Friends Forecast

Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas

Spring 2010

Laura W. Bush, former U.S. and Texas First Lady, dedicated the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, the headquarters of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), as a national Literary Landmark, Thursday, December 3, 2009. **SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3.**

Houston Endowment Challenge a Success!

Capital Campaign Moves Forward, Upward

One year ago the Houston Endowment issued a challenge to the Friends—raise $3 million by March 2010, and the Endowment would grant $500,000 to complete the first phase of the Capital Campaign for the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building. As daunting as that seemed, we knew we were already more than half way there. With your help, we succeeded!

Your outpouring of support—individual friends, organizations, businesses, foundations, and a boost from the Texas Legislature, enabled us to meet the challenge. These funds mean that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission can complete the purchase and installation of all shelving and furniture (see "Come and See It!" by Peggy D. Rudd).

With excitement and enthusiasm we move forward to the Campaign's next phase. We are committed to creating a 21st Century library and archives for the people of Texas. Fundraising will go toward specialized imaging equipment, custom exhibit cases to display the Archives' Treasures—maps, documents, flags, and artifacts that tell the story of Texas—and systems to enhance their security.

Help us reach the $5 million mark! Contact Development Director Charlotte McCann at (512) 936-2505, or at cmccann@tsl.state.tx.us to become involved.

Come and See It!

It's not every day that a library makes it into the industry publication *Texas Construction*, but there we are in the February/March 2010 issue in an article entitled "Spotlight On Renovation."

From the Texas State Capitol, one can look east and see the newly refurbished bronze doors of the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library building gleaming in the midday sun. Glass walls now frame the lobby of the building, once described by a long-time Senator as a "tomb," and the area is open to natural light that showcases the stunning wall mural depicting the panoply of Texas history. New furniture graces public service areas. The light in the lobby ceiling sparkles. To the casual observer, it appears that the building has always looked this way. But those of us who have lived in this building under construction for the past two years have witnessed the transformation firsthand. And the result is a lovely sight to behold!

By mid-April all furniture and shelving will have been delivered and installed. Staff located in a temporary off-site facility will return to the Zavala building, and staff temporarily located in spaces in the Zavala building will settle into their new "homes" in early May. Library and archival collections have already started returning to the building, and this massive "migration" will continue through May.

We are so excited at the prospect of having the renovation completed and having a fully functional building soon

See COME/SEE page 4

Small Libraries – Big Service

Small public libraries in Texas may be small in size, but they offer big benefits to their communities. A perfect example is the Cross Plains Public Library that was just named a 2010 finalist for *Library Journal*'s "Best Small Library in America" award co-sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Library director Linda Burns was honored at a dinner at the national Public Library Association Conference in Portland, Oregon, on March 25th. In her award letter praising the library, Jill Nishi, Deputy Director of the Foundation's U.S. Libraries Program, said this about the Cross Plains Public Library:

Peggy D. Rudd

In the midst of challenging economic times, Cross Plains Public Library has managed to raise a majority of its operating funds to expand space and services – a testament to its value in the community. The library works to ensure that its public computers and Internet connections – the only library services of this nature within a 20-mile radius – are well-supported and can meet growing public demand. Its innovative and ambitious "Meet the Author" program exemplifies how library programming can bring residents together to strengthen the community.

We congratulate Linda, her staff, and volunteers for their invaluable contribution to their community and for achieving national recognition for their efforts.

Another example is the Coleman County Public Library, which I had the pleasure to visit recently to celebrate the library's 125th birthday. Public school students in the county are issued a personal laptop in 4th grade, and when school lets out in the afternoon, students flood the library to use its Wi-Fi network to do homework, write papers, and access electronic resources. The library is a beehive of activity with people of all ages using computers, browsing well-stocked shelves of books and other materials, and thumbing through magazines and newspapers. And it's not unusual to see customers with a hot cup of coffee in their hands, courtesy of the library. The environment is warm, welcoming, and comfortable, and library director Sue Dossey, her staff, and volunteers make everyone who enters feel right at home.

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the Eden Public Library gave a "valentine" to their community in the form of a reception to thank them for contributing to the fund to renovate the library and create a beautiful new meeting room space. Pink and red hearts abounded, and the crowd on hand reveled in the newly renovated library, which occupies space in the heart of downtown Eden. But all "partying" aside, what people were really celebrating was their library and the good work that library director Deanna Beaver and her staff and volunteers do to bring their library to life for the people they serve.

The communities served by these libraries are small, but the libraries are big in every way that counts!

