

CLAYTON LIBRARY FRIENDS

General Meeting

May 13, 2017

Carriage House

Minutes

The Clayton Library Friends (CLF) business meeting was called to order by President Sue Yerby at 10:32 AM.

After welcoming CLF members and guests, President Yerby reminded everyone to renew their 2017 CLF Membership.

Clayton Librarian, Irene Walters, presented the 2017 Houston Public Library Most Dedicated Volunteer Award to Tom Coughlin. Tom has been a volunteer since 2010 and has contributed over 800 hours of volunteer service to Clayton Library. Tom volunteers at The Clayton House on Saturday mornings and shelves books at Clayton Library.

President Yerby announced that there are three Director Positions to be filled in 2018: Acquisitions, Correspondence, and Public Relations. Director Nick Cimino will be the lead person for the Nominating Committee. Anthony Startz, Liz Hicks, Pat Phillips, and Ruby Dusek volunteered to be committee members.

Director Cimino said that he was also looking for volunteers at Clayton House and Library. There is an urgent need for a substitute volunteer for the fourth Saturday of the month from 12 pm to 4 pm. There will be many volunteer opportunities this coming year as Clayton House is celebrating its 100th birthday and Clayton Library Friends their 30th anniversary. Interested parties should send an email to Steven Bychowski, Clayton Library Volunteer Coordinator, and Nick Cimino – CLF Volunteer Coordinator.

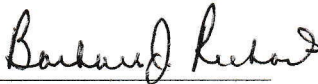
President Yerby introduced the speaker, Chris Daniel, a native Houstonian, who is the Harris County District Clerk. Working under extreme budget constraints, Chris led the District Clerk's Office in transforming the civil and family courts by adding virtual access to the courts. He is now involved in the process that will bring virtual access to the criminal courts. Chris has pushed for electronic records because they bring added security, accountability, and enhanced access to documents. Working with a variety of state and federal agencies, he has continued to bring the court system into the digital age, saving money, and time in the preservation of documents.

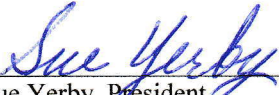
Chris and his associate, Francisco Heredia, Curator of Historical Documents, talked about the historical documents that are available both online at www.hcdistrictclerk.com/Edocs/Public/search and in the Historical Document Room, 201 Caroline on the second floor. Chris and Francisco talked about some of the 1836-1910 records that have been digitally preserved. Examples are: Name Changes, Naturalization Records, George Hermann Estate, the first woman juror, Lois Summers - 1953, Land Records cases, Howard Hughes and Yoko Ono. There are plans to digitize more record from 1910 to World War II. Records for the 1950s are on microfilm. There is a treasure trove of material available for genealogists. Tours of the court house are also offered.

A very nice exhibit of historical documents/pictures was on display for the audience to review and ask questions about.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Signed:


Barbara Richards, Secretary


Sue Yerby, President