
THE BOOKWORM



**South Montgomery County Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 9986
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936-442-7727**

2024 Feb-Apr

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Letter from the President

Hello Friends and Happy New Year! The SMCFOL is coming off a successful year in 2023 and looking forward to what 2024 will bring. Our gross income for last year was more than \$145,000, exceeding our goal. Our bookshops also had a profitable year, and we thank you for donating, shopping, and volunteering at the shops. Your support is crucial to providing funds for our two library branches. Those funds have provided the money for new computers at Mitchell and programs at both libraries, as well as books and other media.

In October we elected the following slate of officers for 2024:

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

All of us are dedicated to serving our libraries so that they can serve the citizens of our community. In addition to the officers above, we also want to welcome Fiona Hewlett-Parker as our new Mitchell book shop manager. We know that she will be a great asset to our organization.

The next big event will be coming up in March when we have our annual book sale. The dates for the sale are March 21-23. We will again hold the sale in the large meeting room at the South Branch and in the Community Center. Look for an email in a few weeks requesting your help in conducting the sale and setting up prior to the start of the sale. Volunteering your time will help guarantee the sale is successful. In addition, it is a fun way to interact with other members who share your love of books and libraries.

Finally, you should have received your membership renewal form in the mail. If you haven't received it yet, please email Karen Parker, our Membership Chair, at karenparker57@gmail.com. Please fill out and return the form as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me and I will respond to you or forward the information to someone who can best assist you. Thank you again for supporting the South Montgomery Friends of the Library.

Janice Raney
President, South Montgomery County Friends of the Library
raneyjan@aol.com
(281) 467-7390

Shop and Help the Library at the same time!

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

Jan Brodhead

Treasurer

Judy Mitchell

Gift Shop, South

Fiona Hewlett-Parker

Gift Shop, Mitchell

Deborah Butler

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 2024

Please save the dates: March 21 through March 23, 2024, for our Annual Book Sale. This will be held at the Community Center and South Library. We will be reaching out to volunteers to help us set up March 19 and 20, starting with a General Meeting on March 19th at 10 am. Look for our reach out efforts asking for volunteers to help us set up that week. But for now, please save the dates.

Deborah Butler

Membership

The bookshops have been very busy this spring and summer!

You may have volunteered to contribute to this while out running errands, stopping by to purchase books at the bookshops run by the Friends of the Library. If so, thanks! Our members often bring in one, two, or boxes and boxes of books to donate and perhaps stay awhile to pick out a recently published fiction, a jigsaw puzzle, or some children's books, treasures to bring back home.

Our members volunteer to sort the incoming books into categories for shelving, price them and other contributed items, and set them on display. Others staff the shops to be on hand to receive donations, straighten up shelves, help browsers find books, and complete sales.

In January, we send out our annual request asking renewal members to contribute their direct financial support to maintain the excellence of the South and Mitchell libraries and their programs you read about here in THE BOOKWORM.

The Friends of the Library is an all-volunteer effort and each one of us play a vital part in helping our libraries thrive as important community resources.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

Karen Parker
Membership Chair

News from the Mitchell Library

In 2023, Mitchell Library saw over 138,000 library visitors who checked out over 570,000 items. The programs we hosted had over 22,000 participants in attendance. Plus, the new Learning Computers in the Children's Section that arrived in June have been a huge hit, with all computers occupied during our busy program days. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of the SMCFOL. Thank you.

Mitchell Library has more great things in store in 2024. 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!

On February 26 at 1pm we welcome Genealogy Librarian, Laura Politte, to Mitchell to discuss the free newspaper options available for genealogy research. Spaces are limited and registration is required.

In March, we hope to introduce the new Library of Things. Have you ever needed a specific cake pan for a child's birthday? Or a stud finder for a quick home project? Or any item that you only need once and don't want to buy? Starting in February, Mitchell Library will begin accepting donations of new and gently used items to start a collection of "things" for community members to borrow. Be on the lookout for this new collection coming soon! Why buy when you can borrow?

The week of April 7-13, we'll be celebrating all things "library" during National Library Week. National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and Newbery and Pura Belpré-award winning author Meg Medina will serve as 2024 Honorary Chair.

