

South Montgomery County Friends of the Library, Inc.

The Bookworm

September/October 2011

Letter from the President

Hello Friends,



The heat is a breeze at the library! The summer reading program at both libraries was a huge success with approximately 3,500 children participating. Attendance continues to be good and our record-breaking heat may be contributing to that – it's a good time to stay indoors and read a book.

The SMCFOL has two exciting projects that will be coming up soon. Recently the Board approved funding for a renovation project at the South Regional Library in the gift shop area and also in the circulation desk area. The changes in both areas are exciting and should accommodate the library patrons much more efficiently.

Another project scheduled is the celebration of the National Friends of the Library Week, which is October 16th through the 22nd. We are making plans for some special events for all FOL members during that week and will be announcing them soon.

I would like to encourage you to come to the SMCFOL General Meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 29th and hear Carolyn Boyd speak. Carolyn teaches Literature at John Cooper School and is the author of a book of poetry, [The DNA of Sand](#). I can't imagine a better way to "beat the heat" than to come and enjoy this program. It will be held at the South Regional Library.

With warm regards,
Gail Magill

GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Monday, August 29, 2011, 2:00 P.M.

1st Floor Community Room, South Regional Branch Library
2101 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77380

Come and hear featured guest speaker, poet Carolyn Praytor Boyd who will talk about small presses and poetry and the role of poetry in the 21st century. She will read from her recently released chapbook [The DNA of Sand](#) and answer audience questions. Copies of her latest publication will be available for purchase and signing.

Carolyn really is delightfully engaging and informative. This is a presentation you'll be glad you attended. Refreshments will be served and the opportunity to chat with FOL members and volunteers afterwards. See you there!

Save the Dates!

The FOL Fall Book Sale is right around the corner. The sale begins Thursday night, October 13th and runs through Saturday, October 15th. As you know our work begins earlier that week. We'll be setting up and sorting books earlier in the week. We know we can always count on our volunteers to help us get ready for this special event. So SAVE THE DATES and you'll be hearing from us soon!

Jo Miller & Judy Mitchell
Book Sale Co-Chairs

South Friends' Room

Summer is sizzlin' at the South Friends' Room! Chapter books for children and young adults are still on sale: buy one, get one free (of equal or lesser value.) Come in to take advantage of the savings!

We would like to extend a big welcome to all our new volunteers! Joining us are Amy Vo, Cheryl Young, Eva Rusler, and Alex Obourn. So happy to have you on board! There is always something to do in the book store so consider joining the fun! If you aren't interested in sales inside the store, come ask about other opportunities. There are many ways to help on almost any day, any time.

Melanie Gilbert, Manager, South Friends' Room

SOUTH REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY NEWS

Our Wonderful Friends

Your continued generosity and supplemental financial support for library programs are greatly appreciated. During the months of June and July the Library was a beehive of activity due to the fun and educational programs offered for all ages. Seventy-three programs were offered during those two months, 93,924 people visited the Library, and more than 120,000 items were checked out.

The Summer Reading Program set new records in registrations (1,426) and the number of children who actually completed the Program and turned in their reading logs (893).

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, author of One Amazing Thing, will present a program about her new book on Saturday, September 10th, at 2:00 PM in the first floor meeting room of South. She is a well known author of novels for adults including the bestselling The Mistress of Spices, soon to be a motion picture. Her previous book for young readers, The Conch Bearer, was a Booklist Editors' Choice, Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, and is a 2005 Texas Bluebonnet Award nominee. She teaches creative writing at the University of Houston and lives with her husband and two sons in Sugarland, Texas.



On behalf of the Library staff and myself, thank you very, very much.
Catherine Pells, Branch Manager, South Regional Branch Library

Seniors' Circle Book Club

The Seniors' Circle Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Interested adults are invited to join us for engaging discussions and light refreshments! Please see below for title and registration information.

October 5th

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot
Registration starts Thursday, Sep. 8th, at 2:00 PM

November 2nd

O Pioneers! by Willa Cather
Registration starts Thursday, Oct. 6th, at 2:00 PM

December 7th

Anne Morrow Lindbergh: First Lady of the Air by Kathleen Winters
Registration starts Thursday, Nov. 3rd, at 2:00 PM

Thanks to the generous support of the South Montgomery County Friends of the Library, Inc., the first ten participants to register each month will get a free copy of the upcoming book to be discussed. When registration begins, come to the reference desk or call (936) 442-7727, Option 2, to sign up.

Spinning Yarns @ The Library (knit/stitch group) meets in the Children's Room at the South Regional Branch Library on the second Thursday morning (9:30 – 11:00 a.m.) and the fourth Tuesday evening (5:30 – 7:00 p.m.) of each month. Upcoming morning meetings will be held on September 8th and October 13th and evening meetings will be held on Sept. 27th and Oct. 25th. Beginner or expert – all are welcome. For more information, call Trish at 936-442-7727, extension 6369.

Mitchell Library Friends' Room

What a summer it has been -- the temperatures are **Hot** and so are our sales. We have had another record-breaking month and books are continuing to fly off our shelves. Children's books continue to be our best sellers, along with adult paperbacks, but our customers have discovered what a great bargain our magazines are -- we're having trouble keeping our shelves filled with them!

