Chocolate Friendzy Surprises Library Patrons!

The Chocolate Friendzy held at the library in November turned out to be a sweet and successful membership drive for 2009. Stepping out in a different direction from past years, the Friends decided to hold our annual membership drive at the library this year rather than “off campus” at the Senior Center. Surprising patrons in the library on the afternoon of Nov. 10th, our Friends set up a reception in the lobby, complete with dozens of roses and balloons, and of course, chocolate. Past winners from the chocolate cook-off contests agreed to bake their winning creations once again for the reception. As the smell of chocolate from the yummy creations of the bakers and the hot chocolate provided by Sublime Chocolate, on Main St., wafted through the library, delighted patrons stood in line to sign up as new and renewing Friends members and to have a taste of the goodies.

After the Friendzy, many Friends stayed for the movie, Amelie, hosted by Nancy Churnin, Film Critic & Staff Writer for the Dallas Morning News.

The Library Marketing & Merchandising Committee sends to all the Friends a great big THANK YOU! They have been able to order many things that will enhance service and make it easier for patrons to use the library. Just a few examples: 250 more book easels throughout Children’s and Adult Non-Fiction, allowing them to make the collections more attractive and easier to browse; a new lamp for the auditorium projector which will really brighten up the movies we show; and another 3-level kiosk for the Children’s Library, allowing them to highlight special displays.

Also, $5,000 of Friends funds were used to purchase 126 audio books in a variety of formats (Playaway, CD and MP-3 disk). Check out the “New Audio Book” shelves.
Eager for a good toe-tapping, knee-slapping bluegrass jam? Do the sounds of the Appalachian and Smoky Mountains stir your spirit? Look no further than the Allen Public Library. The Texas Prairie Bluegrass Band performs old-time favorites as well as some of their original work at 7:30 pm, Friday, January 22, at the Allen Public Library. This group’s music is hard-driving and fast paced, with frequent solo breakouts.

Texas Prairie Bluegrass Band features Patrick Bouldin on mandolin, Tim Smith on bass fiddle, Meredith Brown and Al Castleman on guitars, Doy Cloninger on fiddle, and Joe Morrow on banjo. Band leader Patrick Bouldin states, “We hope our audience hears the descriptive differences in bluegrass music as compared to other genres – and the live ‘orchestration’ of the different pieces and the vocal harmony will put their mind squarely in the middle of old town mountain life!” He continues, “Instruments are typically in harmony, our instruments ‘talk’ to each other as if to tell part of the ballad or story the song is addressing.”

Patrick Bouldin, Joe Morrow and Al Castleman received formal bluegrass training by attending classes at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, but they attribute most of their training to numerous bluegrass jams and festivals where they learn new techniques. Joe Morrow has studied with esteemed bluegrass musicians such as Gerald Jones, Alan Munde, and Pete “Dr. Banjo” Wernick. A 2007 graduate of Abilene Christian University, Meredith Brown has been playing the guitar since 5th grade, but discovered the beauty of bluegrass music when she performed for the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre in Ferrum, Virginia. Doy Cloninger has been "sawing" the fiddle about 30 years, and is considered the dry wit comedian of the group. Al Castleman began with country and western group The Rockets in Bogata, Texas. After retiring from the United States Air Force, he joined The Good News Band (bluegrass) before joining Texas Prairie Bluegrass Band. Listening to (and watching!) Tim Smith's technically complex bass runs and jazzy improv provides an added benefit.

This free program is sponsored by Bach to Books and ALLen Reads and no reservations are required. For information, call Tom Keener at 214-509-4911.

Where public libraries are concerned, Mark Twain might say that reports of our demise are greatly exaggerated. According to a recent Fox News survey, 68% of Americans have a library card and 76% visited a library in 2008. There were 1.4 billion library visits last year and more than 2 billion items were checked out.

That’s enough visitors to fill the new Cowboys Stadium for 8 home games per season, including party passes, for the next 17 ½ centuries. If stacked on top of one another, those items would extend about 65,000 miles into space, or ¼ of the distance between earth and the moon.

Closer to home, the Allen Public Library had 316,000 visitors last year, enough to fill the seats at the new stadium almost 4 times. That number was up 6% from the year before and continues to increase.

Our 55,000 patrons checked out 726,000 items last year, or about 2,000 per day, nearly an 8% increase from the year before. That includes books, audiobooks, DVDs, and music CDs. So far this fiscal year (October and November), the increase over last year is 12% with no signs of slowing down.

