

“CHAPTERS” LITERACY FUNDRAISER IN SEPTEMBER

Spend an evening after hours in the library with three authors while helping raise money and awareness for Tulsa City-County Library’s Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service.

In conjunction with National Literacy Awareness Month, Tulsa City-County Library and the Tulsa Library Trust are offering “Chapters: A Casual Evening of Books, Bards and Bites” on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St. The cost is \$50 per person. Deadline for reservations is Sept. 1.

Attendees will get to enjoy food and wine from some of the area’s favorite restaurants while listening to authors Rosanne Bittner, Alton Carter and Alison Gaylin.

Bittner is the author of 60 novels, which she has written over a span of 35 years. Her stories generally are set in the American West in the 1800s and feature vividly described, historically-accurate settings spanning the United States from Missouri to California, from Canada to Mexico. Many of her books portray the poignant history of Native Americans. Her works include *Wildest Dreams*, *Do Not Forsake Me*, *Outlaw Hearts*, *Thunder on the Plains*, *Desperate Hearts*, *Paradise Valley*, *Where Heaven Begins*, *Mystic Warriors* and numerous other titles. Bittner lives in rural Southwest Lower Michigan, about five minutes from Lake Michigan.

A former foster child and police officer, Carter was the first person in his family to graduate from high school and college. Now the director of youth ministries for the First United Methodist Church of Stillwater, OK, the Oklahoma State University alum has dedicated his life to working with young people. In April 2015, his debut book, *The Boy Who Carried Bricks*, was published by The RoadRunner Press, and on April 9, 2016, the nonfiction title won the 2016 Oklahoma Book Award. The book is a true recount of Carter’s hard-scrabble life growing up on the plains and in the small towns of Oklahoma.

Gaylin’s debut book *Hide Your Eyes* was nominated for an Edgar award in the best first novel category. Her critically acclaimed suspense novels have been published in such countries as the U.K., France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Japan. She won the Shamus Award for *And She Was*, the first book in the Brenna Spector series. Her books have been on the best-seller lists in the U.S. and Germany. Gaylin’s newest title, *What Remains of Me*, is a standalone spellbinding novel of psychological suspense, set in the glamorous, wealthy world of Hollywood. Gaylin lives in Woodstock, NY.

Authors’ books will be available for purchasing with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the literacy service. Call 918-549-7494 for more information about “Chapters” or to make a reservation.



ROSANNE BITTNER.



ALTON CARTER.



ALISON GAYLIN
PHOTO CREDIT: FRANCO VOGT

“THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE” AT TULSA PAC

As part of the Summer Heat International Dance Festival, July 30 – Aug. 6, Choregus is bringing “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe” to the Tulsa PAC for two performances on Aug. 4, 8 p.m. and Aug. 5, 2 p.m. See this classic tale choreographed for dance.

Summer Heat International Dance Festival subscriptions (performances featuring dance troupes from three countries) and individual event tickets including for “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” are available now. Call 918.688.6112 to purchase, or online at myticketoffice.com. More information is available at choregus.org.

TULSA TECH STUDENTS HONORED

The Tulsa Tech Education Foundation recently awarded three adult students \$1,000 each through the Foundation of Excellence Scholarship. Justin Robinson, Lisa Estes and Cesar Flores all were awarded based upon merit and performance in the classroom. Each were honored with a check presentation and award in June at Tulsa Tech’s Skyline administration campus.

Robinson, a student in the Aviation Maintenance Technician program at Tulsa Tech, hopes to continue his education to become aerospace engineer and follow in his grandfather’s footsteps.

Estes is a student in the Automotive Service program, and excited about utilizing the scholarship to purchase additional tools for her future career and to help with bills while going to school and working full-time.

Flores hopes to continue his education and obtain a degree in Manufacturing after finishing his Machining program at Tulsa Tech.



CELEBRITY ATTRACTIONS ADDS THREE SHOWS

Celebrity Attractions announced that the 2016-2017 Broadway Season now features three national touring add-on productions coming to the Tulsa Performing Arts Center this fall.

