Hello Friends,

This is an exciting time of year with the holidays fast upon us! We have a whole host of fun activities planned and hope you’ll join us at the library. From the Sherlock Symposium to the “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” songwriter, we really do offer something for everyone.

If you’d like to be part of the excitement, we would love for you to join us. This is an exciting time to be a Friend as we examine what our board does and how we do it. We hope that you’ll consider being part of the team to help us improve how we support the library! Please email me at allentxfriends@gmail.com with any questions or to see how you can donate your time to making our library the best ever.

We regret to tell you that the Book Festival has been canceled, but as you know, sometimes things happen that are out of our control. We weighed our options and chose not to risk upsetting authors and Friends with an event that offered less than our very best. Thank you for understanding.

See you at the library!

Dana Jean, President
**Sherlock Holmes In Popular Culture**

For Sherlock-ians, accepting clues at face value can be challenging, but there are times when the facts are fascinating and far from elementary. Symbolizing genius and highly intuitive investigative skills, Sherlock Homes remains a worldwide enduring hero. The recent release of *Mr. Holmes*, starring Ian McKellen, is a vivid reminder that the works of A. Conan Doyle as depicted by Sherlock Holmes are hugely popular.

A Sherlock Holmes symposium will be held 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Allen Public Library. The times of the events and speakers are listed below. Author of *Cat In An Ultramarine Scheme* and 62 novels, Carole Nelson Douglass and Don Hobbs are among the keynote speakers. Carole Nelson Douglas is master storyteller of mystery, thriller, romance, women’s fiction, urban fantasy, and science fiction. Don Hobbs owns the largest collection of foreign editions of Sherlock Holmes in the world and will discuss some of the critiques, papers and published works on Sherlock Holmes.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:10</td>
<td><strong>Opening (announcements)</strong></td>
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<td>9:10 – 9:30</td>
<td>Topic 1 -- Conan Doyle Life</td>
<td>Cindy Brown</td>
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<td>9:30 – 10:00</td>
<td>Topic 2 – 101 Damnation</td>
<td>Don Hobbs</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:45</td>
<td>Topic 3 -- It Was a Dark and Stormy Night: Resources for the Pastiche Writer</td>
<td>Colleen O'Connor</td>
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<td>10:45 – 11:15</td>
<td>Topic 4 – The Games of Sherlock Holmes</td>
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<td>11:15 – 12:45</td>
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<td>12:45 – 1:00</td>
<td>Topic 5 – Radio Plays of Sherlock Holmes</td>
<td>Dean Clark</td>
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<td>Topic 6 – Irene Adler in the Modern Times</td>
<td>Carole Nelson Douglas</td>
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<td>2:00 – 2:45</td>
<td>Topic 7 -- &quot;The Rise of the Sherlockian Fangirl: Myths and Realities in the BBC Sherlock Online Community&quot; / A Three Patch Problem: Reinterpreting the Canon In the Modern Era</td>
<td>Sandra Little</td>
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<td>Topic 8 – Sherlock Holmes Societies in America</td>
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This program is also sponsored by The Crew of the Barque.

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**Allen Recycles Day**

Allen Recycles Day is **8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., November 7** at the Allen City Hall at 305 Century Parkway

Now is the time to go through your gently used books and media. Friends of the Allen Public Library will be collecting gently-used books, CDs, DVDs, and audio books. Proceeds from your donations support the fantastic programs at your Allen Public Library.

Large boxes of donations can always be delivered weekdays during business hours to the Library dock on the south east corner or taken to the circulation desk at the library. Don’t forget to ask for a tax receipt if you need one.
JFK’s last doctor

Parkland Hospital surgeon Dr. Robert N. McClelland was on duty Nov. 22, 1963, when the severely injured President John F. Kennedy was rushed to the emergency room. Dr. McClelland will share his observations of the assassination that shocked the world at 7:30 pm, Thursday, November 12.

Then in his early 30s, Dr. McClelland was in an upstairs room with hospital residents when the alert came. "They just called from the emergency room and said the president’s been shot. They need everybody downstairs," Dr. McClelland recalled. Dr. McClelland never forgot the avalanche of people that galloped into the operating room area. Doctors, nurses, agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Secret Service packed the room. First Lady Jackie Kennedy was sitting on a folding chair while the medical team attempted to help her husband.

The chain of events unfolded suddenly and the noble attempts to save the President proved to be futile. As one of President Kennedy’s attending physicians that day, Dr. McClelland has unique insights of what occurred in the trauma room.

