
THE BOOKWORM



**South Montgomery County Friends of the Library
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2023 January

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Letter from the President

Happy New Year, Friends!

My name is Janice Raney and I am the incoming President of the SMCFOL. I want to join with all the members in expressing our thanks to Jan Brodhead for serving as the President for the past three years. I will endeavor to follow the good example that she has set in leading the organization. As for my background, I am retired from Dillard's Department Store, and I have served as a volunteer and officer in several organizations including PTA, Girl Scouts, and Aggie Moms, as well as VP for the South Branch of the library for the past three years.

This past year has seen a return to more normal business after a couple of tough COVID years. Our bookshops have exceeded estimated sales and our annual Book Sale was also a success. We were able to provide needed funds to both branches of the library for equipment, programs, and the purchase of books, e-books, and other media. I am confident we can continue this positive trend throughout 2023.

Perhaps the biggest challenge we will face this year is conducting the Book Sale scheduled for March 23-25. In the past, the large room in the Community Center has been available for displaying and selling our books. Unfortunately, that won't be the case this year. Our experienced and dedicated volunteers on the Book Sale Committee are working on a solution to utilize the spaces that will be available to us at the Community Center and the South Branch. Please consider assisting with the sale. We will be contacting you later with details of how you can help. Volunteering your time not only benefits the library, but it is a wonderful way to meet other members who share your love of books and appreciation for the services the library provides to our community.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions feel free to contact me. It is my privilege to serve you and with your help we can meet all our goals for the SMCFOL for 2023.

Janice Raney

President, South Montgomery County Friends of the Library

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2022 Annual Statement

Hello Friends,

We are now at the end of 2022, and it was a very successful year for us. Our shops are doing very good business and our donations are also very good. Thanks again to our shop volunteers and managers. Their efforts ensure that our shops are running smoothly and profitably. They have done stellar work in the past year. We are pleased to announce the slate of incoming 2023 officers, elected at the General Meeting of the Membership on October 4:

President	Janice Raney
Vice-President (South)	Debra Karl
Vice-President (Mitchell)	Maureen Dalton
Treasurer	Billy Spies
Secretary	Liz Golze

Our financial situation at the end of this year is as follows:

- Our gross income was almost \$ 133,000. This is ahead of 2021 income and is also more than the amount we expected to achieve for the year. We exceeded our expectations for income in nearly every budgeted category.
- We provided our two libraries with nearly \$60,000 in annual funding for summer reading programs, children's programs, book clubs, display items, reference materials and other library needs.
- We donated \$25,000 for each library to the Montgomery County Memorial Gift Fund. These funds – a total of \$50,000 – are used by our two libraries to purchase, process, and catalog items to be added to their collections.
- We donated \$17,400 for updating the PA system at South Branch Library.

One of the highlights of our year was the Book Sale, held last March. It was a very successful sale monetarily - our gross income was approximately \$7,750 – but the real impact of the sale was that we could hold it again after a two-year hiatus. We were very pleased to be able to host our signature community event once more. The book sale is when we can gather many of our members in one place to put on the sale, and one of the main ways that we show the community at large what we do. We look forward to the 2023 sale, which will be held in March.

We always strive to remember that our mission at SMCFOL is to help and support the two libraries here in The Woodlands. We believe in libraries and how much they mean to our community. We will continue to do everything we can to further the best interests of our libraries throughout the coming year. We are relying on you, our members, for your continued help. Your volunteer hours, financial contributions, book donations and book purchases are all vitally important to us.

Our annual Membership Renewal letters will be sent out soon, and we hope that you will continue to lend us your support by renewing your membership for 2023.

Thanks,
SMCFOL Board

Shop and Help the Library at the same time!

AMAZON SMILES

To register your Amazon account, you need to go to “smile.amazon.com” and click on “Change your Charity” and type in “South Montgomery County Friends of the Library.” These 3 steps designate our group as the charity that receives a percentage of your purchases whenever you use the Amazon Smiles site (Note: You will be directed to **always** use “smile.amazon.com” for future purchases. This site is the same as the regular Amazon page and all your Amazon history goes with you, *but* your purchases will now be included in the total calculation for donation to the SMCFOL account.)

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

To register go to your Kroger account online and select the section for “Community Rewards” on your account home page. Enter the SMCFOL Kroger Non-Profit Organization number, which is **EJ785**, and select the organization name “South Montgomery County Friends of the Library” from the pull-down menu. Now every time you use your Kroger Plus Card a credit will be accumulated for SMCFOL and each quarter the Kroger Foundation will issue a check to the Friends.

