Upcoming Events at the Library
(all free, of course)

Tuesday, July 3 at 7:00 p.m.  "Muppet Treasure Island"
Wednesday, July 4 all day  Library Closed
Friday, August 24 all day  Library Closed
Tuesday, July 10 at 7:00 p.m.  "An American Tail"
Friday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m.  Dallas Banjo Band
Tuesday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m.  "The Great Muppet Caper"
Thursday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m.  What Ever Happened to Heroes?
Tuesday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m.  “Stuart Little”
Tuesday, July 31 at 7:00 p.m.  Armchair Traveler to England
Thursday, August 9 at 7:30 p.m.  Ponty Bone and the Squeezetones
Friday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m.  Shoot Low Sheriff

PLUS, don’t forget Tuesday Nights at the Movies in August.

And stay tuned for even more activities at the library—see www.allenfriends.org and www.allenlibrary.org, or check out our Facebook page!

Hello, Friends Members,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Susan Jackson, your recently elected president. I have lived in Allen for over 16 years. I have been married for the past 26 years to my husband Mike. We have three children: Rachel who attends TWU, Max who will be a junior at Allen High School in the fall and Dylan who will be in the 6th grade at Bolin Elementary. I am excited to lead the Friends and look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming programs and events. We are currently planning many items for the rest of the summer and fall.

Inside you will find information about some of our outstanding programs and our ongoing book sale. We are happy to report that Vandana Bains will be leading our Jr. Friends in some fun programs and will have many opportunities for our children in 4th through 6th grade to be involved at the Library; you’ll see more about that in the next issue.

We have several opportunities for our adult members to get involved. There are several open positions on our board: Community Relations, Membership, Volunteer Coordinator, Social Media Manager and Website Coordinator. If you would like more information about these or any other opportunities with the Friends, please feel free to contact me at susanjackson@yahoo.com. Even if you only have a little time to give, we could use your help.

I hope you all have a great summer and that you will visit the library often!

Susan Jackson

For information and updates on schedules: www.allenfriends.org, or join us on the Friends of the Allen Public Library Facebook page.
Although the banjo has African origins, its modern configuration is truly an American phenomenon. Along with the fiddle, the banjo is a mainstay of American old-time music. Celebrating their twenty-third year, the Dallas Banjo Band appears at the Allen Public Library at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 13.

From Dixieland to blues and ragtime tunes, the Dallas Banjo Band performs a variety of musical genres. This 20-piece band was formed in 1989 under the direction of Smokey Montgomery, formerly a banjoist with Bob Wills and the Light Crust Doughboys. Since then, they have performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Garland Symphony Orchestra and America’s Got Talent. Their arrangements appear on the soundtrack for the film, Lugosi: Hollywood’s Dracula, and their songs range from Tchaikovsky’s “Swan Lake” and Gorney’s “Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?”

Home-builder Harold Poole, the band’s concertmaster, was an ex-guitarist who hadn’t played in 30 years when he met Mr. Montgomery. The connection was made via a flugelhorn player whose new house Poole was building. He notes, "Smokey loaned me his banjo for the week and sent me home with an instruction book. That was 20 years ago." When asked why he prefers the banjo, he responds, “It is happy instrument; it is hard to play a sad song on the banjo.” Poole then gleefully notes, “One of our numbers includes a wash board.”

The banjo’s popularity sharply declined as the acoustic guitar ascended to iconic status during the 1920s. However, the banjo experienced a revival when “The Ballad of Jed Clampett” debuted on the 1960s hit television show The Beverly Hillbillies. This number 1 country hit made it to 44 on the charts in 1962.

Treat yourself to a Texas-sized jam session with Ponty Bone and The Squeezetones at the Allen Public Library, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 9. Reflecting a combination of Cajun, blues and country, Ponty delivers an unforgettable performance. His music reflects his philosophy, which is “There are no limits.”

For two decades, Ponty Bone has led his band to popularity throughout the world. Having shared the stage and studio with such varied musicians as punk rock stars The Clash, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, fellow Texas accordion King Flaco Jimenez, and superstar Linda Ronstadt, Ponty earned his reputation as a talented musician who can deliver knockout tunes. Jim Beal, Jr. of the San Antonio Express-News declares, “There’s nothing fake, flashy or faddish about the music - or the presentation - of Ponty Bone & The Squeezetones. The man and the band play enduring, endearing Texas folk music with a driving beat.” In 1987, Ponty’s band appeared on the PBS music television program Austin City Limits as part of a “Squeezebox Special” episode.

