

Jackie Evancho To Perform For Trump

Pittsburgh-area native Jackie Evancho has agreed to perform the National Anthem at the January 20 inauguration of Donald Trump and Mike Pence as president and vice president.

But Evancho, still considered an “up-and-comer” in show business (rather than an A-Lister), is the only “name” scheduled as of press time. Normally, artists are thrilled to perform at an presidential inaugural, but the controversies surrounding Trump/Pence have led to one star after another to decline.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is also scheduled to perform, although at least one member has resigned in protest.

Evancho is still so little-known, that *Billboard* has published a trivia article on her which is available at <http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/pop/7625174/jackie-evancho-8-things-to-know-about-the-singer-performing-at-trump-inauguration>

[trump-inauguration](#)

Meanwhile, a local high school band has been selected to represent Pennsylvania during the inaugural parade. Laurie Bailey, writing for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, the Franklin Regional School will be performing George S. Cohen’s “Yankee Doodle Dandy”.

“Fences” SAG Nominations

The Pittsburgh-made film version of August Wilson’s award winning play “Fences” is among those being honored as nominees for the 23rd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.



SAG-AFTRA represents television, radio and film performers across the country including hundreds in the Pittsburgh-area through a downtown office.

“Fences” star and director Denzel Washington has been nominated for Best Male Actor in a Leading Role and Viola Davis for Best Female Actor in a Supporting Role. “Fences” has also been nominated for Best Cast in a Motion Picture.

At the San Francisco opening for “Fences,” the *Hollywood Re-*

porter’s Lauren Smiley asked Washington what his character --- a former professional ballplayer hampered by racism of the 1950s --- would respond to the nation’s first African-American president. “You know what Troy would have said? ‘Obama ain’t nobody! I could be president right now! Oh, there ain’t nothing to it! You know just get two or three cabinet members, and tell ’em what to do!’ ”

Washington was also asked about online rumors that he was a Donald Trump supporter during the campaign. “What’s that song back in the day? You heard it through the grapevine! Believe half of what you see and none of what you hear. And a tenth of what you read.”

Details on the nominees and the January 29 ceremony can be found at <http://sagawards.org>

Inside This Issue	
The Carnegie Museum of Art’s new buy	Page 3
Sinclair denies special Trump news deal	Page 3
Fred Rogers Co. gets a new CEO	Page 4
Convicted writer is sued by his victims	Page 4
WPXI and WTAE kicked off DirectTV	Page 7
Pittsburgh A&E Group	
643 Liberty Avenue #401 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 Ph (412) 325-7070 Fx (412) 325-7069	

See your vision.



Take your project from
IMAGINATION to **Reality**

From writing to wrap. With over 30 years of experience, The Videohouse has a full menu of production services. Whether it's à la carte or the full course production, The Videohouse works with customers to bring their vision to screens small and large.

4K and beyond. No matter how many K's there are tomorrow, we're always exploring the latest technology and newest media. But we know it's more than just fancy tech that makes a great product – that's why you'll find creative, hard-working people dedicated to exceeding your expectations.

End-to-End Post & More

Editing	Sound Mixing
Animation	Color Grading
Design	Conforming
Motion Graphics	Compression
Website/Interactive	Archiving
Mobile	Streaming
Social Media	Duplication

All Industries Served

Ad Agencies	Motion Pictures
Broadcast	Government
Corporate	Higher Ed
Small Business	Manufacturing
Non-Profit	Medical
Entrepreneurs	Entertainment
Music	Museums

the **Videohouse**



See your vision.

412.921.7577
www.thevideohouse.com

Carnegie Art Museum Acquires Major Work

The Carnegie Museum of Art (CMA) --- one of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** --- has announced the acquisition of a new painting by noted artist Kerry James Marshall.

CARNEGIE | MUSEUMS
OF PITTSBURGH

Born in Alabama in 1955, Marshall works represent African Americans as having distinct inner and outer appearances while confronting racial stereotypes within contemporary society.

