

To fidget or not?

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VOLUME 8, ISSUE 8

HUNTSVILLE  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

# BETWEEN THE PAGES

AUGUST 2017

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Thanks to: Huntsville Police Department; Jr. Bearkats of Sam Houston State University; Dr. Casey R Frazier DDS; Stephen H Means, OD & Associates - Ocular Diagnostics & Therapeutics; LearningRx Huntsville; H-E-B; Huntsville Head Start; and everyone else! Your service to our community! - HPL Staff

# Mapping the Genealogy Trail

Maps date to the earliest periods of human history. Imagine this, a wayward traveler in Mesopotamia might ask a local inhabitant, "How do I get to such and such a place?"

The local would almost certainly take a stick and draw a map in the sand, noting important landmarks and approximate travel times. Later, growing tired of answering the same question, our local travel guide might get the bright idea to draw a map on a clay tablet for ready reference.

Maps have evolved over the millennia. Improvements in measurements, navigational tools, topographical techniques and GIS technologies now provide us with remarkably accurate renditions of the world. We frequently plan our travel routes by entering a starting point and a destination on a computer site. We are given the roads and highways leading to our destination, distances between intersections and approx-

imate travel times based on current road conditions. All too often we take such conveniences for granted.

Our ancestors travelled across continents and oceans on their way to a new life in a distant land. Arriving on the North American continent, they relied on roughly drawn maps to guide them to river crossings, mountain passes, and prairie trails. They sought routes around impenetrable swamps and dense, unexplored forests. They sought shortcuts to save time and alternative directions to avoid hostilities.

Our ancestors made frequent stops along the genealogy trail, staying for a year or two or perhaps for several generations, before moving to seek new lands and new starts. Many of us, who now call Texas home, can relate to the familiar phrase of "Gone to Texas."

Our ancestral migrations can now be entered into commercially available mapping

programs. By keying in names, relevant dates, and locations, our ancestors' passages can be charted along the historical trails and traces of their time. Family historians may gain insights into the struggles encountered and the perseverance needed to press on beyond the barriers of mountains, rivers, swamps and the vastness of the prairies.

Note: There are several computer-based genealogy mapping programs. The Huntsville Public Library does not endorse or recommend any particular program or service.

History is not everything, but it is a starting point. History is a clock that people use to tell their political and cultural time of day. It is a compass they use to find themselves on the map of human geography. It tells them where they are, but, more importantly, what they must be. John Henrik Clarke, Historian

—Richard Lane, *Genealogy*

## Brown Bag Lecture Series

City of Huntsville's Emergency Management  
Coordinator (EMC) John Waldo  
will present

**"Tool Box for All Hazards"**

**11:30 to 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24th in the  
City Hall Council Chambers.**

More information  
@ 936-291-5471  
or online @  
[www.myhuntsville.com](http://www.myhuntsville.com)  
library.com

**The lecture series is planned for the fourth Thursday of each month. We will be exploring interesting and novel topics of general appeal to our community. Beverages will be provided. Admission is free.**

# Fidget Spinners: Beneficial or Not?

Have you heard about the new toy trending around the world, Fidget Spinners? It is a toy like a top, but spun in the hand rather than on a surface.

The user holds a pad at the center, and flicks one of three rounded blades. The spinner rotates around a bearing at the center. The lightweight of the device and the low friction of the bearing allows it to spin for a long time.

What is it for? It is not only an amazing entertaining toy that helps you become more focused and attentive but is also perfect for anyone who suffer from fidgeting, anxiety, ADHD, autism, staying awake on long car drives. It's an irreplaceable spin toy that for those who are trying to quit bad habits like nail biting, leg shaking, etc... It helps you and your kids to take your eyes off the smartphones and iPads as well.

They are being sold in every color and finish imaginable, with endless options for add-ons and upgrades. There is such an enormous demand for them that stores have sold out on numerous occasions.

So why have they gotten so pop-



ular? Users have noted that fidget spinners make mundane moments fun and entertaining.

Many have even turned to social media to learn different tricks and spins, which has made them extremely promotable through YouTube, Instagram, and other platforms.

As school is approaching in the fall, many teachers have become concerned about students having spinners in the classrooms. Many schools across America have

banned these fidget spinner. Students with diagnosed conditions are allowed to bring fidget spinners into schools that have banned them.

