



For Immediate Release

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Retail historian Michael Lisicky visits Pittsburgh with his new release *Gimbels Has It!*, a look back at the iconic department store—just in time for the holidays!

(Pittsburgh, Pa.) – Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh are pleased to announce the appearance of retail historian Michael Lisicky on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 6:00 p.m., at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main in Oakland. Lisicky’s visit is part of **Writers LIVE @ CLP - Main**, a series of *free* live appearances from nationally acclaimed authors and promising up-and-comers with personal or literary connections to Pittsburgh.

Writers LIVE is taking a walk down memory lane for the upcoming holiday season with *Gimbels Has It!* (2011), Michael Lisicky’s latest release about the iconic retail dynasty that spanned 144 years. Lisicky visits with historical insight about the department store, its sociological and economic position, and its influence on the four major cities in which it prospered, including Pittsburgh—the final “Gimbel City.” For the book, Lisicky interviewed a variety of local personalities, including Mayor Sophie Masloff, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” cast member Audrey Roth, fashion editor Barbara Cloud, and former employees of the Pittsburgh store.

Complete with photos and favorite Gimbels recipes, *Gimbels Has It!* recalls holiday shopping of yore, when a visit to a department store was truly an excursion. David Sullivan of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* writes, “Michael has...reminded us of the love people had for ‘their store’ that few have for today’s retail behemoths. And he’s also shown us the fascinating stories that can be found in what were, despite their size, family businesses with all the strengths and weaknesses that term implies.”

Named the “Official Historian of East Coast Department Stores” by Philadelphia’s *City Paper*, Michael Lisicky is also the author of *Wanamaker’s: Meet Me at the Eagle* and *Hutzler’s: Where Baltimore Shops*, both published by The History Press.

The December 14th program will take place at 6:00 p.m., followed by a book signing with the author. The event is **free and open to the public** with registration encouraged. Event registration is available online at pittsburghlectures.org and carnegielibrary.org, or by calling Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures at 412.622.8866. Independent bookseller Penguin Bookshop will be on site for book sales.

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About Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures:

Founded in 1991, Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures is a non-profit 501(c)(3) literary, performing arts organization, as designated by the City of Pittsburgh. The unique mission of Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures is to connect world-class authors and their work with the local community and, in doing so, to elevate the quality of civic discourse in Pittsburgh through the presentation and discussion of the universal human values of literature. Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures produces an annual series of literary lectures sponsored by The Drue Heinz Trust. In addition, the organization produces a literary series for children and families in partnership with Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, as well as special events featuring niche writers and storytellers, with the purpose of encouraging interest in the lifelong pursuit of reading.

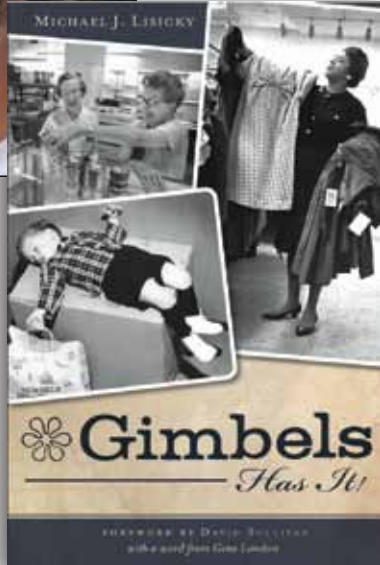
About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh:

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh contributes to the educational attainment, economic development, and cultural enrichment of the region. Through critical services such as early learning programs for children, job search assistance and computer and Internet access, the Library fosters lifelong learning and is a renowned leader among the nation's libraries. With more than 2 million visitors and 3.5 million items borrowed each year, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset and one of the largest public libraries in Pennsylvania. Established in 1895 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie as a public trust to be funded by the community, the Library derives approximately 90% of its annual operating budget from public or government sources, including the Allegheny County Regional Asset District (RAD), the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Pittsburgh.



Writers **LIVE**

@ CLP - MAIN



with Author

Michael Lisicky

presented by Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures
and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Wednesday, December 14 | 6 pm

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main

4400 Forbes Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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► **FREE** with registration. To register or for more information, please call 412.622.8866 or visit www.carnegielibrary.org.