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Inside This Newsletter...

- “The Friends” helps with gifting lists
- Santa is coming
- Our “Giving Tree”
- AND MORE...!

Christmas Holiday closure starts at 5:00PM on Monday, December 23, and will open as usual on Thursday, December 26, at 10:00AM.

In addition, the Library will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, for **New Year’s Day**.

REGULAR LIBRARY HOURS

SUN	CLOSED	MON 1PM - 9PM	TUES 10AM - 9PM	WED 10AM - 6PM	THURS 10AM - 6PM
		FRI 1PM - 6PM	SAT 10AM - 5PM		

Spring Branch-Memorial Library Website

www.hcpl.net/location/spring-branch-memorial-branch-library

Between newsletters, keep up with The Friends at www.friendsofsbml.org
or contact us at friends.sbm@hotmail.com



Winter
2019

NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library



At this Season of Giving... We **ALL** have family members and friends on our holiday giving list and we have **NO CLUE** what to give them!



**THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY CAN
CHANGE THAT FROWN TO SMILES!**

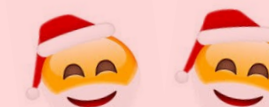


BUY-A-BOOK!

Looking for a gift for someone who is hard to buy for, who has everything, or who simply loves books? Consider a donation in that person’s honor to The Friends of the Spring Branch Memorial Library’s **Buy-A-Book** program. Last year, gifts in honor (or in memory) of family and friends allowed The Friends to gift the Library with **almost \$6,000**.

Buy-A-Book forms will have been mailed to members of the Friends of the Spring Branch Memorial Library. Forms are also available at the library or on the Friends’ website.

What a gift for ALL!



LOBBY BOOKS! (Second-Chance Books)

At the Library entrance **Lobby Books** are an outstanding source for thoughtful giving at the holiday season! These may be seasonal books as well as fiction, nonfiction, and children’s books. A group of **The Friends** sorts donated books weekly to provide **YOU** with the best selection of **quality books suitable for giving**. (And while you are buying for those on your lists, pick up something for yourself too!) Last year Lobby Books donations (throughout the year) allowed The Friends to gift the Library with **almost \$7,000**.

Gifting others (and gifting yourself?) is a gift for all!



However you celebrate these winter holidays, may love and laughter light your way to and through the coming year. —Jill Rose, newsletter editor for The Friends



Kid Happenings

Tickets to Kid Happenings events are **free** 30 minutes ahead of most events—and the Friends of the SB-M Library contributes funds to provide occasional snacks and cooking and crafts supplies.

Baby Time is every Wednesday at 10:15-10:45AM OR 11:00-11:30AM for infants 0-18 months with parents/caregivers.

Toddler Time is each Thursday at 10:15-10:45AM. For children ages 18 months to 36 months.

Preschool Storytime & Craft for three to six year olds is scheduled each Thursday at 11:15-11:45AM.

School-Age Children KID ZONE programs include crafts, STEM activities, LEGO challenge, and holiday-themed programs on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00PM.

Teens and Tweens

- Weekly on Fridays, Board Game Nation—4:00-5:30PM. Grade 3 and older.
- Monthly Teen/Tween Book Group meets the last Tuesday of every month from 4:00-5:00PM. Grade 6 and older.

Teens' December book is *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp* by Rick Yancey and will meet on Tuesday, December 17 at 4 PM. Includes eating pizza and making medieval gingerbread.

Santa AND Mrs. Claus are coming to the Library!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

They're ba-a-a-ck—and kids will have a chance to



visit with them at **one of THREE sessions**

- 5:00-5:30
- 5:45-6:15
- 6:30-7:00

During their visit, they will read a holiday story, pose for pictures, and spread holiday cheer. Space is limited. Please arrive early to ensure your participation. As usual, free tickets will be distributed 30 minutes prior to each program.

Celebrating Maria Madrid!



On November 14, Friends Board members joined Spring Branch-Memorial librarians, past and present, as well as Harris County Public Library directors honoring Maria Madrid's **45 years of service** to the Harris County Library system!

Ms. Madrid is the County Library system's longest-serving employee and, even more remarkably, she has spent her entire career in the system at OUR Library. MANY area children grew up knowing Ms. Madrid as "their" librarian and now she is librarian for THEIR children!

Ms. Madrid is recognized by her wide knowledge, her willing helpfulness and her boundless patience. She is a gift to us all.

Thank you, Maria Madrid, for your years of dedicated service and for your continuing presence at our Library!

A Giving Tree—

The Friends traditionally decorate two trees for the holiday season—a tree in the Lobby and a tree in the Community Room. This year the Lobby tree will have a new look. Its decorations will describe reasonably priced items that are on the Librarians' wish lists in support of Library programs and events.

If you are feeling "elf-ish" and would like to contribute, please consider removing an ornament from the tree and taking it to the circulation desk to make the suggested donation toward that gift.

YOU WILL MAKE IT A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR ALL!



Join us!
...and
ask a
friend
to be a
Friend!



The Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library

www.friendsofsbml.org

Membership Application: ☐ New or ☐ Renew

We do not share any of your information with anyone outside our organization.

Name: _____

*Address: _____

*City. State. Zip: _____

*Phone: _____

**Email (optional): _____

☐ \$10 Sponsor ☐ \$25 Leader ☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$100 Supernova ☐ Additional donation \$ _____

☐ Please change my address. ☐ Please send my newsletter by ground mail only.

☐ I would like to volunteer with the Friends.

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Spring Branch-Memorial Library

Mailing address: 930 Corbindale Road, Houston, TX 77024

OR pay with PayPal on our website: www.friendsofsbml.org/joinrenew

Contributions are tax deductible.

* Required for new or changes only.

**Providing email address authorizes email contact.

Coming Up! Winter Break Reading Challenge for kids (grades 1-5), teens (grades 6-12), and adults. Pick up the challenge in the Library starting December 16. Complete the challenge and return it by January 11 to enter to win a prize. **The prize for each age group is a \$20 Target gift card.**

Not in time for Christmas BUT— Our long-awaited new flooring and shelves (*Note: the Friends contributed to the shelves!*) ARE coming, but probably not until early January—date to be determined. These installations will take about two weeks and the Library will be emptied and CLOSED during that entire time. Don't worry! There will be signs and notices posted well in advance...and our reopening will be joyful!

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DATES!

Authors and publishers and libraries...OH, MY!

Did you know...

...publishers only "rent" (license) digital copies of their audio books to a library or to a *library system* (ALL of the Harris County libraries count as ONE library!) and after a digital book has been checked out 27 times, it either disappears or the library must relicense the book for another 27 uses. Popular authors' books may cost up to \$80 for each licensed copy and typically the Harris County system needs at least 8 to 10 copies of favorite authors.

Of course, authors write books and publishers publish them to be paid and arguably borrowing books from a library reduces the number of books sold. But limiting access to digital books greatly increases library costs. Additional digital problems—Amazon does not license ANY digital copies of books they sell and, since November 1, McMillan Publishers only allows each library ONE copy of a new release for six weeks—at peak demand!

What can YOU do? If these restrictions appear unfair to you, visit the American Library Association (ALA) page at ebooksforall.org for more information. And to increase discretionary spending for books and digital licenses through our own library, **seriously consider joining the Friends...making an additional contribution** (See the Membership Application above) ... **gifting others** through the Friends' [Buy-A-Book](http://www.friendsofsbml.org/buy-a-book) program (See page 1.)

Gifting the Library...Gifting the community...Gifting friends and family...GIFTS FOR ALL!