



Celebrating 50 years

THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM

1-29-64

A Child Asks An Important Question

The following letter from Vicki Davis to Mayor Raymond T. Wright, and his reply to her, is an important question that can be answered by the citizens of Huntsville through a concerted campaign to make certain that a public library is constructed in Huntsville.

We recognize the fact that a chamber of commerce committee is making a detailed study of such a proposal. It is our hope, however, that following the report, our people will do whatever has to be done to assure a modern public library for our fine community. Sunday

"Dear Mr. Mayor,

"I am your little friend Vicki. You know my daddy, Ralph Davis. Why I wrote you is because we don't have a library. We went to Trinity to eat, and there stood a brand new library. It wasn't very big, but it was a library. Why doesn't Huntsville have a library. Huntsville is many times bigger than Trinity. Most children like to read and I'm one of them. In the summer, the library at the school is not open, but the college one is. I get tired of buying and borrowing books. I think that Huntsville should have a library. Please see what you can do.

Yours truly,
Vicki Davis"

"My dear Vicki:

"Your letter of last Sunday is acknowledged regarding the need of a public library in Huntsville. I agree that a library is one of Huntsville's greatest needs, and it is refreshing to me that a girl of your tender age recognizes this when so many mature persons have failed to do so.

"I thank you for your interest in this matter and let me assure you that I will continue to promote the idea of a public library for Huntsville. I hope that our mutual ambition for one will materialize before too long a time.

Your friend,
Raymond T. Wright"

By Brenda Poe
Cataloger

Huntsville Public Library began after a young child named Vicki Davis penned a letter to then Mayor Raymond T. Wright. As the clipping on the right shows, Ms. Davis' request was taken to heart and a campaign began to open a public library.

The first Library Board consisted of Chairman Dr. Mac Woodward, Philip Gibbs, C.E. Allen, Mrs. Clint Hackney, Mrs. Helen Wheat, Raymond Davis, and Mrs. Ed Sandhop.

The board were actually in attendance of the Open House turned Grand Opening in 1967, and greeted over 200 guests, according to the Huntsville Item on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1967. Several of the photos featured were taken by Mr. J.D. Dickenson.

The lavish event was the talk of the town from many weeks and sponsored by local businesses.

The Library's first Librarian was Linda Olsen, who boasted about the 3,000 books she had shelved at the open house.

The Library will be celebrating the 50 years of service with two events.

HPL will be hosting a Community Carnival from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017. The Carnival will feature games of ring toss, knockdown cans, a "Strong-man" booth, a

magician, a balloon artist, face painter, popcorn, cake and more.

A more formal event will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, September 24, 2017. This gala-style event will honor the many who made the Library

possible so many years ago. There will also be scrapbooks as well as 1967 memorabilia available for viewing.

Make plans to attend these events—not only to celebrate, but to remember the reason our library exists—you!



Above: The entrance to the Library, on 14th Street. Undated photo. Below is the groundbreaking ceremony. Pictured: I to right, City Chief Fiscal Officer Weldon Coleman, Contractor Lee Rowe, Dr. Mac Woodward and H.L. "Red" Costilow.



HUNTSVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com
@HuntsvilleLib—Twitter
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Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturdays Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

We All Make Mistakes

The dangers family historians face are subject to risks and perils an actuarial might describe as extreme. One false assumption and an entire branch of the family tree can be lost or, worse yet, assumed to be true beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Assumptions can lead to what appears to be a perfectly good proof. But think this through. Great, great-grandfather James was born in North Carolina in the 1790s.

The genealogical record for James is well established going forward from the 1830s.

A persistent family historian will certainly want to find record of James' parents and add another branch to the family tree.

Here's where the trouble begins. The 1850 census shows James' father and mother to have been born in North Carolina. Unfortunately, James is not living with his parents having struck out on his own many years before. The 1800 through 1840 census records are of no help as they do not



contain the names and ages of all persons living in the household. Still, our fearless family historian stayed the course and searched relentlessly until one day he struck upon a clue that was so good that it had to be true! It had to be a fact. Well, not so fast intrepid researcher.

