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BETWEEN THE PAGES
A Publication of the Friends of the Allen Public Library

September/October 2019
Volume XXI, Issue V

Coming Up at the Library

NOW through Friday, September 6, Back to School Book Sale
7:30 p.m. Friday, September 13, Shake Anderson
3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 15, Mayan Grupo Pakal
7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 19, Bobbie Wygant
7:30 p.m. Friday, September 27, Allen Folk Festival
10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 25, Arts@APL, Faux Stained Glass
4:45 p.m. Monday, September 30, Recycled Art Windmills (ALLen Reads program)
3:00 p.m. Sunday October 6, Concert for Young Audiences (ALLen Reads program)
Pre-concert activities start at 2:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 9, ALLen Reads Community Book Discussion
7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 10, Civil War Diary of Lucy Pier Stevens
7:30 p.m. Friday, October 11, Los Aztecs
4:45 p.m. Tuesday, October 15, Arts@APL for Youth, Webtoons
7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 17, T-Bone Whacks and Caviar Snacks...
7:30 p.m. Friday, October 18, Dallas Hua Yun Chinese Orchestra
2:00 p.m. Saturday October 19, ALLen Reads author Brian Mealer
6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 19 (Blue House Too) ALEF Annual Chocolate and Wine fundraiser
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 22, Movie The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
10:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 23, Arts@APL, Paint Your Own Mug
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, When Spirits Sat for the Camera

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.”

ALLen Reads has chosen its 2019 book and will welcome Bryan Mealer, co-author of the New York Times bestseller The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, at 2:00 pm Saturday, October 19th, at the Library.

See pages 4 and 5 for lots of details about all the ALLen Reads programs. The first thing you need to do is head to the library to check out The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. The ALLen Reads cart is right by the Information Desk with copies of all three age levels of the book—adult, young adult and children’s.

HUGE used book sale now through September 6 in the 1st Floor Meeting Room during Library business hours.
You never know what you might find, from cookbooks to woodworking and everything in between. These book sales help us provide more programs at the library—thank you for supporting the Friends!

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

Talk about cool music!

Nominated for four Grammys, Shake Anderson has played with or produced for a number of performers including Curtis Mayfield, Ruben Studdard and the Indigo Girls. You can hear him perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, September 13, at the Library.

Performing in Carnegie Hall, The Apollo Theatre and Radio City Music Hall, this multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, and producer has also worked on numerous films. As a result, he garnered gold and platinum albums for his work on Blue Streak, Dr. Doolittle, Boys on the Side, and Austin Powers. Shake spent six years as musical director for soul music legends “The Impressions,” and later formed the Grammy-winning gospel group New Breed with Israel Houghton.

Once confronting serious illnesses and spending nine months in the hospital, life has not always been easy for Shake. He observes, “Once you’ve been to the edge, the middle don’t matter.”

Mayan Grupo Pakal

Grupo Pakal offers insight and new appreciation for the highly advanced Mayan culture through festive dance rituals and elaborate ceremonial regalia. They will perform 3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 15, at the Library.

With a stunning wardrobe and elaborately feathered headdresses, each a handcrafted work of art, Grupo Pakal captures the essence of the advanced Mayan culture. According to ancient tradition, each unique design utilizes natural materials including leather, shell, semi-precious stones, and exotic feathers. Audiences of all ages are amazed and delighted by Grupo Pakal performances.

Much of the contemporary rural population of the Yucatán Peninsula and Chiapas, in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, is Mayan by descent. Contrary to the popular myth that the Mayan people "disappeared," millions still live in the region, and many still speak one of the Mayan family of languages.

Artistic director Ricardo Alarcón’s training in Mayan ceremonial dance was passed down from family tradition. A descendant of the Aztec Indians of Mexico, he represented Mayan culture for more than a decade at Xcaret, Mexico’s popular ecological park located in the Mayan Riviera.

The Library will be closed September 1-2 for Labor Day!
Allen Folk Festival

This year’s Allen Folk Festival is being held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, September 27, at the Library and features an incredible performance by Mathew Bell and the Next of Kin.

