

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
Volume No. 2, No. 3, July 2004

SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, July 20, 2004 * 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Museum of Printing History
1324 West Clay

The Museum of Printing History is located on West 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.

Our speaker will be FTR Board Member Betty Chapman. The title of her presentation will be "The Ups and Downs of Researching the Houston Public Library." Betty will share her experiences in compiling the recently printed Centennial book, *100 Years-100 Stories: The Houston Public Library 1904-2004*. Copies of the publication will be available for sale.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING FTR MEETING

Meetings are set for different days and times throughout the year to make it convenient for as many people as possible to attend at least one meeting.

Saturday, October 23, 2004, 10 a.m.-Noon, Museum of Printing History.

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends:

As I reported in our last newsletter, the board of the Friends of the Texas Room requested that the Committee for the Renovation of the Julia Ideson Building hire an outside archivist to assess the needs of the HMRC, the Texas and Local History Collection, and Special Collections before proceeding with plans to renovate the Ideson Building. To that end, the Renovation Committee asked me to submit the name of an outside archivist. I submitted the name of Biruta Kearn, the retired Director of the Austin History Center. The Austin History Center is similar to the HMRC and is part of the Austin Public Library system.

Although the renovation of the Ideson Building is now on hold, the administration of the Houston Public Library has gone forward with hiring Ms. Kearn as a consultant to make recommendations for the improvement of the HMRC, the Texas and Local History Collection, and Special Collections. To that end, the board of the Friends of the Texas Room was invited to meet with Ms. Kearn over lunch on Wednesday, June 16, 2004. We expressed to her our concerns, and we are awaiting her report. We hope this effort will begin to address the problems that have plagued our members and many others for many years.

In the meantime, one of the most productive activities that our organization undertakes is our volunteer program. The library staff says our volunteers are indispensable, and there is no end to the jobs they can perform. Retired persons are especially welcome because of the expertise they contribute and the time they have to devote to the library. Volunteering at the library is a stimulating and gratifying experience, and we hope you will encourage your friends to consider it.

We are in the process of creating a membership brochure and a list of prospective new members. In September we plan to launch a membership campaign by mail. We continue to need your help in encouraging your friends and colleagues to join.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES, FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM, APRIL 17, 2004

The Friends of the Texas Room met April 17, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay, with 22 members present. President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order and thanked the Museum of Printing History for providing us with a permanent meeting place. The minutes of the January 21 meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter. In the absence of Treasurer Marks Hinton, Secretary Betty Chapman reported that the Friends have a bank balance of \$7,926 and that \$4,333.50 has been received this year while expenses have totaled \$342.40.

Membership Chairman Dorothy Johnson made the following report: As of April 16, we have 138 paid members, 1 honorary member, 31 new members, and 55 non-renewing members. The president announced that a formal membership campaign will be held and asked for a volunteer to chair that effort. Newsletter Chairman Sandra Lord was thanked for preparing the Newsletter. Centennial Committee member Betty Chapman reported that the photographic history of the Houston Public Library, titled *100 Years – 100 Stories*, will be released on May 2. Volunteer Chairman Anne Sloan announced that more volunteers are needed in the Texas Room and requested that those interested contact her.

Following the business session, the president introduced Marvin Rich, Friends of the Texas Room Board member and former member of the Texas State Library & Archives Commission, who explained the work of the commission and its relationship to local libraries. In conclusion, Mr. Rich suggested that the Friends of the Texas Room become a member of the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas. It was agreed that we would pay \$35 to join as an affiliate organization.

Following the program, Roland Romo reported that a cross-index has been created for HMRC's Architectural Archives. Vernon Gillette reported that our web page, which will be part of the Friends of the Houston Public Library's page, is ready to be put in place. An announcement was made about the annual San Jacinto Symposium, which will be held April 23 at the University of Houston's Hilton School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty T. Chapman, Secretary

COUNCILMEMBER BERRY'S LIBRARY REVIEW

City Councilmember Michael Berry's office recently began an in-depth review of all city departments. The Library Department was the first of these reviews to be conducted. A copy of the report can be found on Mr. Berry's web site:

www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/council/5.htm.

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. Please 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 along with your check and we will send them information. If you have email, please include it. This saves us mailing costs.

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 IRS 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 - George Werner

Secretary - Betty Chapman

Treasurer - Marks Hinton

Board members-at-large: Jim Glass, Marvin Rich, Anne Sloan, Elizabeth Whitlow

HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members should be sent to the address below:

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 sent to the Texas Room Dispatch Editor at the address below.

Sandra Lord
Texas Room Dispatch Editor
P. O. Box 230183
Houston, Texas 77223-0183
(713) 222-9255 * Fax: (713) 921-1510
Email: SandraSLord@aol.com

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 below can be emailed to your prospects or photocopied and faxed or mailed to prospective members.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

Membership Application: Membership Year: January 1 - December 31

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

First person: _____ first
name middle/maiden last name

Second person at same address: _____
first name middle/maiden last name

Mailing Address (Street or P.O.): _____

City/Town County State ZIP +4

Telephone - Fax - E-Mail

First Person	2nd Person (If Different)
HOME: _____	_____
OFFICE: _____	_____
FAX: _____	_____
E-MAIL: _____	_____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Please circle your choices.

Individual: \$20

Individual Senior: \$10

Family*: \$30

Senior Family*:\$15

Student*: \$10

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION

Contributing: \$5 to \$49

Donor: \$50 to \$99

Patron: \$100 to \$249

Sponsor: \$250 to \$499

Benefactor: \$500 & above

* Family denotes two people at same address.

* Student must give name of school attending.

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:

Volunteer Interests:

Please circle items below if you would like to volunteer for FTR activities or library services:

Collections Volunteer: Be trained and increase your own knowledge about research activities.

Newsletter: Writing articles about materials in the collections or reporting on related activities.

Website manager: Design and maintain an official site for the Friends of the Texas Room.

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: _____
