



ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL NEWSLETTER

A National Historic Landmark

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Library Park...Worth the Wait!

Maggie Forbes, Executive Director

Library Park has already been spotlighted with front page articles in this newsletter. This issue makes four. Library Park deserves it!

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall celebrated the grand opening of Library Park on Saturday, April 23. Staff chose the date to coincide with Earth Day (April 22); we already know that Earth Day will be an annual celebration in the Park.

A Recap

The ACFL&MH began restoration of its historic landmark facility in 2004. Upgrades to parking were always part of The Design Alliance's master plan. As improvements to the building – and to services and programming – took off, we heard a too often repeated refrain: “Why didn't I know about this place?” Journalists described the Carnegie Carnegie as a “well-kept secret.” Decades of entrenched poverty were part of that. However, our steep grounds and mature trees were a physical and visual barrier. In summer, when the trees were in full leaf, one could stand at the corner of Broadway and Main at the foot of our hill, and not see our 35,000 sq. ft. facility. The need for some sort of “serpentine path” began to emerge.

In 2013, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC)

conducted a Green Scan of Carnegie Borough, identifying the ACFL&MH grounds as the only green space in Carnegie's central business district. The idea for Library Park took root.



WPC has been a guiding partner ever since.

Landscape architects LaQuatra Bonci Associates was awarded the contract to design the Park. Their conceptual design, informed by community members who participated in a public charrette, was introduced in these pages in late 2017. Carnegie and surrounding communities have been committed to Library Park ever since!

Phase I, improvements from the grounds back to the building, was completed in fall 2017. The removal of dead and dying trees, a new driveway and sidewalks, exterior lighting, a
See “Library Park,” page 3

Benny Benack III's *Fly Us to the Moon...* an over the top success!

See page 4.

Fly
Us to the
Moon....



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Monday

12 p.m. – 7 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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Library Director

Walker Evans, x12

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Heidi Matthews, x6

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Jon-Erik Gilot, x9

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Public Services Manager

Katie Byerly, x16

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www.CarnegieCarnegie.org

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@EspyPost

Dear Friends:

It has been a busy spring here at the Carnegie Carnegie. We celebrated Library Park's long-anticipated completion with a festive opening in April. This newsletter captures some of the Park's potential. Overtime, we believe Library Park will burnish the Library & Music Hall's impact on the community it serves, enhancing both the ACFL&MH and Carnegie as attractive regional destinations.

In early June, Benny Benack III "Flew us to the Moon!" BB3 and the amazing musicians who joined him on the Music Hall stage delighted a large and enthusiastic regional audience. It was our first annual benefit since Fall 2019.

The pandemic accounted for the hiatus. However, we moved the benefit from fall to spring with the expectation of closing the Music Hall later this summer for the restoration of this outstanding venue.

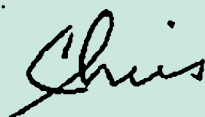
Our timetable was off. The ambitious restoration of the Music Hall is the final prong of "Completing the Carnegie Carnegie." We have made tremendous progress on this project. We have completed Library Park. The Studio's upgrade debuted in March, making it a crowd-pleasing programming, event and alternative performance space. Members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performed Beethoven's final string quartet in a full Studio on June 29. The youngest person in the audience was 11-months-old; the oldest was 100! Conversion of an unimproved partial floor into versatile small programming space – the Mezzanine – begins in August.

We have commitments of \$3.14 million towards this sweeping \$4 million final leg of the restoration of our facility. Government, foundations and you have been deeply generous! But an \$800,000 funding gap remains.

The Music Hall is the jewel in the crown of "Completing the Carnegie Carnegie." Our eyes remain on the prize. With your continued generosity, and redoubling our efforts with foundations and corporations, we will hit our goal. We have our work cut out for us, but hope to start Music Hall restoration in early 2023.

Until then, enjoy the terrific roster of programming that Music Hall Director Heidi Matthews so quickly pivoted to put in place.

Thank you.



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



Maggie Forbes
Executive Director

Welcome Mike!

The ACFL&MH is delighted to welcome Michael Hatcher to its Board of Trustees. Mike brings a wealth of experience and a very eclectic background in both the business and non-profit worlds. He worked for United States Steel Corporation (including as Vice President-Procurement, Raw Materials and Real Estate) and Marathon Oil Company (including a term as Treasurer) for a total of 34 years. He also served for one year as Director of Operations at the Frick Art & Historical Center in Point Breeze, after being a board member for several years.

"I am honored to be a board member of this great organization. It was great to come on board as the Library & Music Hall celebrated the opening of Library Park in April. What a difference the Park makes in engaging the community."

Mike says he has a lot to learn about the 121-year-old Library & Music Hall, and "looks forward to making a positive contribution to this organization in service of lifelong learning and community building."

Mike also serves on the boards of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden and the Western PA Chapter of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.



flag in front of the Library entrance and landscaping around the building transformed the ACFL&MH. The “Sleeping Beauty behind the brambles” look was traded in for a



remarkable new sense of place!

