

# RANDOLPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY *news*



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[randolphlibrary.org](http://randolphlibrary.org)

## Performances, discussions to bring Ellison novel to life

♣ **Randolph Reads:**  
*Invisible Man*, the community reading initiative exploring Ralph Ellison's classic novel, culminates in September with art, jazz, a stage presentation, book discussions and more.

All events are free and the public is invited. They include:

**Discuss-As-You-Read #3**, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, August 28, at the Asheboro Public Library, 201 Worth Street. This is the last in a series of discussions that have considered *Invisible Man* in portions.

**"Revealing the Invisible,"** an exhibit of work by local artists on the theme of invisibility, runs September 2-October 17 in Gallery 101 of the Randolph Arts Guild, 123 Sunset Avenue. An opening reception will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 2.

**John Brown's "Little" Big Band** will perform an eclectic mix of jazz music that heavily influenced Ralph Ellison's writing style, 7 p.m. Saturday, September 13, at the Sunset Theatre, 234 Sunset Avenue. Brown, a Duke University music professor, fronts several jazz combos including this 11-piece ensemble.

**"Ralph Ellison: An American Journey,"** a PBS American Experience documentary, will screen at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 18, at the Sunset Theatre.

**A Forum on Banned Books** with author Jerry Bledsoe

**RANDOLPH READS**  
**INVISIBLE MAN** JUNE-SEPT.  
2014



**Jazzman John Brown and his "Little" Big Band will perform at the Sunset Theatre.**

will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 25, at Randolph Community College.

**Invisibility in the Community**, a stage presentation based on Chip Womick's series of articles

in *The Courier-Tribune* about individuals around us who feel invisible, is tentatively slated for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, September 26-27, at the Sunset Theatre.

**Discussions of the book** are scheduled at the county's public libraries as follows: Archdale, 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 23; Asheboro, 5 p.m. Thursday, October 9; Liberty, 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 30; Ramseur, 1 p.m. Thursday, September 18; and Randleman, 4 p.m. Thursday, September 25.

All Randolph County has been invited to read and talk about *Invisible Man* by a partnership of community groups including *The Courier-Tribune*, the Friends

of the Randolph Public Library, the Asheboro City Schools, the City of Asheboro, the George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center, the Randolph County Public Library and the Randolph County Schools.

The purpose of the project is to allow people from all walks of life to have a common literary and artistic experience around the novel, and to be able to share their views on the themes and issues of being invisible in Randolph County.

For more details, visit [randolphreads.org](http://randolphreads.org) or contact Assistant Library Director George Taylor at 318-6814.

***New children's book club focuses on Battle of Books titles* — see page 3**

**Archdale**

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



# The invisible Aunt Jemima

♣ **Some years ago, a young woman asked a question at the Reference desk that stumped me.**

She appeared to be college-age and working on a report for a class. She was seeking research assistance to find out about the “real” Aunt Jemima, the woman who “invented” pancakes.

Our research in all available sources revealed no actual antecedent. The character was created in 1889 by a couple of businessmen to promote their instant pancake mix — the first in a long line of African American stereotypes used to promote products. Pancakes, meanwhile, have been around since at least the 5th Century BCE, so there was no individual to identify as “inventor.”

My patron went away with an answer, though not the one she expected. I wondered about her source of information. Was she simply misinformed? Had she bought into an urban legend?

So imagine my surprise a couple of nights ago to see this headline: “‘Aunt Jemima’ family files \$2 billion lawsuit against Pepsi and Quaker Oats.”

According to the report, heirs of Anna Short Harrington, a Quaker Oats employee who died in 1955, claim that the company used Harrington’s image as the model for Aunt Jemima; that the company used her original recipes for its pancake batter; and that she never received royalties for use of her image or her recipes. They also argue

that the company concealed her employment to avoid paying the royalties, and discouraged her from seeking redress. (Quaker won’t discuss details of litigation but says there’s no merit to the lawsuit.)

I recalled the young woman asking about the “real” Aunt Jemima. Was it a coincidence? Or did she have access to information that our resources did not?

All information resources have biases; this is one of the first things library school students learn in Reference courses, and it’s evident by looking up the same topic in multiple sources. The biases can be cultural, or simply due to limited knowledge at the time a particular work was created.

One commonly-used example, back in the day, was the *World Book Encyclopedia* article on Marie Curie, the Nobel prize-winning chemist. The article devoted more ink to her husband, physicist Pierre Curie, than it did to Mme. Curie herself — suggesting a subtle, perhaps unintentional, historical bias against women.

Anna Short Harrington appears to have been modeling as Aunt Jemima at the same time Ralph Ellison’s nameless *Invisible Man* was pounding the pavement in Harlem. Mrs. Harrington’s heirs contend she was made invisible; she certainly was invisible to history and to the resources available to me at the time I assisted the young woman.

But if Mrs. Harrington’s family is right, there was a “real” Aunt Jemima who, in a sense, “invented” pancakes. And now she’s visible.

**RANDOLPH COUNTY**

**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**news**

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 • **Mary Alice Rich**, President, Friends of the Library •  
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# New book club focuses on Battle titles

♣ **A second book club is coming to the Asheboro library Children's Room beginning in September.**

The BOB (Battle of the Books) Book Club is for fourth and fifth graders who either participate or are interested in the Elementary Battle of the Books. The intent is enjoyment of BOB titles outside of the competition.

