



300 Country Club Rd.  
Wylie, Texas 75098  
Collin County  
[www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov)

**City of Wylie**  
**Public Information Office**  

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

Media Contact: Craig Kelly  
972-516-6016  
[craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov](mailto:craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov)

Judy Truesdell  
972-516-6017  
[judy.truesdell@wylietexas.gov](mailto:judy.truesdell@wylietexas.gov)

**Wylie's Smith Library Presents 'To Marry an English Lord' Program**

**Wylie, TX, Dec. 28, 2015** – Smith Public Library in Wylie hosts Jann Mackey at 6:30 pm Thursday, Jan. 14, as she presents “To Marry an English Lord,” a look at American heiresses who inspired the character Cora on TV’s “Downton Abbey.”

The presentation is free, but registration is required. Call 972-516-6250, option 3.

Refreshments will be provided. Smith Library is located at 300 Country Club Rd., Building 300, Wylie.

After the American Civil War, more than 100 American heiresses crossed the Atlantic to find husbands among the English nobility, taking their fortunes with them. As in “Downton Abbey,” these partnerships often saved palaces and castles, introducing modern facilities and turning these country houses into magnificent repositories of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts.

Mackey’s program will spotlight three such American heiresses, whose stories are ones of riches and intrigue but also poignant insight into the social changes that transformed British society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

-more-

Mackey holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and foreign languages from Southern Methodist University, an MBA from Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management, a Master of Liberal Arts degree from SMU, and a Ph.D. in humanities from the University of Texas at Dallas. In 2006, she was awarded a fellowship from the Royal Oaks Society, The British National Trust and The Attingham Trust to conduct an in-depth study of British country houses.

###

About Smith Library – Founded in 1970 by Rita and Truett Smith, the library serves the informational, cultural and recreational needs of the over 44,938 Wylie residents. In 2014, the library checked out over 500,000 items and hosted almost 190,000 visitors. More than 35,000 citizens have library cards, and the library offers 459 programs, attended last year by over 25,000 participants. Wylie was incorporated in 1887 and is home to an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, and an ISO-1 fire rating. One of the fastest-growing communities in the state, Wylie has had a 197-percent increase since 2000. It was chosen as the 25<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in the Country by Money Magazine.