Hello Friends Members,

Happy New Year! Ok, yes, I know it’s April (almost May!), but the Friends just closed out the fiscal year with our Annual Meeting on April 10th. So, in preparation of our new year, we had a couple of officer elections to hold at the Annual Meeting. Both Dana Jean and I were nominated for our positions again, and we graciously accepted the nominations. Thank you all for re-electing us!

At the meeting, we recognized and celebrated two special Friends: Gayle Boone, our “Outstanding Friend,” and Sandy Wittsche, our “Lifetime Friend.” Both women have devoted countless hours to the Friends over the course of many, many years and in many capacities. We hope they will continue to serve with us for many more years to come.

We announced at the meeting that we are accepting donations for memorial gifts to the library to commemorate the lives of Tami Burich and Cindy Robinson, so please join us in honoring these special women who were taken from us too soon. Donations and memberships can be made to the Friends online as of May 1st, so please visit the website to make a donation in their names, or to renew your membership. We hope this online service will simplify your life so you don’t have to dig the checkbook out and drop off or mail an envelope to us!

We finished up the meeting with a short performance by our Junior Friends. The Jr Friends is a group of 4th through 6th grade students who attend monthly meetings to do arts and crafts, service projects, a book club and much more. They’ve been privileged to have the fearless Friend Lisa Wilmes leading them. They finished out their year with a very fun improv performance for us! (See page 7.)

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Coming up soon in this “new” year, we will have a table at the Great American Cleanup at City Hall on May 3rd from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., so let the Friends help you with your spring cleaning by taking some gently used books off your hands. Of course, as always, we hope you’ll join us for as many of our special programs as possible, and we thank Tom Keener for always planning such a huge selection. Be sure to like us on Facebook so you get notifications of events!
**Bach to Books**

Spain's Golden Age and La Convivencia
Coexistence of the Three Faiths

Spain’s Golden Age and La Convivencia are a milieu in Spanish history when Jews, Muslims and Christians had a tacit truce with each other and the arts, literature and architecture flourished. For over 400 years, knowledge and mysticism thrived in the Spanish towns of Toledo, Cordoba, and Granada as students and teachers in all three disciplines helped one another to learn, translate, and understand ancient teachings.

Artists such as Diego Velázquez, composers such as Tomás Luis de Victoria, Cervantes and Don Quixote and the Granada Cathedral were products of that era.

A Sephardic Jew born and raised in the multicultural Izmir, Turkey, Rachel Amado Bortnick will discuss Spain’s Golden Age and La Convivencia at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 8 at the Allen Public Library. Rachel has written and lectured about the history and culture of Sephardic Jews, that is, the Jews from Spain (Sefarad is the Hebrew word for Spain.)

Rachel came to the U.S. in 1958 as a foreign student on a scholarship, and graduated with a B.A. in Chemistry. Rachel and her husband, architect Bernard Bortnick have lived in Holland, Israel, Kansas City, St. Louis, and San Francisco, and since 1988, in Dallas. Over the years, Rachel has also devoted herself to informing others about her Sephardic culture and history. In 1988, she was featured in a documentary film, “Trees Cry for Rain: a Sephardic Journey,” which has been featured on PBS and in Film Festivals around the world. In Dallas, she has served as president of the Dallas Jewish Historical Society and twice took Jewish groups to Turkey. In 2008, she was invited to lecture in twelve Spanish cities. On January 12, 2014, she presented a public program at Southern Methodist University on Ladino, the medieval Spanish-based language of the Sephardic Jews in the Ottoman Empire that has survived for five centuries.

Rachel’s home language in Turkey was Ladino. In an effort to preserve this endangered language, in 1999 she founded the first-ever Ladino correspondence group on the Internet, [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ladinokomunita/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ladinokomunita/), which today has over 1450 members from 42 countries.

Rachel notes a parallel between the convivencia (peaceful coexistence among Muslims, Jews, and Christians) of the Spanish Golden Age under Islamic rule, and the multi-ethnic, multi-religious environment in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey.

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**Super Summer Salads**

Just in time for summer! Super Summer Salads will be presented by County Agricultural Agent and Home Economist Carrie Brazeal at noon Thursday, May 8, at the Allen Public Library, 2nd floor program room.

Test your knowledge of different types of lettuces; discover new concepts regarding food safety and choosing healthy salad ingredients; and compare fast-food salads to making your own. Toss it together for a free salad tasting!

