Hello Friends Members,

Just two months into the new year, and the Friends are busy, busy, busy! Luckily for us, we have many amazing volunteers helping us make our beloved library a jewel in our community. Thanks to those volunteers, we provided a delicious meal complete with mouthwatering desserts to the library staff during their most recent bi-annual in-service day. The meal included BBQ from Dickey’s, which they discounted significantly in order to show their support of our library, rolls donated by our friends at Market Street, plus salads, sides and desserts provided by volunteers. Staff appreciation is an area in which we always need help, so please let us know if we can add you to the list of people who support our efforts by contributing dishes to our bi-annual luncheons and quarterly treats for the staff.

Our ALLen Reads volunteers have gone above and beyond this year, selecting *Big Fish*, by Daniel Wallace, for the main book for its One Book program. The book is a great read, and as usual, ALLen Reads pulled out all the stops and scheduled an author visit and book signing on March 8th. Please join us for the fun to meet Mr. Wallace and get a book signed! And the night before (the 7th), actors from Lowery Freshman Center perform scenes from the book.

We recognize volunteers with awards each year at our Annual Meeting, on April 10th. We will kick off that evening with a brief play by our Jr. Friends, to be followed by a quick meeting including elections, awards, and recognition of our dear friend Tami Burich, who passed away in December, and our friends Tami Alexander and Wilma Smith who resigned from the Friends board after many long years of service to the Friends. In addition Wilma served tirelessly on the Endowment Fund board. We hope you will join us in celebrating these wonderful friends, and cast your vote for the Friends board nominees. After the meeting, we’ll be furthering our appreciation for you, our volunteers, by serving cake and refreshments at our annual volunteer recognition reception. We hope to see you there! As always, I hope to see you at the Library!

Susan Jackson

Be sure to “like” us on our Facebook page—https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheallenpubliclibrary
The Importance of Fish Tales

Daniel Wallace will speak at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Allen Public Library. Come at 1 p.m. and tell us your story, which will be videotaped. His masterful tale The Big Fish captures the essence of good storytelling. Like most fish stories, exaggeration is expected, and Big Fish garners laughs because these tall tales are entertaining. But in the end, the stories capture the heart because they are real.

Tom Keener, Cultural Arts Coordinator at the library, says, “As a young man, I heard my father repeat some of his stories so many times that I could finish them for him. Back then, I would roll my eyes and listen politely upon hearing a story for the 1,000th time. Today, I wish I could hear them for the 1001st time.”

Storytelling invites the imagination to embark on a journey that transcends barriers and leads to unexpected destinations. In this realm, stories may not be true but still lead the listener to the truth.

Born in Birmingham, AL, Wallace pursued several careers, including cleaning cages at a veterinarian clinic, before becoming an author. Big Fish is a series of tall tales woven by a father to share his life with his son—a son who only wants to hear what is real and get to know his father on a biographical level, not listen to another story. As the father is dying, this relationship grows and the son’s perspective changes. The New York Times described Big Fish as “comic and poignant.”

Big Fish was made into a film that was directed by Tim Burton and starred Ewan McGregor, Jessica Lange and Albert Finney. Daniel Wallace has a cameo role in Big Fish as an Auburn University professor.

Currently, Wallace is a professor and lecturer in the English Department at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Allen Reads is a one-book program under the leadership of the Friends of the Allen Public Library. It is unique in one-book programs in that related books at different reading levels are chosen as “companions” to the main book to promote families and all generations reading and talking together. Barnes and Noble will have The Big Fish for sale and the author will be available for signing books after the event.

2013-14 Allen Reads Books

**Annual Meeting**

The Nominating Committee report for 2014 is as follows.

Nominees are suggested for the following positions --

Susan Jackson, President
Dana Jean, V.P.

Signed by the members of the committee:

Jane Bennett
Regina Taylor
Sandy Wittsche

Election will be held at the Friends of the Allen Library Annual Meeting on April 10, 2013, immediately prior to the 7:30 p.m. “Trail of Tears” program and after the Jr. Friends play.
Arthurian Legends
... (and Legends of Giants)

Welsh literature is the nexus to Arthurian legends. Celebrate Celtic month with Dr. Chris Grooms who will present a brief survey of Welsh literature and the Arthurian legends at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at the Allen Public Library.

“Like an ancient magnet for myth and legend, the name Arthur has attracted the lore and tales of the ancient British Celts,” Dr. Groom notes. “During the Middle Ages, all of Europe was abuzz with the adventures and exploits of this king and his knights and maidens. The oldest of these tales comes from the country of Wales, written in a language still spoken in that country. This lecture will reveal some of that ancient lore—some fact, some fancy, but always heroic and magical.”

