



'The Spirit of Harriet Tubman'

Actress Diane Faison to bring famed abolitionist to life

♣ Experience history through "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman" as actress Diane Faison brings the famed abolitionist to life in a performance at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center (GWCCEC).

The one-woman show is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the GWCCEC, which is located at 950 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Asheboro.

Tubman, born in 1822, escaped a brutal existence as a slave to found the Underground Railroad and advocate tirelessly for abolition. She led troops in the United States Army during the Civil War, and afterwards became an advocate for women's suffrage.



Actress Diane Faison as Harriet Tubman.

Faison, on retiring after 25 years as an art teacher in North Carolina and Virginia, wanted students to feel history, rather than just researching it.

She studied Tubman's life and developed her one-woman play, which her husband, a history teacher, asked her to perform for his students.

Since then, she has performed multiple times each month for close to 30 years in schools, colleges, libraries, churches and retirement homes.

Faison, who resides in Winston-Salem, holds a bachelors of arts in art appreciation from North Carolina Central University. She has received grants from the Winston-Salem and Alamance arts councils, and the Puffin Foundation.

Mobile Library to get solar power boost

♣ The "library" part of the Mobile Library will draw its power from the sun thanks to a State Library of North Carolina Adapting Technology grant.

The upgrade will enable the Mobile Library to spend more time at stops — even all day, if necessary — without the converted ambulance's diesel engine idling.

This, in turn, will allow the vehicle to bring free, "pop-up" WiFi to underserved areas of the county for meaningful periods of time. A rotating series of stops for areas of need is envisioned.

The project also will enhance the library's ability to bring books, children's activities and digital literacy classes to remote sites. The inclusion of a wireless printer will enable computer users to print their documents.

The \$22,500 grant will provide for eight 200-watt solar

panels atop the back box of the vehicle, a battery bank underneath, and other electrical equipment. In addition to a powerful WiFi router, the solar equipment will power lights, heating/cooling and electrical outlets.

The grant also will fund the wireless printer, and programming supplies, including a tablet computer, wireless projector, projection screen, and portable tables and chairs.

Library Network Administrator Ian Fletcher envisioned and developed the project.

This grant is made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-250229-OLS-21).

Liberty gets accessible; Dr. Smallwood returns —see inside

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 9-5:30
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-Tues 9-7
Wed-Fri 9-5
Sat 9-3

Ramseur

336-824-2232
Fax 336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-5
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

'Made possible by LSTA'

♣ **On the front page of this newsletter, you will read about one of our thrilling new projects taking shape: the innovative use of solar energy to power our Mobile Library.**

You'll also read this less than thrilling verbiage: "This grant is made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (IMLS grant number LS-250229-OLS-21)."

While its not exactly a Shakespearean sonnet, it's an important acknowledgment of a key factor in the ability of libraries to achieve their missions: the Library Services and Technology Act.

The LSTA is the primary source of federal funding for libraries. It is channeled to state libraries nationwide to use for statewide projects and to provide grants for local libraries.

The annual grant cycles are competitive because funding is limited, but the State Library of North Carolina's LSTA Advisory Committee, made up of library representatives from across the state, wants to fund as many worthy projects as possible. Grants usually (but not always) require a local match.

Every five years, the committee re-evaluates the program and revises funding priorities or establishes new ones. Until recently, the emphasis was on technology.

Lately, however, priorities have gravitated to more community-oriented initiatives, and partnerships are prized. During the pandemic, the State Library shifted some LSTA funds for mini-grants to help libraries and communities cope with the crisis.

Since the early 1990s, we have received hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants from LSTA and its predecessor, the Library Services and Construction Act.

These grant programs supported the initial automation of library functions including the catalog, and a later upgrade; PCs and printers for public access over many years; the digitization project that resulted in the Historic Photograph Collection; and our public Internet access management and printing system.

Beyond technology, LSTA funded two Hispanic Services grants in the early 2000s that boosted our ability to serve that burgeoning population; a marketing grant in 2007 that supported the revamp of our teen services, which received national recognition; an outreach grant that launched our Every Child Ready to Read initiative; a planning grant that gave us our 2014 countywide facility study; and now, two storywalks shortly to debut.

