

# AREA ECHO

## JUNE 2025







## President's Message

Thanks for a great year - best first year of being president ever!! I couldn't ask for a better group of folks to work with!! I am definitely looking forward to year 2 and seeing all your smiling faces at our August 18th meeting. We will be back and enjoying the facilities at Heritage Ranch. We will "Focus on Success" as we celebrate with our new retirees!! Have a fabulous summer!!

Always,  
Donna

***Donna JonesAllen Retired Educators Association  
AREA President 2024-2026  
[dkjones812@gmail.com](mailto:dkjones812@gmail.com)***



## Would you like to be a leader with AREA?

### ***We Need You!***

#### **Available Positions:**

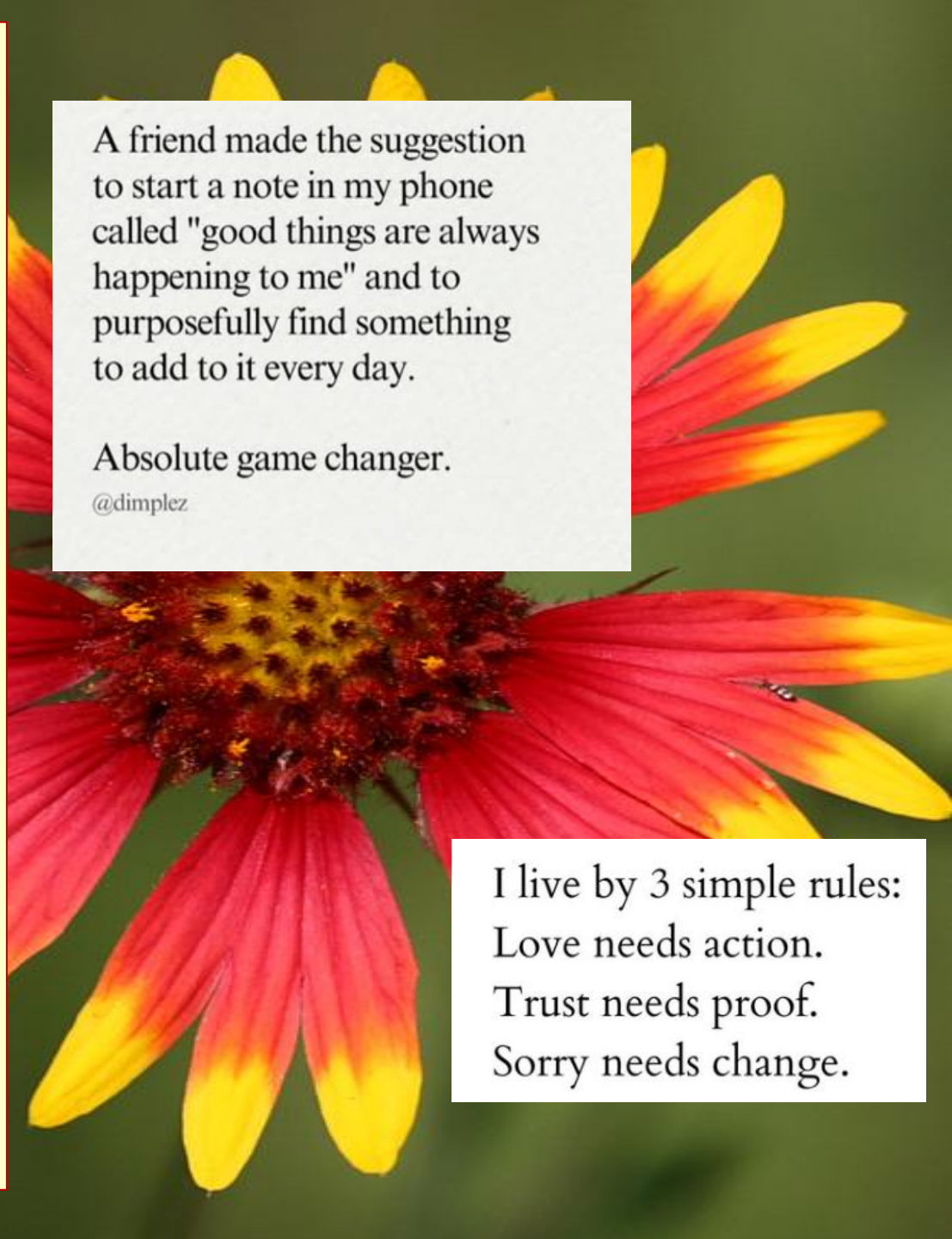
##### **Co-chairs coordinate the 2025-2026 Directory!**

Co-chairs would probably work best - one with computer knowledge and skills to assimilate pages and the other with an outgoing personality to approach businesses to sell advertisements. The database of members will be provided along with a flash drive of previous pages!

