Upcoming Events at the Library (all free, of course)

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 6, The Bourne Identity
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 13, GoldenEye
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 20, The Hunt for Red October
7:30 p.m. Friday, January 23, Bluegrass Festival
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, Sherlock Holmes
7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 29, John Adams Group, “A Literary Night of Jazz”—ALLen Reads Kickoff
noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, February 4, Noontime Page Turners—Book discussion, Notes from the Midnight Driver
7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 12, Dr. Flowers Rivera, poet
2 p.m.—4 p.m. Monday, February 16, Family Celebration Day (ALLen Reads) in library children’s department
7-8:30 p.m Wednesday, February 18, book discussion on Orphan Train
7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 19, Meet Jordan Sonnenbleck, Notes from the Midnight Driver
10 a.m.—2 p.m., 2nd and 4th Saturdays, January and February, displays and photos of train history and an Orphan Train at the Depot
10 a.m.—2 p.m. February 28, Celebration of Allen’s Train History and Sam Bass Day
3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1, Meet artist Sara Stahl.


Hello Friends Members,

Happy New Year! I have heard many people talking about their resolutions for 2015. That made me start thinking about my Friends resolutions for the upcoming year.

I resolve to:

♦ Recruit 1 or 2 members to serve on our board to help with Membership, Volunteers and all those great programs we hold each month.

♦ Attend more of our fabulous FREE programs.

♦ Check out some e-books and e-audio books from our ever-growing collection.

♦ Hold our second annual Allen Book Festival and make it bigger than last year’s festival.

♦ Find at least 2 new avenues to promote and advertise all the wonderful things the Friends have to offer and all the good things we do for the library, staff and community.

Please look inside the newsletter to see all the fun and exciting things we have to offer in the next two months. The board and library staff have been working hard to offer a wide variety of movies, programs and events. I hope each of you will attend at least one!

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
2015 Begins!

A Literary Night of Jazz, Thursday, January 29, at 7:30 PM in the Allen Public Library's Civic Auditorium, will mark the start of this year's ALLeN Reads program. The John Adams Group will be performing, with individual numbers introduced through quotes from ALLeN Reads' chosen books. These will be read by students from Janet Flynn's Method Acting Class, Lowry Freshman Center. This performance is free and open to the public. See page 3 in this newsletter for more information.

All three ALLeN Reads' books will be on sale at a discounted price for those attending. What a great opportunity to own and read all three related books this year!

We will also be introducing our VIP Donor Program that night. For a $30 donation to ALLeN Reads/Friends of the Allen Public Library, you will receive two passes to a reception with author Christina Baker Kline, author of Orphan Train, on April 9. She will be speaking in the library auditorium following the reception, and your passes guarantee early seating and first in line positions for book signing after her talk. You may bring your own copy of her book or purchase a copy that evening.

If you or your book club has already read Orphan Train (and many have), we recommend reading the companion books and looking at the related themes while talking about all three books. Discussion questions and information about all the programs for ALLeN Reads are online at www.allenfriends.org.

February holds a number of great ALLeN Reads events.
◆ Book Discussions: on Wednesday, February 4, from noon -1, Noontime Page Turners will be discussing Notes from the Midnight Driver (they read Orphan Train last year), 2nd floor program room in the library; on Wednesday, February 18, from 7-8:30 PM, join a book discussion on Orphan Train, also in the 2nd floor program room.
◆ Family Celebration Day: There's no school on Monday, February 16. Join us from 2-4 PM for crafts, a puppet show, a sing-along, a scavenger hunt, acting with ACT, and more fun for all ages all through the library. No reservations necessary.
◆ Author Jordan Sonnenblick, Thursday, February 19, 7:30 PM, in the auditorium. Book signing to follow. Bring your own or purchase books that evening at the library. See more detail on page 5.
◆ Art Exhibit by Sarah Stahl: ongoing through February and March, with a late afternoon reception for the artist on Sunday, March 1. Sarah, who was adopted from a Russian orphanage as an infant, tells her feelings about adoption and her new life through her art. In the gallery at the Allen Public Library. See more details in article on page 5.

For updates and/or more information, go to www.allenfriends.org and look for ALLeN Reads. And watch for the rest of the ALLeN Reads activities to be detailed in our March/April newsletter!

Did You Know? The Library Has Downloadable Audiobooks!

In the last week of May, 2014, the Allen Public Library started offering downloadable audio books through OverDrive. With a beginning collection of just over 100 youth and adult titles we now have over 300 audio books for patrons to enjoy, from Harry Potter to Gone Girl to Amy Poehler's memoir Yes, Please. Downloadable audio books are available through the OverDrive link on our website or through the OverDrive app on your smart phone or tablet- call or visit the library if you need help getting started! This new collection is partly funded by the generosity of the Friends of the Allen Public Library. Go to http://allen.lib.overdrive.com/49DCB8B3D-44AD-4E09-8B56-D5FBEBC50C59C/10/50/en/Default.htm?ctx=3.1033.0.0.6 to see all the downloadable books, then choose “audiobooks.”

