



# BETWEEN THE PAGES

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www.allenfriends.com

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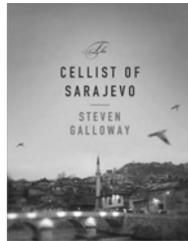
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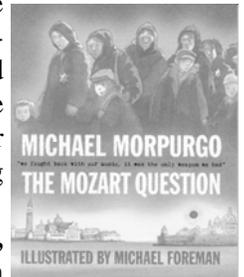
## ALLEN Reads Tunes Up for 2009-10

Thank you, Friends, for helping to make the first two years of **ALLEN Reads** so successful. It's your hard work and willing participation that bring all the energy and excitement to this program!

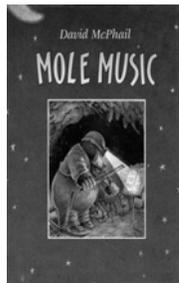


And now we are here to introduce the reading choices for the third year of **ALLEN Reads**. The main book for 2009-10 is **The Cellist of Sarajevo**, by **Steven Galloway**, a fictional story inspired by a real event. It shows how one person can make a difference, how influential music can be, and how people can retain their humanity, even through the harshest of times.

The "companion book" for our 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade readers is called **The Mozart Question**, by **Michael Morpurgo**, illustrations by Michael Foreman. The link to the main book is music and its influence in our lives. This story takes place in peacetime, but the waves caused by a previous war influence all the characters. Other good talking points include the power of family secrets and "finding your bliss," as Joseph Campbell would say.



For our youngest readers, the "companion book" is **Mole Music**, written and illustrated by **David McPhail**. Mole hears a musician and decides to learn to create his own music. The related themes follow through here as well in this "quiet story of a life well lived." The illustrations wonderfully depict what is happening below ground in Mole's world and above ground, too. An edition with CD is especially delightful, since music is a key element of the tale.



The **ALLEN Reads** committee is working on planning all the programs and related activities now. Each year is a new and exciting challenge, as the types of events planned change, just as the books do.

We have already been in contact with author Steven Galloway. He was excited that we have chosen his novel for our "one book" program, and he has agreed to speak at the library on March 6, 2010, followed by a book-signing. **BORDERS** will be on hand on March 6 with books for purchase, and they have already set up a display at the store with all the **ALLEN Reads** selections for this year, for those of you who can't wait to start reading. The library's copies of the books should be in by early October.

**The kick-off event for ALLEN Reads 2009-10 will be the Allen Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra concert on Saturday, October 3, at Sun creek Methodist Church.** The orchestra will perform Albinoni's Adagio in G Minor, the piece that the cellist of the novel plays. The cellist's reason for choosing this piece is that the Adagio had been recreated from a fragment after the only existing score was destroyed when the Dresden Music Library was firebombed in 1945. The fact that this piece of music "rose from the ashes," so to speak, seems symbolic in this situation and is an inspiration to the cellist.

That will be only the first musical performance linked to **ALLEN Reads**. The cellist in the novel plays the Adagio each day for 22 days to honor 22 innocent victims of a bombing. As part of this year's "Celebrity Musicians" program, we plan to have 22 musical performances of different kinds across Allen between October 3 and March 6, when the author will be here. Watch for that schedule and other programs to be announced.

More information and regular updates about **ALLEN Reads** can be found on our website, [www.allenfriends.com](http://www.allenfriends.com). For questions about programs, call Tom Keener, 214-509-4911. To join the **ALLEN Reads** Committee, contact Jane Bennett, 972-390-1238 or [jane@jrbennett.net](mailto:jane@jrbennett.net).



## BACH TO BOOKS Presents

### Grupo Pakal

Gain unique insight and a new appreciation for the highly advanced Mayan culture through a fire program of festive dance rituals and elaborate ceremonial regalia presented by Grupo Pakal at **3:00 p.m., Sunday, September 20**, at the Allen Library Auditorium.



Wearing a stunning wardrobe and elaborately feathered headdresses, each a uniquely handcrafted work of art, Grupo Pakal captures the essence of the advanced Mayan culture. According to ancient tradition, each unique design utilizes natural materials including leather, shell, semi-precious stones, and exotic feathers. Audiences of all ages and backgrounds are amazed and delighted by Grupo Pakal performances.

Much of the contemporary rural population of the Yucatán Peninsula and Chiapas, both in Mexico, as well as Guatemala and Belize, is Mayan by descent. Contrary to the popular myth that the Mayan people "disappeared," millions still live in the region, many still speaking one of the Maya family of languages.

