Coming Up at the Library

3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 5, The Legend of Nan Xia puppet theater
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, The Arts @ APL Improv Workshop
7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 9, Sassy and Savvy Texas Dames
7:30 p.m., Friday, May 17, Allen Community Band Spring Concert
Friday, May 24, Summer Reading Clubs begin
2:30 p.m. & 3:45 p.m., Wednesday, May 29, The Arts @ APL Silly String
2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 6, The Arts @ APL Sew an UglyDoll
7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 6, The Arts @ APL From Me to You – A Letter Writing Meet-Up
3:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 11, The Arts @ APL Painting Mugs with Walls of Clay
3:00 p.m., Thursday, June 13, The Arts @ APL Painting Bowls with Walls of Clay
7:30 p.m., Friday, June 14, Singapore Slingers
7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 18, Smith Ballew films Rawhide and Hawaiian Buckaroo
7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 22, Anne and John Gifford speak about Texas courthouses
6:30-10:30 p.m., June 28, Friday, Teen Anime Con
3:00 p.m., Saturday, June 29, America’s first woman astronaut, Wally Funk
7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 3, Paul Reed, Vietnam veteran

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.”

Friends News

The Friends of the Allen Public Library held our annual meeting on Thursday, April 25. We elected a new vice president—Patti Voga—and secretary—Dana Abling. The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Liz Stewman.

The Friends also recognized two Friends who have made significant contributions to our community. One was our outgoing city manager Peter Vargas, and the other was Tom Keener, who has been with the City of Allen for 35 years, and has contributed so much of his time to the Friends’ programs. More on two of these honorees can be found on p. 6.

The Friends award a $1,000 scholarship each year to one or more graduates who have actively volunteered at the library. To the right is our 2019 scholarship recipient, Jose Marquez, with our president Susan Jackson. In the fall Jose will attend UTD, studying engineering.
The Legend of Nan-Xia

Puppet shows are exciting for children but can be just as thrilling for adults. Witness the energy of Taiwanese puppet theater and the world’s first projection mapping puppet show at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, May 5, at the Library. The Shinergy Puppet Show Troupe from Taiwan incorporates modern audio and visual technology to creating spectacular imagery and sensational music for the audience to experience its thrilling 4-D effects.

How will the conflict end between the two most powerful Wulin sects? The puppet show “The Legend of Nan-Xia,” tells the story of a kung fu master’s excursion in the quest for help from several mysterious skilled fighters after learning about an imminent threat from an evil warlord. It ends with an inevitable battle and several unexpected revelations. Built on a fascinating story, the show is full of action and humorous dialogues and is suitable for the whole family.

The Allen Public Library is one of 15 venues in the United States selected by the Taiwan’s Overseas Community Affairs Council to feature this outstanding display of puppetry. Sponsored by Taiwan’s Overseas Community Affairs Council.

Texas Dames: Sassy & Savvy Women Throughout Lone Star History

Savor the tales of “Texas Dames,” women who managed sprawling ranches, built towns, organized major banks, and locked adversaries in a wine cellar at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 9, at the Library. From Angelina of the Hasisai, interpreter for the Spanish, and sharpshooter Sally Scull, to Dr. Claudia Potter, America’s first female anesthesiologist, and Birdie Harwood, first female mayor in the United States, historian Carmen Goldthwaite has been profiling Texas women and their valuable contributions.

Chris Enss, author of Bedside Book of Bad Girls: Outlaw Women of the Midwest, declares, “She recounts the lives of driven ladies such as Peggy McCormick, a rancher who fearlessly stood up to Texas revolutionary leader Sam Houston by demanding he bury on her land, the bodies of the Mexican men he had shot in battle. She examines the lives of professional gambler Lottie Deno, timber queen Sallie Gibbs and “Savior of the Alamo” Clara Driscoll. The experiences of these women who gave their lives to settle the Texas frontier tells the stories about the Texas Enss loves for western magazines, community newspapers, and women’s organizations around the state.

Digital online magazines.

Allen Public Library is excited to announce the addition of RB Digital online magazines. Patrons can download copies of their favorite magazines on their devices. Learn more and see what magazines we have available at AllenLibrary.org/DigitalLibrary.
Allen Community Band

Spring Concert

The Allen Community Band (ACB), under the direction of Craig Logan, concludes its Sixth Season with its Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 17, at the Library.

