

## From the President

Dear Friends,

Spring represents the emergence from barren landscape of winter with blooming of trees and flowers, and that extends also



to the San Antonio Public Libraries. After months of construction renovating several branches, their doors are opening to welcome our community.

Our loyal followers are thrilled that the BookCellar is now open on Thursdays, adding another day of shopping pleasure for everyone. As volunteers return to work at the BookCellar, the Friends anticipate adding more shopping days.

Most recently, McCreless celebrated the completion of their \$5.25 million renovation creating new spaces for teens and children, along with improved meeting spaces and a new technology center.

Landa marked a milestone as it celebrated 75 years of service to our community. The activities included family activities and highlighted the wonderful outdoor spaces and the history of the residence.

More growth will be in the Library System's future if the Bond Election (May 7) is approved by voters. The package includes a \$6 million renovation of Central Library, a \$12.5 million transformation and expansion of the Carver Branch creating the first of a kind area library, and a \$2.5 million improvement to the Las Palmas Branch completing the 2017 Bond Project. Let your family, friends, and neighbors know about this important proposal to expand our services and encourage them to vote YES.

Happy reading!

*John Costello*

## BookCellar News

Pearl Banks, BookCellar Manager

They say location is everything. For book lovers, location comes second.

As a new staff member of the BookCellar, I am still awed by the beautiful building and setting that houses our collection. As you take the elevator to basement level, you enter a world that's more bustling than



the library. Walled by windows to the outside world, you can take a book and find a seat among the greenery of the patio. Bring lunch, buy a soda, and browse or read for a while. If it's a hot day, the BookCellar offers the coolest spot in San Antonio.

Our goal is to sell books, plenty of them so we welcome book resellers, schools, libraries, parents, and children. The knowledgeable staff will help you find what you are looking for or leave you to browse at will. When the building is completely renovated, come take a tour and visit the BookCellar.

## Something Interesting in Online Book Sales

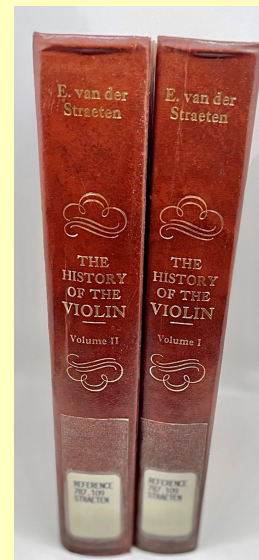
Ilhiana Poor

While working with books, you come across very interesting finds. I recently listed this especially alluring two-volume set.

The origins of the violin have long been a source of fascination for anyone connected to the instrument. In this book, "The History of the Violin: Its Ancestors and Collateral Instruments from Earliest Times to the Present Day (two-volume set)," Edmund Van Der Straeten, the German cellist, with his vast knowledge of music, has compiled the origin and history of the violin as well as biographies of many violinists. If this is an appealing subject for you, you may purchase this two-volume set on our online Amazon site, <https://tinyurl.com/FOSAPLBookCellar>

If the history of violins is not the topic you'd choose, please browse through our many other books listed.

We have everything from very popular Anime graphic novels to historical writings of many public figures. Your purchase is appreciated. All proceeds benefit the Friends of San Antonio Public Library.



## From the Library Director



Greetings Friends,  
I hope your springtime has been enjoyable and renewing. As we near Summer, we look forward to exciting celebrations, observances, and major initiatives throughout our San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) system.

SAPL celebrated two momentous branch anniversaries this year: Schaefer Branch Library's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 19 and Landa Branch Library's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 2. Both celebrations were well attended, and it was wonderful to see members of our community gathering together in person once again. Thank you for your tremendous support of these events—they would not have been possible without the contributions of our Friends.

I'm also happy to announce the reopening of the McCreless Branch Library after an extensive renovation project funded by the 2017 Bond program. If you haven't already, I invite you to visit the newly renovated branch to experience its many improvements.

