

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(incorporated December 2, 2002)
Volume 10, Number 2, April 2012

Monday, April 30th Meeting
6:30 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:
Steven Fenberg, author of
Unprecedented Power: Jesse Jones, Capitalism, and the Common Good,
will speak on

“Researching Jesse Jones in the HMRC”

NEW MEETING LOCATION:

The Julia Ideson Building

500 McKinney Avenue

The Friends of the Texas Room will meet in the Harriet Dickson Reynolds Room on the first floor of the Julia Ideson Building. The Julia Ideson Building is located downtown at 500 McKinney Avenue. The underground parking garage under the Jones Library Building, which closes at 8:00 p.m., is accessed from Lamar Avenue.

Free parking is available in the garage under the Jones Building or on the street.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM SUMMER MEETING

The Friends summer meeting will take place on Monday, August 6th, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at the Julia Ideson Building. The speaker is Dr. John Boles of Rice University speaking about the Rice University Centennial.

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

I would like to bring to your attention the changes we have made in the 2012 Julia Ideson Award nominating process. This year's call for entries is limited to journal articles, magazine articles, graduate theses and/or dissertations, films, video productions, and websites. Books are NOT included. From now on, books and non-books will be considered in alternate years. The 2013 call for entries will be for books.

We came to this decision for several reasons. Our experience over the last several years has been that books and non-book entries are too different to be compared. At the same time, the total number of entries we have received including all categories has not been great enough to justify our granting more than one award (i.e. an award for a book and an award for a non-book) in the same year. By alternating the years when the two different categories of entries are considered, we hope that more of a backlog of entries in each category will build up during the off year for each category.

The main criterion for an entry's eligibility is that a significant amount of the research must have been done by the author in the HMRC. This automatically limits the number of entries. Many worthy books, articles, etc. are produced in Houston without input from the HMRC and thus are not eligible for the award. We have been extremely fortunate in the last few years to have had superb entries competing against one another, but we would have preferred to have had more. We hope that this new system will encourage members of our community to nominate more entries. The deadline for submitting entry forms is June 1. Please help us make the 2012 contest the largest ever by nominating your favorite author who has done his/her research in the HMRC.

Sincerely, Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30TH GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of the Texas Room met at the Julia Ideson Building on January 30, 2012. After a brief reception and refreshments, President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:05. She reminded everyone that in lieu of the October Annual Meeting, the Friends of the Texas Room membership was invited by the Julia Ideson Library Preservation Partners to a reception on November 17, 2012, celebrating the restoration of the Julia Ideson Building. At this reception, the Julia Ideson Award, normally presented at the Annual Meeting, was presented to Steven R. Strom for his book *Houston Lost and Unbuilt*, and an honorable mention award was presented to Dr. Wesley G. Phelps for his Rice University Ph.D. Dissertation "A Grassroots War on Poverty: Community Action and Urban Politics in Houston 1964-1976."

Treasurer Cathy Fitch reported that the funds on hand, including the checking account, the savings account, and the 14 month CD total \$35,076.92.

Dorothy Knox Houghton announced that thanks to the generosity of Library Director Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson and HMRC Manager Liz Sargeant, 25 free parking passes will be available for each meeting. Liz Sargeant will distribute those passes. Ms. Sargeant emphasized the need for docents to provide tours of the Texas Room. She may be contacted through her email address: Elizabeth.sargeant@houstontx.gov.

President Houghton reminded the members that dues notices would be coming out shortly. The membership of the Friends of the Texas Room currently numbers 135 and since dues are the primary source of funds used to enhance the Texas Room collection, it is imperative that the current members encourage others to join. She also called for recommendations for the 2012 Julia Ideson Award. A committee has been formed to discuss changes in the selection and award process including dividing the types of submissions into 2 categories: (1) a book category and (2) a dissertation, article, and other such paper works category. If this idea is adopted, the categories would be awarded in alternate years.

President Houghton announced that a nominating committee would soon be formed to recommend names for membership on the Board of the Texas Room. She asked those present to offer suggestions of people to serve on the nominating committee or to be recommended for the Board of Directors. President Houghton emphasized that self-nomination was both acceptable and encouraged. The new directors will be elected at the October General Meeting.

Marvin Rich, a founding Friends of the Texas Room Board member, announced that the Texas Library Association meeting would take place at the George R. Brown Convention Center, April 18th - 20th, 2012. Activities include exhibits of materials and organizational activities in the U.S, author signings, library history, a genealogical

roundtable, and fundraising techniques. The meeting of the Texas Library Commission will take place on the first day of this conference, April 18th.

