

Carnegie Deli to Close

Carnegie Deli, a Midtown Manhattan restaurant that opened in 1937, said Friday that it would close its doors at the end of the year.

By CHARLES PASSY September 30, 2016



PHOTO: KEVIN HAGEN/GETTY IMAGES

Carnegie Deli, a Midtown Manhattan fixture since 1937, said on Friday that it would close at the end of the year.

“I’ve reached a time in my life when I need to take a step back,” the restaurant’s owner, Marian Harper, said in a statement. The 65-year-old added that the long hours had taken a toll on her.

Cristyne Nicholas, a Carnegie spokeswoman, said that the restaurant’s challenges went beyond the demanding workload. She said the economics were difficult, especially since the restaurant was no longer able to afford leasing an adjoining space that increased its capacity to 184 seats.

While the Midtown restaurant is shutting down, Carnegie isn’t disappearing completely. It will continue to operate restaurants and food-service

operations at casinos in Las Vegas and Bethlehem, Pa., as well as at Madison Square Garden, the Carnegie spokeswoman said.

According to Arlene Spiegel, a New York restaurant-industry consultant, consumers’ changing tastes may have played a part, since Carnegie’s hearty fare has become more associated with indulgence than everyday dining.

“You eat it twice a year or when relatives come to town,” Ms. Spiegel said.

That may not be enough to satisfy the cravings of Carnegie regulars. Even some of those who prefer Katz’s Delicatessen, one of its rivals in the shrinking pool of local delis, said they were sorry to see Carnegie go, since it signals the decline of this classic New York cuisine.