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## For Immediate Release

### Catch the Reading Bug This Summer!

*Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Kicks Off Summer Reading with its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Extravaganza*

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – May 30, 2008)** This summer, area families are invited to hop, jump, fly or crawl to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's 8<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Reading Extravaganza! On Sunday June 8, 2008 from 12-5 pm, the Library will host a free outdoor festival at the Main Library in Oakland to kick off the start of its Summer Reading Program. The Library's lawn will be transformed into an extravaganza of fun, with storytimes, activities, entertainment and crafts for all ages.

Families attending the Library's Extravaganza will be able to:

- Craft a masterpiece at the Citiparks Roving Art Cart;
- Discover how vegetables grow with Katherine Ayres, author of *Up, Down, and Around*;
- Enjoy an afternoon of tea and crafts at the Victorian Tea Garden;
- See magical things happen with Eddie Ace, the magician's magician;
- Decorate a Smiley Cookie courtesy of Eat'n Park Hospitality Group;
- Flex their spider muscles at the Climbing Wall;
- Play video games, do crafts or just hang out in the Teen Metamorphosis Area;
- Rock out with music, games and prizes themed around the Disney Channel Original Movie *Camp Rock*; and
- Meet Kennywood's Kenny Kangaroo and the Pittsburgh Steelers' Steely McBeam.

#### Schedule of Events

- 12:30 • Pittsburgh Concert Society, 2008 Young Artist Winners
- 12:45 • *Balkan Babes* - hear folk music come alive through their unique sounds (Performance Tent)
- 1:00 • *Bug Tales* for infants and toddlers (Family Play Shop Tent)
- 1:15 • Story sharing with Katherine Ayres, author of *Up, Down, and Around* (Katherine Ayres Tent)
- 1:30 • Anansi the Spider Puppet Shows, presented by the Carnegie Characters (inside Library, Children's Department, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
- 2:00 • Master storyteller Temujin (Performance Tent)
  - Flute and piano performance by Carnegie Library Staff members Elise and Rebekah (inside Library, Quiet Reading Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
  - *Bug Tales* for infants and toddlers (Family Play Shop Tent)

-more-

## **ADD 1: Catch the Reading Bug This Summer!**

- 2:15 • Frick Steel Drum Band – Students from Frick Middle School  
• Story sharing with Katherine Ayres, author of *Up, Down, and Around* (Katherine Ayres Tent)
- 3:00 • Opera Theater of Pittsburgh presents *Green Eggs and Ham*, featuring Soprano Amy Stabnau (Performance Tent)  
• Anansi the Spider Puppet Shows, presented by the Carnegie Characters (inside Library, Children’s Department, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
- 3:15 • Celebrate Pittsburgh’s sports with historical reenactor Greg Kenney  
• Story sharing with Katherine Ayres, author of *Up, Down, and Around* (Katherine Ayres Tent)
- 4:00 • *Insect Odyssey* by national recording artist and children’s entertainer Ray Owen (Performance Tent)  
• *Bug Tales* for infants and toddlers (Family Play Shop Tent)
- 4:15 • Let the challenge begin, when *The Balloonatic Fringe* tries to make your favorite bug out of a balloon

This summer get the whole family involved in summer reading! Adults, children and teens are encouraged to sign up for the Library’s Summer Reading Programs at the Extravaganza. Summer reading helps children develop life-long reading habits and aids them in maintaining their literacy skills and education throughout the years. The goal of the Library’s Summer Reading Program is to create opportunities for children to continue learning in a fun, enriching environment. Throughout the summer all Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh locations will offer free and fun programming featuring story hours, puppet shows, craft programs and other entertainment to help customers “Catch the Reading Bug!” Special book lists, prizes and online discussion boards are available for teens and adults as well.

2008 Extravaganza sponsors include: Equitable Resources (Performance Tent), Heinz North America (Teen Summer Reading Tent), American Eagle (Teen Craft Tent), Duquesne Light (Adult Summer Reading Tent), Dominion (Library Card Sign-Up Tent), Giant Eagle and Media Sponsors: Comcast, Radio Disney AM 540 and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s 8th Annual Summer Reading Extravaganza is free and open to the public. For more information, call 412-622-3114 or visit [www.carnegielibrary.org](http://www.carnegielibrary.org).

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### **About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** *Building Communities, Enriching Lives*

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country’s great public libraries. Through its 19 neighborhood locations, including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region’s most visited asset. Each year the Library provides more than 8,000 free programs, classes and other learning and training opportunities that are tailored to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of people living in Western Pennsylvania.

### **About Libraries for LIFE**

While Andrew Carnegie provided the seed money to build the library facilities; he did not leave an endowment for their ongoing operations and maintenance. Thanks to local, county and state government, corporations, foundations and individuals, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Libraries *for* LIFE Capital Campaign is renewing library buildings to meet the needs of today's library customer. In 2000 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh embarked upon a \$55 million capital campaign, the first in the Library's history, to make neighborhood libraries accessible system-wide. Since the campaign began, the Library has renovated or relocated six neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. The visibility of the completed renovations has brought new vitality, with all locations benefiting from increased visitor and circulation numbers.