When our visitors came to the library last year, they asked 79,000 questions, about one for each Allen resident, up 10% over FY 2008.

The library offers programs on a variety of literary, cultural, and historical topics in addition to storytimes for preschoolers of all ages. The storytimes are especially important in building children’s literacy and pre-literacy skills.

Last year, 26,000 people attended library programs, up 27% from the previous year. Many of the programs are sponsored by the Friends through the highly successful Bach to Books and ALLen Reads programs. Program calendars are available on the library website at www.allenlibrary.org and in paper format in the library.

Happy New Year!
BETWEEN THE PAGES

Allen Reads: Tuned Up and Ready

Hope you’ve been reading The Cellist of Sarajevo and the companion books, too. Below are the programs and activities in which you’re invited to participate. Save this page for reference, and come be a part of your community READ!!

**Book Discussions** are about to start! If you are in a book club, you can have a discussion on your own or contact the library for a discussion leader to come to your group to facilitate a discussion (214-509-4913). Each group that has a discussion is eligible to receive an ALLen Reads Book Bag, complete with discussion questions and some special gifts for the group. Or, if you would like to come to the library to participate in a discussion, you can wait and attend the Noontime Page Turners on Tuesday, March 2, 12 noon-1 PM in the Library Meeting Room. Book discussion questions for all three books can be found online at www.allenfriends.com by clicking on ALLen Reads and then on each book cover.

**January’s Movie Nights** are all musically themed. Each will have a brief introduction and then a short discussion afterwards, led by the people listed below. All movies begin at **6:30 PM each Tuesday**.

1/5  *Mr. Holland’s Opus*, Anthony Gibson, Fine Arts Director, Allen ISD  
1/12 *The Pianist*, Max Glauben, Survivor, Warsaw Ghetto (a 28 minute documentary on Max Glauben will be shown at 6 PM, preceding The Pianist, see article on Mr. Glauben, p.4)  
1/19 *The Glenn Miller Story*, Jeff Timbs, Director, Allen Public Library and Jazz Enthusiast  
1/26 *Young at Heart*, Nancy Churnin, Film Critic & Staff Writer, Dallas Morning News

**Musical Zoo Day** at the library will be celebrated on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 18, from 2-4 PM. *Children (ages preschool -10)* are invited to come enjoy an Instrument Petting Zoo (hosted by the AHS band and orchestra students), interactive dance performances (created by the AHS dance classes), sing along with puppets, story corner, and musical arts & crafts. It’s going to be lots of fun!

“**Celebrity Musicians**” programs continue. Some are listed below. Check our website for updates and additions.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Artist/Program</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Music Style</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/14</td>
<td>Matt Weitz, Music Critic</td>
<td>7 PM, Library Auditorium</td>
<td>State of music today</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Texas Prairie Band</td>
<td>7 PM, Library Auditorium</td>
<td>Bluegrass (see article, p.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>New Century Trumpet Quartet</td>
<td>12 noon, Library Gallery</td>
<td>Jazz</td>
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<td>2/21</td>
<td>Richmond Punch</td>
<td>3 PM, Library Auditorium</td>
<td>Classical to jazz</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Celtic Musical Celebration</td>
<td>7 PM, Library Auditorium</td>
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(More ALLen Reads information on the back of this insert!)
Be an Author Yourself! ALLen Reads has published a book written by the people in our community each year of the program. This year’s book is to be called *Moved by the Music*. The Cellist, Mozart Question, and Mole Music portray music as an homage and a statement, a distraction and a secret, a form of self-fulfillment, and as a paean to the resilience of the human spirit. Whether music changes your mood, transports you to another time, or calls you to action, write about it! For submission guidelines, log on to [http://allenfriends.com/ALLen_Reads.htm](http://allenfriends.com/ALLen_Reads.htm).