A CMA press release describes the work, "Untitled (Gallery)" as a painting that "depicts a single female figure posing as if for a

snapshot against the white wall of a gallery lined with framed black-and-white photographs. Spotlights illuminate the artworks, creating concentric rings of light on the wall. Beside the figure hangs a photograph of a nude woman lying on a bearskin rug in front of a fireplace --- a familiar pinup trope but also a reference to glamorous 1930s Hollywood production stills." An image of the painting can be seen online by clicking <http://press.cmoa.org/2016/12/13/cmoe-acquires-marshall-painting/#more-1887>

In other news, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History has announced a renovation of its gift shop into a "dynamic, environmentally conscious" environment

"that combines vintage dioramas, a dinosaur display and merchandise."



Sinclair Denies Political News Deal

Executives at **Sinclair Media Group** (SMG) are denying claims being made by President-Elect Donald Trump's son-in-law that a special deal was made regarding coverage of Trump.

SBG

Sinclair is owned by the family of founder Julian Sinclair Smith. Their stations include Pittsburgh's WPGH-TV. The Smiths are well-known for their political conservatism and have been the focus of controversies over the years. One of these included the tentative scheduling of a dubious documentary on Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry in 2004. (In the end, Sinclair didn't broadcast it).

On December 19, the company's vice president of news, Scott Livingston, issued the following statement:

"Over the past three days, there have been numerous misleading press stories about Sinclair's election coverage. I now need to set the record straight. We offered both major presidential candidates the same opportunities to be interviewed by our local anchors on a regular basis. There was no 'deal' on the tone, tenor or subject of the interviews. We did not offer favorable or preferential treatment to either candidate, nor did we ever waiver from our commitment to provide rigorous, thoughtful, and thorough coverage to the millions who rely on local television.

"It is in everyone's best interest that candidates speak to voters through interviews with profes-

sional reporters. Our outreach to both Secretary Clinton's and President-elect Trump's campaigns was meant to deliver meaningful, informative newscasts to our local viewers. We stand behind that practice."

Nevertheless, a recent *Washington Post* review of internal Sinclair documents indicate that the company's newscasts were more favorable to Trump than to Democratic Presidential Nominee Hillary Clinton.



Siefkin Named New Rogers CEO

Paul Siefkin has been named to be the new president of the **Fred Rogers Company**, reports Joyce Gannon in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and Etan Vlesing in the *Hollywood Reporter*.



Siefkin was brought to the company in 2012 to be specifically

prepared for the job. "I've used every single minute of those three years to learn from [retiring CEO Bill Isler]," Gannon quotes him, "and get a better understanding of the mission of the organization to be ready to take the company forward." He has been the company's vice president for broadcast and digital media. Before that, Siefkin was director of children's programming at the Public Broadcasting Service.

"Paul is the perfect leader to take The Fred Rogers Company to the next important phase in its exciting evolution," Vlesing quotes Isler.

Paul Siefkin succeeded the retiring 70-year-old Bill Isler on January 1. Isler had worked with and knew founder Fred Rogers personally.

Buhl Grants

The end of 2016 saw a flurry of grants approved by the **Buhl Foundation**.

Among the most notable is a \$90,000 grant to the **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy** to finance an update to the master plan of Allegheny Commons, the network of public parks on the city's north side. **The Mattress Factory** received a \$50,000 grant to support a capital campaign to raise money for a permanent installation by artist James Turrell as well as additions to staff and public parking.

Two of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** are receiving funds. The Carnegie Science Center is getting \$40,000 and the Andy Warhol Museum \$30,000 to be put toward educational programs.

For the complete list, visit <http://buhlfoundation.org/whatwedo/recent-recipients.php>

Convicted Writer Sued

David DeKok writes for Reuters that Kirk Nessel --- a 2007 honoree of the **University of Pittsburgh's** prestigious Drue Heinz Literature Prize --- is being sued by eight women who charge that he owes them damages after trading images of them being sexually abused.

Nessel was on the faculty of **Allegheny College** for almost twenty years. During that time he became a respected short story writer and poet. Nessel was arrested in 2014, confessed to his crimes and is currently serving his sentence in a California federal prison.

"FBI agents in Arizona traced a transaction in child pornography on the BitTorrent file-sharing network to his computer," explains DeKok. "A search warrant for his home in Meadville uncovered more than a half-million illegal pornographic images on an external hard drive." He told authorities that he preferred girls ages 10 to 13 years.

