

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27th, 2002)
Volume 17, Number 1, January 2019

Monday, January 28th, 2019, Meeting

Meeting location is The Julia Ideson Building,
Houston Public Library, first-floor auditorium,
500 McKinney Avenue.

6:00 – 6:30 Reception

6:30 Program

PROGRAM

Dr. W. F. Strong,

Fulbright Scholar and Professor of Communication at the University of Texas-Brownsville and native Texan who holds degrees in Communication and Literature from Abilene Christian University and The University of North Texas, will speak on the topic

"Special Collections Libraries Preserve Texas Culture, from Linguistics to Folklore to Historical Truths."

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: **47683**, (6) place the printed receipt on your dashboard.

This is a one-time code.
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

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TRIBUTE TO FTxR PRESIDENT DOROTHY KNOX HOUGHTON (1944 – 2018)

On Friday, the 9th of November 2018, Dorothy Knox completed her time with us. She is already missed by everyone who had the honor of knowing Dorothy Knox. Without her, there would not be a Friends of the Texas Room.

Dorothy Knox Howe Houghton's dedication to the Friends of the Texas Room was just one example of the importance of history and historic preservation to her. We are grateful for the time she shared with us.

Her obituary reads, "Throughout her life, Dorothy Knox focused much of her time and energy on education, particularly American history as well as multicultural understanding and sensitivity. She was known for her keen intelligence, critical thinking, and sharp wit. Friends and scholars frequently approached her for advice and tapped her vast knowledge of architectural, political, and social history."



The full text of Dorothy Knox's obituary may be viewed at the [Dignity Memorial](#).

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29TH, 2018, GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at the Julia Ideson Library at 7:00 pm by Vice-President Susan Teich, standing in for President Dorothy Knox Houghton.

Election of Officers and Board Members: Susan presented a slate of officers and directors for the ensuing calendar year listed below that was adopted by acclamation:

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton (one year remaining)*
Vice President: Susan Teich (one year remaining on Board)
Secretary: Charles Maynard (one year remaining on Board)
Treasurer: Frank Jones (new two-year term on the Board)
Director: Carol Haddock (one year remaining on the Board)
Director: Jeff Lindemann (new two-year term on the Board)
Director: Nancy Burch (one year remaining on Board)
Director: Kathy McCully (new two-year term on Board)
Director: Anthony Cavender (new two-year term on Board)
Director: Randall McKinney II (new two-year term on Board)
Director: George Werner (one year remaining on Board)

Presentation of Julia Ideson Award: Susan next announced the winner of the 2018 Julia Ideson Award and presented the award to Edward C. Breeden, PhD, for his dissertation at Rice University entitled *Education, Politics and the Making of School Desegregation in Houston, Texas*, based in large part upon research conducted in the archives of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center housed at the Julia Ideson Library. Dr. Breeden accepted the award and thanked both the Friends for the honor and the HMRC and staff for their resources and assistance.

Program: Susan then introduced Bernice Mistrot of the non-profit organization, Washington Cemetery Association who have over a period of many years raised funding for and undertaken significant research and restoration efforts at the Washington Cemetery established by the Deutsche Gesellschaft, a German fraternal organization established in 1875 and owned by shareholding subscribers who funded the acquisition of the land and the establishment of a cemetery in 1887. Cemetery records were maintained in German from 1894 until 1901. It was named to German Society Cemetery in 1900 and renamed Washington Cemetery in 1918 and became a non-profit cemetery. By 1920 there had been approximately 4000 interments. In 1942, the southern 5.7 acres of the total of 27 acres were lost to the creation of Memorial Drive. Among other projects, in 1975, forty grave markers were installed marking graves of soldiers of the Confederate Army. Over the years, the cemetery was neglected after the last caretaker was murdered on the site. Clean up under the auspices of the Washington Cemetery Association began in 1997 revealing many grave markers that had become obscured by soil deposition and vegetation and many new markers were

installed and many unidentified burials identified, although there are still a number of unknown burials. In 1999, the cemetery was merged into Glenwood Cemetery and they are now commonly maintained. Following her presentation, Ms. Mistrot answered many questions about the research and restoration efforts.

