



Carnegie Carnegie



Celebrating 125 Years

Something for Everyone: A Window to Carnegie's Past | Mai Khoi & The Dissidents Come to Carnegie | A 125th Birthday Concert | Summer Reading Preview & so much more

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LIBRARY HOURS

Mon 12-7PM
Tue-Thu: 10AM-7PM
Fri-Sat: 10AM-5PM
Sun: Closed
Summer hours begin June 27

CONTACT US

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

CarnegieCarnegie.org
412.276.3456
Facebook CarnegieCarnegie & EspyPost
Instagram CarnegieCarnegiePA



On the cover: *A brand new Carnegie Carnegie*

Photography by Greg Sciulli
Printed at Raff Printing Inc.

Dear friends & neighbors,

We're celebrating 125 years this year! On May 1, 1901, the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall opened to the public, and we've proudly served our community since that day.

It's hard to imagine Carnegie without our beloved Library & Music Hall, but in the years leading up to construction (and as you'll read in Walker's article on pg. 4) there was much debate around whether or not to build a library at all. Some folks didn't want it. Others felt Carnegie needed a high school more than anything. Still others wanted to see a gymnasium and a town hall included in the plan.

And such is the beauty of civic dialogue. None of us were there to engage in the conversation and who knows where each of us would have stood on the issue at that time, but one thing is for certain: **we are so incredibly lucky that the choices made all those years ago led us to where we are today.** To be the stewards of this historic place that holds so many of our community's stories, hopes, and dreams over more than a century is a gift.

The longevity of the Carnegie Carnegie is not a given, however, and should not be taken for granted. So much work has been poured into this place to keep it going year after year. The needs of our community have shifted. Interests have changed. Our collection has grown and diversified. Our programs, too.

Thankfully, *a lot* has changed since 1901. But the heart of what we do has stayed pretty constant. After all, we are a public library founded on the beliefs of equity and inclusion – in the words of the late Nikki Giovanni, "A library is: a place to be free, to be in space... to be wonderful, to be you, *a place to be*" – and that has not changed.

As we celebrate 125 years of the Carnegie Carnegie, we invite you to join us, bring a friend, attend a performance, explore a new book, and help us write the next chapter of our extraordinary story.

Thanks for reading along – we look forward to seeing you here this spring!

Marlee Gallagher
Executive Director

Michael Hatcher
President, Board of Trustees

P.S. Mark your calendars – **Library Giving Day is coming up on April 1!** Join us in making this our most successful giving day yet.

Community Wellness Station

-Bri Grygo, Youth Library Assistant

Open to all, our new Community Wellness Station provides a variety of tools focused on prevention, education, and connection. This includes essentials such as reproductive health supplies, menstrual products, diapers, newborn clothing, and basic hygiene items. We also offer warming kits, care kits, and harm reduction supplies, all available without judgment or requirements. Everything is housed in the Library lobby, and everything is free. This location

was chosen intentionally to provide a space that is both accessible and private, allowing patrons to discreetly pick up what they need without having to ask staff. We believe that preserving dignity while addressing essential needs is key to supporting the health and well-being of our community members.

This project came to be for many reasons – a major one being the limitations of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is a critical resource for addressing food insecurity, but benefits may only be used

for food items. Hygiene and household essentials such as soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, menstrual products, diapers, and cleaning supplies are not covered. Basic non-food necessities continue to rise in cost, forcing many in our community to make difficult choices between food, hygiene, and health.

Our Community Wellness Station would not be possible without the support of The Auto(nomous) Body Shop.

"Community Wellness Station" continues on pg. 5.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Miss Kathy Brings Her Energy to Thursday Storytimes

-Walker Evans, Library Director

"Once upon a time, a book-loving little girl daydreamed of living in a library made of candy bars," shares Kathy Prentiss, our treasured Thursday morning storytime volunteer. While our building is (fortunately!) more structurally sound than a chocolate library, Kathy's lifelong love for books and storytelling led her to the Carnegie Carnegie in June 2022, and she's been delighting our preschool storytime families ever since.

This isn't Kathy's first library experience – you may remember seeing her at the Castle Shannon Library. For 15 years she served as a children's librarian assistant there, planning storytimes and other kids' programs, choosing children's books for the collection, and even launching a new Friends of the Library group. Other obligations eventually pulled her away, but she never lost her passion for library service to kids.

Flash forward to 2022: the disruption of the pandemic was starting to settle a bit, and Kathy knew it was time to find a library where she could volunteer. From our first meeting, her energy and enthusiasm were obvious and infectious. We quickly established a new storytime for Kathy to run, and it wasn't long before she had a dedicated following.

Kids and parents alike relish Kathy's energetic storytelling style. "I came from a Dramatic Interpretation/Forensics background, where I learned to be more theatrical (and louder) than some library storytime programs," says Kathy. "My approach is to entertain while slipping in some education and a love of books into children. I encourage participation in the stories, not just passive listening." She enjoys introducing kids to older classics like *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina, as well as popular new titles like James Dean's *Pete the Cat*.



During her time with libraries, Kathy's seen plenty of evolution and change. "When I first started volunteering and working in libraries it was still the *shh* era and totally focused on books. I think it is great that today's libraries are not just about books, but also a place to attend up-to-date interest programs, or to find guidance or help with issues, and provide a safe, comfortable space for all kids and all adults to interact with others," she explains. "Libraries are now community centers."

