

2009 Book Sale a Success Thank you Friends! Volunteers and Shoppers!

The 31st Annual Bargain Book Sale, held April 17-19 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, started out on what had to be one of the worst days of 2009. The rain poured and the streets flooded, but 400 Friends members came to the Preview sale on Friday, April 17. Of the 63 volunteers who had signed up to work at the sale, 55 made it to the George R. Brown. Thank you!

Despite the atrocious weather we had a fabulous sale, over 57,000 books were sold and we raised over \$84,000 for the Houston Public Library. Bag day, Sunday, was one of our most successful ever.

We are already planning for 2010, with thousands of books at truly bargain prices. We look forward to seeing you there!

SAVE THE DATE
32nd Annual Bargain Book Sale
April 23 – 25th, 2010

Warehouse Volunteers Needed!



Have you been thinking about getting involved with a local nonprofit or charity? Are you a student needing community service hours? Are you part of a club or group interested in volunteering for a worthy cause? If so, the Friends wants YOU!

We've recently reorganized our book warehouse at 6510 W. Little York. We've cleaned it and provided more work space. Now what we really need are more volunteers!

The Houston Public Library has undertaken several renovation projects, as well as building entirely new libraries to replace three existing facilities. And when that happens, the library takes the opportunity to "clean house" by discarding old books that are worn or aren't as popular as they once were. And the Friends get the discarded books! We'll sort, price, and repack them for sale at our Annual Bargain Book Sale or the Children's Sale. The proceeds go back to the Houston Public Library.

Currently we have volunteers all day Saturday and on Wednesday evenings after work. We could use more volunteers on either of those days, and we'd love to have enough to schedule an additional day or evening.

For more information, visit our web site, www.friendsofhpl.org. Or email or call our office (info@friendsofhpl.org, 832-393-1387. Rhonda will be glad to give you the scoop on the fun and benefits of becoming a Friends volunteer.



Among Friends

A Publication of The Friends of the Houston Public Library

SUMMER 2009

BEST CHILDREN'S SALE EVER IS COMING



for the sale." That means they've recycled books that are out of date or in poor condition, saving the very best for our Children's Sale customers. If you visited the children's area at the Annual Sale, you'll understand what that means. There were only 55 books remaining at the end of the sale. At this sale all books will be \$1 or \$2. Come expecting a treasure trove of great books, including more than 1,500 foreign language books for children, and you won't be disappointed.

Here is a sampling of what you'll find:

PARENTS

Check the Parenting/Education section for general advice on child rearing or for answers to specific questions. To start your students off right, check out our special section of board books for baby.

HOME SCHOOLERS

Stock up on everything you need for a terrific school year! You'll find information on learning styles or gems to help create that unit on poetry, Texas history, world cultures, or whatever's on your list. Just ask!

TEACHERS

Books for that holiday unit, a set of encyclopedias for the classroom, books to cut up for projects or bulletin boards, award books, books for English-language learners, easy readers. Some books are even brand new – enrich your classroom without un-riching your wallet!

CHILDREN

Obsessed with series books? We have them. Learning to read on your own? We have fiction and nonfiction in both easy and early readers, and chapter books for all ages. Love to draw, paint, or

experiment? Find exciting how-to books and stun your friends with your new skills and talents!

YOUNG ADULTS

Reading for pleasure? Reading to learn? Our topics run the gamut from Twilight (yes, we have a few) to Twain. This year we'll have more graphic novels than ever before. But come early – these books usually sell out the first day.

Sound tempting? We hope so. Tell your friends, family, co-workers, nieces and nephews (and their teachers), and be sure to come early. At \$1 and \$2 you'll be sure to find a load of books you love. But don't worry – we'll help you get them to the car so you can hurry home and curl up with a great read.

Want to get a sneak preview and even take home some FREE books? Come volunteer at the warehouse on a Saturday morning. Call Rhonda Ortale at the Friends office, 832-393-1387, to find out more. She'll take your name and give you more information and directions to our warehouse at 6510 W. Little York.