The real problem, educators say, is that the majority of children who are fascinated by fidget spinners are using them as a fun distraction, not for any therapeutic reason.

Recently fidget spinners have been making headline and are becoming dangerous, there have been cases of them exploding and catching on fire. The battery-operated versions are the culprits in this case. Some have also come apart, which can be a choking hazard for younger kids.

After reading this article, my question to you is, would you still buy this toy for your child or children? Let us know on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram how you feel about fidget spinners. Post photos of your kids putting these devices to good use.

— Ashley Newsome, IT

*Fidget  
Cubes:  
Another  
outlet?*



# Listing of Events Find this information online at [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com)

## AUGUST EVENTS:

Do you have children ages 2 or under? Then **Mother Goose Lapsit** is a story time designed for you! Held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., enjoy a half hour of developmentally appropriate play featuring stories, songs, and rhymes. This program introduces little ones to the story time experience and is perfect for their language development and developing vocabulary. Sign up is not required. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

Come to **Story Time** - a fun early literacy program for kids 5 and under. Join us for interactive stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts. The early literacy practices featured each week help build the foundation for a lifelong love of reading and learning. For parents and caregivers, story time offers an opportunity to experience early literacy practices in action, discover great books and resources for home use, and socialize with other parents after Story time. Wednesday and Friday sessions share a theme with something new each week. Sign up is not required. Story times are held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:45 a.m. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

Get in on the fun! Play **Texas 42** -- a dominoes game similar in style to bridge and spades at the Huntsville Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m. Fridays in August. Studies show playing dominoes can be beneficial for the mind as attention to detail and strategy are essential to play. Come to the Community Room each week and strategize your winning moves. We'll supply the dominoes and refreshments. Please register in advance at [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com) or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for more information. Games will be played weekly if 8 or more players register. This program is for adults 18 years and older.

Join **Comic Book Club** at the Huntsville Public Library! This free monthly program is held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and is for ages 17 and under. Do you like Comic books? Enjoy games, crafts, raffles, and a speaker from the world of Comic Books. Bring a comic book to trade with. This program is sponsored by Annette Tubbs and the Comic Book Stop and Trade group. Summer 2017 dates include August 19<sup>th</sup>. Sign up not required. For more information, contact Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator at 936-291-5910.

The City of Huntsville's Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), John Waldo, will speak about a "Tool Box for All Hazards" at the **Brown Bag Lecture** on Aug. 24th.

Waldo will discuss how to prepare one's home for a hurricane and essential items to have on hand in such an emergency. Hurricane season officially begins on June 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Waldo has been the Huntsville EMC since 2004 and previously served in the Huntsville Fire Department since moving to Huntsville in 1981, becoming a full-time fireman in 1998. Attendees may bring a brown bag lunch. Lunch time begins at 11:30 a.m. and the lecture will begin at noon. The lecture series is planned for the fourth Thursday of each month. Beverages will be provided. Admission is free. This program is for ages 18 and older. For more information, contact Mary Kokot, Adult Coordinator at 936-291-5471.

Rice University's premier co-ed a Capella group, the "Phils", will perform at 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24th in the Library's Community Room. The 14-member group beautifully harmonizes a variety of musical styles. "We take great pride in arranging all of our own music (it's not something all a Capella groups can do) and bringing fresh content to our audiences," says Burke Garza, a member of the Phils. The Rice Philharmonics were formed in 1994 and have evolved over the years, writing and arranging their own compositions, producing several albums, and becoming an official Rice organization. Since the early days, the Rice Philharmonics have greatly expanded their influence across campus, in the Houston community, and throughout the nation by competing in the International Championship of Collegiate a Cappella. This is an all ages program. For more information, contact Mary Kokot, Adult Coordinator at 936-291-5471.

## Fall Genealogy Classes

Starting Thursday, Sept. 7 through Oct. 5

From 3-5 p.m.

Classes scheduled to  
"Meet Your Needs" &  
"Answer Your Questions"!

Bring materials needed  
to explain your  
research problems.

Class taught by  
Genealogist Johnnie Jo Dickenson



Registration required by calling 936-291-5471 or online at [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com)