Current Board

Janice Raney

President

Debra Karl

Vice President South Library

Maureen Dalton

Vice President, Mitchell

Liz Golze

Secretary

Billy Spies

Treasurer

Judy Mitchell

Gift Shop, South

Megan VerBerkmoes

Gift Shop, Mitchell

Deborah Butler and Jan Brodhead

Book Sale

Chantal and Mark Weller

Book Collection

Karen Parker

Membership

Mary Jo Sgro

Hospitality

Niraj Shah

Newsletter & Website

Brenda Mayer

Amazon Sales

Annual Book Sale 2023

The 2023 Annual FOL Book Sale is set for the week of March 20, 2023, with set up starting on March 21, the sale opening Thursday, March 23, at 5pm and closing after the bag sale on the afternoon of March 25. More information and calls to sign up to volunteer will be coming out over the next few months. Because of scheduling issues, we are unable to use the large meeting room at the Community Center. So, we will be using all the other rooms and the large meeting room at South Regional Library. Our staffing needs will, by necessity, change so we can cover all the rooms. So please Save The Date and look for the call to volunteer to be made by Judy Mitchell and Jan Brodhead.

Deborah Butler

Membership

You will receive your renewal letter early in January and we hope that that one of the first checks you write this year will be to the South Montgomery County Friends of the Library, or simply SMCFOL. We will compile an up-to-date list of volunteer activities which interest members once most of the responses have been received.

Please mail your check and responses, or you may want to drop off cash or a check and your renewal/volunteer interests form with the desk volunteer at either Bookshop when you are there dropping off or buying books.

Our memberships, support of the Bookshops, and volunteer efforts ensure the continued excellence of library services at both the South Regional Library and the George and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library. On behalf of all involved, thank you for your support.

Karen Parker
Membership Chair

News from the Mitchell Library

News from the Mitchell Branch Manager

Looking back, in 2022 Mitchell Library was able to expand service, rebuild established programs, and create new opportunities to interact with the community. We saw over 132,000 library visitors who checked out over 500,000 items. We also hosted nearly 700 programs with over 21,000 attendees. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of the SMCFOL.

Mitchell Library has more great things in store in 2023. January sees the return of the Winter Reading Challenge (January 1 through January 31.) Be sure to sign up for your chance to win prizes! We also have two new adult book clubs starting in January and staff are already in the planning stages for summer activities.

I wish you all a very happy 2023 and we hope to see you at the library soon!

Amber Fritschel
Branch Manager

Events for Adults

***NEW* Mitchell BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Club**

Choose your own book in this book club with a twist! Every month will have a different theme and then YOU pick what title to read! Come to the meeting and share what you have read and build your reading list from the recommendations of others! We meet the Third Tuesday of the month from 6:30-7:30pm in the Large Meeting Room. Registration required. If you have questions or would like to register, please e-mail Jennifer.giele@countylibrary.org.

BYOB Club Theme Schedule:

- January 17 – Thriller/Suspense
- February 21 – Historical Fiction
- March 21 – Theme TBA

***NEW* Mitchell Evening Mystery Book Club**

Do you love a good mystery or thriller? Join us for a different book selection each month. Share your views and make new friends! We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Large Meeting Room. Space is limited and registration is required. Please register online or email lisa.cammack@countylibrary.org.

Evening Mystery Book Club Schedule:

- January 25 – The Christie Affair by Nina de Gramont
- February 22 – The Other Woman by Sandie Jones
- March 22 – Title TBA

Mitchell Evening Book Club

Not sure what to read next? Let us pick the book for you! The Mitchell Evening Book Club reads a mix of fiction and nonfiction selections and meets the 3rd Wednesday every month for a lively discussion of the current book. We meet from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Large Meeting Room. Space is limited and registration is required. If you have questions or would like to register, please email jennifer.giele@countylibrary.org.

Evening Book Club Schedule:

- January 18 – Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin
- February 15 – Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing by Matthew Perry
- March 15 – Title TBA

Mitchell Fiction Book Club

The Mitchell Fiction Book Club reads a variety of popular fiction titles, both past and present. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 1pm in the Large Meeting Room on the first floor. To register or for more information, please contact Trevor Taylor by email at trevor.taylor@countylibrary.org.

Fiction Book Club Schedule:

- January 5 – My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante
- February 2 – The Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr
- March 2 – Miss Jane by Brad Watson

Mitchell Nonfiction Book Club

Please join us for an enlightening discussion with like-minded nonfiction fans as we discuss the title of the month. We meet the third Thursday of the month in the Large Meeting Room at 1pm. Email Jackie Greene at jgreene@countylibrary.org for more information.