Federal law provides for statutory damages for each victim; eight of Nessel's victims are seeking additional damages connected with the sharing of their images.



C'mon Over, Neighbor!



The Pittsburgh Banjo Club is proud to be part of the North Side

Join us at our weekly rehearsal.
The admission is free and the atmosphere is lively as the audience sings along.

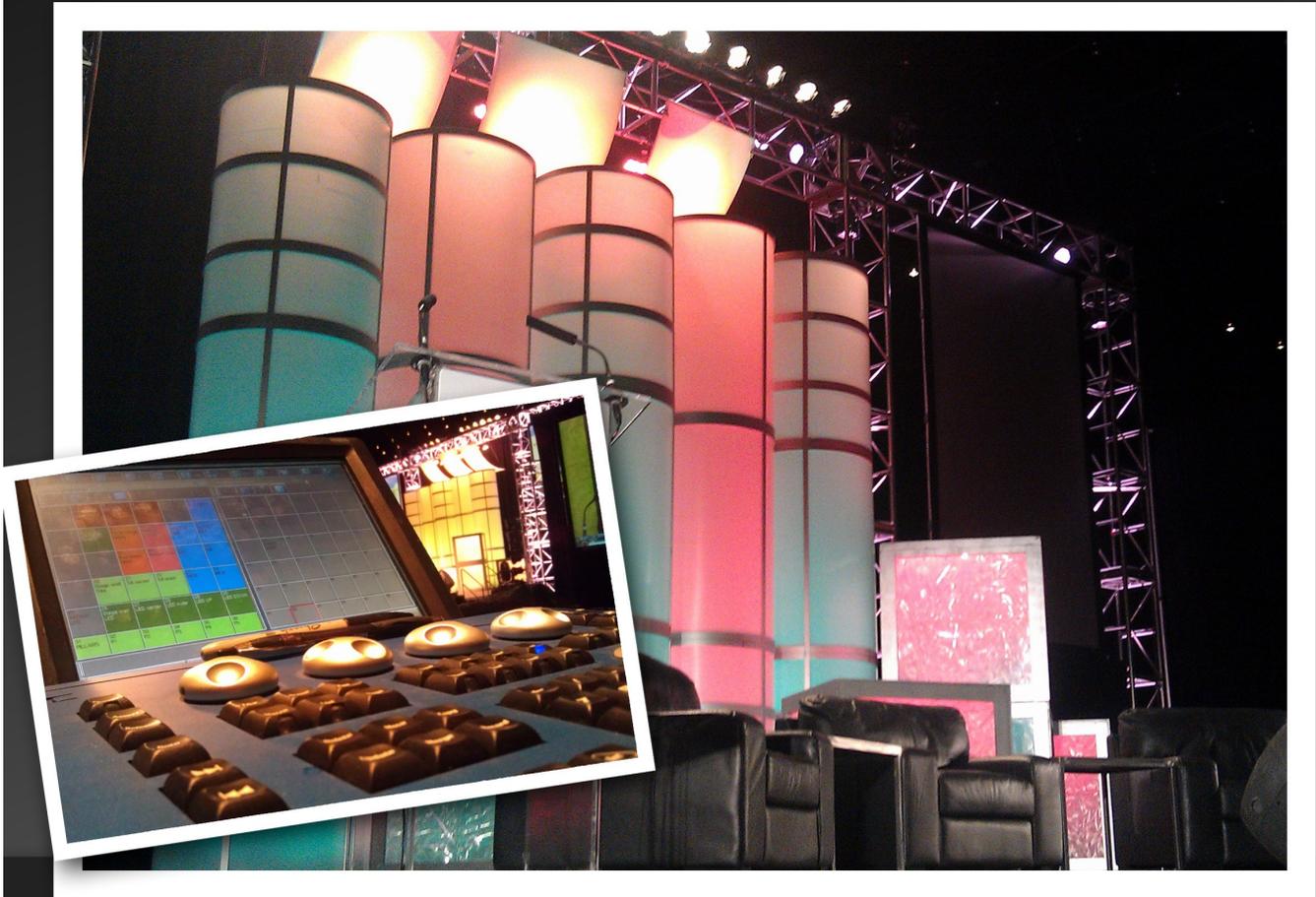
400 Cedar Avenue
(Next to Giant Eagle)
Call 412-321-1834
for Group Reservations

Every Wednesday
8 PM
ThePittsburghBanjoClub.com



VINCENT
LIGHTING SYSTEMS

When your show matters, choose the company that professionals trust. Choose Vincent Lighting Systems.



