



ANDREW CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY & MUSIC HALL NEWSLETTER

A National Historic Landmark

FALL/WINTER 2023

No One Had A Better Job than Mine...

Maggie Forbes, Executive Director

My 20 professional years at the ACFL&MH wind down at the end of the year. Did those years fly by, or do they feel like a lifetime? My tenure at the Library & Music Hall hasn't always been easy. But it's never been less than deeply gratifying. The children's song, "It's my job and I like it fine. No one has a better job than mine," frequently runs through my mind. (It's about a policeman, Chief Kennedy...)

I came to the Library & Music Hall on the rebound. I had left my position as Executive Director of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, and was working as a consultant until I found my next landing. The Chartiers Valley Partnership (CVP, led by Bill Manby, Charlie Goetz and Bill English) launched the campaign to restore the Library & Music Hall in 2003. I came on as campaign manager, thinking I'd be passing through.

Andrew Carnegie fully or partially funded 2,500+ library buildings around the world. The ACFL&MH's 35,000 sq. ft. facility is one of only five libraries in the world that the industrialist turned philanthropist endowed. The ACFL&MH was Mr. Carnegie's legacy gift to the town that incorporated to take his name in 1894.

Endowment was not a good model. The Library & Music Hall had \$136 in its checking account after payroll in the 1980s. Many thought the sadly deteriorated building should be demolished.

As campaign manager, I secured a \$500,000 challenge grant. The terms of the challenge: we had to raise a dollar for dollar match from Carnegie and surrounding communities. No

foundation, government or corporate funding. We had 10 months to reach our goal. This native New Yorker had to learn to say "car NAY gee." (It's the Scottish pronunciation. It's by and large the Pittsburgh pronunciation. In the rest of the country, its pronounced "CAR nuh gee.")

The community made it clear that their feelings for the "Carnegie Carnegie" were dormant not dead. With two weeks remaining before the challenge's September 30th deadline, we were \$45,000 short of our goal.

I was nervous, but had plans A, B and C. Then, on September 17, 2004, the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan ravaged Carnegie. Someone was killed. In the two weeks between the flood and our challenge

deadline, the community contributed \$60,000.

The community's generosity in the wake of the flood filled me with gratitude. It filled me with awe. My passion for the Library & Music Hall and the community it serves has been unwavering ever since.

Poverty is not empowering. Services at the Library were very basic, special programming was rare. I found myself wondering what was the point of fixing the building if we didn't also grow the organization, its services, programs and performances. I did some soul searching; the ACFL&MH and

See "No One Had A Better Job than Mine," page 3



Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait

Duquesne University's Wind Symphony
Under the Baton of James Gourlay
Narrated by Rocky Bleier

Sunday, February 4, 2:00 pm

See page 23 for details.



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Saturday

11 am – 3 pm

Contacts

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@CarnegieCarnegie and

@EspyPost

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Dear Friends:

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall is at a turning point. If you are reading this, you know that Maggie Forbes will be retiring as Executive Director at year end.

What an amazing journey of transformation Maggie has led the Carnegie Carnegie on over the past 20 years! We can't overestimate the impact she has had, not only on the restoration of our beloved facility, but also on the range and quality of services, programs and performances the ACFL&MH offers. Early in her tenure, Maggie described the Library & Music Hall as the "beacon on the hill." The ACFL&MH has become just that for so many people in Carnegie and surrounding communities. Library Park was Maggie's dream project. Connecting the Library & Music Hall with the people and the town it serves reflect Maggie's vision, passion, tenacity and – as she often points out – stamina!

How do we thank her? s Maggie would be the first to say, by carrying on her work together. Our new Executive Director comes on board in January. Our Board, our wonderful staff, and Maggie will ensure a smooth transition to new leadership. But you, our community and stakeholders, are the polar star of the Library & Music Hall's magic. We know you will welcome our new Executive Director and support her in crafting the next chapter in the ACFL&MH's history.

And we count on you to continue your generosity. It is so critical at this juncture.

Please join us on December 27. Together, we'll make the "Benacks are Back" concert a fitting send-off for Maggie, as well as an affirmation that the Carnegie Carnegie's best is still to come!

Thank you.

Joan Massella
President

Chris Green
Past President

Carnegie Celebrates the Season

Saturday, December 2

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Join us for crafts, ornament-making, holiday cartoons and refreshments in the Studio. Visit with Santa in front of the Library's beautiful fireplace. The ACFL&MH is delighted to continue this wonderful collaboration with Carnegie Borough and the Carol Covi Children's Events Committee. The collaboration began in 2014, making this year the 10th annual celebration!

CVP worked it out. I became the Library & Music Hall's Executive Director.

At the time, the Music Hall was viewed as peripheral, even though it comprises half the building. Happily, my suggestion that we call ourselves the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall met no resistance. HALL is carved over the Music Hall entrance.

I am the daughter of a librarian, an English major and my first love is the theater/live performance. The Carnegie Carnegie is a custom-made fit. Random musings from a treasure trove of memories follow.

Our lovely Library was restored in 2015. Gone is the crumbling plaster held up with painted-over duct tape. No more wind rattling through our single-pane windows, sounding like a baseball card clothes-pinned to bicycle spokes. The Library was only closed for three days at the beginning and end of construction. A mastermind of organization, then Library Director Diane Klinefelter moved essential library services to the Studio.

Hundreds of plaques glimmer on the Music Hall seats that were installed in 2009. They speak eloquently of the bond between the ACFL&MH and its community. Patrons want their family names to be part of the Carnegie Carnegie. (You'll also find plaques for Andrew Carnegie, Honus Wagner, Joe Negri, Roberto Clemente and Pope John Paul II. The tales the seats can tell!)

The meticulous restoration of the Captain Thomas Espy Post (2010) garnered national and international attention. I have a copy of *The Peninsula*, the English language daily printed in Qatar, proclaiming "Library Hides Labyrinths of History."

One of my proudest moments came in late 2015. We signed a 20-year contract with Carnegie Borough that gave the Library & Music Hall stable and generous municipal funding for the first time in its history. Our mission "to build community" had taken root.

Perhaps because it was fraught – by a mudslide, a freeze in funding, a pandemic – Library Park makes my heart soar. A few

days after its April 2022 opening, a young man walking up the steps told me, "It makes the whole city more beautiful." How urbane Library Park makes Carnegie's central business district!

Playing even a small role in the performances that have graced the Music Hall stage thrills me. In 2010, David Conrad narrated Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, performed by Duquesne University's Wind Symphony. In February 2024, the Wind Symphony returns; Rocky Bleier will narrate. Listen Locally Downstairs premiered in early 2017. The Studio, our alternative performance venue with a club vibe delights performers and audiences equally.

