mark 100th Anniversary of Espy Post Charter

*Commemorates Agreement Establishing Civil War Room*

Plans are in the works for a 100th Anniversary celebration next spring commemorating the charter agreement that established the Thomas Espy Post of the Grand Army of the Republic at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library in 1906.

The celebration, which coincides with the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall's 105th birthday, is being planned for May 5 and 6. Events will be held throughout the facility and on the library grounds.

“Our Civil War Room is a national treasure. It's also one of Western Pennsylvania's best kept

“What impacted me about the project's potential is how the community rallied to meet the initial \$500,000 challenge.”

*Ann Marie Helms  
Program Officer  
Richard King Mellon Foundation*

“I am thrilled that our Trustees approved support to help restore and revitalize this wonderful community asset. What impacted me especially about the project's potential – in addition to its committed leadership, splendid architecture

secrets. We hope this event will showcase the Thomas Espy Post and the treasures they left here,” said Maggie Forbes, acting ACFL&MH executive director.

Forbes pointed out that the Civil War Room is an important part of the ACFL&MH's \$8.6 million campaign to renovate, revitalize and restore the historic landmark.

The ACFL&MH is collaborating with the 9th Pennsylvania Reserves to develop this program.

Preliminary celebration plans include a Friday evening reception

and hilltop site – is how the community rallied to meet the initial \$500,000 challenge grant,” Helms said.

“Their response sent a strong and reassuring signal about the project's importance to the community and, I trust, is a reliable indicator of its ultimate success,” she added.

(See **Grant** p. 12)

## DIVA DELIGHTS!



Opera star Marianne Cornetti, pictured with Nadine Bogнар wows audience, draws rave reviews. See Benefit Concert pages 4-5; Photos pages 6-7.

with a special performance and sneak preview of exhibits. Civil War enthusiasts of all ages will be invited to the Saturday events, which include a Civil War exposition, a Civil War program with characters, children's activities, crafts and stories, Music Hall performances, a Civil War encampment, and tours of the Thomas Espy Post.

(See **Civil War**, p. 11)

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Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday & Monday  
Closed

**ACFL&MH  
Website**

[www.carnegiecarnegie.org](http://www.carnegiecarnegie.org)

*The official registration and financial information of the Chartiers Valley Partnership, Inc., may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

**A Message to Library & Music Hall Supporters**

Dear Friends:

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall has been a busy place over the last several months. We presented the Mansfield 5 and the Blues Orphans rock'n'roll concert in August. In October, the ACFL&MH hosted a reception for Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert, whose recent memoir, "A Road to the Robes," devotes chapters to describing growing up in Carnegie in the 1920s and 1930s. We collaborated with the Visiting Nurses Association to provide a well-attended flu shot clinic, and served as the site of public brainstorming meeting for Carnegie as a "Blueprint Community." The Library celebrated with both Halloween and Harry Potter parties, and our resident companies The Pittsburgh Savoyards and Stage 62 presented wonderful productions of "Yeomen of the Guard" and "Once Upon a Mattress" respectively. As I write this "Carnegie Performing Arts Center is gearing up for its annual "Nutcracker."

On November 20th international opera star Marianne Cornetti won raves from the Post-Gazette and her audience alike with a benefit performance. The event showcased the Carnegie Carnegie as an outstanding performance venue and Reception Hall and raised more than \$54,000 for the capital campaign and ACFL&MH operations!

I am happy to report that an elevator finally makes our beautiful facility accessible to everyone who wants to patronize the Library & Music Hall. And as intermittent inconvenience occasionally reminds us, construction to weatherproof our building makes impressive progress daily.

Visit our [www.carnegiecarnegie.com](http://www.carnegiecarnegie.com) website to stay on top of the many activities at the Library & Music Hall. And join us in the Music Hall for a special free-of-charge "Christmas Cabaret" on December 18th. This concert will be presented by a vocal ensemble from Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music, and will be followed by refreshments in the Reception Hall as a thank you from the Library & Music Hall to all our friends and supporters.

