Coming Up at the Library

7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 1, Gator and Mudcat
7:30 p.m., Monday, July 3, Allen Community Jazz Band
7:30 p.m. Friday, July 7, Brave Combo performs salsa, meringue, rock, cumbia, conjunto, polka, zydeco, classical, cha cha, the blues and more
7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 20, The Rise of Hitler, Dr. Suzanna Osvath
August 13, Summer reading program ends. Still not signed up? Stop by the Library to pick up a reading log
7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 17, Roger Sanders discusses William Quantill Raiders
3:00 p.m. Saturday, August 19, Matter Stream: Star Trek and the Soul

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

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

For updates, go to AllenFriends.org or to the library’s calendar at AllenLibrary.org, then “Calendar.”

“Summer time, and the living is easy...”

Summer is the perfect time to pick up that book you’ve been wanting to read. We invite everyone to post book recommendations on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheallenpubliclibrary throughout the year and contribute whenever you read a good book. Or even when you read a bad book, let us know that too! To get us started, here are a few that some of the Friends board members have been reading:

Lion by Saroo Brierley. This was made into a well-received movie; before the movie came out the book was titled A Long Way Home. It is the story of a very young Indian boy who gets separated from his family at a train station and ends up getting adopted in Australia, and his journey of discovering his birth family.

American Gods by Neil Gaiman. Like most of his fantasy books, this is very creative and thought-provoking.

Norse Mythology, also by Neil Gaiman. This is exactly what the title says – an encyclopedic collection of the Norse myths – more of an encyclopedia than a story collection.

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict. Historical fiction about Albert Einstein’s first wife, who is reputed to have helped in the conception of the Theory of Relativity. Fascinating insight into a “woman’s place” in that world.

Gwendy’s Button Box by Stephen King and Richard Chizmar. Some of Stephen King’s best novels are NOT horror novels; this is one of those.

The library will be CLOSED on July 4th.

Be sure to “like” us on our Facebook page—https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheallenpubliclibrary and follow us on Twitter: @AllenFriends.
**Gator and Mudcat**

Describing “Blue Rock” as “a little bit Texas and a little bit Louisiana music,” Dallas native “Mudcat” Michael Reames and Louisiana’s “Gator” Wayne Folse will share this sound at **7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 1**, at the library.

On rhythm guitar, blues harp, percussion and lead vocal, Mudcat has played with the bands Al- izon, Noise Inc, Paraphernalia and Stevie Ray Vaughan’s band Liberation. He adds a harmonica to set a vibrant mood.

Performing around his home state with bands like Allen Fontenot, the Coasters, BlueRockers, and Shaking Hands, Gator now plays daily with a Bourbon Street blues trio. Playing lead guitar, vocals, acoustic and electric, Gator will electrify the stage.

Gator and Mudcat’s song "Mother Earth" can be seen on YouTube. Gator and Mudcat appeared on the Leslie Taylor Hare show in 2010 and performed at the Texas Musician’s Museum, Harrah’s Casino, and Warren Sports Complex in Frisco. CDs that will be for sale at concert time include *Shaking Hands, For Adults Only* and *Back in the Game*, their new CD that was reviewed by The Texas Music Journal.

Joining Gator and Mudcat are Chad Ireland on drums, percussion and background vocal, Clay Burr on lead and rhythm guitar, Bill Brody on bass guitar and backup vocal, and Kirk Hampton on keyboards and backup vocal.

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**Celebrate the July Fourth Holiday with the ACB Jazz Band**

Begin your Fourth of July holiday by enjoying the patriotic sounds of Allen’s own ACB Jazz at **7:30 p.m., Monday, July 3**, in a free concert at the library. Listen to songs from America’s past, such as *American Patrol, American Songbook, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* and *God Bless the USA*, as well as other great tunes of Americana.

ACB Jazz is comprised of members from a variety of occupations; from college students, bankers, teachers and even some retired. Its parent organization is the Allen Community Concert Band, open to anyone who has an instrument and a willingness to dust it off and get their lips back into shape. Most of the jazz band players also play with the concert band.

Under the direction of Keith Petersen, ACB Jazz is fast becoming well known throughout the Metroplex, playing classical big band tunes as well as jazz and more contemporary songs.

**Our Allen library has been here for 50 years this fall!**
Stay tuned for lots of amazing programs this fall!  

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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.
BETWEEN THE PAGES

Brave Combo

Prepare for a rhythmic global journey with Grammy Award-winning Brave Combo at 7:30 p.m., Friday, July 7, at the library.