I look forward to welcoming community members back inside libraries currently under construction, including Central Library. Central, which is scheduled to reopen later in the year, will feature newly renovated first and third floors with updated computer stations and a new children's area. As a reminder, the City of San Antonio is in the process of proposing a new Bond Schedule. The proposed 2022–2027 Bond Program will fund 183 projects city-wide totaling \$1.2 billion. The proposal includes improvement projects for Central Library and Las Palmas and Carver Branch Libraries. Early voting for the Bond proposal will be April 25–May 3, 2022. Election day is Saturday, May 7, 2022.

With summer around the corner, make sure you take part in our annual summer program, Summer with SAPL. Visit any of our locations or [guides.mysapl.org/summer](http://guides.mysapl.org/summer) to get started on your summer reading goals.

As always, I want to extend my gratitude to each of you for your continued commitment to our San Antonio Public Library. It is because of your dedication that we're continually able to serve this wonderful community day in and day out. Thank you, and I hope you enjoy the remainder of your spring.

Respectfully,  
**Ramiro S. Salazar**

## Mary McAfee, Still A Friend of A// Libraries!

Nancy Gandara

Some current SAPL Trustees know **Mary McAfee** from her service on the Trustees' board (1979–1984, and 1987–1993); staff of the Texas State Library valued her representation of the Alamo Library System (1985–1987, and 1993–1999); she served as a volunteer worker for the Friends of Libraries USA (1999–2004); and the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library know that, in addition to serving as our President from 1985–1987, Mary has always been a politically astute and enthusiastic advocate for libraries and Friend-ship—and some long-time BookCellar volunteers remember the homemade Rice Krispy squares that Mary McAfee used to bring by to show her appreciation of *them*.

I was not surprised to learn that Mary has been helping in the library of the Morningside Meadows apartments since she moved there in early 2019. A “worker bee” who likes to solve problems, Mary started by helping the volunteer librarian sort and shelve book donations brought in by new residents. When, in 2020, “the boxes overwhelmed us,” Mary reached out to staff and residents of Morningside and to **Jose and Beverly Duran** (Friends of the John Igo Branch) for help in weeding, moving out the excess, and organizing the collection.

The library closed for three weeks so that a residents' committee could sell some books, give many away, clean and label shelves, and compile a database.

In addition to “recycling” the overflow from the Meadows' library to sell at the Igo Book Sale, the Friends of the Igo Branch showed that they are good Friends of the Meadows' library by donating funds to help them obtain a much-appreciated rotating book display stand for their newly organized space. As Mary McAfee's service to libraries proves, we all get by “with a little help from our Friends!”

### Wanted: Membership Secretary

If you have database skills,  
FOSAPL needs you!

Email **Barbara Morrow** at  
[fosaplmembershipchair@gmail.com](mailto:fosaplmembershipchair@gmail.com),  
**TODAY!**



The Friends,  
inaugurated  
March 23,  
1964, pro-

mote public use of the San Antonio Public Library and appreciation of its value as a cultural and educational asset to the community and encourage the extension and improvement of its services.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Costello .....President  
Nancy Gandara ..... Vice President  
Karin Pedersen ..... Secretary  
Barbara Morrow ..... Treasurer  
Beth Graham ..... Immediate  
Past Pres

MEMBERSHIP  
SECRETARY ..... Open

#### BOARD MEMBERS

##### 2021–2023 Term:

Elena Brickman • Monica Brite •  
Don Castellano-Hoyt • Kim  
Cauthon • Barbara-Chavez •  
Linda Cheatum • Tony Moore •  
Ann Springer • Betty Walters • Jill  
Zimmerman

##### 2022–2024 Term:

Paula Allen • Marcie Anguiano •  
Kathy Bee • Julia Castellano-  
Hoyt • Katie Ferrier • Teresa  
Kilmer • Pat Mendiola • Edward  
Moreno • Napoleon “Eddie” Patino

#### SAPLINGS

Managing Editor .....Alana Woods

Newsletter is published every two months and can also be seen at  
[www.friendsofsapl.org](http://www.friendsofsapl.org).

Deadlines for submitting articles and photos are February 5, April 5, June 5, August 5, October 5, and December 5.

