

Friends

OF THE ROSENBERG LIBRARY

Friends of the Rosenberg Library
2017-2018 Board Members

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SPRING 2018

Greetings from the President

Dear Friends,

Spring is here and the *Friends* are busy processing books and raising money for our beloved Rosenberg Library.

The Book Shop continues to carry tons of fiction, nonfiction and children's books. Every month a subject is highlighted on the front shelves. Check our Facebook page to see featured subjects.

We are now at the Galveston Farmer's Market twice a month (p.2). Stop by to check out our offerings and find a book in our freebies bin.

As you do your spring cleaning, think about us when you are about to toss your books. We accept donations year 'round! The sale of your books provides us with income to buy new books and circulating materials. The books we are unable to sell we distribute into the community. We give books to many non-profits including RCC, Our Daily Bread, and the Children's Center.

The second week of April is National Library Week. April 10 is a special day because it is National Library Workers Appreciation Day. The Friends are hosting a staff luncheon for all the dedicated employees of the Rosenberg Library. Please take a minute and thank the workers. The library would not be what it is without them.

Thank you for supporting the *Friends* and the Rosenberg Library.
Cheryl



Scenes from the 2017 Annual Book Sale in October, set-up and during...Were you with us?



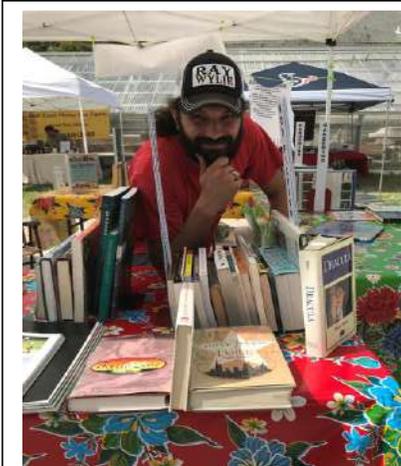
EAT YOUR VEGETABLES AND READ GOOD BOOKS

March finds us celebrating the first anniversary of the *Friends* participation at Galveston Own Farmer's Market, and what a successful partnership it has been! Last year Executive Director of GOFM, Casey McAuliffe (former Rosenberg Library staff member) and board of directors invited *Friends* to set up a used book booth. Casey explained the decision was a slam-dunk, as each board member holds a special place in his heart for Rosenberg Library, our community jewel! In addition to creating an opportunity for outreach, GOFM generously *sponsors* our admission *and* provides a tent, tables and helping hands.

To date we have raised \$2,863.00, including the recruitment of 28 new members! We sincerely thank GOFM for this amazing opportunity and encourage our members to visit the market and thank them too! Come see our booth every second Sunday and third Thursday at the marvelous new venue, The Bryan Museum, 1315 21st Street. So, come on down and don't forget to BYO bag! GOFM hours: 1315 21st Street, Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm (October – May), and 9 – noon (June – September); Thursdays, 3 - 6 pm.



Bonus: live music, always.
Wine in the Bryan Gardens,
Thursdays.
Fresh-brewed coffee from
Galveston Coffee Roasters,
Sundays.



Friends wants YOU! Seeking dependable, dedicated individuals for the following positions:
Secretary: Organized and computer savvy individual who is willing to serve on Friends Board of Directors.
Book Room Volunteers: Work in our beloved library's "dungeon" - where the magic happens! Duties include pricing and boxing of incoming book donations for resale and/or Community Outreach of giveaway books.

**NEVER A DULL MOMENT:
*The Art of Grace Spaulding John (1890-1972)***

Rosenberg Library recently opened a new exhibit in partnership with the Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art (CASETA). *Never A Dull Moment: The Art of Grace Spaulding John* is on display through July 20, 2018. The exhibit is located in the Harris Gallery on the library's fourth floor and can be viewed Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm. Admission to the museum galleries is always free.

Grace Spaulding John was born in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1890. Her father was a newspaper editor and publisher, and the family lived in Vermont before settling in Beaumont, Texas, during the early 1900s. After completing high school, John enrolled at the St. Louis School of Fine Art in 1909. Three years later, she began studies at the Art Institute of Chicago.

In 1913, John married Roy Keehnel, and the couple had two children together. When the marriage ended in 1917, John moved to New York to study at the National Academy of Design and at the Art Students League. In 1921, she married Alfred Morgan John, a Houston attorney.

John continued her studies, first at the Parsons School of Design in New York and later at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. In 1923, she was among an elite group of eight young American artists who received fellowships to study at Laurelton Hall—the Long Island estate of Louis Comfort Tiffany.