Join us on April 8, for a Total Solar Eclipse Watching Party. We will have fun activities and will distribute solar eclipse glasses for attendees to view this once-in-a-lifetime celestial event!

I wish you all a very happy 2024 and we hope to see you at the library soon!

We hope to see you at the library soon!

Amber Fritschel
Branch Manager

Events for Adults

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 17 – *The Music of Bees* by Eileen Garvin

February 7 – *From Dust to Stardust* by Kathleen Rooney

March 20 – *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn

April 10 – TBD

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 Small Meeting Room. Space is limited and registration is required. Please register online or email lisa.cammack@countylibrary.org.

Mystery Book Club Schedule:

January 24 – *The Sun Down Motel* by Sally Hepworth

February 28 – *The Good Sister* by Sally Hepworth

March 27 – *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn

April 24 – *The Girl Who Was Taken* by Charlie Donlea

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:

February 1 – *The Echo of Old Books* by Barbara Davis

March 14 – *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See

April 4 – TBD

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 18 – *Unraveled: The Life and Death of a Garment* by Maxine Bedat

February 8 – *All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me* by Patrick Bringley

March 21 – *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us* by Ed Yong

April 18 – TBD

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 up 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 Schedule:

February 6 – Fleece Pillows

March 12 – Shamrock Mason Jar

April 9 – TBD

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 and third Wednesdays of the month in the Large Meeting Room. Questions? Email jennifer.giele@countylibrary.org.

Knit and Stitch Schedule:

January 17

February 7 and 21

March 6 and 20

April 3 and 17

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 25 – *A Haunting in Venice*

February – No event due to Early Voting

March 28 – TBD

April 25 – TBD

Tunes @Two

Drop by the first-floor lobby the last Tuesday of the month at 2pm to hear the Mitchell musicians perform some of your favorite tunes.

Tunes @Two Schedule:

January 30

February 27

March 26

April 30

Events for Teens (Ages 13-17)

Join us for a variety of events for teens.

January 22, 5:30pm-7:30pm – Teen Paint and Snack

January 29, 5:30pm-8:00pm – Teen Dungeons & Dragons Gameplay

February 5, 5:30pm-7:30pm – Teen Silent Social Hour

February 12, 5:30pm-7:00pm – Teen Craft: Mug Rugs

February 26, 5:30pm-7:00pm – Teen Craft: Miniature Bookcases

February 29, 5:30pm-7:00pm – Teen App Building Workshop

March 4, 5:30pm-7:00pm – Teen Craft: Mini Secret Gardens

March 11, 5:00pm-8:00pm – Teen Movie Night

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 – Now through 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

Our weekly children's programming is in full swing! Visit the Children's Department to find out what new fun activities we have planned for 2024.

From weekly story times to our upcoming 2024 Summer Reading Program, there is something for even our smallest visitors to enjoy at the library.

Family Game Room

Welcome to the Mitchell Family Game Room! Our Large Meeting Room will be set up for some fun, weekend family game time on select Saturdays from 10am-3pm. Unplug and play!

Family Game Room Schedule:

January 27

February 10

March 16

April 13

Family Storytime

This program is geared for children 5 and younger with a caregiver. It emphasizes stories and activities for toddlers and is a great way to meet other families with young children.

Tuesdays at 9:30am and 10:30am

Wednesdays at 9:30am and 10:30am

Robotics Demonstration

Texas Torque, Conroe ISD's robotics team, will be doing robot demonstrations and sharing the design process for their robot. This program is geared for ages 7-12 and is held in the Large Meeting Room from 5-6pm.

January 25

March 21

Preteen Events

Join us for an assortment of fun activities for preteens including crafts, board games, and STEM challenges. These programs are for ages 9 to 12 and a parent must stay in the library.

January 31 from 4:30pm-7:00pm

Stories & Crafts

A new twist on the traditional storytime. Each month we read the stories while you create the accompanying craft projects. This program is designed for ages 4-8, but younger children are welcome with adult assistance on the crafts.

