Hello Friends Members,

With all the awful weather we’ve had lately, it would certainly be easier to just stay home (snuggled up with a good library book, of course) and forget what’s been happening outside, but when you read about everything going on at the library, I am sure you will decide to brave the conditions! Among other events this month, we will be dazzled by Celtic music, meet wonderful authors, see great movies, and attend a whole host of amazing events organized and presented by the Friends’ committee, ALLen Reads, including an especially exciting presentation about Orphan Train riders.

On top of all the fun and educational activities, last week we provided another beautiful lunch to our beloved library staff, we will be collecting gently used books at recycling day in April, and our Junior Friends are working on their final production to present at our annual meeting April 30. The Friends haven’t let the weather stop us from working to provide these great events so come on out and enjoy them with us! See you at the library!

Susan Jackson
Exciting Times in March and April with

ALLen Reads—Allen’s one-book program—has displays and programs you'll want to see in March & April! All activities are free and open to the public.

Come by the Allen Public Library (APL) during library hours in March & April to see a wonderful art exhibit by Sara Stahl, visual art documenting her emotional journey of adoption. A reception with the artist will be held on Sunday, March 1, 3-4:30 PM, in the APL Gallery. In addition to Sara’s art, you’ll see beautiful matchboxes created by the Allen High School art students, inspired by this year’s children's book, The Matchbox Diary. They are crafted from copper, ceramics, and a variety of media, and each tells a story that has special meaning to the student who created it.

There will be movies every Tuesday evening in March at 7 PM in the APL Civic Auditorium, with varied and interesting introductions to each. Each is tied to one of the themes of this year’s ALLen Reads books. 

March 3, Anne of Green Gables. An orphan girl, sent to an elderly brother and sister by mistake, charms her new home and community with her fiery spirit and imagination.

March 10, Up. An Oscar winner from Disney/Pixar. To avoid being taken away to a nursing home, an old widower tries to fly his home to Paradise Falls, South America, along with a boy scout who accidently lifted off with him.

March 17, Philomena. A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of a woman’s search for her son, who was taken away from her decades ago after she became pregnant and was forced to live in a convent. Judi Dench gives an award worthy performance as the mother.

March 24, Fiddler on the Roof; Award-winning classic musical. In prerevolutionary Russia, a Jewish peasant contends with marrying off three of his daughters while growing anti-Semitic sentiment threatens his village. A great movie for showing your family the value of traditions.

March 31 PBS Documentary American Experience: The Orphan Trains. In the 1850s, thousands of homeless children roamed New York City streets in search of food and shelter. Moved by their suffering, a young minister named Charles Loring Brace founded the Children’s Aid Society. The chari-
Rethinking the First Americans

Who are the First Americans? In the 1920s and 1930s, discoveries made near Clovis, New Mexico, as well as at other ancient North American sites, suggested a prehistoric Paleo-Indian culture of people that date roughly 13,200 to 12,900 calendar years ago. This would place these civilizations chronologically near the end of the last glacial period. Known for their distinctive tools, they were considered to be the ancestors of most of the indigenous cultures of the Americas.

Thanks to molecular genetics, improved instrumentation, and new archeological findings, it is now believed that a pre-Clovis culture existed. Some of the new evidence has been found in Texas.

Wilson W. "Dub" Crook will discuss “Peopling of the Americas: Is Clovis First Finally Dead?” at the Allen Public Library at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19. Mr. Crook will review the characteristics of the Clovis people and then discuss the recent discoveries of sites older than Clovis all across North America.

Mr. Crook observes, “Current research ... is beginning to conclusively demonstrate that the First Americans arrived here thousands of years before the Clovis culture, and research here in Texas is helping to lead the way to a new understanding of the Peopling of the Americas.”

Starting his adventures as a child at the site of the future Lake Lavon in the 1950’s along with his father, Wilson W. Crook, Jr. who was a distinguished archaeologist, they unearthed Indian artifacts. As a result of his father’s lifelong interest in archeology and paleoanthropology, Dub grew up going to and working on archeological sites all around the world. While his archeological research has focused primarily on the Upper Trinity River watershed in Collin and Rockwall counties, he has also worked on sites in West Texas, New Mexico, California and Virginia. Internationally, he has also worked in South Africa, in South America and in Kazakhstan. Mr. Crook is a member of the Texas Archeological Society, Center for the Study of the First Americans, and is a Fellow of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin. He is also a Fellow of the Leakey Foundation.

