



ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL NEWSLETTER

A National Historic Landmark

FALL/WINTER 2022

Small But Mighty

Maggie Forbes, Executive Director

When authors are asked which of their books is their favorite, they often reply, "The one I am writing now."

No one has asked me which has been my favorite upgrade to the Library & Music Hall's grand facility, but I can immediately tell you my least favorite: replacing the single pane glass in our windows with new double-paned glass in 2007. We routed out the old glass, a few windows at a time, and temporarily replaced them with plywood. Scaffolding is exciting; boarding up windows, even briefly, is demoralizing. The inner graffiti artist in me wanted to spray paint in large letters:

"This is Beautification not Blight!"

Picking a favorite improvement, however, is more difficult.

Infrastructure improvements – especially weatherproofing – were imperative, but mostly invisible. Comfortable seats in the Music Hall have transformed the audience's experience in our acoustically superb venue. At least once a week, I give an unscheduled tour of the Espy Post. (The Post is open every Saturday from 11 – 3; my weekday showings are a bonus, if I'm available.) This meticulously restored national treasure of a Civil War room is one of a kind in the country. Our Library is absolutely lovely. No one seems to remember the dim lights, rattling windows, painted-over duct tape holding up crumbling plaster or the truly dreadful black and not-remotely-white linoleum. It never looked clean. Instead, as one patron wisely put it, "This looks the way libraries are supposed to look."

Library Park got off to a roaring start in 2017; that was derailed by a mudslide, added expenses and a pandemic. Since opening last April, the Park exceeds expectations, making the ACFL&MH and the central business district more inviting and attractive. The Studio, first introduced in 2011, has undergone a series of additional

improvements that exponentially increases its popularity – for performances, weddings, reunions, Civil War symposia, non-profit fundraisers, art workshops and more. Check it out!

Which leads me to the upgrade we are working on now: the **Mezzanine**. Many readers may not know what or where the Mezzanine is. It is a partial, unimproved floor between the Library and Studio levels. But what an impact its 868 square feet



of space will have!

Once accessible only via a steep staircase between the Library and its offices, or an even less welcoming and not too safe exterior staircase behind the Library & Music Hall, the Mezzanine was easily overlooked. The space once served as a kitchen, work space and bookstore for Library staff. Later, Carnegie Performing Arts Center used it as an extension for their dance and theater classes taught in the old gym. Most recently, it functioned as a dreary office amidst catchall clutter and storage.

A short staircase and electric lift now connect the Mezzanine to the Studio. As in the Studio, it's been gutted down to stone and brick walls, and will have the same exposed ductwork and brick

See "Small But Mighty," page 3



The Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra Comes to Carnegie Carnegie Hall!

Don't miss this chance to hear the amazing sounds of this renowned 17-piece Big Band. Our final benefit before Music Hall renovations begin....

Saturday, June 10

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Library Hours

Monday

12 pm – 7 pm

Tues., Wed., Thurs.

10 am – 7 pm

Friday

10 am – 5 pm

Saturday

10 am – 5 pm

Sunday Closed

Summer hours (June 26 to August 28)

Saturday

11 a.m. – 3 pm

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Espy Post Curator

Jon-Erik Gilot, x9

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www.CarnegieCarnegie.org

Find us on Facebook:

@CarnegieCarnegie and

@EspyPost

Instagram: @acfl_mh

Dear Friends:

The Library & Music Hall has wonderful stories to share. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an overview of the many things that happen here, things you may not encounter when you come for a particular program or performance on a particular day.

The newsletter spotlights exciting new initiatives such as the Library Social Work Fellowship, and Jessie Neal our first “fella.” Memory pieces like the one on Steinmetz Bakery connect us to far from forgotten chapters in Carnegie’s history. It’s always a pleasure to introduce new board members. Board members are not as familiar to patrons as our staff, but they are critical to advancing our mission, guiding staff and acting as ambassadors for the ACFL&MH to the community at large.

Hopefully, the newsletter reminds you to visit CarnegieCarnegie.org more often, and to sign up for our monthly eBlast while you’re there. This newsletter comes out only twice a year. You’ve probably missed programs and performances that you wish you’d known about.

And, at this time of year, the newsletter is the backbone of our year end appeal. As regular readers, you know how much the Library & Music Hall relies on your generosity. Support from foundations, government and businesses is deeply valued, but you have been our constant.

Balancing operational needs with the challenge of “Completing the Carnegie Carnegie” is hard. But we have commitments of \$3.2 million toward our \$4 million goal! Only \$800,000 to go....

Thanks to your support, the Library & Music Hall has made tremendous strides over the last nearly 20 years in restoring our historic facility, and, even more importantly, in bringing the new vibrancy to the Library & Music Hall described in these pages.

Thank you for being as generous as you can.

All best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season,

Thank you.

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

Maggie Forbes
Executive Director

Carnegie Celebrates the Season

Saturday, December 3
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Join us for crafts, ornament-making, holiday caricatures and refreshments in the Studio.

Visit with Santa in front of the Library’s beautiful fireplace. The ACFL&MH is delighted to bring this collaboration with Carnegie Borough’s Carol Covi Children’s Events Committee back into our lovely building.

red cement floors. The larger of the two program rooms will include a kitchen and a unisex bathroom. Clerestory windows and a glass-paned door out to the areaway (a small patio someday?) will provide natural light. The architects have carved out an office that seems glamorous compared to its predecessor.

The Mezzanine probably won't end up on my tours of the ACFL&MH facility. There is no wow-factor. Instead, it will exponentially expand the kinds of programs the Library offers.

Our 35,000 sq. ft. building has a wealth of large, open spaces. If the Lincoln Gallery is in use, we can move a conflicting program to the Studio; if the Studio is too small, we can move to the Music Hall.

However, many library programs do better in intimate or even private spaces. Think tutoring and English Language Learner classes; tax preparation; financial or legal advice; résumé writing workshops or practice job interviews; a consultation with a social worker (see p. 8). Mezzanine programming will be scheduled. In some time slots, there will be cooking classes for seniors; in others, maker workshops for teens. The Library and community partners will be able to develop more intensive programs because of the focus the Mezzanine allows.



And because the Mezzanine will be scheduled, it can also serve as a green room for performers, or a staging area for caterers, greatly enhancing the Studio's attractiveness as both a performance and rental venue.

In the Spring 2023 issue of this newsletter, I expect that my new favorite upgrade will be the full restoration/revitalization of our Music Hall. Stay tuned!

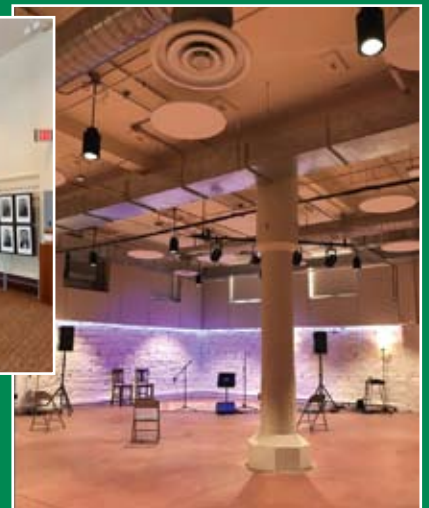
Spaces for all Occasions—Celebrate at the Carnegie Carnegie!



