7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 12, Major General Charles Ferguson Smith
Author and Civil War expert Allen Mesch discusses this illustrious military trainer who trained many of the Civil War military leaders.

7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, The History of Freemasonry
Author and lecturer Kevin K. Main talks about the origins and history of Freemasonry, which has been credited with influencing the founding of our nation, inspiring the French Revolution, and subverting the powerful religious and political institutions of the past.

7:30 p.m. Monday, May 23, Allen Community Band (ACB) honors area first responders.
ACB will conclude its spring concert series by honoring area first responders, past and present. Several current first responders and civic leaders will be featured in the selection “Concerto for Civic Leaders and Band.” Get there early! They usually fill the auditorium.

7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26, Texas Aggies Go To War authors Henry Dethloff and John Adams.
When our nation calls for soldiers, Texas Aggies respond. Hear stories about soldiers who were Texas A&M alums, told by authors and Aggies Henry Dethloff and John Adams

7:30 p.m. Friday, June 3, Roy Rogers’ daughter Cheryl Rogers rides back to town, to present a family documentary and her new book, Cowboy Princess Rides Again. Brown Jug Reynolds and Fritz Schultz will appear with her.

Saturday June 4, Start of Summer Reading Program for all ages.

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, Sneakers (movie)

7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 9, Nobel Peace Prize Winner Aung San Suu Kyi
Come hear author Rena Pederson talk about this amazing woman who challenged a brutal military regime and changed the history of her country.

7:30 p.m. Friday, June 10, Tom Faulkner, Susan Gibson and Beth Wood perform a unique blend of Texas blues, Cajun and Tejano.

10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 11, Youth Summer Reading Club Kickoff Party

2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 11, North Texas Passenger Trains
Learn about the passenger trains that once served the Metroplex and North Central Texas in the days before Amtrak from train historian Steve Goen, followed by a guided tour of Allen’s stone dam, which is Allen’s only structure designated as a State Archaeological Landmark.

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 14, Who Framed Roger Rabbit (movie)

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, Now You See Me (movie)

7:30 pm Thursday, June 23, Dr. James Bailey Blackshear discusses Ft. Bascom
Built in 1863, Fort Bascom was a frontier military post along the Canadian River in New Mexico that had a significant impact on the Anglo settlement of the Southwest. Learn a little Texas history and its impact on us today.

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, Sherlock Holmes (movie)

For more details on a particular event, click on the event above. For updates, go to AllenFriends.org or to the library’s calendar, AllenLibrary.org, then “Calendar.”
ALLen Reads 2016 Wraps Up

Another wonderful year of ALLen Reads is complete. We read, learned ...and this year we ate delicious food, too. Enjoy the year in photos below!

Do you want to meet authors? Plan concerts, food demonstrations, and guest speakers? Review books? Write grants? Connect with the community? All this and more happens when you join the Friends of the Allen Public Library. Call the library at 214-509-4913, leave your contact information, and someone from the Friends will contact you. Or you can do it via email at allentxfriends@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you— we have a lot of fun planning the events, and the more, the merrier!

If you would specifically like to be part of planning ALLen Reads for 2017 - it's our 10th ANNIVERSARY YEAR - just contact Jane Bennett, jane@jrbennett.net. We'd love to have you on the team.
Major General Charles Ferguson Smith

Allen Mesch, the author of Teacher of Civil War Generals - Major General Charles Ferguson Smith, Soldier and West Point Commandant, will discuss General Smith at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 12, at the library. Mesch wrote this biography relying on previously unpublished letters and diaries of the distinguished officer.

From the training field at West Point to the entrenchments at Fort Donelson, Charles Ferguson Smith was the soldier's soldier. Shelby Foote described him as "Regular Army to the shoe-soles."

During his nearly 42-year career, General Smith was a teacher and role model for many young officers who later became prominent Civil War generals. Smith served at the U.S. Military Academy from 1829 to 1842 as Instructor of Tactics, Adjutant to the Superintendent, and Commandant of Cadets. He was respected and admired by his former students and future officers including Grant, Halleck, Longstreet, and Sherman. Grant described General Scott and Captain C. F. Smith, the Commandant of Cadets, as "the two men most to be envied in the nation."

At the age of 55, General Smith died from an infection from a severe wound on his leg. General William T. Sherman noted, "Had C. F. Smith lived, Grant would have disappeared to history after Donelson."

