

TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room
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Time to Renew Your FTxR Membership

If you have not already done so, please renew your Friends of the Texas Room membership and pay your 2022 dues used solely for the purpose of supporting the Texas Room of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC). Renew by using PayPal on the FTxR website (www.Friendsofthetexasroom.org). If you prefer, send your application and check through the mail in an envelope to the address provided on the membership application (see p. 9 of this newsletter). Please consider giving a FTxR membership as a gift for friends or relatives who would enjoy the many benefits.

FTxR 2022 Meetings Announcement

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FTxR Officers and Board of Directors have decided to conduct our quarterly Monday meetings for members and guests virtually on the ZOOM platform at 7:00 pm. **The link is provided below.** If there is any change, you will be notified. As always, FTxR continues to present some of Houston's leading historians who will speak on their latest research documenting Houston's rich history.

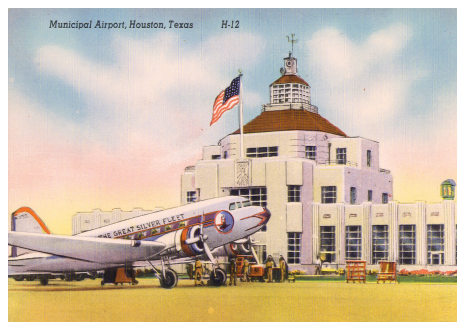
Michael Bludworth to Speak at January 31st Meeting

Join the FTxR on January 31st, 2022, at 7:00 pm for "An Evening with Houston Aviation Historian Michael Bludworth." FTxR President Mister McKinney will interview our guest on the colorful early history of aviation in Houston.



About the Speaker . . .

Learn about Houston's exciting aviation history from one of our city's most engaging experts on the topic, Michael Bludworth, the founder of "Houston's Aviation History" and a long-



time speaker and volunteer docent at the 1940 Air Terminal Museum. Michael maintains two Facebook groups: *Houston's Aviation History* and *Trans-Texas Historical Society*.

Join the January 31st ZOOM meeting at 7:00 by clicking on the following URL:

<https://bit.ly/FTXR01-31>

VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!

www.friendsofthetexasroom.org

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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25th, 2021, ANNUAL MEETING

Mister McKinney called the FTxR October 25th annual meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He began the evening’s business by introducing the FTxR slate of officers and directors for 2022.

President: Mister McKinney

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Director: Jim Bailey

Director: Nancy Burch

Director: Anthony Cavender (Julia Ideson Award Chair)

Director: J.J. Gonzalez (Membership Chair)

Director: Carol Haddock

Director: Rebecca Harris

Director: Jeff Lindemann (*Dispatch* Editor)

Director: George Slaughter

Members voted by unanimous consent, and the motion to accept the slate of officers was seconded.

Mister McKinney next introduced the speaker, Sandra Lord, who spoke on the topic “The Ghosts of Market Square Park,” which is also the name of her new book. After her presentation, she answered questions from members and guests.

2022 FTxR MEETING SPEAKERS

January 31st: Michael Bludworth on Houston’s Early Aviation History

April 25th: TBA

July 25th: Jeff Lindemann on Mid-Nineteenth Century German Emigrants' Journey from Downtown Bremen to Downtown Houston

October 31st: TBA

MANY THANKS FOR RETIRING FTxR BOARD MEMBERS

Cathy McCully and Charles Maynard, both long-time FTxR Board members, have retired from the Board. Join the FTxR Officers and Board members in giving them many thanks for their service.

TWO NEW FTxR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Rebecca Harris
George Slaughter

SANDRA LORD AND DEBE BRANNING RECEIVE THE FTxR JULIA IDESON AWARD FOR *THE GHOSTS OF MARKET SQUARE PARK*



After graduating from Smith College in Massachusetts, Sandra Lord adopted Houston as her new home and founded Discover Houston Tours, the city's first and longest continually operating public guided tour company. To date, Discover Houston Tours has conducted nearly 5,000 tours for 61,000 visitors from around the world. Co-founder of the Professional Tour Guide Association of Houston, Lord has published over 100 articles on Houston history and has researched and designed over 100 itineraries for historical and cultural walking and bus tours. With co-author Debe Branning, Lord recently published

The Ghosts of Houston's Market Square Park. In addition to her writing, she now owns and operates Houston Walks.

NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM

By Emily Scott, Lead Archivist and Assistant Manager



Photo by Joel Draut

This quarter the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) has two wonderful pieces of news to share! First, The Albert & Ethel Hertzstein Foundation has granted \$10,000 towards the preservation of physical materials within our collections! Funding for physical preservation is less common than funding for digitization, which creates a challenge for HMRC to get physical preservation projects underwritten.

