Carnegie Carnegie



Something for *everyone*

In this issue: Making Time to Make a Difference | Mindful Movement & New Library Programs | Music for Every Age | A Thank You Concert *& so much more*

CARNEGIE CARNEGIE 1901 125 YEARS 2026 SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

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LIBRARY HOURS
Mon 12-7PM
Tue-Thu: 10AM-7PM
Fri-Sat: 10AM-5PM
Sun: Closed

CONTACT US
Andrew Carnegie Free Library
& Music Hall
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Carnegie, PA 15106

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CarnegieCarnegiePA

RAD works here.

On the cover: *Carnegie from above, September 2026*

Photography by Greg Sciulli & Ashley Czerniewski

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Dear friends & neighbors,

We just wrapped up our *Milestone Matching Campaign* – one of the biggest and most exciting fundraising opportunities in our organization's history! While it was a huge success and we met our goal (more about that on page 13), seeing the outpouring of community support for the Library & Music Hall has been, by far, the best part. ***Thank you to everyone who contributed and gave us one more thing to celebrate during this milestone year.***

We also want to thank everyone who attended our benefit, *The Secret Garden*, on September 25. More than $100,000 was raised during this special event – a benefit record! Guests enjoyed one-of-a-kind performances throughout the evening, featuring Gretchen Van Hoesen from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Cello Fury with Drew Leigh Williams, and Kelsey Jumper and Colter Harper – all while supporting the Carnegie Carnegie through fundraising activities throughout the night. *Planning is already underway for 2027, so stay tuned!*

Though the year is winding down, we still have a lot to look forward to and hope you can join us as we continue celebrating our 125th year of service.

On October 26, we're holding *Estate Planning for Everyone*, our first estate planning session for the community. We hope this will be the first in a series of sessions supporting our neighbors on their financial planning journeys. Led by experts in the field, this session explores topics from general estate planning and trust administration to charitable giving – in a comfortable setting where *everyone*, regardless of age or financial situation, is welcome to participate. Our Operating Endowment Committee will host a reception immediately before the session, with refreshments and an opportunity to connect with committee members and fellow Library patrons.

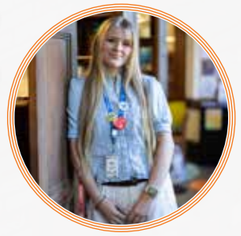
The next day, October 27, we're thrilled to bring Benny Benack II back to the Music Hall stage for our *Milestone Celebration* – a thank you to YOU, our community and donors, for helping us reach our *Milestone Matching Campaign* goal. This concert is pay-what-makes-you-happy, meaning there is no set admission price. You can come as you are for free or make a donation of your choosing. *Learn more and save your spot at CarnegieCarnegie.org.*

These are just two of the dozens of upcoming programs and events at the Carnegie Carnegie over the next few months. There's always a ton going on here – that's all thanks to folks like you who support us and make it all possible. *Read on to learn more about what's in store as we close out another amazing year at the Carnegie Carnegie. We can't wait to see you here this season!*

Marlee Gallagher
Executive Director

Michael Hatcher
President, Board of Trustees

Welcome Libby Hertzler



Hello! My name is Elizabeth Hertzler, but I usually go by Libby! I'm the newest addition to the team at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, serving as our community support specialist (also known as our social work intern). *Read more on the next page!*

You can find me at the Library on Wednesdays 10AM-6PM, Fridays 10AM-2PM, and Saturdays 2PM-5PM.

My role is to help with community resource connections, big or small. Whether you need support with housing, food, goods, transportation, immigration, or anything else, **I'm here to help.**

I'll walk you through the entire process: finding resources, determining eligibility, applying, and following up. I hope to meet people where they are to find resources and solutions that work for them, no question is too small!

I'm in my first year of the Master of Social Work program at the University of Pittsburgh, and I hold a bachelor's degree in Applied Developmental Psychology. I live in the city now, but I'm a Carnegie girl at heart!

I grew up right down the road in Collier Township, attending Chartiers Valley for grade school. My mother was raised in Carnegie and went to Carlynton, and my grandparents have called Carnegie home for decades. I have fond memories of coming to this very Library with my grandma, I got my first library card here when I was too young to remember (and I still have the physical card!)

I was also part of Carnegie Performing Arts Center's *Nutcracker* production when I was young, and I have the fondest memories of breakfast at Carnegie Coffee, family dinners and parties at Riley's, and July 4th fireworks at Carnegie Park.

A bit more about me beyond the Library and Carnegie is that I have an orange cat named Leo, who I love more than anything. I love to read, especially fiction and fantasy series.

"Welcome Libby Hertzler" continues on pg. 5.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MAKING TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:
Meet Volunteer Kim Imler

-Joyce DeFrancesco, Marketing & Communications Volunteer



Visitors to the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall on any Friday afternoon will find volunteer Kim Imler quietly shelving books – and enjoying the Library's atmosphere and sense of community.

