

# THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room  
(Incorporated November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002)  
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VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE  
[www.friendsofthetexasroom.org](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org)

## 2021 MEETINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FTxR Officers and Board of Directors have decided to conduct our quarterly Monday meetings virtually at 7:00 pm using an online platform. If there is any change in this response, we will notify you.

As always, we will continue to present some of Houston's leading historians who will speak on their latest research documenting Houston's history.

Members may join the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting by clicking on the following URL:  
<http://bit.ly/FTXWise4-26>.

## Justice Ken Wise to Speak at April 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting



Justice Ken Wise

Justice Ken Wise, who sits on the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston, will be the speaker for our April meeting. The title of his presentation is "An Evening with Justice Ken Wise and Texas History."

Justice Wise traces his ancestry back to the Republic of Texas in 1836. Born and raised in Houston, he attended Texas A&M University where he competed on the intercollegiate rodeo team. After attending law school at the University of Houston, he practiced law for eight years before taking the bench as Judge of the 152nd and 334th District Courts.

Justice Wise has studied Texas history since his youth and has a tremendous passion for the stories and values that built Texas. He enjoys reading and writing about Texas history and has published scholarly articles in several different journals. A popular speaker on various Texas history topics, Justice Wise started his podcast *Wise About Texas* to preserve and promote Texas history.

## INSIDE THIS EDITION OF THE *TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH*

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### MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 2020 MEETING

After calling the first meeting of 2020 to order at 7:00, President Mister McKinney welcomed the members and guests. He first introduced the newly elected FTxR Board of Directors which consists of officers and directors for 2020. At the October 2019 Annual Meeting, members had voted unanimously to elect the slate of officers and directors presented to them.

After introductions, Mister McKinney held a short business meeting and then introduced the evening’s speaker Ginger Berni. Ms. Berni, a native Houstonian, is the Collections Curator of Houston’s Heritage Society. The Heritage Society in downtown Houston is a museum complex that includes 10 historic buildings and a museum gallery. She has worked with the collections and curated the exhibitions at THS for almost 17 years. She holds a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin and a master’s degree in public history from the University of South Carolina. Her topic for the evening was “120 Years of Sam Houston Park: 1899-2019.”



After her presentation, she took several questions from the audience. Mister McKinney then adjourned the meeting.

## REMAINING 2021 FTxR MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

The remaining Monday evening meetings for 2021 are July 26th, and October 25th. You will be provided a URL in advance for each of the year's meetings.



**Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Speaker:** Kimber Fountain

**Topic:** "The Maceo family and the 'Free State of Galveston'"



**Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Speaker:** Sandra Lord

**Topic:** "The Ghosts of Market Square"

## NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Laney Chavez, Manager



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

In 2019 we embarked on an ambitious project to move several of the Houston Public Library's African American-related collections, previously held at HMRC, to the African American Library at the Gregory School. The Gregory School is one of few African American libraries in the country and is the first of its kind in a public library. With the primary purpose of preserving, promoting, and celebrating the rich history and culture of

African Americans in Houston, the surrounding region, and the African Diaspora, the Gregory School is the premier research center for the preservation and collection of historical information that documents the local African American experience.

Accordingly, we saw the movement of these collections from HMRC to their new home at the Gregory School as a means to further strengthen their mission and better serve our customers by helping them connect with resources to fulfill their research needs.

Some collections reflecting the life and careers of African Americans in Houston remain at HMRC to build on some of our core collecting areas and strengths. These include the work of African American architects, local politician's papers, and the jazz collections under the larger umbrella of the Texas Jazz Archive.

To celebrate the Gregory School's 10-year anniversary, November 2019 was established as the target date for the move of the records. Archival collections that were identified to be rehoused at the Gregory School were sent over in batches to be merged with their holdings, and the project was completed ahead of the deadline. Over 100 archival collections amounting to approximately 430 boxes along with other items including yearbooks, newspapers, and periodicals, were added to the collections of the Gregory School. Some of the collections include the Franklin Beauty School Collection, Christia Adair Papers, Olee Yates McCullough Papers, and the Freedmen's Town Association Collection.

We are thrilled to have been a part of this momentous project to expand the collections held at the Gregory School. In the short time since these records were incorporated into their holdings, they have already seen considerable use. Thus, the goal of connecting researchers to these records has been achieved- a win for both the library and our customers!

## **In Search Of**



If you have pre-1970 menus from Houston restaurants, hotels, and supper clubs and would like to donate them to the HMRC, please send us photos to the following address: [txr.reference@houstontx.gov](mailto:txr.reference@houstontx.gov)

## Programs and Events

### APRIL - Preservation Week

#### **Early April - HMRC Instagram Takeover featuring architect Betty Jo Jones**

HMRC is beginning a monthly Instagram takeover highlighting cool items in our collections or by taking customers behind the scenes into how the HMRC works to preserve and make accessible Houston history.

