

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 13, Number 2, April 2015

Monday, May 4th, 2015 Meeting

The Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library, first floor auditorium,
500 McKinney Avenue

6:00 – 7:00 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:

Dr. William Kellar, author of
Enduring Legacy: The M. D. Anderson Foundation and the Texas Medical Center,
will speak on
“Monroe Dunaway Anderson’s Enduring Legacy”

Free parking, with validation at the meeting, is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. 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 flat parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 P.M.

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

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

INSIDE THIS EDITION OF *THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH*

The President's Column, by Dorothy Knox Houghton

Minutes of the January 26th, 2015, General Meeting

News from the Texas Room, by Laney McAdow, Manager of the Texas Room/HMRC
Policies

Cultural Matching Gifts

Friends of the Texas Room: Who We Are

How to Contact Friends of the Texas Room

How to Contact *The Texas Room Dispatch*

Membership Application

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

In 2008 the Friends of the Texas Room launched the Julia Ideson Award. It commemorates the first director of the Houston Public Library, Julia Bedford Ideson (1885-1945), and it recognizes scholarly research projects that document Houston and Texas history and culture. An author or creator of an entry must have used the resources of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center at the Houston Public Library to a significant extent in order for the entry to be eligible. The entry must have been completed or published within the past five years.

There are two categories of entries: books and non-books. Each is judged every other year. 2015 is the year for books, and we encourage you to nominate books that fit our criteria. For instructions on nominating an entry and copies of entry forms, please go to our website: www.friendsofthetexasroom.org. The deadline for submitting entries is June 1, 2015. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Friends in October, 2015. Authors may submit their own works for consideration. If you know of a candidate, please submit it by June 1.

The topics of past winning entries reveal the depth and breadth of the collections in the HMRC. In 2008, *Cinema Houston: From Nickelodeon to Megaplex* documented Houston's role in the nationwide movement to construct extravagant movie theaters in the 1920s and '30s. Those were some of the first buildings in Houston, and in the U. S., to have air conditioning. Two winning entries document labor relations and the civil rights movement in Houston and Texas. *Houston's Silent Garden: Glenwood Cemetery, 1871-2009* focuses on an aspect of the city seldom discussed by historians or the media. Steven R. Strom's book, *Houston Lost and Unbuilt*, based entirely on the collections at the HMRC, reveals both a city that has gone from our sight and a city that might have been.

A major objective of the Friends of the Texas Room is to promote scholarship on the history and culture of Houston. Encouraging this scholarship is a major objective of the Julia Ideson Award. You, our members, can participate by identifying and nominating candidates for the award.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on May 4 where we will learn about the role of the M. D. Anderson Foundation in founding the Texas Medical Center

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26TH, 2015, GENERAL MEETING

President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. President Knox next introduced the speaker, Ira J. Black, a stage and TV actor; theatre critic; university drama teacher; professor of English, drama, and speech; broadcaster; concert artist; magazine editor; internationally-published author on the arts; and lecturer on opera, theater, ballet, and symphony in Houston. Mr. Black entitled his presentation "I Was There for the Big Bang." He spoke on the evolution of the arts in Houston, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. after a lively question and answer session.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Maynard, Recording Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Laney McAdow, HMRC Manager



The Julia Ideson Building, photo by Joel Draut

On May 1, 2015, the Houston Public Library is conducting a Staff Development Day, which will serve as a team building and training exercise for all library personnel in the system. We have many new staff as well as new assignments within HMRC. With this in mind, we see this as an excellent opportunity to solidify our team, understand our various roles and functions within the library system, and share our stories and experiences.

In preparation for this, we are designing a poster to present at the conference which expresses the unique qualities of HMRC including: Who we serve, what we offer, our responsibilities, and how we do what we do. Here are some of the photos that we feel highlight our diverse staff and areas of responsibility, and depict the range of talents and skill sets represented at HMRC:



Barbara Morales, 4th floor closed stacks/archival storage



Joel Draut, photo archivist



Adrienne Cain, reference desk – Texas Room



Laney McAdow, JIB exterior



Barbara Morales, photo lab



Mikaela Selley, civic engagement event



Tim Ronk, tour of exhibit gallery

Student Collaborations and Internships

Mikaela Selley, Hispanic Collections Archivist is leading two projects this year which will provide local students with experience with working in an archive and conducting in-depth research.

SHIP

The Student Historian Internship Program (SHIP) is a summer internship opportunity for high school students. The purpose of SHIP is to expose students to librarian and archivist activities so they can experience what working in the library science and archive field would be like. SHIP was started in 2012 by former HMRC staff member Caroline Castillo, Oral History and Outreach Librarian.

SHIP will begin this year in June. Upon completion of the program, the participants will present their work at a volunteer ceremony which will showcase their completed work. This event is open to all library staff, families and friends of the students, and library affiliated groups and stakeholders, and will be held on **June 30th, from 2-4pm.**

HCC & TSU Projects

Since 2013, Mikaela and Dr. Jesus Esparza (instructor at HCC and TSU) have collaborated to create archival projects for his students. Each semester they design an assignment that gives the students hands-on experience working in the archive and also provides HMRC with much-needed volunteer assistance. To date the program has received tremendous positive feedback from the students.

“This semester we wanted to do something that really promotes Latino and African American history. Most of our students are minority students and it is our hope to do something positive for black-brown relations through hands-on history projects that create opportunities for one community to learn about the other.” – Mikaela Selley

Current students have been assigned to a specific collection held at HMRC or the African American Library at the Gregory School. Their project is to choose the top 3 items that best represent that collection and that also offer an interesting story. Their research will be used to create two digital exhibits: HCC will create “Chicano History of Houston in 30 Objects” and TSU will create “Black & Brown History of Houston in 30 Objects.”

Programs and Events

JIB

Friday, March 21 – Saturday, May 2, 2015 – EXHIBIT: Maurice Sendak

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6PM --Civic Engagement

September 15-October 15, 2015 – Remembering World War II: Houston’s Latino Veterans Exhibit

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 6pm -- Civic Engagement

September 15-October 15, 2015 – Hispanic Heritage Month (events system-wide)

Offsite- (HMRC related)

Saturday, April 4, 2015 – Saturday, October 17, 2015 – Exhibit - Independence Heights: A Window to the Past - African American Library at the Gregory School (features materials from HMRC collections)

Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 2 PM - 100 Years a City – African American Library at the Gregory School - Join local historians as they tell the story of Independence Heights and how it became a city. Learn about the people and places that were significant and important to the historical fabric of the community.

2015 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2015 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.McAdow@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

Research Lock-ins | Preservation Consultation Days

HMRC staff will offer 2015 members of the Friends of the Texas Room:

- 2 research lock-ins offered on a Friday (targeted for fall 2015)
- 2 preservation consultation days offered on a Friday (targeted for fall 2015)

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 McAdow (Laney.McAdow@houstontx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10:00 – 6:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 6:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 8:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 6:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 5:00

Friday and Sunday: Closed

FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.

Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.

Preservation consultation sessions with 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 copies per year of digital scans from the HMRC photograph collection for half price.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of *The Texas Room Dispatch* (lindemann@SBCglobal.net), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize HMRC resources.

POLICIES

Policies of the Friends of the Texas Room

Relating 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 FTR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTR 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.

Board of Directors:

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton

Vice-President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Kathleen Colt, Linda Fosseen, Catherine McCulley, and Jeff Lindemann

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

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
The Texas Room Dispatch
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM
2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Membership Year: 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

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:** _____