There are many collections in need, and each collection requires its own preservation treatment. Deterioration is a natural process, but much can be done to slow down this process to preserve images and text.

The collection we plan to treat first is MSS 0043 Ballinger & Associates Papers. The collection of the Galveston law firm of Ballinger and Associates contains 92 boxes of very fragile nineteenth century correspondence relating to economic, legal, and political affairs of Texas, particularly the Gulf Coast area. We are excited to begin working on the *Preserving HMRC Collections 2022 Project* and grateful to the Hertzstein Foundation!

We are also pleased to announce that we have brought on a new Photography Archivist, Terrin Rivera. Terrin comes to us from the Harris County Public Library system where she was instrumental in creating a digital exhibit about the beginning of the Harris County Public Library. She has her Master of Library Science with a Certificate in Archival Management from the University of North Texas. We are delighted to welcome Terrin to the team!

The Texas Room is open for research with no appointment needed! We are open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm for research into Houston's history. The parking garage remains closed due to the construction, but there are several garages near the Julia Ideson Building open to the public. Please reach out to us if you have any questions about your research topic or what to bring when you visit – a sweater to keep warm is always a good idea!

Programs and Events Update

January

Date TBD - Archives Watch Party: From Here to There

HMRC is continuing our program series, "Archives Watch Party." Each month, archivists curate a selection of films from the HMRC collections around a certain topic. This month's topic will be "From Here to There." The watch parties can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube.

January 24 at 12:00 pm – HMRC Rare Books Tour

Join Houston Public Library for a video tour of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's Rare Books Room and discover what is housed in the HMRC vault! After the video, an HMRC staff member will answer pre-submitted questions from registrants.

Presented in collaboration with the January Older Adult Book Club, this tour is an in-person event with limited seating. Registration is required. If you would like to submit a question for the HMRC staff member to answer, please submit it with your registration.

January 28 at 2:00 pm – HMRC Presents: Prohibition in Texas: A Century's Retrospective

The 18th Amendment caused a major change in economics, politics, and social life across the nation in the 1920s and 30s. Now, 100 years later, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center presents a look back on the social movements that lead to prohibition and the ways in which life in Houston and Texas changed as a result.

January 31 at 4:00 pm – HMRC Instagram Takeover: Emma Richardson Cherry

For one day each month, HMRC will "take over" the Houston Public Library Instagram account to post videos and photos offering a behind the scenes look at our collections. This month's takeover will cover artist Emma Richardson Cherry. This "take over" can be viewed on the HPL Instagram page "Stories."

February

Date TBD – Archives Watch Party: Fighter for Rights

HMRC is continuing our program series, "Archives Watch Party." Each month, archivists curate a selection of films from the HMRC collections around a certain topic. This month's topic will be "Fighter for Rights." The watch parties can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube.

February 7 at 4:00 pm – HMRC Instagram Takeover: Chase Collection

For one day each month, HMRC will "take over" the Houston Public Library Instagram account to post videos and photos offering a behind the scenes look at our collections. This month's takeover will cover HMRC's collection from architect John S. Chase. This "take over" can be viewed on the HPL Instagram page "Stories."

March

March 2 at 4:00 pm – HMRC Instagram Takeover: Banking in the Republic of Texas

For one day each month, HMRC will "take over" the Houston Public Library

Instagram account to post videos and photos offering a behind the scenes look at our collections. This month's takeover will cover banking in the Republic of Texas. This "take over" can be viewed on the HPL Instagram page "Stories."

March 21 at 12:00 pm – HMRC Presents: Where's the Book on my House?

Curious about your home's history? Don't know where to start? The Houston Metropolitan Research Center's Architectural Archivist will give a basic overview of how to research a historic property, highlighting useful resources in HPL and HMRC collections that can be accessed from home. This program will feature several examples from our materials to illustrate the information your research can uncover.

April

Date TBD – Preservation 101

Preservation aims to prolong the life of objects. In this video, we will provide a basic introduction into the art of preservation as part of #PreservationWeek.

Date TBD – A Trip to the Zoo

Come with us and explore the history of the Houston Zoo through HMRC's photos and scrapbook collections. See how much the Zoo has changed over the years and enjoy images of the adorable animals.

April 21 at 6:30 pm – Exploring *Space City!*

Though relatively short-lived, *Space City!* is widely acknowledged as one of the best of the 1960s -1970s underground newspapers. The Houston Metropolitan Research Center partners with the Printing Museum to celebrate the release of a new book created by those who lived it, *Exploring Space City!: Houston's Historic Underground Newspaper*. The event will include a pop-up exhibit of original clip art used in the production of the paper and a panel discussion with the paper's creators. Join us for this look back on the historical importance of the paper and add a new perspective on contemporary issues.