Author of The Giants of Wales/Cewri Cymru, Groom’s book provides a collection and discussion of the literary, place-name and archaeological materials concerning giants in Wales and the Marches. The text includes tales and materials regarding place-names with associated giant traditions and with personal names of giants.

A professor of English at Collin College, Dr. Grooms contributed “Blodeuwedd: Song of the Flowers” to an archive of traditional Welsh music for Smithsonian Folkways. He was the only American invited to contribute to this anthology of native Welsh music.

Dr. Grooms presented at the 41st International Congress of Medieval Studies.

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All Bach to Books performances are sponsored by the Friends of the Allen Public Library and the City of Allen. 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.
Cherokee Nation Pensions

The Cherokee nation contributed soldiers to the United States beginning with the Red Stick Revolt in 1812, which enabled individual Cherokees to receive pensions from the United States for their wartime services. By 1829, the Cherokee National Council provided its first national pension to an individual Cherokee citizen. A member of the Cherokee Nation, Dr. Julie Reed will examine why Cherokees adapted institutions as a means to deliver social services traditionally administered by clans and extended families and how those institutions were used to protect Cherokee sovereignty when allotment and Oklahoma statehood threatened at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 20, at the Allen Public Library.

The Removal Treaty of 1835 ensured the continuation of federal funds to disabled soldiers in the post-removal period. Prior to the Civil War, pensioners used their funds to support their personal care in their homes.

Earning her PhD in American History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Reed is the David J. Weber Research Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America, a position reserved for distinguished scholars and academicians. An assistant professor of history at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Dr. Reed is spending the current academic year at the Clements Center revising her book manuscript Ten Times Better: Cherokee Social Services. Professor Reed’s current research examines the rise of social service institutions in the Cherokee Nation in the period after the Civil War.

Trail of Tears

The Trail of Tears devastated the Cherokee people and cast a shameful shadow on American history. In the winter of 1838, the Cherokee began the U.S. government-forced thousand-mile march with scant clothing and far too inadequate supplies. Cherokees were forced to take an arduous journey to an unfamiliar destination, the Indian Territory or what today is known as Oklahoma. Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilor Dr. Julia Coates will discuss the Trail of Tears at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Allen Public Library.

The author of the “Trail of Tears,” Dr. Coates recently published the first book that takes a Cherokee perspective of the forced removal of an Indian tribe from its homeland in the southeastern United States to the Indian Territory. Dr. Coates will give a reading of “Seven Stories: An Intuitive Cherokee Understanding of the Trail of Tears.” The program will explore seven vignettes from Cherokee social and cultural history that reflect the meaning of the Trail of Tears.

“The Trail of Tears was an event that has shaped the Cherokees’ sense of themselves ever since,” notes Dr. Coates. The removal resulted in a loss of an estimated 4,000 Cherokees, either by death or desertion. Dr. Coates notes, “Everywhere I go to meet with Cherokees today, people share with me that their great, great-grandparent was on the Trail of Tears. It’s the way we define ourselves to each other and to the larger world – we are the descendants of the survivors. We relate to the event in a very intuitive way, and this book reflects that in its style.”

A citizen of the Cherokee Nation and an elected representative to its Tribal Council, Dr. Coates has a PhD in American Studies and works in Research and Special Projects for the American Indian Studies Center at UCLA, and is an interviewer with UCLA’s Center for Oral History Research.

Books will be available for purchase and autographs.

Jr Friends

Wednesday Feb 19 the Jr. Friends kicked off our Jr Book Club with the Bluebonnet Award winning book, Wonder. Then on April 10, we will present a short play at 7:00 p.m. immediately prior to the Friends Annual Meeting.

Contact Lisa Wilmes at ellepea71@me.com for more information on Jr Friends.

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Bach to Books

Allen Jazz Festival

Cool jazz that sizzles the soul can be heard at the Allen Public Library at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, April 12.

String Theory Manouche melds elements of traditional French Roma (Gypsy) with rousing music. This acoustic ensemble plays music in the tradition of Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli. A member of the internationally-acclaimed One O’Clock Lab Band, Kim Platko has performed at the Dallas Museum of Art, Van Cliburn Rehearsal Hall and the McDavid Studio at Bass Performance Hall.

On violin, Mark Menikos has composed film and dance scores, including source music for the Chuck Norris film “Lone Wolf McQuade” . He has played in numerous country music groups, including legends Ray Price and Johnny Gimble, as well as bluegrass fiddle grand-master Marc O’Connor.

Whether fronting a Roots/Rockabilly/Twang/Soul band, or subbing as a guitarist for a wide variety of singer-songwriters, James Miller feels a deep connection to the culture and music of the gypsies that were such a crucial component to the environment that gave birth to Gypsy Swing.