We had a modest funding gap to close, but fully expected Library Park to open in fall 2018.

Instead, a February 2018 mudslide stopped the project in its tracks. It took ten months and nearly \$200,000 to remediate the problem. Momentum ground to a halt. Library Park was stalled.

Except for the wonderful mosaic benches that ceramic artist Laura Jean McLaughlin designed and more than 200 community (aged 3 – 80) fabricated! Installed in September 2018, the mosaic adorns two concrete benches that are 63- and 54-feet long. The mosaic celebrates the Library & Music Hall, Carnegie, Pittsburgh and green spaces everywhere. It became a



glittering and beloved centerpiece of the not yet complete Library Park.

Fast Forward

Thanks to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant for “Completing the Carnegie Carnegie,”

work on Library Park itself resumed in late summer 2021. Other funders of this most public of ACFL&MH projects were the Allegheny Foundation, Colcom Foundation, Richard King Mellon Foundation, Heinz Endowments, the Hillman Foundation and generous individual donors.

Dreams Really Do Come True

We’re still walking on air following the grand opening of Library Park on April 23! Landau Building Company generously underwrote the day’s festivities.

We had perfect SUMMER weather. (Okay, too hot for me, but earlier that week we had snow....) The stirring drone of Evan Burlew’s Highland pipes launched the day’s festivities. The fabulous BGVs brought the day to a close with a Motown and more concert on the piazza in front of the Music Hall steps.

In between, hundreds of people streamed up through the Park to enjoy crafts, games, food, Double Dutch demonstrations, environmental activities, a preview of Stage 62’s *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, ham radio and the Library & Music Hall itself. Eighty-three people left the outdoor fun to visit our rare 2nd floor Civil War room, the Captain Thomas Espy Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. A busy day!

Most importantly, Library Park beautifully and invitingly connects the ACFL&MH with Main Street below. It is a welcome mat to all the Library & Music Hall has to offer. We



will offer outdoor programming, but the Library Park already plays host to picnickers, dog walkers, children playing, prom photos, people counting their steps and quiet contemplation.

The entrance to Library Park evokes our building’s stately architecture. As someone said, “It feels as though it’s been here since 1901.” I enjoy telling staff, “I am going downstairs to the post office.” On one such expedition, I encountered a 20-something couple walking up from Main Street. The young man said “This makes the whole city look more beautiful!” That’s the first time I’ve heard Carnegie referred to as a city.... Library Park clearly elevates both the Library & Music Hall and the Borough as a destination.

BB3 Flew Us to the Moon and Beyond!

On Friday, June 10, the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall held its first annual benefit after a three-year hiatus. As it did with so much else, the pandemic turned the world of live performance upside down and inside out...

We needed a performance designed to delight our audience and show off how magical the Carnegie Carnegie can be.

We found it in third-generation Pittsburgh Jazzman Benny Benack III. His performance, *Fly Us to the Moon*, was an over the top success!

Benny is a virtuosic jazz trumpeter, a fabulous vocalist and a totally engaging performer. The now New York-based "BB3" grew up in Upper St. Clair. Benny follows in the illustrious footsteps of his trumpeter/bandleader grandfather and his saxophonist/clarinetist father. No need to name them!

The Benny Benack III Quartet is a powerhouse of musical talent. This crème de la crème ensemble includes Alex Claffy on bass, Joe Peri on drums and Esteban Castro on piano. At 31, Benny was the old man of the group (by a matter of months). Esteban, a finalist in the prestigious American Jazz Piano Competition, is a sophomore at Julliard.

Not surprising given his impressive musical DNA, Benny charismatically emceed the performance. He demonstrated not only not a deep appreciation of his cohorts Friday night, but knowledge and passion for the genre of jazz and its pantheon of practitioners. He also likes Carnegie Carnegie Hall....

"It was a trumpeter's dream to hear the natural acoustics of

the Hall reverberating the clarion sound of my horn...we barely needed microphones at all, as the room was practically singing along with me! Such a pleasure...I cannot wait to return after the Hall gets its long-awaited facelift!"

And the evening's special guest Michael "Sonny Step" Stephenson wowed as a sax player. His vocals on "When a Man Loves a Woman" and "Polka Dots and Moonbeams" melted hearts. In Benny's words, "Dear Old Mom" (hardly) Claudia Benack nearly stole the show when she joined the guys for a few terrific songs.

The annual benefit is a fundraiser for the restoration and revitalization of the Library & Music Hall. The event netted just over \$44,000. But it is also a friend-raiser – 250 people bought tickets, many of them first-time visitors. *Fly Us to the Moon* showcased our entire facility. Audience members who arrived early "bellied up to the circulation desk" for a glass of prosecco in the Library before the concert. The after-party was catered deliciously by RathLindh Catering ("Who is your caterer?"). It took place in the Lincoln Gallery (50+ people visited the Espy Post) and the newly upgraded Studio ("OOOH!"). Our wonderful neighbors at Modern Mercantile and More than Words did the lunar-inspired decoration, with enchanting full moon balloons donated by Emilio's Creations.