I can only thank my colleagues (staff and board) by saying how lucky the ACFL&MH, our community and I are! Warmth floods me when I walk into the Library office and, barricaded behind old card catalogues, Nate Wyrick asks, "Is that you?" The Carnegie Carnegie feels like home – in so many ways, to so many people!

So many people: I need pages. The friendships I have forged, the beloved friends I have lost; the family circles I have been drawn into, the stories I've heard... What a privilege to share laughter, tears, hugs, setbacks, triumphs – books, performances, baked goods, beer and wine!

To answer my rhetorical question at the outset of this article, it has been a lifetime. My heart is that full. Thank you, thank you, thank you. A final request, dear readers: Carry on! I trust you to welcome and embrace my successor. With your support, you, the new Executive Director, staff and board will write the Carnegie Carnegie's even more exciting next chapter together.



SAVE THE DATE!

Riding a Raid:

Exploring the Paradigms and Personalities of Civil War Raids

Our popular one-day Civil War symposium returns on April 13, 2024. With galloping hooves, clanking sabers, and larger-than-life personas, cavalry raids invoke the romantic notions of the Civil War.

Five dynamic historians will explore the planning, personalities, outcomes, and legacy of Union and Confederate cavalry raids of the eastern and western theaters.

Our 2023 symposium welcomed a sold-out crowd, so don't delay in securing your spot. More information and tickets are available at www.CarnegieCarnegie.org.

An Immersive Internship

Cheyenne Spagnolo

Over the summer, I was fortunate enough to work as an intern at the Captain Thomas Espy Post #153 of the Grand Army of the Republic, under the guidance of Espy Post Curator Jon-Erik Gilot. This internship was a significant step towards obtaining my Bachelor of Arts in History, which I will receive from Robert Morris University this December. Working with both the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall as well as the Espy Post, was an incredible experience.

At the beginning of the summer, I worked closely with Jon-Erik to complete a full inventory and cleaning of the Espy Post. It was a great feeling to ensure that every artifact was in its proper place and clean, as this was the first time the inventory had been completed in over five years. One of the highlights of my summer was meeting the family of an Espy Post member who provided me with an extensive family history detailing their ancestor's experience in the Civil War. Corporal John M. Boyce, a member of the Espy Post and a soldier in Company K of the 1st Pennsylvania Cavalry, was one of the Post members identified in the records. The Post has in its possession the bullet that injured Corporal Boyce during the Battle of New Hope Church, Virginia on November 27, 1863. It was fulfilling to show the family the bullet that injured their ancestor and to help them learn more about their family history through the records and photographs the Post has.

After completing the inventory of the Thomas Espy Post, I analyzed the Library's collection of local newspaper microfilm and

hard copies to prepare for a future digitization project. I meticulously went through 132 rolls of microfilm from 1872 to the 1990s and found many captivating news articles and advertisements, including a small but interesting article detailing the day the Klan came to Carnegie. While it was a small article, it was extremely interesting to find a first-hand account of a major event in Carnegie's history. Following the completion of the analysis of the microfilm, I moved on to the hard copies.

Unfortunately, the physical copies were not in the best condition; however, with the help of Diane Klinefelter (retired Library Director and Espy Post Curator), I was able to organize them

chronologically and group them based on their titles.

I feel immensely grateful for the chance provided to me by the Captain Thomas Espy Post and the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall. Above all, I am deeply appreciative of Jon-Erik for the doors he opened for me through this internship. It was not only informative and enjoyable, but it also reinforced my passion for history and my plans to pursue it as a career after graduation.



Welcome Ana and Emma!



If you're a frequent library-goer, you may have noticed a couple of new faces. In June, we were happy to welcome Ana Giampa as our newest circulation clerk. Ana recently graduated from Washington & Jefferson College with a dual major in English and history, a minor in gender & women's studies, and a

concentration in African American studies. As if this weren't a busy enough schedule, she also spent two and a half years working at Washington & Jefferson's Clark Family Library.

The differences between a college and a public library are many, but Ana has been a natural. "I have really enjoyed working here," says Ana. "The patrons and staff have been so welcoming and supportive! I have really enjoyed being able to put my classroom work into practice here and look forward to expanding my knowledge about libraries to best serve our community." It's clear when talking to her that Ana's a deep thinker about information access and library issues. And well she might! Ana recently began a master's degree program in Library & Information Science at the University of South Carolina.

The Library introduced a new initiative last year. A Pitt master's in social work student was placed here as part of a collaboration between the Pitt School of Social Work and the Allegheny County Library Association. Our new social work intern arrived here in late September for the 2023-24 school year. Emma Thayil is a first-year master's student from Maryland who studied psychology and criminology with a minor in sociology at Virginia Tech. An experienced leader and dedicated worker, Emma brings a commitment to aiding underserved populations connect with the resources they need. Anyone can schedule an appointment with her for help with housing, trauma, mental health issues, benefits and assistance, and more – simply email her at emt143@pitt.edu, or call the Library at 412-276-3456. "Library social work is a great way to connect the community with resources and getting experience on an individual and group level," says Emma. "It is my goal to help those who do not have access to certain resources and help bridge the gap for them. I am looking forward to working with patrons to assist them in any way I can."



A Great Start: A Young Boy and His Library

as told by Mary Kennard Smith

In 1951, when Cary Smith was a very young boy, his mother, Mae Smith, took him to the Andrew Carnegie Free Library to get him a library card. The Library became an important and safe place for Cary to learn about the world. To this day, Cary's love of reading continues. He is an avid reader of books and periodicals. Cary attended Harding School and Carnegie High School.

Cary and his family lived at the corner of Bell and Arch Streets. His father, Altoona Smith, served for 25 years as a police officer for the Carnegie Police Department. Altoona and Mae Smith instilled in Cary and his sister Patty a love for education and, particularly, a love of reading.

Cary was active in his community. He played trumpet in the Carnegie High School band, and also sang in the high school chorus. With his family, he attended St. Paul AME Zion Church on Jane Street.

After graduation from CHS in 1963, Cary enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer and served in the Vietnam War. Injured in the War, he was hospitalized at Walter Reed Army Hospital for 18 months. His joy in reading helped him get through his long medical recovery.

Cary's love of learning led him to earning his undergraduate degree from New York University and later to graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh. Armed with a master's degree in clinical social work, Cary continued to serve his country by becoming the Director of the District of Columbia Veterans

Center, a mental health facility exclusively for combat veterans. Operating under the auspices of the U.S. Veterans Administration, the Center serves men and women seeking help for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and many other effects of war. In his professional capacity, Cary helped countless military men, women and their families cope with the aftermath of war.

In 2023, Cary and his wife, Philadelphia attorney, Mary E. Kennard, decided to make a gift to the children of Carnegie by supporting children's programming at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library. Cary and Mary's gift honors the service of their family and their dedication to the advancement of African Americans through education – especially the world of opportunity that reading can inspire.

