



BETWEEN THE PAGES

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www.allenfriends.com

Ongoing Book Sale Helps Friends Help Library

Look at some of the things that you—the Friends—financed for the library this past year:

- A Mac computer for video editing in partnership with the city;
- \$5,000 for audio books;
- \$2,000 to support ongoing education of our librarians;
- over \$4,000 for Bach to Books programs;
- \$5,000 for ALLEN Reads;
- And over \$6,000 for special programs and equipment to support the library.

Our biggest fundraiser is the ongoing book sale in the lobby of the library. Your contributions and purchases of these books make all these gifts to the library possible. We are heading into a new fiscal year, and everyone's support is more important than ever!

Don't forget, books can be dropped off at the circulation desk any time the library is open. Be sure to ask for tax forms.

Our other major source of funding is membership, so see the membership drive information below and encourage all your friends to be a FRIEND!

60 new Friends in 60 Summer Days!

Friends of the Allen Public Library Membership

Join June 8-August 6 and receive TWO one-day passes to the Don Rodenbaugh Natatorium. Passes will go quickly so sign up early!



BACH TO BOOKS Presents

Bobcats in Your Yard?



As urban growth encroaches into the prairie and creek areas, habitats for coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, and opossums are being destroyed. However, smells of steak bones, discarded meats, and pet foods attract these animals. Are bobcats and coyotes a threat? What can you do to protect your home, children and pets? Hear **Urban Wildlife Biologist Jessica Alderson at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 16, at the Allen Public Library.**

Ms. Alderson's discussion will address facts and myths relating to raccoons, opossums, bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions in an urban environment. Ms. Alderson will provide information on protecting your home, children, and pets from local wildlife that have become city dwellers. She will provide tips and illustrations for identifying paw prints, tracking signs of habitation, and will discuss rabies.

Ms. Alderson holds a B.S. and M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Texas A&M University. She also offers technical guidance on habitat restoration as well as creating wildlife habitats, known as Wildscapes.

"Having an urban wildlife plan for the City of Allen is so important as our city continues to grow, thus running all wildlife out of their natural habit and into residential areas," Animal Control Supervisor Vikki Francis states. "Wildlife is good for the environment. These creatures can either enrich a city by bringing a little bit of nature to the hustle and bustle or they can create a problem. To avoid a possible unpleasant situation, first, start by educating yourself so that you know what to do or not to do if wildlife shows up at your house."

Allen Parks Foundation President Jim Waldbauer declares, "We all know that urban sprawl has affected natural habitats and wildlife in our area. This program is a great way to hear from an expert about dealing with wildlife in our urban environment. The Allen Parks Foundation is proud to be a partner in making this unique program available to Allen citizens."

This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Allen Public Library Bach to Books, Keep Allen Beautiful, Allen Animal Control and Allen Parks Foundation. For more information, call 214-509-4911.

War Hero to Visit Library

At **7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 6**, Friends of the Allen Public Library Bach to Books features Lt. Col. James Megallas, author of *All the Way To Berlin: The Memoir of an Airborne Platoon Leader*.

On January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge, Lt. Megallas led his platoon of the 82nd Airborne Division on a surprise attack on a much larger advancing German force, killing and capturing a large number of the enemy and causing others to flee. In an act of fearless courage, Megallas singlehandedly destroyed an attacking German Mark V tank with two hand-held grenades. He then led the charge of his men and seized Herresbach, Belgium.

After serving 4 years as a rifle platoon leader during World War II, Megallas left the active Army and served for 16 years in the Army Reserve. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Star Medals, two Bronze Star Medals, and two Purple Hearts.

During World War II, Gen. James Gavin selected one 82nd officer—Lt. Megallas—to receive the Military Order of Willhelm Orange Lanyard from the Dutch Minister of War on behalf of his division. To this day, Megallas continues to inspire. In 2006, 61 years after that momentous battle, James "Maggie" Megallas set foot on a battlefield with fellow 82nd Airborne Division soldiers, this time in a current theatre of war—Afghanistan. Lt. Col. Megallas listened to their stories of their past year of deployment and shared with them his own experiences during World War II.

On Memorial Day, at 92 years old, James Megallas was in the Netherlands to be decorated by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix in a ceremony to once again receive the Military Order of Willhelm Orange Lanyard for outstanding service.



What are the Friends Reading Now?

