Upcoming Events at the Library

All of March
FEED THE METERS at Watters Creek
Lowery Theatre Department presents *The Hound of the Baskerville* by A. Conan Doyle

Monday, 7 p.m., March 5
The Illusionist
Dan Kamin

March 10-18
Library Celebration Week

Saturday, 2 p.m., March 10
Grace Lin, Author

Saturday, 7 p.m., March 10
Dan Kamin presents “Funny Bones—The Comedy of Charlie Chaplin.”
with Robert Acker providing theatrical organ accompaniment

Thursday, 7:30 p.m. March 15
Celtic Night at the Library

Sunday, 3:00 p.m., March 18
DuoSatransatlantique

Friday, 7:30 p.m., April 13
Allen Musical Revue

Thursday, 7:30 p.m., April 26
History of Clocks, with Annual Friends Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Friday, 6-8 p.m., April 20
“Literacy and the Library” at Watters Creek, sponsored by Friends Endowment Board

PLUS, don’t forget Tuesday Nights at the Movies—March is “Fantasies and Fables”.

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

Happy Spring, Friends!

We are getting close to wrapping up another productive year for the Friends Board. It is time to elect some new officers, thank those that served this past year, and start planning a new year. If you are interested in holding a board position, please contact Tami Alexander at tamibcb@yahoo.com. There are many open positions, so there are plenty of places to be involved. We’ve had a committee hard at work revising our standing rules and those should be ready for review in April. Elections and a vote to accept changes to the By-Laws will be at the Annual Meeting, which will be held April 26 at 7:15 p.m. immediately prior to the “History of Clocks” program.

The Friends also adopted a new program, which is on a trial basis right now, which affects the book sale. We are working with a consignor who comes to the library, picks out books he thinks will sell well, and takes them to resell. Many of our donated books are worth more than the $1 -2 prices we put on them so this looks like it will work well. Some of the books have been sold by the consignor for $5-$6. We are hoping this program will become a real boon to the book sale, improving our income while still stocking our shelves with the books people want. Keep those donations coming - they are the lifeblood of our income, and the more we make, the more we can donate to the library!

A special Friend needs a special recognition: Our own Tom Keener has been asked to serve on the Board of Directors for the Dallas Ft. Worth Community Alliance. This nonprofit institution is a network of over 1,600 internationally-focused organizations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area that celebrate the cultural and economic vibrancy of our global community. Like Bach to Books, their mission is to build mutual understanding and respect by connecting diverse cultural communities. The idea for our Mariachi Holiday program emanated from their calendar. The Alliance maintains a free online service, which has listed our Bach to Books programs for several years. Congratulations to Tom for this honor. He will be a lovely addition to their group and his experiences with them can only help the Friends and the Allen Library.

As always, if you have ideas or requests for the Friends, please let us know. We would love to hear from you.

Sherry Grimes
Presented by Dan Kamin, The Illusionist

Meet the man who taught comedy moves to Robert Downey Jr. (Chaplin) and Johnny Depp (Benny and Joon) in a program of astonishing movement illusions, amazing sleight-of-hand magic, and hilarious stories without words. See him in action at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w6ytiEHcK0

"You made me laugh so hard that I got a headache. Nobody's ever done that before." -- Kenneth, age 11

Dan Kamin performs worldwide in theatres and with symphony orchestras.

In Funny Bones Dan invites you to experience the artistry of cinema’s greatest comedian from the inside, deconstructing Chaplin's comedy with film clips, live demonstrations, audience participation, and a classic Chaplin short with live musical accompaniment. You'll never look at comedy the same way again after this extraordinary two-hour program!

A one-book program under the leadership of the Friends of the Allen Public Library, ALLen Reads features a selection for each age group. For adults, A. Conan Doyle’s The Hound of the Baskervilles is this year’s pick. To augment the book discussions, three programs are offered in March.

Under the direction of Lowery Campus Director Janet Flynn, the Lowery Theatre Department presents The Hound of the Baskervilles by A. Conan Doyle, at 7 p.m. Friday, March 2 at the library.

The man who taught comedy moves to Johnny Depp, such as how to roll the coin around his fingers, presents his famous sleight-of-hand show The Illusionist at 7 p.m. Monday, March 5. Dan Kamin’s engaging stories and performance skills make this an ideal introduction to the power of live theatre. Guests will be able to identify how movement and gestures are related to communication and comedy. Be prepared for astonishing movements, amazing sleight-of-hand magic and hilarious stories without words.

Dan Kamin returns at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 10, with Funny Bones—The Comedy of Charlie Chaplin. In this unique hybrid of entertainment and education, Kamin deconstructs the work of the comic genius with film clips, live demonstrations of physical comedy, and abundant audience participation. Kamin trained Robert Downey Jr. for his Oscar-nominated performance in Chaplin (1992).

