Upcoming Events at the Library

(all free, of course)

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 5 – movie *American Graffiti*
2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 9 – Author Gary Schmidt
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 12 – movie *To Kill A Mockingbird*
7:30 p.m. Friday, March 15 – Celtic Night
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 19 – movie *Sixteen Candles*
2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 23 – Vampire Author Rachel Caine
7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21 – History of Passover
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 – movie *Sounder*
7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28 – Barbie Turns 54!
6:45 p.m. Friday, April 12 – Volunteer Recognition, Annual Meeting, and Lowery Center Drama Class performing vignettes from *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*
7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13 – Latin Jazz Festival

Be sure to check our website for updates to the calendar!

Hello Friends Members,

As Spring approaches, I hope you still find some time to visit the library and to take advantage of all the wonderful programs and events. We have many fun and exciting programs planned for the upcoming months. Take a peak inside to read the details of what is in store for you.

The biggest part of what the Friends “do” is to support the library in many ways. This includes programs, service projects and in many cases financial support for programs, equipment and staff trainings. The Friends are very proud of the recent $10,000 gift that we gave to the library to help fund the new RFID system. This system is a necessary upgrade to the current system and the staff hopes it will be in place before the summer reading programs begin in June. Allen City Mayor, Steve Terrell and the Allen City Council presented The Friends with a special proclamation during the January City Council meeting honoring us for our contributions to the community. It was an honor representing our group at the meeting. (See picture.)

Please join us on April 12th at 6:45 pm at the Library for our annual meeting. During this meeting we will elect our secretary and treasurer for the upcoming term, approve our bylaws update and approve our 2013/14 budget. Following the meeting the ALLen Reads group will present a program performed by the Lowery Center Drama department. Then to cap off the evening, we will honor our volunteers with a reception in the foyer outside of the auditorium. I hope many of you will be able to attend this fun and very important evening.

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, or join us on the Friends of the Allen Public Library Facebook page—https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheallenpubliclibrary
Author Gary Schmidt

Two-time Newberry Honor-winning author Dr. Gary Schmidt appears at the Allen Public Library, 2 p.m. Saturday, March 9. Dr. Schmidt is the author of this year’s ALLen Reads selection, Okay For Now, also chosen for National Public Radio’s Backseat Book Club. Author of Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy and much praised The Wednesday Wars, Dr. Schmidt is a professor of English at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Okay For Now is an inspiring story of a young teenager, Doug Swieteck, who faces tremendous adversity, including reading challenges and both a physically and emotionally abusive father and brother. The story begins with Doug’s father’s involvement in an altercation with his employer, forcing the relocation of his family to a more modest location in another town. Like most dysfunctional families, a scapegoat is created by the abuser, and in this case, Doug takes the blame for bad choices of others.

Empowerment and healing are endearing themes in this tragic saga. With proper guidance from nurturing adults, even teenagers can find a path to escape their dilemmas. The road to Doug’s healing begins in the town’s public library, which is only open on Saturdays. Doug’s focus and intrigue with the library did not begin with books, but with a display of art by John James Audubon. Learning to draw Audubon’s Arctic Tern became Doug’s first passion in life. His transition from pain to healing begins, but like all roads to recovery, challenges continue.

A Real Bookstore in Fairview will provide copies of Okay For Now for purchase and the author will autograph them.

Celtic Night

Celtic Night at the Library offers a spectacular evening filled with dance, instrumentals and song at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 15.

Bagpiper Rafe Allderink opens this free program with a lively processional. A Highland piping instructor, Rafe plays and competes with the Fort Worth Scottish Pipes and Drums. He has been performing for weddings, funerals, school programs and other events in the DFW area for over a decade.

Hailey Sandoz and Joseph Carmichael present a delightful medley of favorites that are beautifully blended together like Celtic knots. An Irish stepdancer and fiddle player, Hailey Sandoz can perform both simultaneously, thus her nickname “The Fiddle Dancer.” Members of the Trinity Hall Session Players, they have together and separately played festivals and shows throughout the US, including the North Texas Irish Festival and Texas Scottish Festival. Hailey and Joseph’s demo CD, “Downhill”, gives a superb example of their passion for the music, receiving rave reviews by Ceili. In 2012, Hailey was the recipient of the Byron D. Cameron Memorial Music Scholarship, and attended workshops under the tutelage of Leahy, Natalie MacMaster and Liz Carroll.

Needfire is a nationally touring Celtic-folk-rock band formed in 2004 by bass, dulcimer and mandolin player Ed Walewski. Inspired by traditional Celtic music, the band members are also composers and some of their original work with modern beats will be performed. The group includes four-time California state fiddle champion Linda Relph (fiddle, vocals), Joseph Carmichael (flute, whistles, guitar), Kevin Hanlon (guitars, vocals), and Trey Ware (drums).

