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For Immediate Release

Be Creative @ Your Library!

*Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Kicks Off Summer Reading on June 7
with its 9th Annual Extravaganza*

(PITTSBURGH, PA – June 2, 2009) Area families are invited to grab their paintbrushes, put on their dancing shoes and let their creativity shine during Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s annual Summer Reading Program. The program kicks-off Sunday, June 7 and continues throughout the summer months, offering families free story hours, puppet shows, craft programs and other entertainment to help them “Be Creative!” The goal of the Library’s Summer Reading Program is to create opportunities for children to continue learning in a fun, enriching environment. Special book lists, prizes and online discussion boards are available for teens and adults as well.

Last year, 13,388 readers participated in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Summer Reading Program, reading more than 78,757 books. Studies suggest that children who read during the summer months are more prepared and less likely to fall behind during the start of the school year. Summer reading helps children develop life-long reading habits and aids them in maintaining their literacy skills and education throughout the years.

On Sunday, June 7 nearly 4,000 children, teens and adults are expected to help Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh kick off the official start of summer reading. From 12-5 pm, the Main Library in Oakland will host a free outdoor Extravaganza with activities and entertainment for all ages. Now in its ninth year, Carnegie Library’s Summer Reading Extravaganza sets in motion the excitement and encouragement of summer reading.

Families attending the Library’s Extravaganza are able to experience more than 100 activities, including the opportunity to:

- Participate in a Kazoo Concert on the steps of the Library;
- Meet a real Penguin from the National Aviary;
- Decorate a Smiley Cookie courtesy of Eat’n Park Hospitality Group;
- Dance the Samba;
- Watch a performance of *Cinderella* courtesy of the Pittsburgh Dance and Theatre Arts.
- Learn what it takes to be a DJ and Hip-Hop artist from the Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K. Project;
- Create balloon art with the Balloonatic Fringe;
- Meet Kennywood’s Kenny Kangaroo and Idlewild Park’s Ricky Raccoon.

Selected Schedule of Events:

- 12:30 • Saltworks Theatre Company’s *Just So Stories* (Inside Library, Quiet Reading Room, 1st Floor)
- 1:00 • Frick Steel Drum Band (Verizon Performance Tent)

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- 1:15 • Story-sharing with a live penguin and Florence and Wendell Minor, author and illustrator of “If I Were a Penguin” (If I Were a Penguin Tent)
- 1:30 • Pittsburgh Musical Theater (Inside Library, Quiet Reading Room, 1st Floor)
- 2:00 • Oakland Girl’s Choir (Verizon Performance Tent)
- 2:30 • KDKA’s Dave Crawley (Inside Library, Quiet Reading Room, 1st Floor)
- 3:00 • Rodgers Middle School Chorus (Verizon Performance Tent)
- 3:30 • Pittsburgh Dance and Theatre Arts performs Cinderella (Inside Library, Quiet Reading Room, 1st Floor)
- 3:45 • Kazoo Concert! (Front Steps)
- 4:00 • Kyly Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (Verizon Performance Tent)

2009 Extravaganza sponsors include: Verizon, Heinz North America, Dominion, Giant Eagle, Maher Duessel, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Media Sponsors: Comcast, Radio Disney AM 540 and the Saturday Light Brigade.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s 9th Annual Summer Reading Extravaganza is free and open to the public. Children, adults and teen are encouraged to sign up for the Library’s Summer Reading Programs at the event. Following the Extravaganza, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and libraries in Allegheny County will continue to offer special programs, activities and prizes to promote reading throughout the summer months. For more information call 412.622.3114 or 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.