We couldn't be more grateful to Kathy for her enormous contributions to our Library and community – her storytimes have touched hundreds of little ones and their adults. For her part, she holds Carnegie dear. **"Carnegie still has the wonderful spark and feeling of an old-time community," she reflects, "and I believe that is because at its heart is the Carnegie Carnegie."**

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? We always have a need for people to help with landscaping, ushering, children's programming, light maintenance, and more. If you would like to lend a helping hand, complete our volunteer form at CarnegieCarnegie.org/about-us/employment-and-volunteering or stop by!

A Window to Carnegie's Past

—Walker Evans, Library Director

The first reference to the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall that I can find in our local newspapers is from the November 13, 1896 edition of the *Carnegie Union*. The paper quotes Andrew Carnegie, dining at the Duquesne Club, as saying “To-day, I signed the contract for the erection of a library for Homestead. My partners donated the ground, and they have also donated the ground for another library in Duquesne, for which I will sign the contract as soon as called upon to do so. After that the next one will be built in the town of Carnegie.”

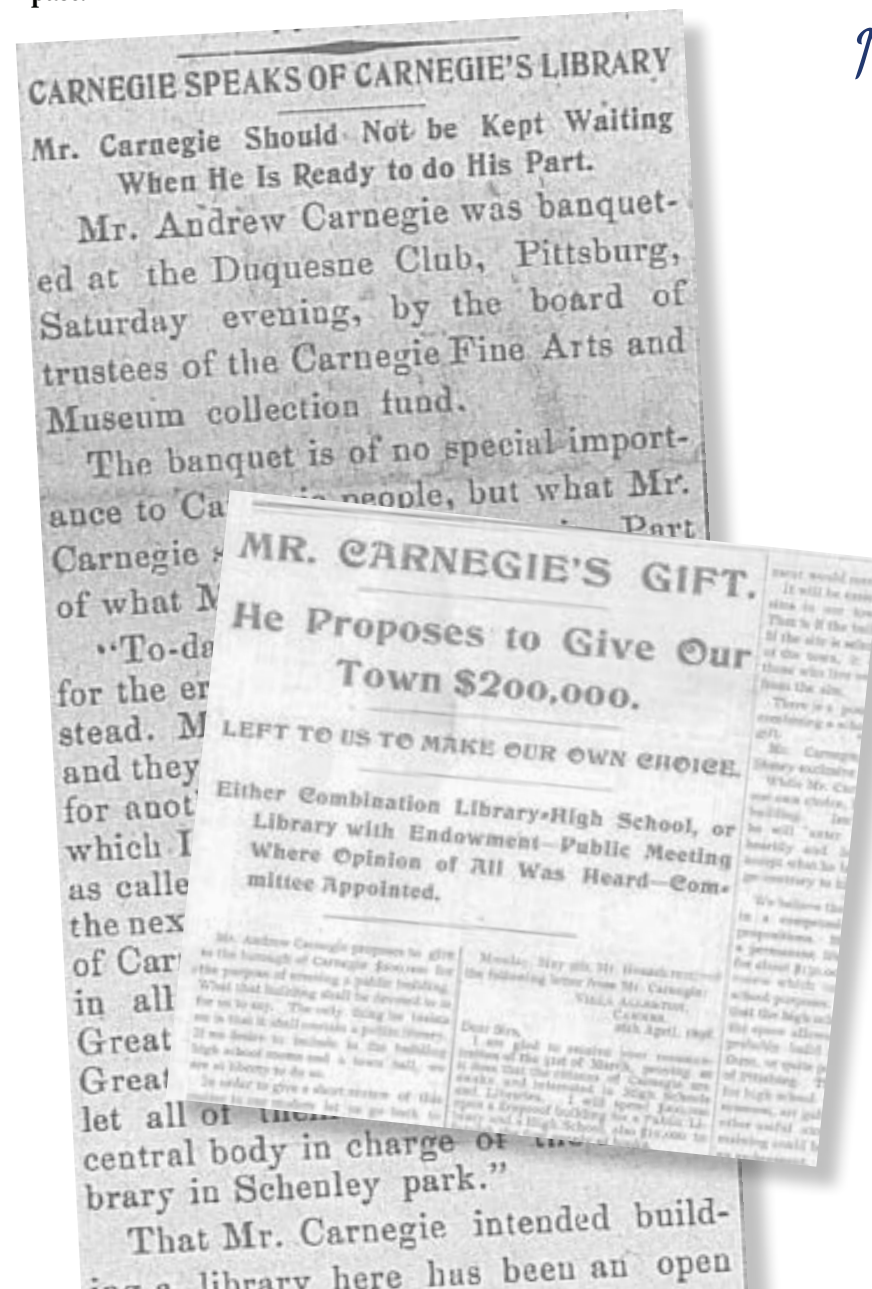
After that, no mention is made of the “open secret” until the issue of April 1, 1898: “[A]s our town was not yet able to support a library, and as we were badly in need of a high school building, perhaps Mr. Carnegie would agree to include a high school in the building he intended giving us.” In addition to the desired high school building, the Borough hoped for a town hall and gymnasium as part of the gift. This theme continues two weeks later in a short opinion piece headlined “We Never Asked for a Library.” “We never asked him, and in fact, positively refuse to accept his library at present. However, if his library includes a high school, town hall and gymnasium in the building then we accept.” And by May 13 of the same year, the *Union* reported in a front-page banner headline that Carnegie had proposed to donate \$200,000 “for the purpose of erecting a public building,” leaving the Borough to decide between constructing a combination library/high school or a stand-alone library supported by an endowment.