Nonfiction Book Club Schedule:

- January 19 – The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs: A New History of Their Lost World by Steve Brusatte
- February 16 – Plunder: Napoleon's Theft of Veronese's Feast by Cynthia Saltzman
- March 16 – Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting by Lisa Genova

Crafternoons

If you've got hundreds of "pins" on Pinterest, but just can't get started, Crafternoons is for you! Each month will feature a free craft that registered Adults 18+ can create. No advanced skills needed; crafts are self-directed with provided instructions. Register and join us in Large Meeting Room the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm! By registering, you are reserving a craft kit for yourself to create while at the meeting.

Space is limited, so please cancel if you find that you cannot participate so we can open the spot for others. Visit us, call us at 936-442-7728, or email jennifer.giele@countylibrary.org with questions or to be added to our Crafternoons email list.

Crafternoons at Home Schedule:

- January 10 – DIY Pendant Necklace
- February 14 – Heart-Shaped Book Wreath
- March 14 – DIY Bottle Vase

Knit & Stitch

Calling all Needlecrafters! Come by the Mitchell Library to socialize while you work on your craft projects. Open to anyone who knits, crochets, embroiders, or does any other needlecraft. Bring your own work in progress and supplies. We meet from 10:00am-11:30am on the first Wednesday of the month in the Large Meeting Room. Questions? Email jennifer.giele@countylibrary.org.

Knit and Stitch Schedule:

- January 4
- February 1
- March 1

Movie Matinee

We invite you to join other cinema fans for popcorn, a drink, and a movie the last Thursday of the month at 1pm in the Large Meeting Room.

Movie Matinee Schedule:

- January 26 – Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris (2022; PG-13)
- February 23 – The Eyes of Tammy Faye (2021; PG-13)
- March 30 – Elvis (2022; PF-13)

Events for Teens (Ages 13-17)

Join us for a variety of events for teens. Registration is required to attend.

- January 9, 5:30pm-8:00pm – Teen Super Smash Bros. Brawl Tournament
- January 23, 5:30pm-8:00pm – Teen Movie Night featuring Jurassic World Dominion (PG-13)
- February 6, 5:30pm-7:30pm – Teen Life Size Clue Game
- February 13, 5:30pm-7:30pm – Teen Anti-Valentine Karaoke Party
- March 4, 9:00am-1:30pm – Teen Practice SAT Exam

Mitchell Library will host this program through our partnership with Woodlands Test Prep

Girls Who Code

Teen Girls Ages 12-17 will learn to code with professional women of ExxonMobil in this 12-week session of Girls Who Code!

- Tuesdays, 5:30-7:00pm in the Computer Lab – January 10-April 4

We ask that Girls plan to attend at least 8 of the 12 sessions, as space is limited. Prior registration and parent permission slip required.

Events for Children

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

The concept is simple; the rewards are priceless. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (yes, you can repeat books!) before your precious one starts kindergarten. Does it sound hard? Not really, if you think about it. If you read just one book a night, you will have read about 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, you have more time than you think to get started. So, get started!

How to Participate

Read with your child. Studies have shown that reading with your child provides a great opportunity for bonding. Reading together is fun and will create life-long memories for the both of you.

- Keep track of the book titles that you read with your child through Beanstack (<https://countylibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>)

News from the South Library

2022 was a busy year at South! With programs from story times and book groups to the summer reading program and SAT/ACT practice tests. Our collection was well-used too, circulating 528,212 items at South. It was also a year of change. Lynn DeLeon, the South Regional Library branch manager for the past four years, took on a new role. Fortunately, she will continue supporting South, and all the MCMLS libraries, as Assistant Director. I am excited to start my new role as Branch Manager and look forward to working with SMCFOL to continue offering our community excellent services and experiences.

We're looking forward to a successful 2023!

Cynthia Dieden
Branch Manager

Adults

Arts, Crafts, & Coffee

Join us on the second Monday of January and March at 12:00 P.M. for a cup of coffee and a relaxing afternoon creating a craft.

- Monday, January 9 at 12:00 P.M.
- Monday, March 13 at 12:00 P.M.

Gumshoe Mystery Book Club

Please join us for lively discussion and trivia of our selected mystery book. This book club meets every other month. Space is limited. Please call 936-522-2697 to inquire about registering for this event.

- Tuesday, January 10th at 11:30 a.m. & Wednesday, January 11th at 2:00 p.m. - The Broken Girls by Simone St. James.
- Tuesday, March 14th at 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday, March 15th at 2:00 p.m.- The Village by Caroline Mitchell

Gardening with Bob

Join master gardener, Bob Dailey as he delves into gardening topics for local gardeners.

- Wednesday, January 18th at 1:00 p.m. - Propagating & Caring for Fruit and Nut Trees

Learn to care for fruit and nut trees and what varieties grow locally.

- Wednesday, February 22 at 1:00 p.m. - Spring Lawn Care

Learn about simple and inexpensive methods for creating and preserving lush, healthy lawns.

