



à la c'ARTE Newsletter

February, 2017

Exhibits/Events

Marie Renfro: Then and Now

Opening Night: Thurs, February 16, 6-8 pm

Exhibit open February 17 - April 16, 2017

Blue House Too, 934 Watters Creek Blvd

Color and creativity best describe Marie Renfro's paintings in oil or acrylic. A very versatile artist, Marie enjoys using various media to express her emotional response to a subject. Her work has received numerous outstanding awards and is included in major collections. She holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree from Texas Woman's University in Denton and has studied in several European countries.

The featured painting is Renfro's City Sidewalk II



20 under 20

Exhibit open till February 11, 2017

Blue House Too, 934 Watters Creek Blvd

Come and see the selected artwork of twenty talented, young artists from Allen and other cities such as Plano and Addison. 85 applicants from elementary schools to colleges submitted their work. It was a difficult decision for the judges to choose only 20 finalists.

The featured painting is by Ritika Diddi



Music

African-American Gospel

Sunday, February 12 @ 3:30 p.m.

Allen Public Library

Enjoy the enthusiasm and inspiration of African-American Gospel music with blues and gospel artist Sugar Boy Myers and his Praise Band. Walter Jackson will provide vocal accompaniment. Music historian Donte Ford will open the concert by giving a brief history of African-American

Gospel music. Arrive early to view rare archival footage of gospel icons such as Mahalia Jackson, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Five Blind Boys of Alabama and more.

Donte Ford, a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, is also a dynamic drummer, pianist, and organist.

[More Information](#)

Ella Fitzgerald is 100

Friday, February 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

Allen Public Library

Celebrate the centennial of the birth of Ella Fitzgerald! This free tribute to The First Lady in Song will be led by Andrew Griffith and will feature selections sung by Dallas vocalist Leena Conquest. Accompaniment will be provided by Roger Boykin on keyboard and Jonathan Fisher on acoustic bass.

One of greatest female jazz singers in the United States, Ella dazzled her fans for more than half a century. Garnering 13 Grammy awards, she sold over 40 million albums. Singing sultry ballads, sweet jazz and even imitating orchestral instruments, Ella partnered with iconic jazz greats such as Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

Performing as Ella, Leena is a recording artist steeped in the jazz tradition. Her voice and presence has an ability to transcend from classic to modern jazz.

[More Information](#)

Note-Ably North Texas Chorus

Miscellaneous events

- **NOW** - Register for Spring, Sweet Harmony Workshops & Performances - runs April 17 - May 22 with Community Performance opportunities following
- **Saturday, February 4 @ 8 am - 3 pm** - Chorus Garage Sale, 1313 Joshua Ct. Allen, TX 75002
- **Saturday, February 11 & Monday, February 13** - Final Auditions for Contest in March 2017 - Schedule your audition time today
- **Monday, March 13 @ 7:30 p.m.** - Friends & Family Night. Come Experience our Contest Package. WWII - Army Theme
- **March 24 & 25** - Regional Quartet & Chorus Contest - Robinson Center, Little Rock, AR

[More Information](#)

Theater

Epic Proportions

January 27 - February 12, 2017

Thursdays at 7:30pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm.

Allen's Community Theatre

Set in the 1930s, EPIC PROPORTIONS tells the story of two brothers, Benny and Phil, who go to the Arizona desert to be extras in the huge Biblical epic Exeunt Omnes. Things move very quickly in this riotous comedy and before you know it, Phil is directing the movie, and Benny is starring in it. To complicate matters further they both fall in love with Louise, the assistant director in charge of the extras. Along the way there are gladiator battles, the Ten Plagues and a cast of thousands

portrayed by four other actors.

More Information

Spring into Theatre Classes

Classes begin the week of February 20 and run for 8 weeks

Register by January 15 and save \$10 off each class.

@ Allen's Community Theatre

Allen's Community Theatre offers something for everyone, children, youth and adults. Instructors are theatre professionals and class size is limited. Register today.

Choose classes such as *Rising Stars* for ages 6-10; *Theatre Production* for ages 9-18; *Musical Theatre* for ages 8 and up, *Voice Technique* 9-18, and *Improv* for ages 7 to adult.

Magic Mischief Managed Spring Break Camp, March 6-19 is for ages 7-14. Explore Harry Potter and all the wonders of every magical story you loved smashed together in this fun filled week. Write the script, build the sets, make costumes, and work on sound & lights.