The centerpiece of the evening will be a classic Chaplin short with live musical accompaniment by Allen resident Robert Acker who specializes in providing theatrical organ accompaniment to silent films. Raised in Allen, Robert retired as an Asst. Fire Chief in Plano and is past president of the North Texas Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Sponsored by the ALLen Reads and the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra, these programs are free.
Bach to Books

Allen Musical Revue

Looking for Old Time Country Music? Attend the Allen Musical Revue. Allen resident Wendell Pilgrim and his nine piece band play lively country music at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 13. The band includes a steel guitar, fiddle, keyboard, lead guitar, bass, drums and vocalists. On keyboard, Chelsea Pilgrim joins her father’s band to help immerse the library’s audience in the finest of traditional country.

Sponsored by Bach to Books, this program is free.

History of Clocks

Embark on an historical journey about time keeping devices, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 26, at the Allen Public Library. Beginning with water clocks, incense timepieces, sun dials and ending with mechanical clocks from Holland, Germany, France, England, China and America, Horology expert Fred Tischler presents a History of Clocks.

Sponsored by Bach to Books and the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors’ Lone Star Chapter 124, this program is free. During April, clocks from different periods that served myriad purposes will be displayed in the library’s gallery. Come learn how the clocks your ancestors used told time.

Friends in Our Community

The Friends had the privilege of attending Cheatham Elementary School's Fitness Festival, providing a bookmark craft while sharing information about ALLen Reads. "Exercise Your Brain Through Reading" drew kids to the table where they made bookmarks out of paperclips and ribbons, and checked out the list of books and activities related to the ALLen Reads program. A fun time was had by all! Let us know if you’d like us to visit your school contact dana.jean@universallearningcentre.org for more information.

Leadership Allen came to the Allen Public Library to see the Friends’ presentation on volunteering for the numerous top quality programs offered at the Allen Public Library. Attendees were encouraged to join the Friends in our work at the library. Opportunities to volunteer are numerous, including in the ongoing book sale, at Recycle a Book Day through the local schools, in the ALLen Reads and Bach to Books programs, and many more areas. If you’d like information about volunteering, please contact Susan Jackson at 972-390-8904 or susanmjackson@yahoo.com.

Coming up this spring, watch for information about Recycle a Book Day at the local schools. Students will be encouraged to donate gently used book to the ongoing book sale. For every two books a student brings, he/she will allowed to participate in an exchange to take one book home. Teachers will have an opportunity to select books for their classroom libraries before the remainder of the donations are used in the ongoing book sale, which is the largest single fundraiser, aside from membership fees, of the Friends. If you would like to donate books to the sale, please feel free to bring your books to the loading dock (limit 2 containers per donation) on Coats Drive. For more information regarding the guidelines for donating, please visit http://www.cityofallen.org/SiteContent/81/documents/departments/library/Guidelines_Donations.pdf.

The Friends and the Library Board will host a luncheon to show our appreciation for the staff at our library on March 15. If you would like to help us show how much we appreciate our wonderful library staff, we would love your assistance in all areas: planning, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Please email Dana at dana.jean@universallearningcentre.org for more information.

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.
Celtic Night

Celtic music phenomenon Seamus Stout entertains Allen Public Library patrons at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15. Celebrated Irish dancer Jason Hickman, harmonica player Shaun Young and guitarist Kevin Vaught join Seamus Stout for an exciting evening of toe-tapping Scottish, Irish and Welsh tunes.

Comprised of Jarrod Fay, Jan Cermak, Billy K Harmony and Damon Swindall, Seamus Stout has delighted fans for over twelve years. Their unique brand of upbeat Celtic music includes traditional pub sing-alongs as well as lively jigs and reels. In 2011, Seamus Stout released their fifth CD, “Raise A Pint”, that introduced four original songs written by Billy K Harmony.

Jarrod Fay plays tin whistle, Irish flute, Scottish smallpipes and bagpipes. After playing trumpet and bass guitar, Jarrod began playing bagpipes and other Celtic woodwinds. Having garnered awards as a solo piper, he continues to compete with the North Texas Caledonian Pipes and Drums.

Jan Cermak plays fiddle, banjo, mandolin and Irish bouzouki. A native of New Orleans, he soaked in all of the musical culture that city has to offer. Playing an upright bass in a rockabilly band, Jan’s musical career changed when he applauded after listening to his neighbor Jarrod practicing the bagpipes.

A graduate of Northern Arizona University with a jazz trumpet performance major, Billy K Harmony now plays the guitar. His love of music has taken him through a whirlwind of different musical genres from Ska to Swing and Blues to Doo-wop.

