Coming Up at the Library

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 12, Learn about human relative Homo naledi, with John Mead
7:30 p.m. Friday, July 13, Austin Lounge Lizards
7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 26, Richard B. McCaslin’s book about Washington on the Brazos
7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 28, A Tribute to the Opry
6:30 p.m. Monday, August 6, Awards Ceremony, Diversity Council writing contest
7 p.m. Monday, August 6, The Dolphin Tale (movie)
7 p.m. Monday August 13, Black Beauty (movie)
7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 16, author Skip Hollandsworth discusses his book The Midnight Assassin
7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 23, C. Paul Rogers III to discuss his book The Whiz Kids Take the Pennant: The 1950 Philadelphia Phillies
7:30 p.m. Friday, August 24, The Dallas Banjo Band performs
7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 30, Denison Dam - Taming the Raging Red (documentary)
7:30 p.m. Friday, August 31, Storyteller and writer Ken Byler shares the Diamond Bill story

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

Mrs. Eugene McDermott

Library benefactor

Mrs. McDermott was born when William Howard Taft was President—February 18, 1912, and died on May 3, 2018, at age of 106. Generations of library patrons will benefit from her generosity and enthusiasm. Mrs. McDermott was a patron of libraries, universities and the arts. Eugene and Margaret McDermott empowered individuals as well as communities with the necessary tools to achieve their dreams. For Allen, the gifts they offered were a love for knowledge and the opportunity to connect with nature.

In 1968, the Eugene McDermott Foundation sent a letter to our city offering to fund a new library, fire station and municipal building. The library board members met with Mr. and Mrs. McDermott and other representatives of the Foundation to review design and architectural details of the new building.

The finished building for our then small town bestowed a sense of both pride and gratitude. Through the generosity of the McDermotts, Allen had its first air-conditioned library, and the civic complex gave Allen the confidence to engage and plan for the future.

On Christmas Eve 1982, a nice but unassuming lady meandered through the stacks of the library. As the library was closing for the holiday, she presented to then library director Barbara Buehler a sealed envelope. Thinking it was a holiday card, she opened it after the lady had departed and immediately lost her breath. It contained a check big enough to triple the size of the library’s book collection. She later learned that the quiet donor was Mrs. McDermott.

During the next year, Mrs. McDermott aided the library in obtaining the prestigious collection of the highly recognized SMU history professor and author Lon Tinkle who was retiring. The books were sorely needed for the emerging library’s inventory.

In the late 1980s, funds were again needed to buy books for the new library opening on Century Parkway in 1990. The McDermott Foundation donated generously for this book drive. Remaining money was later rolled into the Friends of the Allen Public Library Endowment Fund.

In Mrs. McDermott’s memory, a fund has been set up to purchase art books at the Allen Public Library. Donate to the Friends of the Allen Public Library and mail to the library. Or go to the Friends’ website: www.allenfriends.org/support-your-library.
Homo Naledi

Learn about the discovery of our newly unearthed human relative Homo naledi with National Geographic blogger and nature photographer John S. Mead at **7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 12,** at the library. Cavers first found the Homo naledi within a narrow chamber in a cave in South Africa in 2013. Under the direction of paleontologist Dr. Lee Berger, other fossils of an unprecedented 15 individuals of Homo naledi were eventually discovered.

This discovery was announced to the world formally in September 2015 and was featured as the cover story of the October 2015 issue of National Geographic magazine. Ever since the announcement, John has been teaching, displaying photographs, and offering virtual tours about Homo naledi to interested students and enthusiasts of all ages.

The Eugene McDermott Master Teacher in Science at the St. Mark’s School of Texas, John loves to open his middle-school students’ eyes to the natural wonders of our world. His photography stems from a desire to share what he has encountered in nature. Neither venomous snakes nor extreme heights has deterred his desire to obtain those chilling photographs.