Peggy

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Enjoying well-deserved recognition at the PLA Conference in Portland were, left to right, Judy Luter, Cross Plains board president, Ginny Hoskins, board member, Jill Nishi of the Gates Foundation, Linda Burns, Cross Plains director, and Wilma Lawrence, board member.

Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas

www.texaslibraryfriends.org

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About the Friends

The Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas is a nonprofit organization that supports the work of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the efforts of local library friends groups around the state.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission is the state agency that improves Texas library services and preserves and makes accessible the official history and records of Texas government.

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Laura Bush Honors TSLAC Building as Literary Landmark

On a crisp, cool but sunny day in December, Laura W. Bush, former U.S. and Texas First Lady, stood on the porch of the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin and dedicated the building as Texas' fourth national Literary Landmark. About 300 people–local and statewide media, and many dignitaries turned out for the ceremony on Dec. 3, 2009.

Other Literary Landmark designees are the O. Henry House and Museum in Austin (1999); the Menger Hotel in San Antonio (2000); and the Katherine Anne Porter Home in Kyle (2002). The Texas Center for the Book nominated the de Zavala building, and The Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas made the application for landmark status to the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF) based on the work of three authors who used materials from the Texas State Archives for their research: James Michener, author of *Texas*; Jack "Jaxon" Jackson, author and illustrator of graphic novels on Texas history; and Walter Prescott Webb, author of *The Texas Rangers*.

"Visitors from around the world can appreciate the treasures at the Texas State Library and Archives that have been made available here," said Mrs. Bush. "From the papers of Stephen F. Austin, the father of Texas, to Travis' letter from the Alamo, to the Matamoros Battalion flag captured at the battle of San Jacinto, the archives provide a window into Texas history."

After the 30-minute ceremony, everyone was invited into the newly-renovated lobby for refreshments and a special exhibit highlighting the work of the three authors.

For more pictures, please visit www.tsl.state.tx.us/literarylandmark/index.html.

State Archivist, Chris LaPlante, Retires After 35 Years of Service

Staff at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission bid a fond farewell to Chris LaPlante, who retired after 35 years of state service on August 31, 2009. Chris began his career with TSLAC as a processing archivist and became Director of Archives and Information Services in 1985. Chris accomplished many great things in his tenure including fighting to retain Texas Governor papers in the public domain and recovery of stolen documents from the State Archives. Chris' professionalism, knowledge and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

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- ❑ Texas Trail Driver $1,000+
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- ❑ Texas Pioneer $100+
- ❑ Other $ _____

*** Donate to the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas $10 million Capital Campaign! Your gift of $25 or more includes a one-year Friends membership.*

Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas keeps all personal information private and does not share members' phone numbers, mailing addresses or e-mail addresses with third parties. Friends promotes and advocates the statewide services and collections of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. We foster the development and growth of local groups in support of local libraries and archives in Texas. Friends fundraises to expand the services and collections of the Texas State Library & Archives Commission and supports the efforts of its staff. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Make your check payable to:

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PO Box 12983, Austin, TX 78711
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www.texaslibraryfriends.org

New Friends Web Site is Up!

We are excited to report that the redesigned Friends Website is up and running! It can be viewed at www.texaslibraryfriends.org. The new site emphasizes the Capital Campaign, is more interactive, and will facilitate membership-building and campaign outreach to the public.

The Friends thank Silent Partners, Inc. for their Web design services, and the expert staff of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, for turning that design into a fully accessible Web site. Please let us know what you think!

Friends News & Notes

Friends Annual Membership Meeting & Program at TLA 2010

"You've Got a Friend: When Do You Really Need a Friends Group" is the title of the Friends' program for the 2010 annual membership meeting in San Antonio on Wednesday, April 14 at 2 pm.

Speakers include library development consultant Michael Bacon of bacon lee & associates, and Mary Beth Harrington of the Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations. The presentations will cover the nuts & bolts of establishing library Friends organizations.

Still unconfirmed as we go to press, the Friends also hopes to host a book signing for David Gracy and his new book *The State Library and Archives of Texas–A History, 1835-1962*.

COME/SEE! from page 1

to share with the world. We have plans—BIG plans for regular programs, workshops, demonstrations, and other learning experiences that will help us begin our new century of service to Texas!

Many thanks to all of you who contributed and will continue to contribute to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and our work to be good stewards of the past and to lead information and library services into the future. (Read more about it at http://texas.construction.com/features/2010/0301_HistoricLandmark-1.asp.)

Peggy D. Rudd, Director and Librarian

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