

Pulitzer-nominated poet to headline reading, open mic to celebrate National Poetry month

♣ **Acclaimed poet Anthony S. Abbott will join local poets for a reading to celebrate National Poetry Month at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the Asheboro Public Library.**

The reading, which will feature an “open mic” organized by the Randolph Writers Group, is free and the public is invited.

Abbott, a retired Davidson College English professor, is author of five books of poetry, two novels and two nonfiction works on modern drama. His first book of poetry, *The Girl in the Yellow Raincoat*, earned him a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize in 1989, among a slew of other awards.



Anthony S. Abbott

“He is an artist who paints with words. The reader is swept into the canvas with the beauty and power of his written words,” says Sue Farlow, Asheboro High School English teacher and Abbott’s predecessor as president of the North Carolina Poetry Society.

As part of a society program, Abbott mentors aspiring poets. Abbott and a group of his mentees, which included two local students, read in a program at the library in 2009.

To participate in the event as a reader, contact Randolph Writers Group President Robin Emerson, randolphwriters@aol.com, or 336-736-3496.

Blood Red of Late October

Anthony S. Abbott

Blood red of late October in the South,
and from the cemetery to the college campus
on the hill, the leaves bathe my eyes. I
turn each corner into dazzling surprise.

In my mind’s eye, she walks toward me.
I show her my favorite tree. I pluck three
leaves for her and watch as she carries
them away. This is new found grace,

and in the space where sadness once lay
the small white flower of hope grows.
In the South, October lingers, the gold
sun glances off the trees. November will

come with its cold rain soon enough,
I know. I turn the dazzle inward
and down. It courses through the veins
and lofts me toward the breathless light.



Archdale
336-431-3811
Fax 336-431-4619
10433 S. Main St.
Mon, Wed, Fri 9-6;
Tues, Thur 9-8; Sat 9-5

Asheboro
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, Thur-Sat 9-5
Tues, Wed 9-9

John W. Clark
(Franklinville)
336-824-4020
111 Sumner Place
Mon-Fri 2-6; Sun. 2-5

Liberty
336-622-4605
Fax 336-622-4605
239 S. Fayetteville St.
Mon, Wed, Fri 9-5;
Tues, Thur 9-7; Sat 9-1

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

Randleman
336-498-3141
Fax 336-498-1139
122 Commerce Sq.
Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-1

Seagrove
336-873-7521
530 Seagrove Plank Rd.
Mon-Thur 1-7; Fri 12-6;
Sat 10-3

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

Dial-A-Story
336-318-6833

*from
the
director*

Ross A. Holt



Arlene Smith, heart and soul

♣ "Right, Ross?"

Passing by the library's Circulation Desk, I often heard that question as Arlene Smith held forth. No matter that I seldom knew what the issue was I knew the answer to the question:

"Right!"

Arlene retired March 1. For more than 30 years she was the heart and soul of the library's public service mission. She embodied the library's connection to the community, personifying the welcoming smile, the cheerful greeting and the dedication to library patrons that you should expect when you visit us.

Arlene is legendary for her zeal to keep the library clean and orderly. She has taken some ribbing for it, but when a group of staff from a nearby library visited us last year they were impressed: "You can actually *find things* here," one observed. That was the point of Arlene's drive: the library's beauty and usability from a patron's point of view.

But for Arlene it was never only about running a tight ship. We talk about how library changes lives, but many patrons, especially students, will tell you that Arlene changed their lives simply in the way she interacted with them.



"Arlene has always had a special gift of talking to people and making them feel like they are the center of her world and the most important person," says librarian Amy Keith Barney. "She has always been able to craft the right words to make anyone feel empowered to be a better person, to make the right decisions"

There are 30-plus years of stories about how

Arlene has nurtured someone, from taking a middle school student from a family of limited means shopping and buying him a suit for a special school occasion, to encouraging and supporting an older teenager as he got out of the gang life, to sending a flower arrangement at Christmas to one of our patrons who confided that she missed her deceased husband most over the holidays. There are report cards dutifully shown to Arlene every six weeks — in some cases before they make it home to mom and dad.

Then there are the people who Arlene has welcomed not just to the library but to the community. "Twelve years ago I decided to adopt Randolph County as my home," says South Asheboro Middle School teacher Juan Rios. "After having a couple of weeks

(Continued on page 3)

Arlene Smith, heart and soul

(Continued from page 2)

of cultural shock and adaptation period, I met the most wonderful ambassador in town. I still remember her friendly and welcoming smile behind the counter. It was like she had met me in a previous life. My regular visits to the Randolph Public Library made me feel welcome and safe. This lady's wisdom and friendliness made me go back to the library every afternoon. Even though I no longer live in Randolph County, Arlene is still my friend and role model."

Staff member Veronica Gutierrez notes the awe with which Arlene speaks of

former Library Director Charlesanna Fox and says simply, "Arlene is my Charlesanna."

Arlene has accomplished all this simply by engaging with our patrons, learning about them and, well, just being Arlene.