Performances, nonprofit and corporate functions, parties, reunions, weddings — wherever your imagination takes you!

Our beautiful and historic facility is as unique as your event. Multiple spaces available for rental provide versatile options.

- The acoustically superb Music Hall seats over 350 patrons.
- The stately 2,300 sq ft Lincoln Gallery offers sit-down for up to 75 or 100 cocktail-style.
- The 2,600 sq ft Studio is an intimate space with a club vibe and seats up to 100 for dining or performances and 125 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.

Breadcrumbs of History

Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator

I am routinely impressed at how often the Espy Post shows up when I least expect it. In a war that produced some 3.2 million fighting men, a mere 200 of that number belonged to the Espy Post. That's a fairly low percentage, right? Yet so often I hear from Espy Post descendants who share their stories and rich family artifacts with us that it almost feels like I'm not so far removed from these men who died more than half a century before I was born. Much to my surprise, one of those Espy veterans showed up twice this summer!



Richard B. Davis was born on February 9, 1845, and was barely sixteen years old when the Civil War broke out. The following year he enlisted as a Private in Company B, 155th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Recruited principally in Pittsburgh, the 155th was attached to

the Army of the Potomac and participated in most of the major battles in the eastern theater from late 1862 through the close of the war. Later in the war the regiment adopted the famed French Zouave style uniform, earning its members a distinctive appearance and point of pride.

Davis escaped the conflict without serious injury and returned to Allegheny County, where he married and raised a family. He owned Columbia Hardwood Mills in Bridgeville, and worked as a sawyer, specializing in lumber for wagons and railcars. Davis was also known for his crack shooting and took prizes in several local skeet shooting competitions. He was a member of the Espy Post until his death on September 13, 1929.

Back in June I was contacted by Nancy Komatz, a great-granddaughter of Richard B. Davis. Nancy grew up hearing stories about her great-grandfather from her own father. Born in 1902, Nancy's father attended the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg with his father and his grandfather in 1913. The 50th anniversary drew more than 53,000 veterans to

the Gettysburg battlefield and was the largest Civil War veteran's reunion in the decades following the war, highlighted by a July 4 address from President Woodrow Wilson.

During the visit to Gettysburg Davis pointed out to his son which rock he'd slept on at Little Round Top following the battle, which was subsequently passed on to Nancy, who was kind enough to share with me several photos and articles relating to her great-grandfather. In turn I shared what I could glean from our files, with the hope that we might someday identify him in our oversized photograph of Espy veterans on the library steps.

Earlier this year ACFL&MH friend Ronn Palm was kind enough to loan us several treasures from his impressive Civil War photography museum for display in our library. I took advantage of the Labor Day weekend to visit Ronn in Gettysburg and return the material to him.

During our conversation Ronn mentioned that he had something relating to the Espy Post that I might like to see. He retreated upstairs and shortly returned with a sleeve of material relating to Richard B. Davis. To my surprise, Ronn had the invitation, railroad pass, and identification tag carried by Davis during the 50th anniversary at Gettysburg. Ronn hadn't seen a photo of Davis, and I was able to share several of Nancy's photos with him. In return, I was able to share with Nancy the documents that traveled to Gettysburg with her father, grandfather, and great-grandfather more than a century ago. Talk about six degrees of Kevin Bacon!

These are the breadcrumbs, the intriguing stories that keep me enthusiastic about researching our Espy Post veterans and sharing their stories with a wider audience. We are not so far removed from the past as you might think!



Hold the Date!

Of Great Deeds...In Great Fields: Gettysburg at 160 Years.

Our popular one-day Civil War Symposium is set to return on April 15, 2023. With next July marking 160 years since the Gettysburg Campaign, five dynamic historians will explore the battle and campaign, including its ties to the Pittsburgh area.

Our 2022 symposium welcomed a sold-out crowd, so don't delay in securing your spot. Details are being finalized, but information and tickets are available at www.CarnegieCarnegie.org.

A Library of Changes, With an Unchanging Core

Walker Evans, Library Director

As I write this, golden autumn sunlight is falling on the vividly changing leaves all around the Library & Music Hall's beautiful old building. By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, many of these leaves will be carpeting our grounds with a mosaic of reds and yellows. Watching the turn of the seasons always brings me a bittersweet nostalgia, and it's all the more pronounced from my seat in the Library. This building's longevity speaks to the endurance of Carnegie as a community. Through generations of residents, the Carnegie Carnegie continues to stand like a rock in a river: solid and lasting, but shaped by the countless changes that surround it – the flow of water, the chill of winter, the gusts of air.

Sometimes the changes come gradually, sometimes fast and thick. The summer and early fall months have seen a flurry of new activity here at the Library and Music Hall. Staff members have come and gone. We sadly bade farewell to our beloved Children's Librarian, JoLynne Dougherty, in September after ten years of songs and storytimes. Watching JoLynne interact with kids and their caregivers always seemed to exemplify the Library's relationship with its community. As our youngest patrons grow up, their minds have been shaped by their time in the Library and their exposure to the countless books, media, and viewpoints represented here.

In early October, we welcomed our newest staff member: Pitt social work intern Jessie Neal (see page 8). When our Library opened its doors in 1901, the field of social work barely existed, and few would have considered a public library to be the natural environment for a social worker. But our organization continues

to evolve with the times. Today, our patrons can meet with Jessie for help navigating housing resources, unemployment benefits, and mental health services. In a way, it's quite in keeping with Andrew Carnegie's vision of the public library as a place of social uplift – I can imagine approval from the philanthropist who approvingly described libraries as places “where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration.”

The face of the borough that took Carnegie's name is changing, too. As Carnegie has welcomed more refugees from conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, more languages are heard on our sidewalks and in our businesses. For these newest members of our community, the Library may seem like a natural place to connect and find resources, but all too often, language barriers interfere. We're happy to be partnering with organizations from Literacy Pittsburgh and the Office of the Mayor of Pittsburgh to Hello Neighbor and Bethany Christian Services to provide free English language classes and basic technology classes for English learners in our area. As our community changes around us, the Library changes as well.

If a Carnegie resident from 1901 stepped into our Library today, there would be plenty that they wouldn't recognize. Computers everywhere...books in other languages...air conditioning? But when our visitor from the past set their eyes on our framed mission statement, I think that they'd recognize the unaltered philosophy that has guided our Library since its founding. We seek to build community, as we have done here for generations. As we watch 2022 dwindle to its last days, we remember that our community builds us just as much as we hope to build it.



Embracing the Changes

Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director

“If anybody wants to keep creating, they have to be about change.” – Miles Davis

We are on the verge of creating more great things here at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall! If, like me, you're relatively new to the party, ACFL&MH launched a capital campaign in 2004 to restore our 35,000 square foot facility. Thanks to the generosity of our community – Yes! That would be *you!* – more than \$13 million has been raised. (Okay, foundations, government and businesses also pitched in.) So much happened before my arrival a year ago in August. However, I've seen that transformation of the grounds into Library Park. The Studio has been revamped into a great intimate performance space with a jazzy club vibe. (It's also a great spot for other programming and private events such as weddings.) And, we continue to climb toward the final leg of our journey, a restored, upgraded and air-conditioned version of our acoustically superb Music Hall.