An evening like this only happens with the help of many. Heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors, our fabulous committee, board, staff, volunteers, audience and contributors who made *Fly Us to the Moon* so memorable.



Fly Us to the Moon Sponsors

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Attendees and Donors

The audience plays a key role in any live performance. Heartfelt thanks to the nearly 250 people whose enthusiastic appreciation for Fly Us to the Moon added so much to the performance. (In many cases we only have the name of the person who bought the tickets.) And so many thanks to the many people who could not attend, but donated generously to make the ACFL&MH's annual benefit a success.

Mary Beth Abraham

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Otis & Evelyn King

Diane Klinefelter

Janet & Bill Kohler

Annie Korpiel

Maureen & James Laffey

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Reflections

Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator

Who has ever started a new job with low expectations? Forgive me if I sheepishly raise my hand. That's not to say I had low expectations of what my experience at ACFL&MH would be like, but about when and how I was starting my new role as curator of the Espy Post. When I came on board in early 2021, we were still firmly in the interminable COVID pandemic. The Library was closed. Our 2nd Saturday Lecture Series had moved to a virtual platform. Would anyone come back to visit the Espy Post whenever the world reopened? I set the bar low for my first year.

Thankfully, the Library reopened in February 2021 and our 2nd Saturday lectures returned to in-person meetings in June. People slowly started to come back, and the Espy Post welcomed more than 400 visitors over ten months. We even added two new docents to our corps of dedicated tour guides. I was pleased with the turnout and decided to raise the bar in year two.

In late 2021 we started planning for the return of our biennial Civil War symposium. Drawing on my connections in the public history field, I scheduled five speakers for April 9, 2022. I was sure that the strength of our speakers and the unmatched setting at ACFL&MH would attract a respectable crowd. While ticket sales started painfully slow during the Omicron surge, a late burst of sales filled the room to capacity with attendees traveling from as far as Massachusetts, Virginia, and Washington state. The sold-out event netted much-needed

funds for the preservation of Espy Post artifacts and brought dozens of first-time visitors to ACFL&MH.

The Espy Post saw another 83 visitors on April 23 during the dedication of Library Park, including several lifelong Carnegie residents who were visiting for the first time. I marvel at the wonderment in visitors who exclaim, "I've lived in Carnegie my whole life and had no idea this was here!" I am also confident in our ongoing local, regional, and national publicity drawing attention to the significance of the Espy Post.

Our May 2 Saturday lecture attracted 60 attendees, pushing our pre-pandemic average attendance. In just six weeks' time we have welcomed more than 200 visitors to the Espy Post and are poised to eclipse our 2021 visitorship in just five months.

Then at our annual benefit on June 10, another 50 people took time away for the food, drink and conviviality of the after-concert reception to visit the Post. The consensus reaction to the room? Visitors marvel.

As we work to develop additional programming and events, I am thankful that the Espy Post remains a vibrant part of the fabric of ACFL&MH and the Carnegie borough. As the world continues to return to a sense of normalcy, I am sure that visitors seeking to commune with the past – or perhaps just looking for a bit of A/C during the warm summer months – will find the Espy Post a place of quiet contemplation. We look forward to seeing you soon.



At the Library, a Dedication to Connection and Fellowship

Walker Evans, Library Director

If you joined us for our Grand Opening of Library Park back in April, you know that we love to work with our community at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall! From the crafts and photo booth provided by our friends at Attawheed Islamic Center, to the wonderful Carlynton students who painted faces and designed our obstacle course and lawn games, to the fascinating members of W3KWH Steel City Amateur Radio Club, the diversity of the Borough of Carnegie was well represented.



Building these relationships within our area is a huge part of what we do at the Library. Yes, we're definitely still the place to go for all your media and information needs – we'll get you just about any book you want, our DVD collection is top notch, and we'll even let you check out a wireless hotspot so you can carry a free internet connection in your pocket

wherever you go.

But as we say in our mission statement, our foremost goal is to build community. That means connecting with Carnegie's businesses, clubs, nonprofits, and religious groups, understanding the people who live here and the nature of their needs. We're always looking for new folks to work with to strengthen the fabric of the Borough and make Carnegie a more connected community.

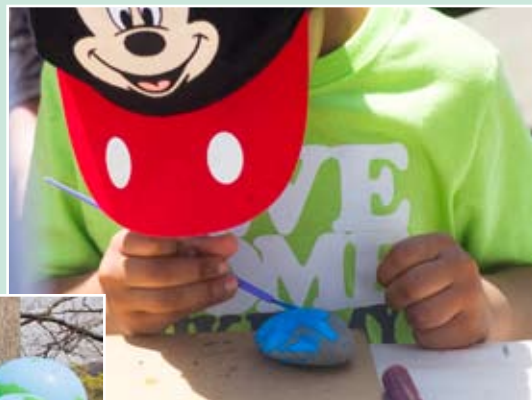
For instance, this Spring, we partnered with the wonderful organization Literacy Pittsburgh for a seven-part series in which adults who are learning English could build their foundational

technology skills and learn the basics of internet use. Following the success of this program, we were delighted to schedule another series of tech classes for English learners, this time focusing on email. It's also through our connections with Literacy Pittsburgh, as well as Carnegie Elementary School, that we've been able to welcome dozens of immigrants and refugees to our Library for English language learning courses.