Mini-grants during the pandemic brought us 3D printers, laptops for in-house checkout, and iPads for Parents as Teachers virtual home visits.

Funding from LSTA has been like lifeblood for us and libraries nationwide. Now if we could get Mr. Shakespeare working on that acknowledgement....

Get growing with spring's arrival

♣ Spring has sprung!

As the grass grows and the birds chirp, join in on some hands-on gardening and nature activities at the Asheboro, Franklinville, Liberty and Seagrove libraries.

Asheboro

Drop by the Asheboro library Children's Room in April to grab your very own Nature Notebook, packed with nature facts, activities, games, puzzles and more. The notebook comes with a wildflower **Seed Kit for Spring** packet to grow in your own pollinator garden. Also available are seed boxes crafted by 4-H to grow a vegetable garden.

All seed packets and boxes are free and include educational components to learn and play for all ages.

The notebooks are provided by Stormwater SMART and Randolph County

Cooperative Extension.

Then, in an **Earth Day event with Danica Heflin** of Stormwater SMART, 4 p.m. Friday, April 22, identify plants, pal around with turtles and plant wildflowers. Best for ages 4 and up.

Franklinville and Seagrove

At Franklinville and Seagrove, school age kids can participate in "A Growing Story." Learn how seeds grow into plants with Randolph County 4-H. Franklinville: 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 12; Seagrove: 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 19.

Liberty

Liberty's "Earth Day Celebration" takes place from 3-5 p.m. Friday, April 22. Help plant in the raised bed gardens outside the library, make a recycled art craft and learn how to help keep Mother Earth healthy and clean.

It's 'Donuts with a Digeridoo' at Liberty and more activities at libraries around the county

♣ "Donuts with a DIGERIDOO" says it all.

Come to the Liberty library and meet the amazing instrument that is the digeridoo — the wonder from the Down Under of Australia — at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 16. Experience the unique sounds of the instrument while learning more about the instrument itself, accompanied by some tasty donuts.

Upcycled flower pots

Adults and teens at Franklinville and Seagrove can clean up old flower pots and give them new life with a little paint, decoupage and inspiration. Seagrove: 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 2; Franklinville, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3.

Archdale storytimes

In-person toddler and pre-school storytimes have returned to the Archdale

library at 10 a.m. Thursdays. Enjoy stories, songs and other activities with Ms. Haley.

Make your own flip-flops

Blew out your flip-flop? Learn how to make your own at the Seagrove and Franklinville libraries by upcycling plastic grocery bags. School age.

Franklinville: 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 5; Seagrove: 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 26.

Pop in for National Library Week

Pop in to the Randleman library during National Library Week, April 4-8, for a good book, and pop out with a bag of tasty popcorn. The week also will feature a Preschool Story Time on the Porch, 10 a.m. Friday, April 8.

Randleman continues to offer take-home activities for children, teens and adults.

Master Gardener and beekeeper Cabel McBride will join Dave and the Borrowers for "What's the Buzz? A Future Without Bees." McBride will talk about the importance of

pollinators and what could happen if bees are endangered.

The podcast will premiere at dave-and-the-borrowers.simplecast.com, and on podcast platforms, on April 28.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: *Trust Exercise* by Susan Choi, 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 26.

Archdale Book Break: Returning after the pandemic hiatus on the third Tuesday of each month. *Title TBD*, 2 p.m. April 19.

Book Bites (Archdale): Talk about the most exciting or interesting book you have read lately; share a second if time permits. A list of all books shared will be posted online for reading inspiration. 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 12.

Liberty Book Club: *The Rose Code* by Alix Harrow, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21. Call 336-622-4605 or stop by the library for copies of the book.

Program and play

Kids ages 8 and up are invited to a "Program and Play" event, 4 p.m. Friday, April 29, at the Asheboro library. Learn how to program a Sphero ball through an obstacle course, build a computer using Kano, and play iPad games through coding.

Come anytime between 4-5 p.m. Call 336-318-6804 to sign up.