The band has headlined for major national Celtic festivals, including the North Texas Irish Festival. Free tickets will be issued at 7:00 p.m. that evening on a first come, first served basis.
Vampire Author
Rachel Caine

To clarify, Rachel Caine is not a vampire. She is, however, an internationally bestselling author of more than 30 novels, including the immensely popular Morganville Vampire series, the Weather Warden series, and the Outcast Season series.

Join us as Rachel discusses her popular book series, how her favorite characters were created, and get a sneak preview of her upcoming book *Fall of Night*. Rachel appears at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 23.

*Glass Houses*, the first installment in the Morganville Series, introduces Claire Danvers, a freshman at college in Morganville, Texas. Claire never expected to assimilate with the in-crowd, but she never imagined having odd roommates and living in a town run by vampires. She has to make a choice: work for the vampires and benefit from their protection or be fair game.

A book signing and photo opportunity will follow the discussion, with books available for purchase from a Real Bookstore.

Free tickets will be distributed at 1:30 p.m.

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Latin Jazz Festival

Collin College Latin Jazz Ensemble and Havana NRG make turbochargers seem slow at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 13.

Collin College Latin Jazz Ensemble combines the grooves of the Caribbean and South America with the influences of jazz to create a sound that is both high energy and entertaining. Their sound begs you to get up and dance!

This band features flute and 2 horns, drums, bass, piano, and auxiliary percussion. Musical influences for the group come from many Latin jazz sources, including Poncho Sanchez, Pink Martini, Celia Cruz, Conrad Herwig and Tito Puente as well as original material by Kris Berg, the band's director and Director of Jazz Studies at Collin. Mr. Berg is an internationally recognized jazz composer/arranger.

"This group has performed at the festivals throughout the Midwest to a great response from sold-out crowds. People love the grooves, like salsa and mambo. It's a lot of fun", Berg stated.

Havana NRG! “New Rhythm Generation” offers up a hot program of timba-influenced salsa to prove that Havana-inspired tropical dance sounds are alive in the Lone Star state. Their creative blends of rhythmic syncopations and intriguing melodies will produce an uplifting spirit. Amanda Salinas, WFAA, Channel 8 declares, “This Cuban orchestra pumps out contagious Latin rhythms that salseros and others won’t be able to resist. Havana NRG has made its mark in Texas and is ready to take on the world.”

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Book of Kells

Ireland's famed *Book of Kells*, the Western world's most beautifully illustrated manuscript, poses a riddle. Professors Jerry Lincecum, Ph.D., and Peggy Redshaw, Ph.D., will discuss both the lore and history of the *Book of Kells* at this free program.

Dr. Lincecum has puzzled over the *Book of Kells* since 1970 when he first viewed the original while visiting Trinity College in Dublin. Dr. Lincecum notes, “The *Book of Kells* was copied by hand and illuminated by monks around the year 800 A.D. Although it was probably begun on the island of Iona, between Scotland and Ireland, its name is derived from the Abbey of Kells, in the Irish Midlands, where it was kept from at least the 9th century to 1541.”

This book is a Latin vulgate of the four Gospels, written in ornate majuscule, an ancient script, and lavishly illustrated with brilliantly colored pictures. In a period of high illiteracy, illuminated manuscripts told the story to those who could not read. More than a religious manuscript, the age and design of the *Book of Kells* allow a glimpse into the art and style of ancient Ireland. Since 1661, it has been kept in the Library of Trinity College in Dublin.

Dr. Lincecum is a past president of the Texas Folklore Society and Emeritus Professor of English at Austin College. Dr. Redshaw is a Professor of Biology at Austin College. Dr. Lincecum and Dr. Redshaw are the editors of twelve volumes of the *Telling Our Stories* anthologies and members of the editing team for three books on the life of Dr. Gideon Lincecum, a Texas naturalist and physician. They have accompanied several Austin College student groups to Ireland.

Rare facsimiles of the Book of Kells can be viewed at the Abell Library at Austin College in Sherman and at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth.

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.
History of Passover

Learn about the origins of the Jewish holiday of Passover, known to Jews as Pesach, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at the Allen Public Library. During this free program the audience will follow the path of Moses took through the Sinai desert and get a glimpse of the mountain where he delivered the Ten Commandments.

Jewish slaves are believed to have escaped from Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Ramses II, approximately 1350 BCE. The story is told that prior to their escape, Jewish families were spared when the first born of each family in Egypt was slain. After their leaving Egypt, the Jews roamed in the desert for 40 years before entering the promised land of Israel. Passover is also the name of the sacrificial offering—a lamb—that was made in the Temple on this holiday.