Shows • Parties • Meetings • Weddings • Theater • Film & Video Shoots

Production Services • Rentals • Sales • Service

"Vincent Lighting outdid themselves by creating this jaw-dropping lighting design ... the lighting just completely transforms the space."

"I am truly thankful for Vincent Lighting Systems and their wonderful customer service team!"

"I have received tons of compliments on how cool the stage looked. Your crew was extremely easy to work with, and they were very professional and got the job done!"



412.788.5250  vls.com

  [vincentlighting](https://www.vincentlighting.com)

Cox, Hearst Off DirectTV

Negotiations have apparently led nowhere, leading DirectTV to drop Cox and Hearst stations across the country including Pittsburgh's WPXI-TV and WTAE-TV,



DirectTV and U-Verse are both owned and operated by **AT & T** (the one-time American Telephone & Telegraph).

As of January 1, U-Verse and DirectTV have dropped WPXI and WTAE as well as dozens of other stations across the country owned by **Cox Communications'** Cox Media Group (CMG) and

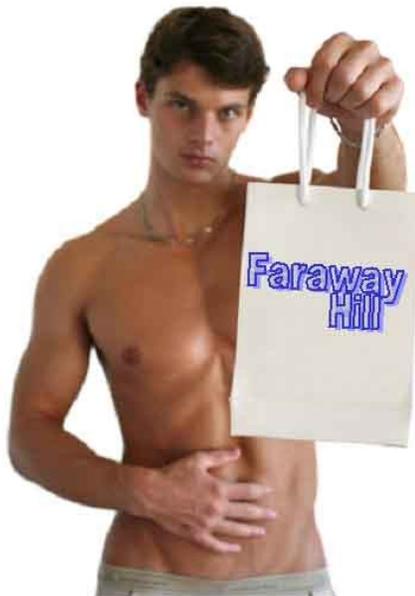
Hearst Communications' Heart Television subsidiary.

The issue is the perennial subject of retransmission fees, the amount a cable or satellite carrier pays a broadcaster for its signal.

CMG's James Williams explains in a press release: "Negotiations continue, and we expect this disruption to be brief considering that every other pay-TV provider has come to reasonable terms with CMG. We have made ourselves available twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week to get this deal done."

At press time, no movement appears to have been made.

Beware of hot dudes bearing gifts.



www.farawayhill.net

Hearst Promotions

Three executives at **Hearst Communications** have been promoted as part of the company's effort to enhance its news programming.

HEARST corporation

In Pittsburgh, Hearst owns WTAE-TV.

The most notable is that of Barbara Maushard, who has been promoted to senior vice president. She will continue to set journalism strategy for WTAE-TV and 28 other Hearst stations as well as manage the company's expanded corporate-level news team.

The others include Andrew Vrees in Boston and Lori Waldon in San Francisco. In addition, vice president Candy Altman – who has been in charge of Hearst's election coverage --- will continue to lead special news and political reporting projects.

"We consider this team to be the gold standard in local television news," said Jordan Wertlieb, Hearst Television president, in a press release. "Barb and her colleagues throughout the Hearst Television group have done a superb job providing viewers award-winning local journalism, impacting the communities we serve. Along with Candy's continued contributions and the addition of two accomplished news executives in Andrew and Lori, Hearst Television is well positioned for the future as we expand our news product on all platforms."

City OKs South Side Safety, Parking Plan

Efforts are again being made to address what may be Pittsburgh's #1 nightlife destination: the city's South Side, namely East Carson Street.

East Carson Street is home to some of the most popular performance and gathering spots, including the **Rex Theatre** as well as more cultural venues such as **City Theatre**. The crowds bring with them excitement, lots of money and often problems severe enough for police to be diverted from other neighborhoods, reports Adam Smeltz in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

With the start of the new year, the city is introducing the South Side Parking Enhancement District (PED), which will apply parking meter revenue to cover security and other costs. The plan also creates free parking on Second Avenue with a shuttle bus service. It's hoped that these efforts will reduce congestion, limited parking and related problems.

