Greetings from the President

Greetings, All,

This is our first newsletter since the May Friends Board elections. You will see a few changes, but most folks are still where you saw them listed last. Hats off to Trish McDaniel for her roles as Volunteer Chair, Events Coordinator, and Past President. Truthfully, the volunteers of the Friends are all eager to do whatever it takes to support the library.

We’ve said goodbye to Barbara Arnold, fiction bookshop pricer, who has left Galveston. Also, Jimmie Ward has stepped down from active service on the board after more than 30 years of leading hospitality projects.

Here’s a shout-out to our book donors. Because of you, we are able to offer a plethora of used books in great condition through the Friends Book Shop, online collections, Amazon sales, and the annual book sale. We appreciate your donations. All proceeds help support our beautiful library.

As we move toward autumn, we are all thinking book sale. October 3-5 is just a few weeks away. Remember, with your 2019 membership, you are entitled to attend the “pre-party” on Thursday for a first-go at purchasing. If you would like to volunteer to work a two-hour shift at the book sale, email Trish at mcdanielproperties@gmail.com or call or text (409)789-0603.

Happy shopping at the October sale and anytime you’re at the library. We appreciate your participation and support.

Best wishes,
Liz Perdue, President

Kudos to Jill Randall and Margaret Canavan (center photo) for their dedication to the book room and Amazon sales. Their work has translated into meaningful visibility and income streams for Friends. Jill also heads up Outreach.
**BEST LITTLE BOOKSHOP ON SEALY STREET**

The *Friends* Book Shop is a go-to place for gift purchases, whether the gift is for a book-loving friend or family member, or for a special treat for yourself. We offer wonderful collections of books, both fiction and nonfiction, in like-new or excellent condition, at bargain prices.

Each month we feature a new collection, themed to spark your interest and enrich your knowledge. This month we host an end-of-summer half-price sale to tempt you even further. Stock up on these books and fill your shelves with new and exciting reading materials, enough to last you until the Annual Book Sale in October.

Check out the sale cart near the circulation desk, as well. All purchases go toward new acquisitions for the library.

**FRIENDS ANNUAL BOOK SALE 2019**

Book Sale Chair, Helena Aucoin, is happy to announce that The Friends Annual Used Book Sale will be October 3-5. Thursday evening, October 3 from 5-8 is for members only. If you are currently not a 2019 member, now is the time to join. The times for the sale are Friday, October 4, 12-6 pm and Saturday, October 5, 10 am-4 pm. We have thousands of books, as well as CDs, DVDs and audio books. This year we also have many books from the Galveston & Texas History Center on books and printing of books, genealogy, and Texas. We will also have art prints, maps, old and collectible books, and, of course, fiction, art, history, cookbooks, nature, text books, literature, Galveston, Texana and many other genres. The proceeds for this sale benefit the library with new books and support of department programs. As you know, this sale is not possible without our volunteers, so please sign up for a shift before, during, and after the sale. If you are available and would like to volunteer, please contact Trish at mcdanielproperties@gmail.com or call or text (409)789-0603. We appreciate our friends and hope you will join us for this year’s annual book sale. Thanks for your support.
NEW DISPLAYS IN ADULT SERVICES

The Adult Services department acquired two free-standing displays in December, 2018. They quickly became integral to the department to showcase different parts of the collection to patrons. Three-tiered and about six feet long, they are the perfect size to show off 20 or more specialized books to tantalize patrons’ interests. They are located right at the top of the stairs to the second floor, next to the catalog computers and New Books section. Patrons can’t help but notice them in this high traffic area.

Themes to appeal to the patron are endless. For example, several of the bright pink harlequin romance novels were prominently displayed during February for romantic Valentine’s Day consumption. Not only did this garner the interest of the patrons, but several members of staff also had positive responses to the vivid display. At the beginning of summer, enticing beach reads with fun summery covers were displayed. Keeping the display stocked kept the Adult Services team on their toes! Even more difficult to keep stocked was the display on Galveston for June. The reference desk frequently gets questions about Galveston and the books we have on Galveston. With the display, we were able to compile a group of relevant books from different parts of our collection and have them in one easily accessible location for patrons to peruse.