Submittals should be a simple text or a Word file with photos as large as possible emailed to  
[saplingseditor@gmail.com](mailto:saplingseditor@gmail.com).

Article contributions for the newsletter are always welcome!

# Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Minutes

Sunday, March 20, 2022 • Zoom • 2 p.m.  
Submitted by **Karin Pedersen**

**Call to Order:** By **John Costello**, President, at 2:00 p.m.  
**Roll Call:** By **Karin Pedersen**, Secretary. A quorum was present.

Board members in attendance: **Barbara Chavez, Betty Walters, Don and Julia Castellano-Hoyt, Elena Brickman, Jill Zimmerman, Kathy Bee, Katie Ferrier, Linda Cheatum, Eddie Patino, Pat Mendiola, Paula Allen, and Tony Moore**

**Approval of Minutes** as printed in *SAPLings* March/April 2022 issue. So moved by **Don Castellano-Hoyt** and seconded by **Eddie Patino**. The motion was approved with none opposed.

**President's Report:** **John Costello** included an introduction of new BookCellar Manager **Pearl Banks** and Online Sales Manager **Iliana Poor**. The Library has agreed to have the BookCellar open on Thursdays.

**Treasurer's Report:**  
Reviewed by **Barbara Morrow**.

## Liaison Reports

**Board of Trustees:** **Josie Martinez** stated that the next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 23, at 4:30 at the Central Library and is accessible on-line and in-person with details on the website. Schaffer Branch's 5th "birthday" celebration was led by **Liz Alves**. Other Board of Trustees members in attendance at the Friends' meeting were **Marcie Ince** and **Juspreet Kaur**.

**San Antonio Public Library Foundation:** President **Amy Hone** was unavailable.

**Library Administration:** **Jessica Zurita** reported that on Saturday, April 7, at 10 am, Landa's 75th "birthday" celebration will be held. On April 16, McCreless Branch will reopen at 11 am with a full day of activities. The Central Library is still under construction but remains open, despite road construction in the area.

**BookCellar:** **Pearl Banks** reported that the BookCellar is blessed by volunteers, and Linda Cheatum's knowledge is

priceless. The team is looking at where processes are bogged down and where needs exist. All are looking forward to increased sales with an extra day open, book bundles, improved signage, improved organization, and continued cleaning. A college student will be joining the group over the summer, and the mailing list is being revamped to better get the word out about events and sales. Pearl and Linda are also working on a partnership with Thrift Books for additional revenue. Additional reliable volunteers are needed.

**Online Sales:** **Iliana Poor** reported that the implementation of technology has enabled her to upload and post books faster. There are, at the time of this report, 376 books on the e-store with about three selling each day. Iliana is actively working on improving the shipping process to reduce costs.

## Committee Reports

No reports

## Old Business:

**Little Free Libraries Project:** **Monica Brite** was not in attendance, so there was no report.

## New Business

Appointment of the Financial Review Taskforce for 2021 records to include **Jill Zimmerman, Kim Cauthon, Eddie Patino, and Pat Mendiola**. Approval so moved by **Nancy Gandara** and seconded by **Don Castellano-Hoyt. Don and Julia Castellano-Hoyt** volunteered to join the committee. **Nancy Gandara** moved to amend the motion and was again seconded by **Don Castellano-Hoyt**. None opposed.

## Adjournment

**Don Castellano-Hoyt** moved the meeting be adjourned, and **Jill Zimmerman** seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:54.

## Donations & Memorials

Sheila Figueroa

### Donations

Green Space Alliance made a \$200 donation to the Mission Branch Friends

## 2022 FOSAPL Board Meetings

All meetings start at 2:00 p.m.

When held in person, meetings will be in the meeting rooms of the branches noted below.

May 22	Collins Garden
July 17	Igo
September 18	Parman
November 20	Forest Hills

## Support Your Library System Vote "Yes!" on May 7, 2022

Library and Cultural Facilities proposition of \$58M includes three important projects:

- **Carver Branch** Library Expansion and Transformation
- **Las Palmas Branch** Library Phase 2 and Westside Strategic Area Improvements
- **Central Library** Renovations

For more information about the projects and the election can be found at [sanantonio.gov/2022bond](http://sanantonio.gov/2022bond).

