As many of you know, ALLen Reads follows a slightly different path compared to many One Book programs. Last year, *Marley & Me* was available and promoted on three tiers: a picture book, a junior book, and an adult book. This year, however, our adult choice (*Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman and Judy Pedersen) does not have alternate versions for younger readers. In lieu of such books, ALLen Reads has chosen "companion" books with similar themes.

The junior level book is *The Gardener*, by Sarah Stewart and David Small, a story about a young girl who starts a rooftop garden, bringing brightness into her uncle’s very "black and white" life. It was recognized as a Caldecott Honor book in 1998 and ties into *Seedfolks'* themes. The picture book selection is *Wanda's Roses*, by Pat Brisson and Maryann Cocca-Leffler, which also ties into those themes.

Through the companion book method, ALLen Reads hopes to build bridges across cultures and generations. By uniting a community through thoughts and discussions, we can share our hopes and aspirations and get to know each other better, much like the characters in the selected books.

Watch for more information about ALLen Reads in the coming months. We are working with Borders to get these books in stock; and we will hopefully have them all available in school and public libraries this month. For up-to-date information about ALLen Reads, check the Friends website [www.allenfriends.com](http://www.allenfriends.com) or to get involved in this program, contact Jane Bennett, 972-390-1238 or jane@jrbennett.net.

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**Ah, Those Summer Books!**

Summer’s over – gather up those gently read summer paperbacks and take them to the library to donate to the Ongoing Book Sale. Ask the Circulation Desk for a receipt – it’s tax-deductible!

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**CHOCOLATE FRIENDZY**

Celebrate 25 Years of Friends at our annual membership celebration

**Monday, October 20th**

Time: 7:00 pm

Allen Senior Center

Check our website for more details in the coming weeks – [www.allenfriends.com](http://www.allenfriends.com)
**Junior Friends Of The Allen Public Library**

Do you know any 4th, 5th, or 6th graders who are creative and would love to put their ideas into action? Then contact Junior Friends. We meet on the second Monday of every month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. starting September 8, 2008. A nominal fee of $5 will be collected on your first meeting. Membership forms are available at the children’s desk. For information contact Nina at arzeshab3@gmail.com or Lee at lsparkss@cityofallen.org.

**Online Book Clubs at the Library**

Allen Public Library now has Online Book Clubs free for all patrons. If you are an avid reader, love talking about the books you read with others, but don’t have time to join a book club, then the Online Book Club service may be for you! All you need to do is go to the Allen Public Library’s website, click on “read more...” about the Online Book Club and sign up for the service with your email address. You can join one or all of the book clubs. Each weekday, you will receive a five minute selection from the book for that week.

Playaways Are Here!

It doesn’t get much easier: check it out, pop in one AAA battery, plug in headphones, hit “play” and off you go. No tapes, no CDs, no downloads. And when you stop, it remembers where you left off for the next time. It’s a Playaway – the Allen Public Library’s newest format for audio book listening. At half the size of a deck of cards, a Playaway is a pre-loaded digital audio book that is portable and easy to use.

With funding from the Texas State Library Lone Star Grant, the library purchased 184 titles for the adult and teen collections, including Eragon, Seedfolks, The Tin Roof Blowdown, Farewell My Subaru, and The Millionaire Mind.

Look for Playaways on the first floor by the elevator. The Information Desk staff can show you how to search for titles and answer questions about the new Playaways. You can also check the link from the library’s website, www.allenlibrary.org.

**Egyptologist Dr. Karl Kilinski**

Dr. Karl Kilinski discusses the upcoming Dallas Museum of Art Exhibit *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs* at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Allen Public Library. One of the last kings of Egypt’s 18th Dynasty, Tutankhamun ruled during a crucial, turmoil-filled period of Egyptian history.

Dr. Kilinski, Distinguished Teaching Professor at SMU, is an acclaimed specialist in classical myth and art, Egyptian art, classical myth in western art, Greek vase painting, and iconographical and iconological studies. Using a 40-slide presentation, Dr. Kilinski provides a survey of the exhibit and discusses the art and culture of King Tut's milieu and how this period affected 21st century civilization. Professor Kilinski explains, “My lecture intends to illuminate the power and sophistication of an ancient culture as well as its artistic imagination and creativity that humbles even the modern world.”

**Summer VolunTeens**

Allen Public Library summer VolunTeens enjoyed an evening of pizza, “thank yous” and an Olympic-themed scavenger hunt in appreciation of their many hours of volunteer service at the library. The Friends funded the dinner for the teens.

**Bach to Books Presents**

The Allen Public Library and Allen Philharmonic Orchestra celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with the fabulous musical trio Chaski, at 2:30 pm on Sunday, Sept. 21. Chaski means “messenger” in the Incan language of Quechua. In the spirit of this Andean traveler, Chaski performs Latin American folk music with traditional instruments, colorful costumes, cultural insight, Andean dances, and audience participation. Chaski’s concerts include written and spoken comments describing the music, culture, history, instruments, and dances.

As part of the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra’s Cultural Connections program, Chaski performs at Boyd Elementary School and the Lowery Freshman Center on September 22.

With generous support from the Texas Commission on the Arts, this program is jointly sponsored by the Friends of the Allen Public Library, Bach to Books program and the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra. It is free and open to the public. Call 214-509-4911 for information.

**Musical Trio Chaski**

Kao Kalia Yang, author of *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, appears at the Allen Public Library, 2:00p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20. Publishers Weekly gave this account of a Hmong family’s immigration to the United States a starred review.

In search of a place to call home, thousands of Hmong families made the journey from the war-torn jungles of Laos to the overcrowded refugee camps of Thailand and onward to America, but their history remains largely unknown. Driven to share her family’s story after her grandmother’s death, Kao Kalia Yang’s memoir is a tribute to the remarkable woman whose spirit held them all together. Copies of the *Latehomecomer* will be available for purchase at the library for $14.95. After her discussion on September 20, an autograph party will be held with The Twin Creeks Book Club serving refreshments. Proceeds of book sales benefit the Bach to Books cultural arts series. Please call Tom Keener at 214-509-4911 for information.