***“All great changes are preceded by chaos.”
– Deepak Chopra***

Although we didn't hit our timetable to begin renovation in 2022, there is a team hard at work moving us ever closer to our goal to start construction in summer 2023! Architects, designers, electricians, board, and staff. Our resident companies, Stage 62 and Carnegie Performing Arts Center, and partner organizations like The Pittsburgh Savoyards, Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, and Nandanik Indian Dance Troupe have been resilient, flexible, and creative as they've stood by us in planning for this endeavor. Maybe pandemic upheaval primed them for uncertainty. Did you see Stage 62's production of *The Marvelous Wonderettes* in the Studio this past May? Their creative adaptation of the space

transported us back to a theatrically beautiful 1950s prom.

We're keeping the 120+ year-old theater occupied as planning and fundraising continue. After summer temperatures cooled enough to invite audiences back into the un-air-conditioned Music Hall, we kicked off the back-to-school season with a memorable early rock 'n' roll performance by Brother Rick & The Throwbacks that brought the crowd to their feet! Throughout the “spooky season” of mid-September through Halloween, ghost hunters on the Walking Haunted Tours of Carnegie searched our historic Music Hall for the infamous “Man in the Hat.” We were proud to host Resonance Works for the Pittsburgh premiere of contemporary opera *I am a Dreamer Who No Longer Dreams*. At the beginning of November, Miss Freddye served up some hot tunes with her Homecookin' Band. The next day Stage 62 loaded in for the musical satire *Urinetown*. And to close 2022, a holiday tradition – Carnegie Performing Arts Center's presentation of *The Nutcracker*.

The beginning of 2023 ushers in a full spring season with our resident companies in the Music Hall. (See the list of upcoming events on page 14.) Details for winter/spring 2023 ACFL&MH's Listen Locally series in the Music Hall will be posted on our website at CarnegieCarnegie.org as soon as they are finalized. (Be sure to sign up for our monthly email updates while checking out the website!)

Simultaneously, lots of things are happening in the Studio. (My plan is to really step up the number of performances in the Studio while the Music Hall is closed for renovation.) Meanwhile, whether the performance is upstairs or down, we've got some great shows coming your way.



Call to Arms

Nate Wyrick, Associate Library Director/Facility Manager

Weeds. They're one of every gardener and landscaper's biggest headaches, and our property is definitely no exception. With recent improvements to our grounds, and now with the completion of Library Park, our landscaping needs have increased exponentially.

During the warm months there's lots of weeding to be done, bushes to trim, trees to water and quite a bit of grass to cut. The Borough is kind enough to cut the lion's share of our grass, and we're very grateful to have their help with such an enormous part of our groundskeeping. But our landscaping needs don't stop there.

For the past three or four years, Carnegie local Bill Wegener



has been donating a lot of his time helping keep things neat and tidy outside. Bill trims the grass around the building, removes dead branches and invasive vegetation and in general works hard to keep beautiful the property that his Library sits on. He is knowledgeable about things like trees, pests

and soil and has proven many times to be super handy to have around. Like a librarian that's worth their salt, Bill knows a little bit about a lot of things. I won't give away his age here, but suffice it to say, I sure hope to be as healthy and spry as he is when I'm his age.

This year our outdoor army of one got a new recruit: Mike Kielman. Being a newly retired ER doctor (yes, we all call him Dr. Mike around here), Mike reached out to us looking for some volunteer work to try and occupy some of the time he found

himself having on his hands. I told him I had plenty for him to do around here and that we'd be thrilled to have some more help.

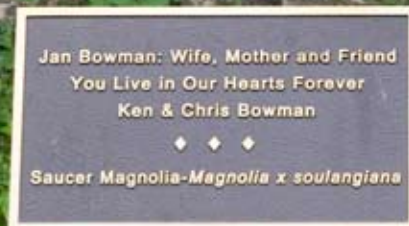
Little did I know what a gardening powerhouse I had on my hands. Like clockwork he shows up here twice (sometimes thrice) weekly, literally rain or shine. His dedication and attention to detail is evidenced all over our grounds now. We're very fortunate that he chose us to help "keep some structure in his life".



As most of us know, all good things eventually come to an end. Their level of commitment and devotion cannot be sustained forever. Besides, let's be honest, there's always something more waiting to be done when you have such an old and beautiful building and property to take care of. And that's where you come in.

The folks in our community do a great job showing all the love and appreciation they have for their Library & Music Hall. But if you have some extra time on your hands, there's always room for one more on our volunteer team. And this isn't limited to being an opportunity just for individuals. If you're a part of a youth group or scout troop or any organization with a cluster of people who would like to spend some time giving back to the community, we can find you something to do! There are many opportunities around here at ACFL&MH, but unfortunately pulling weeds and getting dirty seem to be the least desirable of them. I have faith though that we can get some new faces to turn up and help keep Carnegie proud of this grand old building.

In the meantime, I take my hat off to Bill and Mike.



A Brand New Service

Jessie Neal, Library Social Work Fellow



Hello! My name is Jessie, and I am a first-year Master of Social Work student at The University of Pittsburgh. My mother is also a social worker, and I grew up watching all the ways she helped our community. I even got to jump in

and assist with various events, such as Take Back the Night rallies, self-defense classes, and gathering Christmas presents for families in need within our community. When I went to college, I pushed back against going into social work because I was young and foolish and didn't want to follow directly in my mother's footsteps. What a mistake! Still, I wanted to help people in the same ways she helped people.

Having never stopped wanting to be in a position to help others, I finally decided to go back to school and make it official! I'm here at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library as a library social work fellow and will be here through the end of April 2023. Library social work is a relatively new venture. It started in 2009 at the San Francisco Public Library and has

been growing in prevalence over the last 13 years, and I couldn't be more excited to be part of it.

Executive Director Maggie Forbes often says libraries are in the information business, which couldn't be truer! In my role here, I will assist patrons by providing information and referrals on social & human service resources, mental health supports, crisis supports, and any other resources a patron may require. I will also assist the Library in developing and running programs and activities in response to the community's needs.

If you, or someone you know, require assistance, please feel free to reach out to me. I want to help you in all the ways that I can. Anything we discuss will be confidential and not used for any purpose other than assisting you. I have compiled a patron survey that will be available at the circulation desk and at computer stations. I am hosting drop-in hours here at the Library on Tuesdays from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm, Thursdays from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am – 1 pm. You can reach me via email at jessie.neal@pitt.edu, and I look forward to getting to know the Andrew Carnegie Free Library community better.

Meet Isaac Karchner

Walker Evans, Library Director

When people visit our Library for the first time, they often come away with the desire to be a part of what happens here. Whether it's something about the building itself, the people, or just the vibe, the Library seems to attract interesting and ideal-driven people who want to help others. It's not uncommon for patrons to become volunteers – and when they do, we celebrate it!