Adjournment: Following the presentation, the meeting was adjourned just before 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Maynard, Jr. Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Abra Schnur, HMRC Processing Archivist



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



On December 12th, 5th graders from Wharton Academy took a field trip to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. When HMRC staff members first learned of this opportunity, they knew they wanted to highlight just how fun and exciting an archive and historical material can be! What better way to do that than to host a fun open house with stations featuring many of the cool things they work with at HMRC.

Station 1 - "Who Done It!?" A Triage Mystery Game with the Conservation Lab

Students learned about the conservation and preservation of fragile materials here in the archive. After a brief lesson about the causes of material breakdown, students then

had to select the culprits when they were shown examples of degradation. Bugs, mold, and light, oh my!

Station 2 - "Loteria" - Featuring HMRC's Hispanic Collections

The game is Mexican bingo, but the cards are custom made using the historic documents and photographs from the archive. Students played the game and learned about Houston's Hispanic and Latino history. Each of the 36 individual cards features a description about the document or photograph and its significance in Houston history.



Station 3 - "If You Build It" Architectural Design Puzzle

Students worked together to piece together a large-scale puzzle of a blue print drawing for the Gulf Building, one of Houston's signature downtown structures. Students learned about the architectural boom of the late 1910s and 1920s looking at photos of houses from the time period and a model of HPL's prized Julia Ideson Building.



Station 4 - "Portrait Studio" on Main St.

Imagine being a photographer in the late 1880s. Think about the equipment and the time it took to take a picture. Students got to learn about one of the most important photographers in Houston's history: Frank J. Schuler. Schuler carefully recorded Houston's growth and development. His work includes images of skylines, construction, oil fields, industry, agriculture, rural life, Houston's port and ship

channel, social occasions, and Houston's citizens.

Students then got to have their photo taken with a backdrop of a photo of Main Street, Houston, circa 1894.

Station 5 - "From Film to Bytes" - The Digi Lab

This is where the digital magic happens! Students took a tour of the lab which digitizes the old photographs and makes them electronically available for browsing and research using HPL's digital archive. By the end of the day, several students (and teachers) were asking about how to get photo reproductions.

Contact photo.reference@houstontx.gov, that's how!

Station 6 - "Where the Big Books Live" - The Texas Room

Who isn't intrigued by a big old book? Students couldn't wait to open the Sanborn fire insurance map books and old city directories of Houston. Students learned about the different types of materials they offer to customers.

Programs and Events

Where's the Book on My House?

Thursday, January 17, 2019 | 6:30-7:30 pm | JIB Meldrum and TXR

Curious about your home's history? Don't know where to start? HMRC's Architectural Archivist will give a basic overview of how to research a historic property, highlighting useful resources in HMRC collections. This program includes a tour of the Texas Room to introduce the public to our collections and how to access them through the reference desk.

From Shoeboxes to Clouds: Preserving Your Own Digital Archives

Saturday January 26, 2019 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Clayton Library

We create tons of digital files, and many aren't made for the long-term. But what about those that we do want to keep? How do we ensure they remain accessible over time? Join HMRC archivists to learn about best practices for caring for your personal digital archives.

Julia Ideson Building Tour

Saturday, February 2, 2019; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | @ Julia Ideson Building

Join us on the first Saturday of every month for a tour of the historic Julia Ideson Building, the beautiful Spanish Renaissance Revival (Plateresque)-style library in the heart of downtown. Learn about the building's history and use, its renovations and additions, and the significance of its art and architecture. Tours begin at the reception desk in the lobby and are available on a first come basis with a limit to 20 people.

HMRC Pops Up! Celebrating African American History Month, featuring photos from the Teal Portrait Studio

Saturday, February 2, 2019 | 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm | @ Discovery Green

The collections of the Houston Public Library's Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) reflect the rich and diverse history of the city. This pop-up exhibit is a special opportunity to see and learn about Houston's own Teal Portrait Studio, an influential African-American photography studio that operated for more than forty years. Come see photos from HMRC's collections on display and learn how to search and discover

interesting materials from HMRC's holdings using online resources. This exhibit is a part of a series of events celebrating African-American History Month.

