

RANDOLPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY *news*


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Heart of North Carolina

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Friends of
the Library

≡ **SUNSET** ≡

Signature
Series ♦ 2019

Bledsoe to share adventures as young writer

♣ Catch up with *New York Times* #1 bestselling author Jerry Bledsoe as he talks about how he found his calling as a writer during the turbulent 1960s in the third installment of the 2019 Friends of the Library Sunset Signature Series at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2, at the historic Sunset Theatre in downtown Asheboro.

Bledsoe's talk is free and the public is invited. The Sunset Signature Series is sponsored by the Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau, the City of Asheboro and the Friends of the Library.

Bledsoe will share stories – some hilarious and some poignant – from his new memoir *Do-Good Boy: An Unlikely Writer Confronts the '60s and Other Indignities*. From his days as an 18-year-old Army enlistee assigned as an unlikely military journalist even though he had flunked high school English to the beginnings of his widely-read column at the *Greensboro Daily News*, Bledsoe recounts his experiences in the Army, his coverage of the Civil Rights movement in the Triad, his interview with a then-unknown Jimi Hendrix, his encounter with a very angry garden club, and many more adventures.

A Danville native who grew up in Thomasville, Bledsoe worked at newspapers in Kannapolis, Charlotte and Greensboro, where his regular column became an



Jerry Bledsoe

institution. He was a contributing editor for *Esquire*, and also wrote for *Rolling Stone* and *New York* magazines.

His first book was *The World's Number One, Flat-Out, All-Time Great Stock Car Racing Book* published in 1975. Twenty more books have followed.

His newspaper series documenting the horrific Klenner-Lynch murders in the mid-1980s became the *New York Times* #1 bestselling book *Bitter Blood*, which was followed by other true crime tales including *Blood Games*, *Before He Wakes* and *Death Sentence*. Bledsoe also ventured into fiction, with the nostalgic *The Angel Doll* in 1996 and its follow-up, *A Gift of Angels*.

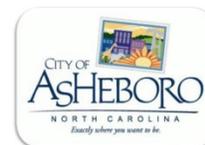
Bitter Blood, *Blood Games* and *The Angel Doll* have been made into TV miniseries or movies.

Bledsoe also established Down Home Press, a publishing company, and wrote investigative articles for *The Rhinoceros Times* in Greensboro.

He and his wife Linda live in Asheboro.

The final Sunset Series event for 2019 will feature University of North Carolina basketball titan Eric Montross at 7 p.m. Saturday, September 21.

The Sunset Theatre is located at 234 Sunset Avenue. For further information, call the Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau at 800-626-2672, or the library.



MOBILE LIBRARY ARRIVES — see inside

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336-318-6800
Fax 336-318-6823
201 Worth St.
Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-5
Randolph Room
336-318-6815
Mon-Tues 9-8
Wed-Fri 9-6; Sat 9-5

John W. Clark
(Franklinville)
336-685-3100
111 Sumner Place
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Wed 10-2; Sun. 2-5

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Fax 336-622-2665
239 S. Fayetteville St.
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Tues 9-7; Sat 9-1

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Fax 336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 8:30-5

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Fax 336-498-1139
142 W. Academy St.
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Wed, 9-7; Sat 9-1

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336-873-7521
530 Old Plank Rd.
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Sat 10-3

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336-318-6816 or 336-318-
6817; Mon-Fri 9-5

*from
the
director*

Ross A. Holt



Tell us how we're doing!

♣ "Always friendly and helpful."

That welcome sentiment probably is the most frequently used phrase in our annual patron satisfaction survey, which is going on now.

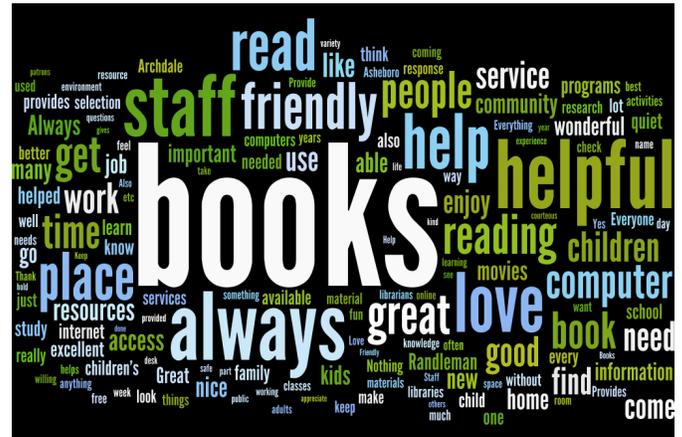
Although we welcome feedback anytime, each April we ask people who visit the library to "tell us how we're doing" through a brief survey.

The first part of the survey seeks measures for each of our departments or branches, which are tied in to goals we have set with county government. The second section asks respondents to reflect on their library experiences, asking, "how has the library helped you achieve a goal," "what does the library do best," "what could the library do better," and "why is the library important to you."

Many responses are thought-provoking and moving as library users write about what the library means to them. In one of my favorite responses in recent years, a mother related how she and her husband were talking to their three-year-old daughter about the concept of heaven. Their daughter had only one question: "Will they have a library?"