Damon Swindall plays bodhran (the Celtic drum pronounced boron) and vocals. A native of Burleson, Texas, and a percussionist for almost twenty years, Damon amazes his fans by playing this single head drum like a drum set.

Joining Seamus Stout will be Irish dancer and Allen High School student Jason Hickman. Last year, he placed fourth at the December Regionals 2011 and 19th at the World Irish Dancing Competition at City West Dublin. A student of the Maguire Academy of Irish Dance in Plano, Jason commented on his trip to Ireland, “I decided that I would not be giving up Irish Dance for a very long time.”

Allen resident and owner of the KelticDead website, Shaun Patrick Young will play diatonic harmonicas. He will be accompanied by guitarist and folk singer Kevin Vaught, also of Allen.

Duo Transatlantique

Combining the talents of guitarists Benjamin Beirs and Maud Laforest, Duo Transatlantique celebrates the power of music and its ability to transcend cultures and national boundaries. Duo Transatlantique presents a free concert 3:00 p.m., Sunday, March 18, at the Allen Public Library.

This duo performs at a variety of venues throughout the year, including the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as well as the Festival des Chapelles in Brittany, the Festival de la Rochepot in Bourgogne and churches throughout Paris.

Graduates of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, the two decided to form a guitar duo under the guidance of Faculty Chairman Julian Gray. In 2005, they garnered first prize in the Union Francaise des Artistes Musiciens Guitar Duo competition.

A performer, teacher and composer, Benjamin Beirs won First Prize at the 2010 University of Texas at Dallas Guitar Competition and First Prize in the 2008 Appalachian Guitar Fest Competition. Maud appeared on the National Public Radio show "From the Top" in America and in "Dans la Cour des Grands," a French national radio program hosted by Gaëlle le Gallic. Two of her recitals in the prestigious Petit Palais in Paris were also aired nationally.

Duo Transatlantique recorded a debut album entitled "Le Gris et le Vert" (The grey and the green) which includes music of Debussy, Scarlatti, Petit, Albeniz, and Villoldo.

Johns Hopkins President Dr. William R. Brody declared, "They played not only with technical perfection, but also with passion and feeling, keeping an uncanny, delicate balance between them. They were received with enormous enthusiasm and my office received a number of requests for their contact information in the days following this performance."
Grace Lin, Author

For readers of all ages who love folk and fairytales and stories with Asian flavor, Grace Lin’s books will captivate your imagination. Grace Lin makes a rare appearance at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 10, at the Allen Public Library.

Born in the United States and the daughter of Tiawanese immigrants, Grace graduated from Rhode Island School of Design. Grace quickly set out to achieve her dream of creating children's books. Her first book, The Ugly Vegetables, was published in 1999 and received a tremendous reception. Her most recent book, LING & TING is a 2011 Geisel Honor Book. Grace's 2010 Newbery Honor book Where The Mountain Meets The Moon was chosen for Al Roker's Today Show Kid's Book Club, was a New York Times Bestseller book and was a recipient of a 2010 Newbery Honor Book mention. In 2007, Year of the Dog received an Honorable Mention from the Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature and was nominated for a 2007-2008 Texas Bluebonnet Award.

American and Asian folk and fairy tales have common threads but different symbols, Grace observed, “Many people have called Where the Mountain Meets the Moon a Chinese Wizard of Oz. I can see the similarities. There is a young girl on a quest—but instead of trying to see the Wizard, it is a search for the Old Man of the Moon. Instead of a scarecrow, Minli befriends a dragon. Chinese symbols such as longevity peaches and goldfish replace the silver shoes. However, the book was never meant to be a reinterpretation of that classic tale. Where the Mountain Meets the Moon was meant as more of an homage to many Chinese folktales and myths— Olive Lake, the Buffalo Boy & the Weaving Maid, the Lucky Twins—that I read in my youth and still enjoy to this day.”

Sponsored by Storyopolis Entertainment and Bach to Books, this program is free. Storyopolis will have books available for those wanting inscribed copies from the author.

A spring celebration of “Literacy and the Library” will be held at the staging area in Watters Creek, 6-8 pm, Friday, April 20, at 965 Garden Park Drive.

Special entertainment will include Boy Scout Troop 131, children’s story reading by former Allen teacher Tonya Moore, and musical entertainment.

Cash and check donations to the Endowment Fund will be accepted during the evening. Get a discount at Watters Creek for a donation of at least $50, and a gift card for donations of more than $200.

The Friends of the Library Endowment Fund Board’s aim is to work together to create a lasting legacy to the community that will help the library enhance the quality of life for you, your friends and neighbors and your children for years to come.

For more information, call at 972-727-3441.