One such person walked through our doors last March, and quickly became a fixture here. Since that day, Isaac Karchner has been volunteering regularly on Friday afternoons, when they help patrons with all manner of technology issues. Their attitude to the world is a perfect fit for a public library – they take pains to truly see and understand the patrons they help. "I care about people deeply," Isaac says. "Everyone has untapped potential. Everyone is special, and no one is stupid."

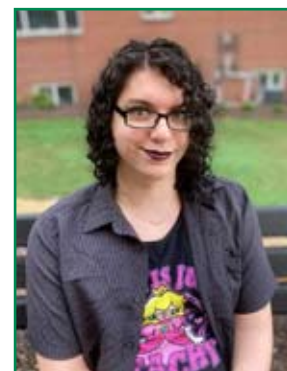
This isn't Isaac's first time in a library. A few years ago, they worked in the Somerset County Library, where they did a bit of everything: shifting books to new shelving, digitizing materials for an electronic archive, and even working on their first prosthetic hand. Their interest in technology dates back years, to their first encounter with an Arduino kit (a tiny, versatile computer used to build customized digital devices). Their early projects soon blossomed into a diverse array of coding projects – everything from simple word games to robotics and artificial

intelligence. "I'll go wherever life takes me, but it's definitely going to involve robotics in some way," says Isaac.

Not everyone with Isaac's level of technical expertise is well suited to teaching, but this is where Isaac truly shines. They're endlessly fascinated by the world, accumulating input on all kinds of topics – and when they share their knowledge, it's with an irresistible enthusiasm. Helping a patron is more than just a problem to solve – it's an opportunity for a meeting of minds and a chance to share.

These personal connections are central for Isaac, both in and out of the Library. "I have an amazing support system, and the most important person is my girlfriend Tonya," they say. The couple are looking to buy a house together.

Isaac sums up their philosophy of service with what might be an unexpected metaphor: video games. "I've liked video games for a long time, but my favorites have always been single player games. But lately I've been noticing that life is not a single player game. You do make these connections, you do meet people and do things with them and hear their perspectives and get to know them. And you're not alone."



The Old Drift: A Novel by Namwali Serpell

Walker Evans, Library Director

I haven't read a huge amount of African fiction in my life. Like many high schoolers, I was assigned Chinua Achebe's classic *Things Fall Apart*, but it wasn't until I finished college and found myself in graduate school to be a librarian that I got more serious about exploring novels from around the world.

Since that time, I've discovered some truly incredible titles by writers from Africa and situated in the African diaspora, both in translation and written originally in English. I'll mention a few standouts: The Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's *Wizard of the Crow* offers a heady blend of surrealist magical realism with absurdist tales of post-colonial corruption and autocracy. Marlon James's *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* launches an epic African fantasy, rooted in history and myth alike. Nnedi Okorafor's work, like the *Binti* and *Akata Witch* series, invites young Black readers to see themselves in the futuristic and fantastical worlds she creates.

Books like these have helped expand my perspective on the world. These days, I try to keep my eyes open for novels by and about people from Africa and the vast range of African experiences.

The Old Drift, a 2020 debut novel from Zambian writer Namwali Serpell, caught my attention as I was browsing book reviews, a frequent task in my work as a librarian. I think the line that grabbed me was this quote, from a Boston Globe review: "In this wonderfully chaotic epic, Namwali Serpell invites us into an indelible world that's part history, part sci-fi, totally political, and often as heartbreaking as it is weirdly hilarious." Weird, funny political sci-fi? Sign me up!

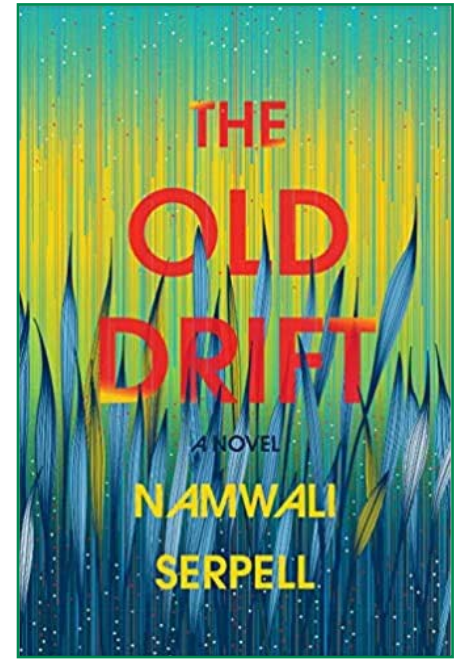
As it turns out, Serpell's epic novel offers all this and more. Set in the area around Victoria Falls on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, this saga opens at the turn of the twentieth century with an unlikely point-of-view character: Percy Clark, a white settler who has traveled to seek his fortunes in what was then known as Northern Rhodesia (after

British colonist Cecil Rhodes). Clark's attitudes toward the Africans he meets set the scene for the next century of encounters between Zambians and the English colonists whose presence alters both their landscape and their lives.

Touches of fable and magical realism pervade the intertwined lives of Serpell's characters. One woman grows a full coat of thick hair all over her body. Another is stricken by an affliction of endless tears. As years pass, we explore the conflicts of colonialism through tales of a psychedelic African space program, genetically-engineered HIV vaccines, and programmable swarms of micro-drones. But even as these trappings veer further into the realm of imagination, the nuances of relationship between the generations of characters lend the whole book an emotionally resonant grounding.

Reading *The Old Drift* opened my eyes to a chapter of history whose effects echo to this day in countless ways, both visible and hidden. But this novel is much more than an instructive guide to the post-colonial history of Zambia – it's a love letter to its people, a feat of national myth-making, and a totally engrossing multigenerational fable.

You can place *The Old Drift* by Namwali Serpell on hold through the online library catalog. Search the catalog at www.CarnegieCarnegie.org.



Welcome Samantha!



Meet our newest staff member, Children's Librarian Samantha Varela! A lifelong Carnegie resident, Samantha grew up visiting the Carnegie Carnegie with her family. After attending Pitt, she worked with TRAC Services for Families, implementing a new

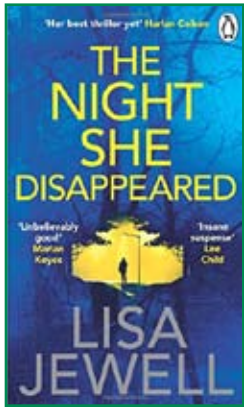
program to find permanent families for children in the foster care system. Since then, she has been planning library programs for young children in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh system, as well as managing the shipping process that lets you request items from any library in the county. You may

remember that earlier in the pandemic, the delay between requesting a hold and receiving the item could be weeks long - it's thanks to Samantha that the process now takes closer to one day!

"I [am] honored to bring my skills to my own community and assist in making Carnegie and the AC Free Library more welcoming to children, teens, and adults throughout the area!" says Samantha, whose first day at the Library was November 2.

We couldn't be more excited to welcome Samantha to our team, and we're confident that she will bring wonderful ideas and a passion for serving our young patrons. Say hello the next time you visit the Library!

Staff Recommendations



Katie Byerly

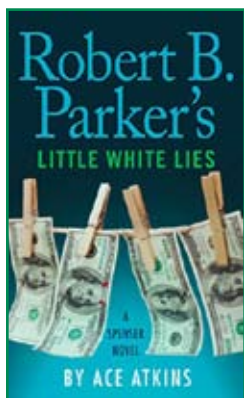
The Night She Disappeared by Lisa Jewell.

