

# BETWEEN THE PAGES

*A Publication of the Friends of the Allen Public Library*

January/February 2013

www.allenfriends.org

Volume X, Issue I

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Allen Public Library  
300 N. Allen Dr.  
Allen, TX 75013  
214-509-4900

## Upcoming Events at the Library

(all free, of course)

**Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.** Movie *The Cincinnati Kid* (1965),

**Tuesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.** Movie *The Thomas Crown Affair*

**Friday, January 18, 7:30 p.m.** Salt Creek Bluegrass Band

**Saturday, January 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Howard Garrett, and other experts on natural living and health

**Monday, January 21, 2-4 p.m.** ExtravARTganza (activities in the arts for families/children 4-10)

**Tuesday, January 22, 7:30 p.m.** Movie *Bullitt*

**Thursday, January 24, 7 :30 p.m.** Jim Gatewood, author of *Benny Binion: The Legend of Benny Binion*,  
*Dallas Gambler and Mob Boss*

**Tuesday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.** Movie *The Getaway*

**Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.** Movie *The Pride of the Yankees*

**Thursday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.** "It's for the Birds" Panel Discussion

**Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.** Movie *The Big Year*

**Tuesday, February 19, 7:30 p.m.** Movie *Miss Potter*

**Thursday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.** Bob May, author of *The Best Season, the First Ninety Games*

**Saturday, February 23, 9-11 a.m., at Target North, Village at Allen.** Dr. Seuss's Birthday

**Tuesday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.** Movie *Drawn from Nature*

**All Through February, in the Library Gallery:** Beautiful Birds Photography Exhibit

## *Hello Friends Members,*

Wow! It is hard to believe that we are in the last few days of 2012. So many fun things have been going on at our Library that it is hard to list them all. I want to use my space to personally thank all of our wonderful Library staff and Friends volunteers.

Our Library offers many wonderful programs on a wide variety of topics; there truly is something for everyone. Tom Keener puts in many hours arranging these programs, films and speakers. Look on the following pages and on our website to see what is in store for you in the coming months.

Jane Bennett and her ALLEN Reads committee have spent months, weeks, and countless hours picking the books for this year's program. They have done a great job. Look on our website and throughout this newsletter for the titles, discussion questions for reading groups and related programs like our February movie series and our student produced play in April. They are currently busy reading new books and working to pick the titles for next year.

The Endowment Fund Board is constantly working to raise funds to assure that our Library will be sustained for many years in the future. Our on going book sale volunteers are working on a weekly basis to sort, price and shelve all of the great donated books, magazines and movies. This is the Friend's only fundraiser so is an important part of our efforts.

I want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to Margaret McDermott and the Eugene McDermott Foundation for their very generous \$50,000 grant to the Friends. On December 10th we held a special meeting to present this check to the Library. The funds will be used to upgrade the current Radio-Frequency Identification System. Library Director Jeff Timbs stated, "On behalf of the library, I am deeply grateful for the foundation's generosity. Their gift will enable the library to further its continuing commitment to customer service, enhance the quality of life in the Allen community and remain a vibrant 21st century public library." The upgraded system is scheduled to be completed by June 1.

Be sure to check out our new "What We Are Reading" list on page 6 and add a few to your list!

As always, I hope to see you at the Library!

*Susan Jackson*

For information and updates on schedules go to our website: [www.allenfriends.org](http://www.allenfriends.org), or join us on the Friends of the Facebook page—<https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheallenpubliclibrary>



## Save these dates! Winter/Spring 2013

**Monday, January 21, 2-4 PM, Library: Extrav-ARTganza** Fun programs and activities for children 2-10. (see more details in article on page 5)

**Every Tuesday, 7 PM, Library Auditorium:** Movies that tie in with some of this year's themes in *Okay for Now*—baseball, art, birds (see more details in article on page 3).

- ♦ **February 5, *The Pride of the Yankees***, introduced by Billy Brown, Yankee legend.
- ♦ **February 12, *The Big Year***, introduced by Gailon Brehm, past president of Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society.
- ♦ **February 19, *Miss Potter***, introduced by Donna Alexander, licensed marriage and family therapist.
- ♦ **February 26, *Drawn from Nature*** introduced by Erich Neupert, the Executive Director of the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center in Lucas,

**All Through February, Library Gallery: (Beautiful Birds Photography Exhibit)**, with photographs by John S. Mead and Marty Selznick. (see more details in article on page 5)