“Shop 'til You Drop!”

The Friends of the Library Endowment Fund continues to benefit from the Change For Charity program at Watters Creek through March, 2012. Change for Charity is funded by the proceeds collected from Watters Creek’s street-side parking meters.

The Endowment Fund was chosen for the first quarter of 2012 to receive a percentage of the funds collected from the non-governmental meters. So, continuing in March, SHOP WATTERS CREEK OFTEN, FEED THOSE METERS, and help the Library Endowment Fund!!!

The mission of the Allen Public Library is to provide access to diverse information, lifelong learning, entertainment resources and services for Allen residents. Working together, we can create a lasting legacy to the community that will help the library enhance the quality of life for you, your friends and neighbors and your children.
and the **Friends of the Allen Public Library** say **“Thank You”**

to the people, organizations & businesses that made this project possible for 2011-12!

**Inspectors**
- Allen Arts Alliance
- Allen Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra & Chorus
- Allen Public Library
- City of Allen
- Foundation for Allen Schools
- HumanitiesTexas*
- Jeannette’s Story
- Montgomery Farm

**Wal-Mart**

**Detectives**
- Allen ISD
- Allen Kiwanis Club
- Allen Noon Rotary Club
- Barbara Buehler
- Homewood Suites by Hilton, Dallas/Allen
- Red Pepper Productions, Inc.

**P.I.'s**
- Allen High Noon Lions Club
- A Real Bookstore
- Storyopolis

"This project was made possible in part with a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities."


**Library Celebration Week**

*Our Stories Tie Us Together*

During spring break, are you pining for fun programs for your family? Join the library for Library Celebration Week, **March 10-18**.

**Food for Fines**—Have your library fines soared? Do you want to help your neighbors? The Allen Public Library now offers you a chance to take advantage of both your procrastination and compassion. From March 10 to 18 only, one non-perishable food item will replace each dollar or part of a dollar owed in fines. For example, if you owe $2.50 in late fees, bring in three items to clear your record and help a local family. The Allen Food Pantry sorely needs canned fruits, canned beef stew, tuna, refried beans, spaghetti sauce, and sweet and unsweetened cereals. Please, no ramen noodles or expired items.

**We Love Quilts!** 7 pm, **Monday, March 12**, registration required. Join us for an informal gathering to share our quilts and stories. Have one very special quilt? Bring it along! We’re keeping it green: bring your unused fabric stash to share. Registration required.

**Charlotte’s Web** (2006), **March 13**, starring Oscar winner Julia Roberts (voice),

Steve Buscemi (voice) and Oprah Winfrey (voice), Wilbur the pig is scared of the end of the season, because he knows that come that time, he will end up on the dinner table. He hatches a plan with Charlotte, a spider that lives in his pen, to ensure that this will never happen.

**Armchair Traveler’s Visit Ireland** (special Wednesday night edition!) 7 pm, **Wednesday, March 14**, registration required.

**Celtic Night at the Library**, 7:30 pm, **Thursday, March 15**.

*The Allen Library—what a great place to spend your staycation!*

**THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS — January/February**

Bev & John Adler  
Jane Bales  
Tommy Baril  
Sapna Bhat  
Marian & George Chrisman  
Lin & Carson Doss  
Joanne Easley  
Brenda Erwin  
Joe Farmer  
Sherry Grimes  
Liz Haddad  
Margaret Leary  
Aarti Malik  
Ann McCallop  
Tonya & Griff Moore  
Joan Mortensen  
Bushra Nadeem  
Jessica Oren  
Joshua Oren  
Deborah Ottinger  
Lilian Pantaleon  
Andrea Pickering  
Bonnie & Jay Rawot  
Victor Rios  
Marcia & David Sanchez  
Betti & Bill Scillian  
Anita Scott  
Paula Sherman  
Aaf Siddiqui  
Namrata Sinha  
Wilma Smith  
Kathy Stalker  
Norma & David Stults  
Masooda Tariq  
Sally & Steve Terrell  
Angela Tolman

**Our Library Is Busy!**

In **2010-2011** (October-September), the library had 310,000 visitors, checked out 795,000 items, filled 65,000 holds, and hosted 38,000 people in programs.

There have been 3800 ebooks checked out in the first two months of our new e-book program (**November-December**).

For the first quarter of **2011-2012** (October-December), visitors are up 9.3%, circulation 13.5%, program attendance 9.1%, and holds 20.6%.

**Friends Recognized**

Jane Bennett, representing the Friends of the Allen Public Library was asked to speak at the winter ALA (American Library Association) conference in Dallas at their "Nuts and Bolts" session on how to make a Friends group successful. A nice compliment to all our Board, library, and volunteers—and especially to Jane!

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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.