Patrons who subscribe to the regular season, which includes Disney’s “Newsies,” “Elf, The Musical,” Motown, The Musical,” “Dirty Dancing,” “Something Rotten!” and “Matilda, The Musical” (optional), will be first in line to purchase tickets to add-on productions, including “Once,” “Cirque Dreams Holiday,” and “Mannheim Steamroller Christmas” by Chip Davis.

For information go to www.celebrityattractions.com

AUGUST



1 | MONDAY

Shrunken Apple Heads (FREE)

Peel an apple with a hand-crank apple peeler, carve facial features with a toothpick, and dip it in vinegar and in salt. Take it home and watch it slowly turn into a shrunken head. For ages 5-12. Brookside Library, 1207 E 45th Pl.; 11 a.m.

Chuck-A-Duck at Lacy Pool

Pick up a numbered rubber duck from the front desk and gather around the deep end. At the signal, throw your duck towards the floating rings. Ducks inside any rings win a prize! Lacy Pool, 2134 N. Madison Place; 2 p.m.

Cooperative Parenting & Divorce Class

Your relationship with your partner may have ended, but it's in your children's best interests for you both to be involved in their lives. Learn how to co-parent at this 6 week course. Mondays; 6 p.m. Family and Children Services, 1055 S. Houston Ave. Register at www.fcsok.org.

2 | TUESDAY

Oklahoma Music Academy Summer Jam

This is the culmination of 6-weeks of OMA Summer Camp. The public is invited to attend this live gig at Cain's Ballroom, 423 N Main St. at 7 p.m. This event is all ages.



IICOT POW WOW OF CHAMPIONS

The Mabee center will come alive August 12-14 in a colorful expression of dance, drum music, and song. Fry bread, corn soup, Indian tacos will be available. Find more information at www.iicot.org.

3 | WEDNESDAY

Seventh Annual Disc Golf Summer Bash

(FREE) Disc golf pro, Mr. Richard, will teach you techniques from his favorite sport. New players or old pros, young or old, all are welcome to this end-of-summer celebration! For ages 5 and older. Charles Page Library, 551 E. Fourth St.; 10:30 a.m.

STEAM Workshop: Cats of the Internet (FREE)

Come and make a felt cat and learn about Cats of the Internet: Neko Atsume, Pusheen, Grumpy Cat and more! For ages 8-14. Registration is required: 918.549.7595. Martin Regional Library 2601 S. Gamett Rd.; 1 p.m.

4 | THURSDAY

Harwelden Murder Mystery (DATE NIGHT)

The Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa will host its annual Harwelden Murder Mystery fundraiser with a mystery inspired by classic zombie lore, entitled Ten Little Zombies. During the performance, guests watch closely and prepare to gather clues and try to solve the case through interviews with "surviving" cast members at the conclusion of the play. Nightly performances are August 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 13 at Harwelden Mansion, 2210 S. Main Street in Tulsa. Doors open at 7 p.m. for dinner, and performance begins at 7:45 p.m.. Tickets can be purchased online at ahhatulsa.org/mystery/ or by calling 918.584.3333.



LIBRARY SUMMER READING

Don't forget to turn in your Tulsa City-County Summer Reading logs by Saturday, August 6.

5 | FRIDAY

Mlini Masters

Kids will enjoy the galleries of Gilcrease as they begin their journey into printmaking. Explore different cultures, time periods and artistic styles that will inspire your own interpretation through many different techniques of printmaking, like block printing, mono prints and potato printing. For ages 3-6, who must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and advanced registration is required: gilcrease.org. Gilcrease Museum, 1400 North Gilcrease Museum Rd.; 10 a.m.

First Friday Art Crawl

First Friday is a perfect date night starting with a cocktail, coffee or early dinner on one of the many patios. It can also be a leisurely browse of the art and a great late dinner or nightcap at the District's unique restaurants or clubs. Families can find many options from kid-friendly gallery shows to live music in the park. For those who like to linger even later, stay for one of the clubs, bars or coffee shops – many of which offer live entertainment. Brady Arts District, begins at 6 p.m.