After John returned to Texas, she travelled abroad, producing many scenes from famous European cities. During the 1930s, John spent time painting in both Mexico and the American Southwest, places which inspired and influenced her work in subsequent decades.

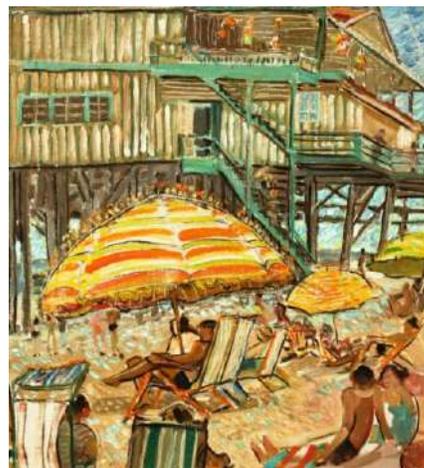
One of John's hallmarks was the preparation of her canvases. Utilizing techniques learned at Laurelton Hall, she used rabbit-skin glue to size her brown linen canvases. She preferred painting outdoors, seated in front of her subject, and usually created a small sketch before beginning a painting. John's works typically feature bright colors and broad brushstrokes.

She was skilled in a variety of different media including oils, watercolor, pen-and-ink, and pastel. John was also proficient in etching and lithography, and she was one of the first artists to use Plexiglas as an artistic medium.

Examples of Grace Spaulding John's work can be found at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Museum of Fine Arts Los Angeles, and the Smithsonian, among other institutions. Murals created by John can be found in Houston City Hall, Lanier Middle School in Houston, and Lakewood Yacht Club in Clear Lake. She continued to work until her death in Houston in 1972.



Self-Portrait
Oil on canvas, 1923 (Gift of Patricia John Keightley)



Murdoch's Pier and Beach
Oil on canvas, 1938 (Gift of Patricia John Keightley)



God is Mathematics
Oil on canvas, 1938 (Gift of Patricia John Keightley)

MUSEUM BOOK CLUB: SPRING 2018 SELECTION

The selection for the Spring 2018 Museum Club series is *Frozen Lives* by LuLynne Streeter. The book tells the story of the Kuerner family, neighbors of the iconic American artist, Andrew Wyeth (1917-2009). In his signature realist manner, Wyeth featured the Kuerners and their farm in numerous paintings.

The Spring Museum Book Club meeting is Wednesday, April 4 from 12 noon – 1:30 pm in the Fox Room on the library's 4th floor. The program includes an author talk and book signing. Light refreshments will be provided.

About The Book

To their children, Karl and Anna were “ordinary” people. To the rest of the world they were the extraordinary faces immortalized by Andrew Wyeth. Their story shows they were also far more complicated. Reflecting unprecedented access granted to the author by the Kuerner family, this compellingly readable book sheds light on the complex impacts the Kuerners had on Andrew Wyeth. Even as a young boy growing up in Pennsylvania's rural Brandywine Valley, he was fascinated by his intriguing neighbors, and they would be a major source of Wyeth's inspiration for more than seventy years. Karl Kuerner, hardened by poverty and his service in the German Army during World War I, faced demons of anger and frustration. Anna had her own battles, sometimes wandering the farm muttering to herself in German, between periods in the insane asylum. Included are family photos as well as color images of some of the major Wyeth paintings that the Kuerners and the farmscape inspired.

About the Author

LuLynne Streeter is an award-winning author, poet, and journalist. She has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Mexico and currently lives and writes in Galveston, Texas.

From the Permanent Collection

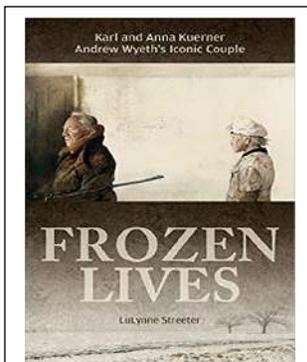
Rosenberg Library staff will share several examples of Realist art from the permanent collection.

About the Museum Book Club

Rosenberg Library's Museum Book Club offers participants the chance to experience art and literature in a more interactive way. Members have the opportunity to view rarely exhibited art and historical artifacts from the library's permanent collection as they discuss related books.

Registration is required for all Museum Book Club meetings. Established book clubs are encouraged to participate. Groups of over 10 people are asked to call the Reference Desk in advance to arrange accommodations.

