

TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room (FTxR)
(Incorporated November 31st, 2002)
Volume 21, Number 2, April 24th, 2023



Robert Kimberly to Speak at April 24th Meeting

Join the FTxR on April 24th, 2023, at 7:00 pm for “An Evening with Digital Sig Byrd Archivist Robert Kimberly.” Through our Zoom meeting platform (link provided below), FTxR President Mr. McKinney will interview our guest on the Digital Sig Byrd Archive, an online repository of *Houston Press* columns by Sigman Byrd, the mid-century chronicler of a Houston long gone. Kimberly, who started the archive in 2007, will take us on a journey through his research aided by the HMRC collection.

Currently, Kimberly serves as the Installations Manager for the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston and has worked for some of Houston's most important arts institutions, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Houston Center for Photography; and the Rice University Art Gallery.



The Digital Sig Byrd Archive is ongoing project that works to preserve Byrd's daily columns from October 1947 through mid-1950s. The site offers an introduction to his writings and provides names, places, maps, and calendars to offer a broad overview of his writings during his time at the *Houston Press*.

Byrd's writings from 1947 through mid-1950s leave behind a distinctive portrait of Houston's upstanding citizens as well as those who lived on the fringe of the city's respectable society including junkies, hookers, hustlers, street-corner preachers, pawnshop owners, honky-tonk angels, boogie-woogie boys, dealers, and more. Because these stories are often not shared, Monday's program will be a rare treat for FTxR members and guests.

The Zoom link for Monday's meeting is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82807668495?pwd=TTNHeIA0S0hSaWVCM3p0WUIheFRsZz09>

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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FTxR Zoom Meetings

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FTxR Officers and Board of Directors have decided to conduct our 2023 quarterly Monday meetings virtually at 7:00 pm using the Zoom platform. Those wishing to attend the meeting live, are welcome to join President Mister McKinney at the Houston Heritage Society’s Tea Room located at 1100 Bagby Street. Free Heritage Society parking is available across Allan Parkway in the Heritage Clay Street Parking Lot and Heritage Clay Street garage. Whether participating on-line or live, members and guests may attend the business meeting conducted by President Mister McKinney, watch the speaker’s presentation, and ask questions.

2023 FTxR QUARTERLY MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS

January 30th General Meeting: Michael Abboud

April 24th General Meeting: Robert Kimberly

July 31st General Meeting: TBA

October 23rd Annual Meeting: TBA



MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30th, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING

President Mister McKinney called the January 30th, 2023, General Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He began the evening’s business by introducing the 2023 FTxR officers and directors and thanking them for their time, expertise, and passion for supporting the Friends of the Texas Room.

The **2023 Board Members**, comprised of both the **Officers** and **Directors**, is as follows:

President: Mister McKinney
Vice President: Susan Teich
Secretary: Open Position
Treasurer: Frank Jones
Director: Jim Bailey
Director: Nancy Burch
Director: Anthony Cavender
Director: J.J. Gonzalez
Director: Carol Haddock
Director: Rebecca Harris
Director: Jeff Lindemann
Director: George Slaughter

After highlighting some of the FTxR projects and contributions for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, he asked that the Minutes of the October 24th Annual Meeting (printed in the January 2023 *Texas Room Dispatch*) be read and approved. Members voted to accept the Minutes by unanimous consent, and the motion to accept the Minutes was seconded and recorded.

Mister McKinney next introduced the evening's speaker, Michael Aboud, who spoke on the history of Houston retail. Mr. Aboud presented the history of Houston's department stores, electronics stores, furniture stores, grocery stores, restaurants, and malls. He also mentioned Houston retail outlets' matchbooks, ashtrays, badges, buttons, name tags, and pins related to the city's retail history. Mr. Aboud conducted much of research in the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's Texas Room.

After Mr. Aboud's presentation, Mister McKinney brought the evening to a close at 8:00.

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Letrice Davis



Photo by Joel Draught

The Houston History Research Center is pleased to announce the promotion of Jennifer Southerland to our Processing Archivist I position. She was previously the Programming and Outreach Coordinator. She has a master's degree in history and brings with her a wealth of experience from both the HHRC and her previous archives experience. She will officially transition in her new role at the end of April and the announcement for her current position will be posted in the coming weeks.

Collection News

The HHRC has accepted several additions to MSS 0496 Graham B. Luhn Papers and MSS 1421 the Chase Untermeyer collection.

New book collection acquisitions include the following:

Cecelia Ottenweller donated a copy of her book about the Houston zoo, written in celebration of their centennial.

Cynthia Stubblefield Walker brought by copies of the Montgomery County Historical Commission's History Taskforce Publication *African American cemeteries in Montgomery County, Texas*. The publication of this book was covered on the front page of the Chronicle on Wed 2/22.

