

Kingwood College design
class - library renovations
2003





JANUARY 23, 2003

Kingwood Library honors 'friends'

Four dozen residents and organizations have been honored by Friends of the Library/Kingwood for service to the community and to the facility on Lake Houston Parkway.

FOLK recognized contributors during its monthly meeting, then presented a book to the library in honor of each.

Honorees include editors and producers from news media, heads of businesses and civic organizations and volunteers.

The list: Kingwood Women's

club, Kingwood Garden Club, National Charity league, Kingwood Women's Liaison, Kingwood Civic club,

Kingwood Historical Association, Republican Women's Club, Joe Frey, Frank Simonton, Grace Hay-Roe, Kurt Dettmers, Kyle Dettmers, Roland Alley, Robert Gould and Randall's, Walt Dambach, Joe Turner, Administaff, Cynthia Calvert of the Kingwood Observer

Norm Rowland of the Kingwood Sun, Pat and Ray Guard of Forest

Image, Louise Spindler, Kathy Sisson, Elizabeth Martin of Channel 14, John Walsh of Friendswood, Gladys Calougne,

Linda Boschian, Susan Gates, Sylvia and Tom Caskey, Joan Fleming, Fran Charvat, Ann Hoving, Jennifer Gatjen, Matthew and Madeleine Kennedy, Jane McCoy, Marjorie McQuillen, Norma Payne,

Diana Ratnam, Billie Sanders, Clydene Stokes, Clara Taylor and Donna Wood.

2003



Future library needs discussed

Jerry Eversole and Cathy Park recently visited with Wendy Schneider, Kingwood Branch librarian, regarding the future needs of the Kingwood Library. The library's used book sale will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22. Donations for the book sale are tax deductible and can be dropped by the library during normal library hours.



NCL tours Kingwood Public Library

Members of Livable Forest Chapter of National Charity League, Inc., recently toured Kingwood and Humble-area philanthropies served by the organization. Pictured at the Kingwood Public Library are Ticktocker member Rachel DiGregorio, librarian Elizabeth Ronald, and provisional member Judy DiGregorio. National Charity League, Inc., is a mother/daughter organization that promotes community service. Livable Forest Chapter donated more than 5,600 hours to the community during the past year.

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281-358-8888 281-348-3025

Columnist to speak to freelance writers

Kingwood's newly-formed freelance writer's group, "For the Love of Writing With Friends," will hold its third weekly meeting promptly at 8-9 p.m. Wednesday evening, Feb. 17 at Kingwood Library's meeting room with Dixie Frantz, author of the *Observer* and

Sun's humorous column, "Ya Gotta Laugh," as speaker.

"For the Love of Writing With Friends" is recruiting new members throughout Houston. It is a non-profit group developed as a means of encouragement and support for

writers of any genre and of all skill levels. Other speakers, authors, and instructors are scheduled to visit the group throughout 2000.

The group's founder, Shelley Beran of Kingwood, invites anyone interested in attending the group meetings to call 281-358-5851.

FINANCIAL SEMINAR FOR WOMEN

A free seminar entitled "Financial Well-being: What Every Woman Should Know" presented by Julie Welch with American Express will be held on Monday, Feb. 28 at 7 pm. at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods. The program will provide an introduction to topics such as increasing your financial power and investment strategies such as diversification and asset allocation. There will also be tips for reducing taxes and covering the financial challenges of divorce and widowhood. For information call the library at 281-360-6804.

KINGWOOD BOOK GROUP

Kingwood Book Group will meet Thursday, March 2, 2000 at 7:30 at the Bear Branch Community Building to discuss Barbara Kingsolver's "The Poisonwood Bible." For more information, contact Elizabeth Ronald at Kingwood Library (281-360-6804) or Jim Carroll at 281-358-7964.

Dragonmaker takes on library

Work has begun on cutting a dragon and bookworm topiary into the shrubberies in front of the Kingwood Branch of the Harris County Library.

The effort is an understanding by the Kingwood Garden Club, local topiarist Steve LeGrande and his wife Victoria, and the librarians.

"I think it will make the library seem more fun for the children," said head librarian Wendy Schneider, "and it will be a way for the community to take more interest in the library."

The shrubs at the library were actually donated and planted by the Kingwood Garden Club many years ago as an on-going special commitment to beautify the grounds. Over the years, the shrubs matured into such large, healthy specimens that a decision had to be made whether or not to cut them back severely.

In came several librarians who asked if creating a unique topiary around the entrance to the library might be the most creative way to cut back the shrubs.

They had all seen—and were impressed by—the work on Steve LeGrande's property at 3803 Deerbrook, in which he has sculpted a dragon out of a hedge on the side of his property. Known locally as one of the "natural wonders of Kingwood", it draws drive-by lookers, year-round.

The Kingwood Garden Club met with LeGrande and his wife and soon discovered all parties involved were excited about the prospect of such a new project.

After studying the shrubs on a

warm August morning, LeGrande said the inspiration hit him. He saw two figures looming over each side of the pathway to the front door on the library. On one side, the Bookworm would be beckoning his friend—the illiterate dragon, to come join him inside where they could discover the pleasures of reading.

After a wait for the weather to cool down, it was finally decided to cut into the shrubbery on Friday. After six grueling hours of chain swing and branch hauling, the "bones" of the topiary sculpture are in place. LeGrande cautions that it takes up to six months to fine tune and coax the new branches into place. It may not look finished for at least that amount of time.

LeGrande's profession is in theatre, not topiary, and it is this background that perhaps gives him an eye for creating special effects. LeGrande says that as a young man, he

loved wood carving and was also influenced by his father's great love of Japanese gardening. "Somehow that all worked together to make this something I can do, he said." It led him to creating the dragon on Deerbrook and now to the new library topiary.

Head librarian Wendy Schneider is enthused with the progress, saying just watching the cutting was exciting. Not only did local librarians come out to check on the progress, but assistant county librarian Rhoda Goldberg also drove over to take a look.

Schneider plans to capitalize on

"I think it will make the library seem more fun for the children and it will be a way for the community to take more interest in the library."

— Wendy Schneider
Head Librarian

the new interest by sponsoring "Name the Dragon" and "Name the Bookworm" contests in the months to come.

"And it's all volunteer," said Schneider. That says such a nice thing about this community."

The next phase of sprucing up the library begins with garden club members providing and

planting bulbs and perennials for a year-round floral display.

Funds for this effort are financed in part by the upcoming Kingwood Garden Club Christmas in the Forest Home Tour. Tickets to the fund-raiser are still available through all garden club members.



DRAGONMAKER. Steve LeGrande began work last week on cutting a dragon and bookworm topiary into the shrubberies in front of the Kingwood Branch of the Harris County Library.

Libraries seek reading teachers

Atascocita, Baldwin Boettcher and Kingwood branch libraries are seeking people interested in volunteering two or three hours per week to help local adults learn to read, write or speak English.

The libraries sponsor a literacy and English as a second language program which matches volunteer tutors and local adults. Materials and a free training workshop are provided for volunteers, so it's not necessary to have teaching experience.

The libraries usually sponsor training workshops once per year. The next training workshop for English as a second language tutors takes place at Kingwood Branch Library on Saturday and Jan. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The next literacy workshop takes place at Baldwin Boettcher Branch Library, next to Mercer Arboretum on Aldine Westfield

Road, on Feb. 15 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

English as a second language tutors usually work with a small group of adults to help them learn to speak English and write in English. It's not necessary to know a foreign language.

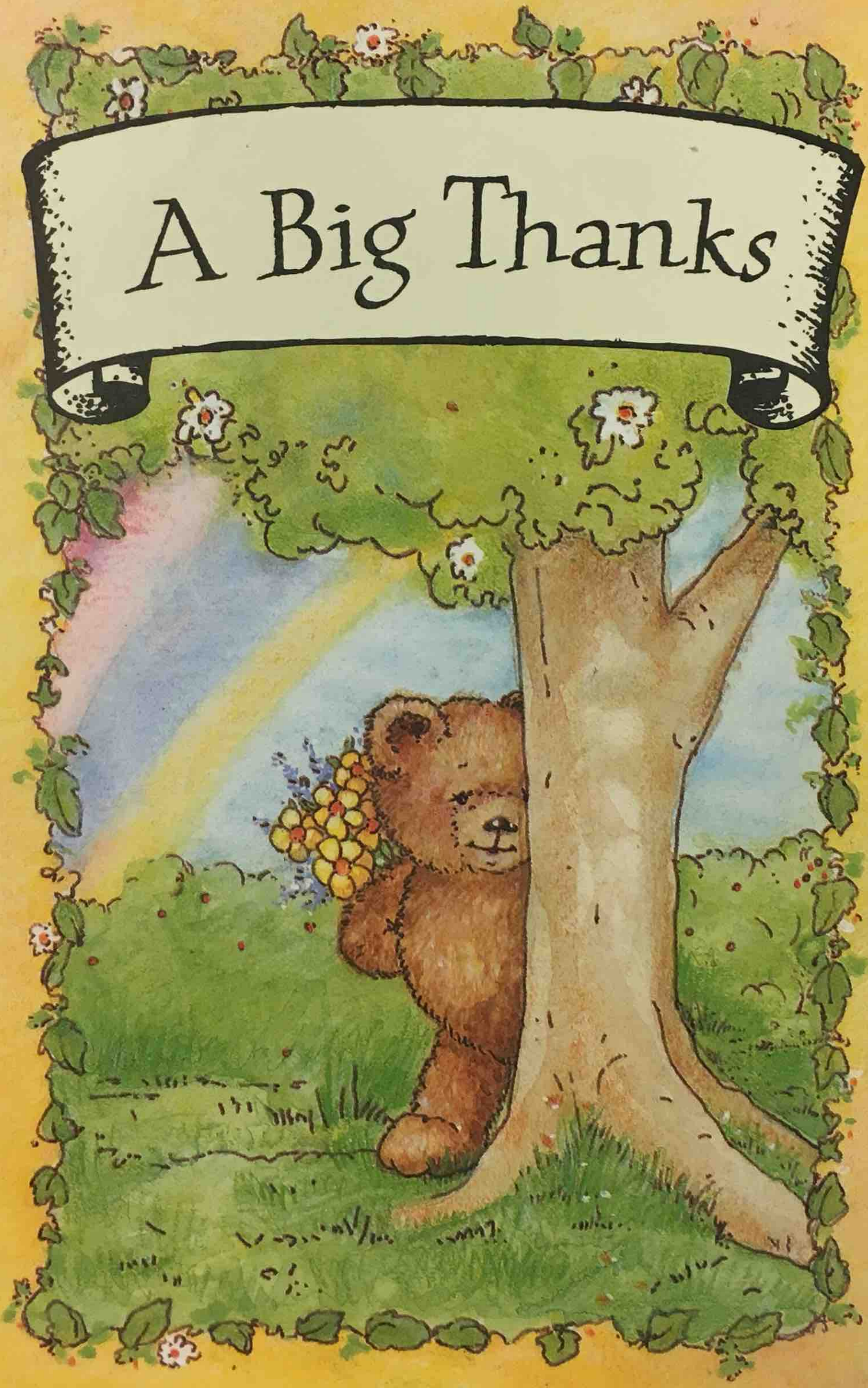
Literacy tutors helps adults learn reading skills necessary for everyday life such as opening a checking account, studying for a driver's license or filling out applications, as well as helping them progress through a series of skill books in order to gain general spreading skills.

After completing training, tutors and students can work with a local adult at any library branch or at another community center or church.

For more information, please call the Kingwood Branch Library at 360-6804 or Baldwin Boettcher Branch Library at 821-1320.

Milton Holley left Kingwood Branch in 1997

A Big Thanks





May I help you?

Kingwood Branch Librarian Wendy Schneider helps patrons at the Reference Desk find material they need whether it be up to date microfiche and indexes for the *New York Times* or Standard and Poors Investment material. Funds raised during the Annual Fall Buy a Book Campaign enables Friends of the Library Kingwood to purchase these items for the Kingwood branch.

FOLK raises \$1660 for library

The final used book sale of the year raised \$1,660 for the Kingwood Library.

Friends of the Library/Kingwood hold the book sales and other fund-raisers to supplement the county library budget. Proceeds pay for books, periodicals, reference material and supplies.

At its annual Recognition Night, the FOLK organization donated books to the library in honor of 22 organizations and individuals who have helped the library with funds or services during the past year.

Those honored include: Peggy Dermott; Su Duggan and the Kingwood Women's Club; Kathy Sessions; Louise Splindler; Linda

Hughes and the Kingwood Garden Club; Tina Stafford and the National Charity League; Jo Radai and the Poetry Club; Charles Garland and Kingwood Cablevision; Carol Waiter and the Kingwood Area Writers Club; Connie Jaeger and the Kingwood Historical Association; Frank Simonton; Grace Hay-Roe;

Roland Alley and Kingwood High School Audio-Visual; Robert Gould and Randalls; Walt Dambaugh and McDonald's; Joe Turner and Burger King; Reggie Martin and Kroger; Marianne Lincoln; Rose Martinez; Jeanette Wickander; Ed Pickle and the Boy Scouts; Kay Henderson and Keep Kingwood Beautiful; and Wade Bartel.



