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## For Immediate Release

### **Calling All Teens. Express Yourself and Be Heard!**

*Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh announces 2009 Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest.*

**(PITTSBURGH, PA – April 8, 2009)** Creative teens with a passion for writing can find their voices through Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's 2009 Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest. Open to all high school students (grades 9 through 12) in Allegheny County, the contest is an opportunity for teens to showcase their writing talents, improve skills and have their work published in a chapbook that will be distributed to all area libraries. Monetary prizes will be awarded for first (\$250) and second (\$100) place entries in three categories: poetry, short fiction and narrative nonfiction.

Workshops led by experienced writers will be held throughout the month of April to help teens polish their entries and expand their skills. Attendance at a creative writing workshop is optional and not required to enter the Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest.

Short Fiction Workshops with author Sharon Flake  
Saturday, April 18 (2 – 3:30 pm) & Sunday, April 26 (2 – 3:30 pm)  
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main/ 4400 Forbes Avenue  
Workshop space is limited. Please call 412-578-2599 to register.

Poetry and Narrative Nonfiction Workshop with author Sandra Gould Ford  
Saturday, April 25 (2- 3:30 pm)  
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main/4400 Forbes Avenue  
Workshop space is limited. Please call 412-578-2599 to register.

During his 36-year tenure as Director of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Ralph Munn was responsible for significant changes to the Library, including the creation of a young adults reading room, which has evolved into the Library's Teen Department. Prior to his death in 1975, Munn provided the Library with an endowment to continue serving the young adults of Allegheny County by providing opportunities for creative writing.

To enter the Ralph Munn Creative Writing Contest teens must submit original prose by May 15, 2009. All entries must be submitted electronically to [teens@carnegielibrary.org](mailto:teens@carnegielibrary.org) with "Ralph Munn Entry" in the subject line. For contest rules and for a list of last year's winners please visit [www.carnegielibrary.org/teens](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/teens).

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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.