Allen resident Murray Stein will present stunning photographs of a terrain where few dare to travel. He will also discuss the Seder and other traditions associated with the holiday. When asked to comment on the Passover’s importance, Murray notes, “It commemorates the liberation of the Israelite slaves. It is a celebration of freedom, and as part of the Seder ritual, prayers are given for all people who are still in captivity and cannot enjoy their freedoms.”

Bach to Books

Barbie is 54

Learn about the history and evolution of an American icon, Barbie®, with Ric Markin at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 28.

Ric is a vintage toy and collectible expert whose expertise focuses on Barbie® and related toys. He is a frequent presenter at national conferences for collectors and has been an advisor for numerous vintage toy guides and articles.

Ric’s business, Capitol Designs, has a business focus on custom designs for dolls and accessories. In addition, has held positions in numerous organizations, including the National Barbie® Doll Collectors Convention, and local vintage toy organizations and often qualifies collectible entries and judges for national collector competitions.

This program will address rare and hard to find Barbies® to the care and preservation of historic collectibles such as the Barbie doll, and her fashions and accessories. He often remarks, “Now over fifty years in production, Barbie is both a pop icon and a cornerstone in the history of contemporary American fashion.” Ric understands the value—both financial and emotional—that collectors place on their treasures. “Every presentation I give,” he comments, “is unique—because it not only speaks of the historical significance of the toy, but also the real value—the meaning to each collector.”

Your Endowment Fund and Ebby Halliday, Realtors

An Exciting Way to Earn Money for FOL Members AND the Endowment Fund!!

When buying or selling a home, it is common to team up with a real estate agent. As a member of the FOL you now have the opportunity to earn cash incentives when you choose a participating agent at Ebby Halliday, Realtors to assist you with your real estate transaction anywhere in the United States!!

As you are aware, this real estate agent earns a commission on your transaction (which is called the “referred side commission”). Usually this commission is 3.0% of your transaction amount. You can now earn a cash incentive of 20% of the referred side commission. So, for example, if you sell or buy a home for $150,000 and the Ebby Halliday agent that you are working with earns a 3.0% referred side commission, this agent will earn $4,500. However, because of your participation in this program, the agent will then pay you 20% ($900) of this $4,500; and, the agent will contribute another 5% ($225 in this example) to the Endowment Fund. So you receive all of the benefits of working with a highly qualified, Ebby Halliday real estate agent plus you earn a cash incentive for yourself and the Endowment Fund!!!

It is easy to be eligible for this program. First you must not be working with any third party relocation company. Second, if you are selling a home, you cannot have a listing agreement with another real estate broker. And third, if purchasing a home, you must not have viewed any property that you actually intend to purchase or have already signed an agent agreement. For a full explanation of these requirements and the program itself, visit the Ebby Advantage program website or call the Ebby Advantage Coordinator at 972-980-6636. So please keep this unique program in mind when you are considering buying or selling a home.

Earn a cash incentive for yourself and the Endowment Fund!!
Volunteer Recognition Night

It’s time to celebrate! Thanks in part to your support, the Allen Library continues to provide an exciting place to attend a variety of thoughtful programs and, of course, to read a book! To celebrate your commitment to the Library we will be hosting a Volunteer Recognition Night on April 12th, 2013. The night will kick off at 6:45 p.m. in the auditorium with the voting-in of the new Friends of the Allen Library Treasurer and Secretary and the special recognition of our Volunteer of the Year.

Afterwards, The Lowery Freshman Center Theatre class presents a play about the healing power of art and writing, based upon *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, a collection of works of art and poetry by Jewish children who lived in the concentration camp Theresienstadt. This book is named after a poem by Pavel Friedman, a young man born who was incarcerated there and later died at Auschwitz.

We welcome you to join us for cake and punch after the show. Thank you so much for everything you do to make our Library a wonderful place to be.

Five Facts About Jenny Remakel
(Our New Volunteer Chair) and the Books She Loves

Jenny Remakel is our new Volunteer Coordinator. When asked to tell us a little about herself, here is her response.

