

May the Force be with you, Carrie Fisher

The galaxy has lost a star, and another princess is gone. On Dec. 27, 2016, Carrie Fisher, well known for playing Princess Leia in the *Star Wars* films, passed away. With the new year, rather than mourn Fisher's death, this fan would like to celebrate her life and the universe she helped bring to life.

Born Oct. 21, 1956, to actress Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher in Beverly Hills, Calif., Carrie grew up often absorbed in books and writing poetry. At fifteen she appeared in *Irene*, a Broadway revival starring her mother, kicking off a string of educational changes from high school through leaving college before graduating. Only two years after *Irene*, in 1975, Carrie Fisher made her movie debut in the comedy *Shampoo*. But it was less than two years later that the start of something even greater began: *Star Wars*.

Carrie Fisher did have many other roles following the first film in director George Lucas's space epic, such as *The Blues Brothers*, *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* and even *Scream 3*,



along with many more. But with the enormous success of *Star Wars*, it is hard to say Fisher won't be remembered for her role as Leia. From *A New Hope* to *The Empire Strikes Back* and on to *Return of the Jedi*, Fisher helped create a universe that has brought excitement to many.

In the years following the initial *Star Wars* Trilogy, Fisher worked on many projects, including her own novel, *Postcards from the Edge*, which was later adapted to the screen by Fisher herself, and polishing numerous scripts, such as the prequel *Star Wars* trilogy. In 2013 it was announced that she would be returning to the screen as Leia for *The Force Awakens*, released late in 2015.

In November 2016 Fisher's autobiography, *The Princess Diarist*, more detail was given about her earlier public admissions on her mental health and drug addictions, as she had discussed in various talk shows and her 2008 memoir *Wishful Drinking*. From her experiences, Fisher became very active in humanism and activism, earning an award on the matter even.

An exciting life, many wonderful roles and a good person that progressed the

dialogue on addiction, mental illness and more with creativity and empathy. All these and so much more describe Carrie Fisher. Rest in peace, and may the force be with you.

- Peirs Anderson, Tech Specialist

Carrie Fisher

Novels

- [Postcards from the Edge](#) (1987)
- [Surrender the Pink](#) (1990)
- [Delusions of Grandma](#) (1993)
- [Hollywood Moms](#) (2001)
- [The Best Awful There Is](#) (2004)

Non-fiction books

- [Wishful Drinking](#) (2008)
- [Shockaholic](#) (2011)
- [The Princess Diarist](#) (2016)

Popular culture

- [Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds](#) (2016 documentary)

HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
936-291-5472

www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com
@HuntsvilleLib—Twitter
HuntsvillePublicLibrary—FB
Huntsville_Public_Lib—Instagram

Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Getting “Everybody In”

HPL encourages ALL residents to get a FREE card

Do you have a library card?

No. Then make your way to the Huntsville Public Library (HPL), where we are about more than books.

HPL provides creative educational spaces for learners from birth to high school and beyond. HPL initiated a special campaign to get “Everybody In” the library in September 2016.

“Everybody In is a special effort we at Huntsville Public Library feel is essential in spreading the word about our library,” said Assistant City Librarian Anne Sparks.

“HPL provides a wide variety of services and we want the citizens of Huntsville to come and see what they are missing.”

HPL joins with the American Library Association and public libraries nationwide to make sure that every reader has the most important tool of all – a free library card.

A library card provides access to



important resources families need. There are programs for the earliest stages of development, teaching parents and caregivers the components of early literacy which help children develop the basic tools for school readiness.

Patrons can access high-speed Internet, digital tools and the opportunity to work with trained professionals on how to use them.

Libraries are also a training ground for students of all ages to expand their knowledge and explore creative pursuits.

The development of makerspaces and 3D printing is just one way HPL is seeking to meet this demand, ranging from low-tech, hands-on engineering opportunities for children and teens using toys and kits to the incorporation of high-tech tools like 3D printers.

Resources at HPL are available to anyone who has a library card. To receive a new library card, patrons must have a photo ID and proof of address, which can include any piece of mail received in the last 30 days.

Children over the age of three can receive a library card with the approval of their parent or legal guardian.

“Our library provides access and programs for students of all ages,” says Sparks.

“For preschool age children we offer early literacy and story times to encourage school readiness, for older children and teens we supplement education with hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and math (S.T.E.A.M.) programs, and for nontraditional students we offer GED resources. There’s really something for everyone, and it’s all free with a library card.”