Dylan Thomas

Although Welsh poet Dylan Thomas died in 1953 at age 39, his influence on poetry and literature is eternal. American poet Sylvia Plath frequently cited Thomas as one of her influences, and five films were based upon Thomas’ works, including Under Milk Wood (1972), starring Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor and Peter O’Toole.

But it was Robert Zimmerman, later known as Bob Dylan, who made Dylan Thomas familiar to younger generations. Bob Dylan’s lyrical style and even the types of songs he chose to write can be traced to Dylan Thomas. Conflict is a central theme in both Dylan’s and Thomas’ poetry. In his famous “Do not go gentle into that good night”, Thomas confronts mortality. For this poet, conflict often addressed social issues.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
--Dylan Thomas

As a part of Celebrating Celtic month, Greg Brownderville will discuss Celtic poet Dylan Thomas at 7:30 pm Thursday, March 12 at the Allen Public Library. The author of Deep Down in the Delta (Butler Center Books), Brownderville based this collection of folkloristic poems on fieldwork he conducted around his home community of Pumpkin Bend, Arkansas. His third book, a collection of poems entitled A Horse with Holes in It, will be released soon by LSU Press. An assistant professor of English at SMU teaching creative writing, primarily poetry, Brownderville notes, “My sensory delight in language is at the heart of my work both as a poet and as a teacher of poetry writing.”
Celtic Festival

Savor a mystical evening conjuring images of emerald green shamrocks and spike-flowered thistles while enjoying energetic dancing and Celtic music at **7:30 p.m. Friday, March 20**, at the Allen Public Library. Flashpoint and the K3 Sisters will offer an evening of traditional and modern Celtic music and dance. Joining them for outstanding Irish dancing are Anne Higginbotham, Boni McVey, Collen Falco and Emily McGinn.

Flashpoint is led by two brothers David and Daniel Mehalko. Having performed at the North Texas Irish Festival, the Austin Celtic Festival, and numerous other venues, Flashpoint offers an array of Irish folk music. David and Daniel will be joined by some of the best accompanists, vocalists, and other musicians within the Irish music scene, including featured guitarist Joseph Carmichael and Emil Bryant. With a variety of instrumentation—including fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and flute, and a tasteful mix of various styles, an exciting performance is guaranteed.

Performing in English and Scottish Gaelic, K3 Sisters will demonstrate authentic ancient Scottish Highland dances such as the Sword Dance, Highland Fling, Seantruibhs (Shedding of the Trousers) and Ghilliecallum. A popular attraction at the Texas Scottish Festival, Robert Burns’ events, Trinity Hall, North Texas Irish Festival, St. Andrew Day events and other venues, K3 Sisters offer an exciting show.

Playing with three fiddles, guitar, pennywhistle, mandolin, and drums, K3 Sisters is comprised of Bruce Ray Kassab, Jamie Shipman-Kassab, Nate Abraham, Kalem Bradley, Kelsey Kristen and Kaylen Kassab.

Food For Thought Café will be open for the event and will be serving delicious Irish stew, Chocolate Stout Cake and Roast Beef and Cheddar with Irish herbs.

Free tickets are issued at 7:00 p.m.

The Money Island

What happens when a young adult who grew up in comfortable circumstances is financially cut off from the family fortune? One young man comes up with a billion dollar idea, but soon discovers that others are jealous of his success. Meet Troy, the author of *The Money Island*, at **3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21**, at the Allen Public Library.

Sponsored by Bach to Books, this program is free.

*The Money Island* is replete with visual imagery of the Texas landscape, including oil rigs and the coast. Comprised of psychological and financial intrigue, the real story lies in the dysfunctional people that encompass the subplots that lace through the novel.

