

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27th, 2002)
Volume 17, Number 2, April 2019

Monday, April 29th, 2019, Meeting

Meeting location is The Julia Ideson Building,
Houston Public Library, first-floor auditorium,
500 McKinney Avenue.

6:00 – 6:30 Reception

6:30 Program

PROGRAM

Professor Brady Lee Hutchison,

Former firefighter and arson investigator and
Current Professor of History at Wharton County Junior College,

will speak on the topic

"The Gulf Hotel Fire"

NEW PAPERLESS PARKING

Free parking is available for FTxR members in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. Upon arriving at the garage entrance meter, (1) select language, (2) enter your license plate number, (3) select "All Day Parking \$16," (4) select "Yes" to the question "Do you have a coupon code?," (5) enter the code, (6) place the printed receipt on your dashboard.

The one-time parking code will be sent to you in a separate email.

No code is needed upon exiting.

Non-FTxR members who want to use the underground parking must pay upon entering the HPL Garage. Paper tickets will no longer be issued.

Parking is also available in the Smith Garage located at 1100 Smith Street next to Pappas restaurant. The garage entrance is on Smith Street.

A parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 pm.

Free parking is also available on the nearby streets after 6:00 pm.

All attendees need to enter the Julia Ideson Building from the main entrance across the plaza from the Central Library.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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TRIBUTE TO FTxR PRESIDENT DOROTHY KNOX HOUGHTON (1944 – 2018)

On Friday, the 9th of November 2018, Dorothy Knox completed her time with us. She is already missed by everyone who had the honor of knowing Dorothy Knox. Without her, there would not be a Friends of the Texas Room.

Dorothy Knox Howe Houghton's dedication to the Friends of the Texas Room was just one example of the importance of history and historic preservation to her. We are grateful for the time she shared with us.

Her obituary reads, "Throughout her life, Dorothy Knox focused much of her time and energy on education, particularly American history as well as multicultural understanding and sensitivity. She was known for her keen intelligence, critical thinking, and sharp wit. Friends and scholars frequently approached her for advice and tapped her vast knowledge of architectural, political, and social history."



The full text of Dorothy Knox's obituary may be viewed at the [Dignity Memorial](#).

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29TH, 2018, GENERAL MEETING

Susan Teich, Vice President, called the Meeting to order at 6:35 pm and invited all in attendance to visit the tribute to Dorothy Knox Houghton, our late president, elsewhere in the building.

Per her request, the minutes of the last quarterly meeting were approved.

FTxR Board member Jeff Lindemann then introduced William (“W.F.”) Strong, PhD., rhetorician and English professor at the University of Texas-Brownsville, as the speaker for the evening, a story teller who bills himself as a “Texologist” and then proceeded to demonstrate that he is one indeed. Raised in South Texas and scion of a family that has resided there for more than one hundred years, he explained that he has always had a broad interest in Texas culture. He received his undergraduate degree from Abilene Christian University and his PhD in rhetoric from the University of Arizona, was a Fulbright Scholar, and hosts a National Public Radio (NPR) program called “Stories from Texas,” many of which are included in his published anthology. He invited inquiries and submission at storiesfromtexas@gmail.com.

In a tribute to the Texas Room and collections of similar ilk, he prefaced his remarks with the observation that “almost everything I know about Texas, I learned in special collections,” making special mention of the Wittliff Collection at Texas State University, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American Studies in Austin, the local philanthropist who’s generosity to Southwestern University in Georgetown left him in poverty at his death, and the UT-Rio Grande Valley Library, a repository of extensive south Texas ranch records.

He related how he and his brother had traveled throughout the state with their father. His experience is that for many, Texas is religion as evidenced by the ubiquitous depiction of the state flag as iconography. He spoke at length about what many might call the Texas “argot,” others standard Texas English, but for the fact that dialects and word usage varies considerably across the state, running through an amusing assortment of Texas pronunciations and usages.