Finally, please continue to be generous in your support of the campaign that is bringing back the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall as the shining beacon on the hill for our diverse community.

Best Wishes for the Holidays and the New Year,

*Ronald P. Moehler*  
President, ACFL & MH

**ACFL&MH News & Notes**

**Library Video Available**

The story of the ACFL& MH can now be seen in a six-minute video produced for the campaign to restore the historic landmark.

Originally produced to build awareness and support for the campaign, the short film is a compelling and heartwarming ode not only to the Library & Music Hall but to the borough of Carnegie as well.

Visitors may view the DVD on a television that has been set up in the library. Copies of the DVD can be purchased for \$10. VHS tapes are available upon request.

To order a video, contact Maggie Forbes at (412) 276-3456, ext. 6.

Videos can be mailed for an additional \$3 fee for shipping and handling.

**Elevator Up and Running**

An elevator is now available for Library and Music Hall patrons. The elevator – the first for this facility – was installed and cleared for use this fall during Phase I of our project to restore, renovate and revitalize the ACFL&MH. Phase II, which began as Phase I ended, is designed to get the water out and keep it out by weatherproofing the entire 104-year-old building. Most visible are the French drains installed around the facility. Please pardon the mud and dust during this time.

**Program Ready for Pick Up**

The 2005-2006 edition of the ACFL&MH Annual Events

Program is now available. Copies of this brochure listing all activities can be picked up at the Library and during all Music Hall performances.

**Display Your Pride**

Support the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall while taking care of some holiday shopping. T-shirts, hats, flashlight key rings and "canapé trays" displaying the Music Hall façade are being sold to raise operating funds and increase awareness.

T-shirts are \$15; hats are \$10. Flashlight key rings are \$2.50. The trays – originally produced to commemorate the building's 85th anniversary – are \$3. All items can be purchased at the library.

**Judge Aldisert Honored at ACFL&MH Reception**

**Senior Judge Returns Home with Memoir, Stories of Carnegie**

Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert was the guest of honor at a special Oct. 7 reception at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall. A Carnegie native, Judge Aldisert returned home to talk about his recently published memoir, "Road to the Robes: A Federal Judge Recollects Young Years and Early Times."

Judge Aldisert, 85, a senior judge on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, was appointed to the federal court by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968. Although he now lives in Santa Barbara, Judge Aldisert continues to work via video conference. He assumed senior status in 1986 and moved to California a year later due to health reasons.

Speaking to a crowd of about 100 guests, Judge Aldisert said 13 of his book's 23 chapters are about Carnegie. His memoir begins with his birth in November 1919 and ends with his appointment to the federal court in 1968.

"I love Carnegie and I have a good memory," Judge Aldisert said. "You can take the boy out of Carnegie, but you can't take Carnegie out of the boy."

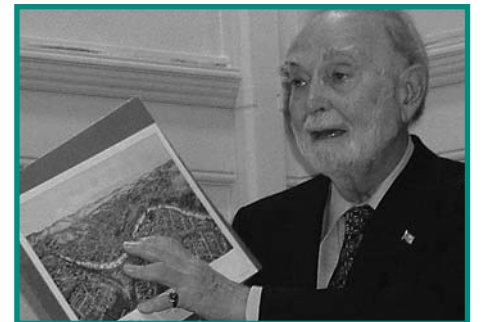
Judge John Brosky, Judge Joseph Weiss, Jr. and Attorney Vincent J. Grogan planned the program along with the ACFL&MH. The judge's colleagues from the bench, family members, friends, elected officials and history buffs showed up to hear him speak in the newly renovated Reception Hall. Carnegie Mayor Jim Pascoe issued a special proclamation in Judge Aldisert's honor.



Judge Aldisert (seated) with his colleagues Judge Joseph F. Weiss, Jr. (left) and Judge John G. Brosky, who planned the reception with the ACFL & MH.

The judge shared special memories of Carnegie in the 1920s and 1930s and signed copies of his book. The event was sponsored by Vincent J. Grogan, Esq. and Grogan Graffam, P.C.

