

BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

New Year, New Library

BY: RACHEL MCPAHL, INTERIM LIBRARIAN

It's a new year and a new decade; welcome to 2020, Huntsville! In case you've ever wondered, here are some quick facts about the Huntsville Public Library.

History:

In 1964, young Vicki Davis wrote a letter to Huntsville Mayor Raymond T. Wright asking why Trinity had a library and Huntsville did not. Her letter and the mayor's response were published in the Huntsville Item.

- HPL officially opened its doors on September 24, 1967, after a dedicated community-wide effort to support the construction and formation of a library. Prior attempts in the 1930s and 1940s proved unsuccessful.
- Originally, a 7,000 square foot building was constructed using bond proposed funding and state allocated funds.

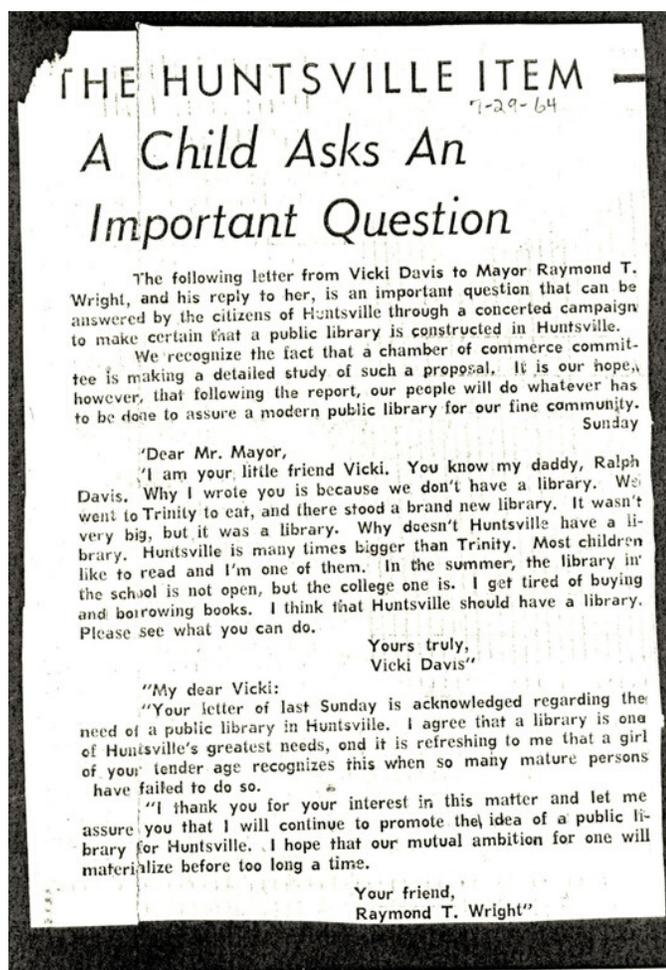
City Librarians:

- Linda Olsen Peters (1967-1970)
- Linda Landtroop (1970-1971)
- Judith Elisor Hunter-Schreiner (1971-2002)
- Linda Dodson (2002-2019)
- Interim Librarian Rachel McPhail (Current)

Renovation:

In 2012, the library was expanded to 22,000 square feet with community and public official support. This addition added the Rex Children's Room, the Staggs Community Room, and other much needed spaces to the library.

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1219 13th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-5472

Monday-Friday Saturday
10am-7pm 12pm-4pm

myhuntsvillelibrary.com

@huntsvillelib

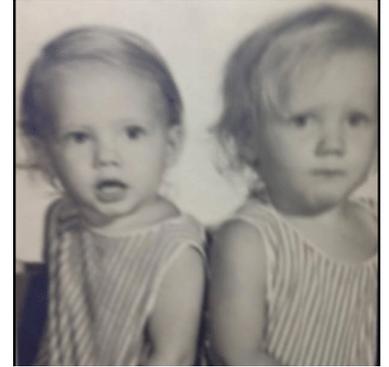
HuntsvillePublicLibrary

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NEW TECH OFFERINGS AT THE HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY: GENEALOGY DIGITIZATION

BY: JENNIFER ADAMS, IT COORDINATOR

How many photos do people have tucked away into albums and boxes that they would love to have on hand for viewing and sharing? Paper and ink may fade, but with technology we are able to capture a special moment and save it to a more secure medium. Why is photo digitization important? Digital preservation of photos and old documents allows us to share the past with the future generations. As generations grow and move farther away, the ability to share memories digitally becomes more important.



MY MOTHER AND HER TWIN, CIRCA 1965

My family has lost many of their old photographs and documents in a house fire in the late nineteen eighties. Almost all baby pictures of my brother were lost, as well as many other cherished captured memories. I know digitization will not bring everything back, but I have been able to find and preserve multiple pictures thanks to the generosity of extended family members. This has given my family the opportunity to see pictures, like the two in this article, which we had not seen for decades.

Along with being able to share these important pieces of family history with loved ones, they can assist in creating a fuller narrative in telling the family stories. By uploading these images and documents onto your family tree, you are adding a face to each leaf.

The Huntsville Public Library is happy to offer its patrons classes in photo digitization. Contact IT Coordinator Jennifer Adams by email at jadams@huntsvilletx.gov or by phone at 936-291-5485 to schedule an upcoming session.



