



Ratchford to return with *Titanic* stories

♣ All the people who traveled on the *Titanic* in April 1912 are now dead.

Many lived decades after the tragedy to tell their stories. Those who died that night did not have that chance.

Through multimedia and memorabilia, *Titanic* scholar Dr. Melinda Ratchford will tell a few more of those stories in “*Titanic: The Halifax Dead Speak*,” at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 16, at the Asheboro library.

“Body #4 — male — estimated age 2. HAIR — Fair, CLOTHING — grey. Coat with fur on collar and cuffs; brown serge frock; brown petticoat; flannel garment; pink woolen singlet; brown shoes and stockings.”

After traveling to Halifax, Nova Scotia and visiting the graves of the 336 bodies recovered, Ratchford learned that even after a tragedy of such magnitude, the stories of heroism, cowardice, common sense, faith and hope live on.

Learn about the brave sailors from the ships *Mackay*



Hearses line up on a wharf in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to carry Titanic victims to funeral parlors. (Wikimedia Commons)

Bennett, Minia and Montmagny, who recovered bodies and brought them to Halifax; the newly-devised numbering system for the bodies — sadly needed again in 1917 when two ships collided at Halifax resulting in an explosion that claimed almost 1,800 lives; how to determine whether to bury someone in the Catholic, Protestant or Jewish cemetery; and other intriguing issues that survived the sinking of the *Titanic*.

Ratchford is an associate professor of education at Belmont Abbey College. Her avocation has been a 60-year interest in the study of the *Titanic* and its history. She has visited Belfast, where the ship was built; Southampton, from where it sailed; the pier in New York where it would have docked; and Halifax. She also spent a week in the North Atlantic in 1996 at the site of the sinking.

A Kannapolis native, Ratchford worked in the North Carolina public schools for 31 years. She holds a Ph.D. in education from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Liberty slates ‘Scholastic’ book fair for adults

♣ Get nostalgic for the Scholastic book fairs of your school years at the Liberty library’s “Books and Brews Adult Book Fair,” 2-5 p.m. Saturday, October 11, at Liberty Grounds coffee shop.

Winston-Salem’s independent bookstore Bookmarks will bring books for sale, and will have a selection of books

that can be purchased for teachers’ classrooms at Liberty Elementary School and for the school’s media center.

Support the school, check out a great selection of titles for adults, explore Scholastic-themed activities, and see what prizes the library has in store for attendees.

Liberty Grounds is located at 129 S. Fayetteville Street.



**HELP US
ENVISION
OUR
FUTURE!**

The library is working on a **2026-2031 Strategic Plan** that will guide our service for the next five years. Join us for community conversations at your local library about your community and its priorities, and the role the library can play.

Archdale: 1 p.m. Monday, October 6.

Franklinville: 11 a.m. Thursday, October 23.

Liberty: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 8.

Ramseur: 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 8.

Randleman: 4 p.m. Monday, October 6.

Seagrove: 2:30 p.m. Thursday, October 23.

Archdale

336-431-3811
Fax 336-431-4619
10433 S. Main St.
Mon-Thur 9-8;
Fri 9-6; Sat 9-1

Asheboro

336-318-6800
Fax 336-318-6823
201 Worth St.
Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
Mon-Fri 9-12:30; 1:30-5:30
Sat 9-12:30

Franklinville

336-685-3100
111 Sumner Place
Mon-Thur 10-6; Sun 1-5

Liberty

336-622-4605
Fax 336-622-2665
239 S. Fayetteville St.
Mon, 9-7, Tues 11-7,
Wed, 9-5, Thur 11-5
Fri 9-5, Sat 9-3

Ramseur

336-824-2232
Fax 336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-6
Sat 9-1

Randleman

336-498-3141
Fax 336-498-1139
142 W. Academy St.
Mon-Fri 9-6
Sat 9-1

Seagrove

336-873-7521
530 Old Plank Rd.
Tues-Fri 10-6; Sat 11-3

Extension Service

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

from
the
director



Ross A. Holt

Summer success

♣ One million five hundred six thousand two hundred fifty-two.