At this time last year, conducting this kind of research on the Carnegie Carnegie’s origins would have been a lengthy and tedious undertaking. For years, our Library has held a treasure trove of community history – over 30 years of the *Mansfield Item*, over 40 years of the *Carnegie Union*, and nearly a century’s worth of the *Carnegie Signal-Item* – but very few Carnegieans have delved into the collection. And small wonder: to do so, you would have to come to the Library in person, request access to a special locked cabinet, and then learn how to use a hulking 92-pound microfilm reader – and even then, to find what you’re looking for, you’d have to skim through every page of every issue of the paper!

But as you may have heard, our local history is now more accessible than ever! Thanks to the generosity and partnership of the Historical Society of Carnegie and countless community donors, we raised the funds to digitize and index these irreplaceable documents of our shared past. By the time you read this, odds are good that these newly digitized newspapers will be freely available online to search and browse through the Pennsylvania POWER Library PA

Photos and Documents (powerlibrary.org/collections/). To whet your appetite, our newspaper collection includes 21 references to the Carnegie Historical Society; 90 to the Second Baptist Church; 58 to Congregation Ahavath Achim; and 193 to Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, to name just a few venerable Carnegie institutions. You’ll find stories about community-defining events like the 1923 KKK invasion of Carnegie and the 2004 flood; wedding and birth announcements; obituaries; opinion pieces and letters to the editor from Carnegieans about the most pressing issues of the day; and the countless details that make up the fabric of community life.

As we celebrate our 125th anniversary this year, I hope you’ll join me in exploring the story of our Borough in all its nuance and complexity. Our community has been writing this story for generations; those of us who are here today will create our shared future, and understanding our history is a vital part of that. The Carnegie Carnegie is proud to play a role in preserving this window to our past.



“Community Wellness Station” continued from pg. 3. The Auto(nomous) Body Shop is a Pittsburgh-based mobile mutual aid resource supporting bodily autonomy and community care. The Carnegie Carnegie became a “pit stop” location for the Auto(nomous) Body Shop in Fall 2025. This means we serve as a supply hub when their mobile van is not available. Through our partnership, the Auto(nomous) Body Shop supplies our station with menstrual products, reproductive health supplies, harm reduction materials, literature, and more. We could not be more grateful for this relationship; they have given us an opportunity to offer a new form of support and more resources to our community.

When government agencies and private businesses are unable or unwilling to meet critical needs, community members, grassroots groups, and nonprofits step in, time and time again. This initiative is a reminder that communities flourish through partnerships and connections. Everyone needs people in their corner

supporting them. We hope to continue to be a source of support through our Community Wellness Station and Library services.

If you’re interested in getting involved, consider supporting this project in whatever way feels best for you – visiting the station, borrowing books or other materials from the Library, spreading the word about the project, or donating to the Library or Auto(nomous) Body Shop directly. *You can learn more about the Auto(nomous) Body Shop at www.theautonomousbodyshop.com or by following them on Instagram @the.auto.body.shop.*



DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY WELLNESS STATION

Email Bri Grygo at grygob2@CarnegieCarnegie.org to find out what items are currently needed. *Thank you!*

New Programs & Resources

Support Local Veterans

WOMEN VETERANS FIND COMMUNITY THROUGH READING

—Annie Dayich, Veteran Services Employee

Looking for connection this year? You have found the right place! Join us every second Thursday of the month, from 6:30 to 7:30PM, for the **Paperback Platoon (PBP) Book Club** right here at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall! This book club was created specifically for women by women. Targeting veterans, service members, and their families, our goal is to connect with each other through a mutual love of reading! Military family members – cousins, friends, stepfamily, mothers, sisters, aunts, distant relatives, wives, and girlfriends – are all welcome to join.

Each month, a book is assigned to the club, and we consume the book independently! Some of the “platoon” chooses to read a traditional paper book, while others listen via audio. We like to choose books that are available on multiple platforms, so they are easy to obtain, and we usually know the books several months in advance (in case you like to plan your reads). Copies of our next title can be found at the Library’s circulation desk.

After you read the book, it’s time to join us for our monthly meeting! Our meetings are very easy-going and consist of introductions, a snack (usually derived from the book), and a flowing conversation led by the facilitator. If you weren’t able to finish the book (or even start), you are still welcome to join. *There are no rules here!*

What’s the catch? Well, there isn’t one! We have one goal: connect! We aim to bridge gaps between our busy lives by taking the time to mingle with others. Being part of the platoon provides a sense of community. PBP Book Club is a low maintenance way to show up for yourself, something to look forward to, and a great way to branch out of your day-to-day activities.