## Summer with SAPL!

It's that time of year! Are you ready for summer? San Antonio Public Library is planning loads of programs, activities, and events for kids, teens, and adults for added fun throughout the summer months. Join us beginning June 1 for Summer with SAPL! Visit [guides.mysapl.org/summer](http://guides.mysapl.org/summer) to learn more.



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## Brook Hollow

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\$777.77! All these sevens! It's how much money we made at our Stock Up for Spring Sale March 5. It was a beautiful day to be outside; people stopped to see what was going on and stayed to browse and buy. Thank you to all our members who helped make this a great sale.

We will have a back-to-school sale Saturday, July 23, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Finally – on Saturday, Sept. 24, we will have a big, sell-everything-in-our-storage-spaces sale.

We currently have 71 members, including 10 life members and five new members. If you are one of the few who haven't renewed, please pick up a membership envelope and send in your renewal.

Besides her many duties as Brook Hollow Branch Manager **Jeannette Davies** cohosts a cooking show on Zoom. You can read about it in the news article, "Noon Time Helping of Cooking," on page 5. The Zoom link is included so you can enjoy the show.

Our next quarterly meeting will be Saturday, June 4, at 11 a.m. in the meeting room.

*Pat Bjornson*

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## Encino

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The Friends of the Encino Library Spring Book Sale was held April 9. The sale brought in more than \$900 to support many Encino Library activities including the following Adult Programs: Paint at Encino, Wildflower Seed Bombs and Crafting Felt Flowers.

On Mondays, June 6–27, the library will offer Adult Retro Crafts.

Teen programming at Encino has resumed with weekly Teen Club programming.

The teens have been very appreciative of the snacks that are provided through funding from the Friends of the Encino Library. The Friends have also funded materials for our branch button maker, which our Teen Librarian uses for outreach at Johnson High School. Teens really like making their own buttons!

Children's programming has started to make a comeback at Encino, with programs being held on the patio. Programs the Friends have supported/will support are ongoing programs such as Story-time, Nature Explorers, Game Time, and Lego Time. Nature Explorers is a new program featuring outside nature related activities for children. Children's programming is expected to continue into the Summer months.

The playground construction is proceeding, and it should be open by Summer-time.

Encino's Teen Librarian and Volunteer Liaison **Ivan Martinez** has been very successful at recruiting teen volunteers. He has started a new program for them where if they complete a "Bingo" on a scorecard he has created of tasks, they get a small prize. This has been working great so far and has been very engaging to the area teens.

Circulation Attendant Part Time **Adam Garza** will be returning to Encino in May from a study abroad program in Urbino, Italy. This is part of his final semester of his Bachelor's Degree in Performance-Violin for the University of Texas at San Antonio.

At the last Encino Friends meeting, Vice-President **Nicki**

**Weaver** resigned her position. **Judith Dienst** volunteered to serve as Vice-President for the remaining term. The next meeting of the Encino Friends will be in the library's Collaboration room on August 8.

*Carla Pomager*

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## Las Palmas

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Farewell and best wishes to Library Manager and Friends member, **José Ruiz-Alvarez**, who is now the manager at McCreless Library. He was at Las Palmas for 4-1/2 years. Our interim Manager is **Lily Perez**, who's also the Adults Librarian.

Latest info: the Las Palmas Library's renovation under the City's 2017–22 Bond is projected to start in late summer, and the Library will be closed for 8 to 10 months. Our Friends group looks forward to supporting the planning for the "Grand Reopening" of the updated Las Palmas Library in 2023.

Need everyone's vote! Early voting on the City's 2022–27 Bond is from Apr. 25 through May 3; election day is May 7. On the ballot, the Bond program is divided into six categories. The Las Palmas Branch Library and Westside Strategic Area Development project is included under Proposition D, "Library and Cultural Facilities." Notably, runoff elections are scheduled on May 24 and the general election happens in November; the public (including family and friends) may need a heads-up about May 7. Our advocacy, as Friends, is especially relevant in support of the different Library projects on the proposed Bond.