Along with fun themes, the displays are also utilized for special monthly observances, such as Texas History Month in March or Asian American Pacific Heritage Month in May. Recently, with the passing of Toni Morrison, we have honored her memory by exhibiting some of her works. The displays continue to prove an attractive and wise investment to the department.

ADULT COLLECTIONS – NEW AND IMPROVING

There has been ongoing change in the adult collection, with much more to come! Ongoing weeding and subsequent shifting of the substantial nonfiction collection is nearing completion, making way for newer books to supplement and update what remains. Shelves freed up by the nonfiction shift will allow growth of our science fiction, mystery, and audio book collections, and additionally provide a home for the upcoming classics section. The new classics section will be packed with the classics of world literature, providing a great place to peruse some of our older bound works. The new classics section will be called, adult fiction classics (AFC) and will be recognizable by the spine labels marked as “fiction classics author”. Additionally, the completed shift will allow for our Spanish and oversized books collection to be placed before the nonfiction, allowing us to remove extra shelving and free up space for other possibilities. A new adult graphic novel (AGN) section has also been created with the hopes of consolidating graphic novels, both fiction and non-fiction, that were previously dispersed throughout the collection. The graphic novels are marked as “adult graphic novel author,” and are currently placed next to the Westerns.

Future projects will include a sticker and/or call number addition to books on Galveston history. These books will remain in their current Dewey Decimal places, but will hopefully be more easily recognizable to patrons fascinated with Galveston’s history.
Presented by
Rosenberg Library Special Collections

Discuss…
Eight Flavors: The Untold Story of American Cuisine
by Sarah Lohman
Discover…
Antique kitchen wares, historic recipes, vintage menus, and more

“Very cool…a breezy American culinary history that you didn’t know you wanted” (Bon Appetit) reveals a fascinating look at our past and uses long-forgotten recipes to explain how eight flavors changed how we eat.

The United States boasts a culturally and ethnically diverse population that makes for a continually changing culinary landscape. But a young historical gastronomist named Sarah Lohman discovered that American food is united by eight flavors: black pepper, vanilla, curry powder, chili powder, soy sauce, garlic, MSG, and Sriracha. In “a unique and surprising view of American history…richly researched, intriguing, and elegantly written” (The Atlantic), Lohman sets out to explore how these influential ingredients made their way to the American table.

She begins in the archives, searching through economic, scientific, political, religious, and culinary records. She pores over cookbooks and manuscripts, dating back to the eighteenth century, through modern standards like How to Cook Everything by Mark Bittman. Lohman discovers when each of these eight flavors first appear in American kitchens—then she asks why.

“A fresh, original perspective to American culinary history” (The Christian Science Monitor), Eight Flavors takes you on a journey through the past to tell us something about our present, and our future. We meet John Crowninshield a New England merchant who traveled to Sumatra in the 1790s in search of black pepper. And Edmond Albius, a twelve-year-old slave who lived on an island off the coast of Madagascar, who discovered the technique still used to pollinate vanilla orchids today. Weaving together original research, historical recipes, gorgeous illustrations, and Lohman’s own adventures both in the kitchen and in the field, Eight Flavors is a delicious treat—which “may make you hungry” (Bustle).

JOIN THE CLUB
Read the book individually, with friends, or as part of an established book club. Select and register for the discussion date below and participate in a hands-on, interactive discussion about the book and select items from the library’s museum and archival collections.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
MCCULLOUGH ROOM,
2nd FLOOR
CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES

2,172 kids enrolled in summer reading clubs

569 earned trophies

109 summer programs with 5,379 participants

Special thanks to Friends for their generous support of the Summer Reading Club.
THE FUTURE IS HERE WITH VIRTUAL REALITY

The Rosenberg Library has recently acquired two Oculus Rift headsets for use in various library programming. The virtual reality (VR) units are designed to be used by people from all walks of life, regardless of their past exposure to technology, making them a wonderful tool to use in programs regardless of age or intended audience. The headsets have been utilized in over 15 events and programs for both children and teens, and have been a huge success.

EDUCATIONAL GAMES IN THE CHILDREN’S DEPARTMENT

The Children’s Department (shown above) has included several educational games in concurrence with the 2019 Summer Reading Program’s theme: “A Universe of Stories,” including:

- NASA’s Exoplanet Excursions,
- BBC Home: A Virtual Reality Spacewalk,
- and the overwhelmingly popular Mission: ISS, where participants can explore the International Space Station as though they are astronauts themselves.