Carrie has served with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service since 1979, responsible for planning, conducting and evaluating educational activities in the areas of health, wellness, nutrition, parent education, food safety and management, and financial literacy. Carrie holds an MS in Home Economics from Texas A & M and is a regular contributor to local media.

Carrie notes, “Since summer is peak time for most veggies, salads are perfect for quick and easy family meals that fit into a healthy lifestyle. With the selection of several salad greens and fresh veggies along with choices of protein and other ingredients, today’s salads don’t resemble the salads we grew up with at all. Start your summer with fresh menu ideas that are perfect for families of all sizes.”

This free program is for adults age 18 and older. Registration is requested at [www.allenlibrary.org](http://www.allenlibrary.org). For more information, contact Debbie Vavra at dvavra@cityofallen.org.
Adult Animé Interest Group

Lara Woodhull, a voice actor from Funimation, will be the special guest for the screening of Wolf Children, a film directed by acclaimed director Mamoru Hosoda at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 20, 2nd Floor Program Room.

This event, sponsored by Collected: Plano, is for adults only, age 18 and up, and no registration is required. Refreshments and door prizes will be available. A fan of animé since childhood who attended many animé conventions in her teens, Lara won the People’s Choice for Best Supporting Actress in an Animé Movie for 2013 for her work as Yuki in Wolf Children.

A voice-over actress for animé films, Lara’s first role was Clara in Princess Jellyfish. She has since been in numerous films including Wolf Children (Young Yuki), One Piece (Chimney), B Gata H Kei (Misato), Fairy Tail (Kinana), and .hack/Quantum (Mary). Lara also won the People’s Choice for Breakthrough Voice Actor of the Year for the BTVA 2012 Animé Dub Awards.

For more Information, contact Susan Wedding at 214-509-4905 or swedding@cityofallen.org

Bach to Books

Roy Rogers’ Daughter Rides Back to Allen

Cheryl Rogers, daughter of film, television and rodeo icons Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, returns to the Allen Public Library 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 16, to present a newly released documentary on her parents. Cheryl will also discuss the legendary Roy Roger’s life that for most Americans embodied the spirit of the American West — horsemanship, honesty, courage, and romance.

Viewing this film is a unique opportunity for Allen Public Library patrons because copyright issues require a Roy Rogers family member to be present when shown.

Western Swing band Shoot Low Sheriff will perform Roy Rogers music. Led by Erik Swanson, this band’s music combines strings, horns and a piano that evoke memories of Texas and the West. For an opening act, local resident Kristyn Harris will perform cowboy and western ballads. Kristyn is the winner of the 2013 Western Music Association Cowboy Swing Album of the Year for her CD “Let Me Ride.”

Cheryl Rogers serves on the Advisory Board of the Western Music Association and appeared in the History Channel’s When Cowboys Were King. She is also the author of two books. All-American Cowboy Grill, which she co-wrote with Ken Beck and Jim Clark, features grilling recipes from “reel and real” cowboys. Her autobiography Cowboy Princess: Life with My Parents Roy Rogers and Dale Evans tells the story of America’s most famous cowboy and cowgirl.

Accompanying Cheryl will be Brown Jug Reynolds to discuss his colorful career as a child actor and his role as Trigger’s handler. As an adult, he trained Shadowfax for the Lord of the Ring film series. Brown Jug appeared with Roy Rogers and Dale in The Yellow Rose of Texas (1944) and Song of Arizona (1946). He also appeared with Gene Autry in The Last Round-up (1947) and Robert Mitchum in The Red Pony (1949). His most memorable role was as Little Beaver in the Red Ryder film series.

Free tickets will be issued at 7:00 p.m.

Friends Endowment Board

The Endowment Board of the Friends of the Allen Public Library elected Amanda Boyd as Secretary, to replace Eileen Tollett, who is Treasurer.

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.
Green Fire

*Green Fire*, the first full-length film about the legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold, will be featured at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 5, at the Allen Public Library. Leopold shaped and influenced current U.S. National Parks environmental policy. Learn more about land that Allen citizens saved over thirty years ago for preservation in its natural state.