That's how many minutes registered participants in "Color Our World," the library's 2025 artistically-themed Summer Reading initiative, reported reading over the months of June, July and early August — a 28 percent increase over last year.

This year's total included 1,153,898 minutes read by the 1,595 children who registered to participate, and 493,334 by adults who registered. And the numbers don't include those who read and joined in the summer activities, but didn't sign up.

In June and July, library patrons checked out 70,939 items in all formats.

The first library summer reading program took place in 1895, when a librarian in Cleveland, Ohio, prompted local schools to send home summer reading lists, urging kids to read as many books as they could. As library summer reading clubs for children spread nationwide, librarians realized that kids also could benefit from interactive reading, and began offering related activities and rewards.

Now we know about the "Summer Slide." Research has shown that kids who don't read over the summer return to school less prepared to pick up where they left off, but those who read are more likely to hit the ground running in the new school year, and often have gained skills. Library summer programs play a key role in arresting the slide.

Our interactive reading component was a success as well. Countywide, the libraries

offered 332 performances, hands-on activities, storytimes and more, drawing 11,189 attendees—an increase of 14 percent over last year. Animals were among the favorites, with real-life animal ambassadors from CLAWS animal rescue, Wild Tails NC, Ellie's Exotic Road Show and the North Carolina Zoo stealing the show.

I was spellbound by master puppeteer Jeghetto's articulated puppy puppet, to which the kids reacted like it was a living creature. During Matt Sandbank's shadow puppetry show, the audience hooted — and so did I — as a flying saucer abducted farm animals and the farmer, but ran afoul of the farmer's wife.

Amid the interactive performances, kids engaged in all sorts of creative activities to "Color Our World."

A Randleman parent says, "My children loved all the performances this summer, but especially the wildlife-based ones. The programs allowed for interactive time with the performers, which my children loved. I felt like my children walked away learning a lot about the topics presented while also understanding how reading and literature connect to real life experiences."

For all of this, we must say a word of thanks to the Friends of the Library, which funds all of Asheboro's summer programs, and, by matching a North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Grant, major events in June and July at each library — this year Jeghetto and CLAWS.

For more history of Summer Reading, see Ellie Wilkins, "A Brief History of Summer Reading Programs," ReaderZone.com, <https://tinyurl.com/srplib>.



Talk to feature NC nautical haunts

♣ Lighthouse ghosts and other mysterious coastal occurrences will highlight “Nautical Haunts — The Graveyard of the Atlantic,” 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 28, at the Asheboro library.

The talk, by lighthouse enthusiasts Tony and Ada Pasek, will feature stories of ghosts at Currituck, Bodie Island, Cape Hatteras, Ocracoke, and Baldhead lights, and the Oak

Island keeper’s house.

Also featured will be the disappearance of Theodosia Burr Alston, the daughter of Aaron Burr, and the *Carol A. Deering*, a ghost ship found adrift near Diamond Shoals in 1921.

The Paseks are members of the United States Lighthouse Society and the Outer Banks Lighthouse Society. They have visited over 500 lighthouses in 33 U.S. states and Canada, and climbed about half of them.

‘Creepin’ It Real’ for Halloween

...and other activities around the county

♣ Halloween is coming up, and the libraries are offering a variety of spooktacular activities.

Archdale will host “Creepin’ It Real — Halloween at the Library,” 3-6 p.m. Friday, October 31, for all ages. Join a scavenger hunt, test your mind with Halloween riddles, and make a monster mask.

Costumes are welcome, candy will be plentiful and a frightful photo backdrop awaits to capture goulsh (or goofy!) looks.

Meanwhile, Archdale’s Third Thursday school-age event will be a “Halloween Fright Night,” 4 p.m. Thursday, October 30. Participants will create their own scary stories and test their courage in a “Fear Factor” mystery box challenge.

Asheboro will offer a Trick or Treat, 4-5:30 p.m. Friday, October 31. Parents can bring their costumed children to pick up treats from their local library friends.

Teens can go on a “Haunted Library Scavenger Hunt” at 4 p.m. Monday, October 27.

Franklinville and Seagrove will engage school-age kids in “Spooky STEAM.” Franklinville, 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 8; Seagrove, 4 p.m. Friday, October 10.

