



Among Friends

A PUBLICATION OF
THE FRIENDS OF THE HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 2008

F R I E N D S

Save the date:

*2009 Annual Bargain Book Sale
at the George R. Brown Conven-
tion Center: April 17-19.*

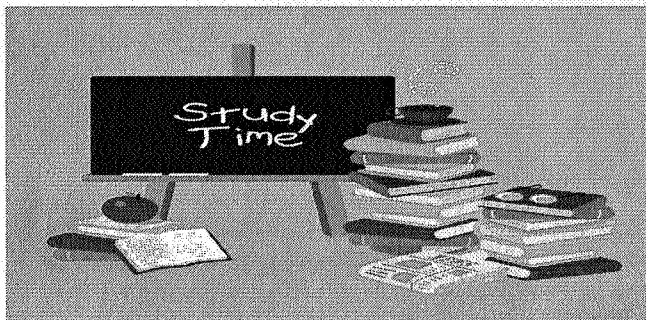
Friends Annual

Meeting: originally sched-
uled for Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008 had
to be cancelled due to Hurricane
Ike.

2008 Children's Book Sale:

The Friends had a very successful CBS this year at Central Library Aug. 8-10. Our earlier date coincided with the end of summer reading program for the Library. We reached a brand new audience and saw many old friends as well. As usual we must thank our many very dedicated volunteers who give of their time. The Houston Public Library, one of our sponsors for this sale, invited us to Central Library on the Concourse Level for our book sale. The library was a fun place to be with many activities and mascots. We loved being a part of this fun day and to share with Houston families a love of libraries, books and reading. It was a great place to have the Children's sale! Hope to see many of you there next year.

NEWS FLASH: Another Children's Book Sale is on the agenda for **Friday, November 7, Saturday, November 8, and Sunday, November 9.** Please come and see us at the Doris Miller Center for this encore edition sale. We will have a good selection of books, a-v materials and book sets for teachers as well as foreign language materials. Check our web site for up to date information at www.friendsofhpl.org. Come and see us!





President's Report

I hope that by the time this issue of *Among Friends* arrives in your mailbox all our members have recovered or are well on the way to recovery from Hurricane Ike. Almost everyone in Houston and the surrounding area suffered consequences ranging from minor to catastrophic from our unwelcome visitor.

For the Friends, the major casualty was our Annual Meeting. Invitations were to be finalized and printed just about the time Ike hit, and the meeting was scheduled for October 9. Our speaker was to have been Prof. T. Gerald Treece, law professor at South Texas College of Law and host of KHOU's popular Legal Journal on This Morning Saturday Edition. Due to the hurricane, deadlines for printing, mailing, ordering food and other preparations could not be met, and there was no other recourse than cancelling the meeting.

Our annual gift to the library, discussed elsewhere in this issue, will be made at the Friends November board meeting. The amount of the gift was announced to Houston Public Library employees at the First Annual Staff Development Day, held Monday, October 13..

If anything good came from Ike's visit, it was neighbor helping neighbor, and the staff of HPL proved to be a great neighbor to their fellow citizens and city employees. At the Central Library and several branches that reopened immediately after the hurricane, HPL staff was on hand in meeting rooms turned into Hurricane Ike Assistance Rooms to help citizens apply for FEMA aid or for temporary roofs through the U.S. Army Corp of Engineer's Blue Roof Program. In addition, the Mobile Express, HPL's computer lab on wheels, went

to parking lots of libraries in neighborhoods with no power so citizens could use wireless resources, supported by Verizon, to apply for assistance. Finally, HPL staff provided child care at the Central Library for city employees who needed to return to work before power was restored or schools and daycare facilities reopened.

Aside from the disappointment of cancelling our Annual Meeting, the Friends of the Houston Public Library can celebrate a successful year. We held two successful book sales, finalized a recycling agreement and sponsorship with Vista Fibers for disposal of books and magazines we are unable to sell, and will hold a third book sale on November 7, 8, and 9 at HISD's Doris Miller Center. We're calling it Children's Book Sale – Second Edition. So many high-quality children's books have come in since our August Children's Sale that space at the warehouse became an issue. Many teachers, who hadn't yet returned to their classrooms, missed the first sale so we decided to have a Children's Book Sale – Second Edition. We are gratified that so many of our loyal volunteers have agreed to come out for a second time to help make this sale as big a success as the one in August.

We have also revised our scholarship application guidelines for HPL employees who wish to become professional librarians. Beginning in January, the amount of the scholarship will be raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000 – approximately half the total tuition for most professional degree programs. Our minigrant program for neighborhood libraries, part of our 2007 gift, provided money for programming for 10 libraries through a competitive selection