Virtual reality has been utilized within the architectural and healthcare industries. Architects harness the power of VR to walk through models of buildings to evaluate their designs, saving time and money. In healthcare, VR is used for applications such as diagnosis, surgery, rehab, and preventative medicine and education. Dental schools have promoted VR by allowing students to practice a range of common procedures that include applying fillings and other techniques to better their trade. Similarly, VR is used to educate patients on the effects of positive lifestyle choices through preventative medicine. The Library plans to have many more programs centered around the VR units, and is currently looking into what other potential the Oculus Rift headsets can bring to the library.

The Teen Summer programs (shown above) also took advantage of the VR units, using them once a week to play a variety of games, including the much-loved music-based workout Beat Saber and action packed iRobot-escape Robo Recall.
**1900 STORM VICTIMS WHO LIVED ON ONE BLOCK**

The best records of the 1900 Storm that systematically destroyed Galveston can be found in the library’s Galveston and Texas History Center. From these, we know that flood tides zigzagged along streets, collapsing houses and killing persons taking refuge inside them.

Many residents died along certain streets, such as Avenue O. The 1900 Storm Victim Database includes neighbors living on the 1700 block of Avenue O.

The following casualties are noted from this single street:

- **George Ormond**, 38 years old, was a railroad engineer. An English immigrant, he and his wife **Sarah Ormond**, age 36, lived at 1710 Avenue O. Their five children died. Sarah likely died with them, although her name went unrecorded. George remarried about 1902 according to the 1910 Galveston County census.

- **Fred Jansen**, age 50, a native of Denmark, was a ship’s cook. He, his wife Mary, and their five children resided at 1718 Avenue O. The entire family perished. Victim lists sometimes render the surname as “Gensen.”

- **Bessie Lees**, age 54, was a widow and an Irish immigrant. She boarded at 1719 Avenue O with the Ben C. Hill family. Although he died, Hill survived, being enumerated in the 1910 Galveston County census. He remarried about 1904.

- **Alex C. Bell**, age 68, a native of Scotland, was a cotton inspector. He, his wife Eugenia, and their four children lived at 1727 Avenue O. Alex and Eugenia were victims. The hurricane also claimed their son, Guy M. Bell, and daughter Beulah.

The Galveston and Texas History Center has prepared a database of approximately 5,000 1900 Storm victims. The database will eventually be uploaded to the History Center’s website, becoming available for searching by the general public.

As we observe the 119th anniversary of the 1900 Storm, this information is good to have.

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**AMAZON SALES**

For the past few years, Friends has sold specific donated books on Amazon.com. Jill Randall initiated this activity, and she and Margaret Canavan (see photos on page 1) have handled the work of researching prices, listing merchandise, and following through with the sales. Helena Aucoin handles the “treasure” books on Amazon. Over time our Amazon sales have grown. Today we have over 600 books listed on Amazon, and the sales are a significant source of income each month.

**MEMBERS ONLY ONLINE COLLECTIONS**

One benefit of Friends membership is access to online sales of books at bargain prices. Several times per month email notice of offerings go out. The first to respond to the email gets to pick up his/her purchase at the circulation desk, paying by cash, check, or credit card. It’s fun and easy, and many take advantage of this great way to stock their libraries or acquire special gifts. If you aren’t receiving notice of the online offerings, send your email address to saralynrichard@aol.com.
OUR BEST FRIENDS

The most valued facet of Friends is membership. Without our 276 members, we would have no programming, no fund-raising, no ideas for the future. Members support the Friends and the library with essential contributions: money, books, and volunteer hours.

If you haven’t renewed your membership for 2019, now is the time. Please do so online at rlfriends@rosenberglibrary.org. You definitely want to be a paid member in time for the Members’ Only Preview of the Annual Book Sale on October 3.

Thank you for being a Friend!

“I desire to express in practical form my affection for the city of my adoption and for the people among whom I have lived so many years, trusting that it will aid their intellectual and moral development, and be a source of pleasure and profit to them and their children and their children’s children through many generations.”

