

# TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room  
(Incorporated November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002)  
Volume 18, Number 1, January 27, 2020

**Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Meeting**

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

**6:00 – 6:30 Reception**

Food and drinks are generously provided by **Bollo Woodfired Pizza!**

**6:30 Program**

**PROGRAM**

**"120 Years of Sam Houston Park: 1899-2019"**

by

**Ginger Berni**

**Ginger Berni**, a native Houstonian, is the Collections Curator of Houston's Heritage Society. The Heritage Society in downtown Houston is a museum complex that includes 10 historic buildings and a museum gallery. She has worked with the collections and curated the exhibitions at THS for almost 17 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in public history from the University of South Carolina.



Sam Houston Park

# 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 19292**, and
- (6) place the printed receipt on your dashboard.

**The one-time parking code will be sent to you in a separate email a few days before the meeting.**

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](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org)**

## **INSIDE THIS EDITION OF THE *TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH***

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## **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27th, 2019, GENERAL MEETING**

Mr. McKinney called the FTxR annual meeting to order at 6:30. He began the evening's business by introducing the 2020 officers and directors:

President: Mister McKinney  
Vice President: Susan Teich  
Secretary: Charles Maynard  
Treasurer: Frank Jones  
Director: Jim Bailey  
Director: Nancy Burch  
Director: Anthony Cavender  
Director: J.J. Gonzalez  
Director: Carol Haddock  
Director: Kathy McCully

After commenting on the future of FTxR, Mr. McKinney introduced the speaker, Debra Blacklock-Sloan, who spoke on the topic "Shades of Black and White: Growing Up as an African-American Groce Descendant." According to Mr. McKinney, Ms. Blacklock-Sloan is a sixth-generation Texan and native Houstonian. A self-employed historical researcher and genealogist, she is an avid preservationist responsible for twelve City of Houston Protected Landmark designations and 26 state and county historical markers. Currently, she serves as the Historic Research Advisor for the R.B.H. Yates Museum in Houston's Freedmen's Town.

After Ms. Black-Sloan answered questions from the audience, Mr. McKinney adjourned the meeting at 7:45.

## **NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM**

By Laney Chavez, Manager










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

Have you checked out HMRC's digital library lately? Well we've made some changes! Take a look! [www.digital.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.digital.houstonlibrary.org)

So what's new? We've changed the name from Houston Area Digital Archive (HADA) to the Houston Public Library Digital Archives, and redesigned the site so that now all three of the library's Special Collections have their own landing pages. We've also integrated our content management system (ContentDm) with a web platform powered by Ebsco Stacks to create a clean, more modern look. So, essentially, the programs work together to create a more user-friendly and seamless interface.

The website is also now responsive, meaning that it will automatically scale its content to match the screen size on which it is viewed. Now the webpages can be easily viewed on mobile devices, like cell phones and iPads.

Featured on the HMRC's home page are our core collecting areas. Selecting any of these components takes you to the individual items or collections that have been digitized in these particular areas.

 <p><b>Architectural Drawings</b></p> <p>A sampling of drawings from the Stephen Fox Architectural Archives highlighting the work of Houston architects and their designs.</p>	 <p><b>Hispanic Collections</b></p> <p>Original records offer a rich account of the Hispanic experience in Houston.</p>	 <p><b>Manuscript and Record Collections</b></p> <p>Explore documents, letters, scrapbooks, publications, and ephemera from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's archival collections.</p>	 <p><b>Oral Histories, Memory Projects</b></p> <p>Listen to Houstonians reflect on experiences that have shaped their lives and communities.</p>
 <p><b>HMRC Image Collections</b></p> <p>View digitized images from the more than four million historical images preserved at HMRC.</p>	 <p><b>HMRC Sound Recordings and Moving Images</b></p> <p>Experience the sounds and sights of Houston's recorded history.</p>	 <p><b>HMRC Texas and Local History</b></p> <p>Sources for researching Texas History</p>	

Our main goal in reorganizing the content on the website was to make our collections more browsable. We hope that by simplifying the main landing page, we will provide another search option for our customers. Sometimes targeted keyword searches have been unsuccessful, or do not produce all the relevant content. So improved browsability may provide another avenue of discoverability for users.

Work on the site will be an ongoing process. To improve search results, we are continuing to do quality control on descriptive information assigned to the digital objects for accuracy and consistency. In addition, we're exploring the possibility of adding a media player add-on software to provide improved access to our AV content, including our oral histories and films. This would also allow us to expedite the uploading of additional AV content to the website and enhance the overall user experience.

As we continue to upgrade the digital library, we will keep adding exciting new content. So keep checking back!

### **HMRC in Search of Pre-1970 Menus**



The HMRC is in search of pre-1970 menus from Houston restaurants, hotels, and supper clubs. If you have these vintage menus and would like to donate them to the HMRC, please contact us through email [TXR.Reference@houstontx.gov](mailto:TXR.Reference@houstontx.gov) or at the HMRC main line 832-393-1662. If you have electronic/digitized copies of menus that you would prefer to donate, then we would certainly consider this on a case-by-case basis.