If you have had a library card before, it is only \$1 to replace the card. Patrons with fines are encouraged to use our convenient, online payment tab on our website or come in and make payments. For more information, call 936-291-5472 or go online at <http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com/>

BE PREPARED FOR THE PROCESS

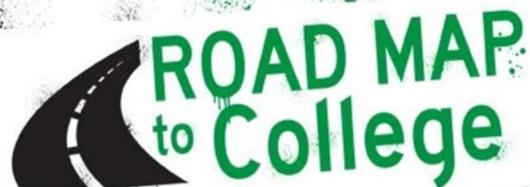
The New Year is here, which means it is time for high school seniors and some juniors to get ready for college. You should have already visited prospective colleges you would like to attend during the summer and fall months and sent in applications with all of their requirements for attendance.

During these winter months many students should be going through a check list for college planning to make sure they have everything submitted to colleges.

First thing on this list is to schedule your college interviews to complete the admissions process. Second, complete your FASFA to be sure you get the most financial assistance for college and start applying for scholarships. Scholarships are a good way to help pay for college without having to pay it back after you graduate.

Once all of the above items are completed, it is time for you to make your final decision. Be sure to follow up with any financial assistance programs and scholarships to make sure you have enough money to pay for college.

Once you accept an offer, you should receive information from the college about course scheduling, orientation sessions, housing arrangements, and other necessary forms. Be



sure to complete all required paperwork by the appropriate deadlines.

Deadlines are the most important part of applying to college, because you can only get into college during the fall, spring or summer semester. After all of these items are complete, you are ready to make that big step into college. For some, college may be scary but it is something that I think every person should experience in their life.

- Ashley Newsome, Tech Coordinator

Tips for finding a picture book

Need picture book authors to read to your kids? Check out this list of humorous author suggestions by Children's Coordinator Rachel McPhail.

- ⇒ **Jan Thomas** is a popular children's author and illustrator. She uses simple drawings with bright colors that match the vibrancy of her stories. Her books do not need to be read in any particular order but readers often find recurring characters in her books. And as a plus for parents whose children like to be read the same book multiple times, her books usually have a surprisingly humorous ending. Her book "Let's Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy" is a funny story about a cowboy who is constantly startled into thinking sticks and rocks are monsters. This story can be a teaching tool for children who are afraid of the dark yet is still funny enough to be enjoyed many times.
- ⇒ Author **Karma Wilson** is another talented children's author. Her rhyming book "The Cow Loves

Cookies" is a charming tale of a farmer who feeds most of his animals ordinary farm food—except his cookie loving bovine. The book features beautiful illustrations and like the previous book, a punchline at the end.

- ⇒ And of course, **Mo Willems** can't be left off the list. He has several memorable characters from Elephant and Piggie to the Pigeon and the Duckling. I most recently read "The Pigeon Needs a Bath." Anyone who has read any of Willem's Pigeon books can tell you that the pigeon is the most finicky representation of human nature in a picture book. First the pigeon denies that he needs a bath (then that baths are culturally acceptable). The pigeon concedes that a bath is needed after the flies are repulsed by him and then the drama of preparing the perfect bath ensues. And of course, at the end of the book, Pigeon loves his bath. This book could be useful for parents of reluctant bath takers.

- ⇒ Another fun read by Willems is "Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs" which is a humorous retelling of the classic children's tale. This story pokes fun of the original story by asking questions such as 'where were the bears/dinosaurs when Goldilocks was at their front door?' and 'why was the food at different temperatures?' This book shows Willems' obvious talent as a writer and a humorist.

- ⇒ For older children, **Drew Daywalt** is a clever author with a unique point of view in his picture book, "The Day the Crayons Quit." The tale is actually a series of letters to a young boy written by his crayons about why they won't be working for him anymore.

Check out these talented authors and more at the Huntsville Public Library. Visit www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com to search our online catalogue, place books on hold, and more!

- Rachel McPhail,
Children's Coordinator

Listing of Events Find this information online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com

Do you have children ages 2 or under? Then **Mother Goose Lapsit** is a story time designed for you! Held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., enjoy a half hour of developmentally appropriate play featuring stories, songs, and rhymes. This program introduces little ones to the story time experience and is perfect for their language development and developing vocabulary.

Get crafty at the Huntsville Public Library. Bring a friend to **Elementary Craft Time** from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5th. Take your creation home!

Come to **Story Time** – a fun early literacy program for kids 5 and under. Join us for interactive stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts. The early literacy practices featured each week help build the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and learning. For parents and caregivers, story time offers an opportunity to experience early literacy practices in action, discover great books and resources for home use, and socialize with other parents after

Story time. Wednesday and Friday sessions share a theme with something new each week. Story Time is sponsored by Amerigroup. Story times are held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m.

Is your child interested in the world of technology? Learn to **3-D Print** with him or her in a two-day class at the Huntsville Public Library. This class will be held from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening. Class size is limited to five students aged 7 through 15 and a parent must attend the program. At the end of each session, students will be able to take home their 3D printed object. Multiple sessions scheduled: Jan. 10th and 11th as well as Jan. 24th and 25th. Registration is required and participants will need to bring their own USB drive. To sign up, visit the library's website.