Some are not sure. "No one in the [South Side business community] can find a reason to think its reasonable to park people across the river and shuttle them over," Smeltz quotes Mark Bucklaw of the **South Side Chamber of Commerce**.

Nevertheless, the Pittsburgh City Council has approved the plan in a 7 to 1 vote.

Downtown Grants

With the support of a major corporate foundation and other organizations, the **Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership** has launched a second round of its new micro-grant program Beta Burgh.

Beta Burgh awards mini grants of up to \$10,000 to local and regional entrepreneurs and early-stage businesses to use their products for implementable ideas that activate public spaces in Downtown Pittsburgh.

The application deadline is January 20. For more information, visit <http://www.betaburgh.com>

The next regional **Actors Equity Association** membership meeting has been scheduled for Monday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m.



Members will meet at the AEA 14th floor conference room at their headquarters in Manhattan. More information is available at <http://www.actorsequity.org/NewsMedia/news2017/2017MembershipMeetings.asp>

Images

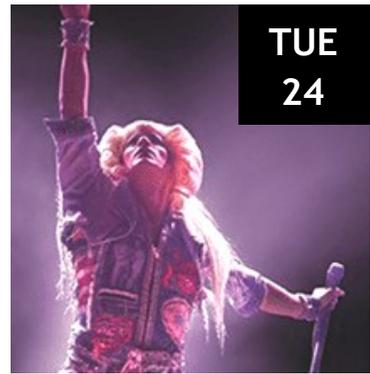
Celebrate Pittsburgh's arts & entertainment history and community.



Local singer Jackie Evancho is scheduled to perform at the inaugural ceremony for Donald Trump on January 20.

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at jim@james-richards.com

TUE
3



TUE
24

SAT
7



SAT
14



THU
26



MON
9



SAT
21



SAT
25

FRI
13



SAT
21



TUE
31



SAT
14



OPPORTUNITIES

Network Ideas Wanted

Comcast is accepting proposals for two African-American cable channels. Local black producers and media entrepreneurs should log on to <http://corporate.comcast.com/diverseprogramming>

Talent Seeking Talent

One of Pittsburgh's leading artist representative firms, the **Talent Group**, is seeking a full-time agent. For more information, or to submit your resume, contact Steve Shakoske at shak@talentgroup.com

Ligonier Auditions

Auditions are being held for the original play "Wonderland" being produced by the **Diamond Theatre of Ligonier**. Anyone age eight and older is welcome. The auditions are being held at 210 West Main Street in Ligonier on January 6, 7 and 10. Performances will be in March. For more information, contact diamondtheatre@hotmail.com

Guides Sought

Tour guides are being sought for the popular **Haunted Pittsburgh** tours. Details are available at <http://pittsburgh.craigslist.org/tfr/5933940598.html>

Sales Pros Needed

Sinclair Broadcast Group announced in December that they are seeking an account executive and regional national sales assistant. Both would be based with the company's Pittsburgh television station. For more information, visit <https://sbgvtv-openhire.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.jobsearch>

TV News Openings

Hearst Communications has announced three full-time and one part-time openings at their Pittsburgh television station, WTAE-TV. Three are in their news department and includes an anchor position. The other involves digital media. Click <http://careers.hearsttelevision.com/ListJobs/ByCustom/HTV-Business-Unit-Location/Keyword-WTAE--Pittsburgh.-PA/>

Be Heard

Aspiring local filmmakers and journalists are welcome to contribute to a new web series being launched by the **America Heard Collaborative**. They are seeking to build a collection of short films representing each congressional district. To learn more, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRQDqhv7os1F1XMaiCazBU15rZaJg514jdFQP5rm_SReoAvA/viewform?c=0&w=1



Fort Pitt Closes

The Fort Pitt Museum, which is administered by the **Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center**, will be closed for most of January.

The museum is an indoor/outdoor institution that documents the British and American fort that once existed at the now Point State Park.

During these weeks, the museum's staff will do deep cleaning and maintenance on various exhibits, including its iconic diorama. The museum is scheduled to reopen January.