A lifelong South Hills resident who currently lives in Scott Township, Kim studied art and visual communication and spent her career primarily in sales and marketing, including her last professional position as senior sales counselor at Brookdale Senior Living. She retired in 2021 and found herself with more time to pursue her passions for travel, gardening, yoga, and live music.

That love of music brought her to the Music Hall's Thursday night jazz series. After enjoying a few performances, she thought she'd check out the attached Library, a place she had never visited before. She found herself enchanted with the architecture and atmosphere.

"Everyone there is just so kind and welcoming," Kim says. "I thought to myself, 'I'd like to volunteer.'"

The next time she received an email from the Library looking for volunteers, that's exactly what she did.

Since 2023, her regular volunteering shift has been reshelving books, often in the children's section. She thrives on being organized, making the task a natural fit. She also assists with special events like Juneteenth and Earth Day.

"It's not work for me. It's something that I just love to do," she says. "I never get that feeling that anybody is too busy to help our visitors. It is such a wonderful place to be."

Watching staff members interact with the community in inclusive and welcoming ways and hearing the joyful sounds of children enjoying the Library are something that keeps bringing Kim back to the Carnegie Carnegie each week.

"Many people say, 'Oh, volunteer, it's good for you,'" Kim says. "Well, it really is good for you! Take a trip down to the Library, take a look around and you'll feel the goodness there."

INSPIRED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT THE LIBRARY LIKE KIM? Contact Volunteer Coordinator Gloria Roman at ACFreeVolunteers@CarnegieCarnegie.org to learn more about volunteering at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall.

Sifting Through 125 Years of Library History

-Walker Evans, Library Director

It may be hard to imagine if you've seen the size of our building, but a few months ago, the staff of the Library & Music Hall had a conversation about our rapidly dwindling storage space. We love our historic building, but over the years we had accumulated enough program supplies, decor, and audiovisual equipment that we were starting to run out of room for new things. Thus began a tidying project that at times felt more like an archaeological dig, largely focused on our storage space off the basement-level Studio.


Made Life Trustee at Meeting

Signal-Item Oct. 1, 1964

Mrs. William Burkey First Woman Library Trustee

been closed for several years. The gymnasium is occupied by the Girls' Club of Carnegie.

Mary Harris, who was head librarian, was a staff member for 50 years, retired over a year ago. Miss Harris's assistant, Mrs. Sandrus, is currently in charge.

Persons interested in volunteering services to the Library are requested to write to the Andrew Carnegie Free Library, Beechwood Avenue, Carnegie.

WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?

Carnegie Council . . . Carnegie Library . . . Thursday, Oct. 1, 8 p.m.

Carnegie School Board . . . Carnegie High School . . . Monday, Oct. 12, 8 p.m.

Carlynton Joint School Board . . . Carnegie High School . . . Monday, Oct. 19

Carnegie Free Food . . . Firehall . . . Monday, Oct. 5, 16 a.m. to 12 noon (one to three dependents) ; 1 to 3 p.m. (two dependents and over).

Scott Commissioners . . . Municipal Building . . . Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m.

Scott School Board . . . Char-

In the course of this project, I happened across a number of archived records, past strategic plans, and renovation blueprints. But I was most interested in a collection of old clippings (mostly from the *Signal-Item*) that offered a delightful glimpse at the way the community of Carnegie has engaged with and understood the Library & Music Hall across our 125 year history.

For instance, October of 1964 saw the announcement of the Library's first woman Trustee, identified only as "Mrs. William Burkey," described as an "active local civic leader." (More research will be required to learn such details as her actual given name!)

I also enjoyed learning about how the Library has celebrated other historic milestones in the past. In 1991, the *Pittsburgh Press* writes about a special display created for the Carnegie Carnegie's 90th anniversary by then-Board member Susan Walsh (fortunately, by this time women are referred to by their actual names!). It featured photos and documents from 1901, the year that the Library opened to the public, including an old restaurant menu – mashed potatoes were a bargain at just $0.05.

Other notable finds included clippings about an early computer network, Project Link-Up, which connected our Library's computers with those at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh for the first time; the rediscovery and restoration of the Espy Post; and plenty of stories about the dire financial straits faced by the Library throughout the 1980s.

But my favorite piece (for now at least) is an editorial by Bob Wertz, published in the *Signal-Item* in July of 1992. Wertz reflects on the evolution of the community as he covers the opening of the Black Swan Art and Frame Gallery in Carnegie. Several paragraphs that mention the Library & Music Hall have been highlighted by a past staff member who clipped this piece from the paper. "The library, which has been here since the beginning of the century, is showing some signs of age and does need some attention," Wertz writes. "But its potential, as yet unrealized, is great."

I couldn't agree more. *Here's to the continued realization of our great potential over the next 125 years!*

MINDFUL MOVEMENT & MORE AT THE LIBRARY

-Walker Evans, Library Director

It's been a busy year for adult programs here in the Library! April saw the launch of two new (but quite different!) movement groups.