A popular performer at diverse venues throughout North Texas such as Deep Ellum and the Frisco Rail Yard, Mathew sings straight from the heart. The beauty of folk music is its limitless ability to evolve. Mathew Bell is no exception with his eclectic style that offers a unique blend of soul music, but “maintaining the lyricism of a lot of folk songs,” observes Mathew. An original song writer, Mathew states, “The narrative became sort of the theme of my song-writing.”

A band that values audience interaction, both from the stage (telling the song story) or becoming acquainted with guests after the show, bonding with guests is their goal.

Combining mellow voices and a variety of instruments, Mathew Bell and the Next of Kin will deliver a mesmerizing performance that possesses a mystique and style that defy musical formula.

Television’s Bobbie Wygant

Bobbie Wygant spent more than seven decades interviewing thousands of celebrities as Dallas/Ft. Worth’s KXAS-TV Channel 5 arts and entertainment reporter. Her diverse list of icons includes Julie Andrews, Bette Davis, Dustin Hoffman, Debbie Reynolds, Denzel Washington, and Mark Hammill.

Bobbie will share stories about her experiences with luminaries and discuss her book Talking to the Stars: Bobbie Wygant’s Seventy Years in Television, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 19, at the Library.

Started in 1948 by publisher magnate Amon G. Carter, WBAP (now KXAS) was the first television station west of the Mississippi. Bobbie was there from the beginning.

Like all members on that early Channel 5 staff, Bobbie assumed multiple tasks, including writing copy, performing live on-air skits, and presenting commercials. Her ability to connect with celebrities soon became apparent. Even though stars may assume extroverted roles on the screen, they can be shy in real life. Evoking insightful answers from reticent celebrities is a special gift Bobbie possesses. Don’t miss Bobbie’s account of a particularly tedious interview with Julie Christie.

Bobbie will also reflect on her personal observations of television broadcasting, as it emerged as a family-owned WBAP-TV, and offer fascinating insights into today’s multi-billion-dollar industry.
ALLen Reads is looking forward to sharing our 12th annual One Book tradition with the community as we present *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, the immensely engaging and inspiring true account of an enterprising African teenager who constructed a windmill from scraps to create electricity for his entire community.

Born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was a mystery, a land withered by drought and hunger, a place where hope and opportunity were hard to find, William Kamkwamba had read about windmills and dreamed of building one that would bring electricity and water to his village. This is the remarkable story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity.

ALLen Reads will host Bryan Mealer, the co-author of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday October 19, in the Library for a program about this amazing story and young man. Bryan Mealer is the author of *The Kings of Big Spring*, *Muck City* and the *New York Times* bestseller *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* – written with William Kamkwamba. Bryan has appeared on National Public Radio and is also the author of *All Things Must Fight to Live*, which chronicled his years covering the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo for the Associated Press and Harper’s. His other work has appeared in *Texas Monthly*, *Esquire*, the *Guardian*, and the *New York Times*.

See next page for more ALLen Reads programs.

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**ALLen Reads Presents**  
**Award Winning Bryan Mealer**

Americans love stories involving innovative inventions that were constructed in basements or garages. This narrative involves the persistence and ingenuity of a schoolboy who gathered scrap metals and bicycle parts and built a windmill that brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land in a Malawian village.

ALLen Reads will feature Bryan Mealer, author of *The New York Times* Bestseller *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, written with William Kamkwamba. At 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 19 at the Library. This book has been translated into more than a dozen languages. Released as a major motion picture, the film had its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

Book signing with Mr. Mealer will take place immediately following the program.

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**Faux Stained Glass**  
10-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 25  
1st Floor Meeting Room  
Back by popular demand! Create your own stained-glass art using a piece of plexiglass, mod podge and glass paint. All supplies provided.  
Free; no registration  
Limited to 30  
Ages 16+

**Walls of Clay Paint Your Own Coffee Mug**  
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesday, October 23  
2nd Floor Program Room  
Join us as artists from Walls of Clay teach you how to paint a 16-oz clay mug. After they take the mugs to their workshop to glaze and fire them, you can pick up your mug two weeks after program. All supplies provided.  
Free; no registration. Limited to 24.