I was checking in this book that a patron returned and started to read the inside cover and it caught my attention. I have read other books by Lisa Jewell, but not all of them and I plan on reading them all, since the others I have read are truly interesting.

Tallulah and her boyfriend Zach decide to go out to dinner and end up meeting friends and heading to a house party in the woods known as the “Dark Place.” Tallulah’s mom, Kim, watches their little boy, while they enjoy a night out...but they never come home. Kim contacts Tallulah’s friends and the only information they can tell her is that they were heading to a party. Kim decides to call the police and report Tallulah missing.

A year or so later, Sophia and Shaun move into a small place near the Dark Place. Sophia is a mystery writer and her boyfriend Shaun just got a job as a teacher at the school nearby. One day, Sophia decides to take a stroll down into the woods and discovers a sign nailed to a tree that says “DIG HERE.”

As the story goes on, you learn more about certain characters in the story and it makes you wonder if any of them had something to do with the disappearance of Tallulah and Zach—or could a bad accident have killed them both? It is a must-read kind of book if you like suspenseful stories and mysteries. Check out this book at the library or on Libby.



Denise Edeburn

Spenser for Hire series created by Robert B. Parker.

I tend to pick an author then read all their books. This method has served me well. The *Spenser for Hire* series has not been a disappointment. You may be familiar with the old TV series *Spenser for Hire* and the newer Mark Wahlberg movie *Spenser Confidential*. The TV

series is truer to the characters. However the movie, while not perfect in representing the characters, is still in the spirit of the books. If you are looking for a quick pool/beach side, not too serious detective novel series, this could be it. Robert Parker was

a prolific writer and after his passing the series was taken over by Ace Adkins who remained true to the original author’s flow and style. I have read at least 15 of the books in this series so far this year. Set in Boston, former cop, former boxer, now Private Investigator Spenser looks out for the good guys while walking a tightrope negotiating with the Boston underworld. He spouts classical literature quotes and cooks gourmet dinners (general recipes are shared) for his longtime psychologist girlfriend and their dog Pearl. He has many colorful friends that help along the way and his clients come from all parts of society. There is violence and implied intimacy, but nothing terribly graphic.



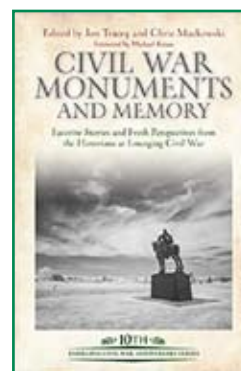
Maggie Forbes

Four Treasures of the Sky by Jenny Tinghui Zhang.

“When I am kidnapped, it does not happen in an alleyway. It does not happen at midnight. It does not happen when I am alone.” From its opening lines, Zhang’s debut novel swept me up. It begins in 1882 in a port city in China when Daiyu, a 13-year-old, is inexplicably abandoned by her parents. It ends about ten years later in Idaho, yet feels epic in scope. Tragedies compound. Daiyu is sold to a brothel in San Francisco. She escapes undefiled (temporarily) and lives the rest of her life as a man: Jacob Li.

Waves of magical realism introduce Daiyu’s mythical namesake as a companion, protector and sometimes a scold. Friendship, kindness, hints of romance and a transformative encounter with calligraphy leaven *Four Treasures of the Sky*. As do Daiyu’s intelligence and determination to return home.

I was not prepared for the ending, revealed in an end note to be drawn from an historical event. It is a fantastical novel, all too grounded in a reality.



Jon-Erik Gilot

Civil War Monuments and Memory: Favorite Stories and Fresh Perspectives from the Historians at Emerging Civil War, edited by Jon Tracey and Chris Mackowski.

I may not be impartial (I contributed an essay to this volume), but I have been enjoying reading the essays from my

coauthors in this latest installment of the *Emerging Civil War 10th Anniversary Series*. While Civil War monuments have dominated our news cycle in recent years, monumentation and memorialization have been hotly contested since the guns fell silent. Indeed, monuments often portray a popular memory at odds with the realities of the historical record. These essays unpack how the monuments dotting our parks, public spaces, and courthouse lawns impact how we remember, understand, and commemorate our nation's defining conflict.

Heidi Matthews

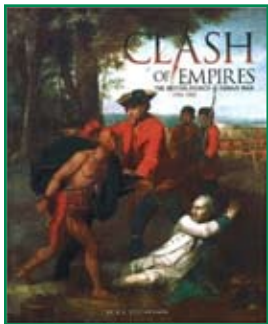


The Butcher and The Wren by Alaina Urquhart.

The debut novel of true-crime podcaster and autopsy technician, Alaina Urquhart, was a darkly fun ride. Set in the bayou of Louisiana, a serial killer and forensic psychologist

spar, circling in time between alternate points of view from chapter to chapter. The author's knowledge from her previously stated professions provides clinical details – not for the faint of heart! The plot moves at break-neck speed, compelling the reader to keep up with every turn of the page. As the story comes to an abrupt ending, I find myself eagerly awaiting Alaina Urquhart's second book.

Alice McWreath



The War That Made America DVD and *Clash of Empires* by R.S. Stephenson.

I recently visited Fort Ligonier and it prompted me to learn more about the French and Indian War. I began by watching a 4-part PBS video series available at the Andrew

Carnegie Free Library entitled *The War That Made America*. The DVD is an interesting reenactment of the key players and battles of the war known by much of the world as The Seven Years War. In spite of the fact that Western Pennsylvania was an integral region, I admit that my knowledge of the war was limited. I'm currently reading *Clash of Empires* by Pittsburgh native R.S. Stephenson, the companion book to the exhibit of the same name at the Heinz History Center. If you think you may be interested in this and the many other wonderful exhibits, Carnegie residents should contact us at the library to get a free pass for 4 to the Heinz History Center.



Nate Wyrick

Yellowjackets, Showtime.

Plane crash. Deep in the Canadian back country. Female high school soccer players.

Actual horror ensues. Think

Lord of the Flies meets the Donner Party and you have the basic premise for the new Showtime series, *Yellowjackets*. I missed out on seeing this show when it first came out on DVD, mainly because I only glanced at the cover and determined it seemed like some kind of foolish high school drama. I was kinda right, but also very, very wrong. Even as a librarian I sometimes forgot to NOT judge a book (or other media) by its cover.

There is definitely the drama one would expect from something based on high school kids, but there are also some very mature themes involved and the show quickly devolves into brutal terror. This is not just a shock and awe viewing experience either. There is an underlying plot that proves to be very intriguing and the mystery sucks you in and leaves you yearning for more when the last episode ends. I'm not calling this the best thing I've viewed this year, but my wife and I binged the whole thing in one sitting.