A former sports agent who grew up in a small town in Texas, Troy traveled four continents and over 40 countries representing Olympic athletes and world champions. Having also once worked as a sports reporter and magazine columnist, Troy loves to convey a story, fiction or non-fiction.

An Allen resident, Troy is married to Debbie Arzola, a former national class distance runner. The couple have a son, Joseph, and two dogs. Troy is also a songwriter, history buff and amateur genealogist.

Ongoing Book Sale

Are you ready for Spring cleaning? Maybe you’re wondering what to do with all of those great books your family has read to get them through the winter? Why not donate them to Friends of the Allen Public Library! Donations can be dropped off at the front desk and larger donations can be brought to the dock during business hours. Mon - Thur 10am-9pm; Fri - Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 1pm-5pm.

Proceeds from the Ongoing Book Sale support the fantastic programs brought to you by Friends.
Bestselling Author
Randy Wayne White

Bestselling author Randy Wayne White will present his latest book *Cuba Straits* at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 at the Allen Public Library. This program is free.

If you would like meet the author, an author's reception is $30 per person (includes a signed copy of the book) and will be hosted in the Library's Meeting Room at 7 p.m. that evening. Advance registration is required for the reception. To make a reservation for the reception call 214-509-4911. Attendees may pay at the door by check.

Best known for his Doc Ford, Carl Ramm and Randy Striker series, Wayne also writes nonfiction, contributes to magazines, and produced a television documentary, *Gift of the Game*. Mrs. White travels to Cuba with former baseball pitchers Bill "Spaceman" Lee (Boston Red Sox) and Jon Warden (Detroit Tigers) to revive the children's baseball league founded by American writer Ernest Hemingway in the days before Fidel Castro came to power. Like the effect of ping pong games on Chinese-American diplomatic relations in the 1970s, there is hope that baseball might have the same impact on Cuban-American relations.

In *Cuba Straits*, White combines his love of baseball and the environment with political intrigue and even mixes in sadistic Santerian priests to offer a nail biting thriller. As a fishing guide in the Caribbean, White became a primary witness to the sad state of the environmental health of our rivers and oceans. White’s novels go beyond simple entertainment value, and he observes, "A society whose moral ideas inhibit their own defense will always suffer defeat by the very predators they deem immoral."

Vivaldi in Season

The Allen ISD Orchestra will perform a concert of Vivaldi instrumentals at 3 PM, Sunday, April 12, in the Allen Library Auditorium. A reception will follow, provided by the Allen symphony orchestra.

During the fall of 1926, a boarding school in the Piedmont region of Italy discovered old volumes of music in their archives. Looking to sell the music to help fund their school, they sought professional guidance. Alberto Gentili, a professor of music history at Turin University, found volumes of music with Vivaldi autographs. Dr. Gentili’s efforts saved 319 pieces that would have otherwise been lost and a rediscovery of the Vivaldi’s music endured for the remainder of the 20th century.

The bulk of Vivaldi’s career was spent working for the Ospedale della Pieta, a charitable religious foundation for the education and upbringing of female orphans. Appointed maestro di violin in 1703 at the age of 25, the instrumental ensembles of the Pieta, already well known for their superb concerts, performed Sunday concerts for capacity crowds. Taking a new approach to the idea of instrumental musical expression, Vivaldi transformed the Italian Baroque concerto.

The Allen ISD Orchestra program began in 1997 at the 6th grade level with approximately 50 students. Today, there are over 1,100 orchestra students in Allen ISD. The Lowery Chamber Orchestra is under the direction of Ellen Townley and the Allen HS Chamber Orchestra is under the direction of David DeVoto.

Prepare for a musical journey through Vivaldi’s life. This is the final program for Allen Reads.

Did You Know? - Another Great Library Program!

Been looking for some good book recommendations? On the library website, you can request a personalized reading list based on what you like to read. Go to www.allenlibrary.org, click on the link labeled “Adult Services”, select “on the bookshelf,” and scroll down to the bottom of the page you’ll find a link to the “personalized reading suggestions,” in red (or, just go to http://www.cityofallen.org/FormCenter/Library-6/Adult-Readers-Advisory-93.