Ricardo Alarcón's training in Mayan ceremonial dance was passed down from family tradition. A descendant of the Aztec Indians of Mexico, he represented Mayan culture for more than a decade at Xcaret, Mexico's popular ecological park located in the Mayan Riviera. Ricardo's passion for his family heritage inspires him to continue to pursue Mayan dance rather than other dance forms. Armando Ayala and Tami Mostert are also scheduled to perform.

A dedicated leader in the revival of the sacred Mayan Ballgame, Mr. Alarcón also shares his passion for the original team sport at his Master Classes and at Grupo Pakal's thrilling Mayan Ballgame Exhibitions. With his unique knowledge of the ancient ball-making process, Mr. Alarcón is one of the only remaining skilled players actively teaching the sport.

Grupo Pakal is based in Fort Worth and represents Mayan culture at exclusive area events, including fourteen regularly scheduled weekend performances at Dallas World Aquarium.

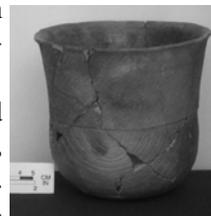
### Native Americans In Collin County

Wilson W. "Dub" Crook III will discuss the archeological prehistory of Collin County, including his current work in progress on the Late Prehistoric of the East Fork of the Trinity River, at **7:00 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 8**, at the Library Auditorium. This program is free, and includes a re-examination of the Wylie Focus Pits, important Native-American artifacts located along the Upper East Fork Trinity River.

As a child, Dub accompanied his father on archaeological excavations throughout Collin County. Wilson Crook, Jr. was one of the pioneering researchers on the archeology of the Upper Trinity watershed. As a result of his father's lifelong interest in archeology and paleo-anthropology, Dub grew up participating in archeological excavations throughout the world. Preserving Native-American history has grown to be a special passion for him.

Mr. Crook has published nearly 100 professional papers, 35 of them on archeology. While his archeological research has focused primarily on the Upper Trinity River watershed, he has also worked on sites in West Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, California and Virginia. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, he holds an M.S. from the University of Michigan in the field of mineralogy and rare-earth crystal chemistry. He is a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, the Archeological Association of Virginia, the Houston Archeological Society, and is a Fellow of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory.

Mr. Crook and his field partner, Mark D. Hughston, have been researching the Late Prehistoric era of the East Fork since the early 1970's.



### Used Books Wanted For the Ongoing Book Sale

Bring your gently used summer paperbacks and magazines to the front desk at the library and they'll give you a tax receipt. Then, on your way out, stop and get a few books for yourself. What an easy way to help your library!

The new magazine/paperback book displays, purchased with FOL funds from the book sale, are here and filled with magazines. They look great and hold tons of magazines.

## <https://allenreads.wikispaces.com/>

Yes, ALLEN Reads now has a wiki you can **read and post comments to about the books you're reading!!** To become a member, go to the site shown above, then:

1. Click on "join this Wiki" on the left.
2. Scroll down to "New to Wikispaces?" and select "join this Wiki".
3. Enter a username, password and your email (be sure to mark no to question #4 as you will not be creating a wiki at this time).
4. Click on "join" and type *allenreads* into the *add a wiki to this list space*.
5. Click on "Discussion" and you're ready to post!

## Thank You, Friends

Funds from the Friends, which come primarily from the Friends' on-going book sale and *your* membership dues, help the library offer many great programs like these in the Children's department for September. Many thanks to our new and returning Friends members for helping to make these programs possible and *free* for our community!

**New Book Clubs For Kids.** Elementary-aged school children now have their own book clubs being offered by the Children's department at our library.

- The **Kids Explore Book Club** for grades 1-3 will meet the third Tuesday of each month from **4:00-5:00 p.m.** starting **September 15<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Allen Kids Book Club**, for grades 4-6, will meet the first Thursday of each month from **4:00-5:00 p.m.** starting on **September 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

For K-2, a **Dr. Seuss Science** program is scheduled for **September 12 from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.** They'll learn science can be fun when exploring it with Dr. Seuss, make Oobleck with Bartholomew and plant seeds with the Lorax. Registration is required and begins August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Children's Desk. There's a limit, so sign up soon!

**Homeschool Bluebonnet Kickoff Party.** On **September 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30 p.m.** home schooled children in grades 3-6 are invited to learn about this year's Bluebonnet Award nominated books at a kickoff party – with refreshments!