**Outings Chair** plans fun, entertaining and/or informative outings for interested members.

**Newsletter Chair** takes submitted articles to create 6 newsletters a year. Currently power point is used. The chair compiles the information in an attractive and usable format, adding artwork and photos. Contact Judi Oehler, [judi.oehler@gmail.com](mailto:judi.oehler@gmail.com)

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Donna Jones 214-228-8298 [dkjones812@gmail.com](mailto:dkjones812@gmail.com)



A friend made the suggestion to start a note in my phone called "good things are always happening to me" and to purposefully find something to add to it every day.

Absolute game changer.

@dimplez

I live by 3 simple rules:  
Love needs action.  
Trust needs proof.  
Sorry needs change.





FOUNDATION FOR ALLEN SCHOOLS

# Congratulations Allen High School Graduates

FOUNDATION FOR ALLEN SCHOOLS

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## MARY SAMPANG

### *Congratulations, Mary!*

AREA Scholarship recipient, Mary Sampang attended Lindsey Elementary, Evans Elementary, Curtis Middle School, Lowery Freshman Center and Allen High School.

Favorite subject was Sculpture. Her extracurricular Activities include -Health Occupation

Students of America, Student Council Jersey Club, and Basketball. Volunteer – St.

Jude Religious Education. Awards – Collin College Heart of Healthcare and

Outstanding Sculpture Student. Ultimate Career Goal – Elementary School Principal.

Mary – For the majority of my high school career, I was dead set on becoming a nurse.

I became more knowledgeable in that field and immersed myself in career specific experiences, working as a Certified Nursing Assistant. It wasn't until my senior year of high school, when I realized my burning passion to become a nurse dimmed down. I realized most of my part-time jobs included child-care such as being a swim instructor, gymnastics teacher, and babysitter. I always had a connection with my students, helping them navigate challenges and build confidence. I was able to impact future generations and serve as an inspiration. My passion included helping others grow, learn and unlock their potential to the fullest. Pursuing a path in education would allow me to connect with people in their everyday lives, and not just in a moment of crisis.



Carole Smithwick  
Scholarship Committee

*Congratulations, ISAIAH FIELDS*

AREA Scholarship recipient, Isaiah Fields attended Marion Elementary, Curtis Middle School, Lowery Freshman Center and Allen High School. Favorite subject was Math. His extracurricular activities have included; Student Council, Peer Leadership, Principals Advisory Team, Track & Field, and Volleyball. Awards – Peer Leadership Underclassman of the Year. Volunteer – Peer Leadership. Ultimate Career Goal – High School Principal.

Isaiah – From an early age, I recognized the impact of education, not only as a means of acquiring knowledge but as a tool for personal growth, empowerment, and societal change. Throughout my life, I have been influenced by my father and uncle and mom who pursue educational careers. My passion for learning and helping others achieve their fullest potential fuels my desire to pursue a career in education. Through my studies, I hope to develop the skills necessary to understand diverse learning needs, utilize innovative teaching strategies, and ultimately make a positive impact on students' lives.