Talks/Discussion

Illustrator E. B. Lewis

Saturday, January 28 @ 2:00 p.m.

Allen Public Library

Award-winning children's illustrator E. B. Lewis kicks off this year's ALLEN Reads program. Drop by the library's Meeting Room between 12:30 - 1:30 pm for a meet and greet with the illustrator of *Each Kindness* and *The Other Side*. Stay to hear him speak at 2 p.m. followed by book-signing. Bring your own books, or the [Friends of the Library](#) will have books on hand to purchase. For more information, call 214-509-4911.

E.B. Lewis's illustrations enhance the reading experience by bringing the story to life. When asked about his impressive ability to relate with children, Mr. Lewis explains, "The reason I am able to connect and inspire the youth of today is because of the struggles, fears and failures I experienced in my own childhood."

Born in Philadelphia, he was inspired by two artist uncles. As early as the third grade, Lewis displayed artistic promise. Lewis attended the Temple University Tyler School of Art. There he discovered his medium of preference was watercolor. After graduating, he taught art in public schools for twelve years. Presently, Lewis teaches at the University of Arts in Philadelphia, continues to paint and illustrate and is a member of The Society of Illustrators in New York City.

More Information

What I Believe

Thursday, February 16 @ 7:30 p.m.

Allen Public Library

In ALLEN Reads 2017 book, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, the last chapter is titled "what I believe". An excerpt from that book is:

"I believe that there is good in each of us
No matter who we are or what we believe in."

Three clerics will represent their religion and briefly present their thoughts and feelings. A question and answer session will follow.

Imam Abdur Rahman Bashir is currently the Imam of Islamic Association of Allen.

Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor is a Rabbi/Chaplain/Counselor for a number of local organizations and counseling programs, including the Plano Police Department. He also teaches at Collin College and Methodist Community Nursing Program.

Pastor Gordon Illausky has served at the Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Allen since 2006.

[More Information](#)

U.S. Army's Only Female Buffalo Soldier

Saturday, February 25 @ 3:00 p.m.

Allen Public Library

RosieLeetta "Lee" Reed portrays Cathay Williams, the first documented African-American woman to enlist in the U.S. Army and the only woman to serve in the U.S. Army as a man. Reed is president of the Texas Buffalo Association, dedicated to preserving Texas history and the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Born in Missouri to a free man of color and a woman in slavery, Williams was legally a slave. As a teenager, she worked as a house slave on the Johnson plantation near Jefferson City, Missouri. At age 17, Williams was impressed into the 8th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel William Benton.

Williams enlisted in the United States Regular Army in 1866, at St. Louis for a three-year engagement, posing as a man. Assigned to the 38th infantry, she was hospitalized after contracting smallpox. The post surgeon discovered she was a woman and informed the post commander. She was discharged from the Army by her commanding officer in 1868.

[More Information](#)

Recurring Events

Allen Folk Music Society

Join the Folk Music Society at the Blue House, 102 S. Allen Drive, on February 18 (3rd Saturday of the month) from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. for some picking and singing!

Allen Symphony Chorus

Meets every Monday from 7:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Allen, 601 S. Greenville Ave.

Note-Ably North TX Chorus

Meets every Monday from 7:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. at Blue House Too, 934 Watters Creek Blvd in Watters Creek shopping area.

Under the Umbrella

The Allen Arts Alliance, is a non-profit umbrella association supporting artistic and cultural organizations in Allen, including:

- Allen Civic Ballet
- Allen's Community Theatre
- Allen Heritage Guild
- Allen ISD Performing & Visual Arts
- Allen Philharmonic Orchestra & Symphony Chorus

- City of Allen Public Art
- Friends of the Allen Public Library
- Lovejoy ISD Performing & Visual Arts
- Note-Ably North Texas Chorus

How to Support Us

Amazon Smile:

Please select the Allen Arts Alliance as your charitable organization the next time you shop using this popular retail site, Amazon. Their giving program, Amazon Smile, lets us earn 5% from eligible purchases made through Amazon. Your donation will help us grow the many art programs we provide to our community throughout the year!

Donations:

Donations in any amount are always appreciated and used to nurture arts, culture, heritage and enrichment programs in our community!

Volunteering:

If your teen needs service hours, or you or your family wants to reach out to the community through the arts, there are many volunteer opportunities with Allen Arts Alliance and ArtsReach! You can find our current volunteer opportunities, and [sign up](#)



Allen Arts Alliance | 972 727 7272 | office@allenartsalliance.org | www.allenartsalliance.org

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