

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 11, Number 3, July 2013

Monday, July 29th, 2013, Meeting

6:15 - 7:00 Reception

7:00 Program

PROGRAM:

“The Grand Opening of the Shamrock Hotel”

by

Jeff Lindemann

Jeff Lindemann is Professor of English at Houston Community College.

The Julia Ideson Building, first floor auditorium
500 McKinney Avenue

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,

Our up-coming program on the Shamrock Hotel brings to mind the impact of volunteers both in our own organization and in the community at large. The Shamrock Hotel opened with the wildest, most extravagant party in the history of Houston. Its demolition in the 1980s galvanized the fledgling preservation community to organize to prevent further destruction of Houston's historic buildings. Volunteers who felt passionately about preserving Houston's past have made all the difference.

The same can be said of the Friends of the Texas Room, which was organized to protect Houston's written and photographic history. Our members assist the HMRC staff at the library in cataloging collections and in giving tours of the newly restored Julia Ideson Building. Some of these members are retired from companies that make donations to non-profit organizations based on the number of volunteer hours their retirees spend at those organizations. Most notably, George Werner and Dorothy Johnson, both retired from Exxon-Mobil, have designated the FTxR to receive thousands of dollars over the last ten years based on their volunteer work at the HMRC. Since the FTxR is funded entirely from dues and contributions, these grants have made an enormous difference in the support we have been able to give to the HMRC.

Some companies also match donations made by their employees and retirees to non-profits. Most recently FTxR board member, Susan Teich, made a donation which resulted in our receiving a very generous contribution from Conoco Phillips. We are most grateful to Susan, Dorothy, George, and others both for the volunteer hours they have spent and for designating the Friends to benefit from their companies' charitable giving programs.

The HMRC is very much in need of more volunteers. If you have a few hours to spare in your week, you can find no more interesting or gratifying way to spend it than at the HMRC.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox Houghton

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29th, 2013, GENERAL MEETING

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Dorothy Knox explained the qualifications for the Julia Ideson Award and asked for entries to be submitted before the June 1st deadline.

A motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Cheri Fossler presented the membership report and encouraged the guests to apply for membership.

Dorothy Knox announced that Dr. Michael Botson is chairman of the nominating committee for directors and officers for 2014.

The next meeting will be held July 29th, 2013, and Jeff Lindemann will speak on the Shamrock Hotel's opening night.

The Friends of the Texas Room DVD is available for purchase.

Dorothy Knox introduced John Nau. He is President and CEO of Silver Eagle Distributors.

Mr. Nau introduced the Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage, which will be built downtown in Houston. It will be a visitors' center and an educational venue for the Southeast Texas region. The facility will be operated and managed by Houston First Corporation, while the Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage, an independent nonprofit, will oversee all programming.

The Nau Center will not be a museum as he envisions it; it will be a 21st century example of education and inspiration in which guests will explore and experience the culture of the Houston region. It will be located between the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park. It will include

1. A visitor Center for the cultural/heritage tourist
2. A venue which will showcase the region's resources

The George R. Brown Convention Center attracts 7-8 million people a year, and 36 million visitors come to southeast Texas. Tourists to the Houston region fall into three categories: those interested in outdoor activities, those who come to conventions and the heritage/cultural tourists who want to experience the area's culture. This last group is the most likely to spend more time in the area if they are engaged, and they will spend 30% more per day during their stay. Texas is one of the top ten destinations for this group of tourists.

The center will also engage visiting students who are studying Texas history. There will be classrooms and educational, interactive displays and classes.

The center is projected to cost between \$46 - 48 million for the exhibits. Construction will begin when 60% of the funds are collected. Mr. Nau is currently seeking the support of foundations and hopes that the Center can open in 2016.

After the conclusion of Mr. Nau's remarks, the meeting was adjourned.

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 still an exciting time at HMRC staff wise!

The following new staff have joined HMRC:

- **Jennifer Nuzzo:** Jennifer is starting with HMRC on July 22, 2013 as a Customer Service Clerk. Jennifer will be assisting with digitization of HMRC material. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Texas at Austin. She has over 13 years of experience working in bookstores including

Brazos Bookstore in Houston. Jennifer volunteered with the Houston Public Library's Cataloging and Metadata department assisting with various digitization and metadata projects. She also worked on a Contract with HMRC helping to digitize early Houston City Council Minute Books.