Cary and Mary trust that their gift to the Library will inspire young people in Carnegie to DREAM BIG and AIM HIGH! Cary and Mary believe that reading is fundamental to economic

advancement for young people and promotes public service to community, family engagement and civic duty—all the things Cary and Mary have stood for throughout their lives.

This gift to the Library, and its youngest patrons, is in honor of Cary's service to his country and commitment to lifelong learning inspired by the Andrew Carnegie Free Library.

On June 11, 2023 (Cary's 78th birthday), Cary and Mary made a generous donation to enhance story times at the Library.



Library Programs Foster Understanding and Empathy

Walker Evans, Library Director

Writers more eloquent than I have expounded on the uniquely empathetic magic of books. It's hard to imagine a more effective way of briefly inhabiting the mind of another human – even if that author hasn't been alive for many years. And, while I'll be the first to point out that today's libraries are about much more than books, I believe that this same impulse for empathy and connection undergirds nearly everything we do at the Carnegie Carnegie.

Two events from this year exemplify this urge to find common understanding in our shared humanity. In August, Carnegie marked the solemn anniversary of the 1923 Ku Klux Klan invasion of the borough, in which thousands of Klansmen descended on Carnegie – only to be beaten back by the resistance of ordinary townsfolk. One hundred years later, Carnegie is still a place of growing diversity. The immigrants of 1923 have become established, while new waves of immigrants and refugees from countries like Syria and Ukraine arrive.

With these parallels in mind, Carnegie native Bill Campbell set out to tell the story of the 1923 incident. Aided by the Historical Society of Carnegie and artist Bizhan Khodabandeh, Campbell published the graphic novel *The Day the Klan Came to Town*. While the book's protagonist is imagined, real historical figures abound – the burgess, the chief of police, and the imperial wizard of the KKK, among others. Anyone familiar with Carnegie will recognize borough landmarks in the stark illustrations.

In a panel discussion, I was joined by Bill and Bizhan as well as Dan McGrogan and Jeff Keenan of the Historical Society of Carnegie who enthralled our capacity crowd with their

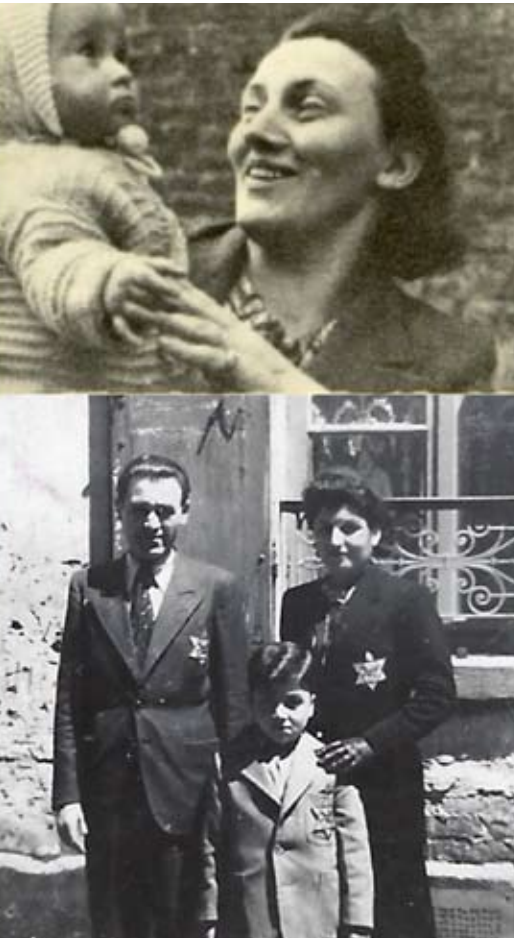
reflections and insights. Our community's connections to the 1923 event are direct. The engaged questions from the audience made it clear that issues of ethnicity, solidarity, and prejudice are still relevant here.

In October, the Library opened an exhibit that grapples with similar questions. Dr. David Rosenberg's exhibit "The Fruits of Hate: A French City During the Holocaust" uses identification cards, correspondence, photos, and audio to tell the story of the Jews of Amiens, France. We are the first public library in the United States to host this exhibit.

Dr. Rosenberg's work paints an achingly human portrait of

the victims of genocide. Peering back 80 years, it's impossible not to feel a deep empathy with the ordinary people whose occupations, families, and lives were stolen from them by Nazis.

The Library will never stop working to tell stories and present programs that break down barriers, invite empathy, and lift up marginalized



Photos, private collections: Ronald Steinhart, Edith Fuchs, Esther Birnbaum, Myriam Dinim.

people. In February, our annual celebration of Black History Month will include the display of the Gilder Lehrman exhibit "Frederick Douglass: Advocate for Equality;" a Civil War lecture from Dr. Kelly Mezurek on Frederick Douglass's recruiting of African American troops in the Pittsburgh area; and a talk from Duquesne professor Dr. Pamela Walck on the women of the *Pittsburgh Courier*. The *Courier* was once the most widely-circulated Black newspaper in America. Please visit us for these events, and join in our dedication to community, shared understanding, and lifelong learning!

A Harmonious Blend of Old and New

Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director

"Life is a lot like jazz... it's best when you improvise."

– George Gershwin

There's always good news and some bad news. Let's get the bad news out of the way first. Another hot and humid summer passed without air conditioning in the Music Hall, a key piece of the renovation originally anticipated for 2023, now scheduled for early 2024.

The good news is we jumped in to bring more fantastic performances to the Music Hall. The ACFL&MH's own Listen Locally series included a mix of jazz, classical, rock, and Motown throughout 2023. Were you here on May 5? If not, you missed out! Pittsburgh rock royalty Pete Hewlette and Scott Anderson brought down the house to a sold-out audience with the assistance of sax-man Benny Benack and drummer Joe Waslousky. And I'd be amiss not to mention the opera, dance, and dash of Broadway performances courtesy of our resident and visiting organizations such as Stage 62, The Pittsburgh Savoyards, Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Resonance Works, and others.

More news that you may have just read, not good or bad, but this time bittersweet. 2024 will bring the retirement of Maggie Forbes, who has served as champion of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall for two decades. We will be forever grateful to Maggie for the dedication she has shown restoring our building, growing our organization and serving as an advocate for our programming. While she prepares for her exit, Maggie has set the stage for the continued success of the Music Hall and a successful transition for the new Executive Director. (See page 20 for how you can help give Maggie a fantastic send-off!)