“I realized I hadn’t left the house for something enjoyable in longer than I could remember,” shared one member. “I expected to have difficulty reading, but once I started, I couldn’t get enough of it. I flew through the book and couldn’t wait to talk about it with others. The book club gave me purpose and was so enjoyable from the beginning to the end. I can’t wait for next month.”

Bring a friend, or come alone – someone will be there to greet you. You can find us on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30PM. We are usually in the Mezzanine, but you can always double check at the circulation desk. *We hope to see you there!*

GETTING TO KNOW CARNEGIE’S VETERANS AT THE LIBRARY

—Richard Murphy

Every three months, a Carnegie veteran comes to the Library to talk with me about their military service and how it impacted them then and now. These discussions are free, open to the public, and are audio-recorded and made available to the community. We call this series of discussions **“From the Foxhole: Talks with Carnegie’s Veterans.”**

“Local Veterans” continues on pg. 7.

Art in Exile: Mai Khôi & The Dissidents at Carnegie Carnegie

-Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director



Photo credit: Nate Guidry

In May, Mai Khôi will return to the Music Hall as a featured speaker at the annual Women's Empowerment Summit, organized in partnership with the Carlynton School District. The Summit brings together young women for a day focused on leadership, resilience, and self-advocacy. Students will not only hear about perseverance and courage; they will see those qualities embodied in a working artist who has continued to create despite significant personal risk and displacement.

"Making music has given me the courage and lasting happiness to overcome the challenges of life as an artist in exile," Mai Khôi explains. "And I want to share that courage and happiness with everyone through this album."

Mai Khôi's visit to Carnegie will extend beyond a single evening, beginning Friday, April 10, in the Music Hall. We invite you to join us for an evening of compelling live music from Mai Khôi & The Dissidents, and to experience new work from a distinctive international voice right here in Carnegie.

This spring, we are thrilled to welcome artist and activist Mai Khôi to the Music Hall. On Friday, April 10, she will present a concert for the release of her new album, *Five Years in Exile*, performing with her band, The Dissidents. The evening brings not only new music to our stage, but a deeply personal story shaped by artistic resistance and displacement.

Mai Khôi is an internationally recognized musician whose career took a dramatic turn after she publicly advocated for democracy and free expression in her home country of Vietnam. Facing increasing government pressure and censorship, she ultimately left the country. Over the past five years, she has continued to create and perform while living in exile, using music as both expression and testimony.

Five Years in Exile reflects that period of transition, exploring identity, separation, resilience, and the role of art in moments of political and personal upheaval. While the themes are serious, the performance promises to be dynamic and musically compelling, blending genres and traditions in ways that feel urgent and contemporary.

For Mai Khôi, the album represents a personal turning point. **"I used to be a pop star in Vietnam," she says. "But perhaps I've reached the pinnacle of my singing career with this album. This is the best thing that I have ever done. I found love, pride, and freedom in the process of making this album."**

Mai Khôi's appearance in Carnegie is part of our new **BackBeat Series**, which typically brings high-energy pop, rock, and roots performances to our venue. This concert broadens that scope, introducing an internationally recognized artist whose work is shaped by lived experience and global perspective.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The past year was a big one for Music Hall & Studio programming as we produced more shows than ever before, including two innovative new series.

A sold-out traditional Japanese tea service event with **Yuko Eguchi** kicked off the *Global Performance Series* followed by the steel drum-based, Afro-Caribbean band, **Steel City Calypso**, later in the summer. The fall featured three concerts led by rising stars in the local jazz scene as part of the *Emerging Artist Series*. **Jonathan DiGiulian** (guitar), **Alex Perez** (trumpet), and **Soojin Park** (drums) took over the Studio alongside professionals with the PJO.

This year, we look forward to expanding these programs and adding even more to our slate of performances! *Check out the upcoming events on pg. 10 for more details.*



"Local Veterans" continued from pg. 5. As a military researcher, historian, and combat veteran, I interview veterans in a conversational way that is as informative as it is entertaining. These adult-oriented talks may include some of the negative aspects of military service, allowing us to really get to know our veterans and the tales behind serving that still impact them – and us – to this day.

Each interview includes an engaging question-and-answer session, offering a chance for our audience to speak directly with the featured veteran.

With over 500 veterans living in Carnegie, we consider it important to build connections and understanding between this population and the community as a whole.

We hope you'll join us for these fun and informative talks! Our next conversation will be on Saturday, April 4 at 10AM, featuring 92-year-old U.S. Army veteran Frank Palombi.

The two remaining sessions of "From the Foxhole" in 2026 will take place on July 18 and October 17; the interviewees will be announced. *Save the dates!*

What's Next?

-Bri Grygo, Youth Library Assistant

There are a few youth programs on the horizon here at Carnegie Carnegie – *see what's coming up!*

First, our all-ages **Carnegie Celebrates Earth Day** is scheduled for Sunday, April 19, 12-3PM. We will provide a dedicated seed swap table along with family-friendly take-home materials to encourage outdoor engagement. A variety of nonprofit organizations that focus on the environment and our connection to the natural world will join us as well.

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History will bring a mini museum highlighting preserved birds, mammals, insects, and plants that are endemic to Western Pennsylvania as

well as a case displaying wax models of spring wildflowers. They also will provide information about the City Nature Challenge – a global event taking place the following weekend. The challenge encourages folks to share images and sounds of nature around them.