Bassist Marla Sporrer is a much sought-after multi-instrumentalist who performs on several stringed instruments including banjo and guitar, in addition to upright bass. She has extensive experience in all the jazz styles, but especially in Dixieland and blues.

At 8:30 p.m.

Carolyn Lee Jones stirs the audience with her eclectic jazz repertoire that reflects diverse styles. With influences ranging from Diana Krall, Sade and Laura Nyro to Anita O’Day and Shirley Horn, her current CD, “Bon Appetit!” garnered excellent reviews and has been featured for multiple rotations on jazz radio stations. Noted reviewer for Jazz Times Magazine, Christopher Loudon writes; “Jones attacks each song with the vigor of a wildcat yet maintains a dusky under current that drips with sensuality.” Carolyn has performed for the Dallas Museum of Art Jazz in the Atrium Series, The Sammons Center for the Arts Jazz Series, The Mansion on Turtle Creek, Denton Jazz and Arts Festival Main Stage, July Jazz Addison and New York Cabaret-Jazz.

Charreada: Mexican Rodeo in Texas

El Charro, or man on horseback, plays an important role in the history of the U.S., Central and South America. El Charro is the Mexican version of the American cowboy, but older, arising from the ranch culture first brought to Mexico by the Spanish. Famed San Antonio photographer Al Rendon took this ideal subject for the camera and created a collection of splendid photographs for his book, Charreada: Mexican Rodeo in Texas. His photos juxtapose the grit of the arena with the poise and polish of the charros and their horses. View images and learn more about Mexican Rodeo at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 17 at the Allen Public Library.

In 1981, Rendon began photographing Charreada. Texas historian and curator Bruce Shackleford wrote, “Dodging moving horses, ropes, and the excited crowds for over 20 years, Al Rendon has artfully captured the action and excitement of the Charreada for the rest of the world to see.” The result is well documented in Charreada: Mexican Rodeo in Texas, published in 2002.

Rendon is a professional photographer and the owner of Rendon Photography & Fine Art, a photographic fine arts gallery located in historic San Antonio. Al captures the people and culture that surround him in this graceful, expressive city. Whether it’s an historic landmark, a famous conjunto band, a charro in the midst of a paso del muerte, a muralist in front of his latest creation, there’s a moment when the light is right, the composition is fully balanced and the photograph captures the essence of life.

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March Movies—Audrey Hepburn

All films are free and begin on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Audrey Hepburn possessed a grace and charm rarely seen in cinematic history. During March, the Allen Public Library is hosting an Audrey Hepburn film festival.

As a special treat, the late actress’s son Luca Dotti will introduce Roman Holiday from Rome by Skype. Mr. Dotti will share his mother’s recollections of her career and the shooting of her Oscar winning masterpieces.

**March 4, Sabrina** (1954)—Directed by Billy Wilder and starring Humphrey Bogart, Audrey Hepburn and William Holden. This film garnered an Oscar for Best Costume Design, Black-and-White, which was created by Edith Head. A playboy becomes interested in the daughter of his family’s chauffeur, but it’s his more serious brother who would be the better man for her.

**March 11, Roman Holiday** (1953)—Directed by William Wyler and starring Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn and Eddie Albert. A triple Oscar winner, Best Actress in a Leading Role, Best Writing, Motion Picture Story and Best Costume Design. A bored and sheltered princess escapes her guardians and falls in love with an American newsmen in Rome.

**March 18, Breakfast at Tiffany’s** (1961)—Directed by Blake Edwards and starring Patricia Neal, George Peppard, Buddy Ebsen, and Audrey Hepburn, this film won two Oscars. A young New York socialite becomes interested in a young man who has moved into her apartment building.

**March 25, My Fair Lady** (1964)—Directed by George Cukor and starring Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison. This mega box office success garnered eight Oscars. A snobbish phonetics professor agrees to a wager that he can take a flower girl and make her说话 sound like a lady.

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, & redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, & the other for helping others.

Audrey Hepburn

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In Memorium

The library has lost two remarkable individuals in recent months—Tami Burich and Cindy Robinson. Both had a passion for life, family, friends, literacy, education and libraries.

**Tami Burich**

Tami wore many hats during her 12 years at the library, first as a circulation clerk, then circulation supervisor and finally as a reference librarian for five years. She was an avid reader and never read a book she didn’t like. She shared her love of reading by leading two library book discussion groups and recommending books to the public. Although she had a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and worked as a circuit designer at TI for 17 years, Tami never belittled anyone for their lack of education. On the contrary, she had a curiosity and passion for learning that was contagious. Her love of people and literacy was a perfect match for a library career.

