

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH
A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume 7, Number 1, January 2009

JANUARY 26th MEETING
6:30 Reception and Book Signing
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
Cinema Houston
From Nickelodeon to Megaplex
by Houston Historian
David Welling

MUSEUM OF PRINTING HISTORY
1324 W. CLAY

The Museum of Printing History is located at 1324 W. Clay Street between Waugh Drive and Montrose, one block south of West Dallas. Free parking is available in the lot across the street or in the small lot on the left, adjacent to the Museum building.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

On Monday, January 12, 2009, Mayor White and the leadership of the Houston Public Library broke ground to begin construction on the new archival wing of the Julia Ideson Building. The air was crisp, the sky was a clear blue, and the sun reflected off the surrounding glass skyscrapers like rays of crystal - a most auspicious beginning for a project that the Friends began promoting shortly after we were organized. Six years ago it seemed almost incomprehensible that this day would come. Special congratulations are due to the Julia Ideson Library Preservation Partners for their leadership and fund raising which brought us all to this day.

The Friends will reach another milestone on February 6, when we are presented with a Good Brick Award for our documentary, "In Search of Houston's History," at the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance's Cornerstone Dinner at the River Oaks Country Club. Proceeds from the dinner benefit the GHPA. Tickets to the dinner are \$200. If you would like to attend call the GHPA at 713-216-5000 or e-mail info@ghpa.org. We should have copies of the DVD for sale for \$30 by late February.

Kemo Curry's column in this newsletter relates another accomplishment of the Friends, the completion of the first phase of the collections inventory which is necessary before the collections are moved to the new wing. Please contact Kemo if you can volunteer to help with the second phase. All volunteers will be trained and supervised by Library staff.

Finally, we will begin accepting nominations for the 2009 Julia Ideson Award shortly. Please start thinking about possible candidates.

I look forward to seeing you at the general meeting on January 26 at the Museum of Printing History.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't miss out! The year 2008 brought the Friends' hour-long documentary to public television, the first annual Julia Ideson Award in October, and wonderful speakers at our meetings. Your support has made all of this possible. We must hear from you soon, or we will have to drop your name from our mailing list. Membership forms are attached to this edition of *The Dispatch* and are available on our website.

HOUSTON HISTORIAN DAVID WELLING TO SPEAK AT JANUARY 26TH MEETING

The speaker for our January 26th meeting is Houston historian David Welling. His recently published book *Cinema Houston: From Nickelodeon to Megaplex* is published by the University of Texas Press. Mr. Welling is the first recipient of the Friends of the Texas Room's Julia Ideson Award. Copies of his book will be available before and after the meeting, and Mr. Welling will be available to sign them.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26TH, 2008, GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Looscan Branch of the Houston Public Library, 2510 Willowick, on October 27, 2008. After a brief reception and refreshments, President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. She introduced the speaker, Jesús Francisco De La Teja, Ph.D., Texas State Historian, who gave an informative presentation entitled, "Expanding the Story of Houston For a 21st Century Audience."

Following the guest speaker's presentation, President Dorothy Knox Houghton convened the business portion of the meeting. Motions were made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the July 28, 2008, Meeting Minutes and the Treasurer's Report, which were approved by acclamation.

President Houghton thanked the previous board officers for their service.

Nancy Burch, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the committee's recommendations for board officers for the 2009-10 term. A motion was made and seconded to approve the new slate of officers by acclamation.

Following the election of new officers, President Houghton presented the Julia Ideson Award to David Welling, for his book, *Cinema Houston*. Following the presentation and remarks by Mr. Welling, President Houghton announced that the Friends of the Texas Room were being honored by the Greater Houston

Preservation Alliance with a “Good Brick Award” for the production of the documentary film, “In Search of Houston’s History.”

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
William Kellar

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Kemo Curry, Manager, HMRC

The news from this past quarter is really all about the news. We have had a great deal of media attention paid to the HMRC world: A photo session with Andrea White in the Texas Room; a television article for Channel 13; an in depth interview regarding special treasures in the collection for *City Savvy*; a photo session in Special Collections for a *Houston Chronicle* article.

The 100% building expansion plans have been accepted, bids have been submitted and approved, and the ground breaking is scheduled. We are ready to grow!

The major goal of conducting an inventory of the Texas Room book collection has been met. In 2008, approximately 31,300 books were taken into account.

Dr. Lawson has approved the following progressive, temporary schedule for closing HMRC to allow staff the time to properly process collections and prepare them for moving into the new archival storage wing. I will give more specific details regarding arrangements in the next newsletter.

July 1 – August 31, 2009

- Open to the public three days a week: Monday, Thursday, Saturday
9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

September 1 – October 31, 2009

- By appointment only, Monday through Friday, not including Saturdays
- Some City Directories (bound volumes and microfiche) will be moved to Clayton to complement their run, providing access to this most heavily used portion of HMRC’s collection.)

November 1, 2009 - Opening

- By appointment only, Tuesdays and Thursdays

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM SEEKS MARKETING CHAIRPERSON AND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Now that the documentary “In Search of Houston’s History” is finished, the Friends of the Texas Room is seeking a volunteer to chair a committee as well as committee volunteers to market the film. Volunteers should contact President Dorothy Knox Houghton at her email address: Dorothy_Houghton@SBCglobal.net .

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. We like to hear what our Friends are doing!

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.

DUES REMINDER

Our membership year runs from January 1 - December 31. Please fill in the membership form at the end of this newsletter and mail it with your check to P. O. Box 27827, Houston, TX 77227-7827. Make your check payable to "Friends of the Texas Room." If you have friends who might be interested in membership, please submit their names and addresses and we will send them information. If you have email, please include it. This saves us mailing costs.

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 –Nancy Burch
Secretary – William Kellar
Treasurer – Cathy Fitch
Directors: Alice Conlon, Mary Jo Coselli, Sharon Dies, and Susan Teich

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@hccs.edu or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann
The Texas Room Dispatch Editor
3405 Roseland
Houston, Texas 77006

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Please spread the word and help us find new members. If you have access to a list of likely members, which you can share with us, we would appreciate it. The membership application on the next page can be emailed to your prospects or photocopied and faxed or mailed to prospective members.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2009 Membership Application

Membership Year: January 1 – December 31

RETURN TO: P.O. BOX 27827 * HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS:

first name middle name last name

first name middle name last name

Mailing Address (include street or P.O.): _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP +4: _____

TELEPHONE, FAX, OR EMAIL

First Person

2nd 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

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Membership plus contribution): \$ _____

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.

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS

Please check below if you would like 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.
- Telephone/E-Mail Committee: Contact for meeting cancellations, unscheduled events, or breaking news.
- 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: _____