Looking for the perfect gift this Holiday Season...
You can't go wrong with a unique gift from the Carnegie Carnegie!



and
Tickets available at CarnegieCarnegie.org

 Pete & Scott	 Benny Benack II
 Maureen Renihan Trio	 Jessica Lee & Mark Strickland

Eyes on the Prize

Christopher S. Green, CPA, President, Board of Trustees

Last year around this time, as we intensified fund raising for *Completing the Carnegie Carnegie*, I wrote an article for this newsletter highlighting some tax efficient ways for charitable giving. Specifically, I described how gifting appreciated securities and making Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA's can provide significant tax savings to the donor while the recipient charitable organization benefits.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read that we have been very successful in raising funds from government organizations, foundations and the generosity of the community but are still short of meeting our goal. Construction of Library Park to connect our facility to the business district and renovation of the Studio are complete. Conversion of the Mezzanine to a multi-use, small programming space – a must for libraries – has been funded and should be complete by the end of the year.

We are still seeking funds for the full renovation of the Music Hall. This will be the culmination of a nearly 20-year effort to restore this grand building, while adapting it to better meet contemporary needs. The Board of Trustees is passionate about this project. The historic significance of the facility combined with programming already in place, plus plans for enhanced programming the full renovation allows will contribute to the vibrancy of the ACFL&MH and its community for decades to come. We need your help to get to the finish line!

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall was Andrew Carnegie's gift to the Borough of Carnegie. It opened in 1901, with a modest endowment that was exhausted decades ago. The organization still operates under the original Trust Agreement (with updates) signed by Mr. Carnegie. The facility is a gem. But utilities, maintenance and repairs of a 35,000 square foot facility

impose large and ongoing financial responsibilities. Staff have been very creative in finding operational funding sources. In recent years, the ACFL&MH has been fortunate to receive regular funding from the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD) and a generous annual commitment from the Borough of Carnegie. We are proud that Carnegie Council recognizes how important the Library & Music Hall is to the community. Even with these reliable funding sources, the facility operates at barely breakeven each year. Our commitment to providing free and low-cost services and programming in accordance with our mission "to build community with a library, theater and historic site that welcome, inform, entertain and engage the community and the region in lifelong learning" never wavers.

About four years ago, the ACFL&MH received an endowment gift that provides limited annual distributions to "forestall depreciation." That means we can use the funds to repair the roof, but not to pay our substantial and growing utilities bills. With current high inflation and decreasing asset values in the endowment, the Board and staff are challenged to maintain operational stability while striving to "Complete the Carnegie Carnegie" – all the while enhancing services provided to the community.

Individuals who have personally benefited from the ACFL&MH or value its overall benefit to the community can help in a tax efficient way by including the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall in their estate plans either as a charitable bequest or as beneficiary of a life insurance policy. If you'd like more information regarding the tax efficient ways to contribute written about last year and identified above, please contact us.



Carnegie High School sweethearts, Christopher and Kathleen Green celebrated 50 years of marriage at the Carnegie Carnegie. How lucky the ACFL&MH is that Chris followed in Kathy's footsteps after her six years of service on the Board were complete!



Steinmetz Bakery: A Family Affair

by Carol Steinmetz Tambellini



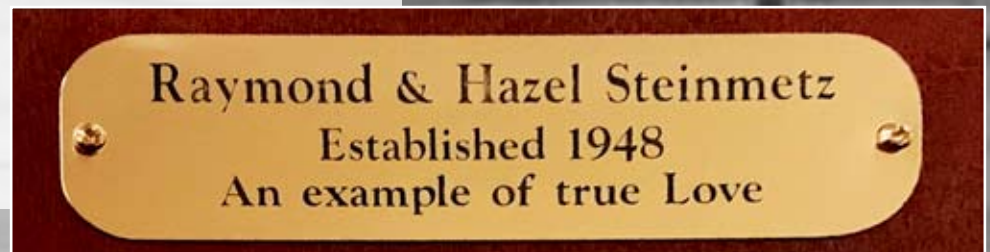
In August, my husband and I visited the Library with a couple of our friends. It was my first visit to the Library since using its resources for college papers back in the early 1980s. My husband and our friends were first timers. We were all so impressed with the facility. I marvel at all the renovations that have taken place since my last encounter.

And we were impressed by Executive Director Maggie Forbes. We arrived at the Library very near closing time. We had gone up to the second floor, and instead of asking us to come back another time, Maggie not only showed us the awesome Espy Post, but gave us the full tour of the whole facility. (A downpour had struck. None of us was in a hurry to leave....)

When I said that my maiden name is Steinmetz, Maggie said she had heard so many stories about our Bakery. ("Best lady locks anywhere!" according to Board President Chris Green.) My grandfather started the Bakery in 1914, after immigrating here from Austria. It was family-run from 1914 until 1989 and really became a Carnegie institution over the decades. My father Raymond worked at the Bakery his entire life, except for a stint in the Navy in the 1940s. He was very instrumental in the Bakery's longevity and success.

I am the youngest of Raymond and Hazel's seven children – Alois (Cookie), Ray, Jane, Tom, Mary Cay, Michael then me. We all worked in the Bakery growing up. In fact, my husband John worked there as well during our early dating years! It was such a special place for all of us Steinmetz siblings and holds many dear memories. The Bakery permanently closed on June 30, 1989. One of the last cakes baked there was for my oldest daughter Jaclyn's first birthday on July 4, 1989.

My father would have turned 96 as I write this (August 27, 2022). In honor of my parents, I purchased a plaque for a seat in the Music Hall. I am so grateful to be re-introduced to the wonderfully restored treasure in Carnegie. We plan on visiting again soon – and spreading the word!



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, December 1, 7 pm.

LA TI DO and the Carnegie Carnegie conclude our year-long partnership with a holiday themed performance. LA TI DO Productions strives to be the premiere community of cultural and artistic diversity and inclusion through music and spoken word collaboration.



Listen Locally Downstairs with

HEWLETTE & ANDERSON (AKA PETE & SCOTT)

Thursday, January 12, 2023, 7 pm.

Regional favorite guitar and keyboard duo deliver a lively evening of pop & soft rock covers along with original works. (See back cover.)



Listen Locally Downstairs with

BENNY BENACK II QUARTET

Thursday, January 26, 7pm

Pittsburgh sax-man Benny Benack II offers up an evening of smokin' jazz.

Listen Locally Downstairs with

MAUREEN RENIHAN TRIO

Thursday, February 23, 7pm

Jazz songbird Maureen Renihan takes the mic with Jonathan DiGiulan on guitar and Paul Thompson on bass.



Listen Locally Downstairs with

JESSICA LEE & MARK STRICKLAND – THE GREAT WOMEN OF JAZZ, PART II

Thursday, March 23, 7 pm.

Following a crowd-favorite performance of *The Great Women of Jazz*, Jessica and Mark pick up where they left off this summer as we celebrate Women in Music Month!



Music Hall

Carnegie Performing Arts Center presents

THE NUTCRACKER

December 10-11 & 17-18

A young girl's magical dream of her Nutcracker Prince as they travel through swirling snowflakes and waltzing flowers on their journey to the Candy Kingdom.

Stage 62 presents

FRECKLEFACE STRAWBERRY: THE MUSICAL

February 10-11 & February 18-19

In the musical version of the best-selling book, Freckleface Strawberry must learn to love her freckles and herself.

Carnegie Performing Arts Center presents

CINDERELLA – THE CHILDREN'S PLAY

February 25-26

The famous fairy tale by Charles Perrault. A young Cinderella has her dream come true thanks to her magical fairy godmother.