A 1954 graduate of The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Dr. McClelland did his internship at the University of Kansas Medical Center and followed this with two years of military service in the Air Force, stationed in Germany. He completed his residency in general surgery at Parkland Memorial Hospital and then did a one-year fellowship in splanchnic hemodynamics with Dr. Fouad Bashour, Department of Internal Medicine, at UT Southwestern. He was appointed to the faculty of UT Southwestern Medical Center in 1962 and is the first faculty member to hold the Alvin Baldwin Jr. Chair in Surgery, an endowment designated for support of surgical education.

Oswald’s Raleigh Call

On the evening of Nov. 23, 1963, just hours before his death, Lee Harvey Oswald tried to call Raleigh, North Carolina, from the Dallas jail. For years, this significant information was ignored by assassination investigators and concealed from the public.

In the early 1980s, independent researcher Dr. Grover Proctor broke new ground on Oswald’s attempted call. He will discuss this intriguing story at 7:30 pm, Thursday, Nov. 19. Because of Dr. Proctor’s work, Oswald’s attempt to reach former U.S. Intelligence officer John Hurt has become known as “The Raleigh Call.”

The call itself was first disclosed to the public in the 1975 in the book Coup d’Etat in America, after a copy of a call slip created by one of the jail’s switchboard operators was made available by a Freedom of Information lawsuit. During a train trip in 1980, Dr. Proctor was engrossed in Anthony Summers’ book about the assassination, Conspiracy, when he came to a description of the call slip which said, "The note reportedly shows that Oswald booked a call to Area Code 919."

Proctor says, "I remember being pulled up short and thinking, 'Something about that sounds familiar. Then I realized that 919 was the Area Code for Raleigh, my hometown.'" Proctor later dialed the first number on the phone slip and found himself speaking with John Hurt, who lived in downtown Raleigh. To learn the fascinating results of the investigation that started with that phone call, come hear Dr. Proctor.
**Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band**

Bring along lariats and lasso yourself some outstanding western swing music at 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 20, at the library. Famous for their sizzling harmonies and inspiring good humor, Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band can corral the wildest mustangs for a delightful toe-tapping evening.

Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band is comprised of Lauralee Northcott on bass, Jennifer Epps on harmonica and percussion, and Judy Coder on rhythm guitar. Stirring up the dust at the British Columbia Cowboy Heritage Society and the Country Music Hall in Branson, Missouri, Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band has an international following.

For over four years, Lauralee hosted the Dollar Watch Cowboy Show, a radio program airing in Washington that featured cowboy music, cowboy poetry, true stories and tall tales. When not chasing cows on horseback while working as a ranch hand, Jennifer Epps is a guide in the Pasayten Wilderness, which lies within the Okanogan National Forest and Mount Baker National Forest. In 2001, Judy Coder garnered the title of 2001 Western Music Association (WMA) International Yodeling Champion. In 2008, she was named Yodeler of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists (AWA), and she reclaimed the title of WMA International Yodeling Champion.

Lauralee explains, “Western Swing is cowboy music with a back beat! Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band loves to rock to the western rhythm, spunky hot jazz chords, and earthy message of great western swing music. We even write great songs, adding tight three-part harmony, about our part of the great American West in this lively and meaningful style.”

The Western Music Association named Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band the winner of the Harmony Trio of the Year in both 2009 and 2010 and presented them the Crescendo Award in 2009. In 2012, they were finalists for the WMA Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Entertainers of the Year.

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**Col. Doolittle’s Raid and Veteran’s Day**

America’s morale was as decimated as its naval fleet at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. On April 1, 1942, Petty Officer Victor Egger was aboard the USS Hornet, one of a small number of carriers remaining in the entire naval fleet. The Hornet was well out to sea before the ship’s commander announced the secret mission: to sail 5,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean and launch a daring air raid on Tokyo. America’s destiny was in balance.

On April 18, 1942, Col. Doolittle led the daring and audacious raid against Japan. Because of the amount of fuel required, this was a one way trip. Petty Officer Egger had a direct role in the launch of the bombers from the USS Hornet. From inside the carrier’s tower, he relayed the “go” order from the commander to the officer in charge of the flight deck by signaling with a green flag. Although the raids had limited military success, American confidence was galvanized. Some Japanese forces were relocated to protect the island that led to a stunning victory at the Battle of Midway.

Hear retired Commander Victor Egger’s account of those historic moments, honor our Veterans, and enjoy the Allen Community Band perform a medley of patriotic songs at 7:30 pm Wednesday, November 11, at the library. County Judge Keith Self will help introduce Mr. Egger. All veterans are encouraged to participate.

This program is also sponsored by VFW Armistice Memorial Post 2195, General Bernardo de Galvez Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and Allen Community Band.

During the program, veterans will be invited to present the colors and stand when the theme song of their branch of service is played.