Humble Chamber Golf Classic

Tom Dunn, R. Elchelberger, Jerry Eversole, Leo Ignatio, Rodney Smith, and Art Lopez are pictured after enjoying their rounds of golf on the links at the Humble Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic on August 21, at Kingwood Country Club.

FOLK plans book sale and golf tournament

A sale of used books, magazines and records on Labor Day weekend enriched the Kingwood Library by \$2,800.

The Friends of the Library/Kingwood conducted the sale at the County library on Lake Houston Parkway.

Proceeds will be used for books, periodicals and supplies which aren't included in the budget of the Harris County Library system.

Fund-raisers planned by FOLK during the balance of the year include another used-book sale November 4.

Also, Friends of the Library/Kingwood are hoping for

mild weather and a good turnout for their *re-scheduled* golf tournament, *November 27, at Deerwood Club.*

A combination of bad weather and scheduling problems forced the group to postpone its tourney which had been set for August 28.

Susan Gates, co-chairman of the fund-raising event, said that scheduling the FOLK tournament and the Humble Area Chamber of Commerce tournament on successive Mondays caused problems for a number of players and sponsors.

She has details of the revised plans at 360-0253.

Kingwood Sun September 6, 1995

Volunteers needed for Kingwood Public Library

Adults who love books and have some free time to donate will want to "check out" the volunteer opportunities available at the Kingwood Public Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and must be able to commit two to three hours regularly scheduled hours of volunteer service per week throughout the year.

Tasks will be assigned to match the volunteer's abilities and interests, and can include shelving ma-

terials, telephoning, clerical tasks, computer work, and special projects.

The library depends heavily on its corps of volunteers. Over 40 persons now participate in the program, and some have donated over 1,000 hours of service since the library first opened in 1983. Anyone interested should stop by the library and complete an application form.

For additional information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Bryson at 360-6804.

FOLK announces news

Linda Bryson is the new assistant librarian at the Harris County facility on Lake Houston Parkway.

She moved to the Kingwood branch from the county library in Aldine.

The library will host a used-book sale, conducted by Friends of the Library/Kingwood, on Labor Day weekend. Donations of books, magazines and records may be taken to the library during business hours, Monday through Saturday. Receipts will be given to donors wishing to claim the donations for tax purposes.

Proceeds from book sales and other fund-raisers sponsored by FOLK are used to buy books and supplies which aren't covered by the county library budget.

The Friends of the Library/Kingwood are looking for sponsors and players for their August 28 golf tournament at Deerwood Club.

A \$100 payment covers either sponsorship of a hole or a round of golf, plus cart and a buffet lunch. The tourney is handicapped, with prizes for first and second low-gross and low-net scores.

There also will be a putting contest and awards for the longest drive and the shot closest to the pin.

Prizes are being donated by area businesses.

Proceeds will be added to the fund which FOLK uses for books and equipment which Harris County fails to provide.

Susan Gates of FOLK has more information at 360-0253.

Assistant librarian named

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Library study

Dear Editor:

To all concerned business owners and professionals of Kingwood.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to invite you to participate in a unique and exciting undertaking for libraries all over Harris County. The county library has hired Providence Associates Incorporated, a consulting firm, to evaluate our area libraries, and to begin the process of planning a ten year long range plan for the county library.

Your input as a member of the community will be vital to our consultants who will use the information to help them develop goals and objectives for the county library for the next ten years. The information you give to the consultants during the focus group discussion will remain confidential. The consultants may publish information that was given to them at various focus groups, however, no names will ever be mentioned.

Kingwood library has been asked to assemble a focus group of business persons from the community to meet with a consultant from Providence Associates on Friday, July 14, from 12 (noon) - 2 p.m. in the meeting room of Kingwood Library. If someone from your business can participate in the focus group, please call the library to reserve a space for them. Information needed to reserve a space is the name of the person, the name of your business, and a phone number where they can be reached.

We hope that you will agree that this is an exciting time for the library. Please show your support by sending a representative to participate in the focal group dialogue.

Thank you for your interest and support of our library.

Karen Switz
Branch Librarian
Kingwood

Residents honored for volunteer work

Fifteen area residents have been honored for devoting 50 hours or more to volunteer work at the Kingwood Library.

Top honors went to Joan Fleming, who passed the 1,500 hour mark in May. Next were Billie Sanders with 1,070 hours, Donna Wood with 514 and Norma Payne and Al Angstman with 360 each.

The winners were among 35 Friends of the Library/Kingwood volunteers at a luncheon hosted by the library staff.

Recognition also went to the Kingwood Garden Club for landscaping, Kingwood Women's Club for work on used book sales and the Kingwood Historical Association for adding local newspapers to the microfiche collection.



TOP THREE. From left is Billie Sanders, Joan Fleming and Donna Wood who were the top three in terms of hours worked.



HONORED VOLUNTEERS. Pictured are the Friends of the Library/Kingwood volunteers who were honored for their service.

Kingwood Observer June 28, 1995

FOLK to raise funds at Deerwood Golf Club

If you've ever wanted your very own piece of the exclusive Deerwood Club, here's your chance.

The Friends of the Library/Kingwood are selling holes on the Deerwood course for \$100 each, for their tournament August 28.

Buyers are entitled to signs identifying them as sponsors of their respective holes during the

fund-raiser. Proceeds will be used to buy books and supplies which the county library budget fails to cover.

Players will qualify for prizes such as flags flown above the U.S. and Texas Capitols, a golf club from Wood Brothers and gift certificates from Kroger and Blockbuster Entertainment. Call Susan Gates for information at 360-0253.

Library volunteers recognized

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Kingwood Sun June 28, 1995

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Buyers are entitled to signs identifying them as sponsors of their respective holes during the fund-raiser.

Proceeds will be used to buy books and supplies which the county library budget fails to cover.

Players will qualify for prizes such as flags flown above the U.S. and Texas capitals, a golf club from Wood Brothers and gift certificates from Kroger and Blockbuster Entertainment.

For more information contact Susan Gates at 360-0253.

Library seeks teen helpers

The Kingwood Library is now accepting applications for its annual *Teen Summer Volunteer program*.

The program is designed to provide youth with an opportunity to learn more about the library while earning the volunteer hours needed for things like Scouts, National Honor Society, college admissions, or job resumes. The selected individuals will perform support duties such as filing, shelving of books and materials, and special projects.

Participants must be at least 14 years of age, entering high school or college in the fall or currently

enrolled, and able to work a minimum of two - three hours per week throughout the summer months.

Only twenty positions are available. Teens must come to the library now and complete an application form.

In addition, attendance at one of two training sessions is mandatory. These will be held on Friday morning, May 26 or June 2, from 9-11 a.m.

For information call Nancy Agafitei at the Kingwood Library at 360-6804.

Kingwood Sun May 17, 1995

Book sale helps Kingwood library

The Kingwood Library is nearly \$3,000 richer.

A used book sale held by Friends of the Library/Kingwood brought in more than \$2,300. Administaff and Burger King donated \$200 each.

FOLK will use the funds to pay for books, periodicals and supplies which the Harris County budget fails to cover.

Other fund-raisers scheduled this year include a golf tournament in August and a used book sale Sept. 2.

FOLK donations top \$33,000 in '94

Friends of the Library/Kingwood donated \$33,500 worth of books, supplies and services to the facility in 1994-95.

Purchases of books, periodicals and microfiche services totaled \$30,200, while non-reading items such as equipment and supplies came to \$3,300.

FOLK raised the money through dues, used book sales, the annual Buy-a-Book campaign, an art-and-crafts show and donations. The

1995-96 fund-raisers will include a golf tournament at Deerwood Club.

In other library news:

- Marianne Lincoln has been re-elected president of the Friends of the Library/Kingwood for 1995-96.

Other officers elected following the annual meeting are First Vice President Wanda Bartels, Second Vice President Marilyn McCreight, Corresponding Secretary Betsy Birkett, Recording Secretary Norma Payne and Treasurer Gus

Watkins.

- Lincoln reminds FOLK members that annual dues became payable as of April 1. Memberships start at \$15 per year, and dues may be paid at the library.

- The Friends of the Library are collecting used books, records and magazines for the May 5-6 sale.

Proceeds from the sale will be used for books, periodicals and supplies which the Harris County library budget fails to cover.

FOLK SPENDS \$33,500 ON KINGWOOD LIBRARY

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Mrs. Lincoln reminds Folk members that annual dues became payable as of April 1. Memberships start at \$15.00 per year, and dues may be paid at the library.

Further information on FOLK and its activities is available at 360-6804.

Lincoln re-elected head of Friends of Library

Marianne Lincoln has been re-elected president of Friends of the Library/Kingwood for 1995-96.

Other officers are Wanda Bartels, first vice president; Marilyn McCreight, second vice president; Betsy Birkett, corresponding secretary; Norma Payne, recording secretary; and Gus Watkins, treasurer.

Friends of the Library are collecting used books, records and magazines for the May 5-6 sale.

Donations may be left at the branch library on Lake Houston Parkway.

Proceeds from the sale will be used for books, periodicals and supplies which the Harris County library budget fails to cover.

During 1994-95, Friends of the Library donated \$33,500 worth of books, supplies and services to the library. Books, periodicals and microfiche services accounted for \$30,200 of the total.

Meal sales helps libraries

Libraries are sharing in the profits of McDonald's fast food outlets in this area to the tune of \$1,800.

Owners Walt and Judy Dambach donated 15 cents for each Value Meal purchased at their McDonald's franchises during the last two weeks of February.

Those burger-fries-and-drink combinations raised \$888 for the library under construction in Atascocita, \$555 for the Kingwood branch library and \$358 for the facility in Dayton.

The funds will pay for books, periodicals and other library needs which the Harris County budget fails to cover.

Libraries recognizing Holocaust in April

By **JOYCE CLARK**

ThisWeek Correspondent

As the world prepares for Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 27, local libraries have joined hands with the Holocaust Museum Houston to provide special exhibits throughout the month of April.

"Libraries such as the Kingwood College Library, the Harris County Library in Kingwood, and the Splendora Middle School library are changing lives as they commemorate the tragic loss of 6 million Jews and millions of others killed in the Holocaust," said Beth Rosenthal, program coordinator for the Holocaust Museum Houston.

"In April, various educational programs are implemented to commemorate the victims and educate future generations about the dangers of racial hatred and prejudice, with features such as special exhibits that focus on the Holocaust."

The project began in 1991 with only three libraries, Rosenthal said. It has now expanded to cover more than 70 county and school li-

braries for 1995.

Funding from Barnes and Noble helped make the project possible this year, she said.

"We are grateful for such sponsors and for the libraries who invite us to talk about our mission," Rosenthal said. "The mission of the Holocaust Museum Houston is to promote awareness of the dangers of prejudice, hatred and violence — the most insidious ills besetting contemporary society.

"The Holocaust was the ultimate expression of prejudice, hatred and violence, claiming the lives of many innocent victims. By fostering Holocaust remembrance and understanding, we hope to educate all people about the uniqueness of the event and the universality of its lesson that humankind must learn to live together in peace."

"Many cities have created memorials to the Holocaust. Now thanks to the libraries and the generous companies and individuals who support us, Houston is doing its part in exploring the history of this period of tragic loss and the moral, ethical lessons that form a legacy for future generations," Rosenthal said.

For more information, call the Holocaust Museum Houston at 789-9898.

Kingwood Sun April 5, 1995

Humorist to speak at FOLK

A humorist and newspaper columnist will speak at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library/Kingwood.

Macie Colley, author of the book *Fifty is Fun and Funny*, will address the FOLK membership April 17 at the library on Lake Houston Parkway.

Her columns appear in *Silver Set*, a section of the *Houston Post* directed at senior citizens.

The latest used book sale at the Kingwood Library raised more than \$2,700 for new books and other materials.

Annual meeting of FOLK

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FOLK conducts four sales per year, to raise funds for items which the county budget fails to cover.

They also conduct buy-a-book campaigns and receive donations from companies, civic groups and individuals.

In one of the latest corporate efforts, Burger King outlets in the area collected more than \$100 for FOLK by encouraging customers to donate their change to the library.

For information call the library at 360-6804.

LIBRARY UPDATE

by Joe Benham

A humorist and newspaper columnist will speak at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library/Kingwood.

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Further information is available at the library, at 360-6804

Burger Kings helping community libraries

Owners of local Burger Kings are encouraging customers to leave their change behind to help community libraries.

Coins tossed into the aquarium at each restaurant will be given to Friends of the Library/Kingwood (FOLK), and put aside for the benefit of the library under construction in Atascocita.

In Kingwood, FOLK uses dona-

tions to buy books and supplies which Harris County fails to provide.

Owner Joe Turner, a Kingwood resident, expects the loose-change campaign to raise more than \$50 per month for each library.

A similar collection is under way at a Burger King which Turner and his wife own in North Shore.



Donation to Kingwood Library

In November the Kingwood Civic Club presented Head Librarian, Karen Switz with a check for \$500.00 to be used for books for the Library.

