7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 7, *Akeelah and the Bee*  **ALLen Reads**
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, *Spare Parts*  **ALLen Reads**
7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 16, ALLen Reads “Tell Your Story” program  **ALLen Reads**
7:30 p.m. Friday, March 17, Celtic Night  **Bach to Books**
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 21, *Ruby Bridges*  **ALLen Reads**
7:30 pm, Thursday, March 23, *The Red River Bridge War*, by Rusty Williams  **Bach to Books**
7:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, Stary Olsa Belarus band  **Bach to Books**
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, *Selma*  **ALLen Reads**
3:00 p.m., Sunday, April 2, Lowery students interpret *brown girl dreaming* through dance and drama  **ALLen Reads**
7 p.m., Tuesday, April 4—*The Hundred-Foot Journey*  **Bach to Books**
7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6, Dr. Christopher Bean discusses the Freedmens’ Bureau and Post Civil War Texas  **Bach to Books**
7:00 p.m., Tuesday April 11, *Julie and Julia*  **Bach to Books**
7:15 p.m., Annual meeting, Friends of the Allen Public Library  **ALLen Reads**
7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 13, Bobcats in Your Yard  **Bach to Books**
7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 15, Javier Gutierrez and Mosaic, Latin Jazz  **Bach to Books**
6:00 p.m., Thursday, April 20, French cooking demo preceding Julia Child program  **Bach to Books**
7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 20, Sharon Hudgins discusses Julia Child  **Bach to Books**

Click on any item above and it will link you directly to the article.

Always forgetting events you want to attend? Print this page and stick it on your fridge!

For updates, go to [AllenFriends.org](http://AllenFriends.org) or to the library’s calendar at [AllenLibrary.org](http://AllenLibrary.org), then “Calendar.”

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**Our Library’s 50th Anniversary**

Our library is 50 years old this year. Stay tuned for more information about celebrations later in the year.

To get the celebrating started, the library will be hosting a bookmark contest June 1 – July 31. Winning entries will be professionally printed and distributed at the library in the Fall!

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**Start Thinking about Summer Programs**

The Summer Reading Club at the library runs May 30 – August 13, 2017 and offers summer fun for all ages.

Special events to look forward to this summer include the Family Cultural Festival on Saturday, June 10 at 10-11:30 a.m., family movies on Tuesday afternoons in the Auditorium, and Wednesday afternoon shows.

The library will also continue to host special activities for preschoolers, children, teens and tweens throughout the summer. This year they will even have special guests Gerald and Piggie from the wildly popular Mo Willems’ book series for a party in July! More details available on the library website in May.

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Be sure to “like” us on our Facebook page—[https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheallenpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheallenpubliclibrary) and follow us on Twitter: [@AllenFriends](https://twitter.com/AllenFriends).
Celtic Night at Library

Lift your spirits with harpist and vocalist Sarah Copus, Welsh performer Chris Grooms and Irish dancer Jason Purcell at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 17, at the library.

Bagpiper Wayne Terrell opens the program with a lively processional. Wayne is also a member of the Allen Community Band.

Irish dancer Jason Purcell takes the stage with rocket-speed leg and foot movements. A former Allen High School student, Jason was the Irish Regional Dancing Competition champion for 2012 and 2013.

A professor of English at Collin College, Dr. Grooms contributed the song “Blodeuwedd: Song of the Flowers” to a new archive of traditional Welsh music for Smithsonian Folkways. Dr. Grooms was the only American invited to contribute to this anthology of native Welsh music.

Sarah Copus has been featured as a soloist in concerts through the Gaelic Youth Chorus with major touring artists like Celtic Woman and The Irish Tenors. In July, she sang a duet with Emmet Cahill of Celtic Thunder during his performance in Dallas. She has also opened for Irish musical sensations Téada during their Irish Christmas in America tour.

Sarah's latest CD is Celtic Fairy Lullaby, a collection of timeless songs from ancient lands. Harps, flutes, piano, and subtle orchestration by the band 2002 accompany delightful lyrics in Irish Gaelic, Welsh and English performed by Sarah. Eleven of 2002’s albums have made the Billboard Charts during its 24-year career. In May 2015, Sarah won the award for "Best Vocal Album" at a live presentation at the Zone Music Awards Show in New Orleans for 2002’s album Trail Of Dreams.