Carnegie Performing Arts Center presents

SNOW WHITE – THE CHILDREN'S BALLET

April 29-30

The timeless story of a beautiful princess, an evil queen, and seven friendly Dwarves.

Stage 62 presents

SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM

May 18-21 & 25-28

A musical tribute to the legendary Stephen Sondheim, incorporating video footage of the man himself.



Library

POP CLASSICS: DIE HARD

Thursday, December 1, 7 pm

Join film buff Scott Nicolson for our series Pop Classics, where we watch and discuss the movies that most influenced pop culture over the last few decades.

Tonight, we'll view *Die Hard* (1988), directed by John McTiernan. Bruce Willis stars as John McClane, an off-duty police officer who must face off against a cabal of terrorists holding hostages at a holiday office party. Come join in the discussion as we attempt to answer once and for all: is it a Christmas movie?

CARNEGIE CELEBRATES THE SEASON

Saturday, December 3, 10 am – 1pm

Our annual holiday celebration is back in person this year! Join us for family crafts, activities, and a visit from Santa. Further details will be announced at www.CarnegieCarnegie.org.

REMEMBERING RENNERDALE: AN AUTHOR VISIT WITH MARGARET FEITT

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 PM

Celebrate the 125th birthday of Rennerdale with local author Margaret Feitt, as she shares the history and lore of our Collier Township neighbor. Explore Rennerdale's colonial-era origins, its connections to the railroad industry, and its historical architecture. Copies of Margaret's new book *Remembering Rennerdale* will be available for purchase.

POP CLASSICS: A CHRISTMAS STORY

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 PM

Join film buff Scott Nicolson for our series Pop Classics, where we watch and discuss the movies that most influenced pop culture over the last few decades.

Tonight, we'll view *A Christmas Story* (1983), directed by Bob Clark. Follow the 1940s-era misadventures of Ralphie Parker (Peter Billingsley), as Christmas approaches and he longs for one gift above all: a Red Ryder carbon action BB gun. Will his wishes come true?

Second Saturday Civil War Series

THE CIVIL WAR AS THE WATERSHED EVENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY, DAVID ALBERT

January 14, 2023, 1 pm.

MONUMENT VANDALISM & DESTRUCTION DURING & AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, ABBI SMITHMYER

February 11, 1pm

CIVILIAN STORIES FROM THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG, EVAN PORTMAN

March 11, 1pm

SYMPOSIUM (See p. 4)

April 15

CALAMITY AT CHANCELLORSVILLE: THE WOUNDING & DEATH OF STONEWALL JACKSON, DR. MAT LIVELY

May 13, 1pm

IMAGES FROM THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE, MELISSA HACKER WINN

June 10, 1pm

AMERICAN CITIZEN: LETTERS OF THE 46TH PENNSYLVANIA INFANTRY, BENJAMIN E. MYERS

September 9, 1pm

DANGERFIELD NEWBY'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, JON-ERIK GILOT

October 14, 1pm

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S VISIT TO THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD, CODIE EASH

November 11, time TBD because of ACFL&MH's annual Veterans Day Ceremony

Programs and performances are constantly being added. Sign up for our monthly programmatic eBlast at CarnegieCarnegie.org.

Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall's Campaign Contributors

Heartfelt thanks individuals, foundations and businesses have contributed more than \$57,500 since our last newsletter. These donations support the mission, program and services of the Library & Music Hall, and get us closer to "Completing the Carnegie Carnegie." \$9,877 of this counts towards the pro-rated Love your Library match.

Rema Abdin
David Albert
Kathryn Atman
Allen & Julie Augustine
Nancy & William Barnes
Herbert & Carol Brant
Bill & Denise Brown
Katie Byerly
Mike and Jeanne Byerly



Lorna Cabili
Nancy D'Angelo
Don Davis
Dennis & Claudia Dewey
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Mike & Beth Wheat*
Carol Whitaker

Hannah Mary Williams
Michael Winkelman
Dennis & Joan Wrona
Patricia Wurster
Anna Zbezinski
Mary Ann Zuk



Memorial Gifts

The ACFL&MH is always grateful for the generosity of its community. But it is also profoundly humbled that so many families and friends make gifts to the Library & Music Hall in memory of loved ones.

MARIA COGLIOCCA COLANGELO

Chartiers Terrace Housing Association
Maggie Forbes
Bob Greek
Linda Hanlin
Mark & Della Iacono
Mary Jeffries
Lora & Bob Michigan
Ed & Deb Moretti
Quaker Valley HS Science Department
Janice & Bob Schulz
Joe & Christine Zyra

DEBORAH CONKEY

Peggy Rutkauskas
Annette & Ron Stewart

Memorial Gifts, Honor Gifts & Book Donations

FRANCELLE K. HERLEMAN

Karen Curran
Adam DiVincenzo
Leonette DiVincenzo
Mark Borato & Aimee Holmes
Maggie Forbes
Brian Heller
Justine Hvostal
Dennis & Rosemary Lopic
Beth Mastrangelo
Norma & Jeff McConnell
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Marlene & Dana Smith
Ronn Stark
Jennifer Stockdale
Dora Troia
Greg Ulander
Mary Ann Vandewater
John & Rosemarie Wyke

JAMES FREDERICK LEWELLYN

Maggie Forbes

BILL MANBY ON HIS BIRTHDAY, OCTOBER 2022

The Beggs Family
Maggie Forbes



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Butch & Katie Augustine
Jim & Lorraine Berner
Squire & Marianne Downey
Joni Flanagan
Sean & Lindsey Flanagan
Madeline Fotovich
Alexander Galante
Juliana Galante
Tom & Terri Galante



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John & Michele Leninsky
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Susan Matthews
Nick & Shelly Mulholland
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Jim, Jody & Hunter Rock

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Annette & Ron Stewart

BOB MEYER

Gary & Kit Handerhan

CARL J. PALKA

Maggie Forbes
Annette & Ron Stewart

LARRY SCHNEIDER

Annette & Ron Stewart

TED & SARAH SIENICKI, OCTOBER 2022

Denise Berbach

LOUISE "WEEZIE" STEWART

Elena Armstrong
Mary & Richard Barnes
Denise Berbach
Kellie & Dan Butera
Anita & Fred Cardillo
John & Diane Cima
Bea & Dan Day

Barbara & Ed Enrietti
Tina & Tod Fisher
Maggie Forbes
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Patty & Radar Opacic
Greg & Cheryl Pealer
Denise & Jorge Ruiz
JD & Terry Sienicki & Family
Adele Stewart
Annette & Ronald Stewart
Holly & Ronald Stewart, Jr.



Stella Sienicki Szafranski & Family
Janet Tracy
John Yarowenko & Beth Stewart Yarowenko
& Family
Helen Zaletski
Patricia & Mary Jo Zebracki
Sue & Jeff Zuk

Honor Gifts

Thanks to people who honor friends' or family members' milestones with a gift to the ACFL&MH.

