

# BARABOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 2020

CURRENT

## Carnegie's Legacy

On September 18, 1895, Wisconsin's Secretary of State Henry Casson signed a charter enabling the formation of The Free Public Library of the City of Baraboo. This year, as we approach the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charter, we reflect on forces, events, and people who have made a great difference in the history of the institution that is currently called the Baraboo Public Library.

When the newly expanded library is dedicated in 2022, its new name will be the **Carnegie-Schadde Memorial Public Library**. The name will honor the family of Juanita Schadde, whose \$2.5 million donation helped make the library expansion project possible. The Schadde family have been long-time Baraboo proprietors of Schadde Plumbing and Heating, founded a few years before the date of the library's charter.

The other half of the library's future name, Carnegie, honors the wealthy industrialist who donated the initial sum of \$15,000 for building Baraboo's current library. Andrew Carnegie, who made his fortune from iron and steel manufacturing and construction, was described as merciless and cutthroat in his business practices and labor relations. His single-minded determination to succeed was evident from his days working as a bobbin boy in a textile factory as a 13-year-old immigrant to Pennsylvania. He had attended school for only a few years before coming to the United States with his family. As a teenager, he borrowed books from a wealthy local man who allowed young workers to use his personal library. Carnegie also petitioned the director of his local subscription library to allow him to use the library for free, rather than pay a subscription fee. As Carnegie put his knowledge

and resolve to work, he took on positions of greater responsibility, took calculated risks, and by the time he sold Carnegie Steel Company in 1901, he was the richest man in the world.

Over the intervening years, he developed a philosophy of philanthropy. In 1889, he described this philosophy in an article, *The Gospel of Wealth*: Wealthy people should eschew extravagance, irresponsible spending, or self-indulgence. Instead, they should use their wealth

to reduce the stratification between the rich and poor.

Carnegie said his early experiences educating himself with borrowed books convinced him that "there was no use to which money could be applied so productive...as the founding of a public library in a community which is willing to support it as a municipal institution." Starting in the 1880s, he used his own fortune to build nearly 1,700

public libraries in cities and small towns across the United States.

Carnegie believed that in a democracy, education was the responsibility of "the state." His endowments, therefore, were conditional, requiring each community to pledge to support the library's operations with annual appropriations.

"Carnegie's philosophy brought to the doorstep of citizens and immigrants alike not only the means for self-education and enlightenment but also the opportunity to understand the history and purpose of our nation's democracy, to study English, to be taught new skills, to exercise the imagination, and to experience the pleasures of contemplation and solitude." (Vartan Gregorian, *Remembering Andrew Carnegie's Legacy*, *American Libraries Magazine*, 9/30/2019).

The Baraboo Public Library, supported by community good will and funding, is also indebted to generous donors with vision who believe in the library's role in our democracy.



Baraboo Public Library, January 2020.

Photo credit John Rausch

# March 2020 Important Dates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 <b>Twilight Tales Story Time 6:30pm</b>	3 <b>Booker's Buddies Story Time 10am</b> <b>Rhyme Time Story Time 11am</b> <b>TEEN Tuesday - Drum Circle 4pm</b>	4 <b>Babygarten Story Time 9:30am</b> <b>Puppy Club Story Time 11am</b> <b>Building Blocks (LEGO bricks &amp; Minecraft) 1:30pm</b>	5 <b>CrafterNoon 3:45pm</b>	6 <b>Free Play Group 9am</b>	7	
8	9 <b>Twilight Tales Story Time 6:30pm</b> <b>Lit Wits Book Group 6:30pm</b>	10 <b>Booker's Buddies Story Time 10am</b> <b>Rhyme Time Story Time 11am</b> <b>TEEN Tuesday - 4pm</b> <b>Granuaile Celtic Trio 6:30pm</b>	11 <b>Babygarten Story Time at Oak Park Place 9:30am</b> <b>Puppy Club Story Time 11am</b> <b>Building Blocks (LEGO bricks &amp; Minecraft) 1:30pm</b>	12 <b>Homeschool Program for Families 9:30am</b> <b>CrafterNoon 3:45pm</b> <b>Baraboo Chess Club 5:45pm</b> <b>Music with Friends: Sam Ness 6:30pm</b>	13 <b>Free Play Group 9am</b>	14 <b>Escape This! You MUST pre-register in Youth Services for this event. 10am</b>	
15	16 <b>Twilight Tales Story Time 6:30pm</b>	17 <b>Booker's Buddies Story Time at Oak Park Place 10am</b> <b>Rhyme Time Story Time 11am</b> <b>TEEN Tuesday - Teen Advisory Board (TAB) 4pm</b> <b>Tuesdays with Murder Book Group 6:30pm</b> <b>Readers Anonymous Book Club 6:30pm</b>	18 <b>Babygarten Story Time 9:30am</b> <b>Puppy Club Story Time 11am</b> <b>Building Blocks (LEGO bricks &amp; Minecraft) 1:30pm</b>	19 <b>Self-Publisher's Show &amp; Tell: Jeff Monfort 6pm</b>	20 <b>Free Play Group 9am</b>	21 <b>Basic Backyard Chickens 10am</b>	
22	23 <b>Coffee Break-Twilight Tales Story Time 6:30pm</b>	24 <b>Stop, Drop &amp; Play @ Baraboo Children's Museum 9am</b> <b>Free ticket from Youth Services REQUIRED</b> <b>Stop, Drop &amp; Play @ Baraboo Children's Museum 12pm</b> <b>Free ticket from Youth Services REQUIRED</b> <b>TEEN Tuesday - 4pm</b> <b>Homeless Shelter Update with Dave Mowers 6:30pm</b>	25 <b>Coffee Break—Babygarten Story Time 9:30am</b> <b>Coffee Break—Puppy Club Story Time 11am</b> <b>Building Blocks (LEGO bricks &amp; Minecraft) 1:30pm</b>	26 <b>CrafterNoon at St. Clare Meadows 4pm</b> <b>Read to Shadow, a Cat! 6pm</b>	27 <b>Free Play Group 9am</b>	28	
29	30 <b>Twilight Tales Story Time 6:30pm</b>	31 <b>Booker's Buddies Story Time 10am</b> <b>Rhyme Time Story Time 11am</b> <b>TEEN Tuesday - 4pm</b> <b>Book Art 6pm</b>		 <b>BARABOO</b> PUBLIC LIBRARY			230 Fourth Avenue Baraboo, WI 53913 608-356-6166 <a href="http://baraboopubliclibrary.org">baraboopubliclibrary.org</a>