For the past three decades the Denton, Texas, based quintet Brave Combo has performed exciting salsa, meringue, rock, cumbia, conjunto, polka, zydeco, classical, cha cha, the blues and more. Their music ranges from Japanese pop to Latin American dance tunes, to the symphonic classics and to rock and roll. And of course, their always-popular Chicken Dance.

Playing for Talking Head’s David Byrne wedding reception was one of their unforgettable experiences, but garnering two Grammy awards, for the 1999 album, Polkasonic and the 2004 album, Let’s Kiss were milestones in their careers.

Brave Combo has marched in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade and recorded with Tiny Tim. Released on Rounder Records in the 1990s, their acclaimed album Girl took 8 years to complete—a daunting task due to their conflicting schedules. After releasing the album, Brave Combo performed with Tiny Tim in Seattle, Louisville, and Kansas City. Tiny Tim died a few years later.

Brave Combo’s vivid music can be heard in the films David Byrne’s True Stories, Clive Barker’s Lord of Illusions, Late Bloomers, Fools Rush In, Envy, the Academy Award-winning The Personals. They also appeared for Oktoberfest in the beloved burg of Springfield on an episode of The Simpsons, and in 2008, the group provided the musical score for PBS’s inaugural animated series As the Wrench Turns. The latter resulted in an “Annie” nomination from the International Animated Film Society.

The Rise of Hitler: 1918-1933

In the early 1930s, the mood in Germany was grim.

The worldwide economic depression devastated the German social fabric by creating huge despair and hopelessness. A humiliating defeat fifteen years earlier during World War I shattered their confidence in the weak Weimar Republic government. Conditions were ripe for the rise of a new leader, Adolf Hitler, and his party, the National Socialist German Workers’ Party.

A charismatic speaker, Hitler appealed to the unemployed, young people, and members of the lower middle class such as small store owners, craftsmen, and farmers. Although elected by a minority of Germans, he received the most votes, and because of the presence of a number of other parties, the majority of the votes were divided, leaving Hitler the victor.

Dr. Suzanna Ozsvath will discuss the rise of Hitler at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 20, at the library. A highly-recognized scholar, Dr. Ozsvath is a professor of literature and the history of ideas as well as the chair of Holocaust studies at University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). Founder and director of UTD’s Holocaust Studies Program, she has published articles, addressing aesthetic and ethical issues in French, German, and Hungarian literature as well as the relationship between art and totalitarian ideology. Since the 1980’s, she has undertaken several translation projects and worked on various branches of Holocaust studies.

In her book When The Danube Ran Red, Dr. Ozsvath discusses the harrowing memories of her Jewish childhood during the Hungarian holocaust where she witnessed murders, starvation and torture. In 2009, she was named to The State of Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.
**Quantrill Raiders in Texas and Allen**

Sherman attorney Roger Sanders discusses the life and legacy of William Quantrill and his raiders at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 17, at the library. Quantrill and his raiders, which included the infamous Jesse and Frank James, camped out in North Texas during the Civil War. In 1864, Quantrill and his raiders lynched Collin County Chief Justice J. M. McReynolds and Sheriff James L Read in Tyler, Texas. Thus, the impact of Quantrill’s lawlessness was felt close to home.

Allen pioneer George Washington Ford (Uncle Wash) encountered the Quantrill gang at his family’s home place near what is now the Joe Farmer Recreation Center. In an interview with F. Thompson, a writer for the McKinney Democrat who interviewed early Collin county pioneers, Wash recalled these encounters with Quantrill. The springs along Mustang Branch were noted for not running dry. Sufficient distance east of the known stage routes and the surrounding thickets probably made the area a tempting hideout.

Acclaimed historian Rick Miller, who wrote the definitive biography of the train robber Sam Bass, declared, “Quantrill is an interesting guy: he has been painted as everything from a barbaric terrorist to a legitimate Confederate officer who loved his mother.”

Roger Sanders became interested in Quantrill when he learned that the torching of the Grayson County courthouse in 1930 that left a black man dead might be a result of the Quantrill legacy.

**Matter Stream: Star Trek and the Soul**

When Scotty beams you up, where does your spirit go? What happens to Vulcans' katars when they die? And what do these things say about Star Trek's view of humanity? Author of The Gospel According to Star Trek, The Original Crew, Kevin C. Neece, discusses the depiction of the spirit, soul, and afterlife in Star Trek and asks whether human beings are more than the sum of our DNA at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, August 19, at the library.