Author of *The Sand County Almanac*, Leopold was a proponent of the concept of the trophic cascade and observed that killing a predator carries serious implications for the rest of the ecosystem. For example, eliminating wolves enables rodents to dominate the system. Leopold noted, “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt introduced the first grey wolf into Yellowstone National Park in 1995, where they had been eradicated decades earlier. As he opened the trap, he said, “I reflected on how Aldo Leopold once took part in that policy, then eloquently challenged it. By illuminating for us how wolves play a critical role in the whole of creation, he expressed the ethic and the laws which would reintroduce them nearly a half-century after his death.”

Allen councilman Ross Obermeyer notes, “As a member of the community of Allen, I feel that access to open space is a key function of our parks and recreation programs. This open space provides children a place to run, families a place to roam, and our community a place to gather. The City of Allen has done a tremendous job of giving our community access to open space and recreational programing.”

Robert and Kaci Lyford of Patina Green will provide appetizers, and Pure Land Organics, a farm run by Jack and Megan Neubauer, will have organic produce for sale.

Bach to Books

**WW II’s Battle of the Bulge**

The Battle of the Bulge was Hitler’s last attempt to secure a military advantage with the Allies. With 89,000 Allied troops killed and 47,500 wounded, it proved to be the deadliest battle of World War II. If the Nazis had succeeded, it might have given them more time to develop alternative weapon systems.

On Christmas Day 1944, Allen lost one of its citizens during this horrific battle. This brave soldier, Robert Cuffman Jr., is buried in the Allen Cemetery.

Learn more about this crucial chapter in World War II at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 12, at the Allen Public Library. Presenters will be military historian Dr. Clive Siegle and Sgt. Loyd Watson, a soldier who fought in this infamous battle.

After the presentation of colors by Boy Scout Troop 1299, Dr. Clive Siegle will provide a brief overview of the Battle of the Bulge. A professor of history at Richland College and adjunct professor at Southern Methodist University, Dr. Siegle served as historical interpreter and “living history” program developer for the U.S. and state park services and the United States Army.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Sgt. Loyd Watson served in 87th Infantry Company D 346 during World War II. In December 1944, his unit crossed the English Channel and was drawn into battle in the Alsace region, but when the Battle of the Bulge started about a week later, his unit was relocated to Belgium. Avoiding heavy shelling and bombing on Christmas Day 1944, Sgt. Watson credits his growing up on a farm as giving him the ingenuity and resourcefulness to confront this ferocious fighting.

Frostbite was another enemy that threatened Allied troops. Sgt. Watson notes that many men lost their feet to frostbite after wading through the frigid rivers of this region. Sgt. Watson suffered frostbite that still causes him to limp while walking.

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This program is sponsored by Bach to Books and the Bernado de Galvez Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The DAR will serve refreshments.

*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.*
Jolie Holliday

Hits the Allen Stage

Performing a medley of her own hit songs as well as timeless country favorites, country music star Jolie Holliday will fill the Allen Public Library Civic Auditorium with a hand clapping, foot stomping, get-up-out-of-your-seat performance at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 20.

Jolie was deeply honored when Chris Kyle’s family asked her to sing “Soldier,” a song from her CD Somebody Who Can, at his memorial service in February 2013 at Cowboy Stadium. After serving four tours of duty in Iraq as a Navy SEAL, Chris was murdered at a shooting range by a fellow veteran. In July 2013, Jolie performed on WFAA TV’s Good Morning Texas.

Performing for 15 straight years at The State Fair of Texas during its 24-day run, she showcased each day on the Bud Light stage. In December, The Jolie Holliday Band was featured on the North Texas Chevy Music Showcase during Jimmy Kimmel Live on ABC TV.

Jolie’s debut CD A Real Good Day hit the European charts at #1. Named “Young Talent of the Year” as well as “Female Vocalist of the Year” at the German Country Music Awards, she also earned Album of the Year at the CMA Indie Awards. Her follow-up CD Lucky Enough includes soulful country ballads true to Jolie’s roots along with up-tempo honky-tonk tunes that feature her broad vocal range.

Former Dallas Morning News critic Mario Taradell observed, “Jolie Holliday is having a little fun because she can. The title cut from the Dallas country singer’s new album Somebody Who Can is a sassy number that spells out in no uncertain terms exactly what she wants in a man. It is Holliday in strong woman mode.”

Jolie has opened for such artists as Thompson Square, Pat Green, Neal McCoy, Lee Ann Womack, Collin Raye, Randy Travis, Stoney LaRue, Sonny Burgess and Marty Stuart. She performed at the 2011 Official Super Bowl Pre-Game in Dallas and the half-time show at the 2009 Thanksgiving Dallas Cowboys game.