President Houghton introduced moderator Nancy Burch and panel members Dr. Wesley G. Phelps; honorable mention recipient of the 2011 Julia Ideson Award Audrey Barrett Cook, author of *Obedience Smith (1771-1847) Pioneer of Three American Frontiers, Her Ancestors and Descendants*; and Debra Blacklock Sloan, Rutherford B. H. Yates historical researcher and advisory board member. The topic for the presentation was “Legendary Houston Characters, Landmarks, and Politics: Three Researchers Using the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, A Panel Discussion.”

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Georganna A. Barnes

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Liz Sargent, Manager, HMRC



McKinney Entrance to the Julia Ideson Building

Photo by Joel Draut

The Julia Ideson Building has been abuzz with people since its re-opening on December 5, 2012. From December 5, 2012 to March 31, 2012 HMRC has provided 145 programs and/or tours with 2,976 total attendees. Also from December 5, 2012 to March 31, 2012 15,069 people have visited the Ideson. This number excludes all of the paid special events that have also occurred. Marguerite Radhakrishnan, Archivist I, left

HMRC as of February 29, 2012 to stay at home with her beautiful new baby girl born in January 2012. Erin Norris, Archivist II, is leaving HMRC as of April 27, 2012, to move back to Indiana.

We need you! HMRC specifically needs Julia Ideson Building Docents. Without more docents we will have to turn interested tour groups away. Please see the “Julia Ideson Building Docents” section below for more information. We also need volunteers willing to help process archival collections. Please contact me at elizabeth.sargent@houstontx.gov if you would like more information.

Be sure to check out the *Houston Chronicle* article featuring HMRC’s Woodallen Collection. The link can be found here <http://bit.ly/IOgJyp>. HMRC is working closely with the Programming Department at the Houston Public Library to develop programming highlighting HMRC’s collections. Please see a sampling below:

Preservation Week: April 22-April 28, 2012

Celebrate Preservation Week at the Houston Public Library and learn how to preserve your personal and family treasures. The Library joins thousands of libraries throughout the country in celebrating Preservation Week @ your library®. All programs are free and open to the public.

The sessions where HMRC staff are particularly involved include:

Preservation Road Show

Monday, April 23, 2012 | 5 PM – 7 PM

Heights Neighborhood Library

In celebration of Preservation Week, join Houston Metropolitan Research Center archivists as they discuss tips and tricks to preserve books, documents, letters, newspapers, and photographs. Each attendee is invited to bring one item (book, letter, newspaper, or photograph) for a personal consultation as time allows.

Accidents Happen: Protecting & Saving Family Treasures

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 | 6 PM – 7:45 PM

Julia Ideson Building – Harriet Dickson Reynolds Room

Andy Damico, Preservation Librarian at Rice University, will provide a brief demonstration of techniques for preserving and extending the life of books, documents, letters, newspapers, and photographs. The American Library Association’s webinar “Accidents Happen: Protecting & Saving Family Treasures” will also be shown. This

webinar will provide tips and tools for checking out possible hazards around the house, dealing with mold and salvaging keepsakes, documenting damage for insurance purposes, and keeping your family safe.

Preserving Your Personal Digital Photographs

Thursday, April 26, 2012 | 1 PM – 2:30 p.m.

Julia Ideson Building – Harriet Dickson Reynolds Room

Join Houston Metropolitan Research Center archivists as they share the American Library Association's webinar "Preserving Your Personal Digital Photographs." Digital photos are fragile and require special care to keep them accessible. But preserving any kind of digital information is a new concept with which most people have little experience. Technologies change over time and become obsolete, making it difficult to access older digital photos. This webinar will teach about the nature of the problem as well as recommend some simple, practical tips and tools to help you keep your digital photos safe.

Film and Video Preservation: A Talk with the Texas Archive of the Moving Image

Thursday, April 26, 2012 | 6 PM – 7:45 p.m.

Central Library

Join us for Texas Archive of the Moving Image's (TAMI) presentation focused on films and videos, including tips on home media preservation, information about Texas digitization resources, and tips for file management. Examples of home movies that have been digitally preserved via the Texas Film Round-Up program will be shown and the presenters will discuss the Houston Public Library films they are currently digitizing.

For a complete listing of programs please visit

<http://www.houstonlibrary.org/preservation-week>

Second Saturdays at the Julia Ideson Building

Join us for this special series that highlights not only the collections and services of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and the facilities of the Julia Ideson Building, but also the history of Houston and its preservation.

An Afternoon with Steven Fenberg

Saturday, May 12, 2012 | 2 p.m.