Founder and curator of The Undiscovered Country Project blog, Kevin is a contributing editor for Imaginatio et Ratio: A Journal of Theology and the Arts, co-editor of works on Spock, Leonard Nimoy, science fiction and C. S. Lewis. His works have appeared in many books and periodicals, including Light Shining in a Dark Place: Discovering Theology Through Film, New Identity Magazine, and Patheos, among others.

A former professor, Kevin holds a BAS in Communication and Philosophy and an MLA in Fine Arts. He lives with his wife and son in Fort Worth, Texas.

Sociology professor John Tenuto, College Lake County in Illinois, declares, “Kevin C. Neece's love of Star Trek as an adventure show during his youth reformulates into a spiritual appreciation for the symbolism and meanings behind those special effects and science fiction narratives. Neece avoids the trope (or trap) of using a single line of dialog . . .to argue for his interpretation.” --John Tenuto, from the Foreword to The Gospel According to Star Trek: The Original Crew

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*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

*Nelson Mandela*

*The only thing that is more expensive than education is ignorance.*

*Benjamin Franklin*

"Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolution."

*Kahlil Gibran*
Our Library is the Greatest!

I am always on the lookout for our great library programs, which the Friends newsletter usually doesn’t cover, because it focuses on Friends’ programs. If you are interested in ALL the library’s programs, go [here](#) and sign up for the e-newsletter.

But, since you may not be signed up yet, here are a few of my favorites:

- Did you know you can “check out” ebooks, to read or listen to? Go to [https://allen.overdrive.com/](https://allen.overdrive.com/). I am a true bookworm, and I read or listen to these all the time.
- Stay tuned, there will be LOTS of programs at the library this fall, celebrating 50 years! I can’t wait to see what is planned.
- Have you been to hear one of the library’s Armchair Travelers? On July 25, Anna Kostamo will share stories and pictures from her travels through Austria during the 2016 holiday season. Free food samples, too!
- Tuesday nights in July at 7 PM are family-friendly movies. Go to the calendar for more details.
- The summer reading club ends August 13. Are you signed up yet?

Endowment Fund News

Visionary leaders of Allen created the Friends of the Allen Public Library Endowment Fund to increase the long-term financial strength of the library, enrich its capabilities, and expand its potential for the benefit of all Allen residents. With reductions to the state and federal funding, the Endowment Fund fundraising efforts are critical to the continued excellence of the Library.

The Library Endowment Board would like to welcome our newest member, Becky Breining. Becky is a marketing consultant who has been active in the community. She has served in various roles before joining the Library Endowment Board, as a member of a Subcommittee on Public Facilities for the Allen Library for the Capital Improvement Program and as a former board member of the Community Kitchen Project in McKinney. We are looking forward to her energy and new ideas!

Speaking of new ideas, in the next newsletter you can read all about the Endowment Fund’s latest project for the library—and it has to do with robotics. How cool is that?

Save the Date

Please save the date of Friday, September 22nd, for an evening of celebration—a wine and chocolate pairing event at the Bedside Manor, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Allen Library, the pioneers and founders of the Library, all while raising funds toward the Friends of Library Endowment Fund. There is limited space available. More details in the next newsletter.

New and Returning Members—May/June

Thanks for Being a Friend!

Allen Community Band
Smija Abraham
Kelly Beam
Amber Benavides
Kristina Brevard
Ed Bryan
Carole Chatue
Susan Chontos
Marilyn Cox
Dilshad Dipa
Karen Essman

Jennifer Fulkerson
Natalie Michelle Gimano
Jeff Hanson
Angela Jones
Sameena Karmally
Laurie LaFon
Keri Lansdowne
Craig & Pat Logan
Suzanne Melendez
Richard & Connie

Mlack
Ella Parlette
Purvi Patel
Amy Pierce
Mike & Theresa Remakel
Corey B. Richardson II
Christen Saenz
Brandy Sanders
Jessica Seekamp
Marianna Sennour
Rochelle Shelby

Mackedie Spiker
Mohammed Subhani
Eileen Tollett
Stephanie Walton
Peter Wenger
Lisa Wilkins
Donald W. Wing
Terri Woodhull
Stefanie Woodlee
Tensae Workya