—Will of Henry Rosenberg, May 28, 1892, leaving residue of his estate for the establishment of a free public library for the people of Galveston.
One of the largest projects we’ve tackled in the last year in Adult Services has been our relabeling project. In the Young Adult (YA) section, we had four unofficially different collections - YA Fiction, YA Nonfiction, YA Manga, and YA Graphic Novels. They were separated out on the shelves with their own distinct spaces. However, only YA Fiction and YA Nonfiction had separate labels. All of our manga and graphic novels were labelled as fiction, which caused headaches both for staff and for patrons. If staff were not aware, while shelving, that a title was a manga or a graphic novel, they may have shelved it with the rest of YA Fiction, making future retrieval difficult. Weeding the collection became more difficult, too, as titles may have been mis-shelved in three different places. Perhaps the proper shelving would result in better circulation, eliminating the need to be weeded. The biggest concern, though, was the patron experience. When a patron would look up a title, he might not know exactly where to find the book.

The other issue with these collections was that titles were often labelled incorrectly. Many manga titles had labels indicating what series and volume number they were, but quite a few of them just had the author on the label, even though the rest of the series wasn’t that way. This was also true of the graphic novels, which meant that some of the graphic novels were shelved by the series, and others by the author.

To reduce confusion and ensure a positive experience, we re-labeled all of our manga and graphic novels to keep them distinctly separate from the YA Fiction. We also took this opportunity to label them specifically as YA, to distinguish them from the Adult Graphic Novel and Adult Manga collections. The new collection codes became YAMGA (YA Manga) and YAGN (YA Graphic Novel), and if any book was part of a series, we labelled it accordingly. This means that the YA manga would look like YA Manga [series title] [volume number], and YA graphic novels would look like YA Graphic Novel [series title] [volume number]. If the book wasn’t part of a series, we just re-labeled it to indicate the author.

While we’re still completing the last quarter of the graphic novel collection, the YA Manga collection has been completely finished and has really helped patrons browse the collection with far more ease than previously possible. This has also been true for the graphic novel collection, but we look forward to having the section completely finished in the next month.
From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

It’s been a busy summer at the Rosenberg Library. There has been great progress on the renovation of the new museum area on the 4th floor of the Rosenberg Wing. After the demolition work on the 4th floor, the library’s Design Committee made the decision, in consultation with stakeholders, to relocate the Morgan meeting room and Sandy’s Room to the second floor of the building. This decision will make it possible to restore the walls, windows, and ceiling to their original appearance from when the library first opened in 1904. The new Morgan meeting room on the second floor, which seats approximately eight people, is now available to reserve, without charge, for community meetings anytime the library is open, including evenings.

Work on the construction portion of the Phase VII project is expected to be completed by the beginning of November 2019, with the installation of new museum exhibit cases currently expected by spring of 2020. A big thank you goes to all who have contributed to the library’s fall fundraisers.

I am also pleased to report that participation in the Rosenberg Library’s 2019 summer reading clubs has surpassed all previous records. A whopping 3,239 children, young adults and adults enrolled in the reading clubs this summer. Increases in adult and young adult enrollment in the summer reading clubs were especially large.

The library’s Hoopla digital media service has also been very popular this summer. Hoopla offers users access to approximately 500,000 titles, including audio books, e-books, movies, and music. One of the major advantages in using Hoopla is that there are no wait lists with this service. Over the last three years, usage of this service by our patrons has increased by 167%, with audio books holding the top spot by far as the most popular item borrowed. In addition to Hoopla, patrons also have access to three other digital media services - Canopy, Overdrive (Libby) and Ebsco Ebooks.

This summer, the library again partnered with Galveston County Food Bank to provide 3,910 bags of non-perishable food items for needy kids. In 2018, the Rosenberg Library was the top distribution site in the Galveston County for the Kidz Pacz program.

If you visited the library in August, you may have noticed construction work on the north side of the building. As part of the construction, the sanitary sewer system along the entire length of the alley was replaced. I am cautiously optimistic that these improvements will significantly reduce the flooding issues that have plagued the library during the last two years. Many thanks to the Galveston City Council, Angelo Grasso and Dan Hudson with the City of Galveston Municipal Utilities Department for these much-needed repairs.

Sincerely,
John Augelli
Executive Director

Ongoing restoration of the “new museum area” on the fourth floor of the Rosenberg wing, part of the Phase VII project.