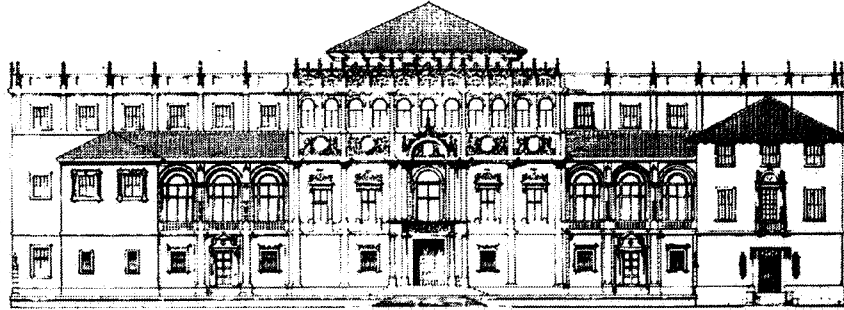


Among Friends



NEWS ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF THE HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
DECEMBER 2006

If You Give a Friend a Membership...

*(with apologies to Laura Numeroff**)*

If you're reading this newsletter, you are probably a member of the Friends.

If you're a member of the Friends, you probably read a lot.

If you read a lot, you probably give books as gifts.

If you often give books as gifts, you probably spend a lot of time choosing the "right" book.

If you spend time choosing books, you could save time by giving a friend a membership in the Friends of the Houston Public Library.

If you give a friend a membership, your friend will probably call you and want to go to the Annual Bargain Book Sale Members' Preview Night.

If you go to the Book Sale, you will probably both find lots of the "right" books.

If you and your Friend both find the "right" books, you know you've given a great gift and helped support the Houston Public Library.

If you've given such a great gift, you'll probably both want to do it again.

If you both do it again, you'll both be supporting Houston Public Library in an important way and having fun, too.

Give it a try! A gift membership to the Friends of the Houston Public Library makes a great Christmas gift. The Friends helps support the library by providing money for programming at the branches, supporting the Summer Reading Program, funding staff development and training, funding Employee Recognition Day, and providing scholarships for library employees.

As an individual member, just \$20, your friend will receive our quarterly newsletter, *Among Friends*, and a Member's Preview Sale Pass to the Annual Book Sale. Members at the Patron level, \$100, and above also receive a thank-you in our newsletter and additional Member's Preview Passes for colleagues, family and friends.

Chances are you've renewed your own membership by responding to the renewal notice sent out in October. But if you haven't, this would be a good time. Call the Friends office at 832-393-1387 for a membership form.

***If you attend our 29th Annual Bargain Book Sale on April 20, 21, and 22, chances are you'll find books by Laura Numeroff, as well as dozens more delightful picture books, in our Children's section.*

BARGAIN BOOK SALE

Benefiting the Houston Public Library

April 20, 21 & 22 — 2007

at the

George R. Brown Convention Center

Volunteers very gladly accepted now.

832-393-1387

info@friendsofhpl.org

www.friendsofhpl.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ON 2006 AND INTO 2007

Another eventful year for the Friends of the Houston Public Library is drawing to a close and 2007 promises to be an exciting time as well.

Early in the year, we learned that our big event, the Annual Bargain Book Sale, would be moved from March to May due to Hurricane Katrina and evacuees seeking shelter in the George R. Brown. One of the good things that happened to the Friends as a result of the hurricane was the opportunity to supply thousands of books for the temporary library the Houston Public Library set up in the GRB. There were even story times for youngsters provided by our librarians.

Because the sale was so late, our financial review was also delayed

and we were not able to determine the amount of our annual gift to the library in time for the traditional Annual Meeting. On completion of this review, we voted to give a gift of \$60,000 to the library, with \$500 designated for each branch and the remainder of the money to be used by the library at their discretion. The check was presented to Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, Director of the Houston Public Library, at the annual joint meeting of the Library Board and the Friends early in December.

We're ending the year on a high note. In addition to presenting our gift to the library, there have been several other outstanding events. In September, we held the 6th Annual Children's Book Sale and raised

over \$11,000 for the library. Dozens of volunteers helped make it a big success.

In October the Board of Directors voted to give \$10,000, made available through a generous grant by the John P. McGovern Foundation, to support the library's yearlong teen literacy initiative. Part of this was the *Hip Hop Café Festival*, a celebration that topped off a week of events marking Teen Read Week. There will be three more teen literacy events next year.

We're looking forward to a great year for the Houston Public Library and the Friends in 2007. The renovation of the Central Library is moving along and when it's finished in about two years, there will be increased opportunities for Friends volunteers.

We've sent out membership renewal notices and have already had a good response. If you haven't renewed yet, now is the time to do it when you're thinking about those year-end tax-deductible contributions.

We've begun serious planning for the 29th Annual Bargain Book Sale. Our first goal for 2007 is to have the most successful sale ever. We'd like to be able to make a record-breaking gift to the library in 2007. That will take a lot of commitment and hard work from all of us.

Thanks to all of you, the members of the Friends of the Houston Public Library, for helping us support the library in 2006. With more than 4 million visitors each year, and exceptional service to all of those patrons, the library needs and deserves our support. Let's all resolve to help increase our membership and our involvement next year so we can help build the library our citizens deserve.

FRIENDS' ANNUAL GIFT TO HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

President Diane Durbin presented Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, Director of the Houston Public Library, with a check for \$60,000 at a joint meeting of the Library Board and the Friends on December 7.

The annual gift included \$500 for each branch library, as well as for the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, better known as the Texas Room, the Clayton Center for Genealogical Research, and the Chil-

dren's Room of the Central Library. The remainder of the money is to be used at the library's discretion. In the past, Friends gifts have supported programming, particularly the Summer Reading Program, staff development and training, and Employee Recognition Day.

In addition to their annual gift, the Friends also fund scholarships through the proceeds from their book sales.

THANK YOU, MCGOVERN FOUNDATION

A special thank-you goes to the John P. McGovern Foundation from the Friends of the Houston Public Library. The \$10,000 they awarded us allowed us to help fund HPL's teen literacy project, the Hip Hop

Café series. Both HPL and the McGovern Foundation are committed to projects that enhance the quality of life for children and families in Houston.