Speaking of nature and earth science, this year's **Summer Reading** theme, "Unearth A Story," was recently announced. This felt like the perfect time for us to introduce our science programming series! This series will be for children grades K-5 with each program requiring registration. Some of the organizations partnering with us this year include: ALCOSAN, Allegheny County Parks, Mad Science of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Science Workshop. Join us for fun on the Science Bus, with animal educators, and "in the lab." *Check our website later this spring for details and dates!*



The Carnegie Carnegie is entering its cottagecore era! We were lucky to receive a grant from the AEO Better World Foundation to fund our upcoming **garden project**. This project will include a tool lending library, collection expansion, and an increase in plant life around our building.

Our tool lending library will include adaptive gardening tools that will allow individuals with mobility constraints to experience the joys of gardening, too. For example, adaptive tools will include trowels, rakes, and pruning shears with extended handles and foldable outdoor stools. Our collection expansion will highlight topics such as soil science, environmental advocacy and action, beneficial garden insects, companion planting, and more. *We're excited to share more about this project over the spring and summer.*

Over the past few months, our **Teen Space** has undergone a transformative makeover and our next project is the outdoor patio! We are partnering with our Teen Library Council, Carlynton Junior Senior High School, Carlynton GSA, and LIGHT Education Initiative to plan and create an outdoor mural. The mural will be student-led and full of student voices with the idea that books are portals that take us to other worlds while helping us connect with each other and our community. *Stay tuned for project updates!*

 *Library: Adults*

CARNEGIE'S LEGACY: THE EVOLUTION OF STEEL IN PITTSBURGH - WITH METALLURGIST EMILY GRUGAN

For over 150 years, Pittsburgh has been known across the nation as the "Steel City." Join local metallurgist Emily Grugan for an insider's perspective on the importance of Pittsburgh's steel history.

» MAR 24 7PM

PITTSBURGH CLASSIC MOVIE CLUB: NOIR FEMMES FATALES

Join the Pittsburgh Classic Movie Club for a celebration of the great femmes fatales of cinema! All screenings start at 7PM.

- » MAR 30: *GILDA (1946)*
- » APR 13: *THE BIG HEAT (1953)*
- » APR 27: *PICKUP ON SOUTH STREET (1953)*
- » MAY 18: *THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE (1946)*

FROM THE FOXHOLE: TALKS WITH CARNEGIE'S VETERANS - FEATURING FRANK PALOMBI

In this quarterly series, veteran and military researcher Richard Murphy shares live, unscripted conversations with veterans in our area. Ages 18+ only.

» APR 4 10AM

SOUTH HILLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB TRACK DISPLAY

Featuring homes, businesses, landscape features, and even a carnival, this fully operational room-sized track creates its own tiny world to explore. Club members will be present to discuss and explain the display. *Drop in any time!*

» APR 10 & 11 10AM-5PM

CARNEGIE CELEBRATES EARTH DAY!

Our Earth Day celebration returns for its sixth year! See "What's Next" by Bri Grygo on page 7 for details.

» APR 19 12-3PM

NEVER MISS AN EVENT! Join our email list for monthly updates all year long. Sign up at bit.ly/CarnegieUpdates.

Unless otherwise noted, all Library programs are free to attend. Please let us know if you'll be there - learn more & register at CarnegieCarnegie.org.

CAREER CHECKUP WORKSHOP WITH JFCS

Give your job search a boost at this free workshop!

Counselors will share tips and best practices, and participants can meet with a counselor one-on-one for a personalized resume review. Registration is required.

» APR 22 10:30AM-12:30PM

CHERNOBYL 40 YEARS LATER: A DAY OF COMMEMORATION

Join us for poetry, art, dance, stories from affected individuals, and an expert panel discussion on the four decades since an explosion shook the Chernobyl nuclear power plant near Pripyat, Ukraine.

» APR 25 11AM-3PM

SPEAK, A DISCUSSION WITH PRIME STAGE THEATRE

Join playwright Tammy Ryan of Prime Stage Theatre for a group discussion of her stage adaptation of *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

» APR 28 7PM

FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

Meet with an attorney from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Center. To request a free 30-minute appointment, call the Library at 412.276.3456 or email evansw2@CarnegieCarnegie.org. Be prepared to share your name, contact information, and the topic of your legal questions. Registration is required.

» APR 30 4:30-6:30PM

PA LYME RESOURCE NETWORK: DARE 2B TICK AWARE

Join Janine Hauck of PA Lyme Resource Network to learn all about ticks, tick-borne diseases, and how to avoid tick bites this year!

» MAY 12 7PM

ADVOCATING FOR YOUR LOVED ONES IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Join ComForCare and Carson Eldercare Consulting & Management for an overview of our current healthcare system - and how to optimally advocate for ourselves and our loved ones.

» MAY 13 6PM

MY DAD'S STORY: REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

Pittsburgher Sue Tresatti shares the heartrending story of her father Norman Roth, who survived imprisonment by Nazis in the Auschwitz concentration camp as a teenage boy. Military researcher Richard Murphy provides historical context. A reception with light refreshments will follow this program. Registration is required.