He ended his presentation with fascinating stories about Henrietta King, the daughter of a Princeton educated, Methodist minister who immigrated to Brownsville in 1850. At the age of 22, following a four-year courtship, she became the wife of a Rio Grande steamship captain and rancher named Richard King, who assembled the King Ranch and died at the age of only 60 years in the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, leaving her a widow. She survived him by forty years, further expanding and running the ranch and funding local schools and churches before her own death at the age of 92 in 1925. At her funeral, 200 ranch hands, many of whom had ridden for more than a day across the expanse of the ranch to attend, hats lowered in silent salute, rode in silent procession in front of her grave, before riding back to their duties on the ranch.

Following his presentation, Professor Strong graciously signed copies of his anthology, *Stories from Texas*, and offered a sampling of his podcasts on a flash drive perfect for helping pass the hours on long drives across Texas.

Charles D. Maynard, Jr. Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM
By Laney Chavez, HMRC Manager



McKinney Entrance to the Julia Ideson Building, Photo by Joel Draut

HMRC keeps popping-up. With pop-up exhibits, that is!

About a year ago, HMRC started experimenting in earnest with the idea of short-term, small-scale, semi-portable exhibits, and it's really caught on. These exhibits are viewable for one event only and are designed to get attendees excited about the materials we have here at the research center. Our pop-ups are in conjunction with, and in support of, national celebrations and events around Houston. Here are a few of the highlights:

Integration of HPL, April 2018

To accompany an HPLQ talk by Wayne Wiegand, author of *The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism*, we prepared an exhibit featuring artifacts that document the establishment of Houston's Colored Carnegie Library as well as the de-segregation of Houston Public Library. The exhibit documented a period from the early 1900s to the 1960s. Among the sources seen in the exhibit were excerpts from Board Meeting Minutes, correspondence, and photographs from the Houston Public Library archival collection, as well as newspaper clippings from the Houston Post and Informer.

Moon Garden pop-up at Discovery Green, September 2018



To coordinate with the Moon Garden art installation happening at Discovery Green, HMRC offered a pop-up exhibit of images relating to the moon. We also partnered with HPL Government Documents, who brought additional materials from their collections. We also downloaded some high res color images from NASA's website and displayed those.

HMRC Images came from RG D 0006 Houston Post collection and the MSS 0089 Bert Brandt photo collection. Both collections include significant coverage of NASA, including in the Apollo era. In preparation for this exhibit, we selected never-before-digitized images including parades, press conferences, and other celebrations that place this national and international accomplishment in its Houston context. We only showed about twelve for this exhibit; however, we located and digitized 70+ while preparing.

Stories of Houston's Mujeres, September 20, 2018

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, HMRC staff developed this exhibit to recognize Hispanic women who have shaped Houston in significant, and often underappreciated, ways. It provided a special opportunity to see, touch, and learn about the Hispanic Archival Collections.

Obsolete Media Petting Zoo at Discovery Green, February 2019



HMRC staff held a hands-on event where visitors could touch old tapes and disks and the playback equipment. The idea behind this pop-up exhibit was to showcase an array of media formats from



yesteryear, and how HMRC archivists are working to help bring your memories into the digital age. We also used this as an opportunity to promote the coming Memory Lab.

¡Ya Basta! Mexican American Activism in Houston, April 2019

Our city has a rich history of Mexican American activists and organizations that mobilized the community towards change. This pop-up exhibit featured artists, media, and items from Houston Mexican American activists and influencers. Materials on display were part of the HMRC's Hispanic Archival Collections. This was also a unique event as this is the first time we've had an intern lead an HMRC program as a part of an internship partnership we have with the University of Houston, Clear Lake.

Teal Studio: Portraits of Houston, at Discovery Green, February 2019

During African American History Month, this pop-up exhibit was a special opportunity to see and learn about Houston's own Teal Portrait Studio, an influential African-American photography studio that operated for more than forty years. On display were photos from HMRC's collections and staff were on-hand to help visitors learn about how to search and discover interesting materials from HMRC's holdings using online resources. This exhibit is a part of a series of events celebrating African American History Month.