Judge Aldisert's book may be ordered from [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com). Hardcover books are \$23 per copy; paperback books are \$16. Shipping and handling charges will be added.



Judge Aldisert holds an early map of Carnegie.

**What's Happening at the ACFL&MH**

**LIBRARY EVENTS**

*December*

**Children's Holiday Party**  
Dec. 5 at 3 p.m.

*February*

**Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration**  
Feb. 2 from 6-8 p.m.

**VITA Workshops**

TBA. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance workshops.

*May*

**Civil War Program** May 6  
Commemorates 100th Anniversary of the Thomas Espy Post.

*Ongoing*

**Book Club** meets every third Wednesday at 1:30 pm.

**Carnegie Writers Group** meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.

**MUSIC HALL EVENTS**

*December*

**"The Nutcracker"** Dec. 2-4, 9-11. Presented by the Carnegie Performing Arts Center.

**Christmas Cabaret** Dec. 18. Presented by Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music. Free.

*February*

**"Many Moons"** Feb.3-5, 10-12  
Presented by Stage 62.

*March*

**"The Mikado"** March 3-5, 10-12, 17-19.  
Presented by Pittsburgh Savoyards.

**"Alice in Wonderland"** March 24-26.  
Presented by the Carnegie Performing Arts Center.

**"Ballet Forte's Fractured Fairly Tales"**  
March 31, April 1-2, 7-9. Presented by the Carnegie Performing Arts Center.

*April*

**"The Little Mermaid"** April 21-23.  
Presented by the Carnegie Performing Arts Center.

**The Tuesday Musical Club** April 29.  
Annual Opera Division performance by the Tuesday Musical Club.

*May*

**"Welcome to the Monkey House"**  
May 19-21, 26-28. Presented by Stage 62.

*June*

**"Catch a Rising Star"** Spring Recital  
June 3-4. Features students of the Carnegie Performing Arts Center.

**Benefit Program** June 10.  
Presented by The Pittsburgh Savoyards.

*July*

**"Big River"** July 20-23, 27-30.  
Presented by Stage 62.

*Events, performance times and schedules are subject to change. For additional details and up-to-date information, please visit [www.carnegiecarnegie.com](http://www.carnegiecarnegie.com).*

## A Class Act

### Marianne Cornetti Wows Audience in Stunning Performance

*Concert Raises \$54,000 for Library & Music Hall Campaign and Operating Funds*

It was an event rivaling New York's Carnegie Hall – but it was *Carnegie's* Carnegie Music Hall where hundreds of patrons reveled in a stunning Nov. 20 performance by internationally acclaimed opera star Marianne Cornetti.

Cornetti performed more than a dozen opera arias and popular songs by such artists as Verdi, Cilea, Donizetti, De Curtis and Gounod. She brought audience members to their feet three times, rewarding them with an equal number of encores. A portico created for Stage 62's recent production of "Once Upon a Mattress" provided the perfect operatic backdrop for Cornetti's outstanding performance.

Music critic Eric Haines of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette used such accolades as "knockout" and "blockbuster" to describe Cornetti's performance. "Consummate artistry aside, the draw with Cornetti was the voice itself. It's the huge, natural instrument of a true Verdi mezzo," Haines wrote.

A native of Cabot in nearby Butler County, Cornetti paused near the end of the concert to reflect on the time her mother urged her to follow her dreams. She urged the audience to "keep the dream alive" for the aging library and music hall by persevering with efforts to restore, renovate and revitalize the historic landmark. She then sang a stirring rendition of "Climb Every Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*.

The benefit concert raised \$54,000 for the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall. The proceeds will benefit the \$8.6 million capital campaign and provide operating funds for the facility.

Jim Cunningham of WQED, who served as master of ceremonies, pointed out to the audience that the Music Hall is modeled after New York's Carnegie Hall and is "acoustically excellent." Cornetti was accompanied by pianist Mark Trawka, director of musical studies for the Pittsburgh Opera Center.