Beekeeper to visit Dave and the Borrowers podcast

Through Her Eyes *by Susan Coltrane*

Remembering Susan Coltrane

Former library staff member Susan Coltrane passed away unexpectedly on March 7. Susan was Archdale librarian from 1983-1996, and an Asheboro children's librarian from 1996-2015. On her retirement after 32 years, she penned this reflection.

She walks into the children's area and for the first time sees lots and lots of books.

She doesn't see the hours of planning, nights of sleeplessness over where to put all those books, or how can we buy more books?

She just sees adventures, laughter, and knowledge in all those books.

She hardly knows where to begin....

So much to choose from, so little time to figure out how much she can take home with her today.

We see torn pages, overdue fees, tight budgets,

long hours,... but she sees a whole new world of books to read.

She squeals "Look Mommy I've always wanted to read this book, it's the one my teacher reads in our class at school.

She sees books on princesses, American Girl, and her favorite, one on kittens.

She sees the Library lady who came to her school yesterday, or maybe she Sees her teacher who has come to "Her library."

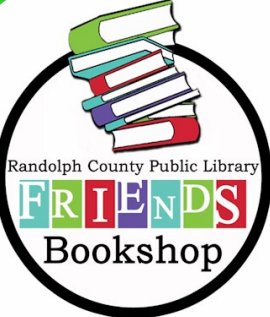
Regardless of what we see, may we never lose sight of what she sees at the library.

Randolph County Public Libraries

201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

Return Service Requested

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10 a.m.-2 p.m.
**Tuesdays,
Thursdays,
Saturdays**
**226 Sunset Ave.
Asheboro**
Masks optional

memorials & donations

In Memory of: Chris Griffin

By: Susie, Mandy and Roxanne Dunn

In Memory of: Eddie Pugh

By: Susie Councilman Dunn

In Honor of: Melissa Drakulakos

By: Teraesa Follin

In Honor of: David Smith

By: Reviewers Book Club

To: Randolph County Public Libraries

By: Robert D. and Dorothy A. Crowder
Endowment Fund

Get vegetable gardening tips

♣ Ensure that your fruits and vegetables thrive with the help of "Backyard Vegetable Gardening," a class at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 4, at the Asheboro library.



Annie Mills

Annie Mills, horticultural agent with Randolph County Cooperative Extension, will guide participants through site development, selecting appropriate varieties, and

cultivational practices to keep plants healthy. The class is free and the public is invited.

As horticultural agent, Mills provides support and programs for consumers and horticulture businesses.

She works with farmers markets and community gardens, and assists with the county's needs related to production of and access to local foods.

Liberty renovates for accessibility

♣ **An unobstructed entrance is just the beginning as the Liberty library works to increase accessibility for all visitors.**

Once further renovations are complete, the library's restrooms will be handicapped accessible and will meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and a bit more floor space will be available for public service.

The library likely will be closed during the first week of April as the next phase of construction gets underway, but expects to remain open during subsequent work.

Library manager Brenda Hornsby-Heindl says that while getting everything lined up for the project has been a lot of work, "it's going to be amazing to have a space in which everyone can come spend time with us."

Workers recently completed removal of the arches in the main entrance of the library building, which was built in



The main entrance to the Liberty library before (top) and after the central arch was removed to improve access to the front doors.

1966. An opening as wide as the door and sidelights now provides better access to the front doors.

The change complements a new ramp to the right of the library entrance built last summer. Plans for the coming year call for a railing to be installed, as well as a push-button door opening system.

Work on the restrooms is expected to be completed by early May. A hallway between the existing restrooms and a small kitchen will be eliminated and restroom doors shifted, gaining the necessary access.

An area behind the restroom block, now used for staff and storage, will be opened up for the public. Staff offices will be pushed to the Swaim Room, a former conference room between the library and town hall.

Library staff plan to provide outside pick-up bins for requested items while the library is closed for construction.

Keep an eye out at [Facebook.com/LibertyNCLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/LibertyNCLibrary), or call 336-622-4605 for updates.

Smallwood returns to talk about the Tuscarora

♣ **So compelling are the North Carolina history talks by Dr. Arwin Smallwood of N.C. A&T State University that we keep inviting him back for more.**

Smallwood will return for "The Tuscarora of North Carolina" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the Asheboro library. The in-person program is free and the public is invited.