Team Captain	Team Members
Cindy Blair <i>Sole Sisters</i>	Cindy Reese Jannie Fonville Bunny Frost Jo Long Susan McDaniel Sue Fucilla Nancy Havens
Donna Laster <i>Wobble Wobble Walkers</i>	Connie Rodenbaugh Lisa Casto Nancy Lessner Barbara Lye Kathy Parker Trish Jarboe Valerie Lapp
Gena Flemmer <i>Quick Steppers</i>	Mary Higdon Patricia Gear Melody Pence Cindy Trantham Beth Becker Beth Miller Bonnie Platt



Walk across Texas  
 Congratulations to these teams and  
 Team members for their successful  
 Efforts!  
 Not only did they take a risk  
 And do something new; they had fun,  
 Got healthier and finished strong!  
 We can't wait for next year!  
 Cindy Blair





## ***AREA BOOK CLUB***

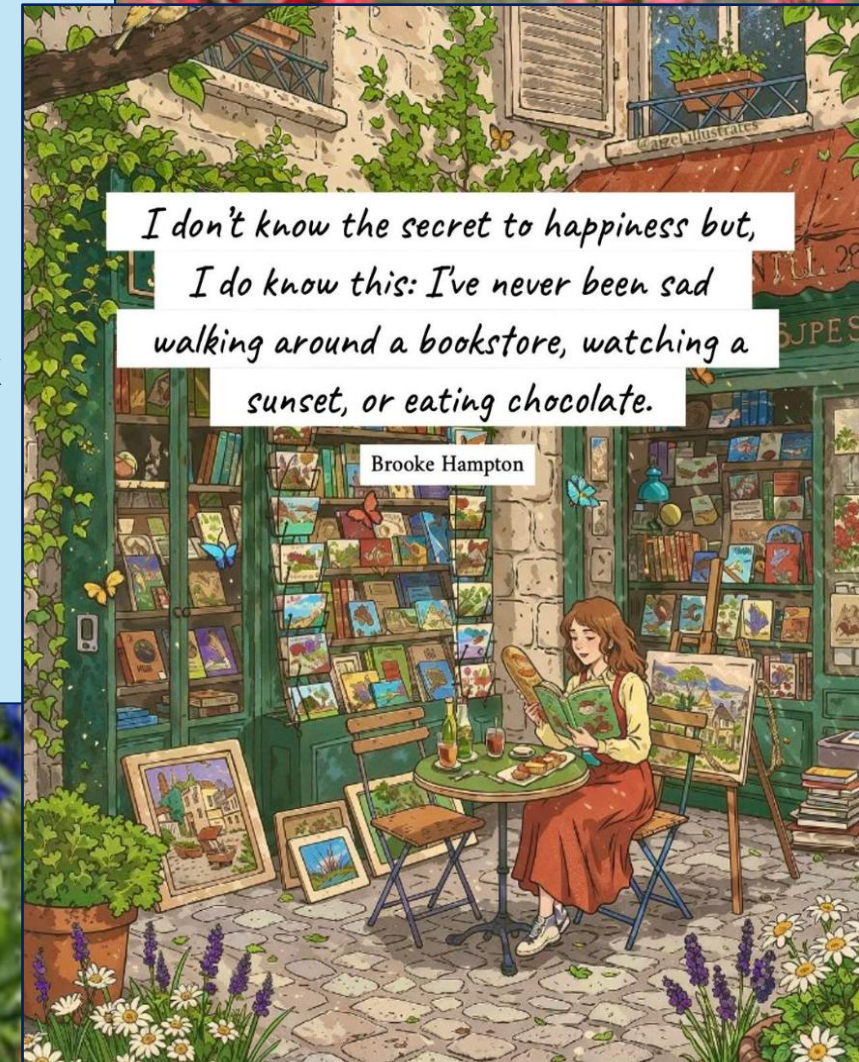
April 9, AREA Book Club met at Gloria's for a lively discussion of Ride of Her Life led by Sheryl Harlow. Then, on May 14, the book club will meet at Salsa Tex-Mex on 950 W Stacy Rd Suite 180 in Allen. A fun quiz with prizes will be given covering Sisters First, a memoir by the Bush twins. The book club will continue to meet this summer at the following locations:

June 11 - Little Sichuan in Plano - Berry Pickers led by *Diane Isom*

July 9 - Matt's in Allen - Counting Miracles led by *Nancy Lessner*

August 13 - Olive Garden in Allen to vote on new books for fall

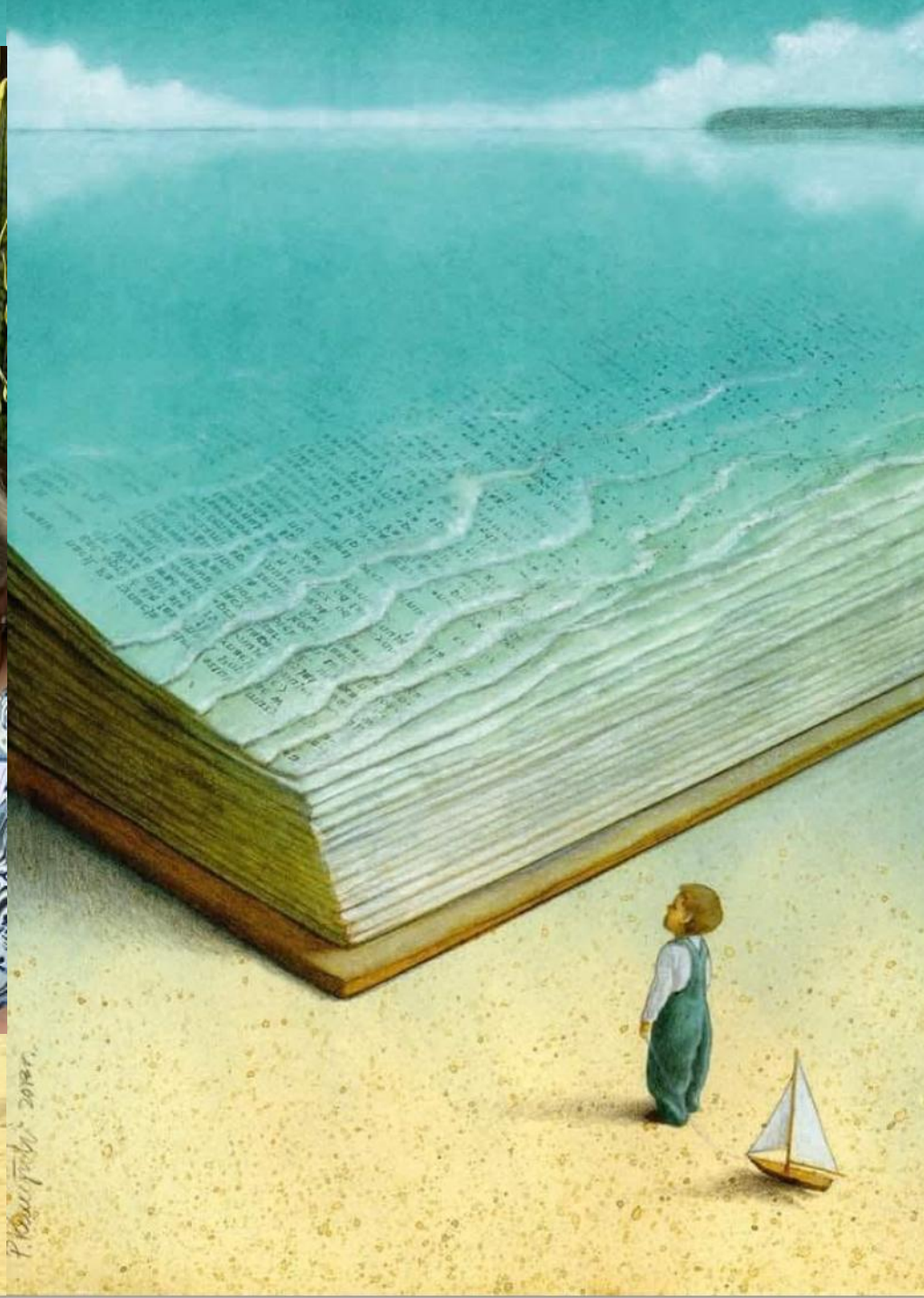
Also, thanks to Linda Vetter for all her work as a co-chair of AREA Book club, and a big shout out to Barb Lye, our new co-chair of the club. For more information or to RSVP for a club meeting, contact us at [valerielapp77@gmail.com](mailto:valerielapp77@gmail.com) or [barblye71@gmail.com](mailto:barblye71@gmail.com).







BOOK CLUB





Sign up to be an AREA member!

Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism. It's a light sentence, but it  
gives them time to reflect.

Where do pirates get their hooks? Secondhand stores.