Since I am passionate about reading, and I know most of you reading this article are, too, I recently decided to start a newsletter column on what the Friends of the library and members of the library staff are currently reading. All of us have literally thousands of (thankfully) good books to choose from and I've always found that making a decision on what to read next is easier when I get a recommendation from a friend. The following is a list of *recommended* from some of our "Friends" for this month:

Jane Bennett, head of ALLEN Reads committee is reading:

- The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent, historical fiction
- Pandora's Daughter by Iris Johansen, mystery/romance
- Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell, philosophy/social science

Rebecca Crookston, library staff member/Friends board liaison, is reading:

- The Book Thief by Marcus Zuzak, young adult fiction
- Standing in the Rainbow by Fanny Flagg, fiction
- Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer, fiction

Bonnie Jay, Friends newsletter editor has been reading a lot of historical fiction:

- The Agony and the Ecstasy by Irving Stone
- Signora Da Vinci by Robin Maxwell
- Queen's Bastard: a Novel by Robin Maxwell

Julie Smetzer, secretary – Friends Board has begun a journey to read a biography about every United States president who's been in office, starting with George Washington! Julie recommends the following biographies:

- His Excellency by Joseph J. Ellis (George Washington)
- John Adams by David McCullough
- American Sphinx by Joseph J. Ellis (Thomas Jefferson)

And I (**Ann Livingston**) am reading the following about India:

- Holy Cow: An Indian Adventure by Sarah Macdonald, autobiographical
- A Passage to India by E. M. Forster, fiction
- The White Tiger by Aravind Adiga, fiction

by Ann Livingston, President



You might ask, what does the ALLEN Reads Committee do until it's time for the next one-book program? Well, they use the time getting ready for the next year's book discussions and activities!

This summer, the committee will be hard at work submitting grants to help underwrite the book purchases, the visiting guests and other activities so central to ALLEN Reads; and everyone is reading lots of books, trying to choose what will be the best selection for the coming year. If **you've** read a really good book lately, let us know. Maybe your choice will be a future ALLEN Reads selection!

So, for the next couple months, relax, READ, and watch for the September/October newsletter to find out just what the newest selection(s) for ALLEN Reads will be. Have a great summer!!

Use the related reading lists, on this page and on our website, www.allenfriends.org, if you need some ideas for reading material and for more information on ALLEN Reads.

"Writing and reading is to me synonymous with existing."

Gertrude Stein

Allen Youth Are Involved at the Library

Junior Friends Play

On June 4, the Junior Friends of the Allen Public Library presented "What would Happen if a Ball of Yarn Drove you Weird?". Directed by Nina Bains, it was written and performed by the Junior Friends. Ms. Bain donated a copy of the play to the library. Kevin Vaught and Gary French provided audio visual effects.



Left to right-Hannah Parks, Arzoo Bains



First Row-Esha Bains; second row (left to right)-Hannah Marks, Heidi Zettl, and Arzoo Bains



First row-Esha Bains; second row (left to right)-Heidi Zettl, Hannah Marks, and Arzoo Bains; third row-Nina Bains, Director

Want to Help Our Junior Friends?

We need a Friend to have some fun with our Junior Friends, who are 4th-6th grade students. Our current Junior Friends leader will be retiring in September, as her children have grown up to the next age group. Please contact Ann Livingston at ann_livi@yahoo.com for more information.

VolunTeens

Thank you to the Allen Public Library's Summer VolunTeens who helped sort magazines and stock the Friends' ongoing booksale with magazines and books throughout the summer. Without their help we would be buried in donations!

The VolunTeens also help get the Friends newsletter ready to mail by putting on address labels and mailing seals.

The library's 150 Summer VolunTeens will be invited to an after-hours appreciation party on August 1, to thank them for all of their hard work. We'll have hot-dogs, games, a slideshow and more. The Friends of the Library will provide \$200 toward the cost of the party. We greatly appreciate their support for our local teens!

Debbie Vavra, Librarian

Attention Teens!

Looking for a place to make a difference in your community? The library is hosting a Teen Volunteer Job Fair, where representatives from the library, the City of Allen and other local organizations will be on hand to talk about teen volunteer opportunities for the upcoming school year, on Tuesday, July 28, 2009, 2-3:30 p.m., Allen Public Library, Civic Auditorium. Free; no registration required.

Contact Librarians Debbie Vavra (dvavra@cityofallen.org; 214-509-4913) or Michelle Tobler (mtobler@cityofallen.org; 214-509-4905) for details.

Texas: State of Flowing Water

What can you do to protect our rivers? View a free screening of “*Texas: The State of Flowing Water*,” **2 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, at 7 p.m., Monday, July 27, at the Allen Public Library Civic Auditorium**, to be followed by raffle drawings for great prizes.

What makes a river, a river? Flowing water. In Allen, all creeks and drainage ways connect to Rowlett Creek and flow to Lake Ray Hubbard and the Trinity River, ultimately connecting to the Gulf of Mexico. A river begins with rain, but its health begins in your kitchen sink, bathroom and lawns.