Another favorite, short and to the point, just about summed it all up: "The library is an escape to awesome!"

The comments also enlighten us about the impact of our services that we may not



The relative frequency of 19,275 words appearing 608 responses to our 2018 patron survey.

ourselves recognize. I have learned that in addition to the early literacy exposure our storytimes bring to children, parents say the activities also are important to their children's development of social skills: storytimes are among the first experiences many kids have with their peers.

We also see rapid fire answers about our impact on people's lives. "Completed a resume, obtained a job." "Gardening ideas!" "It has helped me learn to code." "Helping me learn about raising chickens for the first time." "My 9-year-old's reading has increased 3 levels already."

And, of course, it's an opportunity for us to find out where people think we need to improve; we take this information to heart and make changes to reflect the needs of our users.

Help us improve our service to you by lending your voice to the survey chorus at:

**[www.randolphlibrary.org/
takeoursurvey.htm](http://www.randolphlibrary.org/takeoursurvey.htm)**



The **Randolph County Public Library NEWS** is published monthly by the Asheboro Randolph County Public Library and the Friends of the Library. To subscribe, join the Friends by returning the membership application on page 4.

Ross A. Holt, Director • **Dr. Frances Jones**, President, Friends of the Library •

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Mobile library arrives!

The Randolph County Public Library Mobile Library is here! Funded by the Acme-McCrary and Sapona Foundation Inc. and the Asheboro Public Library Foundation Inc., the vehicle will bring a small library experience to those who cannot easily visit a library branch. Look for us on the road soon!



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *Chariot on the Mountain* by Jack Forbes, 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 30.

Junior Book Club (Asheboro): Mr.

Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein, 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 21. (Children ages 8 and up).

Book Break (Archdale): *By Invitation Only* by Dorothea Benton Frank, 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 21.

Book Bites (Archdale) "Un-Book Club." Guests are invited to talk about the most exciting or interesting book they've read since the last meeting. 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 14.

Liberty Book Club: *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah, 6 p.m. Thursday, May 16.

Oral histories

Meet the winners of the Liberty Oral History Challenge at a reception from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Liberty library.

The Patterson Cottage Museum Committee challenged Liberty Elementary School fourth graders to record the recollections of an older relative, neighbor or other community member.

During the event, winners selected by the Friends of the Patterson Cottage Museum will share the stories they recorded.

Learn how to plan a family history family reunion

Pick up some tips for planning a fun family reunion while getting your relatives interested in family history, in "Planning a Family History Family Reunion," 7-9 p.m. Thursday, May 9,

at the Asheboro library.

The class, presented by Randolph Room staff member Kendra Lyons, is free and the public is invited.



NAME _____

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YES! I'd like to become a Friend and support the wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends each year.

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P.O. Box 2806
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Memberships are tax deductible

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- Patron \$100
- Benefactor..... \$250
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THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

SUNSET

Signature Series ♦ 2019

Jerry Bledsoe

7 p.m. Thursday

May 2

Free!

memorials & donations

In Memory of: Babs Chardnoff
By: Ruth Hamilton

In Memory of: Larry Davis
By: Barbara Hill

In Memory of: Devin Lawrence Long
By: Christine Kivett

In Memory of: Arlene Smith
By: Rick Bailey

In Honor of: Dr. John Cameron
By: Little Gate Garden Club

Multi-instrumentalists Hicks and Manning to perform Irish and American folk tunes

♣ **Join Greensboro-based musicians Travis Hicks and Scott Manning for an evening of Irish and American folk music at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, at the Asheboro library.**

Hicks will perform on Irish bagpipes and tin whistles, and Manning will join in on a variety of stringed instruments. The performance, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

Hicks is an assistant professor in the Interior Architecture Department and director of the Center for Community-Engaged Design at UNC-Greensboro, whose avocation is music. Manning is a multi-instrumentalist and music teacher.

Historian to explore Lost Colony mystery

♣ One of North Carolina’s greatest mysteries lies in the question, “What happened to the Lost Colony?”

Were the colonists killed? Did they move into the interior? Were they captured by Indians?

Join historian Dr. Arwin Smallwood as he explores “The Mysteries of the Lost Colony and the Iroquois Confederacy,” at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, at the Asheboro library. The talk is free and the public is invited.

Smallwood draws on 30 years of research in archives in North Carolina, Virginia, New York and Canada to offer an answer to what happened to the colonists, and also to explain some of North Carolina’s and Virginia’s hidden history — particularly the interactions of the Tuscarora people with Africans and Europeans.



Dr. Arwin Smallwood

He also considers recent discoveries in eastern North Carolina — in Bertie County in particular — as well as newly-uncovered maps, artifacts, human remains, colonial records and oral histories that yield fascinating clues.

Beyond the Lost Colony itself, Smallwood’s talk will spark discussion about the state’s complex history and the co-mingled heritage of those who make up the

American “melting pot.”