New Portable Audio Studio

The Pittsburgh-based firm **In-ventHelp** has announced that they are seeking licensees for a new, portable music studio.

That invention is called Motive Work and is designed

to complement exercise, although it can be used for other purposes as well.. A company press release



INVENTHELP®

describes it as a machine “that enables the user to record his or her own music and audio tracks. It offers access to various fitness- and audio-related features. The unit is designed to be lightweight and compact. The accessory is ideal for musicians and audio-philosophers. Furthermore, the invention is producible in different designs and styles.”

More information is available by calling (412) 288-1300 ext. 1368.



Channel
Pittsburgh

Show Jim That You Support Him!

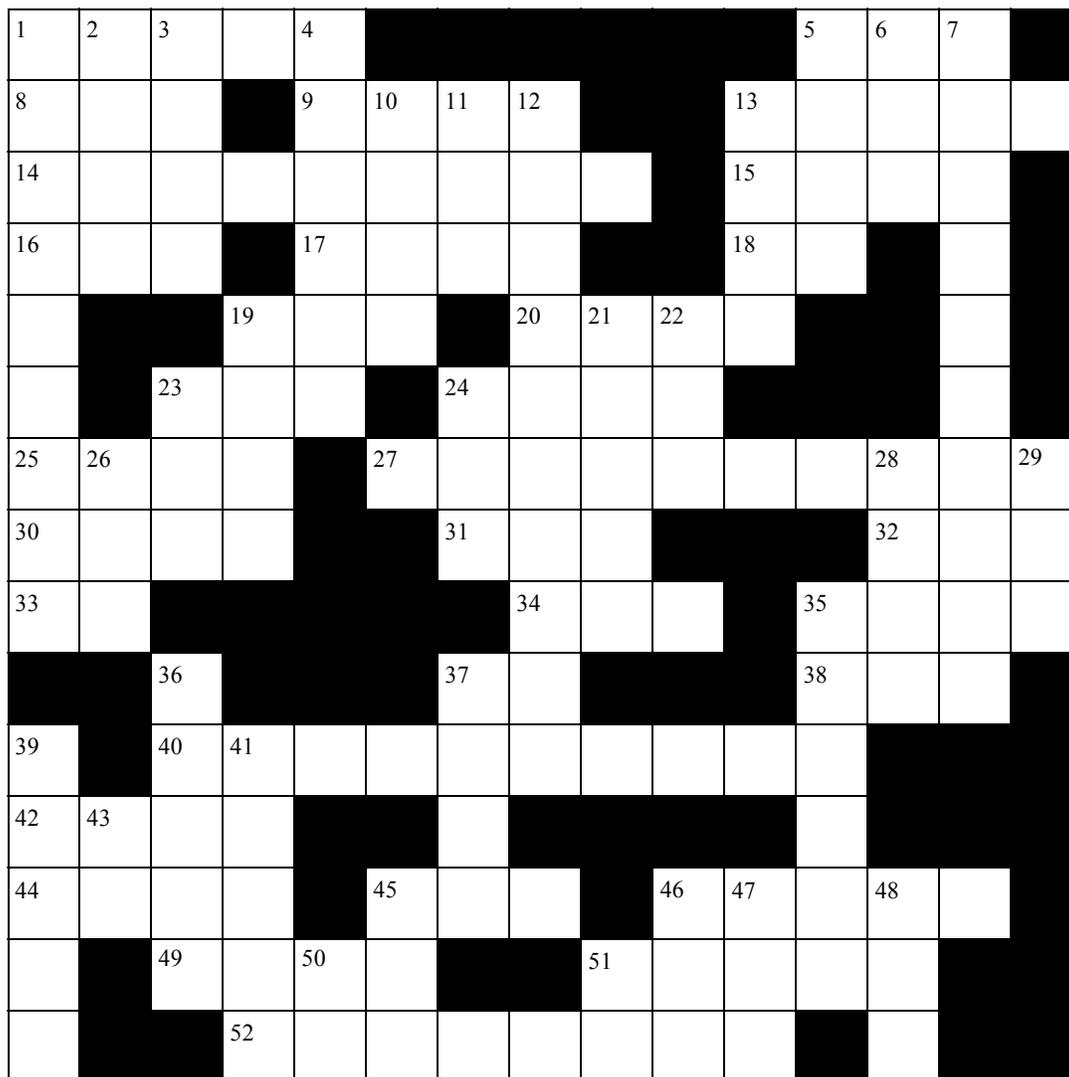
Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