John provides his students and students around the world the opportunity to visit the fossil chambers virtually. Dr. Lee Berger’s team has scanned many of these fossils and made them available to 3D print for free. In his classroom, John has 3D prints of the original fossils available to the students. John declares, “When holding precise 3D prints of fossils that are in the news, students are enthralled with the evidence and ask amazing questions.”

During July, visit the library’s gallery and inspect replicas of the Homo naledi fossils that were extracted during one of the great archaeological finds of the decade.

Austin Lounge Lizards

Ever contemplated hearing the music of Frank Zappa combined with bluegrass or perhaps a fusion of Homer & Jethro and the Rolling Stones? Become a reptilian and enjoy the music of the Austin Lounge Lizards at **7:30 p.m., Friday, July 13,** at the library.

The Austin Lounge Lizards are arguably the perfect pairing of their hometown’s slogan, “Live Music Capital of the World,” and its unofficial motto, “Keep Austin Weird.” Since 1980, the group has been spoofing the topics American families try to avoid at family gatherings—subjects like politics, religion, romance, and themselves. With unique harmonies and instrumental expertise, the band has become legendary.

When Hank Card (vocals, rhythm guitar) and Conrad Deisler (vocals, lead guitar, mandolin) met as mutual history majors at Princeton University (not prison, as sometimes rumored), they started songwriting together. Following graduation, Hank, a native Oklahoman, and Conrad, a Texas-Cali-Connecticut-Venezuelan, ended up in Austin. The band is now made up of Hank, Conrad, Tim Wilson (fiddle, mandolin, vocals) and Kirk Williams (electric bass, vocals).

With a series of fellow players and writers, the band began playing dates around Austin and across Texas. Soon, they had developed a widespread following of loyal Lizard fans, and by 1987, began appearing at festivals and concerts throughout North America and in the United Kingdom. Five-time winners at the Austin Music Awards, the Lizards have played many celebrated festivals, including California’s Hardly Strictly Bluegrass and Strawberry Music Festivals.

With their unique amalgamation of highly literate Ivy League roots along with an appreciation for the music of the common man like folk, country, bluegrass, and rock and roll, the Lizards specialize in musical eclecticism, excellence, a thirst for the absurd and extreme entertainment.
Washington on the Brazos

Historian Richard B. McCaslin will discuss his book *Washington on the Brazos: Cradle of the Texas Republic*, at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 26, at the library.

The saga of the Texas Republic begins on the west side of the Brazos River at Washington when a declaration of independence was approved on March 6, 1836. After approving this declaration of independence and constitution, the delegates fled as Santa Anna’s army approached following the downfall of the Alamo.

The government of the Republic of Texas returned to Washington in 1842. After the U.S. annexed Texas in 1846, Austin became the capital of the Lone Star State because of its more central location.

A thriving river port during the 1850s, Washington remained a flourishing community with many buildings paid for from revenues from steamboat cargoes. The community declined at an accelerated rate when its leaders decided to rely on steamship traffic rather than invest in a rail line. Washington suffered a serious blow when the railroad bypassed it and the Civil War sealed its fate.

The Texas Centennial in 1936 and the efforts of citizens’ organizations beginning in the 1950s transformed this once-successful community into Washington-on-the-Brazos, the state historic site that serves today as the primary focus for preserving the history of the Republic of Texas.

A Tribute to The Opry

Skip Pilgrim and the City Lights Band will present a tribute to the Grand Ole Opry at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 28, at the library. The show will feature country favorites that have been performed on stage at The Grand Old Opry, including songs by country legends such as Ray Price, Porter Wagner, Mel Tills, Buck Owens and Patsy Cline.

Playing the pedal steel guitar for over 45 years, Skip has performed with several Grand Ole Opry stars and was the staff steel player at the Branson Opry House in Branson, Missouri. Today, Skip maintains a rigorous recording, producing and performing schedule.

City Lights band members include Bobby Germany on bass guitar and lead vocals, Bob Chapman on drums and vocals, Russ Allen on lead guitar and vocals, and Jeff Pitts on keys.