The library usually responds within 2-3 days with a list of 5-6 books. The form includes some boxes to provide the librarians with information on your favorite genres, if you like fiction or non-fiction, e-books, audio, large print, etc., what authors you like or don’t like, etc. And they email you a list! Aren’t our librarians the best?
Joan of Arc

Joan of Arc, the 15th century French peasant girl who led an army and the iconic martyr burned at the stake, has remained a popular heroine throughout the centuries. Her story has been recounted in film, literature, plays, painting, and sculpture. Joan of Arc is also a Saint in the Roman and Anglican churches and one of nine secondary patron saints of France.

The Library devotes two evenings to exploring Joan of Arc, both the historic and mythic figure of legend.

At 7:30 pm Monday, April 13, Dr. Jeremy Adams will talk on the life and legacy of Joan of Arc.

An Alshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor at Southern Methodist University. Dr. Adams, with an admitted fascination for Joan of Arc, specializes in Early European Middle Ages and the High and Later West-European Middle Ages history. With a Ph.D. from Harvard University, Professor Adams has taught at SMU for over four decades.

At 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 14, the library presents the movie “The Passion of Joan of Arc” (1928). Directed by Carl Dreyer and starring Renée Falconetti, this landmark film describes the period of time when Joan of Arc was a captive of England and depicts her trial and execution. Dr. Carolyn Perry, professor of Humanities and Auteur Film Series at Collin College will introduce the film and answer questions. Benjamin Kolodziej will accompany the film with the historical style organ score he composed for this showing. Chapel organist at SMU in Dallas, Kolodziej is also an adjunct lecturer in sacred music at Perkins School of Theology.

Interurban Station

A crucial part of Allen’s history, the Texas Traction Company hosted its debut trip between Dallas and Denison in June of 1908. Immediately west of the Houston Texas and Central Railway line, their tracks ran parallel to those of the train. When the tracks approached Allen, they veered slightly to the west and followed a route that is now Butler Drive. Allen’s Interurban Station was located at 105 S. Butler. That building still stands today and features a Texas Historical marker.

In 1917, Texas Traction consolidated with Southern Traction to form the Texas Electric Railway, more popularly known as the Interurban. Learn more about the Interurban from Dr. John Myers at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the Library.

The Interurban allowed rural people with no access to cars to shop and visit friends in other cities. Senior citizens recall how important the Interurban was to their lives. Mrs. Ora Lee Binkley lived in McKinney and taught at the one room Wetsel School, which was located at the southwest corner of Stacy Road and Greenville Avenue. She rode the Interurban from McKinney every morning, disembarked at Stacy Road, and walked to her destination. Mrs. Van Neally rode the Interurban from Sherman to Allen and walked to the Allen Colored School that was located in the St. Mary’s area. Since these young women did not own cars, the Interurban enabled them to provide an education to Allen’s rural and minority communities.

A special feature of the Interurban was mail and freight delivery. Some of the cars were equipped with a post office. Mail was sorted en route and could be delivered within hours. A letter sent from Sherman in the morning could arrive in Allen by lunch. It was also a convenient means to ship groceries and packages. In the spring, crates of baby chickens were delivered on the Interurban from hatcheries so farmers could raise them for eggs or fryers. A renovated passenger/mail car is featured at the Interurban Museum in Plano.

Dr. Myers is the author of the Texas Electric Railway. Comprised of numerous photos and prodigious research, this book is the definitive history of the Interurban.

Great American Clean Up

Allen’s Great American Clean Up is Saturday, April 18, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Friends of the Allen Public Library will be hosting a booth to collect gently used books and media.
Texas Gypsies

The award-winning Texas Gypsies brings gypsy jazz to the Allen Public Library at 7:30 pm Friday, April 17. Blending Big Band Swing, Jazz, Western Swing, Texas Blues and Rockabilly, they create a one-of-a-kind style.

With sounds evocative of the European Jazz movement in the 1930s, the Texas Gypsies feature guitar, violin bass, drums, keyboards, and horns. Both earthy and sophisticated, their music appeals to a diverse audience.

Sponsored by Bach to Books, this program is made possible with generous assistance from the Texas Commission on the Arts. Free tickets are available at the door and no reservations are accepted. Seating is limited to 300.