The Red River Bridge War: A Texas-Oklahoma Border Battle

Learn about the only time in Texas history when Texas Rangers were summoned for an armed interdiction against another American state. Rusty Williams, author of The Red River Bridge War: A Texas-Oklahoma Border Battle, will share this account at 7:30 pm, Thursday, March 23 at the library.

This conflict does not refer to the annual football rivalry, but about the time Texas and Oklahoma almost went to war over an old toll bridge north of Denison that connected the states across the Red River in 1931. This two-week affair was marked by the presence of National Guardsmen with field artillery, Texas Rangers with itchy trigger fingers, angry mobs, Model T blockade runners, and even a Native American peace delegation. Traffic backed up for miles, blocking travel between the states.

This conflict entertained newspaper readers nationwide during the summer of 1931, but the Red River Bridge War was a deadly serious affair for many rural Americans at a time when free bridges and passable roads could mean the difference between survival and starvation. The confrontation had national consequences, too, marking an end to one governor’s political career and sending another governor down the road toward the White House.

Rusty Williams is a writer-historian who recounts history through the stories of the people who lived it. A former journalist, Rusty has written for The Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and the Associated Press. He is also the author of My Old Confederate Home: A Respectable Place for Civil War Veterans (University Press of Kentucky) and Historic Photographs of Dallas, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s (Turner).
Stary Olsa Belarus Band

Performing the medieval music of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Belarusian folk band Stary Olsa will be featured at the library at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 24.

Founded in 1999 by Zmicer Sasnouski, the group is named for a brook in the west part of Mahilou Region or Belarus. The band's repertoire includes Belarusian folk balladry, martial songs, and national dances, works of Belarusian Renaissance composers, compositions from Belarusian aulic music collections, Belarusian canticles of the 16th - through early 17th centuries, as well as popular European melodies of the Middle and Renaissance Ages.

Utilizing period Belarusian costuming, technology and instruments handmade in painstaking detail, Stary Olsa’s shows include Belarusian instruments such as lyre, bagpipe, psaltery, pipe, jew’l’s harp, ocarina, trumpet, birch bark trumpet, rebec and drums. The purpose is to reconstruct completely the musical traditions of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania where Belarus was the basic cultural and geopolitical influence in the 13th-18th centuries, and where there was a unique synthesis of Belarusian folk and aulic music with the European musical achievements of that time.

Performing in Belarus and Europe, museums, research centers, Stary Olsa is a master of early instruments, bands of folk, aulic, sacred and city avital music, as well as offering solo performers using old instruments. The band’s music makes it possible to restore the sounds of many forgotten instruments. Having produced 12 albums of historic music from the 13th-17th centuries, these include a wonderful cultural collection of ancient Belarusian tunes such as ballads about knights and victory and even a Romanian dance to ward off vampires!

Freedmen's Bureau and Post Civil War Texas

Learn about the successes, challenges and failures of the Freedmen’s Bureau in Texas at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at the library. The guest speaker will be Dr. Christopher Bean, author of Too Great a Burden to Bear: The Struggle and Failure of the Freedmen’s Bureau in Texas.

The Freedmen’s Bureau provided valuable assistance to former slaves by offering food, clothing, shelter, educational opportunities, and medical assistance. In this region, armed conflicts between union and confederate sympathizers continued after the war, and freed slaves were often caught in the middle, causing them to seek protection from the Freedmen’s Bureau.

Dr. Bean will discuss bureau officials who assisted former slaves in transitioning to a life of freedom. Agents were motivated by their sense of fairness and ideas of citizenship, gender, and labor. These men further ensured the former slaves had access to an education, a right that was unavailable during bondage.

Due to lack of funding and staffing, many of the goals were not met. Agents were frequently treated with hostility, and in some cases, they were murdered. This frightened other agents from assuming those posts. Despite the agency’s shortcomings, Dr. Bean declares, “The country asked them to do the unprecedented, and despite falling short of some expectations (including some of their own), they achieved more than many thought possible.” Dr. Christopher B. Bean is Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies at East Central University, Oklahoma. Dr. Bean completed his doctorate from the University of North Texas. He has written articles for several history journals and presented papers at history conferences.

