



Contact:
Suzanne M. Thinner
Communications Manager
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412.578.2458 (office)
412.983.9409 (cell)

For Immediate Release

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Honors Young Artists

*Winners of Library's Annual Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest and
High School Photo Contest Announced*

(PITTSBURGH, PA – June 11, 2008) The creativity of high school student authors, poets and photographers was challenged and rewarded through two recent contests at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

After carefully judging an impressive number of high-caliber entries, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh announced the winners of its annual Ralph Munn Creative Writing and High School Photo Contests. Open to students in grades 9-12 throughout the county, these contests are just one way the Library engages its teen audience. Additional programs and events for middle school and high school students are described at www.carnegielibrary.org/teens.

Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest

During his 36-year tenure as Director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Ralph Munn saw significant changes to the Library – particularly improved services for young adults. Prior to his death in 1975 Munn provided an endowment to continue serving the young adults of Allegheny County by providing opportunities for creative writing through the Library.

The 2008 Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest received more than 250 entries in the categories of Poetry, Short Fiction and Creative Nonfiction. Submissions were judged by writing professors from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh, who selected the winning entries:

Poetry

1st Place (\$250): Dani Lyon, Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts Academy (Grade 12)

"A Eulogy for American English"

2nd Place (\$100): Katie Doyle, Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts Academy (Grade 12)

"Dreaming of Flying"

Honorable Mention: Victoria Simon, West Allegheny High School (Grade 12)

"Canal Street"

Short Fiction

1st Place (\$250): Elizabeth De Lyser, Baldwin High School (Grade 12)

"Smile"

2nd Place (\$100): Anna Quinn, Montour High School (Grade 12)

"Fortune Cookie Teller"

Honorable Mention: Faith Beck, Upper St. Clair High School (Grade 12)

"The Credence Tree"

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Creative Nonfiction

1st Place (\$250): Richa Bhasin, Moon Area High School (Grade 12)

"This Way"

2nd Place (\$100): Jacob Rosati, Upper St. Clair High School (Grade 12)

"Blue"

Honorable Mention: Amanda Nichols, Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts Academy (Grade 12)

"Letters from Greece"

High School Photo Contest

For the past decade Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Department has encouraged teens to capture the images of our region through an annual High School Photo Contest. Home to the Pittsburgh Photographic Library, a premiere collection of historic images of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, representing the work of such noted photographers as Esther Bublely, Clyde Hare, Luke Swank and Frank Bingaman, the Library's Pennsylvania Department is the region's premier resource for Pennsylvania history.

This year's High School Photo Contest, theme "Imagine What You Can Do Here! In Celebration of Pittsburgh 250" challenged teens to portray the region in the new century through a single photograph. Funding for the 2008 contest was provided by the Allegheny Regional Asset District's Renaissance Grant Program, a new initiative designed to showcase the work of regional assets on specific projects of value to them and the community. Each of the 123 entries will become a part of the historic Pittsburgh Photographic Collection and will be on public display on the second floor of CLP – Main in Oakland (4400 Forbes Avenue) until June 13.

Best Achievement in Photography (\$500)

Tom Morrison, Chartiers Valley High School (Grade 10)

"Morrison 2 – Boy viewing the city from the incline"

Second Place (\$250)

Ryan Carter, Chartiers Valley High School (Grade 11)

"Pittsburgh In a Drop of Water 2"

Third Place (\$100)

Alex Kaplan, Fox Chapel High School (Grade 12)

"Pittsburgh Bridges"

Showstopper Award (\$100)

Jonathan Springer, Winchester Thurston (Grade 10)

"Potential Future"

(2) Honorable Mentions (\$50)

Elizabeth Clauss, Winchester Thurston (Grade 12)

"The Wholey's Accordion Player"

Nathan Ong, Winchester Thurston (Grade 10)

"Chihulyscape"

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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.