1. I spent most of my childhood in Houston, Texas, riding my bike and spending countless hours wandering through the maze of bookshelves at the local library with my brother and sister.
2. While attending the University of Dallas, I met Joel, a brilliant, handsome, and kind English major, whom I later married. I often pretend that his large collection of books (Saul Bellow, William Faulkner, Graham Green) are my own and not the slightly embarrassing mix of Fantasy and Young Adult books (Robert Jordan, George R.R. Martin, Brandon Mull to name a few).
3. After graduation, I put my Psychology degree to good use, teaching Middle School World and American History. I wouldn't have made it through my first year without *A Treasury of Royal Scandal, Don’t Know Much About History*, and *Guns, Germs and Steel*.
4. I have two smart, hilarious, amazing children, Gabe, 5, and Nola, 2, that absolutely love visiting the library. Their favorite things to do there are pester the fish, ride the elevator, and find a ton of “new” books. Their current favorites are *Ladybug Girl goes to the Beach*, *When Dinosaurs Came With Everything*, and *What do you do with a Kangaroo?*
5. My family and I, drawn by the beautiful parks and outstanding schools, moved to Allen five years ago. It didn’t take long to discover how fantastic the library was. I’m excited to have been the Volunteer Coordinator for the past six months and to help make the Allen Library an inspiring place to be.

Claire Chau
Our Membership Chair

Claire Chau is our new Membership Chair. She is (almost) a lifelong Allen resident, and the product of AISD and the Allen Public Library. Claire has fond memories of visiting the library when it was at the Blue House and of her first library card—it was made of cottony, robin’s egg blue paper. She enjoys hiding from her kids (4 and 6) to read unillustrated books. When she can find the time (not often), Claire also likes sleeping.
Two Last Programs for
ALLen Reads 2012-13

ALLen Reads will finish its 6th year with two exciting programs. Be sure to note these on your calendar and join us at the library!

On Saturday, March 9, Author Gary Schmidt -- author of our main book, Okay for Now -- will be speaking and signing books at the library at 2 PM. He will sign and personalize copies of his books that you own, or A Real Bookstore will be on hand with books for purchase. For more information on Gary Schmidt, see the article on page 2.

On Friday, April 12, at 7 PM, the Lowery Freshman Center Drama Class will perform "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." This play was adapted from the book of the same name, a collection of art and writing created by the children of Terezin, a WWII concentration camp. It was chosen for ALLen Reads this year, because it echoes the theme: the power that art and friendship have to inspire and to heal. This is also our Volunteer Recognition Night for adult and teen volunteers at the library. A reception will follow the performance.

We hope to see you there for both events. Come celebrate another great year with ALLen Reads: meet an author, see a moving drama, and honor those who give their time and energy to make all this happen for you.

We'll be starting to plan 2013-14 at our ALLen Reads meeting on Monday, March 11, at 7 p.m., in the library meeting room. If you are interested in joining the committee, helping behind the scenes, and meeting lots of interesting people in the process, contact Jane Bennett, jane@jrbennett.net.
“Almost Grown” Movie Series

All films are on Tuesdays and begin at 7 p.m. at the Allen Public Library, and are free. Check our website or the Allen Library’s website for the April Movie Series.

**March 5 - American Graffiti** (1973), starring Oscar winning Richard Dreyfuss, Oscar winning Ron Howard and Harrison Ford, a couple of high school grads spend one final night cruising the strip with their buddies before they go off to college.

**March 12 –** triple Oscar winner, *To Kill A Mockingbird* (1962), starring Gregory Peck, John Megna and Robert Duvall, Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge, and his kids against prejudice.

**March 19 - Sixteen Candles** (1984), starring Molly Ringwald, Justin Henry and Michael Schoeffling, a young girl's "sweet sixteenth" birthday becomes anything but special as she suffers from every embarrassment possible.

**March 26 - Sounder** (1972), starring Cicely Tyson, Paul Winfield and Kevin Hooks, the son of a family of black sharecroppers comes of age in the Depression-era South after his father is imprisoned for stealing food.

Check the library’s interactive calendar ([www.allenlibrary.org](http://www.allenlibrary.org)) and our website ([www.allenfriends.com](http://www.allenfriends.com)) for April’s *Tuesday Night at the Movies*.

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS—January/February

Kristen & Matt Amen
Lena & Larry Barrett
Amy Bell
Kristen A. Dority
Christopher Hoffheins
Kathy & Tim Litinas
Vuthy Nol-Mantia
Isabel Peitzner
Ruth Rodriguez
Judith Schronk
Cheryl & Steven Thornton
Zulfa Weye
Bev & John Adler
Jane Bales
Youn-ha Choi
Mary Cone

Douglas Eddy
Sherry Grimes
Angie Hardy
Deadra Hicks
Rattiya James
Ghizlane Jaouhari
Dana Jean
Kristin Kelley
Courtney Liu
Anthony Ly
Paula & Mark Mason
Justine Miller
Christi Norris
John Plate
Talbot Rasmussen
Victor Rios

Noemi Sanchez
Ellen & Allan Staller
Wendy Teel
Karen Tellez
Melissa Tesfaye
Sara Vogler
Gerri & David Walk
Karla Warbourg
Kathlene & Peter Young
Laura Young
Berhanu Zenebe

*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.*