

THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
(incorporated November 27, 2002)
Volume 11, Number 4, October 2013

Monday, October 28th, 2013 Meeting

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

6:00 - 6:45 Reception
6:45 Program

PROGRAM:

Presentation of Julia Ideson Award
to Dr. Brian D. Behnken,
Associate Professor of History and U. S. Latino/a Studies,
Iowa State University,
for his book

*Fighting Their Own Battles: Mexican Americans, African Americans, and the
Struggle for Civil Rights in Texas*

~followed by~

Mr. Julian Read,
Former Press Aide to Governor John Connally,
introducing his new book
*JFK's Final Hours in Texas:
An Eyewitness Remembers the Tragedy and Its Aftermath*

Election of FTxR Board Members

Susan Teich, Vice President (two years)
Kathleen Colt, Director (two years)
Nancy Burch, Director (two years)
Charles Maynard (two years)

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,

In the summer of 2013, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center inaugurated the Student Historian Internship Program. The goals are to teach high school students how archival work is done in a research library. The students are introduced to skills involved in processing collections, digitizing materials, conservation of books and paper documents and curating exhibits, among other things. Professionalism is expected in dealing with the public, meeting deadlines and completing assigned projects in the time allotted. Each intern is expected to commit a minimum of 50 hours to the program.

Creativity is encouraged. At the end of the program, each intern is expected to present a project demonstrating what they have learned to the staff of the HMRC, HPL, parents, teachers, and other members of the community. The presentation must be at least eight minutes long and no longer than twenty minutes.

The HMRC staff asked the board of the FTxR if we would be willing to begin the tradition of presenting modest monetary scholarships to the interns at the end of their program. We were happy to oblige. On August 14, 2013 I presented the first two interns, Jun Ling (Alice) Tao, a 2013 graduate of Bellaire High School, and Jeremy Hood, a rising senior at Booker T. Washington High School, with checks for \$100 each from the FTxR. Alice entered Princeton University this fall.

The HMRC staff sees this program as a way of building allies among educators, parents and students. The FTxR is very pleased to be able to enhance it with a small monetary reward at the end.

Thank you for your annual dues which make all of this possible.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Knox

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29th, 2013, GENERAL MEETING

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She thanked Calanne and John Choate, JoLee and Bill Haddock for the beautiful reception and refreshments. She introduced the family members of Glenn McCarthy who were present and people who were present at the opening of the Shamrock Hotel.

She asked for a motion to approve and to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the April 29, 2013, general meeting, as they were printed in the July edition of the newsletter. The motion passed.

Cheri Fossler reported that, in response to inquiries about membership status, if someone received a copy of the Dispatch, their membership was current.

The next meeting, Monday, October 28, 2013, will feature the winner of the Julia Ideson Award. Entries must be a published work which includes research done at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. The winning author will give the program.

Dorothy Knox introduced Professor Jeff Lindemann, Houston Community College, who is writing The Shamrock: America's Magnificent Hotel. The program concerned the hotel's Grand Opening, March 17, 1949. Professor Lindemann portrayed Glenn McCarthy as a lexicographer, a cartographer, and an iconographer.

As a lexicographer, he christened Houston as "The Magic City." As a cartographer, he redrew the Houston map, linking downtown Houston to the Shamrock. As an iconographer, he created the Shamrock as a symbol of hospitality and the future greatness of Houston.

McCarthy's film *The Green Promise* premiered March 18, 1949, at the Majestic and Kirby theaters. With these joint premiers, Mr. McCarthy planned to link Houston with the glamour of Hollywood. Many movie stars were invited to the Grand Opening, which was a huge success, garnering great attendance and publicity for the Shamrock and Houston.

After the conclusion of the program, 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

HMRC staff has been very busy with offering programs to the community since the last *Dispatch*. Our Oral History and Outreach Librarian, Caroline Castillo, developed and hosted the following programs: Ten Years of LGBT History, Rice University's Community Research Project, and All about Zines. Each of these events brought new community members to the Julia Ideson Building and HMRC. Caroline also coordinated HMRC's new Student Historian Internship Program. Dorothy wrote about it in her President's Column, and we hope to offer this each summer. Doing so will provide HMRC an opportunity to expose selected High School students to the work of an archivist.

Our Hispanic Collections Archivist, Mikaela Selley, along with assistance from the HMRC and Digitization teams, has been very busy during Hispanic Heritage Month. We offered a Scanning and Oral History Day at both Stanaker Neighborhood Library and Flores Neighborhood Library. We were able to record oral history interviews from community members and scan documents for addition to our collections. We also hosted a talk by Dr. Thomas Kreneck entitled "My Perspective on Houston's Hispanic History." Dr. Kreneck discussed his time at HMRC and his experiences working with the Hispanic archival materials. HMRC also had a table at the Library's second annual Librofest.

4th Annual Houston History Book Fair & Symposium

HMRC is co-hosting the 4th annual Houston History Book Fair and Symposium along with Houston Arts and Media and Story Sloane's Gallery on November 9, 2013, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. The Book Fair will be held in the Julia Ideson Building. Please visit <http://www.houstonartsandmedia.org> to learn more about this event. Different local history authors will speak about their books every half hour throughout the day.

Please attend to help support HMRC and Houston Arts and Media!

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/>

Current Exhibition

Fine Tuning: Celebrating 100 Years of the Houston Symphony

June 8, 2013 - October 31, 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).
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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

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: 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:** _____