6 | SATURDAY

Rhea Lana Broken Arrow

Don't miss this cosignment event August 6-10 at Rhema Ninowski Rec Center, 1421 W. Kenosha St. brokenarrow.rhealana.com.

Close the Gap 5K

The purpose of the Close the Gap 5K is to close the gaps in women's wellness, wealth and civic education. Benefitting YWCA, this race works to raise awareness for the health of women and girls in Oklahoma; income disparities among women, particularly women of color; and a leadership gap that cuts across all levels of our state and private sector businesses – all while funding critical local programming and celebrating women, girls and the men who support them. The race will be located in downtown Tulsa and begin at 7:30 a.m. Register and find out more at www.ywcatulsa.org.

Back To School Bash (FREE)

This is a FREE health and safety fair for Broken Arrow public and private schools students as well as Union Public School students to get ready to go back to school. The Health Department will be there to tell you what shots are needed and where the next shot clinics will be. Over 65 vendors both business and churches will be giving out school supplies. Tulsa Tech Broken Arrow Campus, 4600 South Olive; 9 a.m. to noon.

Lil' Scientist Saturday at Whiteside Rec Center

Lots of fun experiments await your little ones. Enroll by Wednesday, August 3. Cost is \$7 per child. 4009 S. Pittsburgh Ave.; 10 a.m.

BY LAURA RAPHAEL, MA, MLIS, CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR, TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

learning to read: 5 not-so-easy pieces

What I'm about to say may be a surprise, particularly as it comes from someone with a professional stake in supporting children as they learn to read.

The human brain isn't really designed for reading.

In fact, the process of reading is akin to an enormous bear teetering in a ring on a unicycle: it's possible, certainly, but not natural, elegant or efficient.

Just as bears are designed to get where they're going by running or walking (not cycling), human brains are designed to communicate through speaking and listening, not using written language.

There are entire books written about this, so here's the short version. Reading involves a delicate coordination of complex skills that takes years to master. Between decoding marks on paper into letters and letters into sounds and translating sounds into words and words into meaning, the brain is doing a lot of work it's not really wired to do.

(If you're at all interested in the exact details of how the brain manages this bear-on-a-unicorn balancing act, two excellent books are *Proust and the Squid* by Maryanne Wolf and *Reading in the Brain* by Stanislas Dehaene – both available at the library, of course.)

Despite this complexity, in 2000, something called the National Reading Panel finished



three years of study and released its final report. They sifted through all of the research and identified five major elements that adults should concentrate on when teaching children how to read.

They are:

- Phonics
- Phonemic Awareness
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

Phonics and phonemic

awareness are inextricably intertwined. They represent all of the skills related to decoding text into sounds and sounds into meaning. Phonics is the specific code of letters and the sounds they represent; phonemic awareness is being able to hear all of the different sounds in words. (This is the bear learning how to get on the unicycle without falling off.)

Fluency is the natural-ness of reading – making the words read “sound like talking.” When

fluency is high, the words flow in a pleasing manner. (This is the bear being able to take a turn around the ring without falling off.)

Vocabulary is knowing a wide variety of words. In reading, the more words a child knows verbally, the more likely he or she will be able to recognize and incorporate those same words in text. (This is the bear doing tricks as it cycles.)

The grand goal of all, the top of the mountain, is **comprehension**. There are plenty of children (and adults!) who can read a sentence smoothly, decoding the letters into sounds and making the words sound natural but don't have a clue what they have just read means.

The Tulsa City-County Library is committed to helping parents, caregivers, and educators support children in developing every one of these reading elements. From storytimes for babies and toddlers that focus on sounds and songs (both boosters of phonics and phonemic awareness) to PAWS for Reading events where beginning readers can practice reading fluently to therapy dogs, the library is the place to go to ensure that reading – while not a natural brain activity – is nevertheless fun and rewarding.

If you'd like tips about what you can do to support these different elements, see the “Kids Read” library blog at www.tulsakids.com.