An active supporter of local charitable organizations such as Wednesday’s Child, Cook Children’s Hospital Ft. Worth and the Special Olympics, Jolie enjoys working out, horseback riding, boating, fishing, college football and spending time with family and friends.

Memorial Gift

Tami Burich and Cindy Robinson were longtime employees of the Allen Public Library...and lifelong advocates of reading, books, learning and having fun in the library! We were so very blessed to have them as part of the library staff and the Allen community, and as active participants in the work of the Friends of the Allen Public Library. For many of us, Cindy was the first Allen librarian that we met when we began frequenting the children’s section with our own active toddlers and elementary children. Tami was always the one to ask about reference, library organization or how to navigate new technology. They were two remarkable women and dear friends who lost their battles with cancer in the last six months.

Due to the spot they held in so many people’s hearts, the Friends of the Allen Public Library are accepting donations in memory of Tami and Cindy. These funds will be designated for a specific project or resource which benefits the APL and furthers the mission of the Friends. Donation checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Allen Public Library with a notation that it is in memory of Tami and/or Cindy. If you prefer an online payment, please go to our website and click on the payment tab, click the “Memorial Gift” button and please be sure to note that it is a memorial gift.

Friends Website Offers Onsite Payment Options

Effective May 1, the Friends website can accept membership donations and other charges/donation on the website. Just go to www.allenfriends.com and click on the “Join” button to join the Friends or renew your membership. Be assured that clicking on the “join” or any other donation button takes you to a secure site. Thanks for being a Friend!
May Films
Strictly Baz Luhrmann

During May, films directed by Baz Luhrmann will be featured at the Allen Public Library. Though he began his career as an actor, Baz Luhrmann discovered that his flamboyant talent was better served behind the scenes. Born in Australia, Luhrmann brought a unique sensibility to film with the cinematic version of Strictly Ballroom. Full of garish colors and exuberant dancing, his first film as a director was a splash at the Cannes Film Festival and became an international, prize-winning hit.

May 6 - Strictly Ballroom (1992) (PG), Starring Paul Mercurio, Tara Morice and Bill Hunter, a maverick dancer risks his career by performing an unusual routine and sets out to succeed with a new partner.


May 20 - Moulin Rouge (2001) (PG-13) Starring Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor and Jim Broadbent, a poet falls for a beautiful courtesan whom a jealous duke covets in this stylish musical, with music drawn from familiar 20th century sources. Moulin Rouge garnered two Oscars, Best Art Direction-Set Decoration and Best Costume Design.

May 27 - The Great Gatsby (2013) (PG-13) Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan, and Richard Carter, this film was awarded two Oscars, Best Achievement in Costume Design and Best Achievement in Production Design. A Midwestern war veteran finds himself drawn to the past and lifestyle of his millionaire neighbor.

June Films
Literary Elements

June 3 – Treasure Island (1950) (PG) Starring Robert Newton, Bobby Driscoll and Basil Sydney, young Jim Hawkins is caught up with the pirate Long John Silver in search of the buried treasure of the buccaneer Captain Flint, in this adaptation of the classic novel by Robert Louis Stevenson.

June 10 – Alice in Wonderland (1951) (G) Starring Ed Wynn, Kathryn Beaumont, and Richard Haydn, Alice stumbles into the world of Wonderland. Will she get home? Not if the Queen of Hearts has her way.

June 17 – Pollyanna (1960) (G) Starring Jane Wyman, Hayley Mills, Karl Malden and Agnes Moorehead, a young girl comes to an embittered town and confronts its attitude with her determination to see the best in life.

June 24 – Swiss Family Robinson (1960) (G) Starring John Mills, Dorothy McGuire and James MacArthur, a Swiss family must survive being shipwrecked on a deserted island. Plenty of adventure ensues as the family deals with issues of survival and pirates.

City of Allen
Great American Cleanup

Recycle your gently used books, along with other recyclables, at the City of Allen’s Great American Cleanup, Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m.—1 p.m. Trash, brush and cardboard will be accepted at Chelsea Blvd. at Allen Commerce Pkwy, but used books will only be accepted at Allen City Hall, 305 Century Pkwy. For further information, see City of Allen’s website http://cityofallen.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=914.

