

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 12, Number 1, January 2014

Tuesday, January 28th, 2014 Meeting

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

6:00 – 7:00 Reception
7:00 Program

PROGRAM:

**“A Brief History of Asian American Immigration to Houston: The Houston
Asian-American Archive at Rice University”**

by Mrs. Anne Chao

Free parking, with validation at the meeting, is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. 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,

Sunset Productions, the company that produced our documentary, *In Search of Houston's History*, is in the process of formatting the documentary into five to six minute segments that will be broadcast on You-Tube. A test broadcast of a segment from the program documenting the Shamrock Hotel already has been seen by thousands of viewers. When someone is interested in the Shamrock, they simply Google it, and they will be linked to the video segment of the documentary that covers the Shamrock.

Other topics in the documentary being formatted for You-Tube are: the Astrodome, the Rice Hotel/Capitol of the Republic of Texas, the Latin American Collection, the Little School of 400, Freedman's Town and the African American Collection, Howard Hughes, and Jesse Jones.

Sunset Productions also is creating a Google site that will promote the Friends of the Texas Room specifically and the documentary.

In addition, Texas PBS is developing a website for Texas history teachers through which the segments from the documentary will be made available to all Texas History classes in the state.

These new developments will give the Friends of the Texas Room, the HMRC and the Houston Public Library exposure to viewers all over the world within the next sixty days. It is an exciting time for the FTxR, and we are most grateful to Jim Bailey and Mark Susman who created the documentary and who presented us with these wonderful opportunities.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28th, 2013, GENERAL MEETING

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. She thanked Calanne and John Choate, JoLee and Bill Haddock, and others for their contribution to the reception. Liz Sargent announced the 4th annual Book Fair, which will be held at the Library November 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Election

The following members were elected to a one-year term beginning January 2014:

Susan Teich, Vice President

Nancy Burch, Director

Kathleen Colt, Director

Charles Maynard, Director

Julia Ideson Award

Dorothy Knox explained that the Julia Ideson Award was established in 2008 to recognize research projects that document Houston and Texas history and culture, incorporating significant use of resources at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. The Friends honor authors of books and authors of scholarly publications in alternating years. This year the award goes to the author of a book.

Dr. Brian Behnken holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Houston. In 2007 he earned a Ph. D. in United States History from the University of California at Davis. Currently he is Associate Professor of History and United States Latino/Latina Studies at Iowa State University. Dr. Behnken's list of books, articles, lectures, and conference presentations is extensive. His honors include the Texas State Historical Association's H. Bailey Carroll Award in 2008. The focus of his scholarship has been racial relations and civil rights in the United States.

This year's Julia Ideson Award was presented to Dr. Behnken's book, *Fighting Their Own Battles: Mexican Americans, African Americans, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Texas*.

Following Dr. Behnken's speech, Dr. Julian Read introduced his new book, *JFK'S Final Hours in Texas: An Eyewitness Remembers the Tragedy and its Aftermath*.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Dissen, Recording Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Liz Sargent, Manager, HMRC



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

Happy 2014 from the HMRC Team!!

Happy Holidays from the Houston Metropolitan Research Center 2013



Original 1928 Houston Public Library Card from HMRC's Archives

HMRC helped honor the 50th anniversary of JFK's assassination in November by participating with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the University of Houston to offer a symposium and reception. The educational symposium discussed the historical and political significance of President Kennedy's appearance at the LULAC event the evening before he was assassinated. The reception was held in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's historic appearance at a LULAC function on November 21st, 1963, the day before his assassination. The reception took place at the same venue and on the same day as the original event in Houston. Mikaela Selley, HMRC's Hispanic Collections Archivist, curated the exhibit on display during the reception. This exhibit is now on display at the Julia Ideson Building.

Current Exhibition

When Camelot Came to Houston

November 23, 2013 - March 1, 2014

Julia Ideson Building | 550 McKinney St., 77002

On November 21st, 1963, President John F. Kennedy attended a reception in Houston, Texas sponsored by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). That night is widely recognized as the first time a US president acknowledged Latinos as a significant voting bloc. Three years earlier, Kennedy had received an unprecedented eighty-five percent of the Mexican American vote to win the 1960 presidential election.

John J. Herrera, Houston lawyer and past LULAC president, tried to revitalize the Viva Kennedy club movement when he invited Kennedy to the LULAC State Director's Ball at the Rice Hotel in Houston on November 21st, 1963. The President was scheduled to be in Houston for a testimonial dinner for a Harris County legislator. Kennedy accepted the LULAC invitation over a thousand others. President Kennedy, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson spent seventeen minutes with LULAC. Following a speech made by her husband praising the efforts of LULAC, Jackie Kennedy thrilled the crowd by speaking in Spanish. A mariachi band proceeded to serenade the presidential party.

Just fifteen hours after his historic visit in Houston, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. He spent his last night with a group of Mexican American civil rights activists. Those seventeen minutes at the Rice Hotel live on as a key historical moment for LULAC and Mexican Americans.

This exhibition is generously supported by League of United Latin American Citizens Council 60, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library and City of Houston. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

John J. Herrera and the Mexican-American Family and Photograph Collection: Digitized

Last year HMRC received a Texas Cultures Online grant from the University of North Texas' Portal to Texas History. This grant digitized most of HMRC's John J. Herrera Collection and all of HMRC's Mexican-American Family and Photograph Collection. The digitized files were received back this fiscal year and HMRC is currently working on creating the image descriptions for each digitized file. The digitized material can be found at <http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/HMRC/browse/>

2014 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2014 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photograph 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)

11x14 print (\$25.00 normally costs \$12.50)

8x10 digital scan at 300 dpi (\$12.50 normally costs \$6.25).

Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to me at Elizabeth.Sargent@houstontx.gov for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

Research Lock-ins | Preservation Consultation Days

HMRC staff will offer 2014 members of the Friends of the Texas Room:

2 research lock-ins offered on a Friday (Dates forthcoming for 2014)

2 preservation consultation days offered on a Friday (Dates forthcoming for 2014).

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 Liz Sargent at elizabeth.sargent@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.

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: Susan Teich

Secretary: Kathy Dissen

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Kathleen Colt, Cheri Fossler, Jeff Lindemann, and Charles Maynard

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

2014 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/2014 – 12/31/2014

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:** _____