Mesch is an author, educator, and historian and teaches classes on the Civil War at Collin College. He has visited over 132 Civil War sites and shares his over 4,000 photographs through his web site Civil War Journeys (civil-war-journeys.org). In addition, he writes a Civil War blog called Salient Points (salient-points.blogspot.com) and reviews books for the Civil War Courier.

History of Freemasonry

Lodges for operative masons were organized during the Middle Ages to serve as trade guilds. The creation of the first Grand Lodge in London in 1717 is the official start of current Freemasonry. Learn about the history of Freemasonry from Kevin K. Main at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 19, at the library.

More recently, the popular book and film The DaVinci Code connected the Knights Templar to the timeline of Freemasonry through the imagery of the carvings in Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland. This is the locale where the Knights Templars are rumored to have sought refuge after the dissolution of the order.

Speculative histories of Freemasonry have traced its origins to Egypt, Pythagoras, and even the Druids. German historian Joseph Findel traced the origins of organized masonry to the medieval German cathedrals.

"Surrounded by mystique and notable for its many famous and distinguished members, Freemasonry has been credited with influencing the founding of our nation, inspiring the French Revolution, and subverting the powerful religious and political institutions of the past," Main explains. "It has also been accused of orchestrating and perpetrating any number of conspiracies and intrigues from the merely bizarre to the genuinely ridiculous. Modern books and documentaries have sensationalized the origin and activities of this quiet, gentle, and remarkably old fraternity. However, the real history of Freemasonry is far more captivating, and at its center may be found the cause of human progress, charity, and the principles of liberty and equality for all."

Kevin K. Main is an author and lecturer on the subjects of history, philosophy, and religious symbolism, and contributor and editor to books and anthologies on these subjects. A student of the history of the Knights Templars and early Christianity for over 20 years, he was the founder of the Conference of the Middle Chamber, a quarterly conference of Masonic Education hosted by the North Texas Masonic Historical Museum and Library.

Sponsored by a generous contribution from Donna Parsons in memory of Gayle Boone.
Allen Community Band

The Allen Community Band (ACB), under the direction of Mr. Craig Logan, concludes its Spring Concert Series on Monday, May 23, in the library’s Civic Auditorium. Doors open at 7 p.m. and downbeat is at 7:30 p.m. In keeping with their tradition of recognizing various groups and organizations important to the Allen community, the ACB will honor area first responders, past and present. As part of the tribute, several current first responders and civic leaders will be featured in the selection “Concerto for Civic Leaders and Band.”

Music Americana is the theme for this concert and will feature several selections that contain America in its title such as “Americans We” by Henry Fillmore, “American Salute” by Morton Gould, and Joseph Willcox Jenkins’ thrilling “American Overture for Band.”

The band will also include a Western medley—arranged by Tommy Tucker, arranger and assistant director of the SMU Mustang Band—featuring theme songs from a myriad of famous TV shows and Western movies.

“Saturday in the Park,” by one of America’s most enduring pop/rock bands, Chicago, will be included to celebrate the arrival of spring and summer. For the finale, the band will perform perhaps the most well-known American march in the world—John Phillip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever,” featuring piccolo soloist Julie Bell.

The Allen Community Band consists of 65 members from Allen and surrounding communities who have experience playing in a band and enjoy performing on a regular basis. The band has an open instrumentation policy and all skill levels are invited to join. For more information on the Allen Community Band, contact Craig Logan, Director, at 214-509-9078.

Patrons are encouraged to arrive early as the ACB often performs to a full house.

Texas Aggies Go To War

The authors of Texas Aggies Go To War, Henry Dethloff and John Adams, will speak at the Allen Public Library at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 26. In this first-ever compilation of the Texas Aggies’ impressive war record, stories of individual soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines are presented along with an abundance of statistics, maps, and tables. These narratives include first-person accounts of Aggie heroism in battle, horrific experiences of those who were stationed at Corregidor and Bataan, James Earl Rudder’s leadership of the Ranger assault at Normandy on D-Day, and many others.

When our nation calls for soldiers, Texas Aggies respond. From the Spanish-American War and World War I to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Texas A&M has been in the forefront of America’s armed forces, producing more officers than any other school outside the service academies. Trained in leadership and the knowledge required for warfare, Aggies have served with distinction in all branches of the military service.