"Consummate artistry aside,  
the draw with Cornetti  
was the voice itself.  
It's the huge, natural  
instrument of  
a true Verdi mezzo."

*Eric Haines  
Music Critic Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*



*Marianne Cornetti*



*Bill Manby and Bill Pysb – Class of '51 – get together on the Music Hall balcony while Marianne Cornetti warms up on stage below. Manby co-chairs the campaign with Charlie Goetz.*

Patrons attending the dinner were treated to an elegant pre-concert supper in the newly refurbished Reception Hall. All concert-goers were invited to a fabulous post-concert dessert reception. The newly installed elevator – funded through Phase I of the campaign – premiered for its first public event that evening.

Cornetti, who joined concert attendees at the reception, is one of opera's most exciting Verdi voices. In the past two seasons, she has made international debuts at theaters including the Teatro alla Scala Milan, Vienna State Opera, Teatro Carlo Felice, Genova, Teatro Dell'Opera di Roma, Teatro Bellini, Catania, at the Arena di Verona and in Tokyo.

She has won unanimous acclaim as Amneris in *Aida*, Azucena in *Il Trovatore*, Eboli in *Don Carlos* and as the Principessa di Bouillion in *Ariana Lecouvreur*. Her recent recording with Placido Domingo in the opera *Edgar* by Puccini, will be released on the Sony Label in December 2005.

A graduate of Duquesne University with a major in vocal performance, Cornetti undertook graduate studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Manhattan School of Music and at EPCA-SO Oderzo in Italy. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette recently named Cornetti to its list of Top 50 Pittsburgh expatriates who continue to represent the city's artistic culture, even after they've left town.

### Marianne Cornetti Benefit Supporters

*The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, organizations and companies who generously supported the ACFL&MH through their contributions to the Marianne Cornetti Benefit Concert on Nov. 20, as well as the many concert goers who attended the benefit.*

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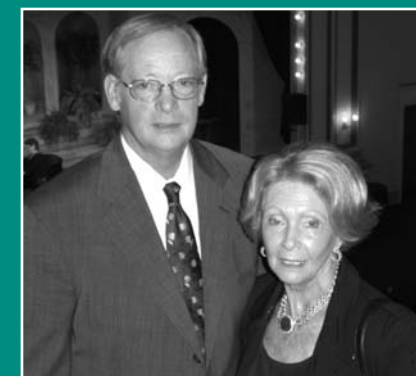
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*Rose Kausenko, a member of the Event Steering Committee and Blue Ribbon Committee, beams with pleasure as the evening unfolds.*



*Dolores Barber, a close friend of Marianne Cornetti and a member of the Event Steering Committee and Blue Ribbon Committee, with her husband John.*

*Special thanks to all the volunteers and generous attendees who helped make the event such a success. Our heartfelt thanks go to members of the Event Steering Committee for their hard work and support.*

*Steering Committee members are: Dolores Smith Barber and Dr. John Barber, Nadine Bognar, Jean and Sigo Falk, Barbara and Ted Frantz, Clare and Charles Goetz, Katie and Tucker Gordan, Amy Janocha, Rose and Michael Kutsenkow, Katie and Jim Leyland, Betsy Martin, Diane and Ron Moehler, Molly Stockdale and Chris Ott, Kaveri Subbarao and Jonathan Nauhaus, and Judy and Tom Thompson*

# Marianne Cornetti Benefit Concert

*Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall*

November 20, 2005



Baseball fan Marianne Cornetti with opera enthusiast Lanny Frattare.

The Music Hall glows as Marianne Cornetti and pianist Mark Trauka warm up on stage.



Bob and Shirley Gordon — two members of the large Gordon clan who came to the benefit.

David and Pearl Figgins with Marianne Cornetti.



Family friend Margaret Anderson with Marianne's high school principal Regis Schiebel.



Ed Lesser and Mary Ellen Dablkemper with WQED's Jim Cunningham, who served as emcee for the concert.



John and Alex O'Brien.