Buy-A-Book Campaign is successful

The 1994 Buy-A-Book campaign for the Kingwood Library has raised \$17,150, slightly more than the 1993 drive.

Campaign Chairman Paula Beste said that the final total should approach \$17,500 thanks to corporations which match charitable contributions by their employees.

The average contribution was \$27.50. This amount represents approximately the cost of placing one book on the library shelves.

The Friends of the Library/Kingwood (FOLK) use Buy-a-Book drives and other fund raising activities to pay for books, periodicals and other materials which are not covered in the county library budget.

Project at library continues progress

Kingwood Garden Club members, Kathy Sisson and Louise Spindler headed the six month project to renovate the landscaping at the Kingwood Library.

Beginning last June, every Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. weeds were pulled and bushes pruned.

In October the mulch arrived, just before the drenching rains.

With a slight weather delay, the mulch was spread and the bed was ready for planting.

Dwarf nandina and 10 flats of pansies purchased from Home Depot were delivered.

A dozen garden club members stood ready, trowel in hand. Over 200 plants were put in the ground that morning.

"In 1985, the Kingwood Garden Club was a substantial contributor to the initial Library landscaping effort, it seems only appropriate that 10 years later we help refurbish it," according to Louise Spindler.

In both instances funding for these beautification projects was available from proceeds of the Kingwood Garden Club biennial Home Tour, "Christmas in the Forest".

This has been a very rewarding project according to Sisson.

There's more to come; in the placed with heart resistant annuals and succulents.



PROJECT COORDINATORS. Project coordinators Kathy Sisson and Louise Spindler on site at the Kingwood Branch of the Harris County Library System.

Kingwood Observer January 11, 1995

Library to preview three operas tonight

On Jan. 11, 1995, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Kingwood Library, Ann Thompson will preview the three English language works in Houston Grand Opera's Winter Repertory period.

Wallace and Korie's *Harvey Milk* tells of the rise and fall of San Francisco's gay activist Harvey Milk, who had gathered under his banner the disenfranchised of his district - Orientals, senior citizens, the handicapped - and seemed destined to change politics city, state and nation-wide until an assassin decided otherwise.

Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* is an American classic that reaffirms the power of courage and love in one individual, a crippled beggar, who happens to be one of the folks living in Catfish Row, Charleston, South Carolina.

Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, of 1689, was the first real English opera. For a long time, it was the last. This baroque extravaganza is authentic to the last measure of the music, the last syllable of the text and the last stately step of the dances. Don't miss it.

Even if you are not an opera-

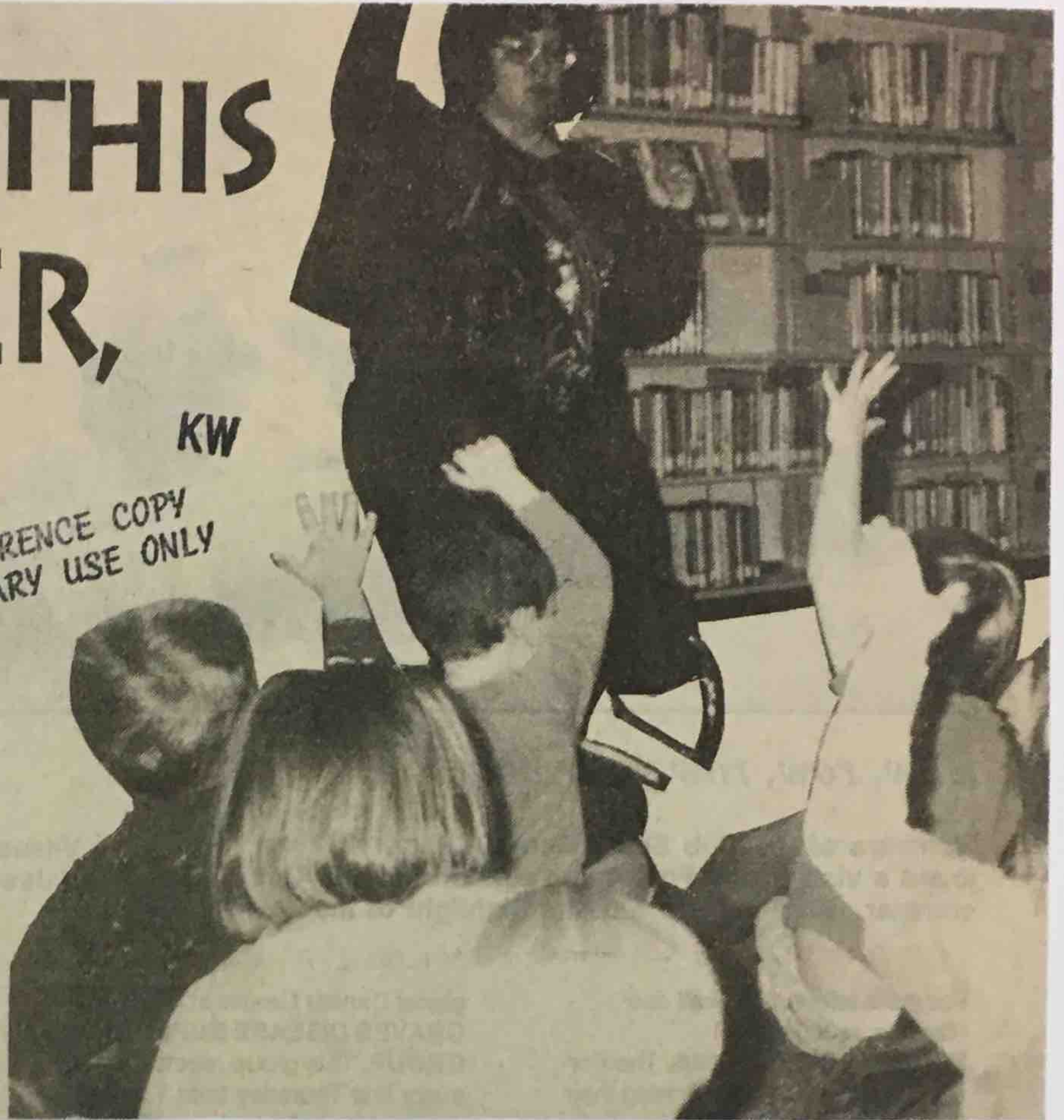
goer, come hear some glorious music with text to read along with, discover some fascinating things, see some beautiful pictures, and if you change your mind, avail your-

self the opportunity of group attendance at discounted prices.

For more information, contact the library, or Ann Thompson at 465-0755.

BORED THIS SUMMER, READ A BOOK

KW
REFERENCE COPY
LIBRARY USE ONLY



By JONATHAN CARTER
Observer staff

Even the most energetic children need to slow down sometime, and with the intense summer heat bringing everything to a crawl, no place is better suited to cool youngsters off and keep them entertained than the library.

Both the Kingwood and Humble branches of the Harris County Library have events and presentations scheduled throughout the summer months that offer kids ways to 'beat the heat', and learn something while they're at it.

"We like to tell the kids that during the summer we're offering lots of books and not a lot of homework," said Kingwood Children's Librarian Connie Dye. "Our main reading program is a kind of 'do it on your own' program that really emphasizes reading, we want kids to enjoy their reading."

Dye said Kingwood's children's programs have grown extensively during her employment with the library. She estimated 40 to 90 children show up on Mondays to participate in the Familiar Faces Fun Club; a blend of movies, crafts and reading activities for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade. Tuesdays read-aloud programs attract about 50 kids, she said.

One of the summer's most anticipated events for Kingwood's library will take place July 14, when Ruffles the clown makes a 2:15 showing. Ruffles will delight the crowd with fun and games as she transforms herself from Ruth to Ruffles.

Dye encouraged all interested parties to pick up tickets as soon as possible for the free library event, as seating is a premium.

Regular Monday and Tuesday events will continue throughout the summer until the library holds its end of summer party August 3 at 7 p.m. Once again the event is free and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Octavia Fields Memorial Branch Library in Humble is also serving up a full slate of events for readers.

John Stark, story-teller, and Juana Dyess, bilingual singer, will entertain library patrons July 13.

A stuffed animal program and teddy bear stories will take place July 20.

July 27 will see the library's summer programs come to an end with a presentation by Bob Donahar that will include interaction with the children who have taken part in the summer programs.

"At the end of summer we pass out certificates for the children who have read ten or more books, it's something they look forward to because it's something they've earned," said Humble Children's Librarian Agnes Baucum. "We'll be passing out a bunch of certificates this year. Each of our programs sees about 90 to 100 participants."

For information on either library feel free to call. Kingwood's number is 360-6804, and Humble's is 446-3377.

Both librarians suggested belief in the old adage "The more the merrier".

Channel 14 aids FOLK campaign

Dear Editor

Kingwood Cablevision and General Manager Charles Garland have been commended by the Friends of the Library/Kingwood and the Kingwood Fire Advisory Commission for major contributions to the community.

FOLK donated a book to the branch library in honor of Garland and the cable company, which has given some \$10,000 to the library during the past six years. The funds are a percentage of revenues from new customers and upgrades of existing services.

On behalf of the Fire Advisory Commission, Chairman David Casey commended Kingwood cable and KTTV for efforts to keep the public informed during the recent flood.

Garland authorizes live telecasts by KTTV with information on the flood and substituted public service announcements for advertising on Channel 14 in Kingwood-Forest Cove.

Joseph Benham
Kingwood, Tx.

FOLK offers books of thanks

Dear Editor

As the annual Buy-a-Book campaign for the Kingwood Branch Library continues, I would like to thank the hundreds of generous people who have already sent in a contribution. Their help will make a significant difference in the quality of our library.

Due to the success of last year's campaign and Friends of the Library-Kingwood other fundraising activities, the Friends were able to contribute about \$43,000 back to the library, including \$13,000 for addition high demand books; \$16,000 for adult and children's books; \$3,500 for magazines discontinued by the county; \$4,800 for paper back shelving and furniture; and \$3,600 for the My Times index and microfiche. This would not have been possible without the \$17,000 provided by area residents during the Buy-a-Book campaign.

We must continue to work to supplement county provided funds if we want to have a library we can all proud of.

I strongly urge everyone to consider a contribution.

Paula Beste
Buy-a-Book
Coordinator

FOLK launches

Kingwood Civic Club makes donation to Kingwood Library for new books



CIVIC CLUB DONATION - The Kingwood Civic Club recently made a donation to the Kingwood Library. Handing a check to Macie Cawley, assistant librarian, is Dwight Wimberly, new president of the KCC.

The Kingwood Civic Club recently made a donation to the Kingwood Branch of the Harris County Library.

The money will be used for new books and office equipment that is needed. The library was selected as a donation recipient because of recent cuts in library funding.

The Kingwood Civic Club gets most of its money from its thrice-yearly garage sales. Other donation recipients include the Lake Houston YMCA and Young Life. The organization provides facilities for food sales for the Kingwood Choir and Ponys.

FOLK launches Buy a Book campaign

Fund-raising effort to stock shelves

The Friends of the Library Kingwood wants people to book on over to the library this October and donate funds to the "Buy a Book" campaign.

This annual event to raise funds for the Kingwood branch of the Harris County Library's book collection recently was launched with a mail campaign targeted to every resident and business owner in Kingwood.

The Friends of the Library Kingwood is a

non-profit organization dedicated to helping stock the library's shelves.

"The object is to get every household in Kingwood to buy a book," said Paula Beste, the coordinator of the Buy a Book campaign. "It costs about \$25 to get a book on a shelf and we're trying to increase the number of books there."

Currently, the Kingwood Library has 86,709 volumes, but that number of books is not enough for the growing Kingwood population, Beste said.

Last year, the campaign netted about \$15,000 for the library.

Kingwood librarian Karen Switz said that there is a greater need for people to give to the campaign this year than ever before.

"This year, more than ever, we need the help because we had a tremendous budget cut," said Switz. "All of our materials budget — books, videocassettes and periodicals — were cut 42 percent."

"We've always had a successful Buy a Book campaign, but this year we need the residents to help us out a little bit."

"The number of books going in and out is up 14 percent over last year," Beste said. "We have about 35,000 card holders and on the average, each card holder checks out 11 books a year."

"You can't expect to have a first-class library unless we all pitch in."

People can contribute funds either by returning a check in the self-addressed, stamped envelope they received with their letter or by taking money directly to the library's collection box.

By **JENNIFER ALBERT**
ThisWeek Correspondent

Library gets new system

In November, the Kingwood Library increased the ability of users to locate books, titles, and subjects in the library system by adding the CD-ROM Catalog Computer system. This was financed through the Friends of the Library Kingwood with their various activities.

There are several advantages of the CD-ROM over the Microfiche card catalog. CD-ROM is much faster than Microfiche.

Both adult and juvenile catalogs are combined, letting the user have more information at his immediate disposal. CD-ROM is updated more often than Microfiche, allowing the catalog to be more current. It also allows the use of a keyword that will show the listing of all entries that

include the keyword. This is useful when the user cannot remember the full title of the subject or needs all titles of a certain subject.

Both systems will continue to be available for the user and the library personnel will be glad to assist you in learning the new system.

The FOLK Buy-A-Book Campaign is awaiting final results, but indications are that the response is greater than last year.