Happily, we have time in early 2024 for a few wonderful performances before Music Hall construction begins. In January, we are proud to host the regional auditions for the Metropolitan Opera. The auditions are private. A concert by Pittsburgh's renowned Chatham Baroque is open to all. I am delighted that a Carnegie Carnegie tradition made it on to the 2024 pre-renovation calendar: Aaron Copland's beloved symphonic work, *Lincoln Portrait* (see p. 23). Jazz is another Carnegie Carnegie tradition. Thomas Wendt and members of the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra team up with vocalist Chantal Joseph for Listen Locally on the Music Hall stage just before we close the doors to restore the Music Hall to the best version of itself with those

upcoming renovations (see p. 14).

While the Music Hall is under construction, music continues throughout 2024 in the Studio. Join us for a robust schedule of vibrant programming at affordable ticket prices for our Listen Locally Downstairs series. We're delighted to welcome back Carnegie Carnegie favorites, Emmy-award-winning Pittsburgh musicians Pete Hewlette and Scott Anderson, on January 18 at 7:00 pm to kick off the 2024 LLD series. Throughout next year, we will also welcome such local talents as singer-songwriter Chet Vincent, jazz musician Colter Harper, and the Sweaty Already String Band, whose spooky evening of "true crime music" with traditional folk music murder ballads will be coming your way in October 2024. Sweaty Already will be well worth the wait!

In 2024, we'll be presenting well-loved favorites, developing new offerings, undergoing construction, juggling dates, pivoting between spaces within our building, planning for the Music Hall's re-opening and...But we'll be here with fantastic local musicians all the while. And we can't wait to see you. Happy New Year indeed!

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Pete & Scott

Lincoln Portrait

Mardi Gras with Red Beans & Rice Combo

Members of PJO with Chantal Joseph

ACFL&MH Benefit is a Smash!

On June 10, Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, with guest vocalist Anqwenique, lit up the Music Hall's stage for the ACFL&MH's annual benefit. *A Night to Remember* more than lived up to its name.

PJO's percussionist Thomas Wendt proved a smooth emcee for the concert. His appreciation for the music and for his 16 colleagues – as musicians, as educators, as friends – was evident throughout the performance. Justifiably so! Each musician had a featured role. Classically trained Anqwenique left no doubt that she is a sumptuous interpreter of the jazz canon. Her rendition of Billy Strayhorn's "Day Dream" was swoon-inducing.

The concert included a musical tribute to legendary jazz guitarist Joe Negri, who was celebrating his 97th birthday with family on June 10. PJO performed a lovely rendition of Joe's Brazilian-inspired "Something in the Air" (Jeff Bush, arr.),

which he'd composed just a few years earlier.

The Library & Music Hall provided a magical setting for a night that centered on world class jazz. Many guests wandered up from Main Street via Library Park. The evening began with the ACFL&MH's signature "prosecco at the circulation desk" and ended with a delicious sweet and savory reception courtesy of RathLindh Catering in the Lincoln Gallery and Studio. Friends from Modern Mercantile and More than Words dressed up the facility with a very festive look.

There are myriad people to thank. Presenting sponsor and neighbor Menard USA was joined by 31 other generous sponsors. Co-Chairs Phil and Cheryl Boyd led a fabulous event committee. Staff, board, volunteers, and hundreds of ticket buyers and donors took us over the top. Nearly 300 people attended – a record! Nearly \$99,000 was raised – a record! *A Night to Remember* indeed!



A Night To Remember Sponsors

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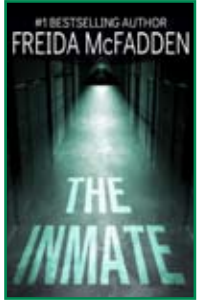
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Staff Recommendations



The Inmate

by Freida McFadden

Brooke Sullivan just accepted a job as a nurse practitioner at a men's prison. She has a few rules to abide by: not to get personal or friendly with the inmates. Little did those who hired Brooke know that her ex-boyfriend from high school, Shane, is in

that same prison and is spending the rest of his life there.

Not only does Brooke work full-time, but she is also a mom to a young boy and while she is working, the babysitter, Margie watches him. One day while dropping off her son, she runs into an old friend from high school named Tim. They start talking and soon become a couple.

Tim and Shane know each other from the past, but one knows more about the other one, and is keeping a secret of what happened that night when they were teenagers. Will the secret come out?

A wonderful friend was nice enough to lend me her copy of this book, after we chatted about our shared love for the author. This book had a twist that I didn't see coming, which made it even better. Freida McFadden is a very popular author and has many holds on her books in the system. You can find her books through the library system or on audio form on Libby.

~ Katie Byerly



The Door

by Magda Szabó (translated by Len Rix)

I recently came across a recommendation for the 1987 Hungarian novel *The Door*. While Magda Szabó was a well-known and beloved writer in her native Hungary, few of her dozens of publications have been

translated into English. *The Door* is probably her best-known novel in the English-speaking world.

The narrator of *The Door* is a writer, seemingly modeled on Szabó herself. Realizing that she is unable to manage both her writing obligations and the domestic duties of her house, she hires Emerence: an older woman known and respected by all in the village. Emerence is devoted to her work (cooking, cleaning, sweeping snow from the street), is highly opinionated, and brooks no nonsense. Our narrator, the writer, quickly becomes fascinated by this idiosyncratic figure, her almost supernatural constitution and her colorful but concealed past. Many of Emerence's secrets hide behind her perpetually locked front door – while she often entertains guests on the porch, no one in the village has seen the inside of her home.

The Door is driven by character, not plot – the actual events of the story are few and far between. But in a testament to

Szabó's taut and perceptive writing, the book never drags. To the contrary, I often felt like I was reading a propulsive thriller, transfixed by the evolving, tumultuous relationship between these two very different characters. Szabó is interested in questions of communication, attraction, and mystery. She creates the kind of world that seems perfectly at home veering between the mundane and a heightened reality – just as the real world sometimes does.

I encourage you to make time for *The Door* – a singular novel that I doubt I'll ever forget.

~Walker Evans



The Wind Knows My Name

by Isabelle Allende (translated by Frances Riddle)

Chilean author Isabel Allende has written 26 books. I've read several. Elements of magical realism, historic sweep and heritage inform her work, yet I can't typecast Allende's content. Her most recent book, *The Wind Knows My Name*, is a slim 272

pages, but epic in its reach. The novel opens in Vienna on November 9, 1938, Kristallnacht. It jumps to Mozote in El Salvador, where 811 civilians were slaughtered in two days in 1981. It moves from this horror to very young migrant children being taken from their parents in Nogales, Arizona in 2019. The novel also travels to Berkeley, ending in 2022. The pandemic plays a minor role.

