Hello Friends Members,

Summer is in full swing and that means the Library is busier than ever! I hope all of you have had a chance to sign up for summer reading programs. There is a reading program for people of all ages, preschool through adult. Go to the website and check out the great prizes for adults this year (also see article on page 5). The Friends are proud to again sponsor and help financially with these and many other programs happening around the library.

In May the Friends awarded a $1,000 scholarship to one of our very dedicated and deserving teen volunteers, Cade Snowden. We are proud of Cade and his accomplishments and know there are many more in his future.

Please read further to see some of the many wonderful programs, movies and events that Tom Keener has planned for the rest of the summer. Tom puts in many hours planning and implementing these and it is always great to see a “full house” during the evening hours. I know Jane Bennett and her ALLen Reads committee are hard at work planning activities for the coming year. I have heard the books have been selected and they are good ones; I cannot wait for the programs that I have already seen on the calendar! See page 3 for some hints to the choices. The Jr. Friends completed their year and performed their play in June. I know the committee chairs are hard at work planning many exciting and fun activities for the fall.

If you are interested in helping with any of our programs or committees, we would love to have you join us. Please feel free to contact me at susanmjackson@yahoo.com or any of the board members for more information and we will happily tell you how to become more involved. There is nothing better than being able to say you are a Friend.

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

Susan Jackson

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Stay tuned for August movie titles and other updates on the Allen library interactive calendar at http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=7506&thisMonth=7&thisYear=2013!

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For information and updates on schedules go to our website: www.allenfriends.org, or join us on the Friends of the Facebook page—https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheallenpubliclibrary
Bach to Books

Son of Swan Rocks the Library

See Son of Swan at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, July 22, with a wide range of styles that include rock and hip hop.

Band leader Neil Swanson has valuable experience as a touring guitarist, performing in Asia, Germany and Kosovo for US troops. He also won the prestigious Guitar Center’s Steve Vai Sessions, named for the Grammy-winning guitar icon Steve Vai.

Of these winners, Vai notes, “I’m blown away by how many people entered this contest. There are a lot of passionate players out there and picking winners for anything is always a real challenge for me. So many people put their heart into this and it was such a treat to watch each of their videos. I chose ten very impressive winners. Congratulations! I look forward to seeing you all in LA."

Swanson is a tasteful guitar player who knows how to energize with high-speed heavy metal solos and when to lay back and play simple melodies that complement the other aspects of a song. "Being a great guitarist takes hard work and discipline, but also love for your craft. If you practice hard at something you love, it hardly seems like work," explains Swanson.

As a songwriter, Swanson has written singles for performers of all genres from around the country. Known for his unique sounds and originality, Swanson appeals to those interested in original sounds.

Bob Wills Night at the Library

Relive the toe-tapping days of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys at the Allen Public Library 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 19. Bob’s daughter Carolyn Wills and David Stricklin, son of Texas Playboy pianist Al Stricklin, will be on hand, and the band Shoot Low Sheriff will perform.

Carolyn will share anecdotal stories and insights into the genius of the man whose career spanned five decades and who brought hope to Americans during the Great Depression. One fan wrote, “The music of the Texas Playboys was the light that got me through those days.” Known as the King of Western Swing, Bob Wills and His Playboys recorded such hits as “New San Antonio Rose,” Steel Guitar Rag,” "Maiden's Prayer," "Take Me Back to Tulsa," "Spanish Two Step," and “Faded Love” over the course of three decades, and influenced countless musicians, from Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, and George Straight to the Flying Burrito Brothers and Dan Hicks and His Hot Licks.

The son of a sharecropper and a descendant of a long-line of champion fiddlers, Wills grew up in Turkey, Texas. Early on, he learned frontier fiddle music and, as a boy working in the cotton fields, he was influenced by the soulful music of African-Americans. “I don't know whether they made them up as they moved down the cotton rows or not,” Wills once told Charles Townsend, author of San Antonio Rose: The Life and Times of Bob Wills, "but they sang blues you never heard before."

Texas Playboy Pianist Al Stricklin was working at Ft. Worth’s radio station KFJZ when Bob Wills appeared and asked him to perform. A friendship emerged and Stricklin eventually played the piano for the Texas Playboys from 1935-42. While preparing to perform “The New San Antonio Rose,” Al Stricklin noted in his book My Years with Bob Wills, “I’d never heard bedlam like that before. . . . That’s got to be one of the greatest nights of my career with Bob Wills. We were on top. We were the honey for the buttered biscuits.”

Al’s son David, co-author of Southern Music/American Music, will explain some of the “architecture” of Bob Wills’ songs, focusing on rhythms, solos and vocals, and Wills’ extraordinary gifts as a bandleader. Southern Music/American Music investigates the facets of American music from the South and the many popular forms that emerged from it.

Free tickets will be issued at 7:00 p.m. on a first come, first served basis.

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.
Sports enthusiasts and history lovers alike will enjoy the experiences and stories of baseball’s
Eddie Robinson at 7:30 pm, Thursday, August 29 at the Allen Public Library. Robinson served as an American League first baseman, scout and General Manager of the Texas Rangers. He is the author of an autobiography, published in 2011, entitled “Lucky Me: My Sixty-five Years in Baseball”.

