

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 13, Number 1, January 2015

Monday, January 26th, 2015 Meeting

Fourth Floor of the Jones (modern) Building, Houston Public Library
500 McKinney Avenue

6:00 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM

“I Was There for the Big Bang”
(Evolution of the Arts in Houston)

by

Ira J. Black

Ira J. Black is 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; lecturer on opera, theater, ballet, and symphony in Houston.

Parking is 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.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

As members of the Friends of the Texas Room, you enjoy unique benefits not available to regular library patrons. Preservation Consultation Days are offered twice a year on a Friday when the Texas Room normally is closed. HMRC staff persons will consult with FTxR members on the preservation of family documents and memorabilia. HMRC staff members are able to provide basic preservation advice and suggestions on storage. They also can provide a list of local conservators.

Research Lock-Ins twice a year on a Friday provide one-on-one research consultation to FTxR members with FTxR staff.

FTxR members may purchase from the HMRC five photograph reproductions from the library's vast photograph collections each year for half price.

Preservation Consultation Days and Lock-Ins require signing up in advance with the HMRC staff. Email the HMRC Manager, Laney Dwyer, at: Laney.Dwyer@houstontx.gov.

Additionally, members are invited to four programs a year featuring prominent speakers on timely topics of historic interest relating to the history of Houston. They also receive our quarterly newsletter, *The Texas Room Dispatch*.

Recently you should have received your membership renewal notice. All memberships are on a January 1st to December 31st basis. If you have misplaced it, you can download it from this newsletter or from our website: www.friendsofthetexasroom.org. You can mail it with a check or pay by PayPal. However you wish to renew, please do so today. The ability of the FTxR to fulfill its mission to support the Houston Metropolitan Research Center is completely dependent upon your membership dues and contributions.

I look forward to seeing you at our 2015 programs.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2nd, 2014, GENERAL MEETING

Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following candidates for the 2015 Board of Directors, as posted in the newsletter, were nominated as follows:

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton (new term – two years)
Vice President: Susan Teich (one year remaining in term)
Secretary: Charles Maynard (one year remaining in term)
Treasurer: Frank Jones (new term – two years)
Director: Linda Fosseen (new term – one year) (Membership)
Director: Nancy Burch (one year remaining in term)

Director: Kathleen Colt (one year remaining in term) (Julia Ideson Award)
Director: Jeff Lindemann (new term – two years) (Newsletter)
Director: Catherine McCulley (new term – two years)

Cheri Fossler moved that the slate of officers be elected. Charles Maynard seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dorothy Knox Houghton introduced the speaker, Joan Neuhaus Schaan, the Director of the Texas Security Forum, a Former Fellow for Terrorism and Homeland Security at the James A. Baker Institute for Public Policy. She spoke about threats against the United States from Iran and other African and Asian countries, and the steps being taken to protect our country from terrorism. Specifically for the Texas coast, Houston has become a leader in maritime security. Public and private partnerships have invested in infrastructure and developed Inter-Agency coordination. The Ship Channel Security District has been created by the Texas Legislature and works with the Houston Galveston Area Security Committee.

After the program, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dissen, Recording Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Liz Sargent, Deputy Assistant Director of Customer Experience, HPL



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



Happy 2015 from the HMRC Team!!

Staff changes have dominated the past 6 months at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. Caroline Castillo and Aaron Winslow have both left HMRC. I have been asked to serve as the new Deputy Assistant Director of Customer Experience for the Houston Public Library. This means I am no longer HMRC Manager; however, the three Special Collections units will report to me so I will still be around. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as HMRC Manager and working with the Friends of the Texas Room. Barbara Morales who was previously HMRC's Senior Customer Service Clerk, handling tour scheduling, is now our Senior Imaging Technician. She is working alongside Joel Draut and Tim Ronk in the Digitization and Photography Lab.

Laney (Dwyer) McAdow is the Manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC).



Laney joined the Houston Public Library as HMRC's Architectural Archivist in October 2008 and became HMRC's Assistant Manager/Lead Archivist in March 2013. She took over many of the responsibilities of HMRC Manager during the time Liz served as the Interim Deputy Director of Customer Experience (September 2013-July 2014). She is a native Houstonian, whose previous work experience includes serving as the Registrar for The Heritage Society, Collections Intern at both the George Ranch Historical Park/Fort Bend Museum Association and the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and a Research Assistant for the Museum of Texas Tech University. She is a Certified Archivist with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology/ Geology from the University of Houston, a Master of Arts

in Museum Studies from Texas Tech University, and a Masters in Library Science from Texas Woman's University. Laney is active in professional associations such as the Texas Association of Museums, the American Association of Museums, Preservation Houston, the Society for American Archivists, the Society of Southwest Archivists, and the Texas Library Association. She is an avid runner and can be seen visiting sites all over Houston with her 21-month old daughter Brynn.