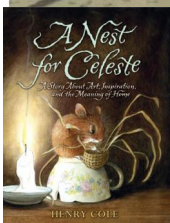
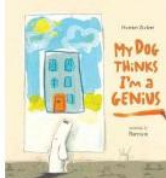
**Thursday, February 7, 7:30 PM, Library Auditorium: "It's for the Birds" Panel Discussion** Join us to hear opinions from experts on birds, nature, conservation, and photography. Lots of time allowed for audience questions. (see more details in article on page 5)

**Saturday, February 23, 9-11 AM, Target North, Village at Allen** Stories and music to celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday and our ALLEN Reads picture book. Gift bags with surprises and Target coupons for all. (See more details in article on page 6)

**Saturday, March 9, 2 PM, Library, Author Talk & Book Signing, Gary Schmidt** Meet the author of *Okay for Now*, Gary Schmidt. Bring your book or purchase a book there from A Real Bookstore, and have it signed by the author.

**Friday, April 12, 7 PM, Library Auditorium: Play, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" and Volunteer Recognition Night** The LFC Theatre class presents a play about the healing power of art & writing, based on a book of poems and drawings from the children of Terezin. Afterwards we will recognize all our library volunteers, and reception to follow.

\* Details available in other articles in this newsletter, as noted. March, April events will be detailed in the next newsletter. All activities and programs are free and open to the public, compliments of ALLEN Reads and all its supporters.



## Endowment Fund

At its October meeting, the Friends of the Library Endowment Fund Board of Managers reappointed Hugh Brown, Tonya Moore, and Eileen Tollett to three-year terms.

It also elected officers: Joe Farmer, President; Worley Stein, Vice-President; George Chrisman, Treasurer; and, Eileen Tollett, Secretary.

## Library Staff Appreciation

As Vice President one of my jobs is to coordinate staff appreciation efforts. Twice this year, we have hosted luncheons for the library staff. On November 13th during this season of thankfulness, we wanted to show our gratitude to the staff by surprising them with a variety of treats. They were all very appreciative of the gesture, and one staff member even said to me, "You all are the volunteers! Why are you thanking us?" The question triggered a brief discussion, and the answer to that question sheds specific light on the sole reason the Friends of the Allen Public Library exists. Officially, our mission statement is this: *"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."*

Mainly what this translates to is a focus on funding programs that benefit the community and purchasing materials/equipment the library might need throughout the years. In practice, the Friends board exists to support the library, much like a PTA supports a school, by providing assistance where we can. As a group, we also find it rewarding to provide smaller, more personal ways of supporting the library. Staff appreciation is just one of those small ways we try to support the library, and it as fun for us as we hope it is for the staff!

If you are interested in providing a treat from time to time, please let me know. You can contact me at [dana.jean@universallearningcentre.org](mailto:dana.jean@universallearningcentre.org) or (480) 273-0404. My goal is to provide treats like we did in November about once per quarter and to host luncheons twice a year. The staff appreciation committee is the perfect committee for someone who is not able to put many hours into volunteering, and we don't hold meetings! Thank you for considering this!

Dana Jean





## Baseball's Bobby Brown Opens ALLEN Reads Film Series.

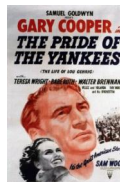
World Series legend Bobby Brown presents *The Pride of the Yankees* (1947). Brown and Yogi Berra are the last two survivors of the Yankees team that won the famous 1947 World Series. In eight seasons with the Yankees, mostly as an infielder, Brown played on four championship teams, assembling a 0.439 batting average in World Series play. He ranks in the top 10 for World Series OBP, SA, and OPS, as well as the BA.



Brown was the first Major Leaguer in baseball history to play while simultaneously attending medical school. From the last half of the 1952 season to the beginning of the 1954 season Brown traded his pinstripes for the olive drab of an Army medic during the Korean War. He assisted wounded soldiers as a battalion surgeon at the 160th Field Artillery Battalion Aid Station in Korea, and also served in a MASH hospital fifteen miles behind the demilitarized zone.

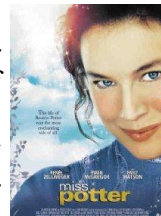
He practiced cardiology in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area for more than 25 years. After retirement, Brown served as President of the American League. In 2009, Brown appeared in uniform once again alongside former Yankee teammates Yogi Berra and Whitey Ford on the grass of the new Yankee Stadium on the occasion of Old Timer's Day.

**7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 5,** *The Pride of the Yankees* (1947), starring Gary Cooper, Babe Ruth, and Teresa Wright. This Oscar-winning film reveals the story of the life and career of the famed baseball player, Lou Gehrig. Introduced, of course, by Dr. Bobby Brown.