On Mondays, we've been enjoying sessions of **Mindful Yoga**, led by instructor Leah Shuck. Slower and gentler than some forms of yoga, Leah's classes help our participants feel more at home in their bodies, while also centering the mind and melting stress. Over the past five months, Mindful Yoga has grown a dedicated following. Beginners are welcome – we even have extra yoga mats and blocks for anyone who needs to borrow them.

While our yoga sessions tend to be quiet and serene, our other new group – **Kitchen Dancing** – is a chance to groove, shimmy, and get down to great music! Instructor Helen Oldfield, the creator of Kitchen Dancing, described it as a group "for people who like to dance around while they're making dinner in the kitchen" - hence the name. Specially designed for adults over the age of 50, Kitchen Dancing is a fun opportunity to meet new friends, enjoy new music (and old favorites!), and get your blood moving... *who says exercise needs to be boring?*

"Welcome Libby Hertzler" continued from pg. 3.

I am currently reading *Crescent City* by Sarah J. Maas (I'm finishing up re-reading the entire *Maasverse* for ACOTAR 6 for those who are familiar). I'm also excited to start reading *Our Vicious Oaths* by N.E. Davenport next.

I have also recently gotten into plants, attempting to keep them alive and learning about different types. I love to travel and explore new places. I studied abroad in Florence, Italy, for a month in undergrad — it was incredible to immerse myself in and learn about a different culture. I love hanging out with my friends and am very close with my family. Finally, I truly enjoy what I do for school and work, meeting new people, and learning from others!

I love everything that makes this town what it is, especially the people. I'm excited to be here and can't wait to meet, connect with, and serve this wonderful community. Stop in and see me — I'd love to chat!

We've been fortunate to host visits from several incredible authors in recent months as well. June saw a meeting of the minds, with environmental writers **Andy Moore and Jason Bittel** sharing their new books *Beasts of the East: The Rise and Fall of America's Eastern Wilderness* and *Grizzled: Love Letters to 50 of North America's Least Understood Animals* in conversation with environmental educator Char Ross; we were thrilled to welcome back Pulitzer Prize-winning scholar **Dr. Edda Fields-Black** for a special lecture connecting her 2025 book *COMBEE: Harriet Tubman, the Combahee River Raid, and Black Freedom during the Civil War* to celebrations of **Juneteenth**; and in August, acclaimed journalist and author **Lynda Schuster** shared the gripping story of protest leader Tsietsi Mashinini and the others whose valiant resistance led to the end of South African apartheid.

But for me, the most deeply affecting of our recent programs was **"My Dad's Story: Remembering the Holocaust,"** co-presented by Sue Tresatti and Richard Murphy and co-sponsored by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh. Richard, a historian who also facilitates our "From the Foxhole" series of conversations with Carnegie's veterans, opened the event with sobering historical context of the genocide of the Holocaust. Then Sue took the stage. With over a hundred people in attendance, our Music Hall was hushed as she spoke about her father Norman Roth, a survivor of imprisonment in multiple Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Sue's video recordings of her father speaking about this unimaginable period of his life were piercing and undeniable, and her message pleading for understanding and empathy between people touched countless hearts that night.

We look forward to continuing to provide free opportunities for lifelong learning, creativity, and community connection here at the Library. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming programs soon!

GET INVOLVED!

JOIN A LIBRARY GROUP

Join one of our regularly recurring program groups for community, learning, and fun! Learn more about these groups & stay up-to-date at CarnegieCarnegie.org.

» **Carnegie Crafters:** Share advice and inspiration, chat with new friends, and work on your knitting, crochet, embroidery, or other fiber arts projects in a supportive group setting. Meets on weekday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Email CarnegieCrafters@gmail.com for the full schedule.

» **Time Travelers Historical Fiction Book Club:** Explore the past with historical fiction. This group meets on the third Thursday of every month at 11AM in the Mezzanine.

» **Paperback Platoon: A Book Group for Women Veterans & Family Members:** Meet other women veterans, service members, and their family members in this monthly book club. Meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30PM in the Mezzanine.

» **PALS Book Club: Book Discussions for Senior Adults:** Lively book discussions for senior adults. Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1PM in the Lincoln Gallery.

» **Meditate Together:** Meditate and discuss mindfulness every first and third Monday at 12:15PM in the Mezzanine.

» **Mindful Yoga with Leah Shuck:** Gentle, slower flow yoga practice every second and fourth Monday at 5:30PM in the Studio.

» **Kitchen Dancing:** Freeform movement for adults 50+. Meets every second and fourth Tuesday at 5:30PM in the Studio.

DISCOVER MORE LIBRARY GROUPS ON THE NEXT PAGE ⟶

Library Groups **continued from previous page.**

» **Ukulele Strum-Along:** Amber Rozel of Steel City Ukuleles leads our monthly ukulele group. Beginners are welcome! Meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6PM in the Lincoln Gallery.

» **Meeple Meet-Up:** A monthly Euro-games group for ages 18+. Meets on the third or fourth Saturday of each month from 10AM to 4PM in the Lincoln Gallery.

» **Carnegie Modular Railroaders:** An all-ages group for anyone interested in model railroading. Meets one or two Saturdays each month from 1:30 to 3PM in the Studio.