Print copies of *Frozen Lives* are available for check-out at Rosenberg Library. Visit www.rosenberg-library.org or call [409-763-8854 ext. 125](tel:409-763-8854) for additional information or to register.



Dia de Los Niños

We rejoice and celebrate the child!

Saturday, April 28

Drop-in 11am-4pm

11am-2pm Make-a-Kite

11:30 am-1 pm Ramen Noodle Bar

1 pm – Burnet Folkloric Dancers

1:30-4 pm – Face Painter

2:30 pm – Irish Dancers

11 am-4 pm (all day) Decorate a mandela tablecloth

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Get started on reading 1000 books to your preschooler before kindergarten.

Read 50 books by April 28 and earn a free book.

Sign-up and track reading online at www.rosenberg-library.org

Summer Kick-off @ Palm Beach

Thursday, May 30 5:30-7:30pm

Wear your bathing suit, library t-shirt, and bring the family.

Free admittance for all summer readers and their families.

Roses are Read.

Violets are Blue.

We couldn't be happier,

To have Friends as special as You!

Winners!

The Children's Department rode in the Firefighter's Mardi Gras parade this year and won a trophy "Most Enthusiastic Group"

Children's Department



AMAZON.COM SALES

The generosity of our book donors is amazing! The *Friends* community gives so many books to *Friends*, to be sold to support Rosenberg Library.

Some books we receive are much more valuable than the prices people are prepared to pay in the *Friends* annual book sale, or in the *Friends* Book Shop. Some are first editions, out of print, brand new, or desirable just due to subject matter. We decided to seek other options for these special tomes.

One appealing idea was to reach out beyond the physical borders of the library. Just over a year ago, we started listing books on Amazon, and we have found people all over the country who are willing to support our library through book purchases. During this time, *Friends* volunteers have sold and shipped over 200 books.

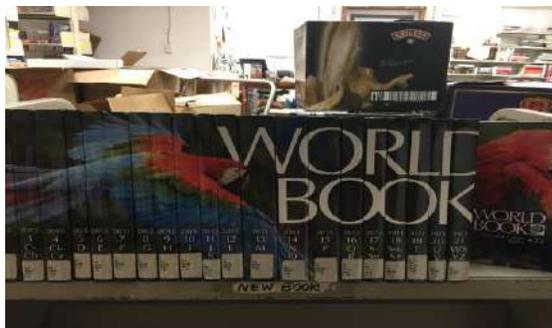
Many books of special interest are art books and textbooks. Through this process we have learned a lot about pricing, what might sell, and what might not. We've also learned just because we adore a particular volume, it does not mean someone else will feel the same way!

In describing the books, we always add that all proceeds go to support the library. Often we are not the least expensive option available, but some buyers seem willing to pay more for a book, knowing it will support a library.

So if you are surfing for books on Amazon and see one offered by *Friends* of Rosenberg Library, that's us! And please do keep up the wonderful donations.



Above, art books in search of new homes on Amazon.com.



ENCYCLOPEDIA-RAMA: REDUCED TO SELL

Clockwise, A. 2013 World Book, 21 volumes + 1 volume Guide and Index. \$125

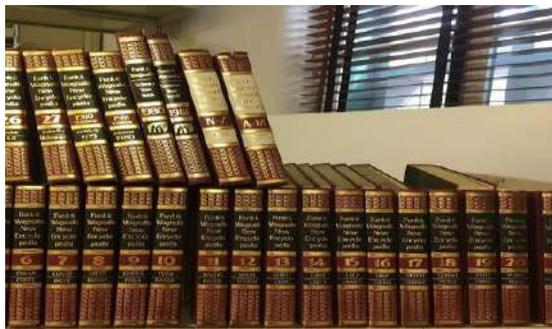
B. World Book 1976, 21 volumes, 1 volume research guide & index, 17 volumes yearbooks, \$80

C. 1979 Funk & Wagnalls 27 volumes + 2-volume index, 2-vol yearbook, 2-vol science yearbook, 2-vol dictionary. All for \$60

D. (not pictured) Vintage (1966) Illustrated World Encyclopedias, 20 volumes, \$50

E. Not pictured, but beautiful blue bindings: 1987, 21 volumes + research guide and index \$45.

If interested, email saralynrichard@aol.com.



RL's BEST LITTLE BOOK SHOP

If you haven't shopped in the *Friends* Book Shop lately, you are missing out! Fresh groupings, delightful displays, and frequently rotated stock of new and like-new books have rejuvenated this cozy area on the second floor.