LYNNE FRANKS

ON HER BIRTHDAY, AUGUST 2022

Maggie Forbes
Network for Good (Many Facebook Friends)

Memorial Gifts, Honor Gifts & Book Donations

CHRIS & KATHY GREEN

ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 2022

Maggie Forbes
Bob Green
Caitlin Green
Jason Green
Joseph Hall
Gary & Kathleen Handerhan
John Iaconis
Deana Jirak
Brian Lens
Calli & Anthony Mazzoni
Nancy Puleo
Bob & Gloria Roman
Ellen Romett
Megan Sigesmund & Family
Andrea Stanford
Steve & Betsy Tassaró
Linda & Rich Trail

LORETTA "TOOTSIE" SIENICKI SZAFRANSKI ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY, NOVEMBER 2022

Maggie Forbes
Pamela Mosher
Richard Sienicki
Stella Sienicki Szafranski & Family



Book Donations

Many thanks to those who made donations to purchase books to remember or honor a loved one or friend.

FRANCELE HERLEMAN

ACFL&MH Staff
Katie Byerly
Mike & Jeanne Byerly
Rich & Bonnie Cornish
Laura Kelly & John Scheib
Janet & Ken Sharp
Ken Parkes & Sheryl Steveson

DOLORES ANNE HOWELL

Ken & Stella Szafranski

MICHAEL ROBERT JAMES

Jeanine, Char, Dee, Kelly & India
Sharon Salvini
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ACFL&MH Staff
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Mike & Jeanne Byerly
The Sharp Family

JEAN SKIRPAN

Sharon Skirpan

LOUISE "WEEZIE" STEWART

Bobbie & Ed Enrietti



ACFL&MH Board Gets Better!

by Maggie Forbes, Executive Director

The ACFL&MH is excited to welcome three new members to its Board of Trustees.



DON ALEXANDER, a 2nd grade teacher at Carnegie Elementary, has been teaching at the Carlynton School District for 22 years. Don's commitment to educating the whole child and to community aligns perfectly with the ACFL&MH's mission.

Don has an impressive history of community partnerships. (He notes that none of these was a solo venture.) These partnerships include bringing Allegheny Health Network's *Chill Project* (an innovative mental health initiative) to Carnegie Elementary. He assisted in Literacy Pittsburgh English Language classes being offered at the school for families of students. Along with Giselle Fetterman, Pastor Sara Irwin and other Carlynton educators, Don helped create Free Fridge 15106 and Free Store 15106 to serve Carnegie.

Don believes that student success begins with an open, caring and connected community of advocates. "I hope to assist in making connections between our schools, businesses and community leaders to make the Library & Music Hall the centerpieces of this network."

At his first Board meeting in September, Don revealed that he'd taught another new Board member in kindergarten.

THE ACFL&MH BYLAWS require that its board include three Ex Officio members appointed by Carnegie Council from its membership and the Mayor. Ex Officio basically translates from Latin to mean "by virtue of one's position." As one board member asked during a 2013 update of the Bylaws, "Who better to serve on our Board than someone elected by Carnegie residents to represent them?"



TOM DIPIETRO has served as a Councilman representing Carnegie's 1st Ward for four years. When an Ex Officio spot on the Board opened, Tom was happy to step up.

"The Library & Music Hall has been an important part of Carnegie for 120 years. When Library Park opened last spring, the connection between Carnegie and its Library was raised to a whole new level."

Like Don, Tom also brings commitment to community and education to the Board. He was a Pittsburgh Public Schools teacher for 35 years. Most of that time he taught math at Knoxville Middle School. Tom also served as the Director of Camp AIM for 32 years. Founded in 1968, Camp AIM is a six-week summer program for children and youth with physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and communication challenges. "I actually started as a nurse. I took an intensive EMT course to help Camp AIM meet its requirements."



At 25, **ALEX POPICHAK** is the ACFL&MH's youngest Board member. (Quick research suggests he's the youngest trustee ever.) He is a second-generation Board member as well. Alex's mother, Regina Popichak, was an Ex Officio member when she served on Carnegie Council.

However, there was nothing "legacy" about Alex's being invited to join the Board. "I consider myself spoiled in the

best of ways to have grown up with Carnegie's renaissance. I've always thought of the Library & Music Hall as the crown jewel of my hometown – because of its place in our history as well its location, presiding over the corner of Broadway and Main. Seeing the Library and Espy Post renovation and the creation of Library Park, I felt motivated to get involved. I'm thrilled to be a small part of writing the next chapter of the Carnegie Carnegie!"

Alex became a docent in the Espy Post when he was a sophomore at Carlynton. (Yes, he was the youngest docent; we lowered the age requirement.) While earning a cum laude B.A. in Broadcast Production and Media Management at Point Park, Alex produced a terrific 4-minute video about the Carnegie Carnegie. (The link to our You Tube channel is on the grey sidebar found on every page of our website: "Follow Us.")

Post-college, Alex moved to Erie, becoming an executive producer for Erie News Now in 2021 after only two years with the station. Alex's "Presque Isle Centennial Celebration" was nominated for a Central Great Lakes Emmy for Historical Documentary.

Landing a job as a news producer with WPXI-TV brought him home. Alex now resides in nearby McKees Rocks.

No surprise: Alex is the long-ago kindergartener Don referred to earlier in this article.

Andrew Carnegie Free Library
& Music Hall
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Carnegie, PA 15106



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By Any Name, Pete and Scott Put on a Great Show!

Hewlett Anderson/Pete and Scott are Pittsburgh favorites, Carnegie favorites. The ACFL&MH is making them the first performance of 2023. If you want tickets to their Studio show on January 12, get them now. They'll make great holiday gifts, and they're going to sell out!

Before coming together in 1998, Pete and Scott each had illustrious careers. Lead vocalist and guitar player Pete Hewlett landed his first recording contract with Phillips Mercury Records when he was 16. He went on to tour and record with the likes of Carly Simon, Billy Joel, Elton John and Amy Grant.

Pete toured with Billy Joel on his world tours "Innocent Man" and "The Bridge." During the Reagan-Gorbachev era, Joel brought a full staged rock production to the former Soviet Union. Pete performed with him in Leningrad and Moscow.

Pete joined Joel once again for "The

Last Play at Shea Concerts" in 2008. In that series, he performed with Tony Bennett, John Mayer, Roger Daltrey Garth Brooks and Sir Paul McCartney.

On keyboards and vocals, Scott Anderson is an Emmy Award winning

the score for the documentary "From Pittsburgh to Poland: Lessons from the Holocaust." He and Pete both won Emmys for their work on WQED's "Live from Studio A: American Standards."

Scott's repertoire goes from Jazz to Big Band to Rock & Roll, making him a keyboardist in demand with regional performers such as Joe Negri, Maureen Budway, Chizmo Charles, Billy Price, Benny Benack and a guy named Pete Hewlett. He's also played for many national acts including The Temptations, The Drifters, Lou Christies and Little Anthony. He had a gig as the organist for the Pittsburgh Penguins, and for three years was a member of the Pens house band, The Blue Line Band.

In our intimate Studio setting, maybe we can share stories over a beer, in addition to enjoying some terrific music!



composer, music director and producer. He also played keys and served as music director for the Vogues from 1989-1995!

His 2006 Emmy was for composing