Jennifer Sessa is the Assistant Manager of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC). Jennifer joined the Houston Public Library as HMRC's Architectural Archivist in May 2013 where she ensured the preservation, storage, digitization, and cataloging of all architectural items within HMRC's collection. She is a Certified Archivist and has a Master's in Library and Information Sciences from San Jose State University and a Bachelor's in English from University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Prior to joining HMRC, she managed both restaurant and retail locations, spent several years managing a customer service call center for Wet Seal, was an Assistant Agent, Children/YA for McIntosh & Otis Literary Agency, Inc., NY, a Reference Librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library, an Archival Intern at Clear Channel Outdoor, and an Archival Intern at the Orange County Archives. She is a fan of the Houston Roller Derby who might just make a team one day and can be found spending time with her 4-month old daughter Riley.



Help me welcome the following new HMRC staff members:



Adrienne Cain is the new Oral History and Media Librarian for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC). Prior to joining HMRC, she worked as the Librarian I at the African-American Library at the Gregory School, a Research Office Assistant at Rice University, and the Assistant County Librarian at Chambers County Library System. She also worked as an intern in the History Office and the Photo and Video Archives at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Johnson Space Center. She has a Master's in Library Science from the University of North Texas and is a proud graduate of Prairie View A&M University where she received two Bachelor's degrees in English and History. Adrienne was awarded the Texas Oral History Association Award for Excellence in Community Oral History in July 2014 for her work at the African-American Library at the Gregory School.

Clint Drake is the new Collection Development Librarian for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC). Prior to joining HMRC, he worked as a Senior Library Service Specialist at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research where he provided reference service to customers, assisted with collection development, managed the microfilm loan program with the LDS Family History Library, developed and executed programs, and wrote articles about resources and research techniques. Prior to working at Clayton, he was an Assistant Archivist at the Baylor College of



Medicine Archives and a Library Assistant/ Genealogy Specialist at the Fort Bend County Libraries. Since 2009 he has served as a Historical Commissioner on the Fort Bend County Historical Commission. Clint's volunteer work also includes a year spent as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer helping a Refugee Resettlement Agency in Houston, and he currently volunteers with AniMeals on Wheels where he is a pet food delivery driver.



Marlena Astorga is the new Senior Customer Service Clerk for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC). Prior to joining HMRC, she worked as a Part-Time Customer Service Clerk at Looscan/Montrose. She was previously a Visitor Services Representative at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, a Language Lab Assistant at the University of St. Thomas, an Intern at the University of St. Thomas Innocence Project, and a Teaching Assistant to Lori Gallagher the Director of the Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas. She is a Spanish speaker and has a Bachelor's in Communications and International Studies from the University of St. Thomas. She also completed coursework in Anthropology at the University of Houston.

I know a lot has changed about the make-up of the HMRC staff. All of these changes are positive. Here is a list of current HMRC staff members:

- Marlena Astorga: Senior Customer Service Clerk (Book Collections)
- Adrienne Cain: Oral History and Media Librarian
- Jo Collier: Senior Library Service Specialist (Texas and Local History Collection)
- Clint Drake: Collection Development Librarian
- Joel Draut: Photo Archivist
- Laney Dwyer: Manager
- Barbara Morales: Senior Imaging Technician (Digitization & JIB Tour Scheduling)
- Tim Ronk: Library Service Supervisor, Photo Lab
- Emily Scott: Processing Archivist
- Mikaela Selley: Hispanic Collections Archivist
- Jennifer Sessa: Assistant Manager and Lead Archivist
- Mary Sommerfeld: Special Collections Archivist
- Vacant: Architectural Archivist
-

Please do not hesitate contacting me if you have questions about any of this.

2015 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2015 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photograph 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)

- 11x14 print (\$25.00 normally costs \$12.50)
- 8x10 digital scan at 300 dpi (\$12.50 normally costs \$6.25).

Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to me at Elizabeth.Sargent@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 [Dates forthcoming for 2015]
- 2 preservation consultation days offered on a Friday [Dates forthcoming for 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 Liz Sargent at elizabeth.sargent@houstontx.gov to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10-6

Tuesday: 10-6

Wednesday: 10-8

Thursday: 10-6

Saturday: 10-5

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 jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu 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:** _____