Business in the Book Shop has been excellent the last couple of months. We have offered focused collections in our non-fiction section on African American history; American Presidents: their lives, families, and works; and Amazon's recommendation of 100 books to be read in a lifetime. In the fiction area we showcased romance novels, mysteries by Sue Grafton, dollar books, and large print titles.

Upcoming offerings in April will include James Patterson novels, classic fiction, more large print titles, non-fiction birding books, and some poetry titles. In May look for our collection of See the World (travel) books to help you plan or dream about upcoming trips, and a huge cooking/entertaining offering, including some reviews and suggestions by *Friends* members.

A new addition in the Book Shop has been the DVD carousel, loaded with discs in many genres - including some complete seasons.

In addition to our special focus sections, we continue to offer titles across many genres. Thanks to many generous donations of inventory items and volunteer hours, the Book Shop is a viable go-to place for all your media and gift needs.



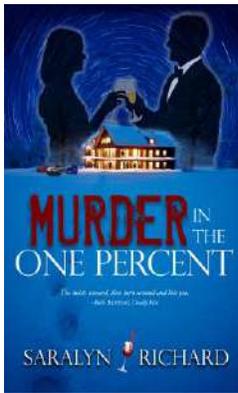
FRIENDS MEMBERSHIPS

The lifeblood of any organization is its membership, and *Friends* is no exception. Each year members support the *Friends* and the library with meaningful contributions of money, books and other media, and countless volunteer hours.

In January, the new *Friends* year begins, so if you haven't renewed your membership, please do so online at rlfriends@rosenberg-library.org. In the past three months, *Friends* has received new or renewed memberships for 179 families, for a total of \$9,750 in donations.

What are the benefits of belonging to *Friends*? Exclusive access to the preview for the annual book sale, opportunities to purchase special collections sold online, and the *Friends* newsletters are just a few of the perks. Most of all, *Friends* have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making a difference in the library and in the community it serves. Each and every one of the articles in this newsletter represents a program or a function of the library that is made possible by your generosity.

Thank you for being a *Friend*!



Above, Ed and Saralyn Richard, Trish and Mike McDaniel launch the debut mystery, *Murder in the One Percent*. (Photo by Jamie Hennigan)

A GATHERING OF FRIENDS

The *Friends* board and officers were on hand to give a hearty send-off to member, Saralyn Richard’s debut mystery novel, *Murder in the One Percent*, March 4 at Past President, Trish McDaniel’s home.

Every detail complemented the thriller, from the bottles of poison in the orchid centerpiece to the scrumptious truffles to the specialty lemonade cake resembling the book from Patty Cakes Bakery.

Richard’s mystery has earned excellent reviews (including one from *Kirkus*) and sales, and she will soon embark on a multi-city tour schedule to promote it. It has also been featured in *USA Today*’s *Happy Ever After* column, *International Thriller Writers’ Big Thrill* magazine, *The Hunt* magazine, and *Galveston Monthly*.

The book is available in ebook, print book, and large print versions at Galveston Bookshop, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.

IDENTIFYING PHOTOGRAPHS

Every photograph tells a story. Photographs should always be identified at the time they are taken for posterity. When working with unidentified photographs, archivists look for clues, such as dress and building signs, that help to pin down image content, location, and date. Their task would be much easier with a caption in hand.

The accompanying photograph is one of many thousands of images preserved in the Rosenberg Library’s Galveston and Texas History Center. Handwriting on the back reveals that the image appeared in the *Galveston Tribune*, Tuesday, June 6, 1949.

The photograph was printed under the heading, “Loser Pays Penalty.” The *Tribune*’s caption reveals that Pat Schmiedeberg, a former Kirwin High School football player, lost a bet in regards to a football game. Schmiedeberg had predicted that Ball High School would triumph over Port Arthur by twenty points. For losing his bet, he had to roll a potato along Broadway between 30th and 31st Streets.



Left, Stiff penalty for losing a 1949 football bet? It’s no hot potato, or is it?



DID YOU KNOW?

1. The library internet speed is being upgraded to 1.5 G/sec. The Wifi system was accessed more than 39,000 times in 2017.
2. Free tax preparation services are being offered in the Wortham Room.
3. All GISD first graders tour the children’s department and receive library cards.
4. The 2017 summer meal program provided 570 food packets to 93 children.
5. In 2017 almost 300,000 items were checked out, 3161 library cards were issued, and 10,426 holds were placed on materials.
6. Photograph collections remain popular, and in 2017 over 300 images were duplicated for local and national media outlets, authors, bloggers, historians, and interior decorators.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS

Lauren Martino recently joined the library as the Manager of the Special Collections Department, which includes the Galveston and Texas History Center and the Museum. She says, “I am absolutely thrilled to be here, and I look forward to collaborating with my new colleagues across the Galveston County Library System.”