With Chico Oropeza on drums, RC Banks playing guitar, Danny Wade at bass, and Ponty playing accordion, Ponty and the Squeezetones’ amazing accomplishments deliver soul and energy to all their music.

Known to play for back yard barbeques, a statewide folk festival, concert stage, cantina, or college campus, Ponty enlivens the environment everywhere he performs.

Before forming his own band, Ponty was a member of Joe Ely’s band, recording five albums and participating in countless tours.

Distributed by Loudhouse Records, “Fantasize” is Ponty’s most recent release. His earlier albums are “Easy As Pie,” “My, My, Look At This,” and “Dig Us On The Road Somewhere.”

All Bach to Books performances are sponsored by the Friends of the Allen Public Library and the City of Allen. Sometimes others participate in sponsoring, and are noted accordingly. All Bach to Books presentations are free and open to the public, and most are available on Channel 16 and on youtube. For more information about any Bach to Books performances, please call 214-509-4911.
Shoot Low Sheriff

Saddle up for Shoot Low Sheriff, an authentic Western Swing band, at 7:30 pm, Friday, August 17, Allen Public Library. Inspired by classic Western swing bands, Shoot Low Sheriff combines the essence of bands that were once popular at Southern dance halls during the thirties and forties with contemporary and exciting energy.

Sponsored by Bach to Books, this program is free and no reservations are required.

Former bandleader for the popular Cowboys and Indians, Erik Swanson formed Shoot Low Sheriff in 2008. Cultural Arts critic Christina Rees declares, "He's a modern music man with a savvy appreciation for the past, for authenticity." Swanson loves to honor the contributions of Bob Wills, Spade Cooley and Milton Brown, and notes, "keeping the sound alive and reminding people what used to be here and what it means to be part of Texas."

What Ever Happened to Heroes?

What makes a hero? Who are your heroes, and why do you admire them?

National Public Radio commentator Christ Tucker presents What Ever Happened to Heroes? At 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at the Allen Public Library, Mr. Tucker will explore heroes in mythology, religion, war, social activism, sports, films and politics.

In addition to defining a hero and determining his or her relevance to ancient and modern society, Mr. Tucker will also discuss the characteristics of heroes and what our choice of heroes says about our values and the values of society. Other topics covered this evening will include distinguishing heroes from mere celebrities and why it is a challenge to find true heroes.

Recalling his childhood, Mr. Tucker notes, “One of my earliest heroes was the comic character Green Lantern. I read all the comic book heroes, but something about him appealed to me the most. I think it was the oath he took each time he recharged the ring, which I cite in the commentary. Years later, as an adult, I realized that I still remembered Green Lantern's oath, and that got me to thinking about heroes—who they are, why we need them, what it takes to be a hero and more.”

A former columnist and editor of D Magazine, the city magazine of Dallas/Fort Worth, Tucker is now an author, journalist, speechwriter and editor; a regular book reviewer for The Dallas Morning News; and a commentator for KERA 90.1 FM and National Public Radio. He has won numerous writing awards from the City and Regional Magazine Association and Dallas Press Club. He holds Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in English and American Literature from the University of North Texas.

Friends of the Allen Public Library Scholarship

Katherine Battle was the recipient of the $1,000 scholarship from the Friends. Her parents are Lee and Robyn Battle. Here are some comments she shared about herself on her application for the Friends scholarship: “I have volunteered many hours at the Allen Public Library. I began volunteering there in 2008 when I joined the Teen Advisory Board (TAB). The Teen Advisory Board is an organization sponsored by the Allen Public Library that allows teenagers to find ways to promote reading. We plan parties that are based on a currently popular book or movie during the school year. During the summer, we host parties or plan activities, such as movie showings, games, and crafts.