#### **4/27 - Preservation 101**

Learn about book and paper preservation and how you can protect your collections. HMRC's Preservation Librarian will offer tips and answer questions about preserving your memories.

#### **4/30 - HMRC & Clayton Present: Scrapbook Preservation**

Scrapbooking is a wonderful way to pass family memories on to new generations but maintaining an older scrapbook can be a challenge. This presentation will cover the ways that scrapbooking can be a great genealogical record and will include tips and tricks for taking care of older scrapbooks.

### MAY

#### **Date TBD - HMRC Instagram Takeover: Unique Items in the Hispanic Collections**

For one day each month, HMRC will "take over" the [Houston Public Library Instagram account](#) to post videos and photos offering a behind the scenes look at our collections. This can be viewed on the HPL Instagram page "Stories."

#### **5/12 - HMRC Office Hours: Digital Preservation, 1:00 – 2:00 on Zoom**

Presenting HMRC's first-ever virtual Office Hour! Archivists will answer your questions about preserving photos, videos, social media content, and other digital files. Come with questions! This event is a part of HPL's Memory Lab programming. [RSVP here](#)

#### **5/27 - Historic Property Research with Preservation Houston, 6:30 on Zoom**

Curious about your home's history? Don't know where to start? The Houston Metropolitan Research Center's Architectural Archivist will give a basic overview of how to research a historic property, highlighting useful resources in HPL and HMRC collections that can be accessed from home. RSVP link forthcoming.

## **JUNE - Pride Month**

### **Early June - HMRC Instagram Takeover in Celebration of Pride Month**

For one day each month, HMRC will "take over" the [Houston Public Library Instagram account](#) to post videos and photos offering a behind the scenes look at our collections. This can be viewed on the HPL Instagram page "Stories."

### **Date tbd - Archives Watch Party: Home Movies**

This will be the debut of our summer program series, "Archives Watch Party." Each month, archivists will curate a selection of films from the HMRC collections around a certain topic. This month's topic will be "Home Movies." The watch parties can be viewed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) on the designated premiere date.

### **Date tbd - Rare Books Room Showcase**

In this program, HMRC staff will show some of their favorite treasures in the Rare Books Room collection. This event can be viewed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) on the designated premiere date.

## **FTxR 2021 Membership Benefits**

### **Photograph Reproductions**

Each 2021 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to me at [Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov](mailto:Laney.Chavez@houstontx.gov) for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

## **Texas Room Hours**

The Texas Room hours are by appointment; reference hours are 10:00 – 4:00 Tuesday - Saturday.

**Monday:** Closed

**Tuesday:** 10:00 - 12:00; 2:00 – 4:00

**Wednesday:** 10:00 - 12:00; 2:00 – 4:00

**Thursday:** 10:00 - 12:00; 2:00 – 4:00

**Friday:** 10:00 - 12:00; 2:00 – 4:00

**Saturday:** 10:00 - 12:00; 2:00 – 4:00

**Sunday:** Closed

## **WHAT OUR FTxR 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.

### **2021 Board Officers and Directors:**

**President:** Mister McKinney

**Vice President:** Susan Teich

**Secretary:** Charles Maynard

**Treasurer:** Frank Jones

**Directors:** Jim Bailey, Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, J.J. Gonzalez, Carol Haddock, and Kathy McCully

## **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](mailto: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**

**2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership Year: 1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021

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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2021 Call for Entries**  
**Friends of the Texas Room**  
**Julia Ideson Award**



**Julia Ideson**

**Submission Deadline: June 15, 2021**

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 recognizes distinguished projects that document Houston and Texas history and culture.

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 25, 2021. For additional information, visit [www.friendsofthetexasroom.org](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org) or contact Anthony B. Cavender at [Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com](mailto:Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com) (713) 276-7656.

**Eligibility:** In 2021, the call for entries is for scholarly researched and published books completed within the past five years (2015-2020) that document local Houston and/or Texas history and culture by USING THE RESOURCES OF THE HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER'S TEXAS ROOM SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUSIVELY.

## **THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH EACH ENTRY:**

1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail of the person(s) or organization nominating and submitting the book.
2. Brief description (three to five sentences) of the book.
3. LIST OF SPECIFIC RESOURCES OF THE TEXAS ROOM / HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER USED IN THE BOOK AND BRIEF NOTE ON HOW THESE RESOURCES WERE USED.
4. Brief explanation (three to five sentences) of how the book contributes to a better understanding of local or Texas history/culture.
5. One copy of the book.

## **SUBMISSION:**

Books must be submitted in the name of the author(s) or organization. Submitting an entry constitutes agreement to the terms of eligibility and serves as agreement that the Friends of the Texas Room may publicize the award and accompanying details about the recipient(s). **All submitted copies of books will 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

## **PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE JULIA IDESON AWARD**

For a list of the previous recipients of the Julia Ideson Award as well as the winning submissions and judges for each year, please visit the FTxR Website:

<http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org/JuliaIdesonAwardHistory.html>