Texas Jazz Archive, April 2019

In 1987 the Jazz Heritage Society of Texas partnered HMRC to document the under-represented jazz scene in Houston and the Gulf Coast of Texas by developing the Texas Jazz Archive collection. The archive was only active for a few years but in that time the initiative collected material from 22 artists.

This HMRC Pop-Up exhibit featured ephemera, photographs, and oral history clips of the musicians who were inducted. Musical entertainment was provided by Jazz Houston.

We hope you'll join us for future events in our *HMRC Pops Up!* series. Please stay tuned!

Programs and Events

Preservation Workshop: The Care & Keeping of Your Family History, Thursday April 25th, 2019 | 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Clayton Center for Genealogical Research, Carriage House

Join HMRC and Clayton for a workshop on basic cleaning and mending techniques! In celebration of Preservation Week, we will offer a hands-on workshop on how to preserve your family history collections. Materials will be provided. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600.

Rare Books Room Showcase – Thursday, May 16th, 2019 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm; Julia Ideson Building, Texas Room

HMRC will showcase rare, interesting, and unique items from the Rare Books Room/HMRC Vault. This event will offer exclusive, insider access to materials that are normally restricted for preservation purposes. This is a rare opportunity for our customers to see, touch, and learn about some of the most precious treasures in our collection.

Where's the Book on My House? Thursday, May 23rd, 2018 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm; Julia Ideson Building, Meldrum Room

Curious about your home's history? Don't know where to start? HMRC's Architectural Archivist will give a basic overview of how to research a historic property, highlighting useful resources in HMRC collections. This program includes a tour of the Texas Room to introduce the public to our collections and how to access them through the reference desk.

Julia Ideson Building Tour- May 4th, June 1st, and July 6th | 11:00 am

Join us on the first Saturday of every month for a tour of the historic Julia Ideson Building. Formerly Houston Public Library's "Central" Branch, the Julia Ideson Building is a beautiful Spanish Renaissance Revival (Plateresque)-style building in the heart of downtown. Learn about the history and use of the building, the renovations and additions, as well as the significance of its art and architecture. Free one-hour tours of the Ideson Building begin at 11:00 am at the reception desk in the lobby. If you would like to schedule a tour for a group of 10 or more, please contact 832-393-1662.

2019 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2019 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Image sizes available at half-price are:

- 5x7 print (\$12.50 normally costs \$6.25)
- 8x10 print (\$18.00 normally costs \$9.00)

Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to me at Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

Volunteers

HMRC can use volunteers who want to help going through archival collections box by box to determine what is in them. HMRC can also use volunteers who want to help create lesson plans incorporating primary sources from HMRC's collections. HMRC is also still seeking talented individuals to serve as tour guides and volunteer educators to ensure that all visitors to the HMRC and Julia Ideson Building have an enriched experience.

We are looking for docents who are:

- Passionate and Curious about Texas and Houston history.
- Committed to engaging the visitors to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and the Julia Ideson Building in a rewarding and educational experience.
- Well-prepared for diverse questions and expressions of interest regarding the history of the Julia Ideson Building and HMRC's various collections.

Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Walking tours of the Julia Ideson Building and grounds
- Orientations to the Texas Room, Reading Room, and/or Exhibit Hall
- Instruction on history topics
- Guided informational visits to exhibits and installations

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact Laney Chavez (Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Thursday: 12:00 noon - 8:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.
- Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.
- Free parking (using a code to be sent through email about five days before the meeting) in the Houston Public Library underground parking lot for FTxR General Meetings.
- Preservation consultation sessions with the HMRC staff members on preserving family documents and memorabilia. Sessions are conducted twice a year on Fridays when the Texas Room is normally closed.
- Research Lock-Ins twice a year on a Friday. HMRC staff members will provide one-on-one research consultation to FTxR members.
- Five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Image sizes available at half-price are:
 - 5x7 print (\$6.25/normally costs \$12.50)
 - 8x10 print (\$9.00/ normally costs \$18.00)

(Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.)