*Delia Ramirez Trimble*

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## Maverick

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The Maverick Friends had a pop-up science fiction sale and membership recruitment table Monday, April 4.

The Friends will hold another pop-up science fiction sale on Monday, May 2, from 6–7 p.m. at Maverick Branch Library.

*Elizabeth Bircher*

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## McCreless

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McCreless Friends has been busy behind the scenes preparing for the reopening of our newly renovated library. At the request of Teen Librarian (and McCreless Friend member) **Marisa DeBow**, McCreless Friends Treasurer **Mary Gallagher** ordered 2 gallons each of black paint, blue paint, and red paint, small paper plates, 1 package of syringes to get the paint into the paint pots for the Create Kits, and all-in-one popcorn kit and 1 case of popcorn bags to support the event.

During the reopening, patrons will be given a passport with six stations, and they are invited to visit each station and have a sticker put in their passport. Once a patron has filled their passport, they can choose from a pair of branded sunglasses or a pen & journal set.

The McCreless Friends will be participating in the reopening by holding a mini-book sale in our station. The other stations are going to be the LEARN Center, the Teen Area, the Children's area, the Connect computer area, and the Circ desk.

In addition to the book sale, we are getting prepared with plenty of membership envelopes to sign people up to become Friends! Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 3:00 p.m.

*Jill Zimmerman*

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## Schaefer

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What a wonderful 5th Anniversary Celebration for the Schaefer Branch Library on March 19! The community came out in full force to cele-

*Branch Leaves cont on p 5.*

brate with us and we were able to talk about the Friends Group and what it does for this library. We were able to have a new member sign up. The Friends table included the 2022 Fiesta Medals, and we sold out of them very quickly. Also, Smarty (the library mascot) attended and put smiles on the faces of children and even the adults. The children played games and did chalk art and window painting. The Friends of the Schaefer Branch Library provided the cupcakes. We also presented **Gloria Ann Weaver** with a plaque for her dedication as treasurer for the Friends of the Schaefer Branch Library for five years. We are very thankful to have Gloria as our treasurer.

The community asked for us to bring back the tote bags for their books, videos and other items. We had a donor who helped us with the tote bags and the patrons have begun to purchase the tote bags.

*Liz Alves*

### Semmes

Julia Yates Semmes welcomes Geno Beckett.

Semmes Branch Library is beginning to realize its plans for an outdoor sensory and sound garden where the library meets with the trails of Comanche Lookout Park. Branch Manager **Jorge Chavez's** plans are coming to fruition with assistance from Semmes Friends through the purchase of two Corinthian wind chimes and a bird bath with an incorporated solar fountain. We anticipate seeing lots of

birds and butterflies attracted by the water of the birdbath/fountain and fragrant native plants to be planted in the outdoor reading area.

When Semmes Library was built, two indoor planting beds were incorporated into the design. These beds have struggled over the years due to various persistent irrigation problems which now seem to be resolved! Inside plants are thriving, and new Resident Reading Gnome Geno Beckett thoroughly enjoys his new digs. We expect the Semmes hospitality to attract more of his friends and relatives in the future.

Breaking free from the confinement of the pandemic, Semmes Branch increasingly offers exposure to the arts. Semmes is one of only four SAPL branches that offers loans of long-playing vinyl records. Additionally, our inventory of beautiful larger reference books which are "art-on-display" is growing. Do check out the activities calendar for our puppet shows! Semmes Friends are pleased to support all of these activities through purchase of a record display case, oversized book stands and puppet theater.

*Christie Smith*

### Thousand Oaks

Thousand Oaks Friends were able to attend the NEISD PTA annual book sale in March and select some free books that will enable us to have a summer book sale. We were able to meet in person at Thousand Oaks earlier in

March and were pleased to have our previous President **Pat Howell** attend that meeting. Pat had been unable to join us lately due to illness in her family. We are planning our May meeting on our regular, third Thursday in May and hope more of our group will be able to attend so we can make firm plans for a book sale. Hopefully by then, children and adult programs will be scheduled so we can participate with the librarians.