After becoming a member of TAB, I became a volunteer for the Library's VolunTeen Program. As a library aide, I help set up book displays, keep the magazine sale racks up to date, and make sure that the shelves are organized and the books in order. I believe that the Teen Advisory Board and the VolunTeen Program has helped me become a stronger person, by allowing me to voice my opinions in a safe environment and has allowed me to build relationships with the staff and peers. During this experience, I have become interested in pursuing a career in library science. I want to continue my work at the library, as a volunteer and to help others by encouraging them to experience the world through literature as a librarian.”
**Help Your Library**

**Ongoing Book Sale**

Donating your used books is fast, free, and might even help someone cultivate one of the greatest gifts of all—a love of reading and learning. In addition to cultivating the love of reading, donating your used books contributes to the largest single source of funding (after memberships) of the Friends of Allen Public Library. Help get your old or gently used books in the hands of people who will appreciate them by donating them to our largest fundraiser.

Most gently used books are gladly accepted. See donation guidelines for further information. Among the most highly coveted used books are children's books, best sellers, and paperbacks. If you were interested in it, someone else will be too!

Stop by soon! We look forward to accepting your gently used books as well as providing you with interesting reading at a great price, for a good cause. Thank you for your continued support!

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Here’s an idea—when you drop off your donations, stop and buy a couple of books to take home!

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**ONGOING BOOK SALE**

**Donation Guidelines**

Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Limit donations to 2 containers per visit.
- Bring items to the Information or Check Out desk, or ring the bell at the loading dock on Coats Drive and staff will meet you during library business hours.
- Please do not leave donations in the gallery hallway or on the loading dock.
- Library staff is not responsible for unloading donations.
- Donations are tax deductible; receipt available upon request. The library cannot appraise or place values on materials received.

The library accepts the following materials in good condition:

- Limit donations to 2 containers per visit;
- Hardback and Paperback Books;
- Computer, medical and travel books published within the last five years;
- Encyclopedias, textbooks and business books within the last ten years;
- Children's Books;
- Audio Books;
- Music CDs;
- DVDs and Blu-Ray;
- Magazines published within 1 year (and older National Geographics).

Thank You for your generosity!

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**The Friends' Book Sale and ALLen Reads**

So what do the Friends' ongoing book sale and ALLen Reads have in common?

The most obvious point is that they both encourage people to read: ALLen Reads, through the chosen book(s), discussions, and activities; and the ongoing book sale by offering great books at prices everyone can afford.

Did you know that some of the money raised through the ongoing book sale helps to fund ALLen Reads? The book sale is the main source of funding for other wonderful programs that the Friends help to make possible, too, like Bach to Books cultural presentations, writing workshops, the teen volunteers, audio books, and more.

When you bring in books to donate, and you purchase books from the ongoing sale, you support the Friends, the library, and the programs you enjoy. THE BOOK SALE NEEDS YOU! Bring in any gently used books to donate. You'll get a tax receipt for charitable deductions. And then browse the sale to find other books you'd love to read.

If you like to read, organize, and be creative, and you would like to become involved in working on the book sale or planning ALLen Reads for the coming year, contact Debbie Vavra at dvavra@cityofallen.org (for the book sale) or Jane Bennett, jane@jrbennett.net (for ALLen Reads).

Happy Summer! Happy Reading!

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Stay tuned to next month’s newsletter to find out what our 2012-13 ALLen Reads books are ...
Looking and Learning at the Library

Our library has so much going on. Here are just a few examples of our library’s recent and upcoming programs and events.

Cowboy Princess

Before a packed house, Cowboy Princess Cheryl Rogers and Red Ryder film star Brown Jug Reynolds saddled up for a journey back to the 1940s and 1950s. Prior to the program, guests were treated to a viewing of *Ride Ryder Ride* (1949), a film that starred Jim Bannon as the Red Ryder and Brown Jug Reynolds as the Little Beaver. Cheryl Rogers and film star Brown Jug Reynolds received a thunderous standing ovation after being introduced. The program began with a medley of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans music performed by The Twin Fiddles, Kristyn Harris and Miss Devon, the yodeler for the film *Toy Story 2*. Produced by the Roy Rogers family, Cheryl featured a film about Dale Evans. Because of copyright issues, the film will not be available for distribution; thus, Allen Public Library patrons received a unique privilege. The program concluded with the audience and performers joining together to sing “Happy Trails”.

Armchair Travelers—England

Want to hear about some "favourite" out-of-the-way places in England? This is back roads and popular roads in Britain at its best.