- **Jennifer Sessa:** Jennifer is HMRC's new Architectural Archivist. Jennifer has a Master's in Library and Information Sciences from San Jose State University and a Bachelor's in English from University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Prior to joining HMRC, she was a Reference Librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library, an Archival Intern at Clear Channel Outdoor, and an Archival Intern at the Orange County Archives.
- **Mary Sommerfeld:** Mary is HMRC's new Special Collections Archivist. Mary will be responsible for the Texas and Local History Collection, the Norma Meldrum Juvenile Special Collections, and the Warren Culbertson Adult Special Collections. Mary has a Master's in Library Science from University of Rhode Island and a Bachelor's in History from the University Houston. Prior to joining HMRC, she worked for the Art Institute of Houston, Harris County Public Library's Maud Marks Branch and Cypress Creek Branch, and the Bryan Public Library. She also served as a Volunteer for the Houston Public Library's Cataloging and Metadata Department and was named the 2013 Extra-Miler in Volunteering for the Houston Public Library.

The following HMRC employees have received promotional positions:

- **Caroline Castillo** is now a Librarian II at HMRC. She is still handling our Oral Histories and Outreach.
- **Barbara Morales** is now HMRC's Senior Customer Service Clerk handling JIB Tour Scheduling.
- **Emily Scott** is now an Archivist II at HMRC. She is still our Processing Archivist.

I know a lot has changed about the make-up of the HMRC staff. All of these changes are positive and they ensure HMRC can better address our mission. Here is a list of current HMRC staff members:

- Caroline Castillo: Oral History and Outreach Librarian
- Jo Collier: Senior Library Service Specialist (Texas and Local History Collection)
- Joel Draut: Photo Archivist
- Laney Dwyer: Assistant Manager and Lead Archivist
- Barbara Morales: Senior Customer Service Clerk (JIB Tour Scheduling)
- Jennifer Nuzzo: Customer Service Clerk (Digitization)
- Tim Ronk: Library Service Supervisor, Photo Lab
- Elizabeth Sargent: Manager
- Emily Scott: Processing Archivist
- Mikaela Selley: Hispanic Collections Archivist

- Jennifer Sessa: Architectural Archivist
- Mary Sommerfeld: Special Collections Archivist
- Aaron Winslow: Electronic Services Librarian

Please do not hesitate contacting me if you have questions about any of this.

Laney Dwyer's daughter was born April 22, 2013. Her name is Juliana Brynn Dwyer, and she weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20.5 in. long. Laney returns to work full-time on July 22 where she begins her new role as HMRC's Assistant Manager and Lead Archivist.

Upcoming HMRC Programs

Here are a few upcoming HMRC programs:

Ten Years of LGBT History: From Lawrence v. Texas to Prop 8 and DOMA, Where Are We Now?

Julia Ideson Building Auditorium | 550 McKinney St., 77002

Saturday, July 27, 2013 | 2 PM – 5 PM

Ten years ago, the Supreme Court declared the "Homosexual Conduct" law unconstitutional in the landmark case *Lawrence v. Texas*. Recently the Supreme Court has taken further steps to secure equal rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community, but how does this affect Texas, where same-sex marriage isn't legal? Speakers include Mitchell Katine who served as local counsel for John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner, Dale Carpenter who wrote about *Lawrence v. Texas* in his book *Flagrant Conduct*, Christie Herring who made the Prop 8 documentary *The Campaign* as well as the film's producer Marc Smolowitz, and finally Debra Hunt who will discuss the recent Supreme Court decisions on Prop 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and what they mean for LGBT Texans.

Christie Herring and Marc Smolowitz will speak at the panel through a partnership with Qfest. The documentary will be shown at the Rice Media Center as a part of Qfest on Sunday, July 28th at 3:00 PM. To view the trailer and for more information on the documentary, please visit <http://www.q-fest.org/event/the-campaign/>.

Rice University's Community Research Project

Julia Ideson Building Auditorium | 550 McKinney St., 77002

Saturday, August 17, 2013 | 10:30 AM – NOON

In 2007, students in Rice University's Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies began contributing to an ongoing Community Research Project, collecting oral histories from those who have helped make Houston's LGBTQI communities possible. Since then, over 100 oral histories have been collected. Houston Public Library and Rice University are pleased to invite you to join us as we celebrate this "century" mark, and look forward to the next century.