Donations are still being accepted at the library for future book purchases.

October activities included Scary Ghost Stories by professional story teller Jeannine Passini Beekman and the annual Children's Halloween Party prior to Halloween.



Karen Switz and Christi Whittington supervise the installation of the new CD-ROM Catalog Computer System in the Kingwood Library financed by Friends of Library Kingwood.

Honored volunteers

On Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. the Fall Volunteer Luncheon was held at the Kingwood Branch Library. The luncheon is held twice a year to thank and recognize the 20 to 40 volunteers at the library. A lasagna feast was prepared by the library staff as a gesture of appreciation to the volunteers.

After the meal, there was a brief speech given by Macie Cawley, coordinator of volunteers for the Kingwood Library. She spoke on how essential the work of the volunteers was to the library — that their efforts made it possible for the library staff to offer the community its current level of service.

Catherine Park, county librarian for Harris County Public Library,

said Kingwood had the largest number of volunteers of any of the branch libraries and this said something special about the community spirit of Kingwood.

Lastly, awards were handed out. A special award was given to Sue Burris, Barbara Robinson, and Linda Samsury for the extra effort and

time they put in helping when the computers were down for many weeks while the software was changed.

Debra Huebotter and Sue Burris were recognized for having worked more than 50 hours.

They received a personalized coffee mug and a certificate.

Ann Hoving received the Dedicated Volunteer award for having completed more than 600 hours of volunteer time.

The Outstanding Service Award for more than 750 hours went to Billie Sanders and Clara Taylor. A special round of applause was given to Marjorie McQuillen, who had given over 1,000 volunteers hours to the library. A book has been dedicated in McQuillen's honor.

Eligible for awards but unable to attend were Mary Jo Carlson, Al Angstman, and Mary Jane Ely.

Funds for the awards and some of the supplies for the luncheon were donated by FOLK. Representing FOLK at the function were Dixie Whittington, Bob Watkins, Pam Detmers, and Herb and Wanda Hudson.

Volunteers need to be over 14 years old, work a minimum of two

hours a week, and agree to a commitment of 50 hours to the library.

Volunteers do support and behind-the-scenes work. They check and prepare orders for new books, shelve books, call reserves, discharge returned books, put away magazines and newspapers, etc. For more information, call the library at 360-6804 and ask for Macie Cawley.

Family valued

At top of thanksgiving lists

By VICKI PRUETT
Staff Writer

Families topped the lists of local residents asked to name what they are thankful for this holiday season.

Connie Dye, children's librarian at Kingwood Library, says she is thankful that her mother's health has improved.

She says she is also grateful for all of the children that visit the library because they are such a joy to her.

Dennis Johnston, director of Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center, and



Dye

Martin de Vore, park naturalist, express appreciation for their wives.

"This Thanksgiving I'm thankful for my wife's healthy pregnancy and the opportunity to share our first child," Johnston says.

"I'm thankful for the fact that I consider myself to be married to the most wonderful woman in the entire world," says de Vore.

Kingwood resident Joseph Benham gives thanks for people and things which he hopes he will never take for granted; a country in which leaders are elected, not imposed; a society which celebrates unity while honoring diversity; a community which stimulates a desire to serve others while providing extensive opportunities for leisure; a church which proclaims the word of God; and a family who tolerates his idiosyncrasies.

Librarian named to staff at Kingwood.

By KAREN ZURAWSKI
ThisWeek

Karen Switz loves the library. It's a good thing, because she has worked in a library most of her career.

Her latest position as librarian at Kingwood Library becomes effective May 26. She has worked in libraries since 1970.

"My philosophy is very service oriented," said Switz. "What can we do for you? We'll do as much as we can. We do have limitations."

Catherine Park, Harris County librarian, said, "She has a lot of experience. She is the best candidate of the people interviewed. We had several candidates." The position has been open since July, and Park said it was difficult to find a candidate.

Switz lives in Spring and works in

Humble, and plans to move closer after her lease expires. She started with the Harris County Library system in 1978 as a desk assistant at the Spring Branch library. In 1983, she became desk assistant at High Meadows, in 1984 librarian at Galena Park, in 1989 children's librarian at Aldine and in 1990 assistant librarian in charge of children's program at Baldwin Bottcher.

Park said Baldwin Bottcher and Kingwood are comparable branches. Baldwin Bottcher has 10,137 square feet, a fiscal year 1992 circulation of 334,308 and a book collection of 52,372. Kingwood has 12,000 square feet, a fiscal year 1992 circulation of 357,306 and a book collection of 64,483.

Switz, a California native, said her library career started in her home state. She and her family came to Texas in 1976. She said she enjoys

working in a library.

"It's such a vital part of every one's daily life," she said, explaining it offers information and recreation to all ages, socio-economic groups and races. She said she enjoys the challenge of trying to help fill the different needs.

Her first goal is to "look around to see what the needs are. I want people to be aware of the library." She said she intends to go out and meet with community groups and members regarding the library and its services.

"The patrons are important. Every single one of them," Switz said.

She said the library is fortunate to have an active Friends of the Library of Kingwood and she would like to encourage its members and work closely with them.



**You are invited to the
Kingwood Library
VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON!**

**MONDAY
JULY 27, 1998**

11 - 1

**Kingwood Branch Library
4102 Rustic Woods**

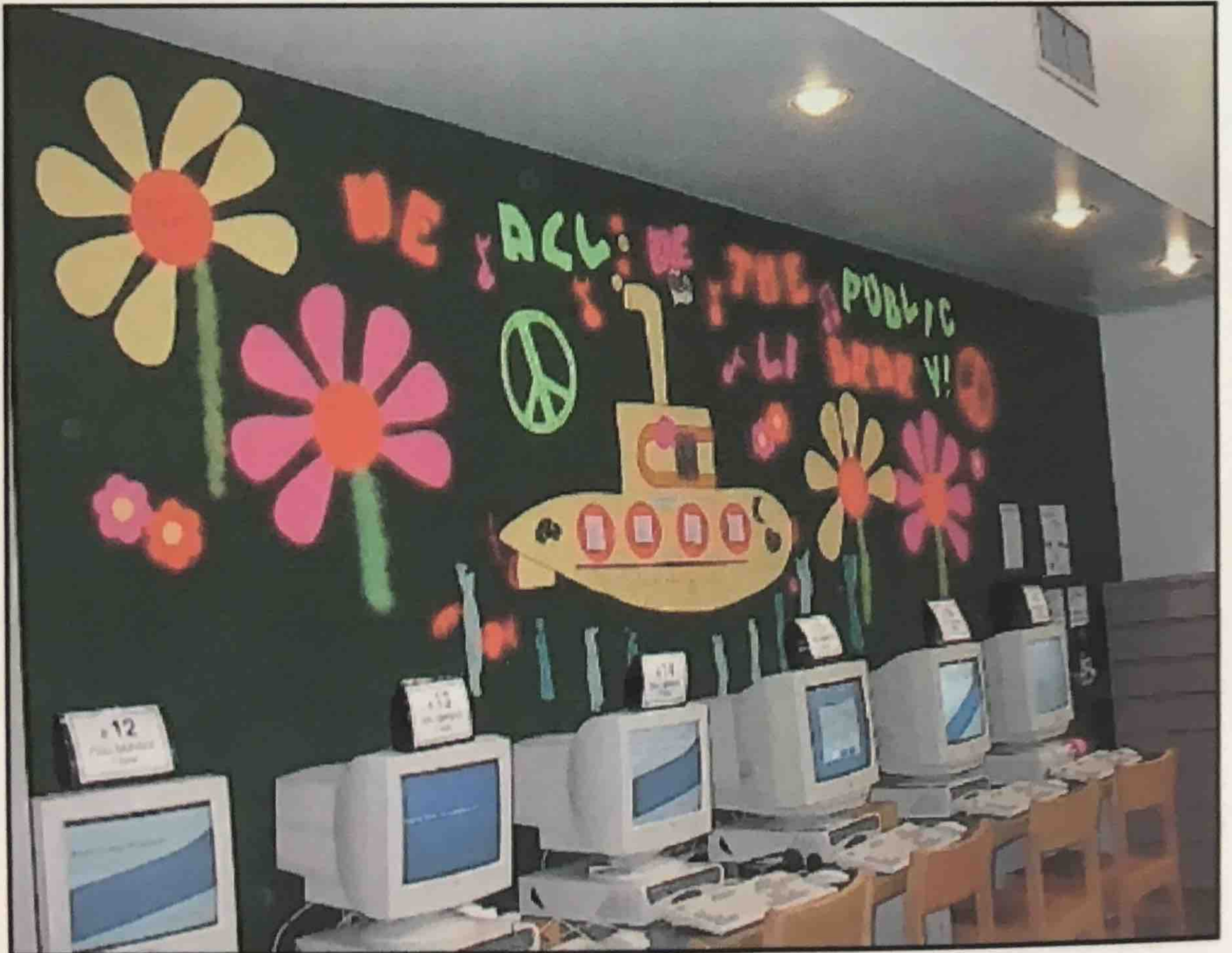
R.S.V.P. 281-360-6804

2003 Volunteer Luncheon





Volunteer Luncheon 2005



Volunteer Luncheon 2005



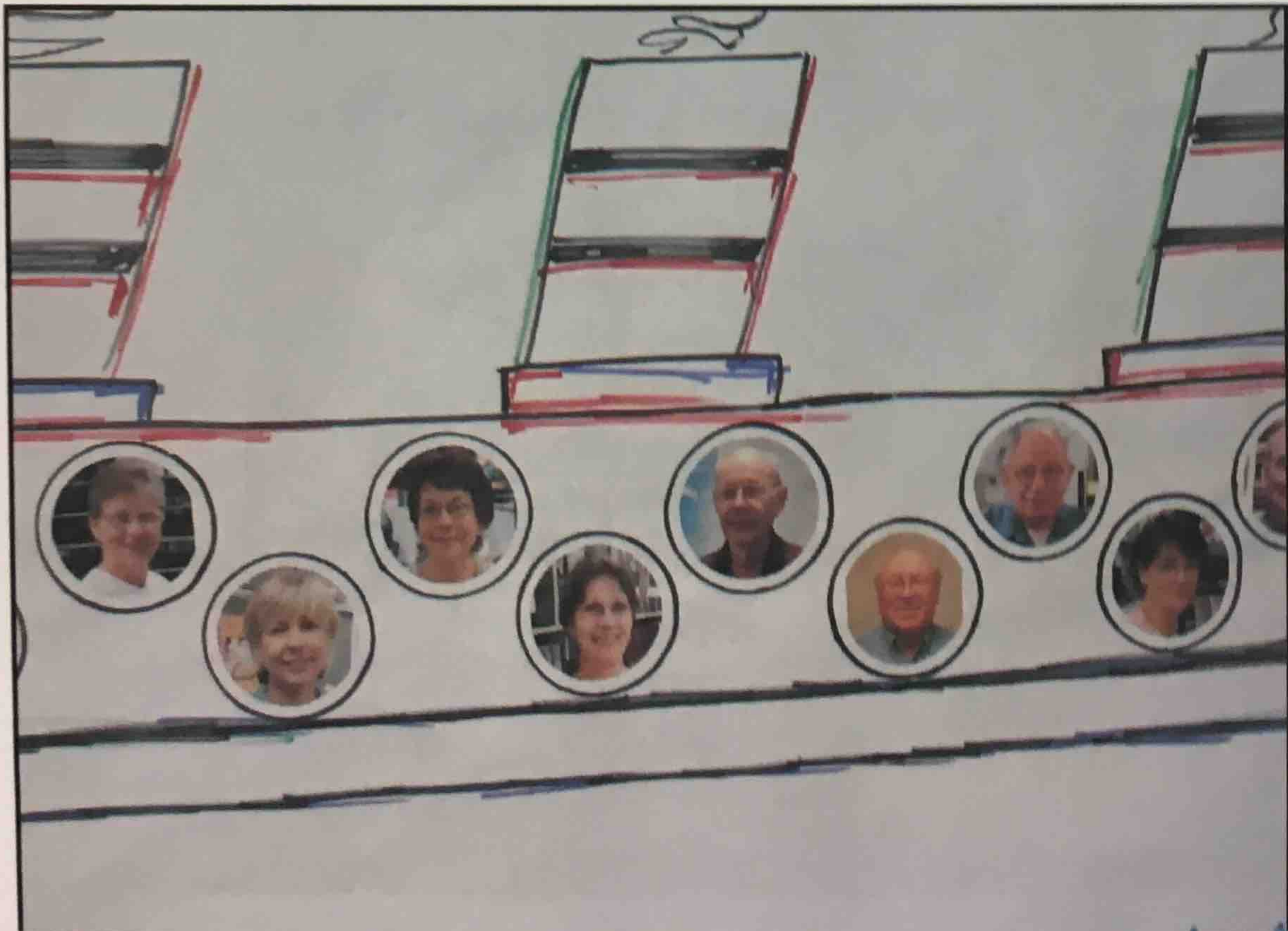
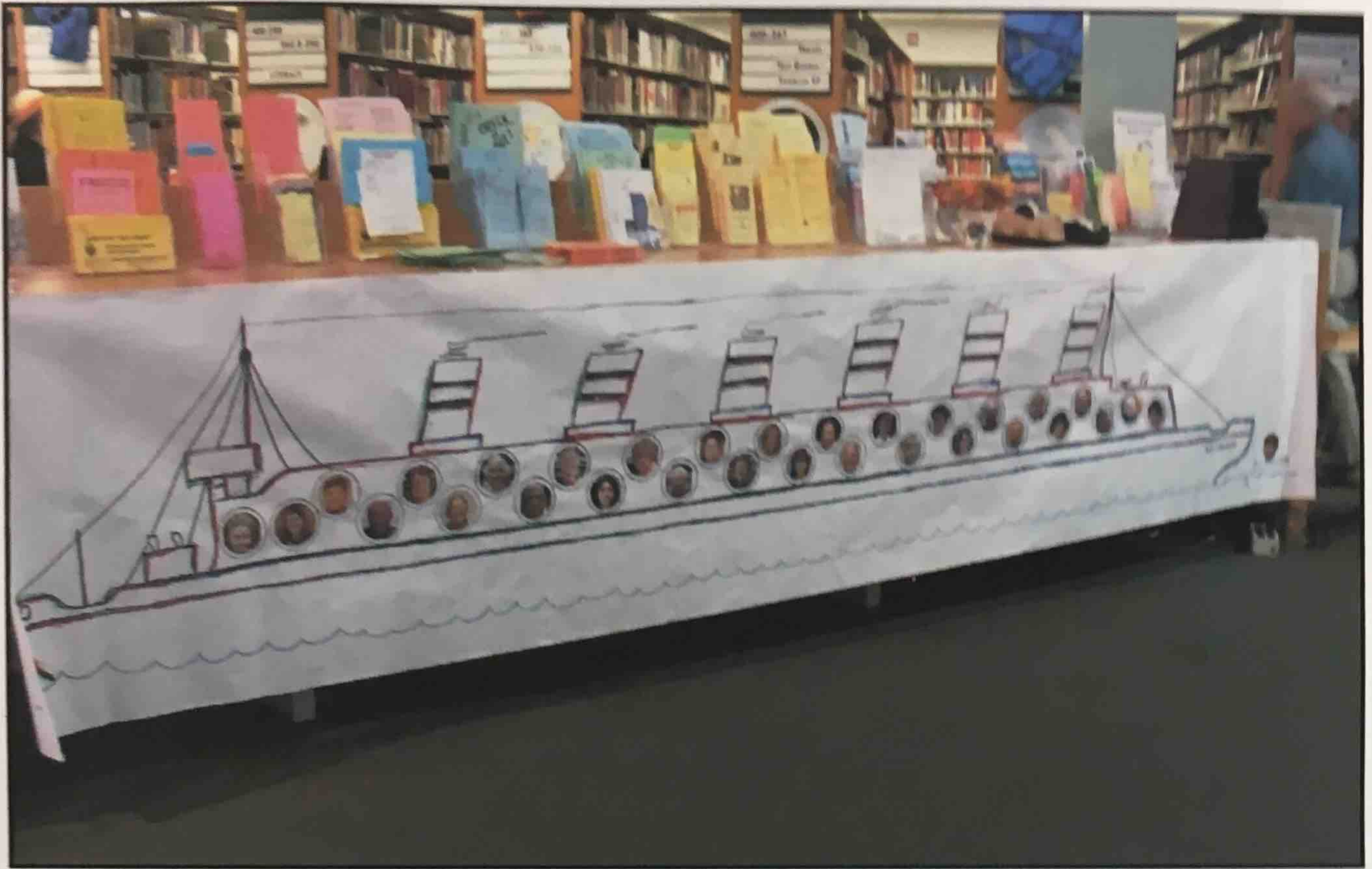
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Volunteer Luncheon 2006