A 1973 Texas A&M graduate, John Adams is the author of a dozen books, including We Are the Aggies; Softly Call the Muster, and Keepers of the Spirit - A History of the Corps of Cadets, and his most recent book, The Fightin’ Texas Aggie Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.
Roy Rogers’ Daughter
Rides Back to Allen

Cheryl Rogers, daughter of film, television and rodeo icons Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, returns to the library 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 3, to present a family documentary and her new book, *Cowboy Princess Rides Again*. Since writing her first book, Cheryl has received a lot of questions about her family, The Sons of the Pioneers, Trigger, and Gabby Hayes. With her new book, she continues her narrative and adds over 300 new pictures. Cheryl will also discuss her legendary parents’ 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.

Cheryl serves on the Advisory Board of the Western Music Association and appeared in the History Channel’s *When Cowboys Were King*. Cheryl is also the author of two books, *All-American Cowboy Grill*, which she co-wrote with Ken Beck and Jim Clark, featuring grilling recipes from “reel and real” cowboys, and her autobiography *Cowboy Princess: Life with My Parents Roy Rogers and Dale Evans*, which 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 rider. He trained Shadowfax for the *Lord of the Ring* film series and appeared with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans in *The Yellow Rose of Texas* (1944) and *Song of Arizona* (1946). His most memorable role was as Little Beaver in the Red Ryder film series. Brown Jug will bring his original Red Ryder BB Gun, which is the basis of the plot in *A Christmas Story* (1983).

Fritz Schultz, singer/songwriter, guitar instructor, producer, and overall music lover will provide some good ole fashion Roy Rogers-style music. One of his original songs was written especially for Dale Evans.

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Aung San Suu Kyi

Hear the remarkable story of Aung San Suu Kyi, recipient of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her valiant efforts to bring peace and democracy to Burma at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 9, at the library. Rena Pederson, author of *The Burma Spring: Aung San Suu Kyi and the Struggle for the Soul of a Nation*, will share how a brave woman confronted a brutal military regime and changed the history of her country.

In her book, Pederson reveals the untold story of the covert efforts to help Aung San Suu Kyi. Ms. Pederson observes, “Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi led her party to an election sweep in 1990, but instead of being allowed to serve, was placed under house arrest for 15 of the next 20 years by military dictators. Last fall she led her party to another sweep in Burma’s first general election in 25 years and is poised to lead her people to a life of freedom, at long last. Her story is one of the most remarkable comebacks in recent history.”

A nationally recognized journalist and author, Ms. Pederson has interviewed diverse world leaders such as Margaret Thatcher, Fidel Castro, Julia Child, Jane Goodall and American presidents from Carter to Clinton to Bush. *Texas Monthly* called her “one of the most powerful women in Texas.”

Contributing to *The Huffington Post* and PBS radio, Ms. Pederson has written on threats by hackers to the U. S. economy and women in the midst of turmoil in Egypt. Ms. Pederson’s book has been featured at the prestigious Texas Book Festival and Los Angeles Book Festival.
Tom Faulkner, Susan Gibson and Beth Wood

Tom Faulkner will leave a light on for you at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 10, at the library. Creating some of the most memorable commercial music on television and radio, his most notable songs are the original “I Want My Baby Back” for Chili’s and the popular theme song for Tom Bodett and Motel 6. The latter garnered a Clio award. Tom will be accompanied by Beth Wood and Susan Gibson.

A unique blend of Texas blues, Cajun and Tejano, Tom’s masterful album Lost in the Land of Texico is located at the crossroads of creativity and energy. It was picked up by Japan’s Kigan Records and distributed nationally in the United States by Abbey Road. Tom notes about his music, "Hopefully each song I create will paint a picture for someone, somewhere... and they can go back to it again and again." Tom has performed at the MCL Grand Theatre in Lewisville, Bedford Blues Festival and Michael Hearne’s Big Barn Dance Festival in Taos, NM.

The Dixie Chicks took Susan Gibson’s penned song “Wide Open Spaces” to the top of the charts. Minnesota born but mostly Texas raised (her father worked for the railroad), Susan hit the road in 2003 with Chin Up, her first solo record, and hasn’t slowed down since. The Second Hand is her 5th release, and she’s collected honors such as “Entertainer of the Year” from the West Texas Music Hall of Fame. Susan tours and teaches songwriting and creativity workshops.

Beth Wood is a modern-day troubadour. The Weather Inside, Beth’s eighth studio release, is a case study in contrast. Beth and her husband live in beautiful Eugene, Oregon. Beth is settling in to the Northwest music scene, where she has been featured on “Artbeat” TV show, Ninkasi’s Northwest Music sampler, and the Sisters Folk Festival and Song Academy.