The Wind Knows My Name does not give the atrocities short shrift. However, the power of Allende's novel is the diverse cast of characters. Their courage, resilience, humanity and (welcome) humor play the starring role. Samuel Adler, the 5-year-old Viennese violinist and Anita Diaz the 8-year-old Salvadoran lost in the bureaucracy/cruelty of immigration, form the bookends of the novel. Leticia, who escaped Mozote, also as a child, plays a lesser role, but emerges as the warm heart of the book.

There may have been a hint of melodrama, but I found it very satisfying that the stories of all the characters wove together by book's end. A good read.

~ Maggie Forbes



Pearl

directed by Ti West

Pearl is a star and no one will stand in her way. *Pearl* is the prequel to *X* – released in 2022 – starring Mia Goth as the main protagonist Maxine, as well as the antagonist Pearl. Mia Goth returns in *Pearl* to portray the namesake character once again, transporting viewers to her childhood farmhouse during the

See "Staff Picks," page 12

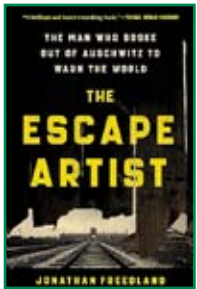
Spanish Flu pandemic and WWI.

Pearl’s origin story, on the surface, is reflective of the American Dream; an immigrant family finding success in America through an operating farm. However, not everything is as it seems. Pearl’s father suffers from severe illness which makes him unable to walk and reliant on morphine, preventing him from working on the farm. The family struggles with money and isolates themselves from the world to prevent exposing the father to the Spanish Flu. Pearl’s husband is far away, fighting in WWI. Pearl quickly grows restless of her life of isolation and duty, dreaming of leaving small-town farm life for fame and fortune. When rumors about auditions for a travelling show are being held, Pearl sees her big break. She refuses to “accept a life [she] does not deserve” and gets rid of the obstacles in her path by any means necessary.

Pearl is not just a slasher film, it is a deep exploration into the tormented female psyche. Goth’s expert portrayal of Pearl’s descent into madness through both word and body language solidifies her as the “it girl” of horror movies today.

Keep an eye out for *Maxine*, the third movie in the series, due to be released in early 2024.

~ Ana Giampa



The Escape Artist

by Jonathan Freedland

The author tells the story of Walter Rosenberg, who later changed his name to Rudolf Vrba. He escaped from Auschwitz, along with Fred Wetzler. At the age of 17, Vrba was taken from his home in Slovakia to a series of work camps, only to end up in

Auschwitz. There he memorized the numbers of people who were murdered along with their countries of origin. At age 19, he and Wetzler escaped and faced numerous harrowing experiences to finally make it to Hungary. His goal always was to warn the world of what awaited so many more Jews, only to have his reports go unheeded. The heinous executions continued until the end of the war. It is believed that Vrba and Wetzler helped to save the lives of 200,000 Jews. However, Vrba always believed that many more should have been saved. He lived out the later years of his life in Canada.

~ Alice McWreath

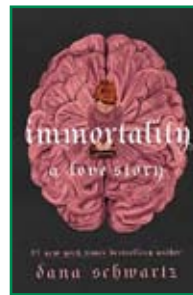
Dark Places

by Gillian Flynn

Flynn takes the reader to dark places indeed. Flipping between 2009 and the Satanic Panic of the 1980s, our protagonist, Libby Day, has been given a raw deal all around. Self-described as mean and unlikeable, you can see why Libby is the way she is. She was seven years old when her mother and

two sisters were murdered in their Kansas farmhouse home, and her 15-year-old brother was locked away, accused of their homicide. Fast forward 24 years, and the money donated to “Baby Day” from well-wishers has run out. Libby connects with a true-crime enthusiasts club that offers cash in exchange for her memories and knick-knacks of her deceased family members. Things escalate as they pay her to reconnect and report back on encounters with her shiftless alcoholic father, her brother, who was incarcerated as a result of her childhood testimony, and other characters connected to the night of the gruesome murders. Piece by piece, Libby sorts out what actually happened that night versus false memories.

~ Heidi Matthews



Immortality: A Love Story

by Dana Schwartz

Set in early 1800s Edinburgh, Scotland, this macabre tale follows Hazel Sinnett, a young woman who wants to be a surgeon. At the time, being a female surgeon isn’t just frowned upon – it is seen as absolutely impossible. However, Hazel has managed to learn the tricks of the trade (through dressing as a man and working with grave robbers) in the first book in this duology, *Anatomy: A Love Story*. She makes her way in the world by running a clinic out of her home for those that can’t afford the hospitals of the aristocracy and are scared to death of what awaits them if not helped soon.

After saving the life of a woman in need, Hazel finds herself doomed to die in prison...until a letter asking her to treat Princess Charlotte turns her world upside down! Soon she is immersed in the Royal Court and pushing her medical skills to their limits. Secrets hide behind every corner.

This historically-inspired, dark romance is hard to put down. Dana Schwartz uses language beautifully to keep you on the edge of your seat. This is a young adult novel which explores dark themes and has some graphic depictions of medical procedures from two hundred years ago. However, on the whole *Immortality* remains engaging and will not scare anyone away.

~ Sam Varela



The Skull

written and illustrated by Jon Klassen

Let me begin by saying this beautifully macabre picture book is a very short read. Literally 10-15 minutes. But in that short span, an awful lot is packed in this story.

Some of you may remember reading my review of *Pax*. Mr. Klassen was the illustrator of that book as

See “Staff Picks,” page 13

well. If you actually have read *Pax*, you hopefully agree that the artwork is going to be outstanding.

We start out being introduced to Otilia, who, for reasons left entirely to the reader’s imagination, one night “finally” runs away. She stumbles through a dark, snow-filled forest, very sad and alone. Freezing cold and nearly dead, she emerges and comes across an old house that she finds to be inhabited by a skull. The skull takes her in, saving her life. Otilia enters into a friendship with the skull. As creepy as I bet this sounds to you, it’s actually quite sweet.

Throughout the tale there are several scenarios that would

normally be considered disturbing, but in this book, they’re surprisingly endearing and, at times, delightful. The most impactful scene is an act of savage violence, which at its core was effectively a touching display of love and loyalty, of two lost souls finding one another and forging a lasting friendship.

I went back to this book and reread it a few more times, partly because it was so charming and also because I couldn’t quit thinking about it. This yarn is filled with a dark beauty that was all the more adorned by Klassen’s illustrations. Although a very fleeting read, I hope it sticks with you as it has me.

~ Nate Wyrick

Beginning to Feel Like Home

Sam Varela, Children’s Librarian

My first year at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall feels like it has flown past and has been so much more fun than I could have imagined! I began my role as Children’s Librarian on November 2nd last year and couldn’t have asked for a warmer welcome from the ACFL&MH and the community.

