

---

# THE BOOKWORM

---



**South Montgomery County Friends of the Library  
P.O. Box 9986  
The Woodlands Texas 77387  
936-442-7727**

## **2025 February**

Letter from the President .....	2
Annual Book Sale 2025 .....	4
Membership.....	4
News from the Mitchell Library .....	5
News from the South Library .....	7
News from the Gift Shops .....	9

## Letter from the President

Happy New Year, Friends! It's hard to believe that 2025 has already come around. Time seems to go by so quickly. We have completed another successful year and look forward to everything this year holds.

The following officers have been installed to lead the SMCFOL Board this year:

President	Janice Raney
VP-South	Debra Karl
VP-Mitchell	Kathleen Gibbs
Secretary	Elizabeth Golze
Treasurer	John W. Spies

We look forward to serving you and welcome any input or questions you have.

We are excited about the things going on at the Mitchell Branch. They have instituted a Library of Things where various items are available for checkout such as outdoor equipment or cooking items. Be sure to look. Additionally, the Friends have purchased some new furniture for the kids and young adult areas to enhance their experience. We're always striving to make our libraries an inviting place to be.

The South Branch is anxiously awaiting the opening of their new facility. Construction is underway and the new building is projected to open next Summer. We will have space in the new facility for a Friends of the Library bookshop. This is important to us because our bookshops contribute funds for expenses beyond the county budget to provide books, programs, and equipment as needed.

Mark your calendars for March. Our annual book sale is scheduled for March 20-22. Once again, our children's book sale will be held in the large meeting room at the South Branch, and the books for adults will be sold at the Community Center next door. With your help we can make this last sale in this location a success. Watch for an email with ways you can help volunteer for this event.

Something else to keep an eye out for is a new program utilizing the Lone Star Community Radio Association. They will host a monthly podcast called "Library Tea Time" spotlighting the Friends groups at the various library branches. These broadcasts will be available on FM 104.5 and FM 106.1, and also on the Lone Star Community Radio Facebook page and youtube channel.

Finally, I want to personally thank all of you for supporting our libraries. Your contributions help make a positive impact on our community and fulfill such an important role. Thank you.

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*

Kathleen Gibbs

*Vice President, Mitchell*

Liz Golze

*Secretary*

John W. Spies

*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 2025

Please save the dates: March 20, through March 22, 2025, 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 on March 18 and 19, starting with a General Meeting on March 18th at 10 am. Look for our reach out efforts asking for volunteers to help us set up that week and to volunteer at the sale. But for now, please save the dates.

**Deborah Butler and Debra Karl, Co-Chairs Book Sale**

## Membership

The South Montgomery County Friends of the Library support both of The Woodlands libraries in our fundraising. We have approximately 220 members some of which are Lifetime for which they have donated a onetime amount of \$200. The rest of us joined either as individual, family, bronze, or silver members for, respectively, \$10, \$15, \$50, or \$100 each year depending on the level of yearly support chosen.

Our fundraising efforts through our membership outreach each January is in full swing. If you have already responded to our renewal letter, you are now current 2025 members, and we sincerely appreciate and thank you. If you have not returned your membership renewal form, please do so as soon as possible in support of our community's outstanding library services at both the South Regional Branch Library and the George and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Library. We have additional forms in the bookshops for you to use and the volunteers there will be happy to help you, if you choose not to mail your renewal. We hope to hear from you soon.

**Karen Parker, Membership Chair**

## News from the Mitchell Library

In 2024, Mitchell Library welcomed over 145,000 library visitors who checked out over 558,000 items. We hosted 576 programs with over 17,500 participants in attendance. An additional 22,655 people took part in passive programs throughout the building, like our popular monthly scavenger hunt. In December, we were able to purchase new furniture, which has helped us redefine the available space to better meet the needs of the community. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of the SMCFOL. Thank you!

**Amber Fritschel**  
**Branch Manager**

### In the Community

Catch Mitchell Staff out in the community at these outreach events:

- Bush Elementary Academic Night  
(Thursday, February 13 from 5:30pm-7pm)
- Rodeo Night at Chick-fil-A Magnolia (1488 and 2478)  
(Thursday, February 27 from 5:30pm-7:30pm)
- Rodeo Night at Chick-fil-A Alden Bridge  
(Thursday, March 6 from 5:30pm-7:30pm)
- Woodlands Children's Museum Celebrates Children's Book Week  
(Tuesday, May 6; time TBD)

### Events of Note

#### Scam Prevention

Join the Mitchell Digital Resource Specialist and learn about common digital scams, how they operate, and how to prevent them from happening to you. You'll leave this class with the knowledge to better protect your personal data, computer, and handheld device.

- Tuesday, February 4 at 10am
- Tuesday, March 25 at 10am

#### Valentine's Day Novel Tea

**(Friday, February 14 from 1pm-3pm)**

Sip a cup of tea and have a scone while you peruse our various tea flavors. Then, create your own "novel tea" blends (limit four) by filling the provided tea bags with your flavor combinations of choice. This Novel Tea experience is a come-and-go activity and registration is required.

### **Crafternoons for Adults**

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 19+ can create. No advanced skills are needed; crafts are self-directed with provided instructions. Register and join us in Large Meeting Room 102 at 1:30pm!

- Tuesday, March 11 – Fringe Earrings
- Tuesday, April 8 – DIY Fascinator Headband

### **Child Safety Information**

**(Tuesday, February 18 from 9:30am-11:30am)**

Representatives from The Woodlands Township and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will staff a child safety information table in the Children's Department and issue Amber Cards to interested families for free.

