Greetings Friends,

Yes it’s true, the Friends have a Facebook site now; just type in Allen Friends to pull up the site if you have a Facebook account, and if you don’t yet, it’s very easy to set one up! On our site you will find updated information on the latest happenings within the community at Allen Public Library. Of course, the great thing about Facebook is that you have a chance to post comments about our programs and to post ideas for future programs, or anything else Friends related! We love hearing from our Friends members and we hope you use this opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas. Tell us what you’d like to see at your library!

Adding a Facebook site for the Friends is the latest in some of the many updates the board has been working on. Most recently we have welcomed Rhonda Harper as the On-Going Book Sale Chair. We are pleased to welcome her to new position and she has taken charge with confidence!

Bonnie Laufer-Beuck is now our Facebook coordinator. Bonnie did all the research and set up of our new Facebook account and will keep it updated and current for the Friends. The Friends are delighted to thank Bonnie for her effort on this project!

Also, Friend Nina Bains is moving from Volunteer Coordinator to Web Update Coordinator. She will be working with web manager Josie Price to ensure the information on the Friends site, www.allenfriends.org is correct and current. Thank you, Nina!

In the meantime the Board is busy redesigning our committees in order to better serve the library and our community. We are currently looking for a volunteer coordinator and a community liaison. For more information on board openings and volunteer opportunities please feel free to email me at annsliving@gmail.com.

Ann Livingston, President

Look What the Friends Have Been Doing!

Lots of fun at our EarthFest booth

A couple of fun library facts

- Americans visit libraries six times more often than they attend live sporting events. That’s 1.4 billion library visits, compared to 218 million sporting event attendance.
- A third of Americans — about 77 million people — use public library computers to look for jobs, connect with friends, do their homework and improve their lives.
Shakespeare Movies in May
(on Tuesdays at 7 pm and FREE!)

May 4 — Emmy-award winning King Lear (1983), starring Sir Laurence Olivier and Colin Blakely, King Lear descends into madness after wrongly distributing his estate under the influence of flattery.

May 11 — The Taming of the Shrew (1967), starring Richard Burton and Oscar winner Dame Elizabeth Taylor, a romantic film featuring a fortune-hunting scoundrel and a shrewish wife.

May 18 — Award winning Henry V (1944), directed by and starring Oscar winner Sir Laurence Olivier, an aging King invites disaster when he abdicates to his corrupt daughters while rejecting his one loving, but honest one.

May 25 — Macbeth (1979), starring Ian McKellen and Oscar winner Dame Judi Dench, no elaborate scenery nor elaborate sets, masterful actors conveying everything Shakespeare intended through their words and body language.

William Shakespeare at Library

Donned in a historically accurate costume, Robert Clover-Brown, known as The Shakespeare Man, presents a well-versed and perfect portrayal of The Bard William Shakespeare. In his one-man show for multi-generations, he adds insights into the life and work of Shakespeare during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I.

The Allen Public Library and Bach to Books hosts a free program with The Shakespeare Man at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 13. A party with Renaissance delicacies will be offered after the program.

In his discussion The Shakespeare Man will share this renowned literary figure’s exciting life in a turbulent Elizabethan world, his intriguing women, spiritual values and themes in his works, and highlight one of his famous works, Julius Caesar. “I think it’s very intriguing that Shakespeare was the first writer in the English language to write deeply thought-out female characters of all different varieties, young and old, fierce, funny, loyal, dangerous...,” The Shakespeare Man recounts.

William Shakespeare was born in April, 1564, in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. Before his death in April, 1616, he wrote a canon of literature that would lead to him being regarded as arguably the greatest writer in the English language.

A graduate of Cambridge University with a masters of arts degree in history and an experienced actor, Robert has portrayed Shakespeare in television, film and commercial productions. Also, he wrote and performed in an educational DVD for Dallas Opera and coaches English dialects and Shakespearean monologues.

The Shakespeare Man declares, I’m not presenting his plays, I’m not spouting lots of Shakespeare,” he said. “I am talking about my life and my work as Shakespeare in all of my presentations in different forms depending on the title. The essence of the whole thing is I aim to bring the man behind the words to life for multi-generational audiences....I hope they will gain ... insight into the man, and therefore have more interest and enthusiasm about his work."

- Fare thee well, Gentles all.

Book Suggestions for

Wow – the 2009-10 ALlen Reads program is done – over 23,000 people participated and enjoyed reading, talking, listening and learning. A lot of positive feelings and positive energy were generated here in Allen!