GARDENING PROGRAMS: GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY AND FOSTERING GROWTH

-Bri Grygo, Youth Library Assistant

When I began planning our gardening programs, I wanted the garden to be more than a space that was simply nice to look at. I wanted it to be a place where people could learn, experiment, get their hands dirty, and discover something new. That meant being intentional about what we planted, where we planted it, and why. From there, the garden became a starting point for programs that explored everything from soil and plant care to cooking, art, sustainability, and even a little science.

Throughout the season, youth patrons learned the foundations of gardening, including soil composition, natural amendments, companion planting, and proper planting and watering techniques. Caring for the garden became a learning experience; we talked about the idea that a "weed" is simply a plant growing in the wrong place. We also looked at how a garden can keep visual interest throughout the year. During our dream garden planning workshop, we explored textured, colorful bark, branches, and other natural elements for winter!

Of course, one of the most rewarding parts of gardening is harvesting what you grow. Participants picked cucumbers, okra, pumpkins, herbs, and flowers. Harvesting fresh vegetables was a brand-new experience for some. We explored different fruits through taste tests, observing their color, texture, smell, shape, and flavor while learning how climate and environment influence production. The teens were ecstatic tasting our library-grown melons!

Our herb programs gave us another way to explore the garden through our senses. Participants smelled, tasted, and harvested herbs while learning how the natural oils in their leaves create their distinctive aromas. We talked about how herbs can be used in cooking, baking, beauty products, and even laundry. We also turned some of our harvest into refreshments, highlighting the lemon basil in our limeade.

The garden became a source of creativity throughout the season. Participants experimented with natural dyes, flower pounding, sun printing, and using natural materials as paintbrushes. We discovered that plants provide much more than food; they provide color, texture, fragrance, and inspiration.

Flowers became another way to explore both creativity and sustainability. Participants harvested flowers from our native pollinator gardens and our dahlia patch, learning the basics of bouquet making, including the roles of focal and filler flowers. We also made flower frogs out of air-dry clay and compared them with traditional floral foam. Flower frogs offer a durable, reusable alternative to single-use floral foam, allowing us to connect floral design with conversations about sustainability.



Even our pumpkins and tea offered learning opportunities. During our pumpkin decorating workshop, participants discovered that some pumpkins are grown specifically for aesthetics rather than consumption. And at our teen tea party, we sipped on a variety of herbal teas and learned that many herbal beverages do not actually come from the traditional tea shrub, Camellia sinensis.

The garden season isn't quite finished! Coming up, we'll explore seed saving so that we can continue growing. We'll also dive into a luffa program to discover how the familiar household sponge begins as a plant growing in the garden.

Most importantly, I hope this season has shown that gardening is for everyone. It can be easy to feel discouraged when a plant doesn't grow the way you expected. Gardening isn't about being perfect; it's about learning, trying again, and finding what works for you. Just as every reader has a book, every plant has a gardener. Sometimes you just have to find the one that speaks to you.

Music for Every Age: Family Performance Series Takes the Stage

-Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director



This summer, we introduced the **Family Performance Series**, a lineup of concerts created with our youngest listeners in mind and designed to be just as fun for the grown-ups who bring them. Our goal is simple. We want every family in our community to feel at home in our historic Music Hall and Studio, and to leave with a shared memory made through live music.

The series kicked off on Saturday, August 8 with **Lee Robinson & ISKA's** *Music Beyond Sound*. Lee, a familiar face to many Pittsburgh families after more than 15 years at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, invited kids to listen closely, play, and imagine along with the music. The fun didn't end when the concert did. Families went home with an activity sheet of drawing prompts and a reading list Lee curated, so the experience could continue at the kitchen table, in the car, or on a return trip to the Library.

On September 12, **Cello Fury** took the stage to show how movie music tells a story. Taking kids and grown-ups on a journey from the silent film era to today's blockbusters, the group blended live performance with foley sound effects and invited the audience to help build the story themselves. It was a chance for young listeners to discover that the music behind their favorite films is made by real musicians, playing real instruments. Kids even got to try a cello, sized just for them, at the cello petting zoo.

What makes these concerts special is the setting. Our Music Hall has welcomed audiences for over 125 years now, and it gives young listeners a chance to hear live music in a historic space built for it. Family performances are shorter, relaxed, and welcoming, with the lights kept on in the seating area. There is space to wiggle, dance, ask questions, and react out loud. For some kids, it is their very first concert. We hope it will be the first of many.

The series continues this fall and winter with two programs we can't wait to share.

In November, our resident company **Resonance Works** presents *The Little Prince Musical Storytime*, a shorter, storytime-style introduction to their full production of Rachel Portman's opera for all ages, based on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's timeless story. Back by popular demand after its 2024 run, the full production returns to the Music Hall November 20 through 22, with the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus playing the parts of stars and birds. The Storytime is a great way for kids to meet some of the characters before seeing the whole show.