**7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12,** *The Big Year* (2011), starring Steve Martin, Owen Wilson and Jack Black. Two bird enthusiasts strive to defeat the cocky, cutthroat world record holder in a year-long bird-spotting competition. Majestic scenes from remote areas of national parks are highlights of this film, which will be introduced by Gailon Brehm. A past president of Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society, Gailon is a Connemara Conservancy Board Member. He leads small groups to watch birds in the Meadow Preserve and Gardens of Connemara. Gailon enjoys the pursuit of rare birds and common ones.

**7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 19,** *Miss Potter* (2006), starring Renee Zellweger and Ewan MacGregor. This is the story of Beatrix Potter, the author of the beloved and best-selling children's book, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit", and her struggle for love, happiness and success. Donna Alexander, licensed marriage and family therapist, will introduce the film.



**7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 26,** *Drawn From Nature* (2007). This documentary tells about the life of John James Audubon, best known for *The Birds Of America*, a book that contains portraits of every bird then known in America. Erich Neupert, Executive Director of the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center in Lucas, a sanctuary that is dedicated to environmental preservation through public education and the conservation of birds of prey and wildlife in their natural habitat, will be tonight's leader.



## Bach to Books Negro League Baseball

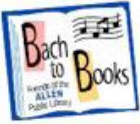
"What If?" Histories stir the imagination about how people's lives could have been different if alternative decisions had been made. How would twenty-one stars of the black ball era (Negro Leagues and independent black teams) like to be honored? At **7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 21,** Bob May will discuss this and his acclaimed book, *The Best Season, the First Ninety Games*. Honoring black ball players through highly sophisticated game simulation and prodigious research, Bob's book



gives statistics on how baseball could have been different had black players been allowed to participate in major league baseball during its segregated era.

Joining Bob is an eye witness to Negro league baseball, Bill Blair, who pitched for the Cincinnati Clowns and Cincinnati Crescents from 1946 to 1951. He played against such players as Cool Papa Bell and Hilton Smith.

Come listen to this fascinating chapter of baseball's past and learn how its history could have been different.



## Healthy Living and Growing Seminar

Howard Garrett, "The Dirt Doctor," is teaming up with top experts to present useful information on many aspects of natural living and health, **10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, January 19**, at the Allen Public Library. Sponsored by the Allen Public Library, Organics Club of America, and Allen Parks and Recreation Department, this program is free and open to the public.

Author, talk show host, landscape architect and arborist, Garrett is known for his expert advice and vast knowledge on natural organic gardening, landscaping, pet health, pest control and natural living.



Other topics include:

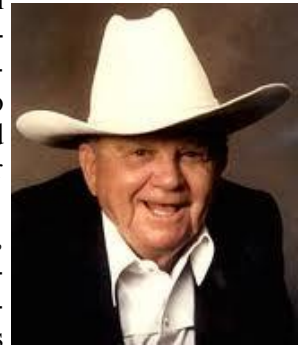
- ◆ An update of ways the City of Allen and the Parks and Recreation Department integrate natural living into their practices, and a look to the future, presented by Brian Bristow, assistant director of Parks and Recreation.
- ◆ Gene Helmick-Richardson, Ph.D., discusses new developments in pesticides and gives a historical perspective of pesticides. As an historical interpreter for Dallas Heritage Village and 20 years of experience in least toxic method pest control, Gene brings a wide range of experience to the discussion.
- ◆ Even athletes are crazy about Carol Elder's world-famous Crazy Water, a natural mineral water bottled in Mineral Wells by Famous Mineral Water Co.
- ◆ An ISA Certified Arborist, Tyson Woods, discusses how to make trees the most valuable aspect of our gardens and have the greatest long-term impact to a garden's development.
- ◆ Amanda Love teaches families how to master the power of simple, nourishing cooking and lead happier, more healthy lives.
- ◆ Daryl Sprout uses humor to break down barriers and enables audience members to conquer learned and unnecessary fears of snakes.
- ◆ Frank Shultz will discuss "Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition: What to Know Before You Plant."
- ◆ Martie Whittekin highlights dietary supplements, toxins, medical practices, and Dr. Ohhira Probiotics. Tony Manaseri presents Tropical Johns Therapy for Natural Solutions for a Safer Yard.

## Bach to Books Benny Binion

Many consider Benny Binion the general of Collin County's most noted soldiers of fortune. Learn more about his colorful life from Jim Gatewood, author of *Benny Binion: The Legend of Benny Binion, Dallas Gambler and Mob Boss*, at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 24**, at the Allen Public Library.