Trains Exhibit

During January and February, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 10 AM -2 PM there will be displays of train history in Allen and family photos from an Allen family who adopted two children from an actual Orphan Train. Allen Heritage Guild is sponsoring an Art Contest in conjunction with the Celebration of Allen’s Train History and Sam Bass Day on Saturday, February 28th, 2015. Check www.allenheritage.org for more information.
BETWEEN THE PAGES

Bach to Books
Bluegrass Festival

Ready for an unforgettable foot-stomping bluegrass experience?

For the first time, the Library will feature two outstanding bands for its annual Bluegrass Festival. On stage for this evening of downhome entertainment will be both Bluestem and Quibble Brothers at 7:30 PM Friday, January 23, at the Library.

Under the direction of Jimmy Straw, Bluestem incorporates different styles and forms into each song. Jimmy plays rhythm guitar as well as performs lead and backup vocals for the band. Vocal harmonies round out their sound and honor this uniquely American music. Bluestem opened for the Grammy-winning Byron Berline Band in Farmersville and performed at the Rodeo City Music Hall in Mesquite, Dallas Heritage Village, and Sons of Hermann Hall in Dallas. Other band members include Phil Elery on a classic 1955 Kay upright bass, Alan Tompkins who also serves as host of the Bluegrass Heritage Radio Show, Meredith Brown who began performing while working at the Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre in the mountains of Virginia, and on mandolin, James “Goose” Hayhurst.

For the second set, The Quibble Brothers offers a mix of energy and talent. Bandleader Patrick Bouldin will captivate the audience with his mandolin. Bassist Drew Phelps

Continued on page 4
Sherlock Holmes
Murder Mystery
The Crew of the Barque Lone Star (Sherlock Holmes Society) will present The Crime at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 28, at the Allen Public Library. Also in January, the library’s gallery will feature artifacts and items on loan from The Crew of the Barque for viewing during normal business hours.

In The Crime, Inspector Lestrade and four other inspectors are called in to investigate the “murder” of Allen’s beloved Mayor Steve Terrell. To celebrate the anniversary of the Allen Library, the Mayor asked five world-renowned celebrities from the DFW area to donate a priceless memento of their own, for permanent display at the library. Sadly, the Mayor discovered that one of the pieces is a fake. He notified the celebrity and asked for a private meeting to discuss the scandal, which would include going to the press to ensure transparency of the entire event. The night of the meeting, this Mayor told a fellow librarian of the deception, without revealing which personality or item was involved. The next morning, the Mayor was found dead in the library.

Being extremely vain, the killer has posted five clues within the library that will prove the innocence of four of the personalities and confirm the validity of four of the items. Audience members will become inspectors, discovering fingerprints and blood splatters throughout the auditorium and gallery while seeking the clues. The inspectors must decipher the five clues to narrow down the list to the actual killer. As their associate Sherlock Holmes is fond of saying, “When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever is left, however improbable, must be the answer.” The inspectors have limited time to complete the investigation and deduce the killer, as he or she will be boarding a plane at DFW Airport soon after nine o’clock to leave the country for good, escaping justice.

Call to Local Authors:
The Sachse Public Library will be holding a book festival in April 2015. The Friends of Allen Public Library applaud and support their efforts to provide such a wonderful program to their community! Please share with your peers! If you would like to participate, please contact Ms. Mignon Morse, library manager at the Sachse Public Library. Her email address is mmorse@cityofsachse.com.

We have several vacancies on the Friends Board — Membership Chair, Bach to Books, and Volunteer Coordinator. The membership chair contacts members when their annual membership is expiring, and keeps the data base up to date. A job you can do from your home computer on your own time.

The Bach to Books chair helps Tom Keener greet patrons at Bach to Books programs and be available to explain what the Friends do for the library.

The Volunteer Coordinator contacts people who have expressed an interest in volunteering for specific events—no “cold calling”!

If you are interested, contact Susan Jackson at susanmjackson@yahoo.com to get more information.
**Notes from the Midnight Driver**

Meet Jordan Sonnenblick, author of *Notes from the Midnight Driver*, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at the Allen Public Library. This critically acclaimed book tells the story of an angry young man in an emotional crisis who is assigned community service to assist an elderly man. Eventually, the two resolve their pasts and their differences in ways that are humorous, entertaining, and transformative.