### **Movie Matinee for Adults**

Join us for popcorn and a movie the last Thursday of the month at 1pm!

- Thursday, February 27 – Arthur the King
- Thursday, March 27 – In the Heart of the Sea

### **Teen Escape Room: Rebel Revolt**

**(Monday, March 3 at 5:30pm)**

The United World Government's W.A.R. facility is nearing completion. The crew must stop this happening at all costs! The mission? Steal the Antimatter Warhead and eliminate the killer robots. How? By solving lots and lots of interesting, fun puzzles. Grab a friend and join the challenge. For teens 12-18.

### **Family Trivia Night: Spring Break Edition**

**(Wednesday, March 12 from 6:30pm-8pm)**

Staying in town for Spring Break or have family visiting? Register as a team with your family and friends for our Spring Break trivia night! Teams can range from 2-6 people. Recommended for ages 6 and up.

## News from the South Library

Welcome to 2025! We anticipate that this year will bring big changes for South Regional Library. A new location, possibly a new name and hopefully more opportunities to offer great services, collections and programs to the community. While we don't have all the details about layout and opening, we are starting to see the building come together in the Grogan's Mill Village Center and will update the SMCFOL Board as we get more information.

SMCFOL support has been instrumental in all we were able to achieve and offer in 2024 and we are ever grateful for your continued energy, dedication and generosity.

**Cynthia Dieden**  
**Branch Manager**

The library will be closed on the following days:

- Monday, February 17 for Presidents' Day
- Saturday, March 1 for the Woodlands Marathon (South Regional Library only)
- April 18 and April 19 for Good Friday
- April 26 for Ironman Texas (South Regional Library only) Monday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day

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

### Adults

- Essential Oils with Christy - Wednesday, February 5 at 1:00 p.m. - Come and learn the hows and whys of essential oils. And the best oils for your own personal arsenal. You'll also make your own lip balm!
- Navigating Medicare for the Uninitiated - Tuesday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m. - Our expert Henry Cook will guide you through the basics and help you navigate the complexities of Medicare with ease.
- Senior Game Day - Thursdays, February 20, March 27 & April 24 at 1:00 p.m. Dozens of card and board games for senior enthusiasts - refreshments and fun await!
- Computer classes on topics such as Computer Basics, Excel, Powerpoint and Scam Prevention every Wednesday at 2:00 in the Computer Lab on the second floor.
- GED Resource Lab - Monday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m. Boost your GED prep! We now offer online practice materials and flashcards. Enroll in our class and gain 3-week access to this user-friendly software.
- **Please visit our website for information about our book clubs that meet every other month: Fiction Book Club, Gumshoe Mystery Book Club, Walking Book Club and Culinary Book Club**

## Children and Preteens' Events

- **Storytimes – check the website for dates:**
  - Toddler Time – Mondays at 9:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
  - Preschool Storytime – Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
  - Baby & Me – Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- **Lego with Lexi – Thursdays, February 13, March 13 and April 10 at 4:00 p.m.** We supply the bricks, and you supply the imagination! Create something amazing in this open-build program with Miss Lexi.
- **Toddler Playdate – Thursdays, February 20, March 16 and April 17 at 9:30 a.m.** Visit the library for some special playtime with your toddler! Toddler Playdate provides age-appropriate toys and books for babies and toddlers to explore with their caregivers.
- **Drawing for Kids - Thursdays, February 6, March 6, April 3 at 4:00 p.m.**
- **Drawing for Preteens – Thursdays, February 6, March 6, April 3 at 5:00 p.m.**

## Teens

- **Teen Planet Yum! - Tuesday, February 2 at 4:30 p.m.** Join us as we explore a different country every month. Which country? It'll be a surprise!
- **Teen Manga Meetup – Tuesday, February 11 at 5:00 p.m.** Join other Manga readers for a discussion of a Manga book, trivia, snacks and treats.
- **Teen Homeschool Hangout – Tuesdays, February 25, March 25 and April 29 at 2:00 p.m.** Join us for some fun down time to play games, socialize, have some snacks, make some crafts, and just hang out.



## News from the Gift Shops

### SOUTH

South Library Book Shop finished 2024 with our highest sales since opening all those years ago. Thanks to the community and bookshop staff for making that happen. All our funds go directly to support the library and library programs.

The Friends of the Library Book Sale is scheduled to start Thursday, March 20th and run through Saturday, March 22nd. Of course, we'll need all hands-on deck to help us get set up and unpack boxes. Thanks to generous book donations we have a lot of books ready to be offered to the public. Information on volunteering to help at the sale will be coming soon.

I'm sure everyone knows about the new library opening in the Grogan's Mill Shopping Center later this year. We know we'll have a shop located right inside the library entrance. It will have a different look, and it may take a visit or two to get adjusted to where things are, but one thing you can count on is lots of books at great prices and the same smiling, friendly faces ready to help!

**Judy Mitchell**  
**South Book Shop Manager**

### MITCHELL

Thanks to the community who have been very generous with donations we have had plenty to sell.

We have tried to be nimble with changing our displays, having special sales, and advertising on Facebook, while still filling the shop with a great variety of fiction, nonfiction, jigsaws, and some beautiful vintage books.

If you do have donations we are pleased to accept books in great condition. Unfortunately, if your books have been written in, or highlighted we cannot sell them.

I also want to thank everyone who volunteers at the bookshop in any capacity. We couldn't do this without you!

**Fiona Hewlett-Parker**  
**Mitchell Book Shop Manager**