All about Zines

Julia Ideson Building Auditorium | 550 McKinney St., 77002

Saturday, September 14, 2013 | 2 PM – 5 PM

Zines are self-published pamphlets or leaflets. Anybody can be an author and that includes you! Whether you've never heard of them or have been collecting them for decades, come to the Zine Event on September 14th at the Julia Ideson Building. A panel will discuss what Zines are, their importance and how to preserve them, and a demo on how to make them. We will provide materials so you can try it out.

HMRC Presents: Scanning and Oral History Day (Hispanic Heritage Month)

Stanaker Neighborhood Library

Saturday, September 21, 2013 | 10 AM – 5 PM

Houstonians have valuable and interesting pieces of history such as family photos or documents that tell the story of Houston. Because we realize that these items are precious, we have developed this project as a way for you to contribute to the collection at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center while holding on to your treasured photographs and documents. We also want to hear first-hand experiences from Houstonians that will show future generations what Houston was like. Appointments are required. To learn more and to schedule an appointment please call HMRC at 832-393-1662.

**“My Perspective on Houston's Hispanic History” featuring Dr. Thomas Kreneck
(Hispanic Heritage Month)**

Julia Ideson Building Auditorium | 550 McKinney St., 77002

Saturday, September 28, 2013 | 1 PM – 3 PM

Dr. Thomas Kreneck served as an Archivist for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) for over ten years where he originated and built HMRC's Hispanic archival component. Dr. Kreneck will discuss his time at HMRC and his experience working with the Hispanic archival materials. He will specifically focus on his experience researching and writing *Mexican-American Odyssey: Felix Tijerina, Entrepreneur and Civic Leader, 1905-1965* and *Del Pueblo: A History of Houston's Hispanic Community*.

**SpeakOUT with Houston Hispanic Poets (Hispanic Heritage Month)
Julia Ideson Building Norma Meldrum Room | 550 McKinney St., 77002**

Saturday, October 5, 2013 | 1:30 PM – 3 PM

SpeakOUT will feature Houston Hispanic poets. Poets will discuss their experience as writers and read selections from their favorite poems. The program will close out with an open mic where audience members are encouraged to share their poetry.

HMRC Presents: Scanning and Oral History Day (Hispanic Heritage Month)

Flores Neighborhood Library

Saturday, October 12, 2013 | 10 AM – 5 PM

Houstonians have valuable and interesting pieces of history such as family photos or documents that tell the story of Houston. Because we realize that these items are precious, we have developed this project as a way for you to contribute to the collection at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center while holding on to your treasured photographs and documents. We also want to hear first-hand experiences from Houstonians that will show future generations what Houston was like. Appointments are required. To learn more and to schedule an appointment please call HMRC at 832-393-1662.

Current Exhibition

Fine Tuning: Celebrating 100 Years of the Houston Symphony

June 8, 2013 - October 19, 2013

Julia Ideson Building | 550 McKinney St., 77002

A symphony for Houston was the dream of both Miss Ima Hogg and local café orchestra leader Julien Paul Blitz. In 1913 they joined forces to make their dream a reality. Blitz chose the best local musicians for the orchestra and Miss Hogg used her considerable connections in musical and social circles to promote the idea. A June 21 concert at the old Majestic Theatre led to a three-concert series that was undertaken for five seasons. The orchestra disbanded toward the end of World War I, and after several attempts the orchestra was reformed in 1931. Conductors of the greatest tenure include Ernst Hoffmann, Efrem Kurtz, Leopold Stokowski, Sir John Barbirolli, Lawrence Foster, Sergiu Comissiona, Christoph Eschenbach and Hans Graf. In 2013 the Houston Symphony announced as Music Director Designate the young Colombian Andrés Orozco-Estrada. Today's orchestra is an internationally acclaimed ensemble performing almost 300 concerts annually. This exhibition is generously supported by Houston Public Library, Houston Symphony and City of Houston.

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

FRIENDS IN THE NEWS

FTxR President Dorothy Knox Houghton was recently quoted in the *Houston Chronicle* article "Texas Avenue Holds On Despite Unseen Name Change. Here is the link to the article:

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Texas-Avenue-holds-on-despite-unseen-name-change-4647423.php>.

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of *The Texas Room Dispatch* (lindemann@SBCglobal.net), with information about Friends' involvement in Houston history.

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:** _____