Then, on Sunday, December 6 at 3PM, the **Sweaty Already String Band** returns to perform live accompaniment to Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*. This holiday favorite was so popular last year that it oversold the Studio, so this year we're moving it upstairs to the Music Hall to make room for even more families. (Please note, the seating area lights will be dimmed for the film.) Bring the whole crew, from grandparents to toddlers, for a warm, funny, and heartfelt start to the holiday season.

The Family Performance Series is part of our larger commitment to making live performance accessible to everyone in Carnegie and the surrounding communities. Every concert in the series is pay-what-makes-you-happy, so families can choose the price that works for them. Whether your family already has a favorite seat in the Music Hall or you've never stepped inside, we'd love to see you there.



Visit our website at CarnegieCarnegie.org for tickets and the latest updates on upcoming family performances. We'll save you a seat!

Library: Adults

PITTSBURGH CLASSIC MOVIE CLUB: JAMES STEWART SERIES

Join the Pittsburgh Classic Movie Club for a holiday-themed series celebrating the great James Stewart. All screenings start at 7PM.

» **OCT 26**: *BELL, BOOK & CANDLE (1958)*
» **NOV 30**: *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU (1938)*
» **DEC 28**: *THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER (1940)*

ESTATE PLANNING FOR EVERYONE

All are invited to join in an evening reception and program all about estate planning, estate and trust administration, charitable giving, and more!

» **OCT 26** 5PM

CRITICAL THINKING 101: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON TRUTH, TRUST, AND TECHNOLOGY

Join Vernée Smith of the Unplugged Society, news producer Alex Popichak, and librarian Walker Evans for a talk about social media, chatbots, and who defines our shared reality.

» **OCT 27** 7:30PM

EXPLORING AFROFUTURISM

Join Pitt professor and poet Gary Jackson for a fascinating conversation on the the richly imagined worlds of Afrofuturism.

» **NOV 4** 7PM

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Join us for our annual Veterans Day Celebration at the Carnegie Carnegie. Local historian and veteran, Richard Murphy, leads this year's event as emcee.

» **NOV 11** 11AM

GRATITUDE MONTH: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Learn the history of AA, explore the concept of gratitude, and hear about the power of AA from members.

» **NOV 12** 7PM

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.***

KNIFE SHARPENING WITH DENNIS SNEDDON

Dennis Sneddon returns with his whetstone tips, tools & techniques just in time for Thanksgiving. *A $15 donation is suggested; all proceeds support the Library.*

» **NOV 17** 7PM

STAY STEADY, STAY STRONG, STAY INDEPENDENT

Join our friends from ComForCare and Carson Elder Homecare for a session on optimal balance as we age.

» **NOV 18** 12:30PM

LIBRARY GROUPS

Our Library is home to many special interest groups, book clubs, and more! Check out current offerings and opportunties on pages 5 & 6 or visit our website, CarnegieCarnegie.org to learn more.

Library: Children & Teens

PLAY, LEARN, GROW: PLAYTIME & FAMILY WORKSHOP SERIES

A 5-week, play-based family workshop series specially designed for children ages 1-3 and their parents or caregivers.

» **FRIDAYS IN OCTOBER** 10:15-11:30AM

TEEN SFX MAKEUP WITH ZZBEAUTY

Youth participants will learn the basics of special effects makeup. Using latex and other makeup techniques, participants will create realistic-looking wounds, scars, and spooky effects just in time for Halloween!

» **OCT 28** 3-4PM

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: MINIONS & MONSTERS (2026)

Join us for our next family movie night in the Studio.

» **NOV 9** 6:45PM

HERE FOR TEENS: A COMMUNITY TOWN HALL WITH AUTISM CONNECTION OF PA

Part of our educational series designed for parents, caregivers, and others who care about the well-being and future of teens. In this session, we will explore practical daily support strategies, ways to provide support during a meltdown, recognizing common triggers, and building a better understanding of behavior.

» **NOV 12** 5PM

CARNEGIE CELEBRATES THE SEASON

This special annual event returns with crafts, snacks, photos with Santa, and more! *In partnership with Carnegie Borough's Carol Covi Children's Events Committee.*

» **DEC 5** 10AM-1PM

AFTERSCHOOL AT THE LIBRARY

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

» Chess Club [5+] - 1st & 3rd Mondays
» Dog Days (Therapy Dog Visits) [5+] - 2nd Mondays
» LEGO Club [5+] - Every Tuesday
» Teen Library Lounge [12+] - Every Wednesday
» Dungeons & Dragons [10+] - Varies

EARLY LEARNING & STORYTIMES

Check out the ongoing programs available for our youngest patrons and their caregivers.