Liberty library will join a community

“Trunk or Treat” 1 p.m. Saturday, October 25, at Freedom Park, to offer treats and free books. The event is hosted by Liberty Parks and Recreation.

Liberty also will offer “Fall Black Cat Painting” for all ages at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 11, and 4 p.m. Monday, October 13. Call 336-622-4605 to register.

‘Healthy Living’ at Archdale

At Archdale’s “Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body,” 2 p.m. Thursday, October 16, Bean Yaeger, program manager for the Western North Carolina chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association, will provide science-based recommendations on how certain behaviors affect the brain and body, and strategies for healthy decision-making. Best for ages 18 and up.

Día de los Muertos

Liberty will again host a community altar for *Día de los Muertos* during the week of October 28-November 4 to celebrate ancestors, family members, loved ones and lost pets. Drop in between 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28 to help set up the altar, and bring photographs and/or items to contribute in memory of loved ones. Items may be added through the week, and picked up after November 4.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads:

Persuasion by Jane Austen, 2 p.m. Tuesday, October 28.

Archdale Book Break:

All the Children Are Home by Patry Francis, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21.

Franklinville: Snippets

Book Club. Discuss articles from *The Sun* magazine, 12:30 p.m. Monday, October 20.

Liberty Book Club:

Brave the Wild River by Melissa Sevigny, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 23.

Liberty Readers Meet-Up: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, 1 p.m. Monday, October 20, Liberty Senior Center.

BYO book groups

Talk about books that you’ve read recently.

Archdale, Book Bites,

2 p.m. Tuesday, October 14.

Ramseur Page Turners,

2 p.m. Tuesday, October 7.

Randleman Readers

Recommend, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 3.

Randleman Teen Talk

Book Club, 3:30 p.m. Friday, October 17, ages 11-15.

Seagrove, Un-Book

Club, 2p.m. Friday, October 31.

Author to discuss N.C.’s first congresswoman

Join author Marion Deerhake to learn about Jane Pratt, the first female member of Congress from North Carolina, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 2, at the Asheboro library.

Deerhake is author of *Jane Pratt: North Carolina’s First Congresswoman*, published in 2024. Pratt served as secretary to five congressmen before being elected in 1946.

Asheboro offers self-pick-up of items on hold

♣ Got word that a book or DVD you have on hold is ready for pick-up at the Asheboro library?

You can now collect it and check it out yourself thanks to a new front desk generously provided by the Asheboro Public Library Foundation, Inc. (of course, our friendly staff still is always there to help).

The reconfiguration enables easier interaction between staff and patrons, and provides for self-pick-up as well as self-checkout. Privacy is ensured by wrappers around items on hold, with names of borrowers truncated.

Asheboro, Liberty and Ramseur now offer self-pick-up, which eventually will be available systemwide.

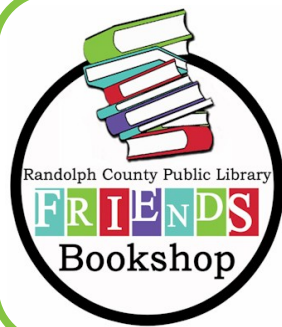


Randolph County Public Libraries

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Asheboro, NC 27203

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To the Friends of the Library

In Memory of: Rene Isley
Joan Allred
By: Mikel and Lorraine Sherrill

In Memory of: Jessica Wells
By: Susan and Richard Garkalns

Learn beginner quilting at Asheboro

♣ Two experienced quilters from the Randolph Quilters Guild, Anne Greene and Meghan Carter, will teach a four-part beginning quilting class at the Asheboro library.

Learn the basics in "The Art of Textiles: Beginning Quilting," 6:30 p.m. Mondays, October 13, 20, 27 and November 10.

Students will create a small wall hanging, going through the process of cutting the fabric, sewing it and

quilting three layers together.

Participants must attend all four classes, as each builds on the previous one. The class assumes a basic knowledge of using and troubleshooting a sewing machine, and participants must bring their sewing machines to the class.

Some materials will be provided by the instructors, but some will need to be purchased.

Space is limited ; call 336-318-6803 for more information and to reserve a spot.