



Contact:
Suzanne M. Thinner
Communications Manager
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412.578.2458 (office)
412.688.8609 (cell)

For Immediate Release

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Celebrates Black History Month

(PITTSBURGH, PA – January 29, 2009) Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) plans to celebrate Black History Month with a variety of special events in February. Each of CLP's library locations will honor the work of African American authors, artists and musicians with a host of free programs for children, teens, adults and families. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh events are free and open to the public, otherwise noted. Seating is limited. Please visit www.carnegielibrary.org for event details.

Selected events include:

Family Read-Alouds!

Family Read Aloud: John Steptoe: Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

Saturday, February 7 (1 PM)

CLP – East Liberty / 130 S. Whitfield Street

Registration required for this event. Please contact the August Wilson Center for African American Culture at 412.258.2664.

Family Read Aloud: Debbie Allen: Dancing in the Wings

Saturday, February 14 (1 PM)

CLP – Homewood / 7101 Hamilton Ave

Registration required for this event. Please contact the August Wilson Center for African American Culture at 412.258.2664.

Family Read Aloud: Faith Ringgold: Tar Beach

Saturday, February 21 (1 PM)

CLP - Hill District / 2177 Centre Avenue at Kirkpatrick Street

Registration required for this event. Please contact the August Wilson Center for African American Culture at 412.258.2664.

Featured Events

Lecture and discussion: Pittsburgh's Underground Railroad

Thursday, February 12 (6:30 PM)

CLP – Main / 4400 Forbes Avenue

First Floor, Quiet Reading Room

Soldiers and Sailors Museum Historian John L. Ford examines the Underground Railroad, local Pittsburgh enslavement and its global implications in the last four centuries with a comprehensive lecture and discussion.

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Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Celebrates Black History Month

An Evening with Beverly Jenkins

Monday, February 16 (6:30 PM)

CLP – Homewood / 7101 Hamilton Ave

Popular historical romance novelist Beverly Jenkins will discuss her work and answer your burning questions. Copies of Ms. Jenkins' books will be available for sale, or bring your own and have it signed. Tickets \$10. *Presented by Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures. Visit www.pittsburghlectures.org for tickets.*

The Souls of Black Baseball: Barnstorming the Keystone State

Tuesday, February 17 (12:15 PM)

CLP – Downtown & Business / 612 Smithfield Street

In this live presentation, Bob Allen will examine the rich history of black baseball as played in Pennsylvania. *Presented in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.*

Workshop: The History of African American Beauty and Culture in Pittsburgh

Saturday, February 28 (2 PM)

CLP – Main / 4400 Forbes Avenue

First Floor, Quiet Reading Room

Celeta Hickman, oral historian for the Teenie Harris collection at the Carnegie Museum of Art, will present a workshop on the history of African American beauty culture and its relationship to black women, education and entrepreneurship in Pittsburgh.

Programs for Kids, Teens and Families

CLP – Brookline / 708 Brookline Boulevard

Teen Book Discussion: K.L. Going: The Liberation of Gabriel King

Monday, February 23 (4 PM)

CLP – Carrick / 1811 Brownsville Road

Family Jazz Storytime

Saturday, February 21 (10:30 AM)

CLP – Main / 4400 Forbes Avenue

The Works of Black Poets: Poems read by community guests

Saturday, February 7 (2 PM); Children's Room

Family Fun Night: Stories by and about African Americans

Tuesday, February 10 (7 PM); Children's Room

Informal Handmade Books: A Patchwork of African American History

Saturday February 14 (2 PM); Children's Room

-more-

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Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Celebrates Black History Month

CLP – Squirrel Hill

5801 Forbes Avenue

Quilt A Tale: Create a square on our “Story Quilt”

Thursday - Thursday, February 15 - 22 (Ongoing); Children's Programming Room

CLP – Woods Run / 1201 Woods Run Avenue

The Works of Black Authors: Read by community guests

Saturday, February 7, 14, 21 and 28 (1 PM)

Programs for Adults

CLP – Carrick / 1811 Brownsville Road

African American Music

Saturday, February 21 (2 PM)

Caruso Music's discussion on African American composers will incorporate a variety of African American music selections, ranging from gospel to Motown.

CLP – Downtown & Business / 612 Smithfield Street

Tuesday Lunchtime Movie: King: Man of Peace in a Time of War

Tuesday, February 3 (12:15 PM)

This DVD examines the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tuesday Lunchtime Movie: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Tuesday, February 10 (12:15 PM)

Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn play a couple whose attitudes are challenged when their daughter brings home her fiancée who is black.

Smithfield Critics Book Discussion: Barack Obama: Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance

Wednesday, February 18 (12 PM)

Tuesday Lunchtime Movie: Zora's Roots: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston

Tuesday, February 24 (12:15 PM)

This documentary follows author and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston to the subtropical paradise that shaped her life's work.

-more-

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Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Celebrates Black History Month

CLP - Hill District / 2177 Centre Avenue at Kirkpatrick Street

Share Your Favorite Memory this Black History Month: objects, stories and readings

Monday, February 9 (5:30 PM)

Do you have a picture, locket or favorite food from childhood that means something to you, but no one else would understand? Bring it to the Library and let's share the memory this Black History Month.

CLP – Main / 4400 Forbes Avenue

Sunday Afternoon Music: Lucid Music

Sunday, February 8 (2 PM); First Floor, Quiet Reading Room

Lucid Music are three b-boys dedicated to the preservation of real hip hop and the elements that made people fall in love with it way back when.

Books in the Afternoon Contemporary Fiction Book Discussion:

Richard Powers: The Time of Our Singing

Thursday, February 19 (1 PM, repeats 6 PM); First Floor, Large Print Room

This book follows the marriage of a German Jewish emigrant scientist and an African American singer, as they, along with their extraordinarily gifted children, struggle to overcome the racial injustices of the 1960s.

World Kaleidoscope: Shona Sharif African Drum & Dance Ensemble

Sunday, February 22 (2 PM); First Floor, Quiet Reading Room

Connect to the many cultures, experiences and histories of people of African, African American and Caribbean descent through the sharing of song, dance, music and drums of the Shona Sharif African Drum & Dance Ensemble.

CLP – Squirrel Hill

5801 Forbes Avenue

Fiction, Film and Fun: The Color Purple

Thursday, February 19 (1 PM)

Join CCAC's Jeanne Bergad to discuss the book *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker and screen the film it inspired.

For more information or to locate an event at your favorite neighborhood library, please visit www.carnegielibrary.org.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

To Engage our Community in Literacy and Learning

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, with 2.6 million visitors in 2008. Each year the Library provides valuable resources, programs, classes and training opportunities that engage the community in literacy, and life-long learning.

About Libraries for LIFE

Building Communities, Enriching Lives

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 governments, 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 seven neighborhood libraries and completed a partial renovation of the Main Library, First Floor. CLP-Hill District is the seventh library to be completed in the system-wide renewal, and the city's first newly constructed library since 1980. To date, the Library's efforts have resulted in significant investment in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, providing a range of library services and programs for children, teens and adults and facilities that accommodate new collections and 21st century technology.