Tami was an active member of the Friends, serving as membership chair for many years. When you got your renewal letter, you knew Tami had a hand in it by the theme-based stationary, precise handwriting, and personal appeal. She was a Friends Chocolate Champion and won the Lifetime Friend Award in 2012.

If you ask people for one word to best describe Tami, it’s “generous.” She gave freely of her time and talent. From making toffee for everyone at Christmas, to helping people find jobs or a place to live, to offering to take care of your dog, Tami was there. She was selfless. Tami owned an extensive cookbook collection, and was known to stay up into the early morning hours making her famous Jell-O punch because she knew we liked it—even though she hated making it.

She loved holidays and birthdays, and celebrated every library employee’s birthday with a card and gift. On her own birthday her work space resembled a combined floral and candy shop, complete with some of the members of her sock monkey and owl collections.

Tami treasured her family, most especially her loving husband, daughter, son and daughter-in-law, and enjoyed spending time with relatives, friends and family pets. She lived each day to its fullest, lifting people’s spirits with her dry wit and wonderful sense of humor. Tami truly made everyone she met feel important.

**Audrey Hepburn**

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Audrey Hepburn
In Memorium (continued from page 6)

Cindy Robinson

Cindy was a long-time educator and dedicated children’s librarian. Cindy started her career as a high school English teacher and later became a school librarian before joining the APL staff in 1999. She retired at the end of 2012 after 13 years of sharing her joy of reading with thousands of children.

“Miss Cindy” went to great lengths to engage her listeners, and prepared for her story times and other library and outreach programs with the care of a method actor, using costumes, props and puppets to bring stories to life. Her most memorable characters included Mother Goose, Amelia Bedelia riding a bicycle, and Captain Underpants, complete with boxers and a cape! She helped create dozens of puppet shows and will long be remembered for her silly chicken and bold mouse voices.

Cindy developed many long-term relationships with young people, including some who first met her as preschoolers and later became teen volunteers in her programs. Always a learner, she was a knowledgeable reference librarian and an avid reader who could advise readers of all ages. She participated in ALLen Reads every year, both through her library story times and by leading her church book group.

One word often used to describe Cindy is “gentle.” Another is “friend.” She was unfailingy kind and had a ready ear for anyone who needed comforting. She had a great sense of humor that could turn a meal at Dickey’s into an adventure. Cindy loved her Longhorns, travel and discovering new places, poetry, NASCAR (watch out — you may see her again as a race car driver), crazy socks and hats, dark chocolate, all kinds of cake, going to lunch with friends, and her morning cup o’ joe.

Cindy was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, who cherished her husband and three children, delighted in her two grandsons, and loved having a good time with family members, which included an assortment of dogs and grand-dogs. She battled her long-term illness with courage, grace, and a positive attitude, and never let it define her.

Tami and Cindy were truly extraordinary librarians, colleagues, and friends, two beautiful shining strands woven into the fabric of our library family and community. They will be missed.

Drama & Author Talk
Create an Exciting Finale to this Year’s

ALLen Reads

The 2013-14 ALLen Reads season is coming to an exciting conclusion.

On Friday, March 7, at 7:30 PM, “Scenes from Big Fish” will be performed in the Allen Public Library Auditorium. In a “readers’ theatre” format, the Lowery Freshman Center drama group will share their interpretations of portions of this year’s main book. Join us for cookies and punch with the actors and the author following the performance.

On Saturday, March 8, at 2 PM, Daniel Wallace will talk about his life and his writing. A book signing will follow. See more details on page 2.

Those two events conclude ALLen Read’s 2013-14 year. Planning for 2014-15 will begin at our March meeting, 7 PM, Monday, March 10. If you are interested in getting involved in the planning of this community-wide program, come join us for the meeting and see what it’s all about. Or contact Jane Bennett with any questions at jane@jrbennett.net. We welcome new people and new ideas!!

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

January/February

Bev & John Adler  Llindsey Harrel  Edward Mintline
Gayle & ET Boon  Rick Hopkins  Michel Morales
Lance Boyd  Rick & Roxanne Hunsicker  Sule Nformi
Sheri & Montie Brown  Vern Lankenau  Steve Ogden
Anne De La Rosa  Gerri Larimey  Kathleen Rogers
Lois & Gary Diehl  Paul Lauderdale  Marianna Sennour
Dana Eldridge  Lynda Blaylock  Debbie & Chuck Vavra
Heather Fuller  Tooba Marwat  Sara Voglerhn
Dawn Gent  Janet & Mike McChesney  Jason Pietruszka
Rita George  Menty McNeil  Edward Pitka

Jonathan Russell,
Malhurin Taguirndjru
Thomas, Bernice
Jason Vorderbruggen
Christine Vorderbruggen
Hazan Waltz
Annette Williams
Zakaraallah, Shamsa

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.