North Texas Passenger Trains

Recall the beauty of the Texas Zephyr, Texas Eagle and the Sam Houston Zephyr as they meandered through the countryside. Learn about the passenger trains that once served the Metroplex and North Central Texas in the days before Amtrak from train historian Steve Goen at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 11 at the library. After the program, local historian Tom Keener will offer a guided tour of Allen’s stone dam, which is Allen’s only structure designated as a State Archaeological Landmark.

Steve Goen commented on the excitement surrounding these passenger trains, “Whenever you visited Dallas Union Terminal... there was always something to see. Every morning all the trains would start arriving from all over the Southwest... Denver, Kansas City, El Paso, Minneapolis and even Tulsa.” A recognized authority in the topic of railroad history throughout the nation for a variety of railroads, particularly in Texas and the southwest region, Steve Goen has eight published books to his credit, including his highly acclaimed Cotton Belt Color Pictorial.

Other major regional railroads included in Goen’s Color Pictorial book series include the Chicago, Rock Island, & Pacific; Fort Worth & Denver; Kansas City Southern; Missouri-Kansas-Texas; Texas & New Orleans; Texas & Pacific; and Santa Fe. Additionally, Steve has numerous magazine articles published in various historical society newsletters plus several articles published in newspapers. Through his Steam Gauge Video Productions, Steve has produced almost 30 historic programs.

Steve has twice been a guest speaker at the Bush Presidential Library & Museum, and was keynote speaker at the 2008 National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) convention in Ft. Worth. Steve currently resides in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Sponsored by the Allen Public Library and North Texas Chapter of NRHS

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 214-569-4911.
**Youth Summer Reading Club**

The Summer Reading Club at the Allen Public Library runs **June 4-August 7**. This year children and teens can choose from three summer reading challenges to earn prizes. Our annual Summer Reading Kickoff Party is on **June 11, 10-11:30 a.m.** The Library is offering **free weekly performances** each Monday afternoon from June 13 to August 1. This year’s programs include:

- Perot Museum’s Super Hero Science
- Critterman’s Texas Tails live animal show
- Mr. Blue Shoes interactive musical performance
- Mark Shelton’s “Strike, Shake, and Scrape”
- The return of the wildly popular Circus Chicken-dog.

Other special events for children and teens will be hosted throughout June and July in the Children’s Program Room. Calendars are available in the Children’s library. For more information, visit the library’s website at [www.allenlibrary.org](http://www.allenlibrary.org) or call 214-509-4906.

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**Ft. Bascom**

Built in 1863, Fort Bascom was a frontier military post along the Canadian River in New Mexico that had a significant impact on the Anglo settlement of the Southwest. Learn about the history of Ft. Bascom from Dr. James Bailey Blackshear at **7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 23** at the library.

Located in Comanchería’s and the Comancheros’ homelands, the frontier soldiers at Ft. Bascom confronted unique challenges during and right after the Civil War. These included environmental hardships, logistical nightmares, and the dangers associated with gaining control of the Southern Plains Indians.

Comanchería is the name commonly given to the region of New Mexico, West Texas and nearby areas occupied by the Comanche before the 1860s. Comancheros were primarily Hispanic traders in northern and central New Mexico Territory who made their living by trading with the nomadic Great Plains Indians, in northeastern New Mexico and West Texas. Comancheros were given that name because the Comanches were their customers.

Because of Ft. Bascom’s proximity to Texas, its soldiers were often on patrols and participated on major expeditions in the Lone Star State. Dr. Blackshear observes, “Fort Bascom could be considered Texas’ northernmost frontier fort.” The social aspects of frontier duty, problems with construction, and the impact of the Comanche trade on the Army’s gaining control of the Southern Plains Indians are weaved into Dr. Blackshear’s engaging book, *Ft. Bascom Soldiers, Comancheros and Indians in the Canadian River Valley*.

Dr. Blackshear teaches at Collin College’s Spring Creek campus and its dual credit campus at the Allen High School, and at Austin College in Sherman. Earning his PhD from the University of North Texas, he has been published by the New Mexico Historical Review and the Chicken Soup for the Soul series. Dr. Blackshear’s engaging book, *Ft. Bascom Soldiers, Comancheros and Indians in the Canadian River Valley*,

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**Friends Spice Up Your Life Reception a Big Success**

On April 21, Friends hosted "Spice Up Your Life...with Friends!" for all Friends members and their friends and future Friends! Liquid chocolate from Sublime Chocolates and spicy snacks were served. Thank you to our new and returning "Friends" for joining us.