Genealogy at the South Regional Library

Meet and Greet the New Genealogy Librarian

Our new genealogy librarian will be available in the large meeting room to share more about what our library system offers to start your family tree and what resources are available to further your genealogy research. Registration is not required.

- Thursday, January 19th at 2:00 p.m.

Walking Book Club

Exercise your mind and body by taking book discussions on the move! We will walk the waterway together then meet back up at the library for light refreshments. A waiver will need to be completed prior to the meeting. Call 963-522-2699 to register.

- Wednesday, January 25th at 11:00 a.m. - The Stranger in the Woods by Michael Finkel

Fiction Book Club

Join us for an in-person book discussion on the last Monday of even-numbered months. Call 963-522-2699.

- Monday, January 27th at 11:00 a.m. - We are Not From Here by Jenny Torres Sanchez

Family Game Night

Fun For all ages. Snacks and board games provided.

- Monday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Culinary Book Club

The Culinary Book Club at the South Regional Library is a great place to share your thoughts and ideas that celebrate your love of cooking and food. This book club focuses on sharing the process and technique of your selected recipe(s) from the featured book and tips for cooking the dish to share with the group. We will also discuss and share topics related to cooking and trivia. Call (936) 522-2697 for more information about this book club or if you are interested in inquiring about how to register for this book club that meets every other month.

- Wednesday, February 15th at 2:00 p.m. - Trisha's Kitchen by Trisha Yearwood.

Teens

Teen Movie Night

Top Gun Maverick

Join us for a night of movie magic and refreshments as we watch this new release. Registration is required.

- Thursday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the large meeting room.

Teen Practice SAT Exam

- Saturday, February 25 at 9:30 a.m.

South Regional Library hosts this program through our partnership with Woodlands Test Prep

Children

READ to the Dogs

READ to the Dogs encourages children to practice their reading skills by reading to specially trained therapy dogs. READ to the Dogs is on the second Saturday of the month and registration begins the first Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Please call 936-522-2712 to ask about registration.

- Saturday, January 14th at 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, February 11th at 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 11th at 10:00 a.m.

Preteen Book Club

At each meeting of the Preteen Book Club, preteens aged 9 through 12 years discuss the month's book with each other and Miss Davina. Registration is required. Please call 936-522-2712 for further information.

- Thursday, January 26 at 5:00 p.m. - Alone by Megan Freeman
- Thursday, February 23 at 5:00 p.m. - TBD
- Thursday, March 30 at 5:00 p.m. - TBD

Storytimes

- Toddler Storytime - Mondays at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Please check the online calendar for the listed dates.
- Preschool Storytime - Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Please check the online calendar for the listed dates.
- Baby and Me Storytime - Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Please check the online calendar for the listed dates.

News from the Gift Shops

SOUTH

“A good bookshop is not just about selling books from shelves but reaching out into the world and making a difference.” - David Almond
South Library Book Shop volunteers couldn't agree more! It's our philosophy to put reasonably priced books into the hands of book lovers of all ages. Our volunteers strive to make each person feel welcomed and appreciated. We had a very successful year in our bookshop and that, of course benefits our libraries in The Woodlands and Montgomery County.

We're grateful to the community for supporting us through generous donations and purchases. In addition to our regular December sales, customers purchased books from our Christmas Library Gift Tree. Through their giving, and I might add the generosity of our volunteers, we are able to purchase over \$500 in books to add to the Children's and Young Adult collections.

We look forward to 2023. We're grateful to those of you who shop with us and hope you'll spread the word. Please mark your calendars for our Annual Book Sale on March 23-25, 2023. We've been saving books all year!

Happy New Year and we'll see you in the shop!

Judy Mitchell
South Book Shop Manager

MITCHELL

During the holiday season the Mitchell Library and the Friends of the Library Book Shop were festively decorated and provided a warm and welcoming atmosphere to visitors. Our book shop experienced an increase in visitors and sales throughout the months of November and December. Children's books, holiday-themed books, puzzles, newly published fiction, and special books (higher value) were our best sellers.

Once again, our Friends of the Library Book Shop was involved in the Giving Tree Project. The Giving Tree was in the first-floor lobby in front of the children's library area. The tree had gift tags of \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20 values. It was requested that donors who wished to contribute to this project take a gift tag from the tree and present it and the monetary donation to the book shop desk volunteer. All monetary gifts will be used for the purchase of new children's books for the Mitchell Library. Our volunteer, Win McCann, was responsible for this successful project which she assumed with her customary zeal and enthusiasm. Thank you, Win, for a job well done.

Our book shop's newest volunteer is Wanda Marcell who joins us following a successful career at Anadarko. Her warm personality and diligence make her a great addition to our volunteer staff. We look forward to working with her.

Megan VerBerkmoes
Mitchell Book Shop Manager