» Baby/Toddler Storytime [0-3] - Tuesdays at 10:30AM
» Stay & Play [0-5] - Wednesdays at 11AM
» Preschool Storytime [3-5] - Thursdays at 11:30AM
» Arabic-English Bilingual Storytime
» B.B. the Book Fairy Storytime

CARNEGIE CARNEGIE'S STORYTIME GAZETTE

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

Civil War & Espy Post

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 & on Zoom.*

» **NOV 14 - SCOTT PATCHAN** *LINCOLN AND THE SHENANDOAH: 1862 AND 1864*

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR 2027 2ND SATURDAY LECTURE SERIES:

» **JAN 9 - JONATHAN NEU** *OUR ONWARD MARCH: THE G.A.R. IN THE PROGRESSIVE ERA*

» **FEB 13 - KATIE WOLFE** *LOVE SONGS & STORIES OF THE CIVIL WAR*

» **MAR 20 - JULIE MUJIC** *THE ELDEST DAUGHTER: PROTECTING CIVIL WAR LEGACIES [NOTE 3RD SATURDAY DATE]*

» **MAY 8 - JACK OWENS** *THE BATTLE OF SECOND WINCHESTER*

» **JUN 12 - CAROLYN IVANOFF** *CORNELIA HANCOCK: CIVIL WAR NURSE*

» **SEP 11 - DOUGLAS MILLER** *THE GREATEST PRISON ESCAPE*

» **OCT 9 - KEVEN WALKER** *CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION: A HISTORY*

CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

Our 2027 Symposium, *June 1863: The Road to Gettysburg*, features nine dynamic historians who will unpack the movements, battles, personalities, and decisions that shaped how the battle of Gettysburg came to be fought and when and where it happened. *Get tickets at CarnegieCarnegie.org until March 29.*

» **APR 2-3**



UPCOMING MUSIC HALL & STUDIO EVENTS →

Music Hall & Studio

DETAILS & TICKET INFORMATION:
CARNEGIECARNEGIE.ORG

MILESTONE CELEBRATION WITH BENNY BENACK II

MUSIC HALL Together, we raised over $175,000 during our *Milestone Matching Campaign* this year. With the match, we raised more than $350,000 to support our work and programs. **This concert featuring the legendary Benny Benack II is our thank you to our incredible community for making this happen.** *Pay what makes you happy!*

» **OCT 27** 7PM

PITTSBURGH JAZZ ORCHESTRA QUINTET

STUDIO The PJO presents a quintet of its members to celebrate the rich legacy of jazz and the ways in which that legacy continues today.

» **NOV 8** 7PM

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION CONCERT

STUDIO Our Veterans Day celebrations will continue into the evening with a party and concert featuring Adam Lee-Morgan and his band.

» **NOV 11** 7PM

STUDIO JAZZ SERIES: MARTI AGGAZIO ENSEMBLE

STUDIO Vocalist Marti Aggazio leads a talented group in a performance that will highlight the creativity, spontaneity, and musical conversation at the heart of jazz.

» **NOV 19** 7PM

EMMET OTTER'S JUG-BAND CHRISTMAS WITH SWEATY ALREADY STRING BAND

MUSIC HALL *Back by popular demand!* Join us for a screening of Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* with live accompaniment by the Sweaty Already String Band.

» **DEC 6** 3PM

STUDIO JAZZ SERIES: HEIDI BEATTY

STUDIO Vocalist Heidi Beatty returns to the Carnegie Carnegie for a special holiday jazz concert, closing out our Studio Jazz Series for 2026.

» **DEC 17** 7PM

DUKE ELLINGTON'S *THE NUTCRACKER SUITE* WITH ADAM-LEE MORGAN JAZZ ORCHESTRA

MUSIC HALL A Carnegie Carnegie holiday tradition! Join us for our annual performance of Ellington & Strayhorn's *The Nutcracker Suite.* The Adam Lee-Morgan Jazz Orchestra will perform live.

» **DEC 21** 7PM

SAVE THE DATES!

2027 STUDIO JAZZ SERIES

All concerts begin at 7PM in the Studio.

» **JAN 17: DAVE THROCKMORTON**
» **FEB 9: TOM ROBERTS' MARDI GRAS**
» **FEB 25: TIM STEVENS**

ON THE RECORD

A 4-part vinyl listening party with Reggie Watkins & special guests. All programs begin at 6:30PM.

» **JAN 27**
» **FEB 24**
» **MAR 31**
» **APR 28**

If I've been once, do I need to see it again? Yes, you do!

-Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator



In many ways, 2026 has been a transformative year for the Captain Thomas Espy Post. *But how can that be? It's just a static exhibit. It's looked the same for years. If I've been once, do I need to see it again?* **Yes, you do!**

During the spring, the Carnegie Carnegie became the second stop for the traveling *Faces of Civil War Nurses* photo exhibit. This dynamic exhibit attracted hundreds of visitors to the building, including many active and retired nurses, to witness the powerful stories of 20 trailblazing caregivers. We're thankful to the **National Museum of Civil War Medicine** and ***Military Images*** magazine for their support in making this exhibition a reality.



Last year, we were awarded grants from the **Institute of Museum & Library Services** and **America250PA** to conserve two fragile Civil War textiles from the Espy Post collection. In partnership with **RBX Conservation** in Greenbelt, MD, a century of soot was carefully cleaned from the textiles and museum-grade torsos were crafted to carefully support the fragile garments. Remaining funds were used to conserve two rare Civil War haversacks in the collection, which will be returned to the Espy Post this month, marking the first time in decades that these pieces have been seen on display.