The anthology will be available for purchase in paperback or for free reading online. Please submit your stories electronically by March 1, 2010 to allenreadseditors@gmail.com. This year’s anthology will be published in early May. You can check out our past anthologies, *Bad Dog Tales* and *Planting Seeds...In Your Garden and Your Community* online at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

### AUTHOR VISIT

**And Book Signing!**

Steven Galloway, author of *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, will be at the library on Saturday, March 6. A quartet from the *Allen Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra* will play from 10-10:30 AM; the author will speak at 10:30, and then there will be a book signing opportunity. BORDERS will have books on sale there at the library or people are welcome their own copy. *Look for more information on this and other ALLen Reads events in the March/April newsletter.*

*Come and join us! All ALLen Reads programs and activities are free and open to the public. For more information and additions/updates to the schedule, go to [www.allenfriends.com](http://www.allenfriends.com)*

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**Max Glauben**

The Allen Public Library’s free showing of *Plagues of the Soul* at 6 pm and *The Pianist* at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 12, will be highlighted with an introduction by a special guest, Max Glauben.

In 1939 Germany invaded Poland and quickly rolled into Warsaw, where Max’s home became part of the Warsaw Ghetto. In 1943, during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and burning, Max and his family hid in a room behind a brick oven that sheltered them from the searing napalm flames. They were eventually discovered by the Nazis and sent to the Majdanek concentration camp.

Max and his father were separated from their other family members because they could provide valuable slave labor. The rest perished in the Majdanek gas chambers and crematoriums. His father was later taken as a hostage by the Nazis and was subsequently killed, leaving Max an orphan.

In 1945, Max was placed in an over-crowded boxcar for a journey to Dachau for the “final solution.” As the Allied Forces approached, the Nazis were eager to send the internees to the death camps to destroy all evidence and witnesses. The train was disabled by Allied planes so Max and other survivors were forced on a death march from the 16th until the 23rd of April, 1945, when he was liberated by the U.S. Army. While looking for a displaced person camp, he was rescued by Lieutenant Basic, an officer with the 179th Signal Corp. U.S. Army. Max stayed with this group until 1947 when he immigrated to the U.S.

Max was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Korea. After an honorable discharge, he moved to Dallas where he met and married his wife Frieda, a native Dallasite, and raised a family of three children who have blessed them with seven grandchildren.

Today, Max speaks at schools, churches, synagogues, and organizations, serving as a spokesman for those who perished from the Holocaust. To donate:

**The Max Glauben Holocaust Educational Foundation**

PO Box 800008
Dallas, TX  75380

Tax deductible receipts are given.
Allen Arts Alliance features

Panache!

Support and celebrate the Allen Arts Alliance by attending Panache on **Saturday, January 23**. This year’s gala will be the inaugural event of Allen’s newest hotel, Courtyard by Marriott Dallas/Allen at the John Q Hammons Center, 210 East Stacy Road.

Panache serves as a major fund-raiser for cultural arts organizations that receive financial support from Allen Arts Alliance. Tickets are $100 and include cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at 7 p.m. with dinner following at 8 p.m. Black tie-optional VIP tickets that also offer the 6 p.m. reception are $125.

Angela Paxton will begin the evening by singing *The Star Spangled Banner*. Dallas Unlimited Band will perform songs and instrumental favorites from the Big Band and Swing era and progress through the decades. With background music provided by members of the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra, patrons can visit art exhibits provided by Allen Art to Go and Visual Artist League of Allen (VALA).

Choreographed by Stefanie Best, patrons can enjoy the Red and White and Blue Giselle ballet performed by the Allen Civic Ballet. Local area drama students will present *Who’s on First*, the famous baseball comedy skit from comedians Bud Abbott and Lou Costello. The Friends of the Allen Public Library and Endowment Board will provide film clips of popular programs and distribute bookmarks. Take a nostalgic tour of Allen history as the Allen Heritage Guild provides archival photographs.

Local dance instructor John Laverty will provide complimentary swing dance lessons. John has been teaching beginning ballroom, Latin and swing dancing in the Dallas area for over eleven years. He is currently instructing group classes for Richland College and has hosted his own dance classes and ballroom dances.

Stefanie Best of the Allen Civic Ballet says of Panache, "As a guest, I have a great time. As a board member of the Allen Arts Alliance, I'm excited this year's event will be held at the new hotel; I'm confident we'll raise a lot of money for the arts. As the director of the Ballet, I'm looking forward to exposing my organization to a wider audience. Panache is great for giving people a glimpse of what is available in the cultural arts community of Allen."

As part of The Allen Arts Alliance, the Friends, believe that support for the arts is crucial to the health and vitality of any city. Art enhances the quality of life for every citizen and helps build a stronger sense of community identity. We encourage you to attend the Panache/celebration of local arts.

To purchase tickets, call 972-727-7272.