Now it’s time to start planning 2010-11 and YOU can help. Have you read a good book lately? One you just couldn’t put down...and then you had to talk to your friends about it and what it said? If so, please share the book title and a short review of it with ALlen Reads. You can go on the website or Facebook and contact us that way; you can drop a note off at the library at the Information Desk (just say it’s for ALlen Reads); or you can e-mail Jane Bennett, chairman of ALlen Reads, jane@jrbennett.net

The committee is reading and discussing possibilities, too. Planning will continue through the summer, and the book will be announced in the fall. If you’re in a book club and are planning your list for the coming year now, just leave a space for the ALlen Reads choice!

Can’t wait to hear what you’re reading and thinking about, so contact us soon!!
Summer Programs at the Library

In an effort to promote reading and lifelong learning for people of all ages, Allen Public Library offers a fulfilling Summer Reading Program for the entire family.

For children and teens, it strengthens their reading literacy skills, helps with academic success, and encourages reading for enjoyment. Reading also helps children develop and maintain reading and literacy levels during the summer. Kids who read over the summer demonstrate better retention skills once they return to school than those who do not read during their time off.

Children’s Summer Reading Program sign-up begins Monday, June 7th with Storytime beginning Monday, June 14th. Six exciting programs are planned--2 programs each day--in the Auditorium. Programs are scheduled at both 2:30 and 3:45 p.m.

Wed., June 16 David Slick: Comedy variety show with juggling, unicycling, balance feats, magic, etc.

Mon., June 21 Mister Jazzz: Amazing Balloon Show

Mon., June 28 Dallas Puppet Theater. Rumplestiltskin

Wed., July 7 Heard Natural Science Museum - Animal and Nature program

Mon., July 12, Dinosaur George

Wed., July 28, Sci-Tech Discovery Center

July 24th is the last day to sign up for Summer Reading, and July 31 is the last day to return Reading Logs.

The Adult Summer Program is designed to encourage our adult patrons to experience new book genres, provide a good model for children enrolled in summer reading, foster a common family activity, and most importantly, offer fun for adults. Participants will be given a reading log to record the books that were read. There is not a predetermined list of titles, but there are specific categories participants will have to choose from. If anyone needs assistance in choosing a book to read, suggestions and resources are available. A total of 3 books must be read, each from a different category, in order to get a prize.

Teens will be joining the programs for adults in May, for a month of Shakespeare (see page 2).

The first Saturday in May is FREE COMIC BOOK DAY. The Allen Public Library and local Comic Book stores have free comics just for visiting. Teens, grades 6 to 12, stop by Teenscape at the library on Saturday, May 1, 10 am - 4 pm for a free comic.

Registration for the APL Summer VolunTeen program begins May 1. VolunTeens must be entering 7th-12th grade in the upcoming school year. Forms will be available at the Information Desk or online at www.allenlibrary.org. Positions are assigned on a first-come basis and fill up quickly, so sign up early by bringing your completed form to the Information Desk. Contact the library at 214-509-4913 or for more information about teen programs. For details about the children’s program, call 214-509-4906. For details on the Adult Summer Reading, call 214-509-4905.
THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS - March/ April

Hyun Sook Ballatti
Denise & Jim Balok
Ann Bedale
Gayle & E T Boon
Bonnie & Seb Borrello
Chriss Bouquet
Amy Bowman
Emily Bowman
Patricia Bradley
Crystal Brewer
Joellen Brill
Linda & Ron Carlson
Beth Carrera
Meekyoung Cho
Marian & George Chrisman
Rebecca Crookston
Ragip Damar
Joanne Easley
Joe Farmer
Barbara Flunker
Summer Fox
Marguerite Guarnacci
Mary Hasley

Alison Hefter
Dillon Jacobs
Toni Jenkins
Margaret Leary
Patty & Robert Lee
Dawna Loiza
Vicki Masters
Dianne Mayo
Ann McCallop
Nina & Fred McMurdy
Christi Norris
Nancy & Mark Pacheco
Carisa Prentice
Bonnie & Jay Rawot
Betti & Bill Scillian
Robin Sedlacek
Sarah Sethi
Helen Shaikewitz
Karyl Snyder
Anika Stiffend-Williams
Michelle Todd
Eileen & Bill Tollett
Robin Vahimian

Graduation Gift Idea

Graduation time is coming soon, and many of us have friends and relatives we want to honor, to let them know we are proud of their accomplishment. What better way than to give a book to their school library or the Allen Public Library in their honor?

The Allen Public Library will select an appropriate book (if you have a preference, please indicate) and place a book plate with your graduate’s name in the front of the book. Contact the library at 214-509-4905 for details. What an honor to your special graduate!

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And don’t forget . . .

To bring your gently used books to the library for the ongoing book sale! It is one of our biggest fundraisers, allowing the Friends to fund many of the activities we do for the library.

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.