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SUMMER 2009

The Friends is excited to announce the best Children's Book Sale ever! It's in a new location and it's going to be bigger and better than ever. The sale will be held at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church on September 25, 26 and 27.

After nine great years being hosted by Jim Hundermer and his staff at Doris Miller Center, HISD announced this summer that the facility will be closed before school starts.

But we found a new site, the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, just a few blocks from Doris Miller, at 2025 W. 11th Street, Houston 77008. That's near the intersection of T.C. Jester and W. 11th and easily reached from I-10 or the 610 Loop. And the parking lot is huge and free!

Children's Sale Chair Jan Mitchell Johnson says that for the past 12 months she and her volunteers have been "seriously upping the quality of books

SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

We've set the date for the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Houston Public Library. It will be held on Thursday, October 22, at Program Place, the new meeting room on the fourth floor of the Central Library. We'll present Library Director Rhea Brown Lawson with our annual gift to the Houston Public Library.

Our speaker will be David Welling, author of *Cinema Houston: From Nickelodeon to Megaplex*. It chronicles a century of movie theaters in Houston, includ-

ing the Majestic, the Metropolitan, and Loew's State, which some of you may remember, and the River Oaks and the Alabama, still intact but endangered. The book will be for sale and the author will be available for autographing. And there'll be drinks and refreshments.

So mark the date, October 22, and look for more program details and the exact time in the next issue of our newsletter.

**Friends of the
Houston Public Library
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2009**

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President's Report

Hello Friends,

Following our 31st Annual Bargain Book Sale – a success in spite of terrible weather - the Friends' board thought we could sit back and relax until the Children's Sale in September. Not so! It has turned out to be a busy and stressful summer for the Friends.

First, our warehouse manager, Don Gray, resigned from that position. Don has been a part of all of our 31 sales and in charge at the warehouse for almost as long. I appointed two board members to fill his shoes – Monica Ortale and Jan Mitchell Johnson. They and many volunteers spent the early summer cleaning and reorganizing the warehouse.

Then we learned that the Houston Public Library is embarking on a huge weeding project to make room for new materials in the libraries that are being renovated or rebuilt. So hard on the heels of the reorganization came weeks of frantic book sorting and packing for our next sales and to make room for the unusual number of books we'll be getting. If you have ever considered volunteering at our warehouse, it is now a much lighter, cleaner place to work, and we really need your help. Please call Rhonda at 832-393-1387 if you or a group you belong to can give some time to the Friends!

Next, we learned that HISD will close Doris Miller Center just before our Children's Sale, which was scheduled to be held there. We have scrambled to find another site. We've finally found a good one at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church and hope to see you there.

On the good news side, we've elected two new board members – Jan Mitchell Johnson and Adrienne Cobb. We also elected new officers. William M. Nix will serve as treasurer and Sandy Clough will be secretary. Jennifer Bryant remains as Vice President, and Diane Durbin is completing her final year as president. We also said goodbye to two retiring board members, Elizabeth Smith, who served for 10 years and who remains as a valuable warehouse volunteer, and Phyllis Bailey, who served for two years.

And we settled on a date and speaker for our Annual Meeting, where we will present our annual gift to the library. It will be on Oct. 22 at Program Place, Central Library. Our speaker will be David Welling, author of *Cinema Houston: From Nickelodeon to Megaplex*, a book that chronicles a century of movie going and movie theaters in Houston.

Stay tuned for more excitement from the Friends. Please plan to be an active Friends member in the coming year – in these tough economic times the Houston Public Library needs our dollars more than ever.



A Special Thank You to Our Members

The mission of the Friends of the Houston Public Library is to foster among the general public and its members greater recognition, use and support of the Houston Public Library. All fund raising and other activities are directed toward achieving the mission. Our members are the most important component of the Friends. Without them we could not carry out our mission. Special thanks go out to all our members. Recognized below are members who have made significant financial contributions to the Friends.