Another productive partnership we formed in the past year allowed our patrons to have their tax returns completed and submitted at no cost to them. Through our connection with a handful of motivated accounting students with Robert Morris University, our Library served as a location for a free tax preparation program known as VITA. Over the course of nine Saturdays in early 2022, over seventy patrons benefited from this service – all of whom were sure to receive the fullest refund they were owed!

In recent months, we've also worked in collaboration with groups like Studio Forget-Me-Not; the Artsmiths of Pittsburgh; Dollar Bank; the Allegheny County Park Rangers; Firebox Art Studios; the Carnegie Historical Society; the Allegheny Intermediate Unit; the Boys & Girls Club; and more.

As we look to the future, we're looking forward to finding new ways to support and connect with the people who make Carnegie a special place. Remember: the Library is for everyone! When we put our efforts together, that's what community building looks like. We invite you to join us in our goal of connection!



Make the Library Part of Summer Fun

JoLynne Dougherty, Children's Programming Coordinator

It's official! Summer is here and Summer Reading (SR) has kicked off at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall. Nate Wyrick, our Assistant Library Director was making room at his home and donated his jellyfish tank to the children's department. The jellyfish twirl and swirl and the lights change colors, captivating young and old patrons alike because they are so lifelike. They aren't! The tank lends itself perfectly to this year's Summer Reading theme "Oceans of Possibilities." We



have a variety of activities planned for SR – including a series of ocean-themed scavenger hunts. The first one features jellyfish. There are nine pictures of jellyfish scattered throughout the library. And of course, because we are in the information business, we're sharing some fun facts about jellyfish. Some of the fascinating things that I've

learned is that a group of jellyfish is called a smack, they are not strong swimmers, and some jellyfish have very small stinging cells in their tentacles called nematocysts. They use these nematocysts to capture food by injecting toxin into their prey. Ouch!

If you're a regular Library user, you've probably noticed that our old sidewalk obstacle course was removed and has been replaced with a new one. It's not really an obstacle course, no climbing or crawling, but more like a super hopscotch course. It was designed and painted by high school students from Carlynton. It has been a lot of fun to watch the children jump, bounce, dance and spin as they race to the end of the course. Word has gotten around about it, and we have had some families and summer camps come to help the kids get out their excess energy. One of the challenges is to "walk the plank" over shark infested waters. One of our littler patrons likes to give the sharks a loving pat on the fin before she moves on to the next challenge. It's very sweet. Speaking of sweet....

Another SR program is reading with Virginia Woof. Ginny, as she likes to be called is a Bernedoodle, which is a mix of Bernese Mountain Dog and Poodle. The mix is hypo-allergenic – her fur won't make you sneeze. Bernedoodles are very smart, with an extremely gentle personality. Ginny enjoys learning, being with people, and loves when children read to her. It is a great way for children to practice their reading in the summer.

Reading to a dog has been shown to improve fluency and confidence. Thank you, Tonilyn Jackson, for sharing Ginny with us again this summer!



We are continuing to offer our Baby & Toddler Storytime on Tuesdays mornings at 10:30 and Preschool Storytime on Thursday mornings at 11:30. Monday evening's Family Storytime is now being offered in person at 6:00 in Library Park at the Mosaic Benches. In case of inclement weather, or if it's just too hot, we'll bring storytime into the air-conditioned Library. Our Bilingual Arabic Storytime with Rema Abdin of the Attawheed Islamic Center is still being offered virtually on Facebook on the fourth Friday of the month at 4:30. Keep an eye on our calendar which can be found on our website at CarnegieCarnegie.org. We will be adding some new storytimes, including one on Saturdays.

The Legos will be available for Monday afternoon's Lego Freeplay at 2:00. How wonderful it is to see people taking the steps to the Library! There are 90 of them. I had some helpers who double checked at the opening of Library Park this past April. I'm still developing activities for Library Park, so keep checking our website.

Don't forget to sign up for Summer Reading either at the Library, through the Beanstack app or by visiting carnegielibrary.beanstack.com. Complete reading challenges to earn Brag Tags. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me at (412) 276-3456 x11 or email me at jdougherty@CarnegieCarnegie.org. Have a great summer!

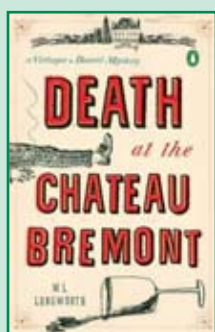


Staff Recommendations

Katie Byerly

Reminders of Him by Colleen Hoover is about a 26-year-old girl named Kenna Rowan, who returns to the town where an awful accident landed her in prison for the last few years. All she wants to do is to be reunited and have a relationship with her 4-year-old daughter, Diem, who was born while she was in prison. She tries her hardest to prove she isn't the person she used to be. Kenna meets a young bar owner, Ledger, who knows more about Kenna than she thinks. Will she be able to have a relationship with her daughter or will others come in the way to protect the young girl?