Matagorda Bay, an estuary along the Gulf of Mexico, is an area where fresh water mixes with salt water from the Gulf, creating a mosaic of marshes, tidal flats and open bays that nourishes an interdependent web of fish and wildlife.

- **Explore** the vital importance of water for people as well as the diverse bounty of Texas fish and wildlife that depend on it for survival.
- **Examine** the threats facing Texas’ water and what can be done to protect our most precious natural resource.
- **Learn** how simple steps people take collectively can do a lot to diminish future water shortages.



Keep Allen Beautiful Board Chair Kerry Craven says, “It is amazing how one individual can express interest in a local waterway, and then it soon translates to an entire neighborhood.” Keep Allen Beautiful supports residents’ efforts in protecting our natural resources with the Adopt-a-Waterway Program. Sometimes people just need to be provided with an opportunity to make a difference.”

This documentary was produced by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The City of Allen Water Conservation Division, Keep Allen Beautiful, and Friends of the Allen Public Library invite you for this special premiere screening. For questions, please call Andrea Smith at 214-509-4553 or email at asmith@cityoffallen.org.

Welcome New Children’s Manager - Deborah West -



Deborah West has been designated as Children’s Manager for the Allen Public Library, replacing the retiring Lee Sparks. A graduate of Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, TN, Deborah majored in Mass Communications. After college, she obtained a Masters of Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Most recently, she was Head of Youth Services at the Ashburn Library, part of the Loudoun County Public Library in Northern Virginia.

Beginning her career as a children’s librarian at the Winchester, Virginia, she was soon promoted to the position of children’s supervisor at the Handley Regional Library. Deborah states, “Reading has always been a part of my life and I have always enjoyed interacting with people of all ages and backgrounds. While I was working toward a Masters in English, a professor suggested I look into becoming a librarian. By the next semester, I transferred to a school that had a library program with an emphasis in children’s literature program. As a children’s librarian, I have the opportunity to introduce children to the world of books –what’s more fun than that!”

Deborah is an eclectic reader. Recent favorites include Laurie King’s *Mary Russell* novels and the *Sevenwaters Trilogy* by Juliet Marillier. For children’s authors, she admires Roald Dahl. *Diary of a Wombat* is one of her favorite picture books, as well as anything by Mo Willems.

As for movies, she enjoys any film directed by Alfred Hitchcock. For music, she admits that her iPod is full of 80s music.

At a fantasy dinner party, which four guests would she invite? Deborah declares, “definitely the author Christopher Moore. Having read a number of his books I always finish them wondering what he is like in person. Georgia O’Keeffe. Jenny Camarata. I was very fortunate to have Mrs. Camarata as my 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade teacher. Mary Poppins. As a child, I loved the movie and when I got to pick what movie we watched I inflicted Mary Poppins on my brother over and over.”

Although she has lived in Allen for only two months, she has enjoyed meeting the interesting people. In her spare time, Deborah enjoys knitting and of course, reading.

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THANKS TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS in May and June!

***DID YOU KNOW...
The Allen Public Library has an
Online Book Club***

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Sharon Allen | Susan Olinger |
| Mona Ashley | Alice Powell |
| Bec & Cal Calvin | Ben Skaggs |
| Maricela Cardenas | Jack Skaggs |
| Sangita Chandran | Laura Skaggs |
| Kerry Craven | Sam Skaggs |
| Mickey Deel | Sophie Skaggs |
| Merrolee & Don Dill | Janis Stillings |
| Steve Doubet | Denise Stufflebeam |
| Stuart Edamura | Ann Swain |
| Julia Elina | Regina & Keith Taylor |
| Kirsten Fair | Anne Vahimian |
| Mindy Fett | Kendal Wages |
| Shannon Hidalgo | Mary Walker |
| Rick Hopkins | Mrs. John W. Williams |
| Craig Leger | Stefanie Wofford |
| Cathy McClure | Michelle Wolf |
| Lisa McQuiddy | |

All you need is 5 minutes a day and an email address to join a FREE online book club!

Are you looking for great new authors? Looking for a great book? Would you like to sample a book before you commit to checking it out? Do you like Chocolate Chip cookies? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions you need to join one of the online book clubs.

How does it work? Every week we sample a new book. Monday through Friday, a quick 5 minute read is delivered to your email box and waiting for you to peruse with your morning cup of coffee. At the end of Friday's read the ending page number is given so when you pick up the book from the library you know where you left off.

Just call the library (214.509.4900) or go to http://www.cityofallen.org/departments/library/adult_programs/adultbook.htm for more information or to sign up.

The Friends of the Allen Public Library is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting the Allen Public Library by providing funds and programs that would not otherwise be possible.