Since I began last November, I have been honored to provide some great programming to our community. My very first program here was Carnegie Celebrates the Season, when Santa comes to visit and crafts take over the Studio. We are thrilled to bring back this program on December 2nd this year. Since that first program, I have had a lot of fun with Carnegie’s kids and teens. We made Pots of Gold Slime in March, had a Mother’s Day Paint Night in May, and made kites in June. We had animals from the Pittsburgh Zoo visit and the Allegheny Park Rangers brought their pet snake. We had a Summer Reading Kick-off Party and a Back to School Bash, enriched by B.R.I.D.G.E People and Carnegie Borough volunteers. We had Storytelling 101 and Improv for Beginners class – both taught by our Book Fairy! We have had Stage 62 perform musical numbers at a Storytime and even had the Pittsburgh Symphony join us for a special preschool program.

Storytimes are available every day here at the ACFL&MH. I have read more picture books at more Storytimes than I could count! We are bringing back Lego Club Thursdays from 3:30-4:30pm for children 5 and older. I’ve enjoyed Teen Game Nights, and as I write, teens and I have been learning to cook together in the Mezzanine. Keep an eye out on

CarnegieCarnegie.org to find more information about upcoming programming!

I have to admit that September’s Stuffed Animal Sleepover was one of my favorite programs this year. Children dropped off their favorite Stuffedies to spend a night in the Library – and those animals ran wild throughout this big, beautiful building. No one misbehaved or was homesick!

Beyond special programming, I have worked to expand our collections and services for children and teens at our Library. Over the last year, we have joined a network of other Libraries that focus on Early Learning by becoming a Family Place Library. You’ll see growing collections to help reach all our earliest learners – including more board books and more languages represented in our collections. We have added puzzles, magnets and several new toys to our children’s area. Stop by our children’s area any time we are open to take advantage of these new activities!

I am “seasoned” now and look forward to seeing you on December 2 for Carnegie Celebrates the Season. I am very excited about our 1, 2, 3 – Play with Me series, designed for children age birth to three years old and their caregivers. This five-week, play-based program takes place on Saturdays in January at 2:00 pm. Registration is required. Each week a different community expert on child development will engage with parents and caregivers as they play with their little ones, answering questions and offering suggestions to help families grow together.

And believe it or not, I’m already thinking about Summer Reading 2024!



Special Programming at the Carnegie Carnegie

Upcoming Performances and Programs

New programs are added regularly. Visit CarnegieCarnegie.org for changes, additions and the most up to date information. You can also sign up for the ACFL&MH's monthly programmatic eblast on the website.

Music Hall



Stage 62

CRAZY FOR YOU

November 9-19, 2023

Thursdays-Saturdays, 8:00 pm

Sundays, 2:00 pm

Featuring iconic Gershwin songs such as "Someone to Watch Over Me," "I Got Rhythm," and "Embraceable You," *Crazy for You* delivers comic high jinks, spectacular dance numbers, and fun for the entire family.



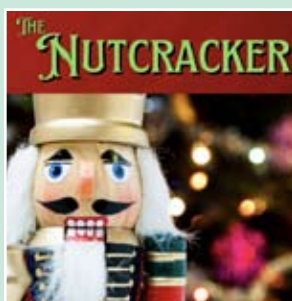
Pittsburgh Festival Opera

**LEGENDS IN THE LIMELIGHT
FEATURING CSILLA BOROSS**

Friday, December 1, 2023, 7:30 pm

Hungarian-born soprano Csilla Boross is one of the world's leading

contemporary dramatic sopranos today. She is famed for her iconic role of Abigaille from Verdi's *Nabucco*, with which she exploded into international recognition.



Carnegie Performing Arts Center

THE NUTCRACKER

December 9-17, 2023

Saturdays, 7:00 pm

Sundays, 2:00 pm

The Nutcracker is the magical dream of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince as they travel through

swirling snowflakes and waltzing flowers on their journey to the Candy Kingdom.

Pittsburgh Festival Opera

**LEGENDS IN THE LIMELIGHT: A CHRISTMAS TO
REMEMBER FEATURING GREG KUNDE**

Friday, December 22, 2023, 7:00 pm

Regarded as one of the most accomplished singers on the international opera stage today, the American tenor Gregory Kunde appears regularly at the most prestigious opera houses around the world, working with conductors and orchestras of the highest caliber.

A Very Special Listen Locally

THE BENNY'S ARE BACK

Wednesday, December 27, 2023, 7:30 pm

(See p. 24)

Chatham Baroque

**THROUGH THE WOOD, LADDIE – MUSIC OF BAROQUE
SCOTLAND AND ACADIA**

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 7:30 pm



A unique program featuring guests Chris Norman (wooden flutes and pipes) and Pascale Beaudin (soprano), both with roots in the Canadian Maritime provinces, brings to life music ranging from Baroque Scotland to French Canadian folk tunes from the Acadian tradition.

Listen Locally

AARON COPLAND'S LINCOLN PORTRAIT

Sunday, February 4, 2024, 2:00 pm

(See p. 23)

Stage 62

GARFIELD: THE MUSICAL WITH CATTITUDE

February 17, 18, 24, & 25

Garfield, a chubby and sarcastic tabby cat, fantasized about having the most amazing birthday party in the history of birthdays...he deserves it for being the best cat ever!



Listen Locally

**PITTSBURGH JAZZ ORCHESTRA
QUINTET WITH CHANTAL JOSEPH**

Saturday, March 23, 2024, 8:00 pm

Vocalist Chantal Joseph joins members of the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra to present a

special evening of jazz inspired by the “Great American Songbook.”

Studio

Listen Locally Downstairs

**ANTON DEFADÉ TRIO
AND
VOCALIST MARIKO REID**

*Wednesday, November 15,
2023, 7:00 pm*

The Anton DeFadé Trio tackles classic soul, jazz, and reimagined standards alongside vintage-sounding originals. This is not your stereotypical easy listening – this energetic group presents feel-good tunes!



Listen Locally Downstairs

ALTON MERRELL TRIO

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 7:00 pm

World class pianist, composer, and educator, Dr. Alton Merrell’s musical artistry is a unique blend of lyrical melodies, rich harmonies, and fluid technique that spans multiple music genres. Dr. Merrill releases his new CD at this concert.

Listen Locally Downstairs

PETE & SCOTT

Thursday, January 18, 2024, 7:00 pm

Pittsburgh rock royalty and Carnegie Carnegie favorites return to our Studio. Grab up your tickets now. This award-winning guitar and keyboard duo deliver a lively evening of pop & soft rock covers along with original works.

Listen Locally Downstairs

RED BEANS & RICE COMBO

Tuesday, February 13, 2023, 7:00 pm



A mix of New Orleans R&B, early rock & roll nuggets, and barroom ballads, with a jazzy dash of Tin Pan Alley, and a side of wit and humor.