The library’s own Gill McNab will share stories, pictures, and anecdotes from her time in England. British-inspired refreshments will be served. There’s no charge; however, registration is required.

Come explore the world without ever leaving Texas! Join us in the 2nd floor adult program room on July 31 at 7 p.m. and travel to England. For more information, contact the Reference Desk at 214-509-4905.

Super Reader

Since 2010, library patron Christine Van Hoose occupied herself by reading 746 books. A patron with 90 years of experiences, she read an impressive list of authors. To recognize her accomplishments, Adult Services awarded her with a new large print Mary Higgins Clark book, library pencils, magnets, and bookmarks. Continuous reading and its positive effect on the aging process may the aphorism to be garnered from her lifestyle.

Summer Fun At Our Library

The Library’s annual Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and adults kicked off on June 4 and continues through August 2. In the first two weeks, 1,931 children, 260 teens, and 179 adults registered to read and 1,915 people attended 31 programs. In the same time period, 19,166 library visitors checked out 52,793 items. Wow! For children and tweens, the summer fun includes story-times, movies, magic, juggling, decrypting codes, scavenger hunts, solving mysteries, learning about rain, and competing in the Tween Olympics.

Teens can play games, create candy sushi, attend a Steampunk party, compete in the Chocolate Olympics, or participate in a talent show.

For more information, visit the Library website at allenlibrary.org.
JULY FILMS: Of Mice and Muppets

July 3, "Muppet Treasure Island" (1996), The Muppets' twist on the classic tale.

July 10, "An American Tail" (1986), While emigrating to the United States, a young Russian mouse gets separated from his family and must relocate them while trying to survive in a new country.

July 17, "The Great Muppet Caper" (1981), Kermit, Gonzo and Fozzie are reporters who travel to Britain to interview a rich victim of jewel thieves and help her along with her secretary, Miss Piggy.

July 24, "Stuart Little" (1999), The Little family adopt a charming young mouse named Stuart, but the family cat wants him gone.

Bring the whole family at 7 pm on Tuesdays for these FREE movies. And check the library’s interactive calendar for the August movies!

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS—May/June

Zozan Almizori  Rick Hopkins  Sandy Schneider
Norma Arzaga  Susan Jackson  Marilyn Sheridan
Julia Asif  Bonnie Jay  Benjamin Skaggs
Nina Barrett  Celia Jones  Jacob Skaggs
Jane & Ross Bennett  Nitin Keskar  Laura Skaggs
Kelly Bernard  Jill Krouscas  Samuel Skaggs
Bonnie & Seb Borrello  Kara Langford  Sophie Skaggs
D. Jeannette Brady  Laveta & Bill Lobdill  Julie Smetzer
Shannon Cappell  Gino Lopez  Cassandra Smith
Kerry Craven  Janet & Mike McChesney  Suzanne Smith
Sandra Damer  Cathy McClure  Ann Swain
Mickey Deel  Brian Milliken  Yolanda Villegas
Anne De La Rosa  Laveta & Bill Lobdill  Gloria Washington
Lois & Gary Diehl  Gino Lopez  Reta Yearby
Angela Engel  Janet & Mike McChesney  Kate Zhang
Kirsten & Jeff Fair  Cathy McClure  Zozan Almizori
Laura & Mark Feld  Brian Milliken  Rick Hopkins
Heather Fuller  Daniel J. Fagen  Susan Jackson
Enrico Garcia  Phyllis & Skip Mobley  Bonnie Jay
Jennifer Hodges  William Oberholz  Celia Jones

Book Clubs

Mom’s Night Out Bookclub - "Healer" by Carol Cassella  July 7 p.m.

Bookends Discussion

Bookends is an online, genre book discussion group for people who want to be part of a book club on their own time. Online discussions take place via Goodreads (a Goodreads account is required).

Online discussions begin the 4th Monday of the month and run for one week. You choose when, where, and how often you discuss the book!

Bookends Discussion Begins - "Still Missing" by Chevy Stevens  July 23

Bookends Discussion Begins - "Cleopatra" by Stacy Schiff  August 27.

Library Closings

The library will be closed on Wednesday July 4 to celebrate our nation’s birthday and will reopen at 10:00 am, July 5.

For staff development day, the library will be closed on Friday, August 24 and reopen at 10:00 am, August 25.

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony"
- Mahatma Gandhi

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.