JoLynne Dougherty

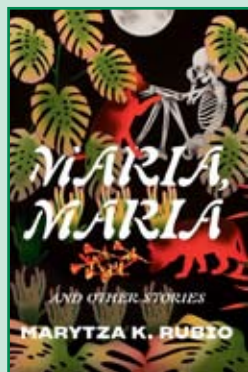


The Verlaque and Bonnet Series by M. L. Longworth. I was shelving new books a few months ago and came across *The Vanishing Museum on the Rue Mistral*. As a Francophile, the title caught my eye, as did the idea of a vanishing museum. That one is book #9 in a series of 10, so I returned it to the shelf and ordered the first book – *Death at the Chateau Bremont*. In it, we

meet Antoine Verlaque, the examining magistrate of Aix-en-Provence and Marine Bonnet, a law professor. Verlaque is a connoisseur of wines, cigars, and local cuisine, and is also described as portly. Bonnet is intellectual, beautiful and driven. They make a good team as they solve the thefts and murders in Aix.

I have enjoyed learning about the rich history of the area. Paul Cezanne and Emil Zola went to the local high school there. I have also enjoyed the character development through the series. It doesn't look like I'm getting to France this summer, so I'll continue reading – I'm back to book 9 – and visit Aix vicariously. If you end up reading any of the books in this series, I'd love to hear your thoughts on it. Bonne lecture!

Walker Evans



Maria, Maria: And Other Stories, by Marytza K. Rubio. In this debut collection of short stories, Marytza K. Rubio reveals an enthralling voice as she explores the worlds of her Latina magic-wielders. Rubio's characters stride the divisions between an often-oppressive society and the untamed mysticism of nature, surviving through the use of

family lore and rituals. Lush and evocative jungle imagery elevates this riveting, witchy collection. Check it out if you're a fan of Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Isabel Allende, or Karen Russell!

Maggie Forbes

Know My Name by Chantel Miller. This compelling memoir is about being sexually assaulted. Known as "Emily Doe" for years, Chantel Miller was the victim of the 2015 "Stanford Swimmer" rape case. Miller narrated this 15-hour audio book. (That translates to 368 pages.) Hearing the author's story in her voice added tremendously to its impact. Miller does not mince words in describing her experience, her awareness of which began when she woke up in a hospital. Nor does she shy away from admitting to being blackout drunk at the time of the attack, or frankly discussing her sexuality.

Chantel Miller's powerful book opened my eyes to the seemingly never-ending reverberations of sexual assault, and how society and courts judge the "victim." I have difficulty calling Miller a victim, though. Her honesty, bravery, strength and embracing herself as an artist and a woman made it a privilege to spend 15 hours in her company.

Alice McWreath

The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson. Even though we're half way through 2022, I'd like to share my recommendation for the best book I read in 2021. Erik Larson's book is a very well documented behind-the-scenes look at the eight months of the Blitz on London by the Nazi air forces. Although it tells the war story of this time, it is a revealing look at Winston Churchill's leadership and family life, and gives insight into how he encouraged the people of London to carry on throughout the months of nightly bombing raids.



Nate Wyrick

The Batman (2022 film, directed Matt Reeves) If you have enjoyed any of the Batman movies in recent years, you gotta see this one! It's a slightly different take on Batman, that I wasn't sure that I was gonna like. But it may be one of the best Batman films yet. It explores a very different side of the caped crusader in a way that's new for fans. It's dark and raw and extremely powerful. The cast is chock full of huge talent that honestly blew me away. It's definitely a divergent take, but you may just love it!

A Whale of a Documentary

Nate Wyrick, Assistant Library Director/Facility Manager



I read a lot of true crime (don't judge me) and tend to watch what my wife and I call "nerd TV." Stuff about nature, history, current events and programs about how things work. And, I absolutely love documentaries. I enjoy being entertained by this type of media. Adding learning to the

mix is just icing on the cake for me.

One day I came across a controversial film called *Blackfish*. This documentary is about keeping killer whales (also known as orcas) in captivity, particularly by SeaWorld. While it offers lots of insight on the everyday lives and treatment of orcas, it focuses on a particular whale named Tilikum, who was responsible for the death of three people during his life spent in captivity.

Orcas are massive creatures (the largest of the dolphin family), who are very intelligent as well as social and spend their days swimming many miles for exercise and in search of food. *Blackfish* delves into what the results are of capturing and confining these magnificent beings, who then spend their lives being forced to perform to entertain humans and to breed with other captive whales. The stress these conditions and confinement inflict upon the whales creates a myriad of issues, causing aggressive behavior. Tilikum and other whales attacked and killed some of their trainers.