Born in the "four corners" region of Collin County, an area where Collin, Fannin, Grayson and Hunt Counties converge, he accompanied his father, a horse trader, on trips to county fairs across the countryside to swap horses. At 17, Binion left Collin County and moved to El Paso where he undertook risky moonshining and rum-running across the border. There, he learned to gamble and how to manage the numbers rackets. He ran illegal craps games in hotel rooms and served in prison for selling liquor during Prohibition. In 1931, he moved to Dallas where he soon became a formidable force. Acquiring dominance in this underworld meant numerous bloody turf wars took place.

In 1946, Binion moved to Nevada to take advantage of legal gambling and five years later bought a casino on Fremont Street. Renamed the Horseshoe Casino, it immediately became popular because of the high limits on bets. Binion's flamboyant promotional efforts included an annual month-long "World Series of Poker" for high-stakes players. In the vanguard of Las Vegas casino innovation, Binion was the first in the downtown casinos to replace sawdust-covered floors with carpeting, dispatch limousines to transport customers to and from the casino, and offer free drinks to players.



An insurance executive, Jim Gatewood became interested in the Dallas gambling, drug and liquor wars because of a childhood experience. A well-dressed corpse had been found in the cotton rows of his family's farm on Duck Creek in Garland. At that time, Dallas County Sheriff Smoot Schmid's chief investigator Bill Decker, who later became Dallas County Sheriff, told Gatewood's father that the victim was just one more casualty of the underworld war for control of Dallas gambling.



## Salt Creek Bluegrass

January usually brings cold fronts, but the heat is on when Salt Creek Bluegrass Band performs its foot stompin' music at **7:30 p.m., Friday,**



**January 18,** at the library.

Although the roots of Bluegrass music are truly American, no two bluegrass bands offer exactly the same style. Like different amounts of cayenne will sure change your chili, the high-energy Salt Creek Bluegrass adds subtle twists to their standard bluegrass and contemporary tunes that will whet your appetite for more.

On mandolin, Al Stenzel began his career as a classical musician, and, as early as high school, he became enthralled with the sounds of bluegrass.

A fiddle is a must in Texas music, and Tommy Swan will not disappoint you with his exciting solos and back-up licks.

Inspired by country and Texas swing, lead and harmony vocalist Terry Solomon also provides the lead with his bass. His creative vocal arrangements give Salt Creek Bluegrass its impressive sounds.

The lively rolls and soft melodies from Don Patrick's banjo add that soupcon of special effect to this gifted band.

Mike Clark adds smooth vocals and a dynamic guitar with a Texas slant. His arrangements keep the Salt Creek repertoire fresh and progressive.

"I like the emotion behind Bluegrass music, and our approach to interpreting tunes helps create an exciting program," Al Stenzel notes. "Due to the acoustic nature of the instruments, few chances exist to cover up mistakes but an extemporaneous jamming session can be achieved fairly quickly, which is the soul of bluegrass."

Sponsored by Allen Public Library, this program is free. Tickets will be issued at 7:00 p.m.

## Come to an ExtravARTganza!



From **2-4 p.m. on Monday, January 21**, ALLEN Reads and the Allen Public Library Children's Department are sponsoring a celebration of the arts. Aimed at children 4-10, it is two hours of non-stop action.

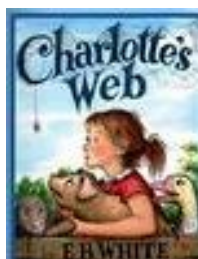
In the auditorium, Allen's Community Theatre will present a short preview of their upcoming play, "Charlotte's Web."\* Then children will be invited on stage to learn how theatre works. Two 30-35 minutes shows: 2:15 and 3:15. Tickets are required; they will be handed out for free on a first come, first served basis that afternoon.



In the Children's Activity Room, Miss Melody and Louie the Dog will have a 20-30 minute puppet/story time program at 2:30 and 3:30. Again, tickets are free, but required for entrance.

A Scavenger Hunt will be ongoing throughout the Children's Area.

In the Meeting Room, young artists can come create their own still life drawings, using Cezanne's and Louie the dog's art as inspiration. Local artist Marie Renfro will be there to visit and guide.



\*Actual performances of "Charlotte's Web" will be at Allen Christian Church, 450 E. St. Mary Drive in Allen. The play will run **Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2, and Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9, 2013, at 8 p.m.** There will also be a **Saturday, February 9th matinee at 3 p.m.** Tickets will be available online at [www.allenscommunitytheatre.net](http://www.allenscommunitytheatre.net). Tickets are:

ages 2-18, \$10; 19-64, \$15; and 65+, \$13.

## February Is "For the Birds"

Be sure to come to the library during February to see fantastic bird photography in the Library Gallery. Photographers John S. Mead and Marty Selznick share their passion through their art. While you're there, notice the James J. Audubon prints in the ALLEN Reads display, too.