And I haven't even begun to cover her unconditional generosity and community involvement outside the library.

We will be without Arlene, but we will strive mightily to honor her legacy and meet her high standard of engagement with our patrons, and our community.

"Right, Ross?"
Right!

Archdale to host programs for adults

♣ **Safety, landscaping and container gardening are the topics of programs at the Archdale library in March and April**

All programs are free and the public is invited.

Jerry Allred of the Archdale Police Department will present a safety seminar at

3 p.m. Wednesday, March 30.

Mary Helen Ferguson of Cooperative Extension will present a program on landscaping at 2 p.m. Monday, April 11, and Peggy Heath of Cooperative Extension will present a container gardening program at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 13.

Ongoing & Upcoming

Tuesday, March 22

Dog training: Ally Thomas of Southern Tails Dog School presents obedience demonstration, 7 p.m., Asheboro library. Free.

Tuesday, March 29

Asheboro Reads: *Maid to March* by Deanne Gist, 2 p.m., Asheboro library. Free.

Tuesday, March 29

Luna Book Club: *On Agate Hill* by Lee Smith, 7 p.m., Asheboro library. Free.

Wednesday, March 30

Safety Seminar: 3 p.m., Archdale library. Free.

Monday, April 11

Landscaping: 2 p.m. Archdale library. Free.

Monday, April 11

Movie Monday: *Country Strong*, 2 p.m. Asheboro library. Free.

Wednesday, April 13

Container Gardening: 2 p.m. Archdale library. Free.

Thursday, April 14

National Poetry Month Celebration: Tony Abbott and open mic, 7 p.m., Asheboro library. Free.

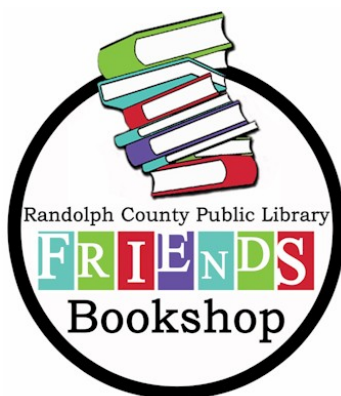
Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *Maid to Match* by Deanne Gist, 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 29. *A Secret Gift* by Ted Gup, Tuesday, April 26.

Luna Book Club: *On Agate Hill* by Lee Smith, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29. *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, Tuesday, April 26.

Liberty Book Club: Fourth Tuesday, Liberty library. Call 622-4605 for details.

Library discussion groups are free and open to all. refreshments are served.



10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tues., Thurs., Sat.

226 Sunset Ave.,
Asheboro

629-1536

Donations accepted

Randleman Public Library

BOOK SALE


10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Third Saturday
of each month
124 Commerce Pl.
next to the library.

Glenn Davis Memorial Concert slated for April 12

Larry G. Davis and friends will present the 12th Annual Glenn Davis Memorial Concert, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the Sunset Theatre. Sponsored by Furr Enterprises, the

concert is free and the public is invited.

Davis and his group of talented musicians will perform old time, bluegrass and jazz.



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

Mail to: Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 2806
Asheboro, NC 27204
Memberships are tax deductible

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor.....	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime.....	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Family.....	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor...	\$ _____
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YES! I'd like to help: ____ Programs ____ Receptions ____ Book Sales ____ Membership

Randolph County Public Library
 201 Worth Street
 Asheboro, NC 27203
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memorials & donations

In Memory of: David Lewis Grimes
 By: Ray and Cheryl Isley
 Sandra Livingston and Sandy Jarrell

In Memory of: "C.T." and Ora Hardin
 By: Thomas and Deborah Hardin

In Memory of: Bud Isley
 By: Ramseur Library Board of Trustees and
 Ramseur Library Staff

In Memory of: Reverend Carlos M. King
 By: Mike and Cynthia Faulkner
 Wallace and Sandy Jarrell

In Memory of: Dot Shackelford Watkins
 By: Bobby and Denise Lowe Burgess
 Stacy L. Curtis and Family
 Neighbors of Holly Hill Street
 Ramseur Library Board of Trustees and
 Ramseur Library Staff
 C. Michael and Patricia Whitehead

In Memory of: David Wrenn
 By: Bobby and Denise Lowe Burgess

In Honor of: DAV Organization
 By: DAV Ernest McAlister, Ramseur,
 Chapter # 38

In Honor of: Lillie Hiatt
 By: Bobby and Denise Lowe Burgess

In Honor of: Joanne Luck
 By: Elaine Curtis

In Honor of: Keith and Pearl Martin
 By: Bobby and Denise Lowe Burgess

In Honor of: Clara Pugh
 By: Bobby and Denise Lowe Burgess

In Honor of: Arlene Smith
 By: Charlie and Et Hacksaylo

In Honor of: Suzanne Tate
 By: Ramseur Public Library Board of
 Trustees and Ramseur Library Staff
 Arlene Smith

In Honor of: Visually Impaired
 By: Coleridge Lions Club