The club will meet at 4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month beginning September 3. Participants at each meeting will consider one of the books from this year's list and incorporate thematic, engaging activities related to the book.

All interested fourth and fifth graders are invited, and encouraged to bring their own copies of the books or check out an available library copy.

Titles up for discussion are:

- September 3: *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen;
- October 1: *How Tia Local Came to Stay* by Julia Alvarez;
- November 5: *Extra Credit* by Andrew Clements;
- December 3: *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

The Children's Room's **Max and Imaginary Friends Book Club** for children in grades 2-5 continues on the third Wednesday of each month.

## Libraries host Every Child events

♣ **A Pre-Literacy Carnival travels to six libraries, and Archdale offers a "Dino-Mite" time, as fall Every Child Ready to Read events for kids age 0-5 and their parents/caregivers get underway.**

The Pre-Literacy Carnival will feature stories, carnival games and snacks. "Join us as we explore the many ways that getting ready to read can be easy and a lot of fun," says Head of Children's Services Amy Matthews.

The carnival will visit the libraries as follows:

- Archdale: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30;
- Asheboro: 10:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 5;
- Liberty: 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9;
- Ramseur: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 2
- Randleman: 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24;
- Seagrove: 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25.

The Archdale library will host an Every Child event of its own: a **Dino-Mite Family Night** at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 9. Stories, crafts and refreshments will be offered, along with a drawing for four children's admission tickets to the NC Aviation Museum and Hall of Fame.

All events are free.

## Take a tour of the Randolph Quilt Trail

♣ **Learn how to get the most out of a tour of the Randolph County Quilt Trail at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 9, at the Asheboro library.**

The Quilt Trail showcases the heritage of farm families in rural Randolph County, with 29 farms displaying quilt squares on

their barns.

Trail organizers Louella Caison and Susan Goins will talk about the self-guided tour along the backroads of Randolph County, and the meanings behind many of the squares unique to the families.

The trail began in 2010 as a project of the Piedmont Conservation Council.

## Book discussions

**Asheboro Reads:** *Keep Quiet* by Lisa Scottoline, 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 26; *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger, Tuesday, September 30.

**Luna Book Club:** *TBA*, 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 26. (Asheboro)

**Max and Imaginary Friends Children's Book Club:** *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 18. (Asheboro)

**Archdale Book Break:** *Guests on Earth* by Lee Smith, 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 16.

## Fun for families

Get your family unplugged as the Asheboro library Children's Room hosts a **Tech Free Family Night**, 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, September 9. Family-friendly board games and card games will be provided. The event is free and all families are invited.

Next, Have a swashbuckling good time at **International Talk Like a Pirate Day** in the Children's Room, 4-5 p.m. Thursday, September 18.

Children and families are invited to celebrate the silly day with pirate-themed games, stories and snacks.

## Lego Free-Builds

Lego Free-Builds continue at 4 p.m. Fridays at the Asheboro library.

## Warren Coble to talk about avoiding scams and fraud

Senior Advisor Warren Coble will show you how to avoid scams and fraud, and protect your loved ones from financial predators, in *Avoiding Senior Fraud* at 2:30 p.m. Friday,

September 12, at the Asheboro Public Library.

The program, sponsored by the Friends of the library, is free and the public is invited.





**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"/> Jr. Friend..... | \$5  | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron .....    | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult .....     | \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor..... | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family.....     | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime.....   | \$500 |

**YES! I'd like to help:** \_\_\_\_ Programs \_\_\_\_ Hospitality \_\_\_\_ Book Sales \_\_\_\_ Membership

## Randolph County Public Library

201 Worth Street

Asheboro, NC 27203

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### Support the Friends!

**Totes — \$12**  
*Stuffed with books from the Friends Bookshop — \$20*

**Coozies — \$2**

*Available at Friends of the Library Bookshop, Asheboro library Circulation Desk*

## memorials & donations

**In Memory of: Ethel Mae Roberts Brown**

By: Happy Bookers Book Club

**In Memory of: Mary Edna Richardson Leggett**

By: Jim and Miriam Bivins

**In Honor of: Chris and Stacy Griffin**

By: Randolph County Partnership for Children

**In Honor of: The Courier-Tribune**

By: Randolph County Partnership for Children

**In Honor of: Pam Hill,**

**Randolph County Clerk of Court**

By: Randolph County Partnership for Children

**In Honor of: The Honorable Tommy**

**McDonald**

By: Jimmy, Pam and Allie Hill

**In Honor of: MOM Brands**

By: Randolph County Partnership for Children

**In Honor of: PNC Bank**

By: Randolph County Partnership for Children

**In Honor of: Randolph Oil Company**

By: Randolph County Partnership for Children

**In Honor of: Dean Sexton**

By: Jimmy, Pam and Allie Hill

**In Honor of: Wells Fargo**

By: Randolph County Partnership for Children

## Archdale slates Family Film Nights

*Showtimes at 7 p.m. Fridays*

**September 12: Hachi: A Dog's Tale**

**September 26: The Lego Movie**

**October 10: Fly Away Home**

**October 24: Peter Pan**

**November 14: Frozen**



**End of Month Special!**

**Books by Stephen King, Patricia Cornwell**

**50% Off**

**Aug. 26, 28, 30**