MY MOTHER AND HER TWIN, CIRCA 1979

Be sure to bring your old photographs and family documents along with an empty USB Drive to the Johnnie Jo Sowell Dickenson Genealogy Room for the session. Digitization is only available for genealogy projects.

A word of caution: Do not discard family photos and documents after digitization. Protect them from exposure to sunlight, dampness and dust.

IN PRAISE OF THE WALKER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

BY: RICHARD LANE, REFERENCE

Clubs and organizations come and go with an unfortunate regularity. Some, however, are among the few who survive and carry out their mission years beyond expectations. The *Walker County Genealogical Society* has, with the New Year's passage, entered its seventh decade. The Society was founded in 1965 by twelve Walker County women who met in their homes. Upon completion of the Huntsville Public Library in September 1967 the books they had gathered were transferred to a space provided in the library. The books became the core collection which has grown to include more than six thousand books in print, archived family histories, historical documents, photographs, microfilm records and, in recent years, electronic databases.



The Walker County Genealogical Society and the Huntsville Public Library have for the past fifty-two years successfully partnered to “further knowledge about genealogical research”. The Library and the Society continue to offer the popular genealogy lock-ins and the Frances Sprott Goforth Summer Weekend.

The Walker County Genealogical Society has been innovative in its application of technologies. In 1994 the Society created the website www.wcgen.com. The site has digitized Walker County and Huntsville histories, cemetery records, and links to recognized online genealogical websites. The Walker County Genealogical Society Newsletter is published electronically and is read by more than 250 researchers.

Upon the expansion of the Huntsville Public Library facility in 2012, the genealogical collection has been housed in the Johnnie Jo Sowell Dickenson Genealogy Room. The space was named to honor the continuing contributions of Johnnie Jo Dickenson to the mission of the Walker County Genealogical Society and her years of service to the Huntsville Community. Ms. Dickenson and the members of the Society have given selflessly of their time and financial support in large measure. They are to be recognized and thanked for their contribution to family and local historians.

The Current Library offers the following free services and programs:

- 30 public access computers
- Access to databases for research, legal forms, education assistance, and more
- Johnnie Jo Dickenson Genealogy Department with free access to genealogy databases and records
- Language courses and software
- Adult programs such as Sittercise, Genealogy classes, Master Gardener Classes, and Book Club
- Citizenship classes
- Adult literacy tutors
- Digitization of genealogy photos and records
- Book-a-Tech programs
- Technology courses
- Texas Summer Reading Program
- StoryTime and Mother Goose Lapsit
- Special programs for adolescents during Spring and Summer Break
- Study Rooms
- Interlibrary Loans
- Math Homework Help
- Children, Teen, and Adult Collections with books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, and books on CD
- Digital downloads of eBooks and Audiobooks through OverDrive and Libby
- Item request services
- Reference services
 - Paid Services
 - Print services
 - Copy services
 - Meeting Rooms

Current Library Staff:

- Jennifer Adams, IT Service Coordinator
- Esmeralda Guzman, Children’s Coordinator
- Toni Herrington, Genealogy Cataloger
- Mary Kokot, Literacy, Adult, and Interlibrary Loan Coordinator
- Richard Lane, Genealogy and Reference Services Coordinator
- Rachel McPhail, Interim Librarian
- Ashley Newsome, Library Services Specialist
- Jalpa Shah, IT Service Coordinator
- Lucy Silva, Cataloger
- Kristin Sion, Circulation Clerk
- Latina Stroughter, Circulation Clerk
- Karston Van Tronk, Circulation Clerk



-article from Huntsville Item



-photo of inside the library



Program Alert!

The Library will be hosting “Library Night” at 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 30 and invites the Huntsville community to come learn about new and current library services.

CHILDREN'S Programming

Mother Goose Lapsit
Mondays, 10:30 AM
Ages 5 and under

Story Time
Tuesdays 5:30 PM,
Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:45 AM
Ages 5 and under
No program on January 20

Math Homework Help
Wednesdays, 4:30 PM
for elementary and junior high students only

Chinese New Year Celebration
January 23, 4:30 PM
Registration Required due to limited space

ADULT Programming

Sittercise
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 AM

Book Club at the Huntsville Public Library
The Miniaturist by Jessie Burton
January 9, 10:30 AM

Walk-in Tutoring
Monday through Friday
Saturday by appointment
for adults only

Ancestry.com
January 3, 11:30 AM
registration required

FamilySearch Workshop
Thursdays, 2:00 PM
registration required

Basic Computer Classes
Tuesdays, 11:00 AM
registration required



HEART HEALTHY HABITS

BY: MARY KOKOT, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR

While many of us associate the month of February with St. Valentine's Day, it also serves as a reminder to commemorate American Heart Month.

Heart disease kills an estimated 630,000 Americans each year. It's the leading cause of death for both men and women. In the United States, the most common type of heart disease is coronary artery disease (CAD), which can lead to a heart attack. You can greatly reduce your risk for CAD through lifestyle changes and, in some cases, medication. April Pickrel, a clinical dietician, will be speaking about these lifestyle changes 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11 in the Staggs Community Room. Heart-healthy snacks will be provided.

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In 2020, National Wear Red Day will be celebrated on February 7. We'll be wearing red and we hope you will, too. Please contact Mary Kokot, Adult Services Coordinator at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call (936) 291-5471 for more information.