

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 13, Number 4, October 2015

Monday, October 26th, 2015 Meeting

The Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library, first floor auditorium,
500 McKinney Avenue

6:00 – 7:00 Reception

7:00 Program

PROGRAM

Jeff Lindemann,
Professor of English at Houston Community College,
will speak on
“Frost Town: Houston’s First Subdivision”

ELECTION OF FTxR BOARD MEMBERS

Nominating Committee Slate for 2016 FTxR Board

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton (one year remaining)

Vice President: Susan Teich (new two-year term)

Secretary: Charles Maynard (one year remaining)

Treasurer: Frank Jones (one year remaining)

Director: Linda Fosseen (new two-year term)

Director: Nancy Burch (new two-year term)

Director: Jeff Lindemann (one year remaining)

Director: Catherine McCulley (one year remaining)

PRESENTATION OF THE 2015 JULIA IDESON AWARD

to Barrie Scardino Bradley
for her book

Houston's Hermann Park: A Century of Community

and Honorable Mention to Steven Fenberg
for his book

Unprecedented Power: Jesse Jones, Capitalism, and the Common Good

Free parking, with validation at the meeting, is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. 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 flat parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 p.m.

Free parking is also available on the nearby streets after 6:00 p.m.

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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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

Over the past thirteen years, the Friends of the Texas Room has supported the Houston Metropolitan Research Center through public advocacy and through tangible gifts. In the preliminary meetings which led to the restoration of the Julia Ideson Building, we brought to the attention of the city the existence of the original architectural plans for what has become the new architectural wing which now houses the Texas Room and the HMRC. We then participated in the planning phase for the restoration of the 1926 building and the construction of the new archives.

We produced a documentary program based on the collections in the HMRC entitled *In Search of Houston's History*. The program aired on Channel 8 and won a Good Brick Award from the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance. It presents a capsule history of Houston while highlighting the library's holdings. We donated copies of the DVD to all Houston Public Schools, and we sell them for \$30 each. All proceeds are used to support the HMRC.

We have purchased microfilm storage cabinets, atlas stands, and custom-made plinths for the vintage exhibit cases. We have funded scholarships to student summer interns at the library and expenses related to a research program on the Astrodome. We are funding a soon-to-be-activated cell-phone tour of the Julia Ideson Building among many other donations.

All of these contributions have been funded by your membership dues and by matching gifts from companies for whom our members and volunteers work. Your support has made an enormous difference in the quality and extent of service the HMRC is able to offer the Houston community. In a few weeks you will be receiving your membership renewal notice. The HMRC counts on us to supplement their budget from the city. We look forward to your continuing involvement in this effort. Many thanks!

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President

MINUTES OF THE JULY 27th, 2015, GENERAL MEETING

President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

She encouraged members in attendance to submit nominations for Board membership. She then introduced Nancy Burch who, in turn, introduced the speaker for the evening, Steve Smith, a long time Houston based television anchor.

Mr. Smith talked about his career and experiences living in Houston. Born in Indiana, he took his first job as a tele-journalist in 1964 before being invited by the legendary Ray Miller to join Channel 2 in 1966. He joked self-deprecatingly about his deep resonant voice that was the hallmark of his career, giving credit to a parochial school nun, Sister Mary Claire, who encouraged him to pursue public speaking. He noted that his first day on the job was August 1st, 1966, the day Charles Whitman killed a number of people from the balcony of the tower at the University of Texas Library.

After a brief hiatus away from Houston, he spent the balance of his career, 23 years, in Houston and recalled trips accompanying the Houston Symphony to Vienna and the Houston Grand Opera to Cairo, along with a stint reporting on the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 as highlights.

Following his presentation, he graciously took questions from the audience. When asked about his experience covering inclement weather, he described traveling to report on Hurricane Camille and acknowledged “standing in water” while filming some of his reports which were sent back to Houston as raw film handed to flight attendants at the airport with the request that they hand carry them to Houston and call the station to pick them up. My, how times have changed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Maynard, Recording Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Laney McAdow, HMRC Manager

Over the summer we welcomed a new Architectural Archivist to the position formerly held by Jennifer Sessa, the current HMRC Assistant Manager and Lead Archivist. Samantha Bruer was selected to fill this challenging yet immensely rewarding and invaluable role.

Samantha graduated with an undergraduate degree in historic preservation from Southeast Missouri State University in August 2012. While at Southeast she worked one year in the university archives digitizing yearbooks using CONTENTdm. To

further her archival skills, she also interned at South Union Shaker Village. During the internship, she created and organized digital surrogates of several thousand photographs in the historic site's collections.