While teaching eighth grade English, Sonnenblick was confronted with students demonstrating serious behavioral issues. So, he made them write “apologies.” He explains that this practice gave him the idea of writing about a “teen who does something really dumb, thinks it’s funny, and refuses to apologize until he learns a lesson about taking responsibility.”

At the same time, Sonnenblick’s grandfather was showing symptoms of dementia. “I wanted to write him as a character — not as the weak, doddering oldster he was becoming, but as the fierce, proud lion he had been,” he notes. “Those two forces — the irresponsible, self-serving teen, and the fierce, proud old man who knows he is beginning to slip — collide to make the book. The bad news about being a human being is that life will always provide you with trauma; the good news about being a novelist is that trauma is essentially material.”

Books will be on sale at a discounted price and Mr. Sonnenbrick will be available for signing books after the talk.

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**Dr. Flowers Rivera**

Award-winning poet Dr. Flowers Rivera will read from her works and discuss current trends in African-American literature at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 12, at the Allen Public Library. Her debut poetry collection *Troubling Accents* (July 2013) received a nomination from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and was selected by the Texas Association of Authors as its 2014 Poetry Book of the Year. Rivera’s second collection, *Heathen*, has been selected by poet and literary activist E. Ethelbert Miller as the winner of the 2014 Naomi Madgett Poetry Award.

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**Artist Sara Stahl**

In 1998, Sara’s Stahl’s mother Lori took a daunting train ride on a freezing night to a Russian orphanage to adopt her child. Sara is now a college student majoring in psychology at Kenyon College in Ohio and has painted a number of images that depict her adoption, childhood, and struggles with being an adopted child. To augment *Orphan Train* author Christina Baker Kline’s visit in April, Sara’s art work will be displayed in the Library’s gallery during February and March. Meet Sara at a reception 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1, in the Library’s gallery.

A highly-ranked student and member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, Sara served on the Student Council Cabinet for two years and was vice president of the Spanish Club. Sara notes, “Through my artwork, I’ve attempted to illustrate my story as a young adopted child, facilitated by pictures, memories and stories shared by my adoptive mother. One huge question that adopted children have is, ‘What if?’ What if my adoptive family never found me or what if a different family found me first? My concentration has been a therapeutic process. I am no longer ashamed of my past but now embrace it.”

The gallery is open during normal library hours.

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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.
Tuesday Night At the Movies
All movies are free and start at 7:00 PM on Tuesday nights.

January — “Destination Anywhere”

January 6 “The Bourne Identity” (2002), starring Matt Damon. A man is picked up by a fishing boat, bullet-riddled and suffering from amnesia, before racing to elude assassins and regain his memory.

January 13 “GoldenEye” (1995), starring Pierce Brosnan. James Bond teams up with the lone survivor of a destroyed Russian research center to stop the hijacking of a nuclear space weapon by a fellow agent believed to be dead.

January 20 “The Hunt for Red October” (1990) starring Sean Connery. In 1984, the USSR's best submarine captain in their newest sub violates orders and heads for the USA. Is he trying to defect, or to start a war?

January 27 “Mission Impossible” (1996) starring Tom Cruise. An American agent, under false suspicion of disloyalty, must discover and expose the real spy without the help of his organization.

For February movies, go to the interactive calendar on the library’s website: http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=7506&thisMonth=2&thisYear=2015.

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS
November/December

Ananth Agastya
Lostika Alfrid
Ashley Allen
Tomeda Baines
Thomas Bellamy
Vicki Brown
Claire Chau
Helen Chia
Sabrina Clarke
Suzana Cox
Jennifer Craig
Abby Curley
Natalie Daugherty
Seeja-Mary Devassy
Stephanie Coffey Diamond
Suzzanne Eauri
Lana Fort
Suzzanne Gaciri
Lynn Gallimore
Jose Gomez

Paul Gorman
Tai Rarvein-Gray
Christina Hamdan
Quan Hau
Clint Hayes
Sweya Hari
Karn Holden
Jason Jacobs
Joseph James
Lasavara Johnson
Teresa L. Johnson
Adnan Khan
Laura Kibby
Snehal Kolhe
Julia Macauley
Solina & Mike Marquis
Esther McEvoy
Brenda McGee
Lawrence H. Miller II
Roslyn Miller

Beth Monsen
Gary Murphy
Mohammad R. Murshed
Antara Nandi
David & Lynda Olsen
Richard Onguene
Michelle Parker
Kathy Perales
Stephanie Perry
Janet Phelps
Kimberly Rodriguez
Robin Screen
Ashley Steed
Nakoa Taggart
Mathurin Taguimdjeu
Robyn Thompson
David H. Walk
Kyle Walzel
Olusegum Williams
Willie Williams

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.