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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.
More ALLen Reads Programs:

**Community Reader Opportunities:** Leading up to the Author Visit (p.4), members of the community are invited to read this year’s selection, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* to students in the Allen ISD elementary schools. Volunteer Background checks are required and can be obtained by going to allenisd.org/human resources, then click on the register to be a volunteer tab. Reading opportunities take place during the school day. Please email allentxfriends@gmail.com for more information.

**Recycled Art Windmills** Monday, September 30, 4:45 – 5:30 p.m.
Recommended for grades K – 3 with their caregivers in the Children’s Program Room. Create unique works of art out of recycled materials to celebrate this year’s Allen Reads book, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

**Concerts for Young Audiences** Sunday October 6th, 3:00 p.m.
The Allen Philharmonic returns to the stage in the Civic Auditorium of the Allen Public Library with our fall Concerts for Young Audiences program. This free concert is certain to delight kids of all ages! In partnership with the ALLen Reads One Book program, we will share an hour of music all about science, invention, and technology. Based on themes from this year’s book selection, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* highlights of the program include Leroy Anderson’s *The Typewriter*, Robert Smith’s *The Great Locomotive Chase*, as well as the second movement of Florence Prices’ *Ethiopia’s Shadow*. Our Conductor Ryan Ross will present a fun and visual exploration of how composers actually cobble together ideas to create a new piece of music.

**Pre-concert activities begin at 2:00 p.m.**

**ALLen Reads Community Book Discussion** 7-8 p.m.
Wednesday, October 9, 1st Floor Board Room

**Allen Library Endowment Fund’s Annual Chocolate and Wine Fundraiser**
Saturday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m.
Blue House Too, 934 Watters Creek Boulevard, Allen, TX 75013 (Ticketed event)
This annual fundraiser supports the Allen Public Library’s STEAM learning programs and welcomes special guest, ALLen Reads guest author Bryan Mealer, whose book *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* was a *New York Times* best-seller. In addition to chocolate and wine from CocoaVina, light hors œuvres will be served.
The cost is $125 per person. Checks may be made payable to the Allen Library Endowment Fund and mailed to 404 Watson Drive, Allen, TX 75002. For more information visit www.allenlibraryendowment.org or email us at allenlibraryendowfund@gmail.com.

**Movie Night at the Allen Public Library:**
*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 22
The ALLen Reads One Book program concludes with the showing of the Netflix film *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Chiwetel Ejiofor, an English actor of Nigerian descent, made his feature debut as a writer and director of this film, drawing attention to Kamkwamba’s story of building the windmill and depicting the boy’s family life and the perils of farming in early-2000s Malawi.
Another Year Finds Me in Texas: The Civil War Diary of Lucy Pier Stevens

Civil War diaries offer a treasure trove for historians. Providing insights into the lifestyles and challenges that confronted people, Lucy Pier Stevens’ diary is no exception. However, Lucy’s story has an ironic twist. She was a Yankee—an Ohioan stranded in Austin County, Texas—when hostilities erupted, and returning to her home was impossible.

In this volume, carefully edited by Vicki Tongate, Lucy describes life in Austin County from January 1863 through her return to Ohio in May 1865. Ms. Tongate will discuss Lucy’s life in Texas at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 10, at the Library.

Twenty-one-year-old Lucy Pier Stevens came to Austin County to visit family in 1859. Her aunt and uncle, Lu Merry Pier and James Bradford Pier, had settled in Stephen Austin’s colony in 1835, a year before the Republic Texas was formed.

Concern for the war and loss of life permeates the dairy. Deadly outbreaks of measles, typhoid, and yellow fever threaten her community. The sad incidence of infant mortality was noted, and she mourns the loss of her namesake, Sallie Lu Bell.

During the last months of the war, Lucy planned her return to Ohio.

