

The Bookmark

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF B.F. JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Aliquippa's Own Music Man: Henry Mancini

BFJ pays tribute to the West Aliquippa-raised Mancini, widely regarded as one of the best film composers of all time, with a new gallery-wall-style display.

As Bruce Springsteen once sang, "from small things, big things one day come," and that sentiment could very well be applied to Aliquippa. It may not be big, but it *is* lucky enough to have been the home of some truly outstanding people.


Chief among them is Oscar-winning musician, arranger, conductor, and composer Enrico Nicola "Henry" Mancini. Although he was born in Ohio, Mancini was raised in West Aliquippa by his parents Quintilliano and Anna. He graduated from Aliquippa High School in 1942, and went on to study at both the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University), and the Juilliard School of Music.

Following a tour of duty with the U.S. Army Air Forces in the European Theatre during World War II (he was a part of the liberation of the Mauthausen-Gutsen concentration camp) Mancini arrived back in the States, and began his illustrious musical career. Over the decades, he would win twenty Grammy Awards, four Academy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and be nominated for Emmys twice. (Dare you not to start humming "The *Pink Panther* Theme" or "Moon River!")

The Library is thrilled to have received a number of Mancini-related pieces of personal memorabilia from Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center; they are now being displayed near the Children's Department.



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Are you looking for a special way to keep someone's memory alive, or to continue their legacy?

Consider a donation to B.F. Jones Memorial Library.

Contact the Library at 724.375.2900 to discuss the different ways in which you can donate in honor of your loved one.

They Say it's Our Birthday!

B.F. Jones Memorial Library marked its 95th birthday on February 1st, and the celebration was right out of the Roaring Twenties!

In February 1929, the B.F. Jones Memorial Library opened its doors for the first time. Last month, we marked our milestone 95th year of operation with a day-long celebration that paid homage both to the Library's present and also to its beginning in the 1920s. From a photobooth with '20s-themed props, to a special Birthday Storytime, to 1920s music with Vintage Debbie, there was entertainment for all ages throughout the course of the day.

One of the day's many highlights was the 95th Birthday Scavenger Hunt; participants were able to pick up a packet from the party table that had photographs of various architectural features in the Library. Then, they had to wander through the building to locate all of them. Visitors of all ages had a blast looking for everything! (Some were pretty tricky, too!)

The staff, naturally, also got in on the thematic fun with costumes and Jazz Age-inspired outfits, as well as by kicking up their heels for a Charleston tutorial. (Miss Kris even became a speakeasy moll for the day, slinging Prohibition mocktails in the Reference Room! "Gin-less" Rickeys and Sober Sidecars were the drinks of the day.)



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Perhaps most importantly, though, the day's festivities served as the kickoff for "95 Good Deeds to Celebrate 95 Years," which aims to include the whole Library community in performing good deeds and acts of service in the name of the Library's long history as an integral part of the Aliquippa community.

For more information about "95 Good Deeds to Celebrate 95 Years," please email us at bfjones@beaverlibraries.org, or call us at 724-375-2900.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us on February 1st, and to all of you who have been part of the Library's story all along the way. Here's to 95 more!

A Note from Your Editor



My grandfather, Joseph P. O'Neill, immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the 1950s. Promptly upon his arrival, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in the Korean War. What a welcome, right?

In my undergrad years at Duquesne, I had the opportunity to take a class dedicated solely to Irish Drama, and was able to study the complicated history of the Emerald Isle through the lens of some truly breathtaking plays.

But it might be Patrick Radden Keefe's *Say Nothing*, a non-fiction account of the height of "The Troubles" that I read in 2020 that lingers most in my mind, and so, I knew I wanted to highlight it, and other works by Irish authors, in this March issue of *The Bookmark*.

We all come from somewhere else somewhere along the line, after all, and it's something to be celebrated.

Megan

BFJ Patron Services Librarian
moneill@beaverlibraries.org

Encouraging Literacy for the Littles with Traveling Tales

The Traveling Tales program aims to bring the magic of reading, and awareness of the Library's offerings, to daycares and preschool programs in the Aliquippa area.

The mission of B.F. Jones Memorial Library has always been to provide enrichment to the Aliquippa community; that is a responsibility that the Library is honored to shoulder. It is not just the adults to whom the Library caters, however, as there is a long history of dedicated service to the youngest citizens of the area.