A native Texan and originally from the Houston area, Lauren earned a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin with a major in History and minor in Art History. She also has a Master’s of Library and Information Science degree from Rutgers.

Lauren has worked in libraries for about 13 years. She was first introduced to archives as an intern in the library and archives of the Texas Historical Commission. After college, she worked in a neighborhood branch of the Austin Public Library. Seeing the library’s positive impact on the community is what inspired her to pursue librarianship as a career. She also worked as the Stacks Supervisor at William Paterson University in New Jersey and an Outreach Librarian for the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.

Most recently, Lauren worked as a Special Collections Librarian in the Washingtoniana and Black Studies divisions of the DC Public Library. She started as the Map Librarian, but during the extensive renovations of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, her role evolved to include coordination of interim reference services for the Special Collections.

In addition to its significant archival collections, the Rosenberg is unique among public library special collections because it also contains an impressive museum. Galveston’s rich local history and culture (and the beach!) drew Lauren here as well. She is excited to help share Galveston’s stories and treasures by increasing online access to the collections and public programming.

As Lauren settles into island life, she looks forward to learning more about Galveston County’s history and community. She says, “I can’t wait to meet all of you. Please reach out anytime at lmartino@rosenberg-library.org or 409-763-8854 ext. 117.”



Above, Lauren Martino adds something special to the Special Collections Department.



Above, Celebrating the retirement of long-time employee and Friend, James Hollins. Kara Wofford, Trish McDaniel, James Hollins, Barbara Arnold, Cheryl Jenkins, Liz Perdue, Jill Randall, Helena Aucoin, and Margaret Canavan.



**Friends celebrates National Library Week
with a Staff Appreciation Luncheon, April 10, 11 am - 2 pm.**



From the Executive Director

Dear *Friends*:

There have been all kinds of positive developments at the Rosenberg Library since the last *Friends* newsletter. In November, the Rosenberg Library Board of Directors authorized the Gensler architectural firm to proceed with the development of construction documents for the library's Phase VII project. The Phase VII project is the final phase of the Rosenberg Library's multi-year effort to reconstruct the building for its next generation of service for the people of Galveston and Texas. The planned Phase VII improvements will encompass the first major renovation and expansion of the Rosenberg Library's 4th floor museum exhibit spaces in more than 45 years. In addition to a major redesign and expansion of the museum exhibit spaces, the Phase VII project will also seek to uncover and restore the historical grandeur of the 4th floor of the library's Rosenberg Wing and to update and bring the 4th floor into compliance with ADA regulations. The Board also authorized the retention of a museum consultant in November to work with the architects to enhance the functionality of plans and equipment for the new museum spaces. If all goes according to plan, work is expected to get started on the Phase VII renovations by fall of 2018.

At their December meeting, the Rosenberg Library Board of Directors voted to honor the enormous contribution former Board President Jan Coggeshall made to the library over a span of more than 40 years by naming an arched window that will be uncovered and restored as part of the upcoming Phase VII project in her honor. The window restoration will be funded through a lead gift from the *Friends* of the Rosenberg Library, a bequest from Jan Coggeshall, and contributions from many other people in the community. Jan Coggeshall served as President of the Rosenberg Library Board of Directors from 2003 to 2016 and as a Trustee of the library from 1991 to 2017.

In December, Lauren Martino also joined our staff as our new Special Collections Manager. Prior to accepting a job with the Rosenberg Library, Lauren served as a special collection librarian with the District of Columbia Public Library where she was responsible for the map collection and coordinating reference services for her department.

In other good news, plans are underway to reopen the Wortham Auditorium within the next couple of days. The newly renovated meeting space will feature a beautiful terrazzo floor, a state of the art Bose public address system, and a variety of acoustical panels to minimize reverberation in the room. Non-profit groups can reserve the Wortham Auditorium or any of the library's six other meeting rooms free of charge 24/7 through the library's website at www.rosenberg-library.org.

I am also pleased to report that within the next three months we expect to triple Internet speeds at the library from 500 megabytes per second to 1.5 gigabytes per second.

Thank you for being a Friend of the Rosenberg Library.

Sincerely,
John Augelli
Executive Director