In addition, this evening will include special guest performers Chelsea Pilgrim, Brent Frailicks, and Allen Hurt Jr.

An Allen High School graduate, vocalist and guitarist Chelsea has released two recording projects, “To Your Heart” and “All of My Days.”

A talented singer-song writer, guitarist, mandolin, and fiddle player, Brent Frailicks and his band perform at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Oklahoma.

A Nashville recording artist, Allen Hurt Jr. received the Texas Star Award in 2016, performs with The Mountain Showmen, and is an inductee into the Gatesville Country Music Hall of Fame.

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Go to smile.amazon.com

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.
The Midnight Assassin

Throughout the ages, most murders involved robbery, monetary disputes, or romantic liaisons. The mere thought of someone going on a rampage and brutally murdering strangers for no apparent reason was unfathomable. This was certainly true in 1885 when the citizens of Austin, Texas, were confronted by a mysterious serial killer.

Skip Hollandsworth, the author of the New York Times Bestseller The Midnight Assassin, will discuss these Capitol crimes at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 16, at the library.

By 1885, Austin had emerged from its frontier status into a thriving community but it was still a small town. Thus, news of the first murder spread within hours and horrified the town. When the next slaying occurred, the town became gripped in terror. Seven women would eventually lose their lives. Most often wielding an ax, he became America’s first serial killer. The few survivors who escaped were unable to identify the culprit except that it was a man.

Rusty Williams, author of the Red River Bridge War, observes that the “The Midnight Assassin is much more than a true-life thriller about America’s first serial killer. Hollands- worth paints a detailed portrait of life in nineteenth-century Austin as he ratchets up the mystery and dread.”

In 1981, Skip Hollandsworth worked as a sports reporter for the Dallas Times Herald. Joining Texas Monthly magazine in 1989, he also served as a television producer and documentary filmmaker. He cowrote the screenplay for the film Bernie (2011) along with Richard Linklater.

Hollands- worth has written numerous celebrity profiles for Texas Monthly, Glamour, Women’s Health and others. His subjects have included Farrah Fawcett, Cher, Kelly Clarkson, Tommy Lee Jones, and Troy Aikman.

The Whiz Kids Take the Pennant: The 1950 Philadelphia Phillies

Thrilling moments in baseball history are unanticipated, and the 1950 Philadelphia Phillies—the "Whiz Kids"—were no exception. The Phillies had been suffering a slump towards the end of the season. Then, in an exciting Brooklyn Dodgers game that lasted ten innings during the last day of the last day of the season, the Phillies defeated the Dodgers on a three-run home run by Dick Sisler at the top of the tenth inning. They faced the New York Yankees in the World Series.

At 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 23, the library hosts baseball historian C. Paul Rogers III to discuss his book The Whiz Kids Take the Pennant: The 1950 Philadelphia Phillies. Arrive early to listen to old fashion baseball organ theatre organ music.

“We felt pretty confident going into the 1950 World Series against the upstart Phillies,” former New York Yankees player Dr. Bobby Brown observes. “With the Yankees, we always felt like we could beat the other team, whether it was in the World Series or regular season. ... We played under pressure during the entire season, always facing the best pitching day after day, so we didn’t tighten up in pressure games...We did get a terrific break in not having to face Curt Simmons in the Series because his National Guard Unit was called to active duty. He had as good stuff as anyone in baseball and having to face him two or three times in the Series would have been a real challenge.”

Among the interesting facts in Paul Rogers’ book:

- Five Whiz Kids in the Opening Day lineup were under the age of 25 – Granny Hamner (22); Richie Ashburn (23), Robin Roberts (23), Willie Jones (24) and Del Ennis (24). Also starting games in April were Curt Simmons (20), Stan Lopata (24), Putsy Caballero (22) and Bob Miller (23).
- Those young kids were adept at winning one-run games. For the season they were 30-16 in one-run games (.652), best percentage in the majors.
- The 1950 Pennant followed three decades (20’s, 30’s and 40’s) in which the Phillies had the worst winning percentage in the National League.
Dallas Banjo Band

This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender...
—Pete Seeger

Although the banjo has African origins, its modern configuration is truly an American phenomenon. Along with the fiddle, the banjo is a mainstay of American old-time music. Celebrating their twenty-ninth year, the Dallas Banjo Band appears at the library at 7:30 p.m., Friday, August 24.