PATRONS - \$100-250

Sherry Adams
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Appel
Jennifer Bryant & Andrew A. Layman
Richard & Kathleen Davis
Karen Deakin
Mr. & Mrs. William O. Emde
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Fossler
M. J. Figard
Gayle Goddard
Doug Havlik & Barbara Gehrig
Karleen Koen
Harriet Latimer
Ms. Alison J. Mason
Claire Noll
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Nunnally
Monica Ortale
Mary Ann Polhemus
Sarah & Ben Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Hershel Rich
Patti Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. W. Ronald Robins
Matthew & Ellen Simmons
Ms. Cassie B. Stinson
Susan & Paul R. Straub II
Mary & James Thomas

BENEFACTORS - \$250-\$500

Joan & Sanford Alexander
Susan Bischoff
Charles Fuller
Cathryn Rodd Selman
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Tallorine, Jr.

SUSTAINING BENEFACTORS - \$500 and Up

Bob & Anne S. Baillio
Diane Durbin & Hans Olsen
The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation
Elise Reynolds

Friends Scholarships Awarded

Ruby Robinson and Allen Westrick, employees at HPL's Central Library, were awarded Friends of the Library Employee Scholarships at the June meeting. They will pursue master's degrees in library science. The scholarships are for \$5,000 and cover about half the tuition for a typical master's degree program.

Robinson, a library service specialist in teen programming at the Central Library, has already begun her master's program. She creates a monthly e-newsletter that shares her love of comic books and manga, and planned and implemented a film festival and judged over 100 film entries from teens in the Houston area. She plans to continue working with young adults.

Westrick coordinates outreach for the Central Programming and Outreach Team as a library service specialist and is a member of the Outreach Training Team. He expects to prepare for a wide array of library positions.

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Houston Public Library voted to award the scholarships based on the recommendation of a panel that included board members Elizabeth Smith and Monica Ortale and HPL's Northwest District Manager Mary Wagoner.

The Friends scholarship program, started in 1992, provides scholarships to library employees who wish to become professional librarians.

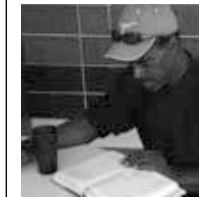
Friends Recognized for Recycling

The Friends of the Houston Public Library has been recognized for recycling in 2008. A Certificate of Recognition for Recycling Excellence was presented to the Friends by Greenstar North America, the country's largest private processor of recyclables.

The Friends partners with Greenstar for recycling. Greenstar provides recycling containers, and picks up and processes recyclable materials. Greenstar was also a significant financial supporter of the Friends in 2008.

According to the certificate presented by Greenstar, the Friends recycled 28.96 paper tons. That translates to conservation savings of 493 trees; 202,720 gallons of water; 1,736.6 lbs. of air pollution; 118,736 kW hours of electricity; and 96.6 cubic yards of landfill space.

Friends Supply Books to Homeless Shelter



Houston's homeless population now has access to a supply of reading materials thanks to a partnership between the Friends of the Houston Public Library and the Beacon, a program that provides day shelter, meals, and other services to the homeless of Houston and Harris County.

The Beacon, a project of CHOM (Cathedral Health and Outreach Ministries), serves approximately 525 homeless clients daily, and sometimes reaches as many as 800.

The Friends has agreed to supply books in many literary genres on a monthly basis to the Beacon's homeless shelter. Volunteers from the Beacon come to the Friends warehouse on West Little York at least once a month to pick up boxes of books that sorters have set aside for them. The Friends are now finding a "home" for good books that would not have been salable due to wear, age, or other factors. These books would have been recycled prior to the new agreement with the Beacon.

The Beacon program began on an experimental basis in mid-June. It proved to be so successful that the Cathedral Clinic, another CHOM project that provides medical, counseling, and psychiatric services to women and children on a daily basis, asked if we could add children's books to the donation. The Friends agreed, so children's books in English and Spanish are now included. Workers and volunteers are urging children to take home a favorite book when they visit the clinic.