We have just received a wonderful donation of cookbooks that will be on special display on one of our outside carts. We have everything from easy step-by-step books, to books on chocolate, to a very large cookbook with 1000 low-fat recipes. If you are looking for some new family recipes to get into a back-to-school routine or perhaps a gift for an off-to-college student -- then be sure to come by the shop and take a look.

We are always happy to accept donations of books, magazines, and audio materials but are currently in special need of trade paperbacks for the shop. If you're doing some back-to-school cleaning and organizing be sure to bring your items by and we'll be happy to provide you with a tax receipt.

A huge THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers for working so hard this summer, for filling in while others are on vacation, and for all the sorters who do our pricing and placing of items in the shop. It's been a busy, busy summer and all your hard work is very much appreciated.

See you at the Library-
Chantal Weller

Mitchell Library

CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING

The Montgomery County Memorial Library System each summer participates in the Texas Summer Reading Club, which is designed to encourage reading and to promote Texas libraries. Along with encouraging students to read, the program offers special activities for children and their families.

The Mitchell Library had a wonderful 2011 Summer Reading Club with 2,000 children registering and over 1,163 (58%) completing their reading goals. Also, this summer ages 6 - 9 (grades K - 4th) had the opportunity to participate in a NEW reading challenge. For each five books they read they received a slip to enter their school in a contest for a free book donated to the school library. Throughout the summer we held drawings, so the more the children read, the more chances their school library had to win. The following schools will be receiving a book to be donated to their school library – Bear Branch Elementary, Buckalew Elementary, Bush Elementary, Coulson Tough Elementary, Creekside Forest Elementary, David Elementary, Deretchin Elementary,

Galatas Elementary, Kaufman Elementary, Lemm Elementary, Northampton Elementary, and Smith Elementary.

Besides the Reading Club, the Library hosted 65 children's programs with 2,363 children and 1,280 parents attending. The programs included Family Storytime, Lucas Miller, Dinosaur George, Texas Snakes, Ronald McDonald, and more. The Friends' support is extremely important during this time of year since funds are used to buy the giveaway bags, stickers, pencils, silly bands, and lots of snacks and candy.

YOUNG ADULT SUMMER READING

Out of 93 signups, we had 41 teens that accomplished their goals and turned in their reading logs. That's 44% — up 2% from last year! Even though Tabatha, our YA Librarian, went on Family Leave for the birth of her son, LaVonne stepped up and took the lead in the YA summer programs, and the reading program continued as planned.

ADULT SUMMER READING

Our Adult Summer Reading program is not as intensely organized as our children and YA programs, but allows each adult to participate at his or her own level of interest. The total number of patrons participating this year was 63, who submitted 432 book titles as entries for the reading prizes. Those prizes included a Barnes and Noble gift card, a Kroger gift card, and 2 Grotto free appetizers. Ten other winners received Friends of the Library book coupons.

Staff members are not allowed to compete with patrons, but a separate contest that is system-wide is held for them. This year, 14 of Mitchell's staff members read 166 books to enter into the competition.

INTO THE FALL

For September, Mitchell Library's Nonfiction Book Club will read Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time by Dava Sobel. The meeting will take place on Thursday, Sept. 15, at 1:00 p.m. in the downstairs Community Room. Coming up as the October choice will be Rebecca Skloot's bestseller The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. All meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm and any interested adult is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

For further information, contact Jackie Greene, Reference Librarian, at 936-442-7728, ext. 6314 or jgreene@countylibrary.org

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR PLANS LIBRARY VISIT

Jeanette Larson author of Hummingbirds: Facts and Folklore from the Americas will be visiting the Mitchell Library on October 18th at 6 pm. Larson's book is a beautifully illustrated children's book that offers a collection of folklore and information about nature's most interesting and unusual bird.

In a narrative that flows easily between fact and lore, hummingbird behavior is thoroughly described and interwoven with the folktales it generated among Native American peoples. -- [School Library Journal](#)

Even though things have slowed down some since Summer Reading has ended, we still have lots to offer in a lot of areas. How about visiting Mitchell this week? We'll do our best to make you feel welcome.

Tim Walker
Branch Manager

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL FIND....

Everyone knows we have a wonderful selection of books for sale in both gift shops, but did you know that we also offer beautiful crocheted items that have been created by a few of our talented and creative volunteers?



Michelle Ostis is an active volunteer at both gift shops. She works a regular shift at the South Branch Shop and she is always quick to respond to calls when help is needed at either shop. She also crochets beautiful baby blankets that are for sale in the South Branch Gift Shop. She will even custom make them when a customer requests a particular color combination.

Win McCann volunteers in the Mitchell Gift Shop. She works at the desk, sorts, and shelves books and she always does it with a smile on her face. Both Win and Melanie Gilbert, Manager of the South Regional Library Gift Shop, crochet the pretty bookworms that are for sale in the two gift shops.



It's always fun to browse in our gift shops because **YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL FIND.**

DID YOU REMEMBER TO PUT OUR QUARTERLY MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR?

Monday, August 29, 2011, 2:00 P.M.
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