In 2006, the Texas Gypsies was voted best band at the City of Richardson’s Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival. Bandleader Steve Curry asserts, “We hope the audience enjoys the fun and also the artistic aspect of the music. We perform an eclectic mix and the audiences always respond to the high energy and enjoy watching us play and listening to something different.”

Former Dallas Morning News critic Mario Tarradell declared of their latest release, Café du Swing, “A buzz is building for the swinging Texas Gypsies....The CD comes loaded with charm and chops!"

The Texas Gypsies is composed of bandleader and Allen resident Steve Curry, John Hewitt on bass and vocal, Mike Sizer on sax and clarinet, Brook Wallace on violin and vocal, Andrew Griffith on drums, Brandon Lusk on trumpet and Eugene Lebeaux on trombone.

Pancho Villa, Texas
Aviation and World War I

On March 9, 1916, several hundred Mexican guerrillas under the command of Francisco “Pancho” Villa crossed the U.S.-Mexican border and attacked the small border town of Columbus, New Mexico. Seventeen Americans were killed in the raid, and the center of town was burned. Believing that Pancho Villa’s guerillas were responsible for the raid, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the U.S. Army into Mexico to capture the rebel leader dead or alive. Learn about the relationship between Pancho Villa, Texas, Aviation and World War I from military historian Dr. Eric Smylie at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 30 at the Allen Public Library.

John J. Pershing launched a punitive expedition into Mexico to capture Villa and disperse his rebels. The expedition eventually involved some 10,000 U.S. troops and personnel. It was the first U.S. military operation to employ mechanized vehicles, including automobiles and airplanes. Planes were used for surveillance in this effort and most aerial training and maintenance facilities were constructed in Texas. Kelly Field in San Antonio became a base for this effort, and when the United States entered World War I, it became a major training facility for pilots. In 1917, Dallas Love Field was built near Bachman Lake in 1917 to assist with the war effort. Dozens of wooden buildings served as headquarters, maintenance, and officers’ quarters.

Raised in Corpus Christi, Texas, Dr. Smylie was a political consultant in Corpus Christi and Houston, Texas. In 1991, Dr. Smylie and his wife, Beth, moved to Dallas. Earning a Ph.D. in Modern European History/United States History at the University of North Texas, Dr. Smylie has authored or co-authored several books on Texas History and Military History. Dr. Smylie taught U.S. history at the University of North Texas before concentrating on writing. His father, Vernon Smylie, was chairman of the Texas State Historical Commission and a historian.

Dr. Smylie formerly served as a cataloguer, subject specialist, consignment director, and historian at Heritage Auction Galleries. He is currently a cataloguer, subject specialist, and historian at Dallas Auction Gallery.

Immediately preceding the program, a play will be presented by Jr. Friends (our 4th to 6th grade volunteers) at 6:45 p.m., then the Friends Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
BETWEEN THE PAGES

Off to a Great Start!

January and February were filled with fascinating and fun times for ALLEN Reads participants.

The kick-off on January 29, "A Literary Night of Jazz," received rave reviews by those who were there, for the quality of the music and musicians to the combination of readings from the books with each musical piece.

Family Celebration Day brought generations together with family portraits, displayed in beautifully decorated frames; improvisational acting with Allen's Community Theatre; making "family trains," assisted by our ALLEN Reads volunteers; hearing stories and singing along with Miss Melody; and playing detective in a fairytale scavenger hunt through the children's area.

The month finished with a visit from Jordan Sonnenblick, author of Tales from the Midnight Driver and many more books. He made us laugh and think—a stimulating combination!

If you haven’t participated in the ALLEN Reads programs yet, see page 2 to see what is coming up in the next couple of months!

Christina Baker Kline

Christina Baker Kline, author of the New York Times bestselling Orphan Train, will speak at the Library at 7:30 pm, Thursday, April 9. This year’s ALLEN Reads selection, Kline’s historical fiction novel, led the New York Times, USA Today and National Indie bestseller lists for 18 months. Set in Maine and Minnesota, it is about the orphan trains that ran from 1854 to 1929, bringing abandoned children from the East Coast to the Midwest.