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of the FTxR newsletter *Dispatch*, at <lindemann@SBCglobal.net> with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize HMRC resources.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM POLICIES

The FTxR policies relate to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center which includes the Collections of the Archives and Manuscripts Department, the Texas and Local History Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Public Library.

A. Contributions

From time to time, the Friends of the Texas Room will purchase and contribute to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library items that will enrich and enhance the above-named collections and ensure their preservation.

All such contributions will be purchased by the Friends directly and then given to the Library with specific stipulations as to how such contributions are to be used by the Library to enhance and ensure the preservation of the HMRC collections.

The Friends will give no money directly to the Library.

The Friends will not buy expendable supplies for the Library.

The Friends will not fund Library personnel.

B. Relationship to Administration and Staff

The Friends of the Texas Room is not to be involved in the administrative or employee actions of the Center, except that the Friends can question policies which, in its opinion, negatively impact the ability of the Center to provide service to the public.

CULTURAL MATCHING GIFTS

Are you or your spouse working for or retired from a corporation which makes cultural matching grants or volunteer involvement awards if you give to or do volunteer work for a cultural institution?

Will your employer match your gifts to cultural institutions that qualify under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code?

The Friends of the Texas Room has such a qualification. Send your corporation's cultural matching funds form with your check for membership in FTxR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTxR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTxR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTxR and can be used towards making a difference to the Texas Room and HMRC.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM: WHO WE ARE

Mission: The Friends of the Texas Room seeks to support the collections of the Texas and Local History Department, the Archives and Manuscripts Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library.

2019 Board of Directors:

President:

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, Carol Haddock, Jeff Lindemann, Catherine McCulley, Randall McKinney II, and George Werner

HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members should be sent to the following address:

Friends of the Texas Room
P. O. Box 27827
Houston, Texas 77227-7827

HOW TO CONTACT THE TEXAS ROOM *DISPATCH* NEWSLETTER

Submissions and comments for the *Texas Room Dispatch* should be emailed to the editor, Jeff Lindemann, at lindemann@SBCglobal.net or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann, Editor
Texas Room Dispatch
4910 Houston Drive, Galveston, TX 77551

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2020

Mail with dues to:

P.O. BOX 27827 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

Or apply and pay with PAYPAL online at: **www.friendsofthetexasroom.org**

DATE: _____

Check applicable: _____ RENEWING APPLICATION _____ NEW APPLICATION

FIRST PERSON: _____ SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS (if applicable): _____

first name, middle, last name

first name, middle, last name

MAILING ADDRESS (include street or P.O.): _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP +4: _____

TELEPHONE, FAX, EMAIL

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND PERSON (if different)

HOME: _____

HOME: _____

OFFICE: _____

OFFICE: _____

FAX: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please check category)

_____ Benefactor \$500

_____ Patron \$250

_____ Sponsor \$100

_____ Donor \$50

_____ Family \$30

_____ Individual \$20

_____ Senior \$10

_____ Student \$10

NOTE: Friends of the Texas Room is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization operating under IRS Code 501(c) (3). Membership and additional contributions over and above membership are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Is your gift eligible as a “matching gift” from an employer or other entity? If so, please give the name and include the appropriate form.

Additional contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Membership plus contribution): \$ _____

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS: Please check below to volunteer for FTR activities or library services:

___ **COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEER:** Be trained and increase your own knowledge about research techniques.

___ **NEWSLETTER:** Writing articles about materials in the collections or reporting on related activities.

___ **MEMBERSHIP:** Maintain up-to-date membership list and send out renewal notices.

___ **HOSPITALITY:** Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

___ **PROGRAMS:** Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.

___ **PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Developing posters, displays, news releases, handouts, etc.

___ **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

___ **OTHER:** _____