During the spring, we partnered with **Civil War Trails** to become the first of two sites in western Pennsylvania to join the Civil War Trails network. This program will connect the Espy Post with more than 1,500 sites across six states, with the recognized CWT trailblazers attracting visitors off I-79. A new interpretive sign located in front of our building highlights the importance of the Espy Post and will hopefully attract casual passersby to take in a Saturday tour.

Through six months of lectures, our monthly **2nd Saturday Civil War Series** is on pace for record attendance. Typically held in the Lincoln Gallery on the 2nd Saturday of each month, nationally known authors and historians explore Civil War topics ranging from battles, strategy, and politics to the experience of the enslaved, women, soldiers, and civilians. We have a robust lineup of speakers for 2027, and we hope you'll join us!

Finally, last April we welcomed more than 150 attendees to our annual **Civil War Symposium**. Over two days, eight historians unpacked the pivotal history of the war's first year, with attendees traveling to Carnegie from as far as the west coast. Tickets for our ninth annual Civil War Symposium, scheduled for April 2 & 3, are already on sale! By popular demand, we're returning to a Gettysburg theme in which we'll explore *June 1863: The Road to Gettysburg*. More information and tickets are available at CarnegieCarnegie.org.

Through lectures, symposia, exhibits, and partnerships, we're constantly looking for new ways to share our story. So, if you haven't visited the Espy Post, or haven't visited in a while, we hope to see you on an upcoming Saturday from 11AM-3PM.

STAFF PICKS

FEAR & LOATHING ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL '72 BY HUNTER S. THOMPSON

Every few years as we enter election season, I'll go to the shelf and pull my copy of *Fear & Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72*. In this raucous tale, author Hunter S. Thompson, the late pioneer of Gonzo journalism, chronicles the presidential campaign of 1972 between Richard Nixon and George McGovern. Set against a backdrop of rising inflation and an unpopular war, Thompson takes us from the primaries to the conventions and inside the campaigns of two equally unpopular candidates.



While we're not in a presidential election year, *Fear & Loathing* offers a retrospective look at a divided America, allowing us to consider where our beliefs and our politics have intersected or diverged over the past half century. *-Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator*

MIDNIGHT TIMETABLE: A NOVEL IN GHOST STORIES BY BORA CHUNG & TRANSLATED BY ANTON HUR

Korean author Bora Chung made a splash in 2023 when her collection of short stories, *Cursed Bunny,* was a finalist for the National Book Award in Translated Literature. Her newest book *Midnight Timetable* occupies a kind of middle ground between short stories and novels: our protagonist is a new hire at a mysterious "Institute," who gradually realizes that the mundane-seeming objects housed there – a white sneaker, a silk handkerchief – are all haunted or cursed.



Each "ghost story" delves into the circumstances surrounding a particular item – a white sneaker, a silk handkerchief – in the process probing at the more familiar curses of contemporary life. Chung's light touch and sensitivity to the surreal grant a gentleness and accessibility to the darker material here, including explorations of abuse, oppression, conversion therapy, and economic struggle. *-Walker Evans, Library Director*

MORE STAFF PICKS THIS WAY ⟶

STAFF PICKS

NONE OF THIS IS TRUE BY LISA JEWELL



Alix Summers is a successful podcaster who meets a strange woman named Josie Fair in a pub on their shared 45th birthday. Josie seems harmless, even a little sad, and Alix takes a leap, deciding Josie would make an interesting subject for her next series.

What could go wrong? (Yes, I asked that in my last book review too.)

Everything. (Just like last time.)

Before long, Josie has worked her way into Alix's home and family, and the line between the storyteller and the story starts to blur. Lisa Jewell keeps you guessing about who to trust, and the moment you feel sure of anything, she makes you second-guess it. *-Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director*

LOOSE PARTS: INSPIRING PLAY IN YOUNG CHILDREN BY LISA DALY & MIRIAM BELOGLOVSKY WITH PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNA DALY

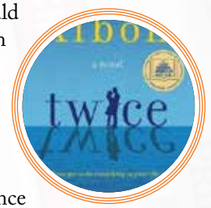


Lately, I have been reading a lot about the importance of play in the lives of children. We often think of play as a break from learning, but in reality, children often learn and grow through play. As the late, great Fred Rogers summed it up best, "play is the real work of childhood."

One book that I would like to recommend to any parent, caregiver, or childhood educator is *Loose Parts: Inspiring Play in Young Children* by Lisa Daly & Miriam Beloglovsky, featuring photographs by Jenna Daly. Written by two professors of early childhood education, this book is a highly visual guide to using "loose parts" in play with children to spark their imagination and facilitate exploratory learning. "Loose parts" can be just about anything that children can manipulate, move, or change as part of their play. It could be natural materials such as stones, twigs, and acorns, or colorful, synthetic bits and bobs from around the house like buttons or bottle caps. In open-ended loose parts play, these everyday items can become something entirely new based on a child's imagination – a pot becomes a drum, marbles become currency, and autumn leaves can be fashioned into a beautiful work of art.