» JUN 9 7PM

RECURRING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Our Library offers several recurring programs for a variety of interests! The following groups meet regularly each month. For details, visit CarnegieCarnegie.org or call 412.276.3456 to find out when the next meeting is.

- » Carnegie Crafters
- » Carnegie Modular Railroaders
- » Fluent Friends: Practice Speaking English
- » Meditate Together
- » Meeple Meet-Up: Euro-Gaming for Adults
- » PALS Book Discussions for Senior Adults
- » Paperback Platoon Women Veterans Book Club
- » Ukulele Strum-Along
- » Time Travelers Historical Fiction Book Club

 *Library: Kids & Teens*

SUMMER READING: UNEARTH A STORY

Be sure to log all of your minutes of reading at carnegiwest.beanstack.org! See "What's Next" by Bri Grygo on page 7 for a preview of all we have in store this summer.

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF

» JUN 13 11AM-1PM

END OF SUMMER READING CELEBRATION

» AUG 15 11AM-1PM

AFTERSCHOOL AT THE LIBRARY

Join your friends at the Library after school! Visit CarnegieCarnegie.org for additional programs and updates.

- » LEGO Club [5+] - Every Tuesday
- » Anime Club [10+] - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
- » Teen Game Time [10+] 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
- » Teen Pen Pals [10+] 1st & 3rd Thursdays
- » Teen Craft Club [10+] 2nd & 4th Thursdays



To stay up-to-date on our storytime schedule, sign up for our Storytime Gazette at bit.ly/StorytimeGazette.

 *Civil War & Espy Post*

CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

Our 2026 Symposium, *1861: Small Battles, Big Outcomes*, features seven dynamic historians who will unpack the military, political, and social threads of this pivotal year in our nation's history. *Ticket sales close April 6!*

» APR 17-18

2ND SATURDAY CIVIL WAR SERIES

A free series featuring a new theme and Civil War historian each month. *Lectures begin at 1PM in the Lincoln Gallery & Zoom.*

» MAR 21 - **KATIE WOLFE** *WOMEN AT WAR: THE HOMEFRONT, THE HOSPITAL, AND THE BATTLEFIELD [NOTE: 3RD SATURDAY DATE]*

» MAY 9 - **DAVID WELKER** *THE UNION INVALID CORPS - THE VETERAN RESERVE CORPS' UNSUNG STORY*

» JUN 13 - **JOHN L. HOPKINS** *THE WORLD WILL NEVER SEE THE LIKE: THE GETTYSBURG REUNION OF 1913*

» SEP 12 - **W. HUNTER LESSER** *ROBERT E. LEE'S FEUDING GENERALS: WISE VS. FLOYD*

FACES OF CIVIL WAR NURSES EXHIBIT

Visit the Lincoln Gallery this spring for a special exhibit featuring a series of portraits and personal stories of women who served as nurses during the Civil War.

» FEB 14-MAY 9



UPCOMING MUSIC HALL & STUDIO EVENTS →

 Music Hall & Studio

DETAILS & TICKET INFORMATION:
CARNEGIECARNEGIE.ORG

STUDIO JAZZ SERIES: BENNY BENACK II

STUDIO Benny Benack II is a legend in the Pittsburgh jazz and nightclub scene – a band leader well known for his virtuosic musicianship and charismatic audience appeal.

» MAR 26 7PM

BACKBEAT SERIES: MAI KHÔI & THE DISSIDENTS

MUSIC HALL Join us for Mai Khôi's *Five Years in Exile* album release concert. The album follows Khôi through her first five years in the United States, where she landed in 2019 to avoid political persecution in Vietnam.

» APR 10 8PM

EMERGING ARTIST SERIES: GRACE ELLIOTT

STUDIO A partnership with the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra Grace Elliott is a Pittsburgh-born vocalist, songwriter, and guitarist whose musical roots run deep. Known for her smooth, rich vocal tone, Grace combines technical skill with a distinctive musical sensitivity that sets her apart. Light brunch bites will be served.

» APR 12 3PM

STUDIO JAZZ SERIES: DR. ALTON MERRELL

STUDIO Dr. Alton Merrell is a world-class pianist, composer, and educator whose artistry blends lyrical melodies, rich harmonic language, and fluid technique across multiple jazz traditions.

» APR 23 7PM

EMERGING ARTIST SERIES: ALEX WEIBEL

STUDIO A partnership with the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra Alex Weibel is an educator, arranger, and multi-instrumentalist. He plays guitar, mandolin, and other fretted instruments professionally in a variety of styles including jazz, blues, pop, and theatre. Light brunch bites will be served.

» MAY 17 3PM

125TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT: REGGIE WATKINS & ROGER HUMPHRIES

MUSIC HALL The Carnegie Carnegie turns 125! Don't miss this major milestone celebration featuring legendary drummer Roger Humphries in concert with Carnegie's own Reggie Watkins on trombone. *Join us in the Studio for cake & drinks after the show.*

» MAY 1 7PM

BACKBEAT SERIES: YACHT ROCKET

MUSIC HALL Yacht Rocket is a vibrant 10-piece band celebrating the '70s & '80s genre of "yacht rock," a smooth blend of soft rock, soul, and pop known for lush harmonies and laid-back grooves. For fans of the Doobies, Steely Dan, Toto, and the exhilaration of escape and everything smooth, Yacht Rocket delivers sun-drenched nostalgia with polished musicianship and feel-good style.