From Dixieland to blues and rag time tunes, the Dallas Banjo Band performs a variety of musical genres. This 20-piece band was formed in 1989 under the direction of Smokey Montgomery, formerly a banjoist with Bob Wills and the Light Crust Doughboys. Since then, they have performed with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Garland Symphony Orchestra and America’s Got Talent. Their arrangements appear on the soundtrack for the film, Lugosi: Hollywood’s Dracula, and oxymoronically, their songs range from Tchaikovsky’s “Swan Lake” and Gorney’s “Brother, Can Spare A Dime?”

Home-builder Harold Poole, the band’s concertmaster, was an ex-guitarist who hadn’t played in 30 years when he met Mr. Montgomery. The connection was made via a flugelhorn player whose new house Poole was building. He notes, "Smokey loaned me his banjo for the week and sent me home with an instruction book. That was 20 years ago."

The banjo’s popularity sharply declined as the acoustic guitar ascended to iconic status during the 1920s. However, the banjo experienced a revival when “The Ballad of Jed Clampett” debuted on the 1960s hit television show. The Beverly Hillbillies. This number 1 country hit made it to 44 on the charts in 1962.

Denison Dam

Taming the Raging Red

While fishing, boating or swimming in Lake Texoma, consider the tremendous engineering feat that was accomplished when the Denison Dam was dedicated on July 1, 1944. At the time, the dam was the largest rolled-earth fill dam in the world.

View the documentary, Denison Dam - Taming the Raging Red at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 30, at the library. The film, produced by Gene Lenore Productions, will be introduced by Lenore.

Watch the construction footage of the dam as it was being built, showing 20-foot diameter pipes which water from the lake flows through the intake structure to the power house and the Denison Dam floodgates. Colored corrected 16mm film from the 1940s and 1950s was transferred to high definition. Included in this footage are speed boat races on the lake and the 1957 flood that sent water roaring over the lake’s spillway for the first time. This flood also shows the Burns Run area under water.

Former residents of Hagerman, Texas, and Woodville, Oklahoma, — before the towns were abandoned because of the Denison Dam project—are featured in the film. This also includes footage of Woodville’s empty buildings after it was abandoned.

Gene Lenore is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster. A native of Farmersville in Collin County, he has worked as a reporter and editor for Texas newspapers prior to entering the field of television news as a writer/photographer at WFAA-TV in Dallas. He also has worked as a news writer for Voice of America, National Public Radio in Washington, D. C., Denison Herald, and KXII-TV.
### Diamond Bill and Texas Anthems presented by Ken Byler

Allen native Ken Byler shares Diamond Bill’s story, one of the most treasured tales in Texas folklore, and the history of Texas anthems at 7:30 p.m., Friday, August 31, at the library. Among the songs Ken will tell the stories of include “Texas, Our Texas” and “Will You Come to the Bower?” Ken will be accompanied by a quartet that will include a fiddle, harmonica and vocals.

Compiled by the late Texas folklorist J. Frank Dobie, Diamond Bill is the story of a man’s pet rattlesnake. Where else but Texas would a person carry their pet rattlesnake in their satchel? But this was no ordinary rattlesnake! The late J. Frank Dobie taught at the University of Texas and penned over two dozen books, including Coronado’s Children and A Vaquero of the Brush Country.

Ken’s great-grandparents were siblings of J. Frank Dobie’s grandparents. Dobie’s father was on a cattle trail drive when he was murdered by bandits. Those killers failed to consider that they were killing a member of the Byler clan. The bandits were never arrested and indicted; however, the law west of the Trinity prevailed when the Bylers pursued the murderers of their kinfolk. The bandits were never heard from again.