Ted Frantz, another Campaign Steering Committee member, and wife Barbara came in from Deep Creek, Md., for the event.

Campaign Co-Chair Charlie Goetz congratulates Marianne on her fabulous performance.

Frank and Ann Cabouett came with their daughter Ann, representing event sponsor Reed Smith. Pictured with Maggie Forbes (right), acting executive director and campaign manager.

Sandy Welsh (left) with Martha Perry of McCune Foundation, Ken and Ann Marie Helms of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and Audrey Brouman.



Campaign Steering Committee member Bill English first heard Marianne sing at his church.

Long-time ACFL&MH supporters Joanne Bevilaqua Weiss and Dottie Florence meet up at the concert.



Cornetti fans (pictured left to right): Ed and Gene Smith, Stan Russell, Dolores Smith Barber, Carol Russell, John Barber, Camille Goern with her special Cornetti purse, John and Nancy Traina, and Harry Goern.



Carnegie Players Ron Wilson and Phil Salvato added musical ambiance to the pre-concert supper.



# Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall's Contributors

*The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses, organizations, foundations and public funding sources, which have generously supported the campaign to restore, revitalize and renovate the historic facility. The following list reflects all contributions made since November 2003. Names followed by an asterisk (\*) reflect new contributions since December 2004\*\*.*

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\*\* As of Nov. 30, 2005

The ACFL appreciates memorial donations made to purchase books. These gifts are listed on the library website: [www.carnegiecarnegie.com](http://www.carnegiecarnegie.com)

## Honorary and Memorial Contributions\*

*The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall gratefully acknowledges the following honorary and memorial contributions, which help support the campaign to restore, revitalize and renovate the historic facility.*

### Honorary Contributions

#### In Honor of Mildred Bosilevac

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#### In Honor of Tom Rutkauskas on Father's Day

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#### In Honor of the 75th Anniversary of Otto & Margaret Velan

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\* From May 31, 2005 to Nov. 30, 2005

## Civil War Room Provides Opportunities for Lasting Tributes

Civil War buffs can play a major role in the restoration of the ACFL& MH's Civil War Room with a lasting tribute honoring or memorializing family, friends or business associates.

Because of its historic significance, the Civil War Room is the only part of the facility's capital improvements that requires historic restorations of documents and relics as well as furnishings and fixtures. The Civil War Room also requires museum quality humidity and temperature controls to protect its valuable artifacts.

Gifts of \$10,000 and above directed toward the room's restoration will be recognized on a permanent plaque placed in the room. A major gift of \$300,000 will receive special recognition at the top of the plaque.

Restoration of the Civil War Room will enable visitors to finally have ready access to this historically significant site.

Other naming opportunities are available through the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall Campaign to restore, renovate and revitalize the historic landmark. Donors have already committed to four prominent areas – the Main Reading Room, Children's Room,



Members of the 9th Pennsylvania Reserves in uniform inside the Civil War Room alongside a woman in period dress. The Civil War Room is one of many areas available for special funding through the ACFL&MH capital campaign.

Circulation Desk and two classrooms – with gifts totaling \$270,000.

For a full list of naming opportunities available in the Civil War Room and throughout the ACFL&MH, please contact Maggie Forbes at (412) 376-3456, ext. 6

## Phase II Begins



Construction workers toil in the trenches around the Library and Music Hall. Phase II construction, which began in the fall, is designed to get the water out and keep it out.

## Civil War Expo Planned

(Continued from p. 1)

The Hunt Foundation is providing funding for the development of the special exhibit highlighting the Thomas Espy Post. The new exhibit panels will be unveiled at the event.

Located on the second floor of the library, the Civil War Room was occupied by the Thomas Espy Post of the Grand Army of the Republic from 1906 until the 1930s. The local Civil War veterans used the post for meetings and to house their collection of flags, books, prints and relics. When the Thomas Espy Post ceased operations, the Civil Room was locked and left undisturbed for 50 years. Today, it still houses this invaluable collection of artifacts, which also provides a unique historical record of the first part of the 20th century.