Los Aztex

Delight to the Latino Americano sound of the Grammy Award-winning Los Aztex, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 11, at the Library. This six-piece group, lead by the husband and wife team of vocalist Sarah Fox and accordionist Joel Guzman, formed the nucleus and inspiration for RCA’s release of Los Super Seven, featuring Joe Ely, Freddy Fender, Flaco Jimenez, Ruben Ramos, Rick Trevino, and Los Lobos’ David Hidalgo and Cesar Rosas.

With echoes of jazz, Tejano, country, salsa, R&B, and rock, Los Aztex is a new breed of Latin bands whose music incorporates roots music from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Central America. The resulting bilingual blend is a unique across-the-border sound that keeps the unusual Latino and American synthesis seamless.

Joel Guzman teaches at the University of Texas and directs the Tex-Mex Conjunto Ensemble. Sarah Fox uses her versatile and expressive voice like a jazz singer, twisting melody with charm. Los Aztex has performed at the House of Blues, in both Los Angeles and New Orleans, and The Bowery in New York, as well as The Conan O’Brien show.

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Join Sharon and Tom Hudgins for a discussion about their new book, *T-Bone Whacks & Caviar Snacks: Cooking with Two Texans in Siberia & the Russian Far East* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 17, at the Library.

Even non-cooks will enjoy the stunning photos and stories of the Asian side of Russia found in this 2018 Gourmand World Cookbook Award finalist. The first cookbook in America about the foods of this region, it is filled with fascinating food history, cultural insights, and personal stories, along with the 140 recipes.

Following the program, the audience will be invited to sample Russian desserts from the cookbook.

An award-winning author of five books, Sharon Hudgins has written more than 900 food-and-travel articles, including a story about her personal interview with Julia Child. Sharon has also been a lecturer on National Geographic, Smithsonian, and Viking ocean cruises to Russia.

Tom Hudgins has been teaching at Collin College since 1999 and is an accomplished cook.

Both authors were professors with the University of Maryland's programs in several countries of Europe and Asia, including Russia where they lived, worked, and traveled for two years.

Books will be available for signing.

"Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soul... but I must confess that I love you only because you are a prelude to my beloved October."  
— Peggy Toney Horton
When Spirits Sat for the Camera

Spirit photography is the intentional use of cameras to capture ghosts or spirits around a subject. This Halloween learn more about the historical roots of spirit photography from Jack and Beverly Wilgus at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, at the Library.

Photography became more accessible to the common folks after the end of the Civil War. Before beginning his career as a spirit photographer, William Mumler was employed as a jewelry engraver in Boston, practicing amateur photography as a hobby. He discovered his deceptive technique by accident, when he saw a second person in a photograph he took of himself. Using double exposure, a full-time career as a spirit photographer began.

Due to the enormous death toll from the Civil War, thousands of families sought to communicate with their loved ones. An inquiring person would sit for a photograph, and the final product would be the image of that person along with an apparition assumed to be the deceased friend or family member. This “skill” proved so lucrative that other photographers soon joined the immense market for spirit photographs.

Jack and Beverly Wilgus amassed over 30,000 historical spirit photographs and donated these, along with other historical photographs, to the DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University.

Support Friends of the Allen Public Library.
When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

New and Returning Members—July/August
Thanks for Being a Friend!

Sybil Aniyan  Crystal L. Hargrow  Tracy Moss  Scott Rowe
Becky Breining  Lorna Holley  Mark Munyan  Russ & Jo Schenck
Alvunia Brooks  Gary Wayne Hull  Brittney Murphy  Monica Sehnert
Ed & Marge Bryan  David Isom  Janis Nasseri  Mavis M. Sergeant
Kathi Camp  Anuradha Krishnatry  Lon Nickles  Geetha Thondar
Juan M. Cedillo  Geri Anne Larimer  Kelly O'Hair  GiNelle Traina
Anita Cepeda  Suzanne Lovett  Keith Owens  Dameng Ye
Emily Chappell  Junhna Lu  Naveen Pannala  Bee Youngblood
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