The Traveling Tales program allows the Library to partner with eight local preschools and daycares in the Aliquippa area: Kingdom Kidz, In His Hands Daycare, Moma Good's, Making Memories from the Heart, Rhyming Thyme, R2R, All God's Children, and Hart 2 Hart.

Casey Honess, who has been the facilitator of Traveling Tales since spring of 2023, is vocal about her love of the program, and is quick to highlight

its importance to the community. "I get to spend a few hours each week reading stories in silly voices, singing, and dancing with preschoolers. As I travel, I get to see the kids grow from month to month, and develop a love for books...which is my favorite part!"

In addition to weekly storytimes, the Traveling Tales program also operates "deposit collections" with each of the locations; Honess delivers a bag of books, checked out from the Library's collection, to the daycare or preschool for their in-house use. The deposit collections are rotated regularly.

Our hope is that by venturing into our community, we can help to spark a life-long love of reading in kids at a young age.



Left and above: Honess and enthralled audiences at two of the daycare facilities who are partners of the Traveling Tales program.

(We love seeing the joy on their little faces - Casey's included!)

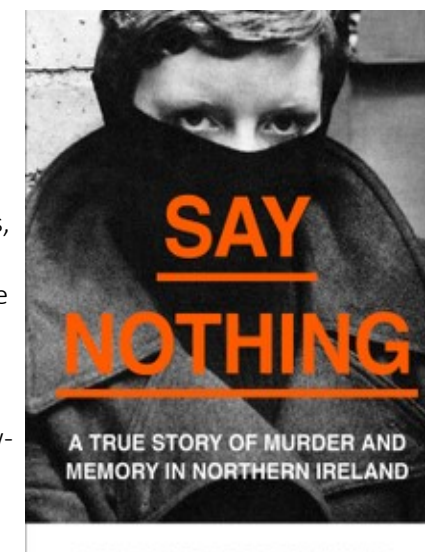


Try your luck with some Readers' Advisory!

If you're looking to expand your knowledge of Irish literary figures, or the long, fraught road of the Irish people and their history, we've got you covered! Hopefully, there's a little bit of something for everyone here, but if you're in need of some more recommendations, please reach out and let us know!

NON-FICTION: The murder at the heart of *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* by Patrick Radden Keefe is the 1972 abduction and murder of Jean McConville, who was only one of many "disappeared" by the Irish Republican Army during The Troubles. Keefe accessibly weaves together the details of McConville's murder with the lives of prominent figures like Dolours Price, Brendan Hughes, and Gerry Manville with dexterity, but never sugarcoats the terror that engulfed Ireland for nearly forty years in the name of pursuit of social justice.

Although it's non-fiction (Radden Keefe began researching in 2013 after reading the obituary of Dolours Price), this harrowing book reads like the best of novels, rife with vibrant "characters," heartbreaking tragedy, and the kind of tension that sticks with you long after you've turned the last page.



dates to know!

SATURDAY, MAR 16:
The Library will be hosting a Narcan Education and Distribution Event at 10:30am.

FRIDAY, MAR 29:
The Library will be closed in observance of Good Friday.

SATURDAY, MAR 30:
The Library will be closing early (2:00pm) in observance of Holy Saturday.

MONDAY, APR 15:
BFJ Blood Drive w/ Vitalant from 1:00pm-6:00pm

SATURDAY, MAY 25:
The Library will be closing early (2:00pm) in observance of Memorial Day Weekend.

MONDAY, MAY 27:
The Library will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

OTHER SELECTED WORKS BY IRISH AUTHORS:

- ♣ For fans of heartwarming female friendships: *Tara Road*, by Maeve Binchy
- ♣ For the reader who loves to laugh *and* cry: *The Heart's Invisible Furies*, by John Boyne
 - ♣ Love music and wry comedy? *The Commitments*, by Roddy Doyle
- ♣ For fans of nail-bitingly tense crime novels: *In the Woods*, by Tana French
 - ♣ For poetry fans: *North*, by Seamus Heaney
 - ♣ For the short-story collection lover: *Dubliners*, by James Joyce
 - ♣ For biography fans: *Nothing But an Unfinished Song*, by Denis O'Hearn
- ♣ For those who want first-person memoir: *We Don't Know Ourselves*, by Fintan O'Toole
- ♣ Can't get enough of complicated relationships?: *Normal People*, by Sally Rooney
- ♣ For those with a flair for the stage: *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