The Band will honor those that have fallen, in accordance with the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday, by opening with a traditional patriotic selection. Following will be Music from the 10-part series, Band of Brothers, with its beautiful and almost haunting melodies. The epic miniseries tells the story of Easy Company, 506th Regiment, of the 101st Airborne Division, U.S. Army. This elite rifle company that parachuted into France early on D-Day morning, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and captured Hitler's Eagle's Nest at Berchtesgaden.

Meaning "unconquerable," Invictus is a ponderous and dramatic march from the "King" of all march composers and it lives up to its title and sets the stage for the remainder of the concert. It’s one of Karl King’s most exciting circus marches!

Guest Conductor Dr Lee Hudson takes the podium to conduct Hail to the Fleet, written by Richard Malty for Fleet Week at the major Naval Base in Virginia. Dr Hudson was privileged to be one of the first to perform the march as a young student musician. Paul Hindemith was one of the leading composers of the mid-20th Century. His compositions range from chamber music to full symphonies. The Band will perform the fourth movement of Symphonic Metamorphosis on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber.

Concluding the concert, the Band will perform John Phillip Sousa’s Stars and Stripes Forever, featuring piccolo soloist, Julie Bell.

The Friends Need Help

We’d love to have you help out the Friends in whatever way you can. The more people that are involved, the better the programs we can provide for the library and the community. Here are some places you could help.

- Social Media Chair: posts Friends events and other items of interest to social media outlets, including Facebook and Twitter. Works closely with programs chair and website chair and attend monthly board meetings. Time commitment: 3-4 hours per month
- Website Chair: is responsible for updating and maintaining the Friends website. Works closely with all board members and attends monthly board meetings. Time commitment: 8-10 hours per month
- Jr. Friends Coordinator: heads up a group for children ages 11-13. Many varied activities can be included and meetings are held monthly at the library. Time commitment: 3-4 hours per month
- Allen Reads Chair: heads our one book committee. Committee chair will lead the group in book choice, program planning and implementation. Is responsible for fundraising, publicity and representing the group in the community. Time commitment: 8-10 hours per month, more in the program month.

Not ready to lead a committee? The Friends have a wide variety of committee and program opportunities available. Below are just a few other ways you can get involved:
- Hospitality Committee: this committee provides lunch for the library staff several times a year and is always happy to have homemade dishes, salads and desserts donated. Set up and clean up help are also needed.
- Program Helpers: The Friends sponsor many great programs that take place in the auditorium. Help is always appreciated before and during the programs. You may be asked to act as an usher, ticket taker, door greater or information person.
- Allen Reads: this Committee is looking for members to help pick books, plan and implement programs. Fundraising, publicity and community liaison help is also needed.

So please, if you’d like to help in any way, email Susan Jackson at susanmjackson@yahoo.com.
Singapore Slingers

Prepare for daring grooves of original jazz with The Singapore Slingers at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 14, at the Library. Combining the rhythms of the ’20s and ’30s with the edgy energy of contemporary music, The Singapore Slingers captivate audiences with amazing fox trots, waltzes, marches, one-steps, two-steps, rags, tangos and rumbas.

For a special treat, Michele Guess and Marcela Mercer, granddaughters of the famed vocalist and actor Smith Ballew will introduce the concert. Smith Ballew recorded the song As Time Goes By for The Columbians Dance Orchestra in 1931. The song achieved legendary status when Sam (Dooley Wilson) performed it for the classic film Casa Blanca. Dave Oliphant, author of Texas Jazz and Jazz Mavericks of the Lone Star State, will discuss Smith Ballew’s musical legacy via Skype.

The Singapore Slingers has performed at the Sons of Hermann Hall, Kessler Theatre, Pocket Sandwich Theatre and a host of festivals throughout the nation. In 2011, the Dallas Observer declared The Singapore Slingers the Best Pre-Swing Jazz Orchestra and “the city’s coolest quirkiest retro jazz group.”

Specializing in the baritone and bass sax, director Matt Tolentino is a true multi-instrumentalist, equally at home on accordion, clarinet, tuba, piano, tenor guitar, banjo, and saxophones. He brings the music of yesterday to the audience of today with playful authenticity.

Smith Ballew Films

After departing the music industry, Smith Ballew became a singing cowboy.

Two of Smith Ballew’s films, Rawhide and Hawaiian Buckaroo, will be featured in the library’s auditorium at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 18. Ballew considered these two films among his favorites.