The talk will follow the lives of the Tuscarora and other native people in the state up to the mid-1800s. A group welcoming of all people (they probably absorbed the Lost Colony), the Tuscarora experienced a diaspora following the Tuscarora War that spread them



Dr. Arwin Smallwood

around North Carolina, the eastern United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

An expert on the history and development of Native American, African American and European cultures in the eastern part of the state, Smallwood is professor and chair of the Department of History and Political Science at N.C. A&T.

Last month, he received the Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service from The University of North Carolina's Board of Governors, one of the top two annual faculty awards in the UNC system. Smallwood is the first N.C. A&T staff member chosen for the award.

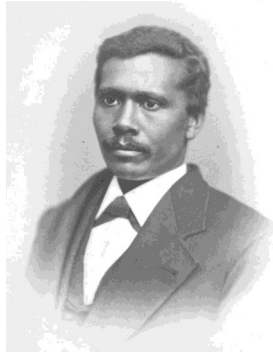
Rev. Islay Walden gets Literary Landmark

♣ Released from enslavement in 1865, Islay Walden walked from Randolph County to Washington, D.C., to gain an education and seek treatment for his poor eyesight.

Some 15 years later, he would return — as an ordained minister, theologian and poet of national note — to establish a church and school at Hill Town, a community of color later known as Strieby, in the southwestern part of the county.

Now, thanks to the efforts of his biographer, Margo Lee Williams, Walden has been recognized with a Literary Landmark by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association that supports library Friends groups, foundations and trustees.

The landmark plaque will be dedicated in a ceremony at



The Rev. Islay Walden; Margo Lee Williams



2 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at Strieby Church, 5469 Strieby Church Road. Library Director Ross Holt will provide the keynote address.

Williams is a historian and genealogist who lives in Baltimore, Maryland, but her mother was from Asheboro. A visit here in 1982 prompted her to delve into the history of the

southwestern Randolph area, and led her to authorship of three books: *The Miles Lassiter Family of Lassiter's Mill, Randolph County, North Carolina*; *From Hill Town to Strieby: Education and the American Missionary Association in the Uwharrie "Back Country" of Randolph County North Carolina*, and *Born Missionary: The Islay Walden Story*.

Her research led to the designation of the site of Strieby church, school and cemetery as a Randolph County Cultural Heritage Site by the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission in 2013.

1950 Census enumeration data to be released

♣ Genealogists take heart: enumeration data from the 1950 census, including names of people in households, will be released on April 1.

The information will be available directly from the National Archives ([archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov)), as well as from genealogy resources including [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)/Ancestry Library Edition and FamilySearch. Ancestry Library Edition can be accessed for free at the library.

Although census numbers are available after the decennial count is completed, detailed census information such as household enumeration is released after 72 years.

Initially, searching for a person will be tricky, because although the raw data has been digitized, it has not been indexed. Indexing is expected to be complete in the summer of 2022. Meanwhile, there's a workaround: with a person's address, users can search census district maps to find the person's district, then drill down to the person's household.

Look for more details on the Randolph Room's Facebook page, facebook.com/randolphhistory, as the data is released, or visit the Randolph Room for in-person assistance.

Learn Google Docs, Excel in new round of classes

♣ In-person computer skills classes resume at the Asheboro library with classes on how to use Google Docs and Microsoft Excel.

Google Docs is a free document writing and editing alternative to Microsoft Word. Create newsletters, write reports and make brochures for professional, personal or educational work.

The class, at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 4, and repeated at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 25, will explain the Google Docs interface, sharing documents with others, printing and downloading documents, and how Docs can be easily accessed on any device with an Internet connection.

Microsoft Excel, although it can be intimidating, enables the user to effectively manage, organize and store different types of data, from simple lists to financial documents.

The Excel class, at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, and repeated at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, will cover using the ribbon tools to format text and organize data; identifying active cells and applying formatting; analyzing and displaying data using tools such as autosum, formulas and charts; and creating readable reports.

The classes are free and the public is invited; call 336-318-6803 or drop by the library to sign up.