The Huntsville Public Library is offering **free basic computer skills classes**. Classes will be held on Tuesdays or Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. or on

Tuesdays or Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. starting Jan. 3rd through March 31st. These classes will feature class activities on how to use a mouse, typing, web-based email and internet browsing. Class size is limited so you must be registered to take the class. You can register online at myhuntsvillelibrary.com or at the Tech Reference Desk. For more information, feel free to stop by the library or call 936-291-5485.

The ever-popular, free **Spanish classes** are returning to the Huntsville Public Library! Instructor Beth Williamson will be teaching Beginning and Advanced classes on Wednesdays in the Community Room. The 15-week program begins Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017 and materials are provided. Register now to reserve your spot – only 35 students maximum for each class. Beginning classes will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. and advanced classes from 3 to 4:15 p.m. Register online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for additional information.

Please check online calendar for all dates.

Hidden Treasures

Genealogy



A treasure is something of great value. Its value needn't be measured in currency or bullion. Utilitarian philosophers and economists will argue that the measure of value of a thing is in its usefulness to a specific requirement. The author Virginia Woolf is quoted as saying, "I ransack public libraries, and find them full of sunk treasure."



Here it's appropriate to note that Woolf does not mean that libraries are to be the target of looters and vandals. Rather, libraries are places holding great value beyond the dollars and cents of their inventories and buildings. Their true value is in the utility and accommodation afforded those who search for answers to their inquiries and seek the richness of human creativity.

Family historians engage in a continual treasure hunt, eager to answer the questions generated by previous success. Family historians understand that the valued instrument, be it a book, a database, a vertical file or a microfilm record,

frequently lie hidden, out of reach and all-too-often locked away. Libraries and librarians hold the key to successful searching. Libraries provide a set of tools to facilitate extensive searching for needed information. Librarians and library staff members are trained and available to help patrons locate long sought "treasures".

Libraries are places of great utility and value to the public. The Huntsville Public Library, like all libraries, is one-of-a-kind. The genealogical collection, as a case in point, has family records and materials that are found only in Huntsville or are limited in their distribution. Local histories and archival records are unavailable elsewhere. Microfilm records of the *Huntsville Item* and other now defunct newspapers date to the early 1850s. Local maps have been stored for safekeeping and early county records have been preserved on microfilm. Rare and out-of-print books are safely maintained in a

climate controlled environment. The genealogical collection includes bound volumes of family histories and genealogical magazines published by state and national genealogical societies. Of special note, the Huntsville Public Library is one of less than twelve libraries nationwide that owns the fifty-one volume microfilm record of the Leonardo Andrea Collection.

Family historians from around the country travel to the Huntsville Public Library seeking the "bits and pieces" needed to complete their family histories. Historians, writers and genealogical enthusiasts make use of the facility and its collection.

The genealogical collection, thanks to public support and the generosity of volunteers and local contributors, continues to grow in number and substance. The Huntsville Public Library and the Johnnie Jo Dickenson Genealogy Room will continue to be of great value for generations to come.

*- Richard Lane,
Genealogy/Reference Librarian*

Upcoming Genealogy events

Basic Genealogy classes set

There will be a continuation of the Basic Genealogy research classes at Huntsville Public Library on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. beginning Jan. 26, 2017. Johnnie Jo Dickenson will guide participants in the research of their family history using investigative tools such as online databases and resources and the library's extensive genealogy collection. The two-hour sessions will be held every week through Feb. 23, 2017 in the Library's Community Room. Please register online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471.

Winter Lock-In planned

The Huntsville Public Library & Walker County Genealogy Society will host the annual Genealogy Winter Lock-In on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Beginners and longtime researchers are all invited. Society Members will be available to assist in all areas of research. Bring all your paperwork! A light lunch will be provided by the Society. Register online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or contact Mary Kokot, Adult Services Coordinator, at 936-291-5471 for more information.

WCGS meeting set

The Walker County Genealogical Society will meet from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 21, in the Huntsville Public Library Community Room. The meeting is open to the public. The topic for the January meeting will be "Whole Census."

Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend

The Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend will be held Aug. 4 & 5, 2017 at the Huntsville Public Library. This year's event, "One-half of our Ancestors are Women: Finding our Female Ancestors" is hosted by the Huntsville Public Library and the Walker County Genealogical Society. The weekend will run from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, with a light supper being provided during the lock-in. The weekend continues from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5. The event is free but requires registration. Call 936-291-5471 or sign up online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com. Admission is free.

A silent auction will be held during the weekend and is open to the public. The auction will end at 4 p.m. Saturday.