## ALLEN RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (AREA)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

IF CONTACT INFORMATION HAS NOT CHANGED – WRITE **SAME** ACROSS THIS SECTION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_, TX Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

School District Retired from: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### TOTAL AMOUNT OWED:

MEMBERSHIP \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + PRINT FEE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + DIRECTORY MAILING \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ CC \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: TRTA = \$35 ANNUALLY AREA = \$13 ANNUALLY

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a **NEW MEMBER JOINING TRTA and AREA** at this time. Pay **\$48** (checks payable to AREA)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am **RENEWING TRTA and AREA** at this time. Pay **\$48** (checks payable to AREA)

\_\_\_\_\_ I participate in the **BANK DRAFT PROGRAM** (one-time payment of \$35 to TRTA on July 1) or the **TRTA DIAMOND PLUS PROGRAM** (provides that your TRTA dues will be a monthly annuity Deduction of \$2.92. AREA can provide a form for this option. To learn more about the program visit [www.trtadiamondplus.org](http://www.trtadiamondplus.org).) Pay **\$13** (checks payable to AREA)

\_\_\_\_\_ I already belong to TRTA, but wish to join AREA. Pay **\$13** (checks payable to AREA)

Mail to: Karen Malinowsky, 805 W. Concord Ln, Allen, TX 75002  
For more information: [karenmalinowsky@gmail.com](mailto:karenmalinowsky@gmail.com) 214-384-8647

### AREA DIRECTORY – PLEASE MARK **ALL THAT APPLY**

\_\_\_\_\_ I **GIVE PERMISSION** TO INCLUDE MY INFO IN THE DIRECTORY.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **WANT A PRINTED COPY** and will **ADD \$5.00 FOR PRINT CHARGE**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Will **PICK UP A COPY** at a meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ Will **ADD \$5.00 FOR MAILING**

\_\_\_\_\_ I **WANT THE MEMBERSHIP DATABASE EMAILED** to me, for personal use only. (NOT A COMPLETE DIRECTORY)

\_\_\_\_\_ I **DO NOT WANT** a copy of the directory.

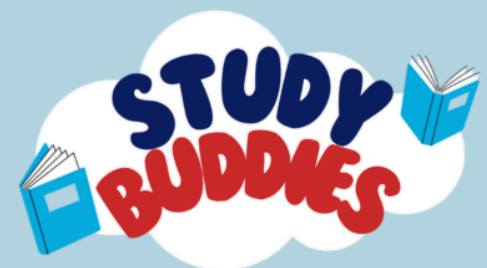
\_\_\_\_\_ I **DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION** to include my info in the directory.



# Ready to Inspire? Become a Study Buddy Today!


Allen ISD's Study Buddy program offers volunteers the opportunity to *provide one-on-one reading support to students for 30–45 minutes* each week, from late September through April. Your passion for kids and background in education would be a true blessing to many of our students. Volunteers receive training in August and September and must be approved for the 2025–2026 school year.

This year, we're excited to expand to three additional campuses and would love to have your support. Many Study Buddies say their favorite part is the meaningful connection they build with their student and witnessing their growth throughout the year.



This is a great opportunity to support the Allen community by helping young readers grow in skill and confidence. Your time and enthusiasm can make a lasting impact—no teaching experience needed, just a heart for kids!

Volunteer Impact	Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Boosts Reading Skills &amp; Confidence in our students</li><li>• Encourages a Love for Reading</li><li>• Provides Positive Mentorship</li><li>• Strengthens Community and Volunteer Impact</li><li>• Supports Teachers &amp; Enhances Learning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Boyd Elementary</li><li>• Reed Elementary</li><li>• Story Elementary</li><li>• Chandler Elementary</li><li>• Green Elementary</li><li>• Vaughan Elementary</li></ul> 



SIGN UP TODAY!

Questions?

Contact Ashley Crowson at [ashley.crowson@allenisd.org](mailto:ashley.crowson@allenisd.org)

Your time on Earth is limited. Don't try to "age with grace," age with mischief, audacity, and a good story to tell.



A vibrant field of wildflowers, primarily red and blue, with some yellow flowers in the foreground. The flowers are densely packed and set against a backdrop of green grass. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

*Have a joyful summer!*

*We'll see you August 18 !*