

## **THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH**

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room  
Volume No.4, No. 1, January 2006

### **SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Story Sloane's Gallery  
2616 Fondren

The Friends of the Texas Room will hold its spring membership meeting at the Story Sloane Gallery on Monday, January 23, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The Story Sloane Gallery is located at 2616 Fondren Road. Enjoy wine and cheese as you visit the gallery's collection of historic Houston photographs. This event will be held in lieu of our January general membership meeting. Please RSVP to Dorothy Johnson at [dhjohnsn@hal-pc.org](mailto:dhjohnsn@hal-pc.org) or 281-497-2448.

### **UPCOMING FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM MEETINGS**

This year all meetings will be held on Monday evenings at the Museum of Printing History unless otherwise noted. The Museum of Printing History is located at 1324 W. Clay Street between Waugh Drive and Montrose, one block south of West Dallas. Free parking is available in the lot across the street or in the small lot on the left, adjacent to the Museum building.

April 24, 2006, Monday, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, Director of the Houston Public Library

July 24, 2006, Monday, 7:00 pm

October 23, 2006, Monday, 7:00 pm

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## **THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Dear Friends,

I know you all join me in welcoming Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson as the new Director of the Houston Public Library. Dr. Lawson brings a fresh vision to the library and is especially interested in raising the library's public image. She has agreed to be our speaker at our April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please put this date on your calendar.

At the same time we must say "farewell" to our friend Will Howard who retired on December 30, 2005, after eighteen years in the Texas Room. Many of you know him well, and we all hope that he will find retirement enjoyable.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the late Marguerite Johnston Barnes, a long-time patron of the Texas Room, who died in December. Mrs. Barnes came to Houston in 1946 and wrote for the *Houston Post* for the next thirty-seven years. She wrote two well-known books: *Houston, The Unknown City* and *A Happy Worldly Abode*, the history of Christ Church Cathedral from its founding in 1839 to 1964. We offer our deepest sympathy to her family.

Dorothy Knox Houghton

### **DR. RHEA BROWN LAWSON NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Houston City Council voted to confirm Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson as the Director of the Houston Public Library. In the 101 year history of the library, she will be the sixth director. She comes to Houston from the Detroit Public Library where she served as deputy director.

Dr. Lawson holds a BA in political science from Morgan State University in Baltimore, an MA degree in library and information science from the University of Maryland-College Park, and a PhD in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### **OBITUARY: THOMAS "JEFF" JORDAN**

Friends of the Texas Room charter member Thomas "Jeff" Jordan III passed away on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006. He was a fifth generation Texan who loved Texas history. Friends of the Texas Room extends warmest sympathy to his wife Joan and many family members

### **FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE**

The Board of the Friends of the Texas Room announces its plan to construct a website to give our organization an internet presence and increase membership. If you have talent in website construction or have ideas for the website, please

contact *The Texas Room Dispatch* editor Jeff Lindemann at [jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu](mailto:jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu).

## **MINUTES OF THE TEXAS ROOM: OCTOBER 15, 2005**

Friends of the Texas Room met Saturday, October 25, 2005, at 10:15 a.m. at the Harris County Archives in the Criminal Justice Center, 1201 Franklin. Treasurer George Werner acting for President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order, after which the minutes of the July 18, 2005, meeting were approved as printed in *The Texas Room Dispatch*.

Treasurer George Werner reported that we have a balance of \$18,666.68. The video project on the Houston Metropolitan Research Center is underway. Some payments have been made for the conservation of the Wood maps, and we are waiting finalization of the map index.

Brenda Tirrell reported that the Library has a new director, Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson. Her experience as deputy director of the Detroit Public Library and former chief of the Central Library in Brooklyn will benefit Houston's large library system.

Sarah Canby Jackson, the Archivist of the Harris County Archives, had prepared an exhibit of various documents in the collection. She presented a slide program about what it takes to start an archive. She was hired in November, 2002 with no physical location and no budget. Today the Harris County Archives occupies 20,000 square feet on two floors of the Criminal Justice Center and is the only county archives in the state of Texas. Materials have been organized by Sarah with the help of a recently hired second archivist, about 50 volunteers, community service people, and, for the heavy lifting, county inmates.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. for the participants to examine the stacks.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Weaver for Betty Chapman

## **CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY**

Please note the Friends of the Texas Room Policy for Contributions 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. 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.

### **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 IRS 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.

### **WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING**

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of *The Texas Room Dispatch* (jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize the resources of the HMRC.

### **REMINDER**

Our membership year runs from January 1 - December 31. Please fill in the membership form at the end of this newsletter and mail it with your check to P. O. Box 27827, Houston, TX 77227-7827. Make your check payable to "Friends of the Texas Room." If you have friends who might be interested in membership, please submit their names and addresses and we will send them information. If you have email, please include it. This saves us mailing costs.

### **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 - Barrie Scardino  
Secretary - Betty Chapman  
Treasurer - George Werner  
Parliamentarian - Nancy T. Burch  
Directors: Paul Homeyer, Sims McCutcheon, Anne H. Sloan, Carol Weaver

**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@hccs.edu](mailto:jeff.lindemann@hccs.edu) or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann  
*The Texas Room Dispatch* Editor  
1509 Monarch Oaks  
Houston, Texas 77055

**JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM**

Please spread the word and help us find new members. If you have access to a list of likely members, which you can share with us, we would appreciate it. The membership application on the next page can be emailed to your prospects or photocopied and faxed or mailed to prospective members.

**FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM**

**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/maiden last name first name middle/maiden 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)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.
- Website manager: Design and maintain an official site for the Friends of the Texas Room.
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_