» JUL 17 7PM



 **SAVE THE DATES!**

THE SECRET GARDEN: ANNUAL BENEFIT FOR THE CARNEGIE

Join us for a garden party as we celebrate the Carnegie Carnegie and all who make our work possible! This year's literary theme explores the beloved children's novel, *The Secret Garden*, and features a concert with Cello Fury and special guests. After the show, the party continues throughout our historic building. *More details to be announced; tickets go on sale in July.*

» SEP 25 6:30PM



BACKBEAT SERIES: GRESH MEETS WAITS

Our inaugural *BackBeat Series* concludes with "Gresh Meets Waits: A Tom Waits Tribute." John Gresh and Phat Man Dee perform alongside Liam Gresh, Ben Opie, John Purse, Mike Sweeney, and Robert Peckman, taking a deep dive into the shadowy corners of Tom Waits's songbook and reveling in its grit, mischief, and midnight poetry. *Tickets available now.*



» OCT 22 7PM

Looking Back, Looking Ahead...

-Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator

Each time I write or type the new year, I must ask myself whether it's really 2026. Has it been nearly a quarter century since I graduated high school, or two decades since college? Do I really have a daughter starting high school this fall? Where does the time go?

This year also marks five years since I returned to the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall as curator of the Captain Thomas Espy Grand Army of the Republic Post. While it hardly feels like that long, I can't help but look back at what we've accomplished in that time. Let's start with the Espy Post.

Since 2021 we've welcomed thousands of visitors through the Espy Post's door, both returning and first-time visitors. We've hosted groups of children and adults, professional historians, amateur enthusiasts and casual passersby. None of this would be possible without our dedicated group of docents who freely give their time and talents to share the Espy Post and its stories. Later this year we'll welcome back two important Espy Post artifacts that were conserved through grants from the America250PA program and the Institute of Museum & Library Services, allowing the artifacts to be carefully displayed in the Espy Post for the first time in several decades.

Our 2nd Saturday Civil War Series, now in its 12th year, continues to demonstrate year-over-year growth. Historians and authors from across the country travel to Carnegie each month to deliver lectures, drawing nearly 500 attendees each year, some traveling from several hours away each month to attend the lectures. *See our upcoming events on the previous page for future dates and speakers.*



Our annual Civil War Symposium continues to garner interest and attendees from far outside our city and region. Now in its eighth year, the symposium has grown from a half-day event to a full weekend of lectures and activities for Civil War enthusiasts. Our 2025 symposium attracted more than 200 attendees from 14 states and Canada, and our 2026 symposium, scheduled for April 17 and 18, looks to build on that success. *Find more information on our website and join us for an incredible weekend of history and camaraderie!*

Looking ahead, the Carnegie Carnegie is excited to join the Civil War Trails network, the world's largest open-air museum connecting more than 1,500 historic sites across six states. We plan to explore additional grant opportunities to carefully conserve several of the Espy Post's most fragile artifacts. Above all, we plan to continue engaging with our patrons and visitors about our intrinsic link to one of the defining events in our nation's history. Join us in 2026 for a tour of the Espy Post, a lecture, or our annual Symposium. *Thank you for a meaningful and fast-paced five years!*

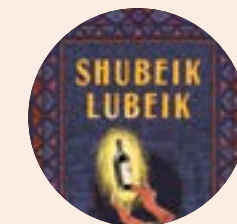
The **Captain Thomas Espy Post** is free and open to the public for tours each Saturday from 11AM-3PM. If you are interested in touring the post or becoming a docent, please reach out to Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator, at 412.276.3456 x19 or gilotj@CarnegieCarnegie.org.



 **STAFF PICKS**

Shubeik Lubeik BY DEENA MOHAMED

"Shubeik lubeik" means "Your wish is my command" in Arabic – picture a genie saying it to Aladdin. In Deena Mohamed's meticulously imagined graphic novel, wishes are far from the stuff of folktales: they're real, naturally occurring resources, and while a cheap wish is likely to



backfire, an expensive one can change your life. Through the linked stories of three characters living in Egypt, Mohamed considers her conceit from countless angles.

Her characters face challenging questions of materialism, identity, religious conviction, and mental health as they each strive to make their own monumental choice: what should I wish for? Inventive, dynamic art complements a story that bursts with humor, empathy, and humanity. -Walker Evans, Library Director

MORE STAFF PICKS THIS WAY →

STAFF PICKS

Hidden Pictures

BY JASON REKULAK

In Jason Rekulak's *Hidden Pictures*, our heroine Mallory gets a fresh start after a stint in recovery and takes a live-in nanny job for a quiet five-year-old named Teddy with wealthy, slightly overbearing parents. What could go wrong? *Everything.*



When Teddy's drawings transform from cheerful crayon sketches into increasingly realistic, dark portraits of a woman he insists is his imaginary friend, the story pivots from domestic drama to something much creepier. Along the way, we're treated to one of the story's most entertaining characters, Mitzi, the slightly unhinged, self-proclaimed psychic neighbor who may or may not be the most sensible person in the room. (If I were casting the film version, Carol Kane would be my top pick for the part.)