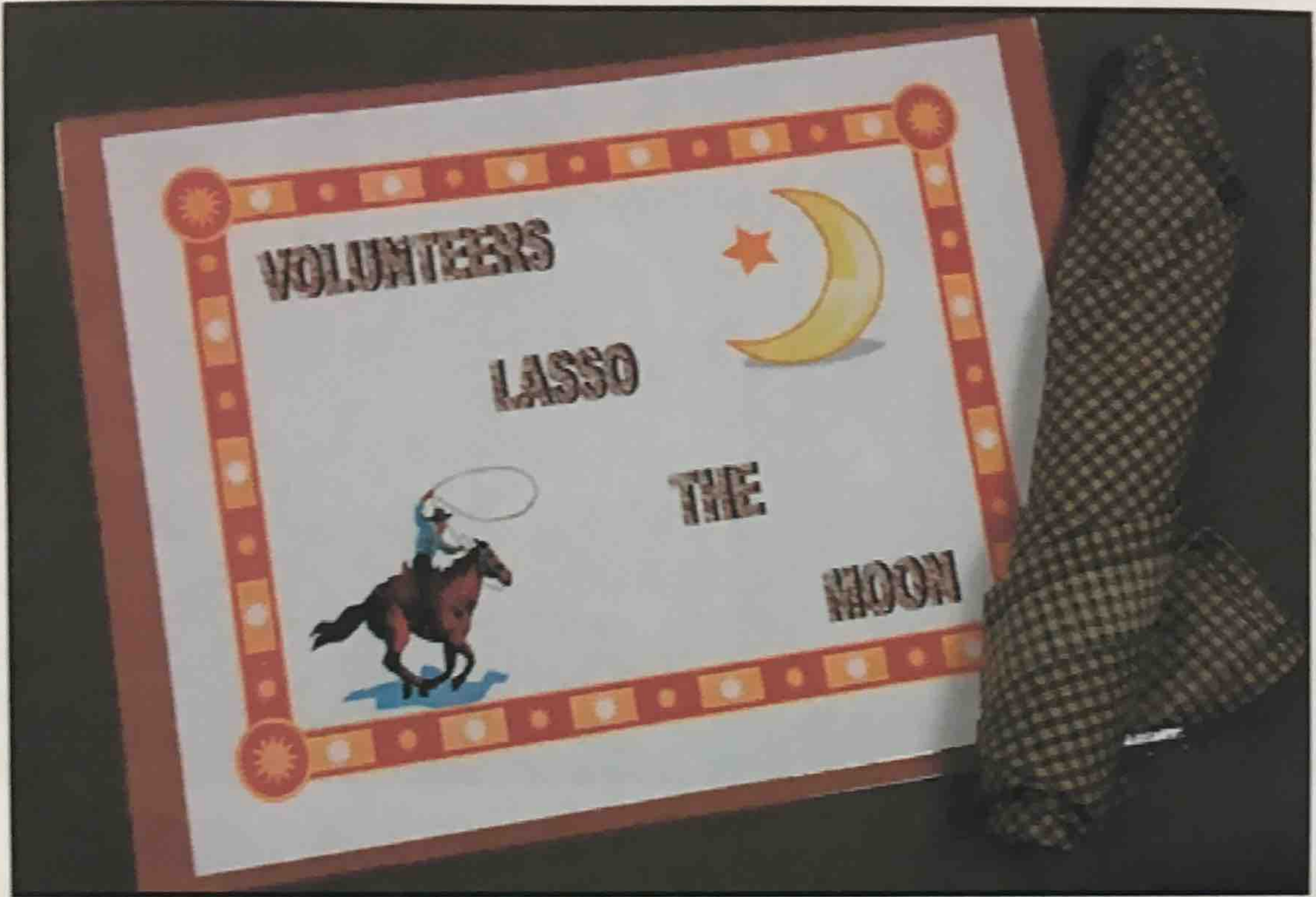
Volunteer Luncheon 2007



Volunteer Luncheon 2007



Volunteer Luncheon 2008



Volunteer Luncheon 2008





Margarie McQuillen



Folk - Buy a Book 1985



Susan Gates



Jennifer Gatjen - Staff Shelver



Linda Boschian



Norma Payne



Anne Hoving



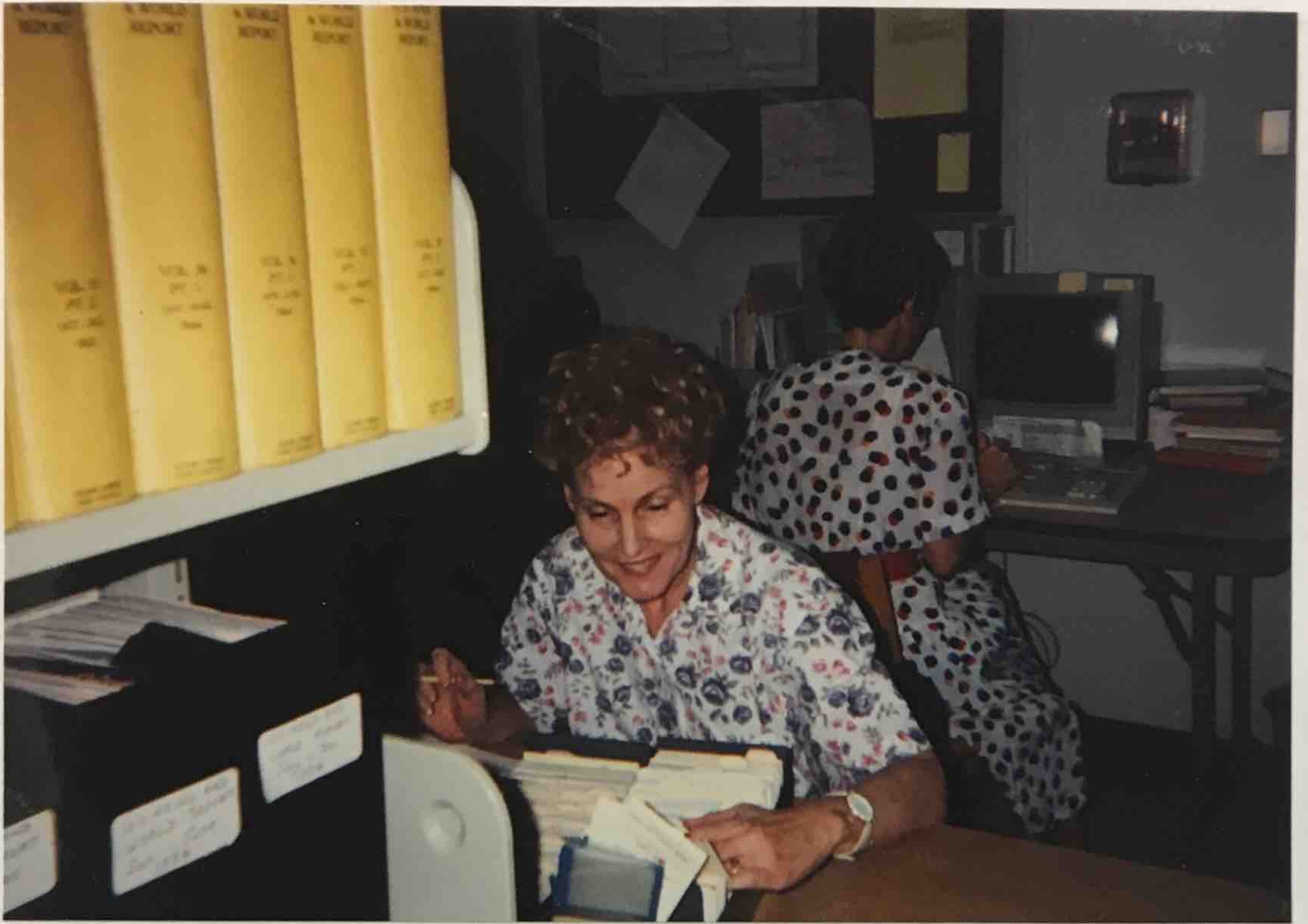
Mary Jo Carlson



Gus and Bob Watkins



Marion McBride



Gladys Calongne



Madelyn Kennedy



Fran and Tom



Diana



Wanda Anderson



Barbara Robinson



Joan Fleming



Billie Saunders



Clara



Whitney



Kay Hudak



Peggy



Donna Wood



Tom Caskey

Library program seeks tutors, students,

students

Despite some initial trepidation before meeting her adult students for the first time, the experience led Addie Kephart to continue as a volunteer teacher of English as a Second Language for more than 20 years.

While still working full time in the 1970s, she took a brief training course for volunteers and was given the telephone number of a group of Vietnamese students to call.

"I didn't know what I was going to do, but during the class they just made me feel so good about teaching. We didn't understand each other at first, but we managed," says Kephart, an Atascocita resident who is now a volunteer trainer as well as a tutor.

"They never called me Addie. They always said 'teacher,'" she says. "I realized that was sort of the highest form of respect they could pay me, to be their teacher. It makes me feel very humble."

During the past 20 years, she has written recommendations for the family's children and celebrated New Year's Day with the family on several occasions.

"They would come to my house and cook Vietnamese dishes while I would cook American food. We spent many happy times together," she says. "I feel as though it's my duty to share knowledge with other people and to enjoy them as much."