### **Programs and Events**

#### **Rare Books Room Showcase - the mini!**

Thursday, February 6, 2020 | 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Texas Room

The tiniest showcase there ever was!

For this edition of HMRC's popular program, we're going small. Like, really small. Miniature! For one night only, HMRC will offer exclusive access to our rarest miniature books, normally restricted for preservation purposes. This is a special opportunity for our customers to see, touch, and learn about some of our favorite treasures in the collection.

#### **Julia Ideson Building Tour**

February 1<sup>st</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and April 4<sup>th</sup> | 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.

### **HMRC Author Talk: Dr. Leandra Zarnow presents "Battling Bella: The Protest Politics of Bella Abzug"**

Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 6:30-7:30 pm | Meldrum Room

University of Houston history professor Dr. Leandra Zarnow will visit HMRC to discuss her newly released biography of New York's Bella Abzug, chair of the 1977 National Women's Conference. This deeply researched political biography highlights how, as 1960s radicalism moved protest into electoral politics, Abzug drew fire from establishment politicians across the political spectrum—but also inspired a generation of women.

### **2020 Membership Benefits**

#### **Photograph Reproductions**

Each 2020 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to me at [Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov](mailto: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](mailto:Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov)) to discuss further.

### **Texas Room Hours**

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 – 6:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 6:00

Thursday: 12:00 – 8:00

Friday: 10:00 – 5:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 5:00

Sunday: Closed

### **WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING**

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of the *Texas Room Dispatch* ([lindemann@SBCglobal.net](mailto: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.

#### ***2020 Board of Directors:***

President: Mr. McKinney

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Jim Bailey, Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, J.J. Gonzalez, Carol Haddock, and Catherine McCulley



### **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](mailto: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**

**2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership Year: 1/1/2020 – 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

# 2020 Call for Entries



**Julia Ideson**

## Award

**Houston Public Library  
Friends of the Texas  
Room**

**Deadline: May 1, 2020**

This is a call for entries for the annual Julia Ideson Award sponsored by the Friends of the Texas Room at the Houston Public Library. The award commemorates the Houston Public Library's first director, Julia Bedford Ideson (1885-1945), and it recognizes distinguished projects that document Houston and Texas history and culture.

**THE RESOURCES OF THE LIBRARY'S TEXAS ROOM/HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER MUST BE USED, TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT, IN THE CREATION OF THE ENTRY.** In 2020, the call for entries is for published books documenting Houston and Texas history and culture.

The Julia Ideson Award and a prize of \$500.00 will be presented to the winner by the Friends of the Texas Room at its annual meeting on October 26, 2020. For additional information, visit [www.friendsofthetexasroom.org](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org) or contact Anthony B. Cavender at [Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com](mailto:Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com) (713-276-7656).

**Eligibility: A book based scholarly research completed within the past five years (2014-2019) documenting local Houston and/or Texas history and culture USING THE RESOURCES OF THE HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUSIVELY.**

**2020 Entries:** As described above.

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH EACH ENTRY:**

1. Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of the person submitting the entry/nomination.
2. Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of the person(s) or organization responsible for the project, if not the nominator.
3. Briefly describe the entry.
4. LIST THE SPECIFIC RESOURCES OF THE TEXAS ROOM / HMRC USED IN THE PROJECT AND HOW SUCH RESOURCES WERE UTILIZED.
5. Explain how the project contributes to a better understanding of local or Texas history/culture.
6. Submit **three copies** of the entry.

**Submission:**

Entries must be submitted in the name of the person(s) or organization responsible for executing the project. Submitting an entry constitutes agreement to the terms of eligibility and also serves as agreement that the Friends of the Texas Room may publicize the award and accompanying details about the recipient(s). **All physical entries become the property of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.**

**Send entries to:**

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

**Previous winners:**

- 2019 No award.
- 2018 Dr. Edwin C. Breeden's thesis, *Educational Politics and the Making of School Desegregation Policy in Houston, Texas*.
- 2017 Tyina Steptoe, author of *Houston Bound: Culture and Color in a Jim Crow City* (University of California Press).
- 2016 Jim Bailey & Kimberly B. Lykins, Texas Foundation for the Arts, *Post Oak Boulevard, A Texas Legacy*, (2016).
- 2015 Barrie Scardino Bradley, author of *Houston's Hermann Park: A Century of Community* (Texas A & M University Press, 2014).
- 2014 No award.
- 2013 Dr. Brian Behnken, author of *Fighting Their Own Battles: Mexican Americans, African Americans, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Texas* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2011).
- 2012 Michael Vance, *HAM Slices, vol. 2: Vignettes of Houston History* (Produced by Houston Arts and Media, 2012).
- 2011 Steven R. Strom, author of *Houston Lost and Unbuilt* (University of Texas Press, 2010).
- 2010 Suzanne Turner and Joanne Seale Wilson, co-authors of *Houston's Silent Garden: Glenwood Cemetery, 1871-2009* (Texas A & M University Press, 2009).
- 2009 Michael R. Boston Jr., author of *Labor, Civil Rights and the Hughes Tool Company* (Texas A & M University Press, 2005).