Rekulak builds a steady sense of unease, blending psychological tension with supernatural dread, creating a great read for a dark and stormy night. *-Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director*

Harriet Tubman: Live in Concert

BY BOB THE DRAG QUEEN



Picture a world in which figures from American history inexplicably start returning to life. Presidents, artists, and abolitionists walk alongside us in the present day, adjusting rather well to their brand-new anachronistic existences, all things considered. Who would you most want to meet, and what would you want to say to them if you had the chance? This is the peculiar conceit behind Bob the Drag Queen's novel, *Harriet Tubman: Live in Concert*. (You may recognize Bob from *RuPaul's Drag Race*, or from his more recent appearance on *The Traitors*.)

We remember Harriet Tubman as the larger-than-life abolitionist, freedwoman, and spy who led countless enslaved Black Americans to freedom. In this novel, when we meet her, she is living a new life as the frontwoman of a hip-hop outfit called the Freemans, working on an album to tell a story of liberation. To produce it, she calls on Darnell Williams, a once-rising star who comes to realize that he may not be as free as he once thought.

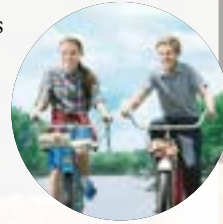
Despite some heavy subject matter, this book is a rather light and quick read: conversational in tone and quite

educational. If you get the chance, I recommend listening to the audiobook, which contains two exclusive songs. I wonder if perhaps this means one day we may get a version of *Harriet Tubman: Live in Concert... live in concert?* *-Mikayla Wobrak, Children's Librarian*

Flipped (2010)

DIR. ROB REINER

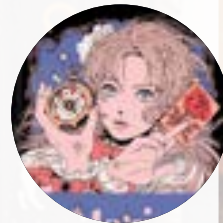
Flipped takes place during the 1960s and follows two young people as they grow from being childhood friends to experiencing teenage life and love. When Bryce Loski is eight, his family moves into the neighborhood, and Juli Baker instantly takes a liking to him. Bryce does not feel the same way at first, but as they grow up, his feelings change towards her. Each of their stories is told from their own point of view, which makes it interesting as to how they felt towards one another.



This movie was super cute and sweet! It kept my attention and I really enjoyed watching it. Not only was the plot great, but the oldies music they played, like "Devoted to You" by the Everly Brothers, was picked perfectly to go with the movie. This movie was adapted from a book with the same title, written by Wendelin Van Draanen. *-Katie Byerly, Public Services Manager*

Miss Bri's TBR!

Choosing a book to get out of a reading slump can feel overwhelming. So, I thought I would share my TBR (to be read) in hopes that something stands out! *-Bri Grygo, Youth Library Assistant*



1. *A Magical Girl Retires* by Park Seolyeon // An unnamed millennial woman navigating day-to-day troubles is suddenly recruited to be a "magical girl." But being a "magical girl" is not what she anticipated as she finds herself attending trade union meetings and fighting existential threats like climate change and credit card debt.
2. *Dungeon Crawler Carl* by Matt Dinniman // Carl journeys through a brutal, trap-filled dungeon that is broadcasted as a reality show to entertain alien audiences after Earth is destroyed for resources. He is joined by his ex-girlfriend's cat, Princess Donut.
3. *MindWorks: An Uncanny Compendium of Short Fiction* by Neal Shusterman // This collection blends elements of horror, sci-fi, and heartwarming moments. Explore a world where "the only thing that is truly certain is nothing is certain."

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

By the Numbers

LIBRARY	MUSIC HALL	CIVIL WAR & ESPY POST
75,795 Visits to the Library	9,474 Audience Members	559 Espy Post Visits
587 Free, Public Programs	71 Performances	423 2nd Saturday Civil War Series In-Person Attendees
9,298 Program Attendees	23 Carnegie Carnegie Productions	45 2nd Saturday Civil War Series Virtual Attendees
5,132 Hours of Public PC Use	1,888 Private Rental Attendees	200 Civil War Symposium Attendees
76,239 Physical Items Checked Out	664 Performers, Musicians & Artists Supported	\$27,000 Raised to Support Espy Post Artifact Restoration
25,747 Electronic Items Circulated (E-Books, E-Magazines & Digital Audiobooks)	89 Free, Public Program Attendees	

Financials



33%	Government: \$335,601
23%	Individuals: \$234,409
16%	Other Revenue: \$168,041
11%	Foundations: \$108,081
7%	Fundraisers: \$73,109
5%	Program Revenue: \$56,265
5%	Rentals: \$52,511
	TOTAL: \$1,028,017



62%	Program & Admin Personnel: \$518,313
19%	Operations: \$221,599
13%	Building: \$102,286
4%	Collection: \$35,050
2%	Maintenance: \$10,697
	TOTAL: \$887,945

Please note: the numbers presented here are unaudited. Audited financials will be available in August.



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Library Giving Day

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 receive from *people like you.*

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The Secret Garden

A BENEFIT FOR THE
 CARNEGIE CARNEGIE

Save the Date

09.25.2026

WITH MUSIC BY CELLO FURY
 & SPECIAL GUESTS



TICKETS ON SALE IN JULY