Library Programs

CARNEGIE CELEBRATES THE SEASON

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am



Come get festive at our annual holiday celebration! Join us for crafts, ornament-making, holiday caricatures, refreshments, and even a visit from Santa (see p. 2).

LA-TI-DO Productions

A HOLIDAY CABARET AT THE CARNEGIE

Friday, December 8, 2023, 8:00 pm

LA TI DO Productions strives to be a premier community of cultural and artistic diversity and inclusion through music and spoken word collaboration. Join young and emerging professional regional talent to celebrate the holidays!

MOVIES IN THE MUSIC HALL

Thursday, December 14, 7:00 pm

Join us for free films on the big screen in our luxurious Music Hall! Save the date for a to-be-announced holiday favorite!

1,2,3 PLAY WITH ME!

Saturdays in January, 2:00 pm

Children age birth to 3 and caregivers can join us for this special workshop to play together and learn about child development with community experts.

MOVIES IN THE MUSIC HALL: "ASTEROID CITY"

Thursday, January 25, 7:00 pm

Join us for free films on the big screen in our luxurious Music Hall! Tonight: *Asteroid City* (2023), directed by Wes Anderson.

Black History Month:

THE WOMEN OF THE PITTSBURGH COURIER

Thursday, February 8, 7:00 pm

Duquesne professor Dr. Pamela Walck shares her research on the women of the *Pittsburgh Courier*, once the most widely-circulated Black newspaper in America.

SOUTH HILLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Saturday, March 2, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Visit the Library today to view the South Hills Model Railroad Club's modular train layout. This 800-square-foot exhibit features dozens of buildings, landscape features, and even a volcano!

SOLAR ECLIPSE DAY

Monday, April 8 – TBD

Join us in Library Park as we view the Solar Eclipse together.

SAVE THE DATE!



ANNUAL EARTH DAY PROGRAM

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm



Civil War Programs

The Captain Thomas Espy Post is open Saturdays from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, or by appointment.

Second Saturday Civil War Series:

CIVIL WAR DRUMMERS AND DRUMMING: A LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION

Patrick Jones

January 13, 2024, 1:00 pm

FREDERICK DOUGLASS & USCT RECRUITING

Kelly Mezurek

February 10, 2024, 1:00 pm

OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE:

THE STORY OF THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Tom McMillan

March 9, 2024, 1:00 pm

CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

April 13, 2024

(See p. 3)

CIVIL WAR ROAD TRIP OF A LIFETIME

John Banks

May 11, 2024, 1:00 pm

MEMORIES AND EXPERIENCES OF THE FILMING OF GETTYSBURG

Mike Kraus

June 8, 2024, 1:00 pm

PITTSBURGH AT ANTIETAM

Matt Borders

September 14, 2024, 1:00 pm

THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES IN THE CIVIL WAR

Eric Mohnney

October 12, 2024, 1:00 pm

I'VE BEEN HERE ALL THE WHILE: BLACK FREEDOM ON NATIVE LAND

Alaina Roberts

November 9, 2024, 1:00 pm

Our Community Comes Through—Again!

On May 5, the ACFL&MH announced an unexpected challenge grant. Heartfelt thanks to the many people who contributed \$51,909 in just five weeks to secure a \$50,000 challenge grant from an amazing couple who wish to remain anonymous. You brought us \$101,999 closer to "Completing the Carnegie Carnegie!"

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Our last newsletter was in Fall 2022. Heartfelt thanks to the individuals, businesses, foundation and government agencies that contributed more than \$1,045,000 since then. Many donors gave more than once. Donors with an LYL next to their names contributed to September's Love Your Library campaign. Generous capital gifts to "Completing the Carnegie Carnegie" are in this tally.

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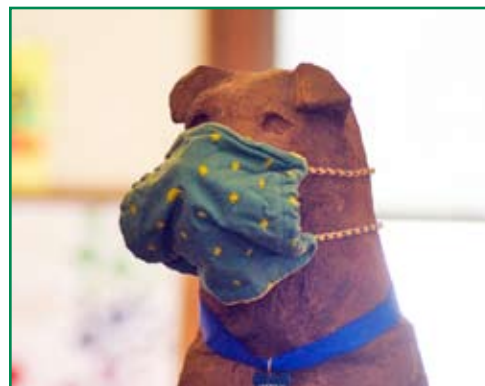
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The ACFL&MH is always grateful for the generosity of its community. It is also humbled that so many families and friends make gifts to the Library & Music Hall in memory of loved ones.

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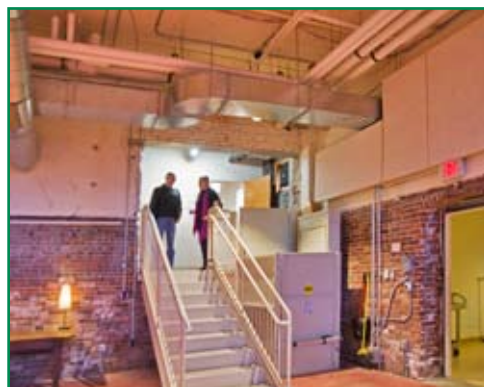
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KENNETH S. SZAFRANSKI
ON HIS BIRTHDAY

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Stella Sienicki Szafranski, with their
Children & Grandchildren
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*Thanks to people who honor friends' or family
members' milestones with a gift to the
ACFL&MH.*

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Book Donations

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

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ACFL&MH Staff

John and Emilia Sienicki, Deeply Rooted in Carnegie

By Stella Sienicki Szafranski, Lucky No. 15 – The Caboose!

Threads that form the tapestry of the Sienicki family begin with John Sienicki and Emilia Skicka, who left their beloved country of Poland at a very young age for “the Land of Opportunity. They were emigrants to the United States, numbered among the thousands who thrilled at the sight of the Statue of Liberty before they disembarked at Ellis Island to begin life in their new country.

John and Emilia met in the small town of Carnegie, fell in love and were married at St. Ignatius Church, on November 16, 1915. They had no money, no role models and were very young. They built life together with strong faith; God blessed their marriage with 15 children.

Hard work, providing food and shelter, refereeing skirmishes between siblings, and helping to keep peace was a full day’s work! In spite of the trials and tribulations, they were a happy wholesome family. A rare point of sibling unanimity: “Dad was very hard working and worked on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mother was a loving mother, who took pride in her children, and always greeted us with a warm smile.”

We children attended Immaculate Conception School on Jane Street. After school chores consisted of feeding and caring for the animals; tending to the vegetable and beautiful flower gardens; helping with the preparations before and after dinner; and, finally, sitting at the family table to prepare or complete school studies for the next day. Play time was limited during the week, but Sunday was always a day of rest and family time. The highlight on Sunday was walking to Isaly’s on the Main Street to get ice cream cones.