Friends of the Library Endowment Fund

Culminating Allen’s November 14 celebration of “Oceano,” the Library’s new bronze sculpture, the Friends of the Allen Public Library Endowment Fund Board hosted a gala reception at the Allen Senior Center. Special guests included the artist Roger Stoller, donors to the Endowment Fund, City officials, Library staff, Founders of the Allen Library, members of the Friends, and community supporters. The event was underwritten by The Eugene McDermott Foundation.

Amid flowers, balloons, catering by Two Rows, and music by the Allen Philharmonic Symphony Quartet, Dr. Joe Farmer, President of the Endowment Fund Board, emceed the event. Mayor Steve Terrell introduced Stoller, who entertained the group with a detailed presentation highlighting his work on “Oceano,” including conception of the work, computer drawings, casting, polishing, and installation at the Library. In presenting his philosophy behind the work, Stoller told the group, “Knowledge is a key to what makes us human, and a library is one of civilization’s doorways to our communal wealth of knowing. Knowledge has no limit; it is always growing, forever discovering new frontiers. The Mobius strip, a single continuous surface with no end, is used here to signify infinity and the endless possibility of learning.”

Stoller’s other works have been featured in the *Washington Post* and can be seen at several sites in California and Maryland.

After Stoller’s presentation, Gayle Boon, Vice President of the Board, raffled off prizes donated by Allen American Hockey, Borders, the City of Allen, American National Bank, Brio Tuscan Grill, Chase Oaks Golf Course, Elke’s Market Café, Carriage House Florist, BizComPR.com, MAX GLX Supplements, and Watters Crossing.

The Endowment Fund’s purpose is raising and managing funds for the long-term benefit of the Allen Public Library. In 2010 Board members will give presentations to local organizations about the Fund’s plans and ways citizens of Allen may contribute. To schedule a presentation, please contact Scott White at scottwhite@bizcompr.com.
THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS - October/November

Ella Jo Adams
Tami Alexander
Kiren Ali
Kristen & Matt Amen
Diane Ballard
Judith Barnes
Robyn & Lee Battle
Steve Benson
Victoria Brown
Tami Burich
Riley Burrus
Marie Burton
Tammy Catsoris
Varughese Cherian
Susan Cimino
Mary Cone
Jay Conrad
J. Eyleen Crane
Shirley & Michael Cusick
Tracey D’Annunzio
Susan Day
Michele Dunlap
Jennifer Dural
Laura & Mark Feld
Matthew Finklea
Lana Fort
Cyndy Fowler
Mary Fruia
Kenneth Fulk
Deborah Garcia
Julie Gardner
Robert Gerber
Sherry Grimes
Senad Gusic
Ty Hall
Judy Hammer
Tina Harris
Patricia Haug
Miranda Haynes
Laurie Hosack
Dolly Hoss
Dale Howard
Karmen Hughes
Kathy Huisenga
Trudy Israel
Kristi & Mark Jones
Dorothy & Vern Lankenau
Betty & Jerry Lawson
Jo Long
Freda Lovell
MacKinnon Family
Marlies Magrab
Neelima Manthena
Paula & Mark Mason
Jean Mattock
Justine Miller
Janelle Monico
Tonya & Griff Moore
Joan Mortensen
Krystal Nichols
Brett Norton
Chidi Ogbuta
Falguni Patel
Nancy Popiolek
Ruth Pringle
Tony Pritchard
Brad Ream
Meg Reed
Ann Reidmiller
Marie Renfro
Jackie & Gene Rife
Gloria Ripoll
Susan Romans
Paula Ross
Kuan Sanchez
Gina Marie & George Schafer
Victoria Selznick
Marianna Sennour
Syed Shahzaman
Homeira Shirkhodaei
Joyce Sisson
Wilma Smith
Frances Sparks
Cindy Stachiw
Murray Stein
Worley Stein
Christina Stenger
Jeanine Stevens
Patricia Stevens
Angela Stewman
Debbie Stout
Norma & D.G. Stults
Indriati Tan
Laurie & Brad Tanas
Wendy Teel
Deidre Thomson
Brandi Tiller
Kristin & David Tolman
Martha Tracy
Barb Van De Voorde
Gloria Verbeek
Elaine Vopni
Kerry Wilkinson
Donald Wing
Sandy Wittsche
Kim Wright
Christian Yeargan
Wynne Zepp

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.