Friends of the Texas Room gave us two new books by Houston historian Barrie Scardino Bradley.

In addition, the HHRC received a donation to the Meldrum Children's Book Collection: a ten-volume set of *The Children's Hour*, stories by multiple authors, published in 1907 and a nine-volume set of *The Junior Classics, A Library for Boys and Girls*, stories by multiple authors, published in 1912.

Finally, the HHRC added the William Gutierrez Collection to the digital archives:
<https://cdm17006.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17006coll70>

and the Mary (María) Torres Reyna Papers:
<https://cdm17006.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p17006coll141>

Programs and Events Update

April

Preservation 101 - 4/28/23 at 2:00 PM via Microsoft Teams

Every year at the end of April, Preservation Week is celebrated across the country. Preservation 101 is an introductory look at preserving home collections. This program will cover environmental hazards for book and paper materials as well as tips and tricks for storing and handling collections.

May

Photo History of the Julia Ideson Building – 5/2/23 at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams

Part of HPL's History Research Centers' series: ***Inside the Walls***. Each month, one of the HPL History Research Centers – the African American History Research Center, the Family History Research Center, and the Houston History Research Center will share information about collections that are housed within the walls of each location. In this program, the Houston History Research Center will take you through a photo history of its home, the Julia Ideson Building.

Reading Handwriting 101 – 5/5/23 at 2:00 PM in-person at the Family History Research Center

Preservation Week celebrates the physical preservation of library and archival materials. But, often just as important, is the preservation of information. So much information can be lost due to changes in common writing styles over the years. This program will cover helpful ways to read historic handwritten documents, how to transcribe and abstract information from those documents, and preservation tips for protecting handwritten materials.

June

Architecture Archives Open House – 6/1/23 at 4:30 PM in-person at Houston History Research Center.

Did you know that the Houston History Research Center has over 150,000 architectural drawings in its collections? This showcase will feature drawings of private residences, houses of worship and commercial buildings from architects like Mackie and Kamrath and Alfred Finn. Come walk through the doors of Houston's history and explore the details of some of the city's outstanding architecture.

July

Disaster Response in Houston – 7/14/23 at 2:00 PM via Microsoft Teams

Atlantic Hurricane Season occurs every year from June through November, and Houston has a long history of being impacted by severe weather disasters. By learning about Houston's history of disaster response, we can better prepare for any future disasters. This program will highlight resources at the Houston History Research Center that record the history of the many hurricanes that have impacted the city as well as resources that can help prepare your home for hurricane season.

You can register for these programs at: [Special Collections Upcoming Library Events](#)

Please follow us on the HPL social channels, using #HPLHMRC or #HoustonHistoryResearchCenter:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/houstonlibrary>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/houstonpubliclibrary/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/houstonlibrary>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/houstonlibrary>

FTxR 2023 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2023 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Send your requests to:

Photo.Reference@houstontx.gov

Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Archives

FTxR members may arrange a tour of the seldom-seen HMRC archives that house an amazing collection of historic documents related to Houston and Texas history.

Texas Room Hours



Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday: 12:00 noon – 7:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

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.

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, will not buy expendable supplies for the Library, or 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.

2023 Board of Directors (Officers and Directors):

President: Mister McKinney

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: *Open Position*

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Jim Bailey, Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender (Julia Ideson Award Chair), J.J. Gonzalez (Membership Chair), Carol Haddock, Rebecca Harris, Jeff Lindemann (*Texas Room Dispatch* and Website Editor), and George Slaughter.

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, TX 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.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023

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:** _____

2023 Friends of the Texas Room Call For Entries for the Julia Ideson Award



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

Deadline: May 1, 2023

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 2023 award category is for a scholarly and researched film or video presentation, website, published article, monograph, master's thesis, or doctoral

dissertation. The category of published books (excluding doctoral dissertations) will be accepted in 2024.

Entries: The 2023 award category is for a scholarly and researched film or video presentation, website, published article, monograph, master's thesis, or doctoral dissertation completed within the last five years (2017 – 2023) documenting local Houston and/or Texas history and culture using the resources of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center significantly, but not necessarily exclusively. The category of published books (excluding doctoral dissertations) will be accepted in 2024.

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 2023.

For additional information, visit www.friendsofthetexasroom.org or contact Anthony B. Cavender at Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com (713-276-7656).

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. Brief description of the entry.
4. LIST OF THE SPECIFIC RESOURCES OF THE TEXAS ROOM / HMRC USED IN THE PROJECT AND BRIEF STATEMENT OF HOW SUCH RESOURCES WERE UTILIZED.
5. Explanation of how the project contributes to a better understanding of local or Texas history/culture.
6. **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