Religion and faith were important. The Sienicki family worshipped as a family on all Sundays and holy days at the Immaculate Conception (aka St. Mary’s), also on Jane Street. In spite of living on a limited income, our mother always managed to put aside money to support the Church and encouraged her children to do the same. As the children grew older, life became a little easier. It also became worrisome for our parents. Each of

their eight sons served our country proudly during World War II and the Korean War. Each came home.

Although money for higher education was a struggle and not always available, my parents fully embraced the importance of education. Where there is will, dreams will succeed! All of John and Emilia’s grandchildren earned various higher education degrees, attending trade schools, military academies, attaining partnerships or owning their businesses.

We are pleased that our annual family celebrations continue. The extended Sienicki family from around the country came together in July to celebrate its 67th family reunion in Carnegie and Scott, towns which will forever remain in our hearts. Friday and Sunday gatherings took place in

the Library & Music Hall’s Studio. Thank you to Heidi Matthews for all her help in making our beloved Library part of such a happy family event.

How proud our parents, grandparents, “Babci and Dziadzia” would be to see that their family has remained close, embracing many of the traditions that are part of our heritage and culture!

We, in turn, are so grateful for and proud of them.



Lincoln Portrait with Rocky Bleier and Duquesne Wind Symphony

There is a silver lining to lengthy lead times on construction equipment – they allow for more performances before the Music Hall closes for ambitious restoration!

The ACFL&MH knew exactly how to take advantage of the found time. It will present Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* on Sunday February 4 at 2:00 pm. This stirring symphonic work will be the climax of a concert performed by Duquesne University's outstanding Wind Symphony.

Renowned NFL player, veteran, actor and speaker Rocky Bleier will narrate the Copland piece. Dr. James Gourlay, also known to Pittsburgh audiences as the Music Director of River City Brass Band, will lead Duquesne's Wind Symphony. Dr. Gourlay also serves as Director of Bands at Duquesne.

Aaron Copland composed *Lincoln Portrait* in 1942, during the dark, frightening years of World War II. The orchestral

score incorporates some of Lincoln's gripping oratory, with the narrator speaking over the music. A short list of *Lincoln Portrait* narrators includes Gregory Peck, James Earl Jones,

Eleanor Roosevelt, Walter Cronkite, Tom Hanks and Danny Glover.

The Copland piece has been on regular rotation in the Music Hall since 2010, when the Wind Symphony performed with actor David Conrad. This will be the Wind Symphony's fourth *Lincoln Portrait*. "They sound glorious," says Executive Director Maggie Forbes, "and James Gourlay certainly knows how to curate an engaging evening of Americana."



Lincoln Portrait takes place Sunday, February 4, 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, \$5 for students with I.D. and children 12 and under. A dessert and coffee reception in the Lincoln Gallery follows the performance.

Saturday Soirées

Easy Elegance in the Studio!

The anticipated restoration of the Music Hall fills us with excitement. When finished, Carnegie Carnegie Hall will be the finest mid-sized venue in the region. We will have "Completed the Carnegie Carnegie!"

Months of construction closures present challenges, however. Fortunately, the pandemic taught the ACFL&MH not just how to pivot, but how to pirouette!

The Music Hall is well-programmed through early 2024. Then, the Studio takes over with a robust roster of performances. We can't disrupt the habit of audiences of coming to the Carnegie Carnegie for terrific live performances.

Nor do we want to miss out on our annual benefit – our night to shine as we raise critically needed operating revenue! Instead, we have developed a series of four "boutique benefits." These take place in the Studio, in the guise of an elegant club. Your \$75 ticket includes food, drink and memorable music while benefitting the Library & Music Hall.

The four dates have been set, and performers are being finalized. Tania and Jeff Grubs are the headliners for the first Saturday Soiree. Tania's "effortless, expressive" style pairs with "great intonation and honest emotion." Bassist Jeff Grubbs performs with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra when he's not playing brilliant jazz riffs or arranging the same. The Grubbs' sophisticated musicianship is the perfect pairing for inaugural Saturday Soirée on April 6.

Mark your calendars now. There is limited seating in the Studio. The upside — there is ample on-site parking for all our guests!

Saturday Soirées 2024

Saturday, April 6, 2024, 7:30 pm - Tania & Jeff Grubbs

Saturday, June 15, 2024, 7:30 pm (performers TBA)

Saturday, October 5, 2024, 7:30 pm (performers TBA)

Saturday, December 7, 7:30 pm (performers TBA)



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The Benacks are Back.... And They're Coming Together!

If your holiday plans are going to take you out of town, you may want to change them. World class jazz musicians, Benny Benack II and Benny Benack III, are bringing their horns to Carnegie Carnegie Hall on Wednesday, December 27!

The father and son

Benacks hail from a Pittsburgh Jazz dynasty. Trumpet player Benny Benack I (1921-1986) was known as the "King of Dixieland," and played a key role in burnishing Pittsburgh's reputation as a great jazz town. He became a household name when his "Beat 'em, Bucs" accompanied the Pirates and Pittsburgh to a World Series victory in 1960.

Benny II reflected on his family's jazz heritage, "I've spent most of the past 50+ years performing next to a trumpet-playing BENNY BENACK. While it's different now, it's also very much the same. That feeling of being connected never gets old."

It's not always easy to get BB2 and his saxophone on the same stage with the peripatetic BB3 and his trumpet (and voice), but it's worth the effort! Each has performed at the Carnegie Carnegie before. BB3 headlined the fabulous *Fly Us to the Moon* benefit in 2022. BB2 performed to a sold-out house in the Studio last January, and followed up with another sold out performance in May: *Pete & Scott & Benny & Joe*.



When Executive Director Maggie Forbes told them that a concert with both Benacks would be a heart-warming send-off before her year-end retirement, Ben and Benny juggled their schedules to make it so.

BB3 looks forward to giving audiences a terrific show. "...any time I get to come home and perform with my

Dad is its own special event. Our show has the perfect mix of old school and new school, blended seamlessly together by Father & Son!"

Just before New Year's Eve timing gives this concert a "ring out the old, ring in the new" flavor that resonates with Forbes. "Being part of the Library & Music Hall's resurgence over the last 20 years has been beyond rewarding. That said, I know that the best is yet to come!"

As jazzmen, the Benacks will not commit to their program in advance. But rumor has it that vocalist Claudia Benack can be persuaded to make a show-stopping appearance.

The Board of Trustees is hosting a post-concert reception to celebrate Ms. Forbes' tenure and the great jazz that has become such an integral part of Carnegie Carnegie performances.

Tickets for reserved orchestra seats are \$50; tickets for open balcony seats are \$35. Tickets are available at CarnegieCarnegie.org.