Kephart, who volunteers in the



HELPING OUT. Pictured is Dinny McManus helping student, Elena Senese, on her English. McManus, resident of Kingwood, is a English as a Second Language tutor volunteer.

area of adult basic literacy as well as ESL, is among hundreds of Houston area ESL or adult basic literacy volunteers through Harris County Public Library branches and other organizations.

Kingwood Branch Library will host a two part workshop for residents interested in becoming volunteer tutors on Feb. 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The library also has opening for adult ESL students in Kingwood and surrounding areas.

After completing the two-part workshop, tutors receive volunteer certification from Laubach Literacy Action, a national organization of literacy volunteers,

resident who has volunteered as an ESL tutor for about two years through Baldwin Boettcher Branch Library in Spring, began volunteering as a tutor after he retired partly because he was interested in Spanish, although he says there is no need for tutors to be able to speak their students' language.

After meeting for about a year with his student, Elena Senese, McManus says she is much more confident and has improved in her ability to understand conversations.

"Only one year, ago, I would have had to ask you to repeat, but now I can understand you clearly," says Senese, who moved to Houston from Italy in July 1994 when her husband was transferred here.

"My big problem was speaking on the phone because I could understand nothing," says Senese. "When I arrived to speak with a principal and a counselor (to enroll her daughters in school. I had trouble explaining because the kind of school is different and the style of lessons are different. For the first few months I know nobody that could help me."

To enroll in the Kingwood Branch Library as a student or register as a tutor for the Feb. 10 and Feb. 17 workshop, please call the library at 360-6804. There is no charge for students or tutors.

1996

Orange you glad you came?



Julie Click photo

Kim Wood — as Raggedy Ann — dips punch from a smoldering bowl during a Halloween

party at Kingwood Library. Wood belongs to the Kingwood Women's Club Junior Alliance.



VOLUNTEERS HONORED. Kingwood Library volunteers were honored recently at a luncheon given by the library staff.

Kingwood Library honors volunteers

A luncheon given by Kingwood Library staff to honor library volunteers was held recently in the meeting room of the Kingwood Library.

Special awards and citations were presented by Marianne Lincoln, volunteer coordinator, following the luncheon.

County Librarian Cathy Park expressed appreciation of the work and dedication of the Kingwood volunteers. She spoke on behalf of the Harris County Library Administration and the county commissioners.

Receiving the special recognition

award for 500 hours were Fran Charvat and Paula Tolbert. The special citation award was presented to Lois Dunn for 400 hours. The special merit award for over 350 hours was given to Sharon Gobel and Marjorie McQuillen.

A special award was presented to Carol Fielding for 300 hours and to Dorothy Miller for photographic service through the years. Special mention was given to Pres Brown and Jean Robison for over 250 hours of service.

The first recognition award for 50 hours was received by Frances Ed-

gar-Bennett, Janet Nunn, Isle Payne, Lorraine Kelly, Nancy Martone, Gudrun Opperman and Billie Sanders.

Receiving certificates were Linda Arnold, Marie Blunt, Virginia Carter, Kay Coursen, Janet Gatjen, Nueda Heibler, Ann Hoving, Jean Peabody, Peggie Sussky, Bettye Sutton and Clara Taylor.

New volunteers include Mary Jo Carlson, Betty Carpenter, Pamela Cervi, Mary Jane Ely, Betty Hamilton, Bobbie Williams, Elizabeth Holz, Patsy Zahrt and Winfred Kilbride. Returning were Sandra Clark and Sara Donohoo.

Kingwood Sun 8/25/93, p. 4A

Opinions of our readers

Kingwood Library is celebrating its first 10 years

Dear Editor:

There was a recent celebration marking 10 years since Kingwood got a library of its own.

And celebrate we should, because few communities the size of ours are as fortunate when it comes to libraries. We see that in the quantity and variety of children's books, stacks jammed with reference books essential for students, rows of classic and current fiction and shelves full of periodicals meeting special needs.

Nor does it stop with what's in print. Videos, audio tapes, even works of art may be checked out for use at home or work.

But there's much more to our library than what's on paper or tape or canvas; more than the building itself. Patrons using the facility benefit from a resource which is overlooked or taken for granted far too often: the library staff.

This hardy handful of paid employees, assisted by volunteers ranging from high school students to se-

nior citizens, do many things seen by the public: checking out huge numbers of books, answering myriad queries and steering patrons to the appropriate shelves, cabinets and microfiche gadgetry.

But they also do behind-the-scenes and low-profile work such as re-stocking shelves, updating periodicals and unpacking new materials. They order books and magazines from other libraries, run the used book sales and call when something requested becomes available.

They are dedicated people who help us with our work, show us where and how to find what we need, and who do much to enrich the lives of ourselves and our posterity.

We owe them our thanks, and while you're at it, why not call or write Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole to affirm your support for the campaign to expand the library.

The library helps us grow; we should return the favor.

Joseph Benham
Kingwood

Chronicle 2/26/92



Art show planned

Herb Trussell, right, president of Woodland Hills Trains Association, and Rose Mary Gresham, Friends of the Library-Kingwood art show chairman, agree that April 25-26 will be the dates for the 21st Kingwood Art Show. It will be held at Woodland Hills Village Green, behind the Court of Kingwood Shopping Center on Woodland Hills Drive and Lake Hills Drive. For booth information, contact: FOLK, P.O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas 77325.

Kingwood celebrates library's 10th year

By JOSEPH BENHAM
Contributing Writer

County and local officials and other notables are expected to join the public in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Kingwood Library on Sunday, Aug. 22.

The 2 p.m. ceremony at the library on Lake Houston Parkway will be followed by a two-hour open house featuring tours and refreshments.

Friends of the Library-Kingwood (FOLK) and the Harris County Library System are sponsoring the observance marking the decade since the 12,000-square-foot structure opened.

Among those invited are County Judge Jon Lindsay, Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole, former Commissioner Squatty Lyons, Friendswood Development Co. officials, former Kingwood Librarian Cindy Ecklund and Ken Harwood, president of FOLK when the library opened.

Librarian Karen Switz and FOLK President Wanda Bartels head the committee planning the observance and will preside at the ceremony.

Kingwood got its own library after Friendswood agreed to donate a site and FOLK launched a campaign for construction funds to be included in the 1979 Harris County bond election.

Friendswood offered 4.4 acres near Kingwood High School, then substituted a 1.5-acre tract said to be better because of its proximity to the Park-and-Ride lot and a civic center being planned for that area. The civic center acreage became the park between the library and Kings Crossing Apartments.

Construction was delayed because bond market conditions, but ground-breaking took place in July 1982 and the building opened a year later with 18,000 books and 130

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1993

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Library

Continued from Page 1A

periodicals, and with Ecklund, Marianne Lincoln, Joy Embde and Jeannette Wickander staffing the checkout reference desks.

Wickander remains on the library staff.

Harris County allocated \$160,000 for the initial stock of books, periodicals, films, prints and tapes. Another \$20,000 came from community groups such as FOLK, Kingwood and Humble Art Assns., Kingwood Civic Club and Humble Area Assn. for the Gifted and Talented. The Kingwood Garden Club worked on landscaping.

County records show immediate acceptance by the community, with more than 40,000 items checked out during the first two months --

an average of more than two per Kingwood resident.

FOLK's efforts to keep the community involved has continued, with annual buy-a-book campaigns, used book sales and fund-raising through art shows and home-builders exhibits.

The first buy-a-book drive in 1983 raised \$40,000 and the total passed the \$150,000 mark during the library's first five years, earning a Texas State Library Association award as State Library Project of the Year in 1987.

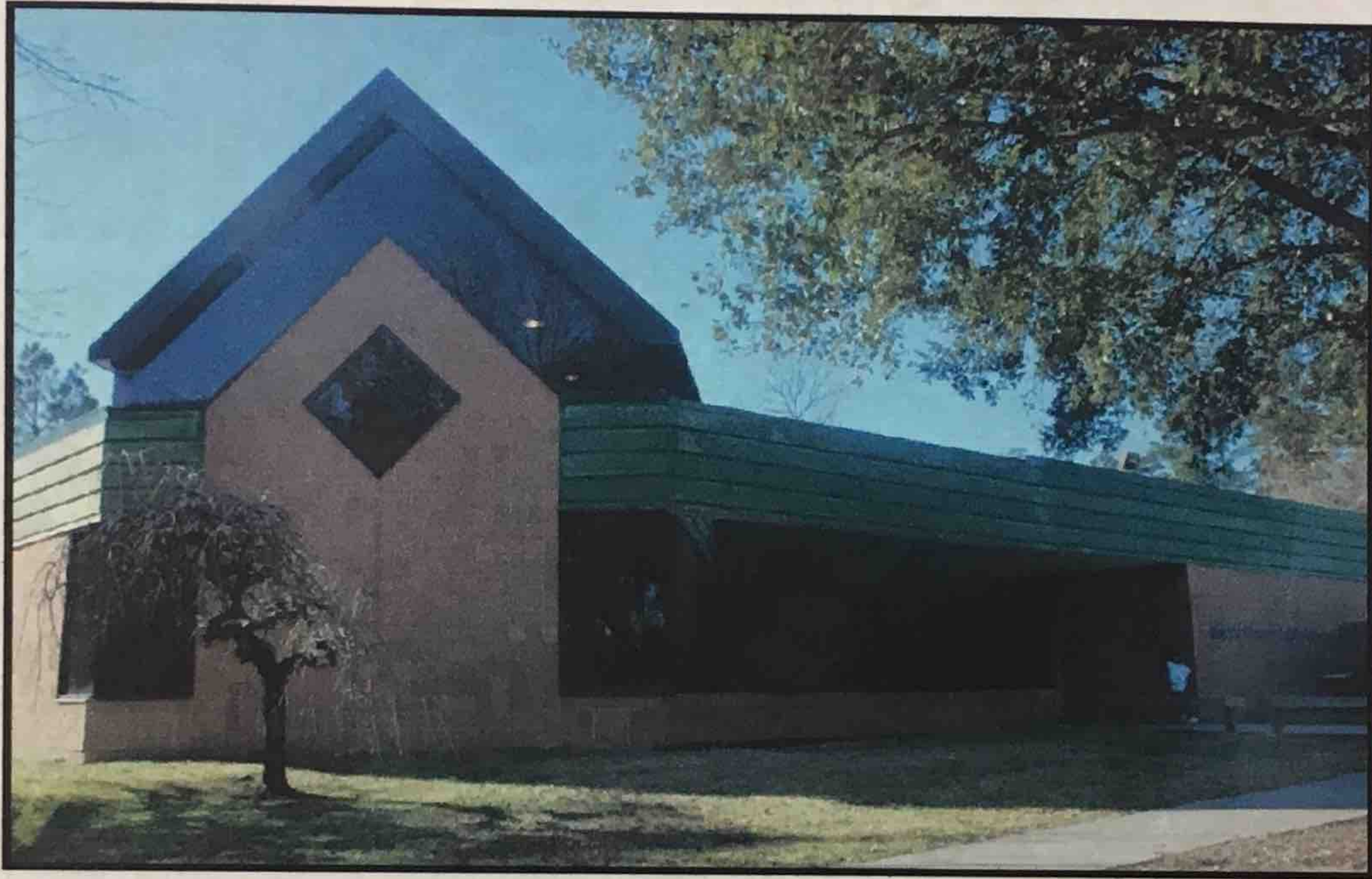
The number of books passed the 50,000 mark in 1989, and as usage continued to grow, FOLK urged officials to expand the facility. While recognizing the need, Eversole warns that Atascocita's library project and over-crowding at other

branches as well, as well as cuts in the library budget, will make it harder to get funds for a larger building in Kingwood.

That's true, says Bartels, Harwood and other FOLK stalwarts, but it won't keep them from trying.

After all, they not, Kingwood went from bookmobile service starting in 1977 to its own library in 1983, surviving budget problems, a change of site, high interest rates and even a hurricane which threatened to prevent the dedication.

"Our best days are still to come," says Bartels.



Kingwood
Branch
Library
Scrapbook

Kingwood Branch Library debuts new building

Public invited to birthday bash

BY MARY KELLY BUMBAUGH

Tribune Correspondent

Momentum is growing as innovation and determination transform the Kingwood Library from where it was in 1983 to where it will be in 2009.

"In celebration of the library's 25th anniversary and a new and better one on the way, we invite the community to our birthday bash Aug. 23, from noon to 4 p.m.," said Christi Whittington, Kingwood librarian. "Anniversaries are important because they mark places in our lives, and this one is marking the steps we've taken and those we are about to take."

"I will be broadcasting the event live," said Mark Linabury, announcer at kingwoodradio.com.

A full afternoon of fun will help keep little ones engaged in an area set aside for children's activities. Happy Heart the Clown will visit from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., adding to ongoing crafts, face painting and artwork about the new building.

The adult program begins at 2 p.m. when Whittington reflects on the occasion as a mixture of the "last big celebration in the existing building" and the beginning of things to come. Led by Mike Sullivan, member of the Houston City Council, special invited

guests will join in the festivities.

The arrangements will include an introduction to the library's cutting edge by Rhoda Goldberg, interim director of the Harris County Public Library. One of the new additions is an electronic drive-through loan service.