Celebrate **Roald Dahl's birthday** on **September 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.** by coming to watch *Matilda*, the story of a young girl who outwits her parents and school principal to find happiness. Bring your pillow and a favorite snack! This film is PG and is recommended for children over four. A limit of 70 tickets will be handed out at 2:00 p.m. on the day of the movie.

**Read to Rover.** On **September 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.**, have your grade 1-6 child grab a favorite book and buddy up with a Heart of Texas therapy dog to share a story.

For additional information or to register your child call the Children's Desk at 214-509-4906.

*-Ann Livingston, President*



## We Want YOU!

If you're interested in serving your library in a hands-on capacity then consider exploring volunteer openings with the Friends a little more carefully; you might make some new "friends" in the process!

### CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Junior Friends of the Library – Committee Chair.** The Junior Friends chair helps to lead our 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders in creative endeavors and engages them in volunteer opportunities. This is a perfect opportunity for a parent with a child this age who wants to stay engaged and in touch with their preteen and his or her friends.

**On-Going Book Sale – Committee Chair.** The Friends' book sale at the library offers used paperback and hardback books, magazines, children's books, videos, DVD's, CD's, records, and tapes at bargain prices. The chair would ensure that donations of these items are sorted, priced and displayed in the lobby bookcases on a timely basis by working with the library staff and Friends volunteers.

**Recycle-a-Book Day – Volunteers.** Allen and Lovejoy elementary schools annually participate in Recycle-a-Book Day organized by the Friends in partnership with the Allen/Lovejoy Council of PTAs. This event, where more than 8,000 books are collected each year, will be held on a Saturday in November. Over half of the books are donated to agencies and schools in need in Collin County. Volunteers are needed both on this day when the donated books are collected, then later to sort and distribute them.

If you are interested in helping in any of these positions, please email Ann Livingston at [ann\\_livi@yahoo.com](mailto:ann_livi@yahoo.com) for more information.

## VolunTeens Appreciation

A good time was had by all at the VolunTeen Appreciation Party on Saturday, August 1, 2009. Thanks again to the Friends for the funds that were used to buy the hot dogs, fruit, cheese, carrots and drinks for the teens.



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**THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS in July and August!**

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Metta Alsobrook       | Merrill & Robert Nunnally |
| Heather Bell          | William Oberholz          |
| Juanita Boyd          | Badrul Qureshi            |
| Joanne Bradley        | Melody Perez              |
| Gwen Campbell         | Aaron Pino                |
| Tracy Carty           | Laura & David Ringrose    |
| Carol Chang           | Cindy Robinson            |
| Sybil Cotnoir         | Mary Lynn Saxton          |
| April Doyle           | Sarah & Lee Schmidt       |
| Joshua Geevarghese    | Robin Screen              |
| Anne Gifford          | Angela Smith              |
| Praveer Gupta         | Robin Screen              |
| Vicki Haggard         | Angela Smith              |
| Tracey Hanft          | Paula Tah-Sherman         |
| Ana Hessong           | Jeff Timbs                |
| Bonnie Jay            | Debbie & Chuck Vavra      |
| Romesh Jindal         | Manny Villalobos          |
| Ann & Mark Livingston | Sara Vogler               |
| Karyn Maloney         | Julie Williams            |
| Barbara McNutt        | Gerlanda Wright           |
| Maggie Monzingo       |                           |

**Who Used the Library in June & July**

Who says libraries are obsolete? The library was a busy place this summer; look at how many people we served in June and July! Almost 70,000 people visited the library and checked out over 153,000 items. Over 17,000 items were used in the library. Library cards were issued to 1,612 new patrons, and 12,000 holds were filled. Patrons asked over 17,000 reference questions.

2,800 children and almost 600 teens registered for the Summer Reading Program. As part of the Reading Program, over 6,000 children enjoyed a total of 50 programs, and more than 1,000 teens attended the 53 teen programs that were offered. Over 8,000 people attended library programs.

154 teens volunteered 2,118 hours. 77 teens, 4 adult volunteers and 12 staff members attended the end of the summer teen volunteer appreciation party.

Other summer activities included the Junior Friends play; an urban biologist discussing wildlife in Allen (co-sponsored by the Community Services Department); two screenings of “Texas: The State of Flowing Water” in conjunction with Parks and Recreation; and the theatrical production “Street People” written and directed by Allen’s award-winning playwright Ben Ateku. Through the sponsorship of the Friends and the Library, **all of these programs were completely free to the public!**

*The Friends of the Allen Public Library is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting the Allen Public Library by providing funds and programs that would not otherwise be possible.*