I can attest to this scenario. I am the guilty clue grabber who assumed that James's parents to be Martin and Courtney Lane. I spent months trying to make sense of it all. Somehow, despite my firmly held belief that the evidence was convincing, the picture remained unclear, murky and distorted. A probated will clarified the matter. James called Martin uncle, not daddy.

Jacky Gamble, a professional genealogist, has provided some good advice. To avoid family history pitfalls:

- Document sources.
- Don't believe everything found as

evidence.

- Know that there's more than one way to spell a name.
- Keep a research log.
- Don't accept family legends as facts.
- Organize, organize, organize!
- Start small and expand later.
- Don't become a name and date collector. (Tell the story.)
- Don't forget to talk with living relatives.
- Don't publish information about living family members. (It's always best to get written permission.)

Adapted from "10 Common Genealogy Mistakes" by Jacky Gamble accessed 8/25/2017 at www.townoffranklinhistoricalsociety.com.

—Richard Lane, *Genealogy*

Beware of False Knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.

—George Bernard Shaw

PASCALI TO PERFORM AT HPL

Amanda Pascali, a young singer/songwriter, activist, and student, will perform 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, September 9 in Huntsville Public Library's Community Room. In addition to her beautiful, clear soprano voice, she is instrumentally versatile and plays the guitar, piano, and harmonica.

Amanda is studying natural sciences at the University of Houston along with traveling across the world and documenting those travels as songs, stories, and poetry.

"I recently returned from some travels - writing, discovering, and creating in Romania and Eastern Europe where my family lives. I am pursuing a B.S. in Geology, doing research, and performing/writing all at the same time." Ms. Pascali describes her musical style as "Immigrant American Folk Music" which showcases her traditional influences, but she is no copy of anyone. She has released music and performed internationally, notably with the Southwest Regional Folk Alliance and Folk Alliance International. The violinist, Addison Freeman, will accompany Ms. Pascali. Although born in Queens, New York, she now lives in Houston, Texas.

Anticipate more musical performances at the library in the coming months. *Friction Farm*, a folk music duo, will be featured in October and in November *Mystery Loves Company*, a chamber/rock duo, will perform.



—Mary Kokot, *Adult Coordinator*

Back to Basics!

The library provides the public with many different services. Computers are one of the most used amenities here at HPL.

We provide the use of computer for leisure but also for business. So many people come to the library for help with their electronic devices or with ours. Learning how to use a computer is very important. Jobs want to know what kind of technical skills one can bring to the table.

Taking computer classes can also help

you keep up with the latest versions of your computer. These classes are designed to teach you how to use the computer from the start button.

The library is providing free help classes for adult patrons. These classes run for four weeks and are broken down into different topics of discussion.

For the month of September, the Huntsville Public Library is offering free basic computer classes. Classes will be once a week at 10 a.m. Tuesdays starting

September 5th and continuing through September 26th in the Adult Computer Lab.

These classes will feature class activities on how to use a mouse, typing, web-based email and Internet browsing. Class size is limited so you must register to attend the class.

You can register online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or at the Tech Reference Desk.

—Ashley Newsome, IT

Books awards brainchild of one man

Have you ever seen the silver label on a children's book featuring two children and a man with the words "Newberry Honor Book" and wondered about its history and significance? Or the gold "Caldecott Winner" sticker featuring a horseback rider? Both awards were the brainchild of one man—Frederic G. Melcher.

Born in 1879, Melcher secured a job at the Estes and Lauriat publishing company and bookstore in Boston at the age of 16.

As he advanced through the ranks of the company, he developed an appreciation for children's literature. In 1912, Melcher became the president of the Boston Booksellers League.

After becoming active in the Indiana Public Library Association while managing the W.K. Stewart Bookstore, he teamed up with two librarians to develop Children's Book Week which is still celebrated today.

In 1922, Melcher proposed the concept of the Newberry medal to the American Library Association. He suggested the award be named for 18th century bookseller John Newberry.