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.
Bobcats in your yard?

Have you suspected a bobcat was in your neighborhood or even seen one walking down your street? Learn about the behaviors of coyotes, bobcats and other animals that live in urban environments from Bonnie Bradshaw at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at the library.

North Texas’s very own coyote whisperer, Bonnie wants us to know how to be safe and avoid wildlife conflicts. Learn about tips to keep you and your pets safe.

The president of 9-1-1 Wildlife, Bonnie’s presentation will cover wildlife ecology and behaviors, as well as types and causes of animal conflicts. An animal and wildlife removal, relocation and control service, 9-1-1 Wildlife’s philosophy regarding animal removal is quite different—no traps or poisons. Bradshaw explains they’re here to treat wild animals in urban areas humanely, to keep them out of harm’s way and then to return them to their natural environment.

“Most people want to take pictures when they see a coyote. Wrong! The best thing to do is clap your hands, and they will run off,” Bonnie asserts. “They [coyotes] become habituated to people because there are no consequences. If you take a picture and then just stand there, that endorses their thinking, ‘I’m safe. People are no threat.’ That’s a problem because they begin to see people as a source for food, and that’s how people get bitten. You want to keep them skittish for their safely and ours.”

Bradshaw is a frequent presenter for neighborhood groups and other community organizations. “Wild animals wander throughout urban areas, with old neighborhoods with lots of trees having the largest population of wildlife,” Bradshaw explained. Bonnie became interested in teaching and humane wildlife removal after witnessing too many orphaned animals whose parents had been caught by traps. “It was very rewarding to get animals that were injured and ill, and then release them after getting them healthy,” she added. “Making people aware there’s another option to trapping and killing wildlife is our biggest hurdle.”

Annual Meeting

Friends of the Allen Public Library

The annual Friends of the Allen Public Library meeting will be at 7:15, April 13, immediately prior to the "Bobcats in Your Yard" program at the library.

Officers will be nominated by the Board of the Friends of the Allen Public Library at the March meeting. Please check our website, www.allenfriends.org, to see the nominated slate.

Please come to the program a few minutes early so we can elect officers for the board.

Would you like to help make future programs happen at the library and help your library be as good as it can be?

Attend a Friends of the Allen Public Library meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the Allen Public Library Board Room, attend an ALLen Reads meeting the second Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Allen Public Library Board Room, or email us at allentxfriends@gmail.com.

We love new volunteers!
**Javier Gutierrez and Mosaic**

*Latin Jazz at its Best*

Enjoy the exotic sounds of flautist and saxophonist Javier Gutierrez and his Latin jazz band Mosaic at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 15 at the library. Javier has been entertaining the Dallas-Fort Worth area for over fifteen years. The ensemble performs Latin jazz standards with an infusion of Afro-Cuban and Brazilian rhythms and styles.

Javier declares, “Latin Jazz is Jazz that is fused with Latin American music styles. It’s rich with percussion instruments such as Congas, Bongos, Maracas, Timbale and Guiros. Jazz Genius Dizzy Gillespie and Cubans Mario Bauza and Chano Pozo are credited with its inception. It allows the listener and performer a way to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of North and South America.”

A graduate from St. Leo University with a B.A. in Music Performance, Javier taught at the Armed Forces School of Music in Virginia and in Europe with the USAEUR Band after which he retired and taught music for Dallas ISD. Currently, he performs locally with various groups including Mosaic, Salsero, and the Mesquite Jazz Repertoire Ensemble.

Javier and the Mosaic have played at the Dallas Museum of Art “Jazz in the Atrium”, Dallas Arboretum and the Dallas Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

Javier performs on saxophone and flute. Amado Rodriguez on drums, Bobby Tompkins on congas and percussion, Lico Cisneros on bass, and Christian Valdes on piano provide accompaniment. A native of Cuba, Ruth Guerrero will offer sensational vocals with a Caribbean sound.

This program is sponsored by the ET Boon family to honor the memory of Gayle Boon.