- * Purchase an ad in *Pittsburgh Applause*
- * Sponsor a project
- * Hire Jim to do your marketing
- * Give him free tickets to your show
- * Make a monetary donation

James A. Richards
Pittsburgh A&E Group
643 Liberty Avenue #401
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.james-richards.com

THE APPLAUSE PUZZLE

“Fences” (Play and Movie)



ACROSS

1. See 1-Down
5. Infant protector
8. Copy
9. Cats and dogs
13. “SNL” Comic Killam, to pals
14. She played 30-Across on Broadway
15. Exam or health opener
16. “Eldorado” band
17. Egyptian queen, to pals
18. State south of SD
19. “LA Law” actress Susan
20. “Fences” lead role
23. Playful
24. Put away, as on a ship
25. Adams & Smart

27. 20-Across’ current job
30. 20-Across’s wife
31. Bathing vessel
32. Visual organ
33. EP ancestor
34. Color change
35. Expired
37. Brief greeting
38. Its human
40. See 35-Down
42. Actor Baldwin, to pals
44. Turn suddenly
45. Beer
46. Medically care
49. Things for waiters
51. She plays 30-Across in the film (with 39-Down)
52. See 37-Down

DOWN

1. He played 20-Across on Broadway (with 1-Across)
2. Milky gem
3. Fiddling Roman
4. “House of Cards” star Kevin
5. Nude
6. Gaelic rebels
7. 20-Across’ former career
10. German Pianist Ney
11. Even score
12. Producer of both the play’s 2010 revival and the film
13. Big theater award the play one
19. Medicine amount
21. Movie robot
22. Indian dance

23. Kids govt. unit
24. Did sit
26. Cleaning tool
28. Golda ____
29. Homer’s neighbor
35. He plays 20-Across in the film (with 40-Across)
36. Not sour
37. Setting for the play and film (with 52-Across)
39. See 51-Across
41. Bitter
43. Korean rapper
45. Mule or idiot
46. Tac starter
47. Decay
48. Car aid org.
50. Never ending number
51. Six, per 3-Down

Last Month’s Solution

D	A	V	Y	J	O	N	E	S	T	I	G	E	R
E	E	O	E	C	N	O	T	E	E	O			
S	H	E	R	W	O	O	D	H	E	A	R	U	
I	R	E	E	L	U	P	O	N	M	I	G		
A	D		L	I	S	P			M	A	N	E	
R	O	L	E	V			G	R	A	N	D		
N	E	A	T	E			D	O	O	R			
A	G	A	R	C	H	I	T	E	C	T			
Z	I	G	G	Y			O			I	S		
J	I	R	E			S	C	H	W	A	R	T	Z
R	E	N	E			U	T	A	H		E	R	A
	A	G	E	A		N			K	A	E	P	
	R		D	O	N	D	R	Y	S	D	A	L	E
U	T	A				T			O	V	A	L	S
	H	A	W	A	I	I		N	U	D	E		

**Carrie Fisher
(1956-2016)**

**Debbie Reynolds
(1932-2016)**

Linked



Join the *Pittsburgh Applause* group on
www.linkedin.com.

As a member of this group, you'll be
better able to connect with your A&E
peers in Pittsburgh!

Membership is free, but you must have
a LinkedIn profile to participate.



www.pittsburghapplause.com

www.pittsburghaebook.com

pittsburgh
applause!
arts & entertainment newsletter

Keep the Applause Coming

Everyone in our line of work loves receiving applause, but to keep *Pittsburgh Applause* coming your way, its important to support the newsletter through ad buys and monetary gifts to Jim Richards.

Full-page (8" wide x 10" high): \$100
Half-page (8" wide x 5" high): \$75

All ads need to be built-to-size and provided in a low-res JPG file format. All ads must be pre-paid with the check made payable to the Pittsburgh A&E Group.

For more information, contact Jim at jim@james-richards.com



www.james-richards.com

www.pittsburghapplause.com