The official purpose of the Newberry award is as follows: to encourage original creative work in the field of books for children; to emphasize to the public that contributions to the literature for children deserve similar recognition to poetry, plays, or novels; and to give those librarians, who make it their life work to serve children's reading interests, an opportunity to encourage good writing in this field. The American Library Association agreed to his proposal and the Newberry award became the first children's book award in existence.

Each year, the Newberry Medal has been awarded by the American Library Association for "the most distinguished American children's books published the previous year."

Despite being pleased with the induction of this award, Melcher thought something was missing.



In 1937, Melcher suggested the Caldecott award to be given to the artist who created "the most distinguished picture book of the year" regardless if the artists also wrote the text.

Named in honor of the 19th century English illustrator Randolph J. Caldecott, this award was enthusiastically approved by the American Library Association.

Originally the association determined that a book could not win both awards but in 1977 this rule was reversed.

Randolph Caldecott whose name is honored by this award was a famous illustrator for children's books. His illustrations are unique for their humor and sense of movement related to the story.

The illustration featured on the Caldecott medal is from his work on "The Diverting Story of John Gilpin" and features the character riding a runaway horse accompanied by geese, dogs, and startled on-lookers.

The effects of Mr. Melcher's passion for literature can still be felt today as most libraries are pleased to hold both Newberry and Caldecott winner books in their collections. Stop by the Huntsville Public Library to check out current and previous winners.

—Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator

Listing of Events

Find this information online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com

SEPTEMBER 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.

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.

Is your student interested in design and technology? Come to the Huntsville Public Library for **3D Printing Classes!** In just two days, you and your student can learn how to design a three-dimensional printed object. At the end of the course, each student will be able to take home his or her printed object. This program will be held from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening. This course is best suited for ages 7-17. Parent attendance is required for those under 13. Participants must bring their own USB drives to the class. Sign-up is required and can be found at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com. The September dates are as follows: September 12th and 13th as well as September 26th and 27th.

Get to know the other home schooling families in Walker County! Come to the Huntsville Public Library from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27th for games, artistic projects, and information about library resources as part of our new **"Home School Social"** program. All ages are welcome but sign-up is required. Please visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com for registration and more information.

Joel W. Walker, Ph.D., Physics Department Chair at Sam Houston State University, will present "Quantum Physics for the Rest of Us" at the September 28th **Brown Bag Lecture Series**. Dr. Walker will introduce quantum physics to a general audience. His presentation will include a discussion of how our understanding of particle physics at the smallest level of nature affects our twenty-first century world. Dr. Walker completed his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. He teaches undergraduate students at Sam Houston State and continues his research in high energy physics. Attendees may bring a brown bag lunch. Lunch time begins at 11:30 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. The Huntsville Public Library is located at 1219 13th Street. For more information contact Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471.

Huntsville Public Library is pleased to host the Walker County Master Gardeners **"Fall Vegetable Gardening"** from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Sept. 12 in the Library's Community Room. The Master Gardeners will discuss tips you can take home and put to practical use on matters such as fertilization, weed and insect control, plant selection and harvesting guidelines, composting, and mulching. Texas Master Gardeners are members of the local community who have been accepted into the Master Gardener training program in Walker County. They have attended 50 hours of instruction, and have committed 50 hours of volunteer service to Walker County's Texas Cooperative Extension program in order to attain certification. The group is committed to educating others in the community about a variety of horticulture-related topics. Their workshops and presentations are presented in an engaging manner that is conducive for learning. Door prizes will be awarded. Contact Mary Kokot, Adult Services Coordinator, at 936-291-5471 with questions or for additional information.

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. Wednesdays in September. 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 or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for more information. Games will be played weekly if four or more players register. This program is for adults 18 years and older.

The ever-popular, free **Spanish classes** are returning to the Huntsville Public Library! Instructor Beth Williamson will be teaching Intermediate and Advanced classes Tuesdays in the Community Room. The 13-week program begins Tuesday, September 5, 2017, and materials are provided. Register now to reserve your spot – only 35 student maximum for each class. Intermediate class will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. and advanced class from 3 to 4:15 p.m. Register online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for additional information.

Is your child a fan of comic books? **Comic Book Club** will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30th at the Huntsville Public Library. 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. No sign-up required.