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**THE LIFE & TIMES OF JULIA CHILD**

Acclaimed food writer and historian Sharon Hudgins recounts the fascinating story of Julia Child and her personal encounters with the esteemed culinary star, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at the library.

Sharon interviewed America’s French Chef for *The Stars and Stripes* newspaper, where Sharon was the food writer. That interview, and the story behind it, was reprinted in *Gastronomica* magazine’s special Julia Child issue in 2005 and in a special tribute to Julia Child by the International Association of Culinary Professionals on the 100th anniversary of Julia’s birth in 2012.

Julia’s first cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, was published in 1961 and soon became a bestseller. When the second volume appeared a decade later, she had become an acclaimed celebrity with her own cooking show on public television. She was revered for her unpredictable humor, distinctive voice, and her culinary skills. Her kitchen is now displayed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

An award-winning cookbook author and a food writer with more than 900 articles published internationally, Sharon Hudgins is currently the food editor of *European Traveler* website and the food columnist for *German Life* magazine (USA). She has also been the editor of *Chile Pepper* magazine and several cookbooks, as well as a contributor to three Oxford culinary encyclopedias.

*See back page for related programs.*
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.

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Coming Up—
March and April
Movies that tie with this year’s ALLen Reads themes will be presented, starting with a family-friendly movie during AISD’s Spring Break. See last page for a complete list of movies.

TELL YOUR STORY
Thursday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.
Please join us as we explore unique paths to the United States and welcome immigrant community members as they share their unique, yet universal, stories of moving to the United States. Our participants will be Farida Shipchandler originally from India, Jacques Jean of Haiti, Graciela Katzer originally from Argentina, and Alex Comert of Turkey. Join us as their stories become part of our story. Q & A will follow.

ORCHESTRA/DRAMA PERFORMANCE
reception to follow
The Lowery Freshman Center drama students and orchestra combine to present their interpretation of brown girl dreaming at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 2 at the library. Readings from the book will be enhanced by music from Negro spirituals through jazz and rock and roll, a tribute to black contributions to American music. A reception sponsored by the Allen Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra will follow the performance. For a sneak preview to this performance, go to Allen Civic Ballet’s "Bravo!" at the Allen High School Performing Arts Center on April 1 at 7 p.m.

We hope you will participate in some or all of the above programs. And, if you enjoy reading and want to get involved in planning ALLen Reads 2018, that will begin in April! Contact Anita Moghe, ajmoghe@gmail.com.

Our 2017 ALLen Reads Companion Books

2017 SO FAR
We’d like to issue a great big “Thank You” to the “Food for Thought” Market and Cafe located in the atrium in the library for furnishing refreshments for the Allen Reads "Meet and Greet" with illustrator E.B. Lewis!

Thanks for your support, Food for Thought

Look at the fun we had with Illustrator E.B. Lewis!
Stay tuned for pictures of our “Celebrity Readers” in next newsletter.
March 7  Akeelah and the Bee  (2006) (PG) Starring Angela Bassett, Laurence Fishburne, Keke Palmer. Akeelah participated in a spelling bee to avoid detention for her many absences. Much to her surprise and embarrassment, she wins. As the possibility of making it all the way to the Scripps National Spelling Bee looms, Akeelah could provide her community with something to rally around and be proud of.

March 14  Spare Parts  (2015) (PG-13) Starring George Lopez, Jamie Lee Curtis, Marisa Tomei. Inspired by the inspirational true story of a teacher who inspired four Hispanic high school students to form a robotics club, and the shocking events that unfolded when the resourceful teens went toe-to-toe with their counterparts at MIT during one of the country’s biggest robotics competitions.

March 21  Ruby Bridges  (1997) (Not Rated) Starring Michael Beach, Lela Rochon, Penelope Ann Miller. A six-year old African-American girl scores very well on early scholastics tests and is chosen by the New Orleans school district be the first of her race to be integrated into that city’s public school system.

March 28  Selma  (2014) (PG-13) Starring David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo, Tim Roth. Award-winning chronicle of Martin Luther King’s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

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**New and Returning Members—January/February**

Thanks for Being a Friend!

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