

APRIL 2015

New programs planned for teens

By Ashley Newsome,
Library Services

The Teen Department would like to introduce to a few new programs coming up - like the Teen Advisory Committee, book blogs and a book club.

The Teen Advisory Committee is a great way for teens to help the library with ideas, as well as plan and lead teen programs, displays, and activities. Also, it will help library staff with building relationships with our teen patrons.

Teens should be able to express themselves in many ways and make new friends; the start of a book club will help teens bond over books like anime, comics, books series and books made into movies. Book blogs also give teens a chance to express how they feel about a book but also give a recommendation to a fellow reader as well.

These new additions are a way to get teens back into the library and get excited for reading.



Linda Dodson,
City Librarian

Linda started with the Huntsville Public Library in October of 2002. In addition to running the library she is responsible for purchasing adult materials. Her favorite author is Carol O'Connell.

She loves to spend time with her amazing husband and dog, Munchkin. She also likes to work with her hands and build things. Her last project was building a bench that folded out into a picnic table. She is looking forward to her next building project—a decorative wooden privacy screen featuring a stained glass center.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH : JANET GARDNER

HUNTSVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com
@HuntsvilleLib—Twitter
HuntsvillePublicLibrary—FB

Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday
Noon to 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

1. What are some of your interests? I have a passion for Genealogy and family history.

2. How long have you been a volunteer for Huntsville Public Library? I started volunteering at Huntsville Public Library even before I retired. After years of volunteering, I found my passion for family history. I have been volunteering specifically in the Genealogy department for 4 years.

3. Why do you enjoy Genealogy? I enjoy volunteering because I like to honor families. I work with special collections. A



family will donate their families' special collections and I will go and sort it out. I enjoy reading letters and journals, learning how that family lived, and learning each individual life stories. By the end of the project I feel as though I was apart of that family. I volunteer to honor the family and help future researchers.

4. What is one of your most memorable moments while volunteering for Huntsville Public Library? My most memorable moment would have to be helping a guest from out

of state find history on their ancestors. I find great pleasure when I am able to present them with loads of history. I love to see their faces light up and leave the library satisfied. I never want to make someone feel as though their trip was in vain.

5. What would you tell someone who is interested in researching their family history? I always stress that the internet is not enough when it comes to researching your family history. The library holds the "meat" of family ancestry. We have several books, maps, family collections ,and articles separated by cities and dates. Your researching experience would be more sufficient by visiting a library. People must understand that the research takes time. It will not happen all in one day.

Explore your family history for free

By Richard Lane,
Public Services

Genealogy 

Telling family stories: the places they lived

Why do we “do” genealogy? Why do we spend hours searching for data to fill-in a pedigree chart or update a family tree? Charts and records are indispensable to collecting family history. They provide us with a genealogy. That is, “an account of the descent of a person, family or group from an ancestor.” (Merriam-Webster). However, records are not truly useful of their own accord. Isn't there is a higher purpose to genealogical research than collecting information? Surely, it is the telling of family stories that creates community and binds generations together.

History is not set in stone. It is a creative dynamic. We are engaged in history. It is all around us waiting to be told. A key element in the telling our family's story is creating a vision of the places our ancestors experienced, the trails they traversed, the streams they forded and the places they settled. There are many excellent print and digital resources at the Huntsville Public Library that will help the family historian piece together those visions.

Migration maps may show us the trails our ancestors followed. County survey maps may show when pioneer ancestors arrived in a county and detail the names of their neighbors. Topographical maps show us the contours of the land upon which they settled and the rivers and lakes that sustained them. Road maps give clues to the path our ancestors took as they transported their crops and goods to market. Rail and canal maps give researchers hints about routes their ancestors may have taken as they migrated from one place to another.

County and local histories are helpful resources. They tell us about the families, churches, businesses, industries and educational institutions that gave rise to present day cities, towns and communities. These histories detail outbreaks of disease, natural disasters, and wars. We may learn about times of prosperity and the hard times that left their mark on individuals and communities.

Photographs capture our imagination. Photographs show us much that cannot be said. Photographs make places vivid, fixed in time and knowable. Family photos need to be preserved and shared. Names and circumstances of captured images need to be recorded for posterity. They are an important part in the telling of family histories.

Family history is more than the generational recording of dates of births, marriages, and deaths. It is the empathetic telling of our ancestors' lives. Crucial to that telling is a connection to the places of their lives.

“What a dear old wall that is that runs along by the river there! I never pass it without feeling better for the sight of it. Such a mellow, bright, sweet old wall; what a charming picture it would make, with the lichen creeping here, and the moss growing there, a shy young vine peeping over the top at this spot, to see what is going on upon the busy river, and the sober old ivy clustering a little farther down! There are fifty shades and tints and hues in every ten yards of that old wall. If I could only draw, and knew how to paint, I could make a lovely sketch of that old wall, I'm sure. I've often thought I should like to live at Hampton Court. It looks so peaceful and so quiet, and it is such a dear old place to ramble round in the early morning before many people are about.” ~*Jerome K. Jerome, Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog), 1889.*

My Family Tree



It's Thursday evening just past 6:30 p.m. and cars pack the parking lot next to the small building that is my destination. As I try to find a parking space I'm thinking it looks like this could be some newly discovered Bar-B-Q joint or bistro I haven't heard about yet. What else could it be? It turns out there are nearly 30 people inside who want to learn or improve their English language skills. They are being helped by Claudia Schwinkendorf, a volunteer tutor with the Huntsville Public Library's literacy program who meets with them for three hours each week.