Eddie Robinson

The Ray Johnston Band

The Ray Johnston Band combines the best of country and rock at 7:30 p.m., Friday, August 16 at the Allen Public Library. A former Dallas Mavericks player, Johnston’s music reflects the energy and exuberance of a high-powered championship basketball game.

In 2012, the Ray Johnston band released their first CD, Against the Grain, which Grammy winner Jason Mraz, says, “When you listen to [his] music, you’re like, ‘Ah, that person gets me. Yeah, they know what it’s about.’”

Ray’s band members include Mike Horne on fiddle, Robert Miller on lead guitar, Aaron Hass playing drums and Ben Parker on bass.

Allen Arts Alliance Fine Arts Festival Was a Big Success

The Allen Arts Alliance Fine Arts Festival at Watters Creek, held on the weekend of May 10th though 12th, was a lot of fun. If you missed it this year, put it on your calendar for next year. Below is a picture of Storytime at the festival sponsored by the Friends, featuring ALLen Reads reader Judy Wharton.

Book Choices To Be Announced in September

ALLen Reads is going to reveal the main book and the two companion books in the next newsletter, but we thought it might be fun to share some clues with you now... Can you figure out what we'll be reading this coming season?!? (Hint: the pictures are clues!) If you can't, don't worry - we're being purposefully vague, just to get you excited for the year to come!!

For 9th grade through adult

Our main book is a story about ambition, love, & loyalty that also challenges the reader to decipher what is real and what is not.

For 4th - 8th Grades

Fourteen fantastic tales of suspense, mystery, and surprise....

For preschool - Grade 3

A tall tale that invites you to "pass a good time"!
Library Update

RFID Project Update
The RFID project, generously supported by the Friends and the McDermott Foundation, wrapped up in May. The collection was re-tagged about 3 weeks ahead of schedule. The new system is on line and in use for check-ins and check-outs. With the beginning of the Summer Reading Program for children, teens, and adults, the self-service check-out stations are already receiving heavy use.

Carpet Replacement
Library carpet was replaced in the Civic Auditorium and the entire second floor, including adult fiction and non-fiction, study rooms, and the Quiet Lounge. Due to extensive re-carpeting and shelf moving, the second floor was closed May 18-28 and re-opened on schedule May 29.

The adult fiction and nonfiction shelving were reconfigured to enhance patron browsing and facilitate the location of library materials. The new layout is brighter and more spacious. Check out the Library’s Facebook page to see photos and time-lapse videos of the transformation. Look for more book displays in the future and after repainting some walls later this summer, a ribbon-cutting.

Do you like to be “in the know” about your library and community? Keep up to date on what’s going on at the library. Sign up for their email news updates. You can also sign up for general City of Allen e-news.

Tuesday Night at the Movies
All films begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and are free.

July "Marvel"ous Summer Adventures

July 2 X-Men First Class (2011) Starring James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Kevin Bacon. In 1962, the United States government enlists the help of Mutants with super-human abilities to stop a malicious dictator who is determined to start World War III.

July 9 Spiderman (2002). Starring Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe, and Kirsten Dunst. When bitten by a genetically modified spider, a nerdy, shy, and awkward high school student gains spider-like abilities that he eventually must use to fight evil as a superhero after tragedy befalls his family.

July 16 Spiderman 2 (2004). Starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, and James Franco. Peter Parker is beset with troubles in his failing personal life as he battles a brilliant scientist named Doctor Otto Octavius, who becomes Doctor Octopus (aka Doc Ock), after an accident causes him to bond psychically with mechanical tentacles that do his bidding.

July 23 Spiderman 3 (2007) Starring Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, and Thomas Haden Church. A strange black entity from another world bonds with Peter Parker and causes inner turmoil as he contends with new villains, temptations, and revenge.

July 30 The Amazing Spiderman (2012) Starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans. Peter Parker finds a clue that might help him understand why his parents disappeared when he was young. His path puts him on a collision course with Dr. Curt Connors, his father’s former partner.

Look for the August movie titles and other updates on the Allen library interactive calendar at http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=7506&thisMonth=7&thisYear=2013

DON’T FORGET—THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED ON JULY 4TH
Friends Scholarship Awarded

Each year the Friends of the library awards one graduating senior who has given time and talents volunteering at the library a $1,000 scholarship. This year’s recipient is Cade Snowden, pictured here with Friends board member Jane Bennett.

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and re-learn”. — Alvin Toffler

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS—May/June

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“Marvel”ous Summer Reading Club

Have you heard about the library’s "Marvelous" Summer Reading Program” for adults? You can ***Win Big!*** From June 10 - August 4, just pick up a reading log and read your way to marvelous prizes! This year’s prizes include:

♦ One Kindle Paperwhite
♦ Three Kindles + $25 Amazon gift card
♦ Five $20 Target gift cards
♦ Three $20 Amazon gift cards.

Check out the details on the library’s website! (click here) or go to the Information Desk.

What We Are Reading

Need some summer reading ideas? Some of the books the Information Desk librarians and Friends Board members are reading this month are:

- *Infinite Jest,* by David Foster Wallace.
- *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
- *Jack Reacher: One Shot* by Lee Child
- *The Painted Girls* by Cathy Marie Buchanan
- *The Girls from Ames* by Jeffrey Zaslow
- *Inferno* by Dan Brown
- *Lexicon* by Max Barry
- *Defending Jacob* by William Landay
- *Willpower* by Roy Baumeister
- *Mr. Penumbra’s 24-hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan

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.