A Windsor, N.C., native, Smallwood is a professor at North Carolina A & T State University, where he is chair of



Sir Walter Raleigh’s relief expedition, led by John White, finds the Roanoke colonists missing and the word “Croatoan” carved onto a stockade board.

the Department of History. He holds a master’s in history from North Carolina Central University, and a Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

He is author of several books and articles, and focuses his research on the relationships between African-Americans, Native Americans and Europeans in eastern North Carolina during the colonial and early antebellum periods. Recipient of a number of fellowships and grants, Smallwood also participated in the award-winning UNC-TV documentary *The Birth of a Colony: North Carolina*.

Smallwood’s appearance, part of the Road Scholar series, is made possible by funding from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide non-profit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Friends of the Library.

Go stargazing in exclusive library observatory event

♣ “Let’s Go Stargazing” at the Three College Observatory near Graham in an event exclusively for Randolph County Public Library participants

Space is limited to 30 for the event, which is scheduled for 8:45 p.m. Wednesday, May 29. Visit the Asheboro library Reference Desk or call 336-318-6803 to sign up.

Transportation to the observatory, which is located at 5106 Thompson Mill Road, Graham, is on your own.

Observatory staff will guide stargazers through viewing deep sky objects such as the Messier 3 and 11 globular star clusters, and possible galaxies, nebulae and a double star.

Jupiter will be visible and possibly Saturn — spectacular when viewed through the observatory’s 32” telescope, one of the largest in the southeastern United States.

The experience also will include outdoor observation of constellations. The entire program lasts about an hour.

The Three College Observatory, in a dark-sky area, is operated jointly by UNC-Greensboro, N.C. A & T State University and Guilford College.

On May 29, participants should call 336-318-6803 by 6 p.m. to verify that the weather is clear enough to hold the event.

Popular 'Matter of Balance' classes return

♣ **Many older adults fear falling, and restrict their activities on account of that concern.**

In "A Matter of Balance," an eight-week series of workshops returning to the Asheboro library from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays beginning May 7, participants will learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable, and will develop the ability to set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and exercise to increase strength and balance.

The course is free, but space is limited; visit the Reference Desk or call 336-318-6803 to sign up.

Each class builds on the previous classes to emphasize practical strategies to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels.

Offered in conjunction with the Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Agency on Aging, the nationally-recognized program was developed at the Roybal Center for Active Lifestyle Interventions at Boston University.

'Let's Talk Turtles' in Asheboro library event

♣ **Come out of your shell for "Let's Talk Turtles" at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 29, at the Asheboro library.**

The informal presentation by biologist Melanie Stadler will describe the basic differences between turtles, tortoises and terrapins, and provide a detailed look at the sea turtle species that inhabit the waters and nest on the beaches of North Carolina.

Stadler also will discuss what makes each sea turtle species unique; why they are important indicators of the

planet's health; what threats they face; and what participants can do to help them survive.

Stadler holds a master's degree in biology from Florida Atlantic University and for the past eight years has worked as a sea turtle biologist in Florida. She recently relocated to Greensboro to begin work on a Ph.D. in Geography, Environment and Sustainability at UNC-Greensboro, focusing on threatened bog turtles and their habitats.

Her presentation is free and the public is invited.

Spring brings gardening, beekeeping, genealogy to Liberty ...and other exciting events for all ages at libraries around the county

♣ **As spring arrives, learn about container gardening, beekeeping and tracing your family history at the Liberty library.**

Are you looking for a "green" way to freshen up your desk or room? **Container Gardens**, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, for teens and adults, will show you how to plant in a small terracotta pot.

Meanwhile, Mark Case of the Randolph County Beekeepers will present **Beekeeping Basics** at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28. He will talk about bees and beekeeping for all ages, complete with an observational hive.

Also at Liberty, genealogists can explore **Climbing Your Family Tree** at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7. Learn how to build a family tree and how to find ancestors online using HeritageQuest, Ancestry.com, Family Search and more.

Tails to Read goes to Franklinville

Children can read to a therapy dog as the Franklinville Public Library hosts a special Tails to Read from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 19.

Tails to Read, also offered regularly at the Asheboro library, is a research-based program that enables kids to build their reading skills and confidence by reading aloud to a friendly, non-judgmental therapy dog.

Mad Hatters Tea Party

Follow the White Rabbit to Wonderland in a "Mad Hatter's Tea Party" with the Asheboro library Children's Room at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 29. Wear your best party hat for games, treats and tasty tea. Call 336-318-6804 or visit the Children's Room to reserve your place at the table.

Cooking and portion control

Embrace a healthy lifestyle and learn about practically perfect proportions in "Cooking with Diane Hayes: Let's Talk Portion Control," 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the Randleman library, for teens and adults age 16 and up.

Hayes is a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Randleman High School.

Summertime is calling teens, tweens

Create a lovely three-dimensional shadow box beach scene in "Summertime is Calling" for teens and tweens ages 11-16, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at the Randleman library. Supplies provided, or bring your own for a personal touch. Call 336-498-3141 to sign up.

and more...

All libraries host a variety of storytimes, special events, hands-on activities and other events for children, teens and adults. Find out more at www.randolphlibrary.org, or visit your local library.