In graduate school at Western Kentucky University, she worked as a graduate assistant to the archivist of Mammoth Cave National Park. There she processed collections of park employees' records according to significance and the NPS record disposition schedule and entered record data and created finding aids using Re: discovery ICMS. She also worked on several collections that included architectural and other oversized records. As part of her training, she also took a class in archival procedures and completed volunteer hours in the university archives.



Samantha has essentially “jumped right in” to the work and has eagerly embraced her new role. One of her early projects involved making improvements to the architecture-related vertical files including merging, organizing, and adding content to make these more accessible and useful for customer research. “Already I’m seeing how beneficial the information will be to patrons with interests in particular people, early Texas architecture, and Houston’s development from a small town to prominent city”.

She is currently working on several ongoing projects including updating descriptions and sheet counts for architectural records to enhance accessibility, as well as providing some needed preventive conservation measures to ensure long-term preservation of the collection including rehousing, replacing non-archival fasteners, and prioritized materials to be conserved in-house. She has also completed archival processing for the Roy W. Leibsle Collection (MSS 0139) and will soon begin working on the Esperson Building Collection (RG D 0001). She has made significant strides in learning how materials are processed at HMRC according to accepted archival standards.

Samantha also recently assisted with an event that was sponsored by Preservation Houston as a part of their Pier and Beam program. This particular event was held in the Texas Room and was coordinated by HMRC staff with the goal of instructing the attendees in how to research properties and neighborhoods utilizing the Texas Room and HRMC resources. The Architectural Archivist at HMRC regularly assists with this type of research and is charged with providing in-depth references service based on knowledge the collection and the subject, as well as facilitating access to any other resources that may be available.

We are thrilled to have the skills, experience, and enthusiasm that Samantha brings to this position. We know she will be a great asset to the HMRC team!

Programs and Events

Julia Ideson Building

Friday, October 23rd, 2015: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm -- HPL / Scream-In Lock-In for Teen Patrons

Monday, October 26th, 2015: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm -- HMRC / Friends of the Texas Room Meeting

Saturday, November 14th, 2015: 2:00 pm -- Houston Arts and Media, Houston History Book Fair and Symposium

Saturday, November 21st, 2015: All Day -- Genealogy Road Show (TV taping)

December 5th, 2015: 2:00 pm -5:00 pm -- HPL/ Seasons Readings (Norma Meldrum Room)

2015 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2015 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.McAdow@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

Volunteers

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 McAdow (Laney.McAdow@houstontx.gov) to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10:00 - 6:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 6:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 8:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 6:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 5:00

Friday and Sunday: Closed

FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.

Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.

Preservation consultation sessions with 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 copies per year of digital scans from the HMRC photograph collection for half price.

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

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.

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: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Kathleen Colt, Linda Fosseen, Catherine McCulley, and Jeff Lindemann

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:

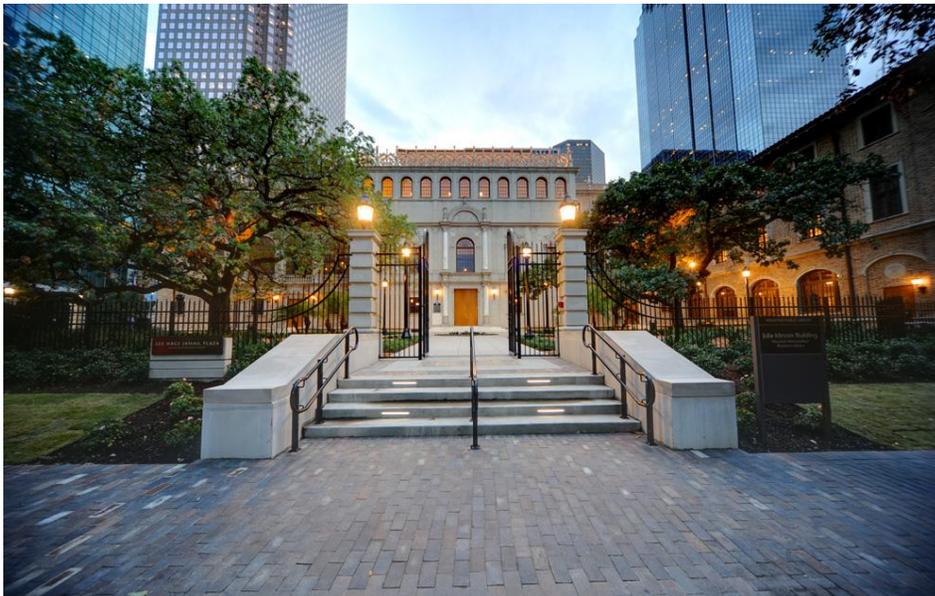
Friends of the Texas Room
P. O. Box 27827
Houston, Texas 77227-7827

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
The Texas Room Dispatch
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

THE TEXAS ROOM



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

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM
2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Membership Year: 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

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:** _____