I guarantee that the colorful photos in this guide will inspire you to exclaim at least once, "we gotta try that!" And if you want to give loose parts play a try at the Library, check out our weekly "Stay & Play Wednesday" playgroups and our twice yearly "Play, Learn, Grow" caregiver-child workshop series, and then keep an eye out on the calendar in 2027 as we introduce a brand new "loose parts" inspired play program! *-Mikayla Wobrak, Children's Librarian*

TWICE BY MITCH ALBOM



We all wish at some point that we could go back in time and redo something in our lives. Alfie Logan, the protagonist of *Twice* by Mitch Albom, receives a magical gift from his mom before she passes away: the ability to take a second chance. There are a few rules that apply: you get two chances and once the wish is done, you can't go back, no matter what. All Alfie had to do was tap twice anywhere on his body and say the word "Twice."

The book follows Alfie throughout his life, exploring how he used the wishes to turn things around. If you enjoy the other books written by Mitch Albom, then you will like this one. His books have always been easy to read and inspirational.*-Katie Byerly, Public Services Manager*

BUCKEYE BY PATRICK RYAN



I had the chance to meet Patrick Ryan this past spring during the International Public Library Fundraising Conference in Columbus, OH. I adored him as a speaker – he was funny, political, humble – so I knew I would enjoy (or at the very least appreciate) his new novel, *Buckeye.*

While he has had success in the short story space and as editor of *One Story* (may I also suggest that?!), *Buckeye* is his breakthrough novel, and it's easy to see why. Set in small-town Ohio, this book spans multiple generations, centering on two couples whose lives become forever intertwined during World War II and throughout the decades that follow.

Ryan explores complex generational trauma, grief, and loss through a stunningly beautiful and uniquely American story that blends historical fiction with an unexpected touch of magical realism. In Ryan's telling, much of the book came together while he was writing out of the home of Ann Patchett, whom the book is dedicated to. I love to hear about writers and artists supporting one another! *-Marlee Gallagher, Executive Director*

A SEASON OF GIVING



THANK YOU to the more than 270 Carnegie Carnegie donors that truly made the last few months an incredible season of giving at the Library!

Over the summer as our 125th anniversary celebrations continued and the nation celebrated its 250th, a generous longtime donor pledged an incredible $125,000 match to support the mission and programs of the Library & Music Hall. All we had to do was raise an additional $125,000 from the community by October 1. *No pressure, right?!*

While it at first seemed daunting, once news of this campaign hit, our community showed up! We were well on our way to reaching our goal by September 1 – just in time for *Love Your Library* month and an additional match opportunity through the Jack Buncher Foundation.

Realizing the chance to make an even bigger impact, a second donor stepped up with an additional pledge, and our match pool was increased to $175,000!

More supporters, including over 85 brand new Carnegie Carnegie donors, contributed, and by the time our annual benefit *The Secret Garden* rolled around on September 25, we were nearly 90% of the way to our goal.

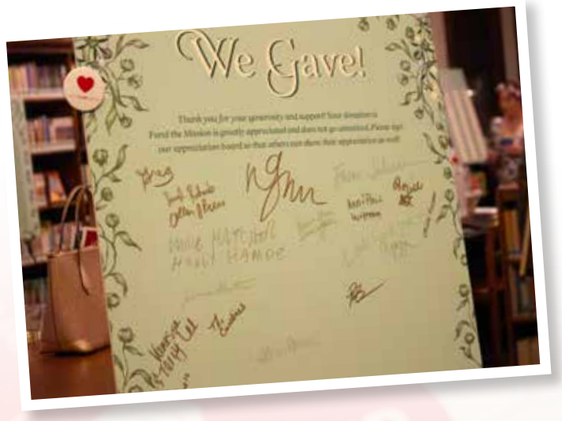
Our community was inspired by the message shared by our event's honorary chair, Dana Craig, that night – a message about nurturing curiosity and learning, and how there is no better place to do that than right here at the Library – and by October 1, we not only reached our goal, *we surpassed it*.

During this milestone campaign, more than $180,000 was raised to directly support the Library, Music Hall, Espy Post, and all of the programs, events, and resources that enrich our community everyday.

Reaching our goal unlocked the full $175,000 match, securing over $350,000 for the Carnegie Carnegie. That's nearly half of our entire annual budget for 2027!

You did that, and we are so grateful to have you on our side, believing in the work we do, and ensuring we stick around for many more years to come. We simply could not exist without the support of you, our community of dedicated patrons and donors. *Thank you.*

-Marlee Gallagher, Executive Director









MANY, MANY THANKS

The following gifts were received between March 1, 2026-September 30, 2026. Thank you to all of our donors who support the Carnegie Carnegie and truly make our work possible. *We are so grateful for you!*

Please note: If any of the information presented here is incorrect or if your information is missing for the time period listed above, please contact Marlee Gallagher, Executive Director, at gallagherm@CarnegieCarnegie.org or call 412.276.3456 x8 so we can correct this in our next issue.

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