Blackfish purports that killer whales were never meant to be kept in captivity and should not be blamed for lashing out at their captors. I'm very much inclined to agree. Orcas do not attack humans in the wild. Keeping them in what equates to a tiny fish bowl for their entire lives is simply inhumane in my mind. I've never been onboard with wild animals, being kept captive for entertainment purposes. I hated the circus as a child for this very reason.

Blackfish prompted me to do some research on this topic. I wound up reading *Beneath the Surface* by John Hargrove, one of the former SeaWorld trainers who participated in the making of *Blackfish*. This book is incredibly informative and only one account from the many people who have been directly involved with these creatures in captivity.

I am by no means insinuating that trainers involved with captive sea creatures such as killer whales and seals are committing crimes against nature. *Blackfish* introduces you to many people who were either harmed while attempting to do right by these animals or became so disenchanted by the system that they simply walked away.

Organizations like SeaWorld as well as some zoos walk a fine line between protective captivity and confinement for monetary purposes. Preservation and preventing extinction are certainly justifiable reasons for keeping animals in protective habitats. But far too many organizations cross that line.

Blackfish took my interest to an entirely different level. We are stewards of this planet and I'm simply writing from a place of basic compassion and humaneness.

Share Your Enthusiasms in Our Display Cases!

If you've visited the Library, chances are you've spent some time admiring the ever-changing contents of our glass display cases, just inside the door. Most recently, we were thrilled to feature a gorgeous collection of stained glass lamps and ornaments, each hand-made by local artisan Jim Lewellyn (or his son Jim) – some constructed from thousands of pieces!

It's always a treat to see the collections that are special to our patrons, and we love sharing them with the community at large! Not long ago, we featured one patron's extensive collection of Elvis memorabilia – everything from records and ticket stubs to bobbleheads, dolls, and even a bottle of Elvis wine! Patrons young and old alike exclaimed over this nostalgic treasure.

Sometimes a display has a special personal connection for the patron who shares it. We recently highlighted a fascinating collection of objects related to aircraft – models, WWII-era flight instruments, and more. For the patron who shared it, this collection represented a way of honoring his father, who had worked as an aircraft pilot for many years.

We're always on the lookout for new stories to tell. Whether it's a personal hobby, a local organization's history, or a significant milestone you'd like to celebrate, please reach out!

For display case inquiries, please email Library Director Walker Evans at evansw2@CarnegieCarnegie.org, or call 412-276-3456 x12.



When Music Speaks

Heidi Baldt Matthews, Music Hall Director

Hello ACFL&MH friends and family. I'm back with an update since joining team Carnegie Carnegie in August 2021 as the Music Hall Director. As I approach my first year with you, I've collected some wonderful memories. (See page 15 for upcoming performances.)

With the beginning of summer and warm weather here in southwestern Pennsylvania, and the bright orange state flower in full bloom (also known as a traffic cone), I had some time to reflect during my lengthened commute. I was welcomed to our acoustically superb Music Hall as many of you were welcomed back for the first time since COVID-19 with an exhilarating performance by Cello Fury. Not a bad metaphorical first day on the job! I was happy to welcome singer, celebrated writer, and storyteller Tom Breiding into our Studio for *Listen Locally Downstairs*.

Kicking off 2022, the BGVs packed the Studio and brought down the house with a fantastically fun night of Motown! Shortly after that, I was treated to Pittsburgh's favorite blues man, Billy Price, and a profoundly moving performance of Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* by the Duquesne Wind Symphony under the baton of James Gourlay, with gripping oratory expertly brought to life by Marianne Cornetti. I've kept my promise of leaving my accordion at home in Swissvale, but it was my pleasure to host Alejandro Pinzon with his bandoneon for an evening of tango music and dance in the Studio! It was terrific partnering with Library Director Walker Evans and Alejandro on a lecture on the tango's rich roots the week prior to the performance. I look forward to more Library - Music Hall collaborations.

April showers held off for a *Tribute to Aretha Franklin*, kicking off the weekend for the Grand Opening of Library Park! What a weekend! And what a fantastic addition to our grounds and the Carnegie community! And then, just a few short weeks after that - an outstanding-knock-your-socks-off performance by BB3 and

his quartet for ACFL&MH's annual benefit!

From the moment I walked through the door, the ACFL&MH staff welcomed me. Next time you visit the Library for our many services and programs or the Music Hall or Studio for a performance with one or two of our program attendants nearby, please take a moment to thank one of these folks for me. They are an absolutely fantastic group of people with big hearts who do tremendous work to make everything that happens in this 35,000-square-foot building possible.

I have one more memory to share. A patron I've had the pleasure of getting to know recounted his experience watching and listening to Billy Price. A broad and peaceful smile came across his face, and his eyes lit up as he described the music he heard during the show. He continued to tell me about some of his favorite performances he'd seen in the Pittsburgh area and in Harlem, and across the nation at different points in his life. In addition to talking about music and the fantastic performance we'd just seen by Billy, we engaged in small talk about the snow and the roads as we each enjoyed a bottle of Yuengling – you know, Pittsburgh stuff. He mentioned that he waited for two buses and walked about a mile from his house to the first bus stop to come and see the performance that evening. And that wasn't the first or the only time he'd come to visit us for a program or concert. What an absolute honor to have this gentleman join us that evening. After returning from a brief era when we couldn't readily gather to enjoy live music, it helped me remember how wonderful it is to hear live music and share it with other people. As Danish author Hans Christian Anderson once said, "Where words fail, music speaks." And although the Carnegie Carnegie contains a library filled with beautiful words on printed pages, I feel lucky to be part of an organization that is a library and so much more...!