April 29 at 2:00 pm – Textile Preservation

Do you love learning about historic clothing and textiles? Has a beloved family quilt or a relative's wedding dress been passed down to you? Then this program, in collaboration with the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, may be of interest. In this program we will discuss textiles as family heirlooms and their connection to family history along with a series of care and handling tips for preserving historic textiles.

FTxR 2021 Membership Benefits

Photograph Reproductions

Each 2021 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Send your requests to:
Photo.Reference@houstontx.gov

Texas Room Hours

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 – 4:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 4:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 4:00

Friday: 10:00 – 4:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 4:00

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.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM POLICIES

The FTxR policies relate 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 FTxR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTxR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTxR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTxR 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.

2022 Board of Directors:

President: Mister McKinney

Vice President: Susan Teich

Secretary: **Open Position**

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Jim Bailey, Nancy Burch, Anthony Cavender, J.J. Gonzalez, Carol Haddock, Rebecca Harris, Jeff Lindemann, and George Slaughter

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 lindemann@SBCglobal.net.

FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM

2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year: 1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022

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:** _____

2022 Call For Entries



Julia Ideson Award

**Houston Public Library
Friends of the Texas
Room**

Deadline: May 1, 2022

This is a call for entries for the annual Julia Ideson Award sponsored by the Friends of the Texas Room at the Houston Public Library. The award commemorates the Houston Public Library's first director, Julia Bedford Ideson (1885-1945), and it recognizes distinguished projects that document Houston and Texas history and culture.

THE RESOURCES OF THE LIBRARY'S TEXAS ROOM/HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER MUST BE USED, TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT, IN THE CREATION OF THE ENTRY.

In 2022, the call for entries is for published books documenting Houston and Texas history and culture.

The Julia Ideson Award and a prize of \$500.00 will be presented to the winner by the Friends of the Texas Room at its annual meeting on October 31st, 2022. For additional information, visit www.friendsofthetexasroom.org or contact Anthony B. Cavender at Anthony.cavender@pillsburylaw.com (713-276-7656).

Eligibility: A book based scholarly research completed within the past five years (2014-2019) documenting local Houston and/or Texas history and culture USING THE RESOURCES OF THE HOUSTON METROPOLITAN RESEARCH CENTER SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUSIVELY.

2022 Entries: As described above.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH EACH ENTRY:

1. Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of the person submitting the entry/nomination.
2. Name, address, telephone number and e-mail of the person(s) or organization responsible for the project, if not the nominator.
3. Briefly describe the entry.
4. LIST THE SPECIFIC RESOURCES OF THE TEXAS ROOM / HMRC USED IN THE PROJECT AND HOW SUCH RESOURCES WERE UTILIZED.
5. Explain how the project contributes to a better understanding of local or Texas history/culture.
6. Submit **three copies** of the entry.

Submission:

Entries must be submitted in the name of the person(s) or organization responsible for executing the project. Submitting an entry constitutes agreement to the terms of eligibility and also serves as agreement that the Friends of the Texas Room may publicize the award and accompanying details about the recipient(s). **All physical entries become the property of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.**

Send entries to:

Friends of the Texas Room
P.O. Box 27827
Houston, TX 77227-7827

Previous Recipients of the Julia Ideson Award:

- 2021 Sandra Lord and Debe Branning, authors of *Ghosts of Market Square Park* (The History Press, 2020).
- 2020 No award.
- 2019 No award.
- 2018 Dr. Edwin C. Breeden's thesis, *Educational Politics and the Making of School Desegregation Policy in Houston, Texas*.
- 2017 Tyina Steptoe, author of *Houston Bound: Culture and Color in a Jim Crow City* (University of California Press, 2017).
- 2016 Jim Bailey & Kimberly B. Lykins, Texas Foundation for the Arts, *Post Oak Boulevard, A Texas Legacy*, (2016).
- 2015 Barrie Scardino Bradley, author of *Houston's Hermann Park: A Century of Community* (Texas A & M University Press, 2014).
- 2014 No award.
- 2013 Dr. Brian Behnken, author of *Fighting Their Own Battles: Mexican Americans, African Americans, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Texas* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2011).
- 2012 Michael Vance, *HAM Slices, vol. 2: Vignettes of Houston History* (Produced by Houston Arts and Media, 2012).
- 2011 Steven R. Strom, author of *Houston Lost and Unbuilt* (University of Texas Press, 2010).
- 2010 Suzanne Turner and Joanne Seale Wilson, co-authors of *Houston's Silent Garden: Glenwood Cemetery, 1871-2009* (Texas A & M University Press, 2009).
- 2009 Michael R. Boston Jr., author of *Labor, Civil Rights and the Hughes Tool Company* (Texas A & M University Press, 2005).