Steven Fenberg, writer and producer of the Emmy Award-winning documentary film, *Brother, Can You Spare a Billion? The Story of Jesse H. Jones*, will discuss his new biography of Jesse Jones, *Unprecedented Power: Jesse Jones, Capitalism, and the Common Good*.

As the public and media continue to draw comparisons between actions taken by President Obama and those of the FDR administration, *Unprecedented Power* offers a timely perspective on government use of economic stimulus. According to Fenberg, Jones recognized that he would prosper only if his community thrived, a belief that directed him to combine capitalism and public service to strengthen his community, to restore the fortunes of his country and to ultimately save the nation. In writing *Unprecedented Power*, Fenberg had unrestricted access to the collections of Houston Endowment — the philanthropic foundation established by Jesse and Mary Gibbs Jones in 1937, as well as to the archives of the Library of Congress, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, the Houston Public Library and an array of other sources.

Tunes at Noon

SPRING 2012 Series

Julia Ideson Building | 2nd Floor | Tudor Gallery

Tuesday, May 8 | 12 PM - 2 p.m.

Jimmy Lee Deen & Wendy Elizabeth Jones

At the forefront of the Texas music scene since the '70s, Jimmy Lee Deen has been in the trenches opening or headlining for groups such as Jerry Jeff Walker, Tom Petty, Dr. Hook, AC/DC, The Ramones, Pat Benatar, and Joan Jett, to name just a few. Jimmy has gone from rock legend to his latest project in the acoustic American genre -- and he's not through yet. His forthcoming album, "Criminal," will be released soon.

Wendy Elizabeth Jones found her home on the stage at an early age. With a focus on theater and dance, she went on to get her degree at University of Texas in Austin. She later traveled to London for additional training at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and The British Drama Academy. After living and performing in New York and Los Angeles, Wendy is now back in Houston focusing on her music. Wendy and Jimmy are collaborating to share their stories.

Tuesday, June 12 | 12 PM - 2 p.m.

Ira Perez

Ira Perez, a native Houstonian, works hard to ensure that her music is heard and felt in the hearts of all those who listen. She has mastered multiple instruments, possesses a captivating voice, and has ingenious songwriting skills. She has recorded over 40 songs in a variety of genres, from alternative and rock, to dance and soul/R&B. Writing since the age of 15, her music has been inspired by such artists as Adele, Corinne Bailey Rae, The Beatles, Lauryn Hill, Muse, Erykah Badu and Carol King. She performs in many places, including events like the Bayou City Arts Festival. For more information about Ira, please visit www.iraperez.com.

Opening Day Exhibition

Make sure to visit the Opening Day Exhibition by **May 3rd, 2012**, entitled *Theater of Memory, Cabinet of Curiosities: Treasures from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center*. The exhibit closes Thursday evening May 3rd, 2012 in preparation for the Summer exhibit opening around June 9th, 2012. Details are forthcoming.

In the spring of 2010, the state of the art archival wing of the Julia Ideson Building was completed and became the new home to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's collections. It was the first step in the expansion and restoration of this architectural jewel, which first opened in 1926. With the premier exhibition, *Theater of Memories, Cabinet of Curiosities*, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) brings some of its unique artifacts back into the Julia Ideson's new gallery space, once three floors of the original archives, giving to the term "memory room" a double meaning. The Houston Public Library extends an invitation to view the gifts and accomplishments of those who came before and to celebrate the opportunities awaiting future scholars, collectors, donors and connoisseurs of Houston's history.

This exhibit is free and open to the public.

Scheduling Julia Ideson Building Tours

HMRC staff and Julia Ideson Building docents are currently offering tours of the Julia Ideson Building by appointment only. Reservations for tours may be made through HMRC's new main line number which is 832-393-1662. Please call at least two weeks in advance to see if we can accommodate your request.

Julia Ideson Building Docents

The HMRC is 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

We particularly need help on Tuesdays and Thursday.

If this sounds like something that interests you, please contact Liz Sargent at elizabeth.sargent@houstontx.gov to discuss further.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are now:

Monday: 10-6

Tuesday: 10-6

Wednesday: 10-8

Thursday: 10-6

Saturday: 10-5

Friday and Sunday: Closed

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Thomas H. Kreneck, former Latin American Archivist at the HMRC, has revised and updated his book *Del Pueblo: A History of Houston's Hispanic Community* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2012). It was released officially on March 5th. It is the revised second edition of the book published in 1989. It has an expanded text with new material in various chapters and an additional chapter which brings the survey to the year 2000.

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.

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.

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: Georganna Barnes

Treasurer: Cathy Fitch

Directors: Mary Jo Coselli, Frances Heyne, Charles Maynard, 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 at jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann

The Texas Room Dispatch Editor

3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2012 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: _____