When the orphan trains arrived in stations along the Midwest and prairie states, the orphans were selected by prospective “parents.” Those orphans not chosen returned to the train to continue to future stops. Finding homes for orphans and abandoned children began with the best of intentions, but no screening or interviewing took place. Some orphans found loving families; others were forced into hard labor.

When asked if she had any childhood experiences that enhanced her sensitivity to the plight of these orphans, Ms. Kline explains, “Many people, for many reasons, feel rootless—but orphans and abandoned or abused children have particular cause. I think I was drawn to the orphan train story in part because two of my own grandparents were orphans who spoke little about their early lives. Also, my own background is partly Irish, and so I decided that I wanted to write about an Irish girl who has kept silent about the circumstances that led her to the orphan train.”

Shame and secrecy about our past are themes that are explored in this most engaging novel. “I wanted to expose and explore an important piece of American history that has been hidden in plain sight,” Ms. Kline notes. “Second, I hope that readers come away with some thoughts about the human experience that may not have occurred to them before. Many train riders were ashamed of this part of their past, and carried the secret of it for decades, and sometimes until they died. I think that the main message of my novel is that shame and secrecy can keep us from becoming our full selves. It’s not until we speak up that we can move past the pain and step forward.”

This program is brought to you by ALLEN Reads and Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Books will be available for purchase at the event. Go to www.alenfriends.org to become a VIP donor!
Our Library

In January, the Library saw its busiest month for the 8th consecutive month. In October-December, we saw a 7% increase in checkouts, a 23% increase in program attendance, a 29% increase in reference questions, and a 12% increase in visitors, compared to Oct.-Dec. 2013.

Our Library was one of 39 Texas libraries chosen for the 2014 Achievement of Library Excellence Award. This award is based upon demonstrated excellence in multiple categories including summer reading programs, new or enhanced services, marketing and publicity, cultural, topical, and educational programming for adults and families, literacy support, collaborative efforts, and staff development.

The TMLDA award reflects the Library staff’s commitment to customer service and dedication to encouraging reading, supporting lifelong learning, promoting cultural inclusion, and developing information fluency. The award also reflects the continuing support for the Library from Allen citizens for nearly 50 years and the Friends of the Library for over 30 years.

The Friends currently provide funding for the Bach to Books and ALLen Reads programs, the Summer and Winter Reading Programs, e-books, shelving and supplies for displays, the monthly Book Page magazine with book reviews and author interviews, and luncheons for Library staff development days.

To support the Library, support the Friends. Join, volunteer, make a difference.

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.

Riders on the Orphan Train

View a multi-media program that tells the story of the 250,000 orphans and unwanted children who were placed on trains in New York between 1854 and 1929 and sent all over the United States to be given away, many in Texas, at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 26 at the Allen Public Library.

Novelist and Humanities Scholar Alison Moore and singer/songwriter Paul Lancaster have combined audio-visual elements, historical fiction and musical ballads into a collaborative performance that brings the Orphan Train movement, a largely unknown chapter in American history, to public awareness.

The presentation is comprised of original music, an audio-visual presentation of archival photographs and interviews with two surviving orphan train riders: a man who came to Berryville, Arkansas, and a woman who came to Greenville, Texas.

After the presentation, there is an informal discussion about the origin and demise of the largest child migration in history and the part it played in the formation of the American Dream. Then the presenters will take questions from the audience and will invite relatives and acquaintances of Orphan Train Riders to share their stories. This program is brought to you by ALLen Reads and Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

January/February

Paula Ashley  Michel Morales
Ashanti Brewer  David Orenstein
Huijie Cai  Kimberly Orr
Michael Coleman  Jennifer Perez
Josephine Dellerose  Noor Rahman
Summer Fox  Deirdre Robinson
Tracie Goodworth  Melissa Rushing
Mickey Iul  Suzanne Sarbofsky
Lance Lusk  Uzma Shah
Abraham Magana  Sergio Soliz
Megan Martin  Ixtlali Torres
Katia Mervil  Malavika Venkataraman
Marron Moore  Joni Woods

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.