Tibyan Saleh: A Young Woman with a Worldly Outlook

On Saturday April 30, the ACFL&MH hosted a talk on the Middle East, focusing on Sudan, Egypt and Turkey. The warm and informed talk covered a wide range of personal experiences and was followed with a sampling of Middle Eastern delicacies. Conversation and food always go well together. The presenter who put the whole program together was 20-year-old Tibyan Saleh.

The encounter that first brought Tibyan to the Library & Music Hall's attention was when she applied for the position of Program Attendant last fall. (These are staff who are "attend to" non-ACFL&MH programs –opening up early in the morning to let in election workers, locking up after a wedding or a performance of *Rigoletto*, with much in between.)

Music Hall Director Heidi Matthews was deeply impressed by Tibyan's poise, polish and interest, but knew she could not hire a 19-year-old; 21 is the minimum age requirement for program attendants, regardless of her capabilities.

Instead of being disappointed, Tibyan pivoted to become a full-fledged participant in all things Carnegie Carnegie. In November, Tibyan and her sister Malak attended author Eric Pallant's talk on "Sourdough Culture," feeling right at home with other attendees who were at least three decades older than they were.

Tibyan eloquently describes her first encounter with the ACFL&MH. "As I entered the library, the enigma of its atmosphere captivated me. Suddenly I was submerged in this environment I had only dreamt of. With the freedom to communicate, explore, and engage within these doors, I instantly knew this is something I wanted to be a part of."

In February she put together a display in the Library's exhibit case, about her travels in the Middle East. Both her parents were born in Sudan, and Tibyan and her family lived and traveled in Sudan, Egypt and Turkey from 2017 – 2021. Her appreciation for the region is deep. While working on the exhibit case she and Library Director Walker Evans talked about her April travelogue program.


Also a music lover, Tibyan volunteers helping out Heidi as an usher and greeter at Music Hall and Studio performances. She



was dancing along with the rest of the audience with the BGV's concert in January. Bluesman Billy Price's music got her in the groove. And she was rapturous, about Benny Benack III's *Fly Us to the Moon* benefit performance. "I must have an old soul," she confesses. "I've always been over the moon about Frank Sinatra. My mother, Aisha, once said I learned how to dance before I could walk. Music just made more sense to me than English I suppose. I feel forced to create and constantly gravitate towards artistic habitats."

Tibyan is eclectic. She is studying at the Tech Institute to become a Veterinary Associate. During her travels she encountered some suffering, dying animals. She determined she never wanted to be unable to help again. Tibyan plans to become a veterinarian.

ACFL&MH staff know that Tibyan will go far, figuratively and literally. Exploring different cultures is part of her makeup. The Carnegie Carnegie values being part of Tibyan's orbit. No matter where life's journey takes her, we hope she circles back!



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 more than 120 years!

Special Programming at the Carnegie Carnegie

Upcoming Programming at the Library & Music Hall

Visit CarnegieCarnegie.org for changes, additions and the most up to date information.

Studio

LA TI DO: CABARET AT THE CARNEGIE CARNEGIE

Thursday, July 28, 2022 – 8pm

LA TI DO and the Carnegie Carnegie continue our year-long partnership of quarterly cabaret concerts featuring emerging local artists and special guests. This month features duets with young professional and emerging professional singers from around the city. Direction by Caroline Mahoney and Music Direction by Amy Kapp.

Listen Locally Downstairs

RML JAZZ



Thursday, August 25 – 7pm

RML Jazz always delivers a great evening of jazz – smooth and hot. A favorite among Listen Locally Downstairs audiences, RML Jazz offers up something for everyone.

LA TI DO: CABARET AT THE CARNEGIE CARNEGIE

Friday, September, 16 – 8pm

Thursday, December 1 – 8pm

LA TI DO Productions strives to be a premiere community of cultural and artistic diversity and inclusion through music and spoken word collaboration. ACFL&MH and LA TI DO continue our year-long partnership of intimate concerts featuring emerging local artists and special guests.

Details to be announced.

Music Hall

Listen Locally

BROTHER RICK & THE THROWBACKS

Friday, September 30 – 8pm. See p. 20.

Resonance Works presents

I AM A DREAMER WHO NO LONGER DREAMS

Friday, October 14 – 8pm

Sunday, October 16 – 3 pm

Resonance Works brings its second work to the Music Hall.

Dreamer is an immigrant opera composed by Jorge Sosa with a libretto by Cerise Lim Jacobs.

Stage 62 presents

URINETOWN

November 10-20

In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom. Hilarious, tuneful and timely!