Rawhide (1938). Starring baseball legend Lou Gehrig and Smith Ballew, this is the only Hollywood film in which Gehrig made a screen appearance, playing himself as a vacationing ballplayer visiting his sister on a ranch in the fictional town of Rawhide, Montana. Rawhide premiered in March 1938 in St. Petersburg, Florida while the New York Yankees were in town for their annual spring training.


Texas Courthouses

Visit the courthouses of Texas from the comfort of the Library’s auditorium at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 22. Texas has 254 counties and each courthouse has a unique history.

From the majestic edifices of Bexar, Comal, Caldwell, Dallas and Tarrant counties to modern construction, join Allen residents John and Anne Gifford as they give a guided tour. Hear the stories of the demise of clock towers and their resurgence. Hudspeth County contains the only county that has an adobe exterior. When asked about their favorite courthouse, their response was unanimous – Caldwell County because of its beauty. See photograph.

Anne and John are members of the Allen Heritage Guild. A retired school teacher, Anne is a board member of the Texas Lakes Trail and assists the Collin County Historical Society with grant writing.

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.
America’s First Female Astronaut
Wally Funk

Most Americans can name at least one of the Mercury 7 astronauts who were the first to fly into outer space, but what about the women who were considered for this endeavor? Wally Funk had “the right stuff” but was denied the possibility of traveling into outer space because of her gender.

In the early ‘60s, thirteen women endured secret tests to determine if they could become astronauts. The Mercury 13, as they are now known, underwent and passed the same rigorous mental and physical tests as the men of Mercury 7.

Featured on the BBC, NPR and Netflix, Ms. Funk is in high demand as a speaker. An aviator for over 63 years and a member of the Mercury 13, she will share her story 3:00 p.m., Saturday, June 29, at the Library.

Women lobbied the White House and Congress for inclusion of women in the astronaut program, even appearing before a congressional committee. The highly respected playwright Clare Booth Luce wrote an article for LIFE magazine publicizing the Mercury 13 women and criticizing NASA. Ms. Funk will reveal the “excuses” given as to why women could not be selected. As a result of this bias, the Soviet Union beat America in 1963 with the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova. This could easily have been Wally.

Viet Nam Veteran Paul Reed

Hear the harrowing combat stories and the later path to healing of Vietnam veteran Sergeant Paul Reed at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 3, at the Library. Sgt. Reed is the author of Kontum Diary, that includes a lengthy forward by the late General William Westmoreland. Under the direction of Kevin Thomas, Plano New Horizons Band will begin the program with a medley of patriotic music.

Serving from February 1968 to February 1969, Sgt. Reed participated in horrific military campaigns in which he recalls, “the threat of venomous snakes and death from snipers were constant.” Although he was a recipient of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Parachute Badge and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, like many military men and women at that time, Sgt. Reed was confronted by offensive and rude comments upon returning to the United States.

A Dallas native, Sgt. Reed soon experienced classic symptoms of PTSD—depression, anxiety, alcohol abuse, relationship failures, and nightmares. Then his mother returned a box of materials he had captured from a Vietcong soldier and left with her years before. The contents of that box—the writings of that Vietcong soldier—would change his life forever. These writings led to peace, healing, and an unlikely intercontinental friendship, featured in Kontum Diary.

Today, Sgt. Reed mentors and counsels veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Viet Nam. In 2017, he received the Congressional Veteran Commendation, presented to him by former Congressman Sam Johnson.

Save the Date

Saturday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m., at Blue House Too at Watter’s Creek. The Allen Library Endowment Fund will host its annual fundraiser to “Celebrate the Future of the Allen Library.” Wine, chocolate and other goodies in support of STEAM learning at the library. Questions? Email becky.breining@yahoo.com.
Thanks to Tom Keener

Tom Keener started working for the City of Allen 35 years ago, in 1984. He started in Planning and Development, but in 2002 found his home in our Library. His personal history in the entertainment industry made him the perfect person to jumpstart the program highlighting the traveling exhibit organized by the Smithsonian's Natural Museum of Natural History, "Listening to the Prairie". Twenty cities across the United States were selected as host and Allen was the only city from Texas chosen to participate in the exhibit, which gave us the opportunity for many prairie-related programs at the “old” library. Then, about the time that program was winding down, his experience enabled the Friends and the library to start the “Bach to Books” program that is still ongoing today and brings so many amazing educational and music programs to the City. His persistence in getting quality programs has brought many outstanding programs to our community.