On the program will be a visual debut of the pre-construction site, and discussion of master planning, specifications and eco-services by a representative of Kirksey Architectural Design, a community, national and global firm.

Scrapbooks compiled through the years will be open, with ample time for reflection on how much the library has benefited Kingwood citizens. It all started when a grassroots campaign, Friends of the Library Kingwood, began fundraising in 1978 and hasn't stopped yet. FOLK is underwriting the birthday bash and hosting it with library staff.

"We've had a wonderful 25 years here as a community library. This party is a way to thank community members for welcoming us into their lives. We feel they are our friends and like to think we are friends of theirs," said Whittington.

The gathering will be at Kingwood Library, a Harris County library branch, 4102 Rustic Woods in Kingwood. Refreshments, including a birthday cake, will be served.

For more information on the event, call 281-360-6804. For more information on the library, visit www.hcpl.net.



Seated from left: Leila Antenangeli, Christi Whittington and Elizabeth Ronald. Middle row: Becky Rosel, Connie Dye and Kim Capps. Back row: Jim Johnson, Barbara Vosbein, Ann O'Burke and Gwen Garrett. Photo by Mary Kelly Bumbaugh



Librarian
Connie Dye
considers
a book for
children's
activities.

Summer reading ends soon, but the fun is just beginning

By **ROYCELYN BASTIAN**

rbastian@hcnonline.com

KINGWOOD LIBRARY

The Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch is located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. For more information, call 281-360-6804.

Literally hundreds of children flocked to the Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch in search of something to do this summer.

The library staff held its annual summer reading program as a way to help students retain what they have learned during the school year, but do it in a fun way.

"It's true... if they do not read over the summer, they could fall behind by two grade levels," said Connie Dye, children's librarian at the Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch. "We want them to maintain their reading skills so they will not fall behind when the school

year begins.

With help from the Texas State Library and Harris County, the local branch was able to hand out gifts and prizes to children who completed the summer reading program.

The state library provided items for the summer reading program such as certificates, suggested activities, clip art from famous child authors and many more to help ensure success of this event. Through Harris County, money and other donations were collected so children and

young adults who read 10 books received a free paperback book while supplies last.

"I know that the parents take their children to Barnes & Noble to purchase books, but they (children) are so excited about the free paperback books and it is a good prize for them because it helps to reinforce reading," Dye said. "It gets a lot of the kids reading, which is our main goal."

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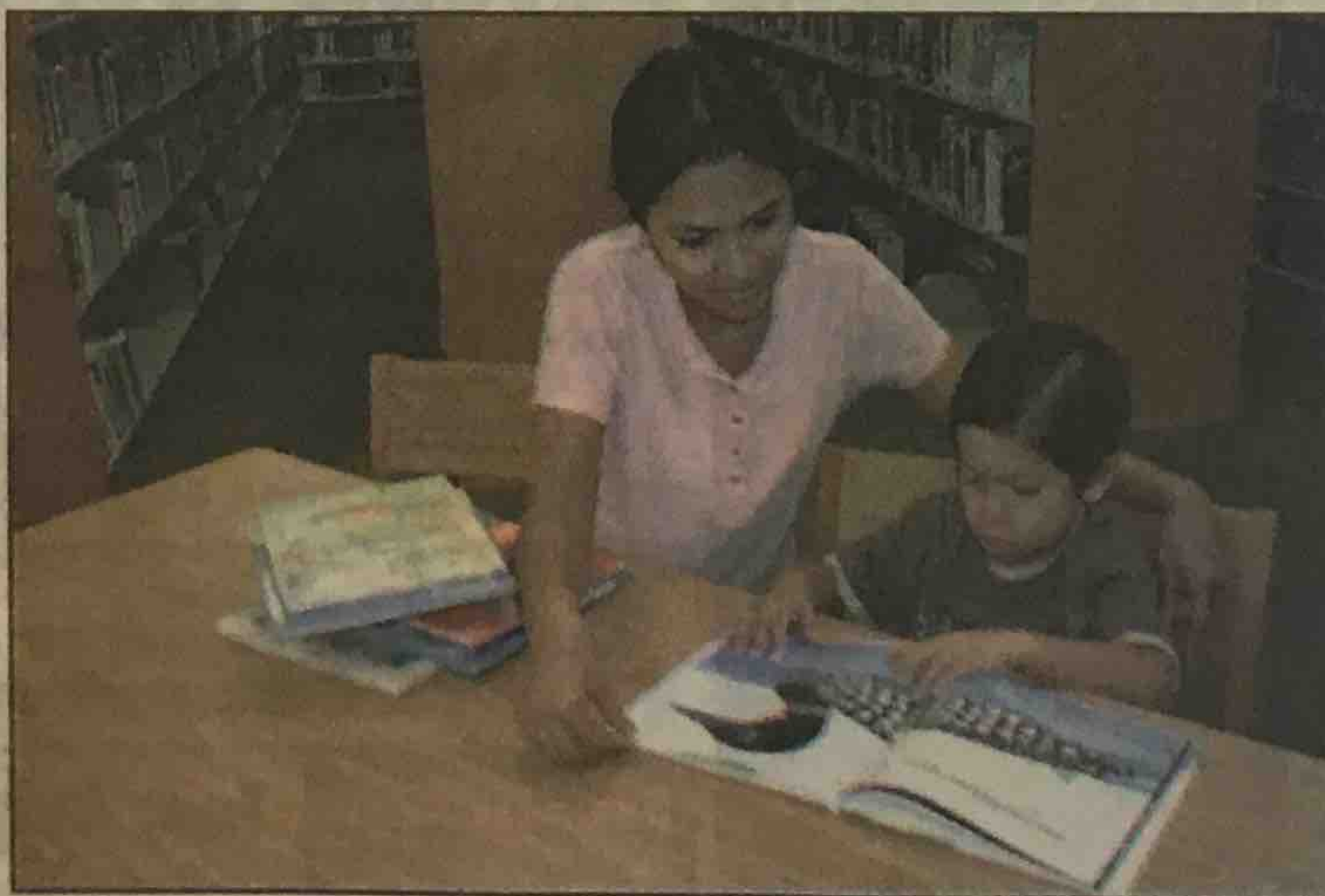


Photo by ROYCELYN BASTIAN/The Observer
Maria Rodriguez and her son, Anthony, 4 years old, read a book at the Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch during the summer reading program.

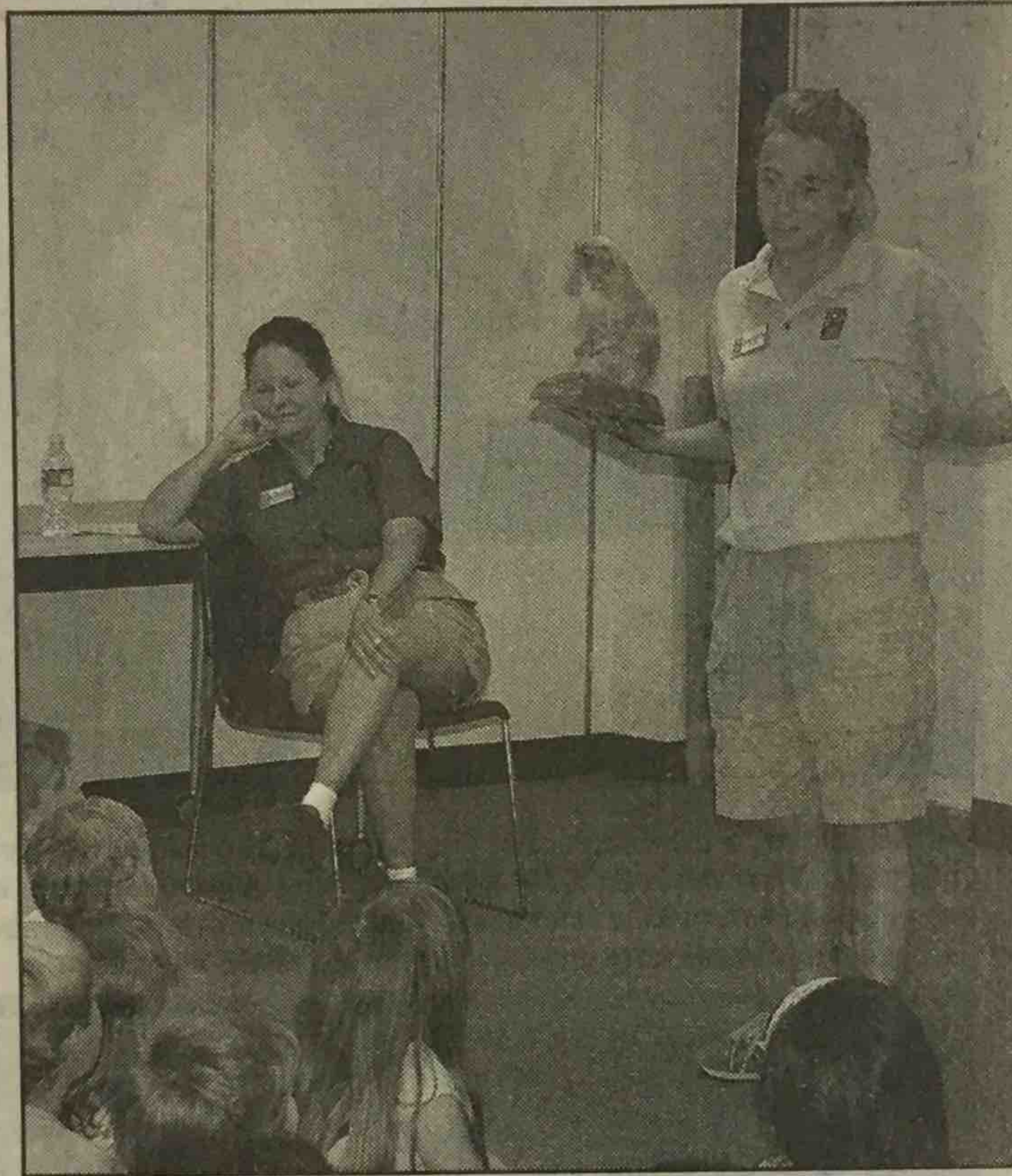


Photo by ROYCELYN BASTIAN/The Observer

Sarah Turner, an employee with the Houston Zoo, shows a biofact of a prairie dog to children at the Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch. Turner and Marianne Willingham, left, a volunteer teacher with the zoo, gave a presentation July 17.

READING

Continued from Page 1A

In addition to the summer reading program, on Tuesdays, the library held toddler and pre-school story time as well as story time for the older children.

On Wednesdays, children participated in the Time Travels Fun Club where they watched videos, made arts and crafts, played board games and much more. On Aug. 5, there will be a squirt gun battle at 2:15 p.m.

"These programs, especially summer reading, are very important. If I was talking to a teacher or a parent, I would say it is impor-

tant to encourage the children to maintain their reading skills. If I was talking to the kids, I would say participate for the fun of it," she said.

Dye also stated that while the books children and young adults decide to read are their choice, she does not allow them to read dull books.

"So often in the school year, students are reading for points or for a grade and they don't have time to read what they want while they are in school," Dye said. "This is the time for them to explore and read different things because they can find out stuff that they don't teach in school."

Summer reading ends soon, but the fun is just beginning

By **ROYCELYN BASTIAN**

rbastian@hcnonline.com

Literally hundreds of children flocked to the Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch in search of something to do this summer.

The library staff held its annual summer reading program as a way to help students retain what they have learned during the school year, but do it in a fun way.

"It's true... if they do not read over the summer, they could fall behind by two grade levels," said Connie Dye, children's librarian at the Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch. "We want them to maintain their reading skills so they will not fall behind when the school

year begins.

With help from the Texas State Library and Harris County, the local branch was able to hand out gifts and prizes to children who completed the summer reading program.

The state library provided items for the summer reading program such as certificates, suggested activities, clip art from famous child authors and many more to help ensure success of this event. Through Harris County, money and other donations were collected so children and

KINGWOOD LIBRARY

The Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch is located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. For more information, call 281-360-6804.

young adults who read 10 books received a free paperback book while supplies last.

"I know that the parents take their children to Barnes & Noble to purchase books, but they (children) are so excited about the free paperback books and it is a good prize for them because it helps to reinforce reading," Dye said. "It gets a lot of the kids reading, which is our main goal."

In addition to the summer reading program, on Tuesdays, the library held toddler and pre-school story time as well as story time for the older children.

On Wednesdays, children participated in the Time Travels Fun Club where they watched videos, made arts and crafts, played board games and much more. On Aug. 5, there will be a squirt gun battle at 2:15 p.m.

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tant to encourage the children to maintain their reading skills. If I was talking to the kids, I would say participate for the fun of it," she said.