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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.
**Friends of the Library Endowment Fund**

In October, the Friends of the Library Endowment Fund announced the new Officer Slate for 2015-2016. We are excited to welcome these new members to the Friends of the Library Endowment Fund.

The new officers are President Ken Fulk, Vice President Jason Wright, Treasurer Tracey Rockett Hanft and Secretary Amanda Boyd. The Endowment Fund also elected six new members to its board in October, bringing new skills and ideas to continue to grow the fund. The new board members include Riyaz Muhammed, David Olsen, Nicole Holland Pearce, Vatsa Ramanathan, Teresa Rodenbaugh, and Joy Shepard.

**Library Holiday Closings**

The library will be closed for the holidays on November 25-27, December 23-25 and December 31.

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**2015 Book Festival Canceled**

We regret to inform you that our Allen Public Library Book Festival on November 14, 2015 has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you for your understanding.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Allen Public Library Research and Demonstration Garden**

On October 3, the Allen Public Library Research and Demonstration Garden became a reality as community volunteers raked, dug, planted, mulched, and watered approximately 300 plants. In addition to beautifying the Library courtyard, the Garden will demonstrate the variety of plants, including some lesser-known cultivars, that will thrive in local landscapes.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will also collect research data for hardiness, heat-tolerance, and drought-tolerance. The City of Allen Community Services staff and the Collin County Master Gardeners will conduct classes drawing upon the Garden plants as examples. The Garden was accomplished in partnership with City of Allen Community Services, City of Allen Parks and Recreation, Keep Allen Beautiful, the Collin County Master Gardeners, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Puckett’s Nursery.

Thanks to all the volunteers!

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**Our Library Checkouts Are Amazing!**

In 2014-2015, the Library surpassed 1 million checkouts for the first time! The previous record was 985,000. The Library hosted over 366,000 visitors (also a new high), and offered 990 programs attended by almost 74,000 people (the highest program attendance ever for the Library). The previous highs were from 2013-2014.
Holiday Concert at Library

The Allen Community Band, the ACB Jazz Band, Harpist Sharon Towndrow, Wayne Terrell on bagpipes, and the Chancel Choir from Christ the Servant Lutheran Church join to present a program of musical selections of the Christmas season at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 18, at the library.

Harpist Sharon Towndrow will open the concert with sacred classics. A former music professor at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Sharon has performed with bands throughout Texas and now teaches harp in the Allen area.

The sounds of Wayne Terrell’s bagpipes will resonate throughout the auditorium and will enhance the ambiance of the concert.

Under the leadership of Craig Logan, The Allen Community Band will perform a medley of popular Christmas songs and traditional holiday music from around the world. In addition, the band will perform a Sousa march and conclude with its annual performance of Leroy Anderson’s Sleigh Ride.

Following the band’s performance, the Chancel Choir from Christ the Servant Lutheran Church will sing Jack Schrader’s Soon and Very Soon, Andre Thomas’ Keep Your Lamps, as well as more familiar Christmas carols. The Chancel Choir is led by Jordan Smith, director of music and organist at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church.

The ACB Jazz Band will play captivating jazz arrangements of Sweet Caroline and All About the Bass, among others. Stephanie Nguyen will be featured as vocalist on Somewhere, from West Side Story, and Jingle Bell Rock. The ACB Jazz Band will conclude with swinging arrangements of traditional Christmas carols. The ACB Jazz Band is comprised of members of the parent organization and is under the direction of Keith Petersen.

Grandma’s Famous Holiday Mishap

(y’know, with the reindeer)

Celebrate the holidays with Randy Brooks at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 11, at the Allen Public Library. This singer-songwriter established himself decades ago as the modern holiday music troubadour with his classic hit Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer.

Radio personality George Gimarc reminisced, “Back when Grandma Got Run Over... was still a fledgling song in the Christmas cannon, I could count on Randy Brooks calling me up at my radio station, just like any other listener, wanting to talk about his record. Appearing to be an eager regular listener who just also happened to be the creator of this silly new record, he always made it on the air with a story about the song, ensuring we would play it this season. I later found out he was working the phones all over the country, calling other radio stations doing the same thing. The clever, personal tactic managed to gain him huge airplay and after about eight years of that, the song became a Christmas regular. It was a well-crafted, thoughtful promotional angle that worked, and what a silly record as well. We are all better for it to balance out the treacle of all the other ‘usuals.’ Since most Christmas music we know today as standards was written between 1946-1966, it was refreshing to have something really new.”

Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer was covered by the Irish Rovers, a Finnish band, and before the Super Bowl one year, there was a Chargers Got Run Over By the Niners rendition.

Randy will be joined by Johnny Hooper on guitar. Randy and Johnny are members of the folk band Young Country.
Tuesday Night At the Movies
All movies are free and start at 7:00 PM on Tuesday nights.