Wednesdays at 1:30pm

News from the South Library

Welcome to 2024! As we start to settle into the new year, at South we are planning for our final full year at the Lake Robbins location. While preparing for the future, we continue to strive to offer excellent service and programs. This season we are starting two new monthly teen programs, Teen Home School Hangout to provide an opportunity for homeschooled teens to socialize and Planet Yum!, a program featuring snacks from a different country every month with a side of trivia, history and culture from that country. We're also excited to welcome Megan Hoyt, author of Texas Bluebonnet winning Bartali's Bicycle on January 24. As always, we are looking forward to another great year partnering with SMCFOL. We couldn't do what we do without your support!

Thank you for all you do!

Cynthia Dieden
Branch Manager

The library will be closed on the following days:

- Monday, February 19 for President's Day
- Saturday, March 2 for The Woodlands Marathon (South Branch only)
- Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30 for Good Friday/Easter

Here is a selection of upcoming programs at South Regional Library.

Adults

Arts & Crafts

Join monthly us for a relaxing afternoon creating a craft. Check our calendar for upcoming events.

Diabetes and Healthy Eating Series

Join us at the South Regional Library for a series of informative events on nutrition for those with diabetes or anyone interested in learning more about nutrition and healthy eating. These programs feature an expert speaker from the Montgomery County Food Bank.

Mondays, January 22 and January 29 at 1:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Gardening with Bob

Join us for a fun and informative event all about gardening in the shade!

Wednesday, February 7 at 1:00 p.m.

Book Clubs

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, March 12 at 11:30 a.m. & Wednesday, March 13 at 2:00 – Malibu Burning by Lee Goldberg

Fiction Book Club

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

Monday, February 26 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. – One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin

Culinary Book Club

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. Call (936) 522-2697 if you are interested. This book club meets every other month.

Wednesday, February 21 at 2:00 p.m. – Focus on Love and Lemons cookbooks by Jeanine Donofrio

Walking Book Club

Exercise your mind and body by taking book discussions on the move. We will walk the Waterway together, discuss the book and meet back at the library for light refreshments.

- Wednesday, January 31 at 11:30 a.m. – *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

Family Game Night

Fun For all ages on the first Monday of every month at 5:30 pm. Board games and snacks provided.

Family Movie

Join us on Saturday, January 20 at 2:00 p.m. for a movie matinee for the entire family! Watch our calendar for upcoming dates and titles.

Teens

- **Teen Movie** – Tuesday, January 23 at 5:30 p.m. Check the calendar for additional movies.
- **Teen Home School Hangout** – Tuesdays, January 30 and February 27 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- **Planet Yum!** - Tuesdays, February 6 and March 5 at 3:30 p.m.

Children

READ with the Dogs

READ with the Dogs encourages children to practice their reading skills by reading to specially trained therapy dogs. Registration begins one week before the event. Please call 936-522-2712 to ask about registration.

- Saturday, February 1 at 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Storytimes/Playdate

- Toddler Storytime - Mondays at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- Preschool Storytime - Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- Baby and Me Storytime - Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- Storytime with Movement – Thursdays, February 8 and March 7 at 10:00 a.m.
- Toddler Playdate – Thursdays, January 18 and February 15 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Children and Preteen Events - check our calendar for specific dates

- Legos with Lexi
- Drawing Class for Kids (ages 6-8) @ South Regional Library
- Drawing Class for Preteens (ages 9-12) @ South Regional Library
- Middle School Book Club (Ages 11-13)

News from the Gift Shops

SOUTH

We look forward to 2024. 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 21-23, 2024. 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

Our book shop was very productive with sales throughout the winter months. It was wonderful to see the children and parents enjoying the great selection of library programs, especially visiting Santa! Those visits were often followed up by shopping with us. As a result we have sold large quantities of high-quality children's fiction and nonfiction books, which are always very popular.

We are dependent on all the terrific donations from we receive from our community and are always delighted to receive your gently used books, educational materials, DVDs and Jigsaws. In the shop we have something for everyone! We have a wonderful selection of newer hardback fiction and trade paperbacks ready to purchase. Also, we invite you to come in and browse through our nonfiction sections for cookbooks, books on gardening and other interesting and enlightening reading materials. We also have some unique vintage books, and books in Spanish to choose from.

Once again, we want to express our appreciation to the community for your on-going donations of books and educational materials so that we can continue to offer a wonderful array of items in our shop.

Fiona Hewlett-Parker
Mitchell Book Shop Manager