

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 12, Number 3, July 2014



Houston Lyceum and Carnegie Library

**The Friends of the Texas Room
invites you to the opening of the exhibit**

**“Founding the Houston Public Library:
Women’s Clubs and Civic Activism
at the Turn of the Century”**

honoring

**The Ladies Reading Club
and
The Women’s Club**

**Saturday, August 2, 2014
2:00 – 4:00 P. M.**

**Julia Ideson Building Library Auditorium
500 McKinney Avenue**

Free parking, with validation at the meeting, is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. 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 May 28th, 2014, General Meeting

News from the Texas Room, by Liz Sargent, 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,

On August 2, 2014, at an old-fashioned tea, we will honor the women's clubs which, at the turn of the twentieth century, spearheaded the founding of the Houston Public Library. Spiced iced tea, cucumber sandwiches, petit fours, and an heirloom lace tablecloth will evoke the era. In addition to lending her grandmother's tablecloth, our wonderful refreshments chairman, Calanne Choate, will crown the tea table with flowers in her ancestral silver epergne. The Ladies' Reading Club will lend us pieces of their Haviland china purchased many decades ago for use at their meetings.

The tea will herald the opening of an exhibit of historical photographs, books, documents, and artifacts relating to the five clubs which came together to form the City Federation of Clubs. The latter organization worked with the Houston Lyceum and with Mayor Samuel H. Brashear to secure from the city a piece of land suitable for Houston's first public library. Then they wrote to Andrew Carnegie requesting a grant of \$50,000 to construct the library building. The letter is part of the exhibit. As a result, the Houston Lyceum and Carnegie Library opened to the public in 1904.

The five clubs which formed the City Federation of Clubs were: The Ladies' Reading Club, the Woman's Club, the Shakespeare Club, the Current Literature Club, and the Mansfield Dramatic Club. As their names suggest, each club focused on a different cultural activity or subject of study. Today, only The Ladies' Reading Club and the Woman's Club remain active, but both still support the Houston Public Library. The historical materials on display in the exhibit are from the library's collections relating to the five clubs. The exhibit has been mounted by HMRC staff members Tim Ronk, Joel Draut, and Danielle Burns along with FTxR members Betty Chapman and Dorothy Knox Houghton.

In constructing the exhibit it became apparent that the library needs a set of plinths (wedge-shaped supports for displaying books and documents) for the six glass display cases in the Julia Ideson Building. I am happy to report that your board has voted to fund the construction of these custom made plinths for all of the glass display cases which will be used not only for ours, but for many future exhibits in years to come.

Please come celebrate with us on August 2nd from 2:00 – 4:00 P. M. in the Julia Ideson Building, and bring all of your friends! No RSVP is needed.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE MAY 28th, 2014, GENERAL MEETING

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., in the Auditorium of the Julia Ideson Building of the Houston Public Library.

Dorothy Knox thanked the hostesses for providing the reception refreshments. The minutes of the previous general meeting were approved as presented in the *Dispatch*.

There will be an exhibit of the founding of the Houston Public Library this summer, and on August 2, from 2-4 P. M., the Friends of the Texas Room will honor the women's clubs which were responsible for the founding of the library. The members of the Friends were encouraged to attend this event.

Dorothy Knox introduced the evening's speaker, Barrie Scardino Bradley, who spoke about the history of Hermann Park and the area around it, as it has evolved over the last 100 years, accompanied with slides of plans for the park area, past, current and future. She has also written a book, *Houston's Hermann Park: A Century of Community*, which was available for sale.

After the presentation, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dissen

Recording Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Liz Sargent, Manager, HMRC



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

John J. Herrera and the Mexican-American Family and Photograph Collection: Digitized

Last year HMRC received a Texas Cultures Online grant from the University of North Texas' Portal to Texas History. This grant digitized most of HMRC's John J. Herrera Collection and all of HMRC's Mexican-American Family and Photograph Collection. The digitized files were received back this fiscal year and HMRC is currently working on creating the image descriptions for each digitized file. The digitized material can be found at <http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/HMRC/browse/>

2014 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2014 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 2014 members of the Friends of the Texas Room:

2 research lock-ins offered on a Friday (Dates forthcoming for 2014)

2 preservation consultation days offered on a Friday (Dates forthcoming for 2014).

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: 10:00 – 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: Kathy Dissen

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Kathleen Colt, Cheri Fossler, Jeff Lindemann, and Charles Maynard

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
The Texas Room *Dispatch* Editor
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM
2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Membership Year: 1/1/2014 – 12/31/2014

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:** _____