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For Immediate Release

Pucker Up and Party! Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Celebrates National Kazoo Day

Small instrument makes big noise at the typically quiet library in Oakland.

(PITTSBURGH, PA – January 17, 2008) What event can boast the reputation of celebrating a national holiday, a renowned composer’s birthday and a national instrument contender all in one? It’s KazooFest! Children young and old are invited to “Pucker up and party!” on Saturday, January 26 at 2:00 pm in the Children’s Department at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Main (CLP), 4400 Forbes Avenue. Kazoos will be provided or participants can bring their own.

Noisy, silly and full of family fun, CLP’s KazooFest celebrates National Kazoo Day (January 28) and commemorates Mozart’s birthday (January 27, 1756). The program was developed by Patte Kelley, Head of the Children’s Department, CLP – Main and made its debut at the Library last year. Kelley says, “I started KazooFest because I love to make music but am terminally tone-deaf. Fortunately, with the kazoo, that is not an issue. And the best part is: anyone can learn to kazoo!”

During KazooFest Kelley will begin the program with an introductory lesson on the fine art of kazoo playing before leading the audience in an interactive musical program consisting of tunes such as Row, Row, Row Your Boat, Old MacDonald, Here We Go Steelers, and a special rendition of Happy Birthday to Mozart. The group will also try their hand at classical ballads, patriotic marches, pop favorites and audience requests. Customers can also decorate a kazoo and carrying case to take their instrument home.

“Music is an important part of the learning process,” Kelley adds. “It is a tool librarians use frequently to aide in language and literacy development. In addition, introducing children to different types of music at a young age expands their horizons and leads to appreciation as adults.”

According to www.kazooco.com the kazoo was invented in the 1840s by American Alabama Vest and made by German clock master Thaddeus Von Clegg in Macon, Georgia. The kazoo became more popular when salesman Emil Song teamed up with Michael McIntyre in 1912 in Western New York to make the then metal instruments in greater production. McIntyre went into business with Harry Richardson, the owner of a metal forming plant, and together they patented metal kazoos in 1923. One of the kazoo’s greatest advocates is “How to Kazoo” author Barbara Stewart, who has launched an effort to make the kazoo the country’s official national instrument.

To learn more about KazooFest or to register for this free event please call 412.622.3122 or visit www.carnegielibrary.org.

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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.