Born where Vaughan Elementary School now stands and educated in Allen schools, Ken is one of a rare few who can boast that ancestors of both his parents lived in Allen. A storyteller and writer, Ken recounts the enchanting tale of Diamond Bill like no other.

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**2018 Programs are Starting!**

Good news! The ALLen Reads books are available to check out from the Allen Public Library. They are on a red cart by the Information Desk and will remain there throughout the fall programming. The main ALLen Reads book for 2018 is *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, and the companion books for younger readers are *A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love* and *Diana’s White House Garden* by Elisa Carbone.

ALLen Reads 2018 starts its programs in August, with ALLen Reads hosting two movies that tie in to many of the themes in our books.

At 7 p.m., Monday, August 6, we will present *The Dolphin Tale*, starring Harry Conick Jr., Ashley Judd, and Charles Martin Smith immediately after the Allen Diversity Council’s Writers’ Award Ceremony (see next page) in the Allen Library Auditorium.

And at 7 p.m., Monday August 13, we will present Black Beauty, starring Sean Bean, Alan Cumming, David Thewlis.

Come enjoy the movies and stay tuned for more programs in September and October, including a visit by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, the author of our main book!

Want to help in the planning of all the programs? Email ajmoghe@gmail.com—we’d love to have you aboard!
INVITES ALL YOUNG WRITERS FROM 1st TO 6th GRADE DURING THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR TO PARTICIPATE IN A

WRITING CONTEST:
MY FAVORITE PLACE IN THE WORLD

Writing topic: A place in the world that you have visited or would like to visit and why. Or a place from your country of heritage. Include pictures and/or drawings to illustrate your writing if you would like.

Length: 200 – 500 words. Please include name, age, grade and parent’s contact information.

Deadline: July 22nd 2018.

Submission: Please send your writings to Allen Diversity Council:

Email: allendiversitycouncil@gmail.com or Mailing address: 2359 Boxwood Drive, Allen, TX 75013.

An Award Ceremony will be held at Allen Library Auditorium at 6:30 pm on Monday August 6th 2018. Parents and children are welcome to stay for a fun Family Movie Night starting at 7pm.

1 First Prize: $100 Visa Card
2 Second Prizes: $50 Visa Card for each winner

The Writing Contest is sponsored by:

If you have any questions, please leave a comment on our FB page “Allen Diversity Council” or contact Huong Connolly at huongb@hotmail.com. Thank you.
The Arts @ APL

During Summer 2018, Allen Public Library has hosted two arts education programs for youth sponsored by Friends of the Allen Public Library as part of our Arts @ APL series. At the henna and temporary tattoo art workshop, 40 tweens made their own henna designs and also received henna to continue practicing at home. For the pressed flower art workshop, instructor Kelsey Glass showed the 16 teen attendees some examples of her work, talked about the different kinds of presses, types of flowers, where to get flowers, how to lay the flowers before you press them, etc. The teens made ice cream cones with the materials provided. Kelsey also supplied take-home kits for each teen. She will be visiting again later this summer for an adult workshop on the same topic.

The next Arts @ APL program is Theatre de Marionette, “Silly Strings”, Saturday, August 25, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Le Theatre de Marionette’s family-friendly Silly Strings is a fast-paced variety show highlighting some of the wonder and magic of marionette puppetry. Featuring a roller-skating puppet who’s clumsy on his feet, a fuzzy blue spider that’s ready for her walk, a trapeze flying bear, Elvis, Michael Jackson and a dancing Skeleton that just can’t keep it together, Silly Strings delivers a seemingly endless variety of familiar characters and silly acts that will make you laugh because they’re just...well...silly! The show lasts 30 minutes, followed by hands-on experience with the puppets! Recommended for ages 5 and up, in the Auditorium. Free tickets available at the Auditorium 30 minutes prior to the program.

Did you know... Most of the programs shown in our newsletter will be on youtube. Go to https://www.youtube.com/user/AllenCityTV a few weeks after the show.