



## 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](mailto: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**  
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Fax 336-431-4619  
10433 S. Main St.  
Mon, Wed, Fri 9-6;  
Tues, Thur 9-8; Sat 9-5

**Asheboro**  
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Fax 336-318-6823  
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Sat 9-5

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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)*



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**Ross A. Holt**, Director • **Donna Hall**, President, Friends of the Library •  
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# 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.

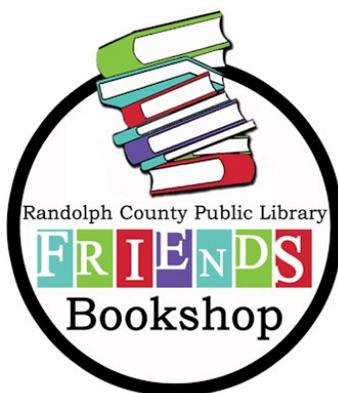
## Book discussions

**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.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**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*

- Student ..... \$5
- Adult ..... \$15
- Family..... \$25
- Patron ..... \$100
- Benefactor..... \$250
- Lifetime..... \$500
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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

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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**

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**In Honor of: DAV Organization**

By: DAV Ernest McAlister, Ramseur,  
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**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 Hacskaylo

**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