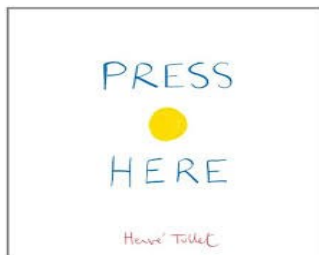
Claudia began her volunteer work with the library in June of 2014. She started out with two students and met at the library's study room but soon grew her class to eight and moved to the Board Room. She rapidly outgrew that space and for a short time held classes at her home. As Claudia realized the pressing need, she organized a class at a local church and has been able to accommodate a much larger group. Aided by materials provided by the Huntsville Public Library, Claudia and other dedicated ESL (English as a Second Language) tutors offer free help and hope to those needing it. Some students hope improving their English language skills will lead to a better paying job or will help them help their children with schoolwork.

There is always a need for volunteers to participate in the Adult Literacy Program at the Library. In addition to ESL tutoring, we also provide tutors to help with Adult Basic Education (ABE) for those in need of help with reading and writing English. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer for the literacy program, please contact Mary Kokot at (936)291-5912 or mkokot@huntsvilletx.gov.

BOOK REVIEW CORNER

Book Review—Press Here

by Herve Tullet



Growing up we've all been told to use our imagination. From playing a game of make believe to envisioning what picture you can see in the clouds. In Herve Tullet's book, Press Here, one can embark on a magical journey. Each page of this book instructs the reader to press dots, shake pages, tilt pages, and leaves the mind wondering about what is going to happen next. Both child and parent will grow to love the book as they read along. From dots multiplying to them disappearing only one with an imaginative mind will be able to understand what is really going on. Parent's faces will light up with joy as they read aloud to their child and hear the giggling of his or her sweet voice. What makes this book

especially striking is the fact that this imaginary adventure takes place on a single, white, flat page that is yet full of imagination. So, parents and children come check it out and find out what all the talk is about! In the words of a famous man, "Logic will get you from A to B but imagination will take you anywhere," Albert Einstein.

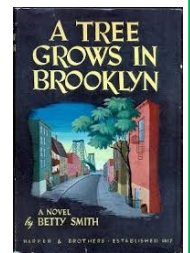
Submitted by: Megan Burns, Work Study, Sam Houston State University



Book Review—A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

By Betty Smith

Based on life experiences, the German immigrant Betty Smith takes us on a journey told through the perspective of Francie Nolan. Her family struggles to survive in the industrial wilderness known as the early 20th century America. When tragedy strikes, Francie must take charge of her life if she's ever going to succeed. What makes this novel great is its use of flawed, yet lovable characters and its promotion of courage, love, and strength from within.—Submitted by Bryan Glasgow, Library Volunteer



A big welcome to **Brenda Poe**, our new Cataloger and to **Ashley Newsome**, who will be working with our Reference and Teen departments. Both have been working with the Huntsville Public Library as Circulation Clerks. Welcome aboard in your new positions!





Children's Patron of the Month!

Daniel Price is our patron of the month! Daniel is 4 years old and his favorite books are *Big Hero 6* and *Wild Kratts*.

Daniel also enjoys picking out library books for his little sister, Lily. He loves all the animals and his favorite color is blue.

THIS SUMMER



Every Hero Has A Story

Are you ready for a great summer of reading adventures? We have a spectacular Summer Reading Program planned for this year! The theme this year is Every Hero Has A Story! We will kick off the program on Saturday, June 13th at 12:30. This program is for children birth to 8th grade. We are excited about having the teens participate in the Read for Chocolate program this year. Every child that signs up will receive a prize while supplies last. We would also like to thank all sponsors that have donated prizes this year.

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Golden Corral
Cinema 10
Olive Garden
McDonald's
Target
Huntsville Lanes
Taylor Nails
Pancho Roberts Aquatic Center
Dairy Queen
Double Daves
Ellen Trout Zoo
3 Spoons
Sonic
Chili's

Upcoming Events

Our new programs are off to a great start! If you haven't heard, the Children's Department has added a new preschool craft time, 'Delightful Doodlers' on Mondays at 11:00, a new elementary craft program, 'Krafty Kids' on Fridays at 4:00 and a Lego club the third Tuesday of every month at 5:00.

We still have our regular programs, too! **Preschool story time** is every Wednesday at 10:45. **Read with the Dogs** is the 3rd Monday of every month at 4:00.

Coming this summer!

- An **elementary book club!** We will have 2 new book clubs this summer beginning June 11th. Ages 5-8 will meet at 2:00 and ages 9-12 to meet at 2:45. This is a weekly program.
- **Teen Computer Class** every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday June 9th-July 16th.
- **Summer Reading Kick-Off** will be Saturday June 13th.
- **Texas Mime Program** with Mitch Corley, Tuesday, June 16th 10:30 a.m.
- **Old Time Raccoon Story Time**, Tuesday, July 14th 2:00
- **Texas Chemistry Road Show** Tuesday, July 21st 2:30
- **Dr Frazier's Special Tooth Fairy Story Time** Thursday, July 23rd 10:45
- **Summer Reading Pool Party** Monday, August 10th 4:00
- **Texas Children's Back to School Bash** Wednesday, August 19th