Julia Ideson Building Tour

Saturday, March 2, 2019; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | @ Julia Ideson Building

Join us on the first Saturday of every month for a tour of the historic Julia Ideson Building, the beautiful Spanish Renaissance Revival (Plateresque)-style library in the heart of downtown. Learn about the building's history and use, its renovations and additions, and the significance of its art and architecture. Tours begin at the reception desk in the lobby and are available on a first come basis with a limit to 20 people.

Celebrating Betty Jo Jones

Thursday, March 7, 2018 | 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm | JIB Meldrum and TXR

This evening will introduce customers to the Betty Jo Jones Collection, currently the only architectural collection at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center featuring the work of a female architect. Jones, born Betty Jo Lackey, was a 1947 graduate of the Rice Institute. Creating her own firm in the 1950s, Betty Jo Jones was one of Houston's earliest female architects. Her collection is primarily comprised of architectural drawings for small residential properties, typically in the suburbs surrounding Houston. This presentation will highlight some of her work in the area, as well as her role in a male-dominated field.

Special Collections Saturdays: Memory Lab

Saturday, March 9, 2019; 2:00 – 4:00 pm | @ Discovery Green

Memory Lab at Discovery Green: Obsolete Media Petting Zoo is a chance to touch and use old pieces of technology. Featuring your old friends, the rotary phone, 8 track, VHS, and more! This program is a part of a series of events relating to Memory Lab. The event is free and open to the public.

¡Ya Basta!: Mexican American Activism in Houston

Thursday, April 4, 2019; 6:00 pm - 7:45 pm | @ JIB Meldrum and Reynolds Rooms

Our city has a rich history of Mexican American activists and organizations that mobilized the community towards change. This pop-up exhibit will feature artists, media, and items from Houston Mexican-American activists and influencers. Materials on display are part of the Hispanic Archival Collections housed at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. This program is a part of HMRC's pop up exhibit series, HMRC Pops Up!

Julia Ideson Building Tour

Saturday, April 6, 2019; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | @ Julia Ideson Building

Join us on the first Saturday of every month for a tour of the historic Julia Ideson Building, the beautiful Spanish Renaissance Revival (Plateresque)-style library in the

heart of downtown. Learn about the building's history and use, its renovations and additions, and the significance of its art and architecture. Tours begin at the reception desk in the lobby and are available on a first come basis with a limit to 20 people.

HMRC Pops Up! Texas Jazz Archive

Thursday, April 11, 2019; 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm | JIB Meldrum and Reynolds

In 1987 the Jazz Heritage Society of Texas partnered with the Houston Metropolitan Research Center to document the under-represented jazz scene in Houston and the Gulf Coast of Texas by developing the Texas Jazz Archive collection. The archive was only active for a few years, but in that time the initiative collected material from 22 artists. This HMRC Pop-Up exhibit will feature ephemera, photographs, and oral history clips of the musicians who were inducted.

2018 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2019 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.Chavez@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

Members-only events

Attend receptions, programs, and behind-the-scenes tours exclusively available to members.

Memory Lab- COMING SOON!

Be the first to work with our upcoming personal digital archiving station. Members of the FTxR will be granted early admission to the station and will be given access to members-only reservations for a shorter wait time.

Free HPL Library parking at the quarterly FTxR meetings held in the Julia Ideson Building. The HPL underground parking is accessed from Lamar St. FTxR members will be given a one-time code to be used at the parking entrance meter.

Volunteer

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) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Thursday: 12:00 noon - 8:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.
- Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.
- Free parking (using a code to be sent through email about five days before the meeting) in the Houston Public Library underground parking lot for FTxR General Meetings.
- Preservation consultation sessions with the 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 photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Image sizes available at half-price are:
 - 5x7 print (\$6.25/normally costs \$12.50)
 - 8x10 print (\$9.00/ normally costs \$18.00)

(Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.)

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.

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.

2018 Board of Directors:

President:

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, Carol Haddock, Jeff Lindemann, Catherine McCulley, Randall McKinney II, and George Werner

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
Texas Room Dispatch
4910 Houston Drive, Galveston, TX 77551

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/2019 – 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:** _____