

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 11, Number 2, April 2013

Monday, April 29th, 2013, Meeting

5:30 - 7:00 Reception (in the Tudor Gallery)

Houston's Mayor Annise Parker invites you to a reception in celebration of
Houston's new Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Zepeda
and HMRC's new Hispanic Collections Archivist Mikaela Selley

7:00 Program (in the Auditorium)

PROGRAM:

"An Introduction to the Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage"

by

John Nau

John Nau is a former chairman of the Texas Historical Commission.

The Julia Ideson Building, first floor auditorium
500 McKinney Avenue

Free parking is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar
Avenue or on the street.

All attendees need to enter the Julia Ideson Building via the side door 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,

The Friends of the Texas Room needs you!

We need your involvement in our organization. I must appoint a nominating committee of five FTxR members who will submit a slate of two nominees for directors and one nominee for a vice president at our annual meeting on October 28th. Historically the nominating committee has met once or twice and then conducted its business by email and telephone. This is not the year to elect major officers, so the process should not be protracted. Please consider serving on the nominating committee.

Please also consider being one of the nominees. Our board meetings average one every other month. We meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 P. M. at my house, but our schedule is flexible depending on the schedules of our members. As a board member, you will learn much about the HMRC, and you will have the chance to make a difference there.

We have a great need for docents to give tours of the Julia Ideson Building by appointment to outside groups. There is a much greater interest in the Houston community in seeing the building than there is availability of the two current docents. This means that the HMRC staff frequently is diverted from their archival responsibilities to show visitors around. While it is extremely important to foster the public's interest in the HMRC through tours, it is equally important for the HMRC staff to be able to keep up with their work. Please consider being a docent. The experience and the knowledge you will gain will be very rewarding.

If you can help us in any of the ways mentioned above, or if you have any other ideas about projects you think we might undertake, please contact me at:

dorothy_houghton@sbcglobal.net.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Monday, April 29th, where we will learn about the Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28th, 2013, GENERAL MEETING

Dorothy Knox Houghton, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. She thanked Calanne Choate, JoLee Haddock and Mary Jo Coselli for the meeting refreshments. She also thanked Susan Teich, Liz Sargent and her staff for their assistance. The minutes of the annual meeting held on October 29th, 2012, were approved as printed in the *Texas Room Dispatch*. Frank G. Jones gave the treasurer's report, copy attached. Nancy Burch urged all non-members present to join the Friends of the Texas Room.

Advantages of membership include:

1. The *Texas Room Dispatch* newsletter published quarterly keeps members informed.
2. Preservation Consultation Days: Twice yearly on Fridays, instructions are given on storage and preservation of family artifacts and documents.
3. Research Lock-ins give members extra time in the HMRC for research projects.
4. Five photo reproductions are offered at one-half price to our members.
5. Dues can be paid through Pay Pal.

Stephen Fox gave the program: "Observations on Houston Architecture."

Dorothy Knox reminded the membership that at the April 29th general meeting, John Nau will speak about the Center for Texas Cultural History.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 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

It is an exciting time at HMRC staff wise!

Laney Dwyer is now HMRC's Archivist III (Assistant Manager and Lead Archivist). In this role Laney will take over management of HMRC's archival operations including donor relations and collection building. Laney was previously HMRC's Architectural Archivist. Prior to joining HMRC, Laney was the Registrar for the Heritage Society and a Collections Intern at the George Ranch Historical Park/ Fort Bend Museum Association and the Houston Museum of Natural Science. She has a Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Texas Tech University and is currently working on a Master's in Library Science at Texas Woman's University.

Timothy (Tim) Ronk is now HMRC's Library Service Supervisor in the Photo Archives. In this role Tim will work closely with Joel Draut to assist customers with HMRC's 4.5 million photographs as well as solicit additional archival donations. Tim was previously HMRC's Library Service Specialist providing assistance with scheduling, exhibits, and the photo archives. Prior to joining HMRC, Tim was a Library Assistant with the Academy of Health Care Professions, a Teacher at Lake Houston Academy, and a Library Service Specialist for over ten years at Houston Public Library's Central Library. He has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Journalism from Cedarville University and has been known to take writing courses at Rice University.

HMRC also just welcomed a new Archivist I on April 15, 2013. Mikaela Garza Selley will focus her efforts on developing and promoting HMRC's Latino-related collections. Mikaela is currently working on a Master's of Arts in Public History at the University of Houston. Her thesis is "*The Melesio Gomez Family: Navigating Houston's Business and Food Space*" and she plans on graduating this summer. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Houston and previously worked as an Archives Research Assistant and Student Leader in the University of Houston's Special Collections Department for 3 years.

We are currently in the process of hiring a Librarian II (Collection Development), a Senior Customer Service Clerk, and an Archivist II.

Congratulations are also in order for Laney Dwyer. She is having a baby girl sometime this month. Laney will be out from mid-April until mid-July. Please direct all Architectural Archives requests to the HMRC Main Line 832-393-1662. Other HMRC staff will do their best to assist you however please understand that responses will be delayed. Please keep Laney in your thoughts as she welcomes a new addition into her family.

Preservation Week 2013 – HMRC Programs

April 21-27, 2013 is Preservation Week. HMRC staff will be out at different Neighborhood Libraries around Houston helping teach Houstonians how to preserve and care for their family's treasures. Please support HMRC by attending one or more of these sessions.

Preservation Road Show

Ring Neighborhood Library

Monday, April 22, 2013 | 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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.

Preserving Your History

Heights Neighborhood Library

Monday, April 22, 2013 | 6:00 pm – 7:45 pm

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

Preservation Road Show

Young Neighborhood Library

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

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.

Preservation Road Show

Carnegie Neighborhood Library

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

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.

Personal Archiving Day at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center

Houston Metropolitan Research Center

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 | 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

Personal treasures should be safeguarded so that future generations can share in the collective memories of loved ones. Advice on how to preserve and protect precious digital and traditional photos, documents, recordings and more will be presented at Personal Archiving Day. Library staff will be on hand to talk directly with individuals about how to manage and preserve their collections. There will also be videos and printed information available. For security reasons, attendees are asked not to bring collection materials to the event.

Current Exhibition

Emma Richardson Cherry: Houston's First Modern Artist

February 1, 2013 – May 4, 2013

Julia Ideson Building | 500 McKinney St., 77002

The exhibition will be a retrospective of Mrs. Cherry's work and will include 50 plus works by the artists and a selected group of works by her contemporaries, some of Houston's first artist in the 20th century, and following generations to discuss the impact of the artist's work. This exhibition will also include archival material drawn from local collections. Emma Richardson Cherry, one of the earliest professional women artists in Houston, worked in oils, watercolors, pastels, pencil, and charcoal; though at least one critic referred to her use of "modern" laws of color," she painted a number of traditional portraits while living in Houston and experimented with a number of styles. She taught locally in her studio and in 1900 she organized the Houston Public School Art League, which later became the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

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.

2013 Membership Benefit: Discounted Photograph Reproductions

Each 2013 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.

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10-6

Tuesday: 10-6

Wednesday: 10-8

Thursday: 10-6

Saturday: 10-5

Friday and Sunday: Closed

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: Nancy Burch

Secretary: Kathy Dissen

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Michael Botson, Cheri Fossler, Jeff Lindemann, 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

2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/ 12013 – 12/ 31/2013

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:** _____