*Pat Peak*

### Tobin Library at Oakwell

Our creative Tobin staff has had great success with the after school program held weekly on Tuesdays with more than 40 kids and teens attending. The branch's first outdoor Story Time started in April and continues through May. An End-of-School-Year Party is being planned for May 17, with a Summer Hawaiian theme—Tobin Friends are assisting with the purchase of paletas and snacks.

Lots of summer fun is expected at the Kick-Off on June 4, with balloon art, bubble activities, crafts, and paletas. Weekly activities for children will be held throughout the summer.

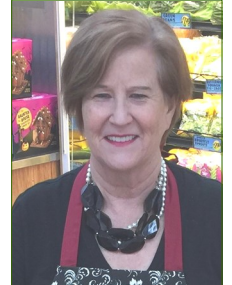
Given the success of the book sale put on by Tobin Friends during voting in February and March, we will be hosting another Pop-Up Book Sale to coincide with Summer Kick-Off on June 4, so be sure to come shop and buy books, DVDs and CDs.

*Alethea Bugg*

## Noon Time Helping of Cooking in SAPL's Virtual Cooking Show Continues to be Popular

Jeanette Davies

Most of us are familiar with TV cooking shows, but did you know Brook Hollow Library's (BHL) Branch Manager and Friend of the Library Member **Jeanette Davies** hosts a cooking show on Zoom for library patrons?



Davies is a dedicated foodie who takes cooking to new heights and will try just about anything to enhance the audience's confidence and love of cooking. Noon Time Helping of Cooking in SAPL's Virtual Kitchen is digitally "live" from the BHL twice a month on Thursdays at noon. Davies creates, writes, produces, and hosts the program with her co-foodie Mission Library Branch Manager **Oscar Gonzales**, retired SAPL Librarian **Karen Sebesta**, who serves as bibliographer, and SAPL's Adult Services Health & Fitness Team.

April programs have a spring flare with recipes and food talk from spring salads to spring cleaning in the food pantry.

Davies concludes each of her cooking programs with a quote from her all-time favorite chef Julia Child, "Bon Appetit!"

You can join other library patrons who are followers of the three-year program by signing up via the SAPL's website under events <https://www.mysapl.org/Events-News/Events-Calendar>.

Davies is also a member of the Texas Library Association's Public Relations and Libraries Transform Texas Podcast Team. April's podcast for the American Library Association's (ALA) National Library Week, April 3-9, 2022, featured Davies interviewing librarians from the Patrick Heath Public Library (PHPL) in Boerne, Texas, where programs and unique items for check out are heating up! These Boerne librarians are cooking throwback recipes from the 50s, offering a variety of cake pans for check out and continuing the ever popular PHPL's BookFace Friday!

<https://txla.org/tools-resources/libraries-transform-texas/>

Stay tuned!



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## CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES & SPECIAL EVENTS

*Because dates and times change occasionally, please call to verify information.*

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| April 25–May 3 | Early voting for the Bond proposal                                      |
| May 2          | Maverick Friends pop-up science fiction sale, 6–7 p.m.                  |
| May 7          | Election day  |
| May 17         | Tobin at Oakwell End-of-School-Year Party with a Summer Hawaiian theme, |
| May 19         | Thousand Oaks Friends meeting   |
| <b>May 22</b>  | <b>FOSAPL Board Meeting, 2 p.m., Collins Garden</b>                     |
| June 4         | Tobin at Oakwell, Summer Kick-Off                                       |
| June 4         | Brook Hollow Friends quarterly meeting, 11 a.m., in the meeting room    |
| July 23        | Brook Hollow back-to-school book sale, 10–4                             |

Brook Hollow Library  
530 Heimer Road, 78232  
210-207-9030

Maverick Library  
8700 Mystic Park, 78254  
210-207-9060

Thousand Oaks Library  
4618 Thousand Oaks, 78233  
210-207-9190

Tobin Library at Oakwell  
4134 Harry Wurzbach Rd, 78209  
210-207-9040

Note: Each branch Friends group has a designated representative to the Board. However, these Board meetings are open to the general membership. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.