Company Carnegie Performance Arts Center presents

THE NUTCRACKER

December 10-11 & 17-18

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.



Listen Locally Downstairs

THE GYPSY STRINGZ

Thursday, October 20 – 7pm

From the soothing to the rousing, this ensemble plays a smooth mix of Eastern European music, enhanced by beautiful harmonies of foreign lands. From sentimental selections that express deep emotions to fast, fiery traditional tunes, Gypsy Stringz captures the essence of Eastern European culture.

Library

AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF PITTSBURGH: AN AUTHOR VISIT WITH ED SIMON

Monday, August 29 - 7:00pm

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.

Registration is appreciated, but walk-ins are also welcome. Please call 412-276-3456 or visit CarnegieCarnegie.org to register.

MAKING WITH ARTSMITHS OF PITTSBURGH: WONDERFUL WATER ART

Saturday, August 20 - 11:00pm

Join Jena Scheib of the Artsmiths of Pittsburgh for a special adult/child class! We'll use water to transfer images and move colors to create vibrant masterpieces. This program is funded by a Gismondi VITAL grant.

This class is intended for one adult with one child. Please call 412-276-3456 or visit CarnegieCarnegie.org to register.

SECOND SATURDAY CIVIL WAR SERIES

Rose Greenhow's *My Imprisonment* with Emily Lapisardi, *Saturday, Sept. 10 - 1:00 pm*

Emily Lapisardi has studied Washington DC socialite and Confederate spy Rose Greenhow for more than 20 years, and edited and annotated Greenhow's memoir.

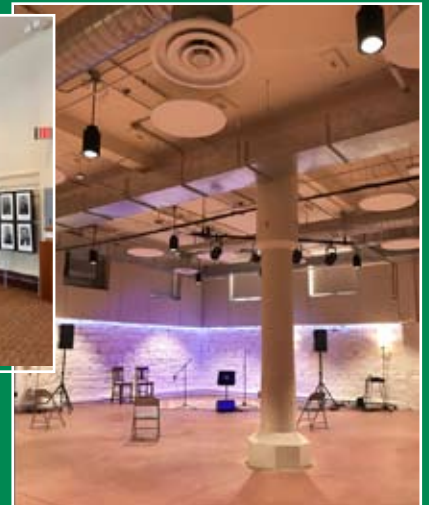
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- The 2,600 sq ft Studio is an intimate space with a club vibe and seats up to 100 for dining or performances and 150 cocktail-style.



Our affordable rates start at \$450 (space dependent.)

To schedule a tour, call Heidi at 412-276-3456 x6 or email matthewsh@CarnegieCarnegie.org.

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The outpouring of support since our last newsletter has been profoundly heartening. Individuals, foundations, government and businesses have contributed more than \$833,000 toward "Completing the Carnegie Carnegie," and to support the mission, program and services of the Library & Music Hall.

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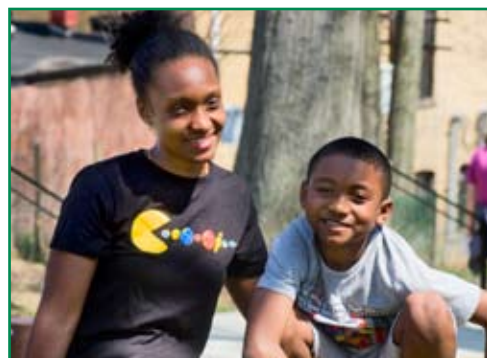
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Do Some Doo Wop and More at Carnegie Carnegie Hall!

The Carnegie Carnegie is pleased to welcome Brother Rick & The Throwbacks to the Music Hall on Friday, September 30. Rick Mansfield - aka Brother Rick - is the former music director, arranger, and conductor of "American Soundtrack Series" on WQED/PBS.

"American Soundtrack Series," a mainstay of PBS and WQED, was born of "Doo Wop 50", a PBS special performance filmed live at downtown Pittsburgh's Benedum Center in 1999, showcasing doo wop groups from the 1950s. The special was followed by "Doo Wop 51" and the "American Soundtrack" series. Mr. Mansfield played a key role in revitalizing authentic-sounding arrangements of these well-loved and iconic pieces, bringing them back into the limelight four decades after their initial release.



If you missed the 1950s for any variety of reasons, doo wop refers to a style of music known for close harmonic tones ranging from bass to falsetto. The term itself is sprung from the sounds made by musical groups, which provide the

harmonic soundscape to highlight the lead vocalist. It originated in primarily African American communities in the 1940s and gained popularity in cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia – and Pittsburgh! It was inspired by jazz, blues and gospel, which dominated radio stations of the 1940s. Reaching the height of its popularity in the 1950s through early '60s, doo wop helped to further influence the development of soul, R&B, rock, and pop, in addition to enjoying revivals from the 1970s onward.

Mark the date to join Rick Mansfield and his band in the Music Hall on Friday, September 30, and then throw back the pages on that calendar starting in the 50s through the 70s to relive those "Magic Moments" for an evening of vintage rock 'n' roll and great doo wop tunes!