November Movies—The Cold War

November 3, Fail-Safe (1964), starring Henry Fonda and Walter Matthau. When a military computer error deploys a squadron of SAC bombers to destroy Moscow, the American President tries to call them back. But their sophisticated fail-safe system prevents him from aborting the attack, so he must convince the Soviets not to retaliate. In desperation, the President offers to sacrifice an American city if his pilots succeed in their deadly mission.

November 10, Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964). With the Cuban Missile Crisis fresh in viewers’ minds, the Cold War at its frostiest, and the hydrogen bomb relatively new and frightening, Stanley Kubrick made a film about what could happen if the wrong person pushed the wrong button -- and played the situation for laughs. Its jet-black satire and superb comic performances have kept the film fresh and entertaining, even as its issues have become (slightly) less timely. At the time of its release, "The New York Times" declared this film a sick joke. The American Film Institute now considers it to be the number 26th greatest film of all time.

November 17, The Spy Who Came in from the Cold (1965) is based on the novel by John Le Carre, and stars Richard Burton as a dispirited, end-of-tether British secret agent. He comes in from "the cold" (meaning he is pulled out of field operations) to act as a undercover man behind the Iron Curtain. Once he has been accepted into East German espionage circles, he discovers that he’s been set up as a pawn for an entirely different operation.

November 24, The Ipcress File (1965). Michael Caine shot to stardom with his role as secret agent Harry Palmer, who is investigating the mysterious circumstances behind the disappearance and mysterious reappearance of some of the world’s top scientists in this gripping spy thriller.

It’s a Wonderful Life

"Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"
—Clarence from It’s a Wonderful Life

Triple Oscar winner Frank Capra demonstrates his talent for portraying simple folks in his delightfully sentimental movie It’s a Wonderful Life. Enjoy the holiday classic at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22. Starring Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore, an angel helps a compassionate but despairingly disappointed businessman by showing him what life would have been like if he had never existed.

At the time of its release, this film was a box office disappointment and critics dismissed it as being too silly. Today it is Number 20 on the American Film Institute’s top 100 films.

Food For Thought Café will be selling hot chocolate and treats for this special event!

Allen Public Library Research and Demonstration Garden

On October 3, the Allen Public Library Research and Demonstration Garden became a reality as community volunteers raked, dug, planted, mulched, and watered approximately 300 plants. In addition to beautifying the Library courtyard, the Garden will demonstrate the variety of plants, including some lesser-known cultivars, that will thrive in local landscapes.
Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Friends of the Library provided the Library Staff Appreciation Luncheon on September 11 with a delicious Country & Western menu from Robb Walsh’s book Texas Eats. A big Texas “Thank You” to everyone who helped! Those who provided dishes are: Steve Seal, Devita Widmer, Susan Jackson, Dana Jean, Jane Bennett, Cynthia Benson, Nila Hill, Kimberly Hinton, Mariani Sennour, Russ & Jo Schenck, Paula Ashley, Michelle Perry, Bonnie Jay, Judy Wharton, Rekha Mathai, Susan Day, and Linda Olson. Helping to set up and serve were Dale Lackey, Susan Jackson, Devita Widmer, Jane Bennett, Farida Shipchandler, Linda Olson, and Rekha Mathai. Our library staff appreciated all of your help with this luncheon!

Holiday Cookies!

Every year the Friends take cookies to several groups who have helped us over the year to show our gratitude. If you could provide 1 to 2 dozen cookies for these holiday gift trays, please email Vicki Brown at Vicki.fruda.brown@gmail.com. They will need to be delivered to the Library Board Room, near the north entrance, on Wed. November 18 by 7 p.m. If that’s a problem, just let Vicki know, and see what you can work out.

Looking for a way to help your community? You obviously love the library or you wouldn’t be a “Friend”. Ever think of getting more involved? Email us at allentxfriends@gmail.com and see how you can help!

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS—September/October

Sofia Amirkan  Patricia Anderson  Holly Baril  Jane & Ross Bennett  Sally Beshara  Anu Bhargava  Sabrina Bird  Bonnie & Sebastian Borrello  Millia Boudreaux  Jeannette Brady  Christopher Brown  Barbara Buehler  Richard Cheng  Shirley & Michael Cusick  Oseas Decamargo  Anne Delakosa  Amanda Dennett  Cheryl Dowd


Benjamin Singleton  Marissa Soogoor  Worley Stein, Sr.  Elissa Stern  Beth Stewart  Gail Stryker  Jim Sturges  Jose Valdivia  Norlan Van Cleeve  Mary Walker  Stephanie Walton  Rachel Walser  Tracy Washington  Mark Wendt  Judy Wharton  Sandy Wittsche

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.