All movies are free and start at 7:00 PM on Tuesday nights.
Annual Meeting

The Friends held the annual meeting on April 10, 2014. President Susan Jackson and Vice President Dana Jean were re-elected to their positions. Two books were purchased for the library in honor of two resigning board members Wilma Smith and Tammy Alexander. Thanks to both of them for their dedication over the years.

Sandy Wittsche

Sandy Wittsche was presented with the Lifetime Friend Award at the Friend's Annual Meeting in April. Sandy has been on the Friends' Board for 15 years, and in that time she has done many jobs and all of them well.

She began as Membership Chairman and reorganized the process to draw in and keep members. From a body of 50 in 2000, the Friends have grown to over 500 members. She stepped into the Vice-President position, which she held for four years, most notably developing and chairing the Chocolate Orgy/Chocolate Friendzy, the most popular and well-known of the Friends' events. Along the way she participated in everything the Friends did: Recycle-A-Book-Day, the annual Rotary Holiday Parade, special membership events, book sales, Bach to Books programs, and more. At book sales and in parades, she was often in disguise: as Miss Frizzle -- and sometimes as a book!!

When it came time for the bond election to build the new library, Sandy served as treasurer on the PAC (Political Action Committee). For many years Sandy has been the Friends' Historian, archiving photos and important documents for the organization. She also keeps the closet organized - no easy task! Last year she stepped into an executive role again, and is currently Treasurer for the group.

As you know, your family gets involved in anything you do. Over the years, sons Jake and Nicholas and husband Bill have assisted at recycle days, marched in holiday parades, hung decorations, and been taste-testers for chocolate!

Sandy is dedicated to the Friends and to the Allen Public Library. She will always be a supporter, no matter what title she wears. That is why we were so pleased to award the Lifetime Friends Award to her this year. Congratulations, Sandy...and THANK YOU!!

Gayle Boon

We were also very proud to award Gayle Boon with the Outstanding Friend Award. Gayle has been a long time supporter of the library—she has been active for over 40 years. She is a past President of the Library Board. Gayle is a founding member of the Friends Endowment Fund Board, is active on many other committees, and along with her husband ET, attends many events at the library each month. She gives freely of her time and talents and we are honored that she has chosen The Friends as one of her beloved groups for whom she volunteers.

Thank you to Gayle for all your hard work.

Jr Friends

Our Jr Friends had so much fun producing their improv play "Scrambled Eggs" for the annual meeting at the library. We are closing out a great year with many new faces and these kids were amazing!! Thank you to Ms. Alex Alley for helping us organize our book club exploring the depths of "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio. I have thoroughly enjoyed our group of dedicated Jr Friends this year, and can’t wait for next year.

Jr Friends is for children ages 10-12 (4th-6th grade).

“A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely.”

Roald Dahl
THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS
March/April

Bev & John Adler  
Tauseet Ahmed  
Erica Ainsworth  
Patricia Anderson  
Annie Antaya  
Tina Barker  
Sal Barraza  
Sara Bennett  
Lynda Blaylock  
ET & Gayle Boon  
Ruth Brazeal  
Thresa Clements  
Carmen Christiansen  
Mary Cone  
Elaine Crawford  
Libby Crookham  
Kiran Darapureddy  
Todd Davis  
Maritza Delacruz  
Anne Dela Rosa  
Dimitra Delopoulos  
Steve Donbet  
Kenya Dixon  
Kristen Dority  
Malcolm & Kathie Duke  
Sandra Duncan  
Nilza H. DeFaria  
Food for Thought Market & Café  
Julie Gaines  
Jaclyn Hendrix  
Bonnie Jay  
Alla Koneva  
Sheri Kuester  
I Feng Lai  
Mike & Janet McChesney  
Richard & Connie Mlack  
Casey Moore  
Tonya & Griff Moore  
Carlos Morales  
Cara Norris  
Cody O’Neill  
Teddy Owens  
Blanca Palma  
Qun Peng  
Mel Ptacer  
Wenell Rexford  
Anita Jarrell Robertson  
D. Kathleen Rogers  
Anne Royster  
Latoya Sanford  
Marianna Sennour  
Bhumiti Shah  
J.F. Simkins  
Victor Marcos Simpson  
Julie & Doug Smetzer  
Holly Snow  
Dawit Solomon  
Maria Staehling  
Francis Street  
Eileen Tollett  
Sujatha Vadlamani  
Tina Valleau  
Blanca Witherow  
Sanjay Yeerelly  
Pete & Kathlene Young

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.