John Mead will also be one of the panelists on **Thursday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.**, in the Library Auditorium. John is a science teacher at St. Mark's in Dallas and has photographed birds, other wildlife and more all over the world. You can see his photographs on his website, <http://bluelionphotos.com/>, or follow him on Facebook at Blue Lion Photos, or Twitter @bluelionphotos.

He is joined on the panel by Kirk Evans, a science teacher at Olsen Elementary School in Allen ISD. Kirk has been the recipient of numerous grants that have allowed him to expand his environmental work with students beyond the classroom and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Connemara Conservancy.

The third panelist will be Erich Neupert, Executive Director of Blackland Prairie Raptor Center. Two of Erich's "feathered friends" from the center will accompany him.

## Dr. Seuss's Birthday!

ALLEN Reads teams up with Target for the fourth year in a row to celebrate the rhyming genius of Dr. Seuss. On **Saturday, February 23, from 9-11 AM at Target North (Village at Allen)**, Miss Melody will read Dr. Seuss and other Cat in the Hat books, along with this year's ALLEN Reads' picture book, *My Dog Thinks I'm a Genius*.

Alternating with story time, you'll get to enjoy music from guitarist Kevin Vaught. Target will have bags of goodies to share with all who stop by, too. Look for us in the Starbucks Coffee Shop inside the store. Moms and Dads can relax with the coffee of their choice while the kids enjoy the stories and songs!

## Allen Recycles Day A Big Success

We collected some very good quality books and we want to thank all who donated their books this year and the following people who worked so hard at the collection site. As you know, the ongoing book sale is our biggest fundraiser, so everyone's help is important for supporting our wonderful library:

### Adults:

Brenda Kiser  
Jenny Remakel  
Regina Taylor  
Kristi Jones  
Debbie Vavra  
Alison McCulloch  
Ross Bennett

### Students:

Chris  
Wesley  
Matthew  
Ammar  
Nicholas



## Cool Like Steve McQueen

Free films begin at **7 pm on Tuesday nights** at the Library

**January 8**, *The Cincinnati Kid* (1965), starring Steve McQueen, Ann-Margret, Karl Malden and Edward G. Robinson. An up-and-coming poker player tries to prove himself in a high-stakes match against a long-time master of the game.

**January 15** - *The Thomas Crown Affair* (1968), starring Steve McQueen, Oscar-winner Faye Dunaway, and Paul Burke. A debonair, adventurous bank executive believes he has pulled off the perfect multi-million dollar heist, only to match wits with a sexy insurance investigator who will do anything to get her man.

**January 22** - *Bullitt* (1968), starring Steve McQueen, Jacqueline Bisset and Robert Vaughn. This Oscar-winning film for Best Film Editing features an all guts, no glory San Francisco cop who becomes determined to find the underworld kingpin who killed the witness in his protection.

**January 29** - *The Getaway* (1972), starring Steve McQueen, Sally Struthers, Slim Pickens and Ali MacGraw. A recently released ex-con and his loyal wife go on the run after a heist goes bad.



## THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS—November/December

Sofia Ahmed  
Muhammad Asif  
Diane Ballard  
Jenny Campbell  
Claire Chau  
Kyla Cross  
Susan Day  
Mindy Fett  
Lana Fort  
Michael Gaciri  
Cyntia Garcia  
Elizabeth Gray  
Dolly Hoss  
Sujita Jackson  
Leila Juarez  
Marinder Kaur  
Vern Lankenau

Paul Lauderdale  
David Lo  
Jo Long  
Cheryl-Ann Monteiro  
Dana Ott  
Mary Pennington  
Usa Pitaknarongporn  
Nancy Popiolek  
Ruth Pringle  
SM Faizur Rahman  
Janis Ramsey  
Nagaraja Rao  
Brandon Sanford  
Suzanne Sarbofsky  
Marianna Sennour  
Denisse Sepulbeda  
Dawit Solomon

Carol & Murray Stein  
Christina & John Stenger  
Joshua Taipale  
Laurie & Brad Tanas  
Myra Tindoy Padlan  
Braundi Walton  
Judy Wharton  
Donald Wing  
Jared Wood

### What We're Reading

- ◆ *Behind The Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo
- ◆ *The Rise Of Theodore Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris
- ◆ *Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt (same author as the 2012-13 ALLEN Reads book!)
- ◆ *Okay for Now* by Gary Schmidt (yes, the ALLEN Reads book!)
- ◆ *The Sherlockian* by Graham Moore
- ◆ *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

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