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**The Ongoing Book Sale**

Do you have books you’ve read but you are ready to make room for some new reads for summer? We have the perfect outlet for you! Donate them to Friends of the Allen Public Library and we will happily find them a new home. That’s how we fund many of our wonderful programs. Donate a few handfuls at the front desk or if you have larger boxes they can be delivered at the dock during business hours. Thank you for thinking of Friends!
Exercise Your Mind

Tuesday Night at the Movies Is Back!

In June, the Library will show a selection of sleuthing movies to “Exercise Your Mind,” this years’ Adult Summer Reading theme. All movies are free and start at 7 p.m.

June 7 – Sneakers (1992) – A security pro finds his past coming back to haunt him when he and his unique team are tasked with retrieving a particularly important item.

June 14 – Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988) – A toon-hating detective is a cartoon rabbit’s only hope to prove his innocence when he is accused of murder.

June 21 – Now You See Me (2013) – An FBI agent and an Interpol detective track a team of illusionists who pull off bank heists during their performances and reward their audiences with the money.

June 28 – Sherlock Holmes (2009) – Detective Sherlock Holmes and his stalwart partner Watson engage in a battle of wits and brawn with a nemesis whose plot is a threat to all of England.

Adult Summer Reading Program

June 4 – August 7

No registration required. You don’t even need a library card! All you have to do is be 18 or older and turn in your reading log(s) in person to the Reference desk by 5 p.m Sunday, August 7 to be eligible for the final prize drawing. Pick up a reading log on the 1st floor beginning June 4th.

Choose to read by time or title. Every 1 book OR 5 hours read gets you an entry into a weekly drawing for a $20 gift card from Target, Amazon, Walmart, or Alamo Draft House! We have eight of each gift card. Prize drawings will be held weekly on Wednesdays beginning on Wednesday, June 15. All winners will be notified by 5 p.m. the day of the drawing.

All participants who turn in reading logs will automatically be entered to win one of three $50 gift cards to the Watters Creek shopping center. The drawing for the Watters Creek gift cards and the $20 gift cards for the last week of summer reading will be held Tuesday, August 9.

You can read any Adult or Teen Books, but if you want to challenge yourself, check out our reading resources on the bookshelf!

New and Returning Members—March/April

Thanks for Being a Friend!

Brad Alexander
Olivia Andrews-Beard
Ashley Bailey
Tomeda Baines
Diane Ballard
Steven Benson
Rosa Berry
William Berry
Lizette Blackwell
Jaime Blanco
Baine & Juli Brooks
Richard & Judy Brooks
Vicki Brown
Natalie Butler
Alyssa Carman
Shannon Carver
Leslie K. Chapman
Susan Day
Jasmin Dean
Mickey Deel
Gregg deJong
Lori DePalma
Julianne Drost
Carla Easton
Emmanuel Enaohwo
Thomas Essman
Beatriz Flores
Melinda Goadreau
Julia Garcia
Caroline Gatabu
Ethel Gomez
Jennifer Grilliette
Chuck Haley
Virginia Haley
Nila Hill
Karri Hogan
Larry Holley
Lorna Holley
Mannon Hubbard
Delbert & Beverly Huntsman
Amanda Hykin
Preksha Jain
Harris Jenson
Vijoy Joseph
Tom Keener
Phyllicia Lewis
Elvira Lira-Diaz
Juanita S. Lopez
Moira Maloney
William F. Mclnerney
Susana Minjars
Richard & Connie Mlack
Karen Morgan
Steve Ogden
Summer Oswald
Thiem Phuong
Theresa Remakel
Luis Reyes
Teresa Rodenbaugh
Sarah Rodriguez
Alejandro Roman
Mark Salas
Michelle Schley
Patricia Schrader
Mariana Sennour
Farida Shipchandler
Afaf Siddiqui
Namrata Sinha
Karyl Snyder
Michael Stevens
Mary Stewart
Jayanthi Tayab
Eileen & Bill Tollett
Mariana Trzeclak
Debbie & Chuck Vavra
Karla Warbourg
Kaitlyn Wilson
Shaina Xavier