And our ALLen Reads program has also benefited immensely from his knowledge and persistence. We have relied on him to give assistance with all the ALLen Reads scheduling in years past, and he always exceeds our expectations.

In conclusion we would just like to thank Tom for all he has done for the community and the library.

Volunteer of the Year

Alison McCullough, the chair for the Ongoing Book Sale at the library, presented the award for Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

“I count myself lucky to have such a volunteer to work with who is dedicated and gives her time for the betterment of our Library and therefore our community. She always makes herself available to help out when needed.”

Other Library Programs

Our library has so many new programs, we thought we better let you know of a few upcoming ones, even though they aren’t Friends-related.

From Me to You – A Letter Writing Meet-Up, 7-8 p.m., Thursday, June 6, 1st Floor Meeting Room

When’s the last time you received or wrote a letter? At this come-and-go program, Trina Curran will inspire you to write a letter to a friend, family member or someone who might just need some “happy mail.” All supplies provided, including vintage stationery, postcards and stamps.

Free; no registration. Ages 16+; younger children welcome with an adult

Teen Anime Con, Friday, June 28, 6:30-10:30 p.m.

for teens going into grades 7-12. Come see Kevin Lewis talk about cosplay and demonstrate some of his makeup skills at our own library!

https://www.cityofallen.org/1500/Anime-Con
The Arts @ APL – Youth

Silly Strings
Wed., May 29, 2:30 p.m. & 3:45 p.m., Auditorium
Puppetry comes to life during this stage show by Le Theatre de Marionette

Sew an UglyDoll
Thurs., June 6, 2-3 p.m., Children’s Program Room
Learn to hand sew your own UglyDoll. All materials provided. Limited to 3. Ticketed event.
For kids going into grades 4-6

Painting Mugs with Walls of Clay
Children’s Program Room, Tues., June 11, 3-4 p.m.
Children’s Program Room
For teens going into grades 7-12

Painting Bowls with Walls of Clay
Children’s Program Room, Thurs., June 13, 3-4 p.m.
Paint your own ice cream bowl! Walls of Clay will show you how and take your piece to be kiln-fired. Your work of art will be glazed and ready for pick up at the Library in less than two weeks! Limited to 30. Ticketed event.
For kids going into grades 4-6

The Arts @ APL – Adults

Improv Workshop
Auditorium, 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 7
Get bold, get loose and get silly as you participate in this improv workshop with performers from The Comedy Arena of McKinney.

Summer Reading Clubs
It’s that time of year again. School will be out soon and summer Reading Club begins Friday, May 24 and runs through Sunday, July 28. Printed calendars are available at the Library and include the activities for all ages (children, tweens, teens and adults). Everything is also listed on the website by age group – go to “program calendar.”

https://www.cityofallen.org/1460/Childrens-Summer-Reading-Club

https://www.cityofallen.org/1461/Teen-Summer-Reading-Club

https://www.cityofallen.org/1459/Adult-Summer-Reading

New and Returning Members—March/April
Thanks for Being a Friend!

Walaa Abas  
Diane Ballard  
Jenni Bernal  
Rosa Berry  
Jack & Angie Bick  
Geoffrey Bodle  
Erica & David Bourne  
Joel Budnik  
Maricele Cardenas  
Hannah Chase  
Jennifer Erickson  
Christina Estrada  
Meochia Evans

Lidia Franks  
John Gannon  
Lawrence Edward Griggs  
Jennifer Grilliette  
James & Brandi Gross  
Al and Mel Hebert  
Jerry Hubbard  
Yuling Idrovo  
Stacy Karla Jackson  
Yvonne Kafov  
Jessica Lance  
Christina Larson  
Abraham Magana  
Adeela Malik  
Alyce M. McKenzie  
Keysa McQuiston  
Amanda Merritt  
Edward Mitri  
Teresa Kwai Moon  
Joanne Mott  
Benneth Nwobasi  
Deborah Ochoa  
David & Lynda Olson  
Kim Pattie  
Sara Raffiuddin  
Theresa & Mike Remakel  
Marie Renfro  
Cathy Rogers  
Cheri Sammataro  
Betzabeth Santana  
Deborah Schneider  
Uzma Sheikh  
Farida Shipchandler  
Galyn Vicki Sledge  
Christopher Smith  
Karyl Snyder  
Mackedie Spiker  
Jennifer Stratis  
Anusha Tummala  
Debbie & Chuck Vavra