Although the Friends first priority is to raise money for the Houston Public Library, it also supports literacy by donating books whenever possible to other nonprofit organizations serving Houston citizens.

Attention Classroom Teachers



The Friends of the Houston Public Library may have just the reading or curriculum resources you've been looking for. We have a classroom set of the middle-school title, *Secrets of the Andes*. We also have classroom sets of *Riding the Bus with My Sister*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *A Lesson before Dying*.

In addition, we now have a donation room. That's where we store books that aren't popular sale items but are still serviceable for teachers and

others. Examples of the kinds of books available are books about the states or foreign countries, biographies, and other titles that were bought to focus on the typical school curriculum. We sometimes have old encyclopedias available, or books or magazines that students could cut up for projects.

Call or email Rhonda Ortale (info@friendsofhpl.org or 832-393-1387) for more information. We'd be glad to welcome you to our warehouse at 6510 W. Little York, to have a look. That's the intersection of Bingle Rd. and W. Little York in the Chase Bank building. We're there every Saturday beginning about 9 am, but it's always a good idea to call before you come. The warehouse number is 713-849-9330.

Grocery Shopping and the Friends

Are you reading that headline and asking yourself, "What do the Friends have to do with my grocery store?" Well...do you have a Kroger Plus Card or a Randalls Remarkable Card? If your card is linked to the Friends' account, every time you use them you are contributing to the support of the Houston Public Library without spending any extra money. Both Kroger and Randalls give us a percent of purchases made using customer cards linked to the Friends' account number. That can mean several hundred to several thousand dollars for the Friends each year.

Randalls gives the Friends one percent of members' total grocery purchases when they link their Remarkable Card to the Friends' account. Our Randalls account number is 2508. Just go to your Randalls store's courtesy counter and fill out a Good Neighbor Charity form or ask them to link account number 2508 to your card. Randalls keeps track of purchases of all customers linked to that account number. At the end of the year, they'll send a check to the Friends for one percent of the total.

Kroger will give nonprofits and charities \$1 million this year. The Friends will receive a percentage of that \$1 million equal to the percentage of total earned contributions linked to our account number. That means organizations with many members linked to their account will earn more than those with fewer members who have linked their charity of choice to their Kroger Plus Card. Just take the barcode printed below to your local Kroger. You may also call or email the Friends' office, 832-393-1387 or info@friendsofhpl.org and ask for a copy of the official letter containing the barcode. At checkout, ask the clerk to scan in the barcode and your Kroger Plus Card. You'll then be enrolled for the rest of the year. The Friends will receive a check in May 2010 for the amount our members have contributed. Kroger requires customers to re-enroll each year.



Diana Morales



Diana Morales, the Houston Public Library's Chief of Materials Selection, died unexpectedly on May 20. Diana was a longtime supporter of the Friends. In addition to contributing to the Friends, she volunteered at almost

every annual and children's sale. She volunteered at our April sale in spite of very bad weather and after working all week. Diana often did face painting and tattoos for the youngsters who attended the children's sale with their parents. She teamed with

fellow librarian Donna Joy Press, and together they delighted not only the children, but also their parents who were able to shop knowing their children were occupied and enjoying themselves.

Born in New Gulf, TX, Diana had been a resident of Houston for most of her life and had worked at many of HPL's branches and as a regional manager. She was an invaluable source of information about the library and the neighborhoods they served, and was especially knowledgeable about the Hispanic community. One of her library-related activities was REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. Diana was ac-

tive in both the national organization and the Arriba Chapter, representing southeast Texas. She had attended a mini-conference in New York that included REFORMA and other library groups representing ethnic minorities less than a week before her death.

The Friends of the Houston Public Library is honored to be one of two groups designated by Diana's family to receive memorial donations in her honor. The other is the Julia Ideson Staff Fund. Like the rest of the library family, the Friends will miss Diana's friendly presence and her contributions to the Houston Public Library and to her community.