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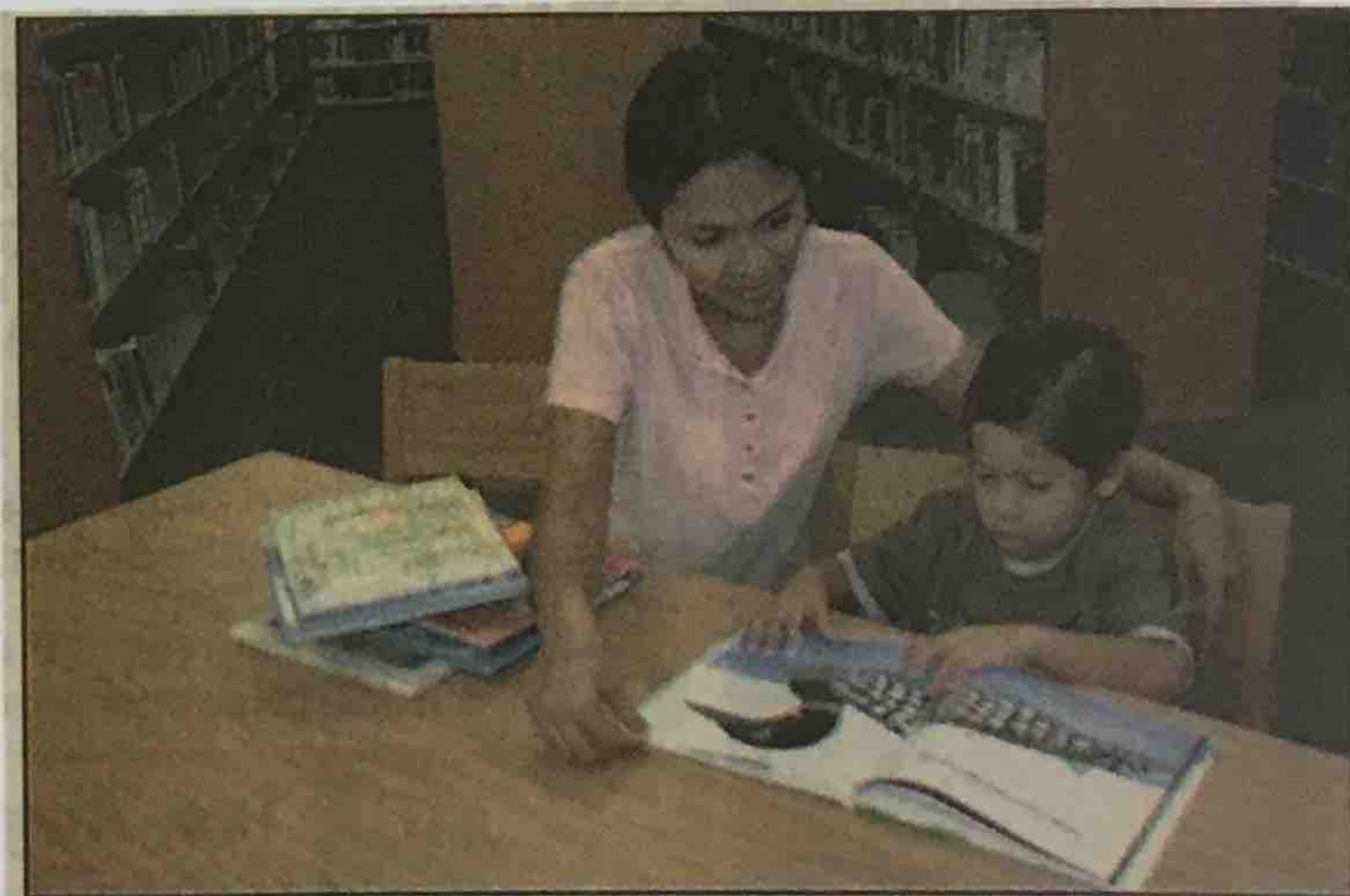


Photo by ROYCELYN BASTIAN/The Observer

Maria Rodriguez and her son, Anthony, 4 years old, read a book at the Harris County Public Library-Kingwood Branch during the summer reading program.

Members of the community urged to help shop Kingwood's Folk Sale

BY BRITTANY BUSTOS

Tribune Intern

Instead of spending hundreds of dollars on new books, buy used during the used book sale at the Kingwood Library: FOLK, Friends of the Library Kingwood, recognize the value of used books and would like to invite members of the community to their "Back to School" used book sale on Aug. 9. Prices range from 25 cents to

\$3 for most books, and gives avid readers a chance to catch up on their summer reading.

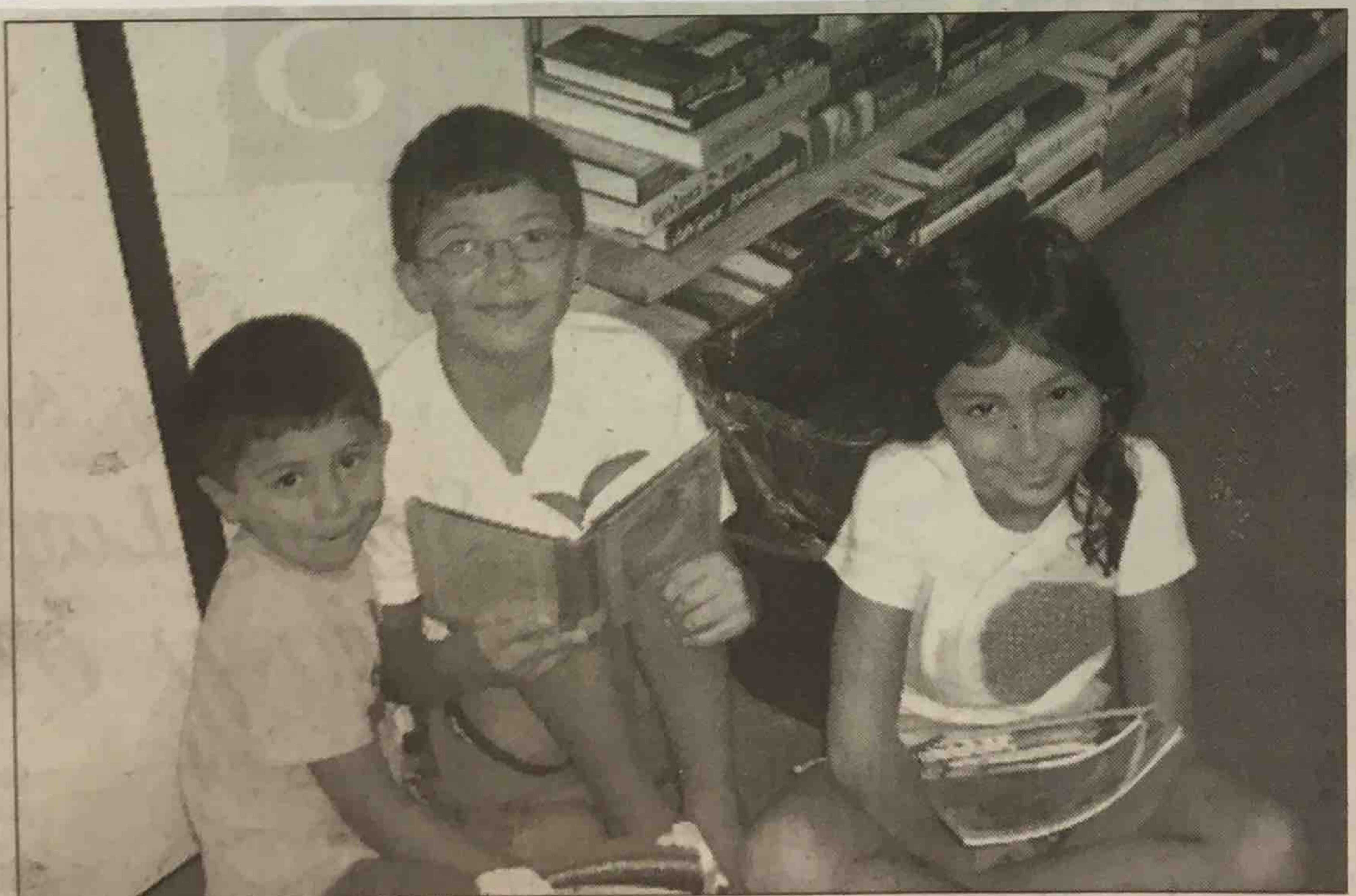
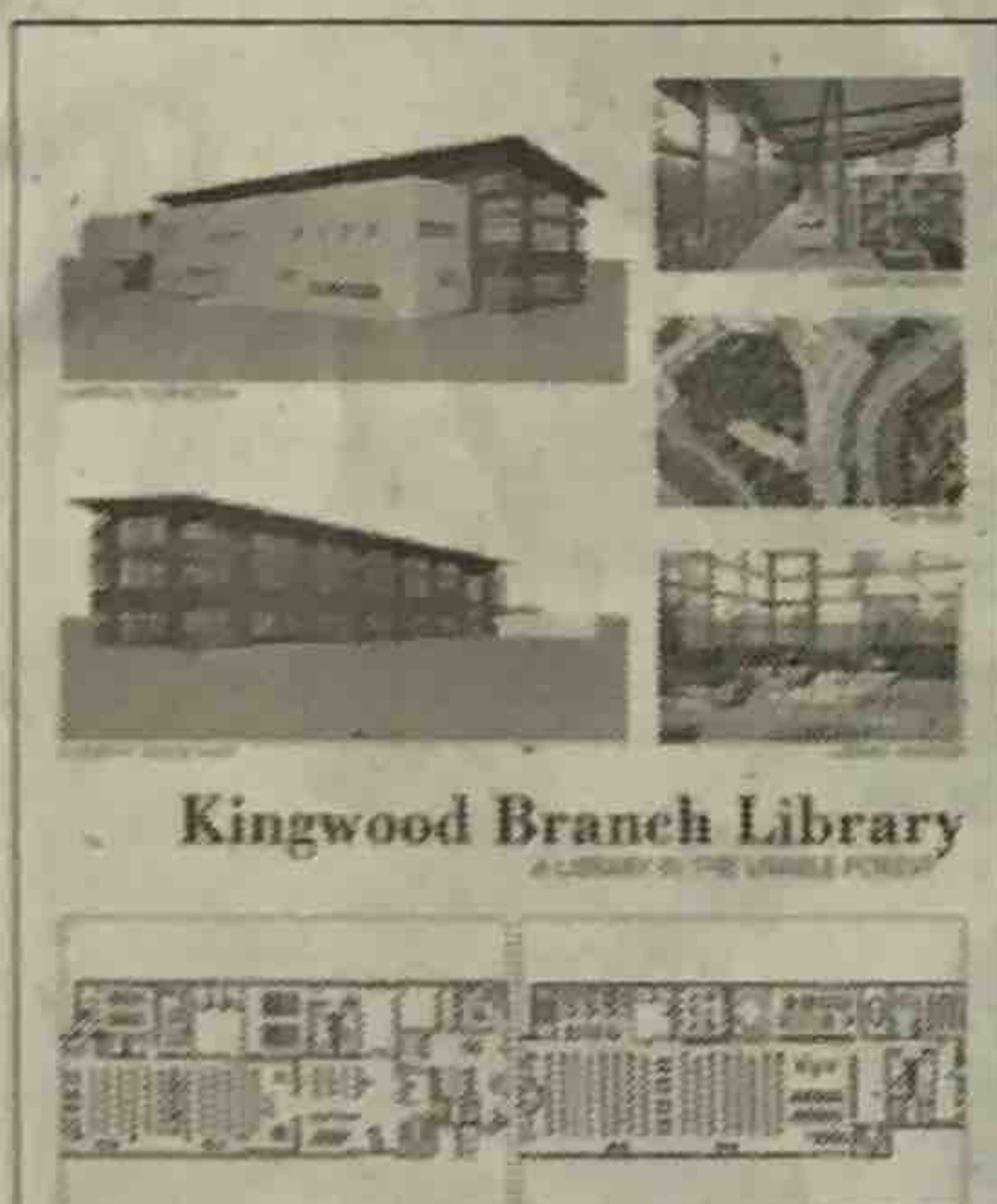
The sale will have books covering several topics, including fiction, nonfiction and everything between. From hobbies to business, cooking to religion, parenting to humor, self-help to travel, the sale will encompass all types of books for avid readers and beginners alike. A major seller in previous years has been the children's books. Whether buying for family, or restocking classrooms, the children's book section will have something for readers of all ages.

Every book the FOLK sale offers has been donated to the library by members of the community and proceeds from the sale go toward the library. "Every single nickel from the sale goes back to the library," said Frances Pelham, of FOLK. Donations have been so abundant, members of FOLK are not able to

keep inventory. "We cannot wait for the patrons to see the variety of books we have to offer," said Pelham.

FOLK volunteers, with the help of three volunteer groups - the Kingwood Womens Club, The National Charity League Kingwood Chapter, and The National Charity League Liveable Forest Chapter - help with donations and book sales. "The book sale would not be possible without their help," said Pelham. "The atmosphere is fun," said Nancy Casillo, of the NCL Kingwood Chapter. "We sort and trade suggestions on good books to read."

A preview of the sale will be held on Aug. 8 for FOLK members only at 5 p.m. If interested in becoming a FOLK member, patrons are encouraged to register at the preview sale. Registration is \$15. The FOLK book sale will be open to the public on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



A major seller at the book sale will be children's books. Samuel, Sarah, and Joseph Mascardo enjoy picking out books for their own collection.

Kingwood Area Republican Women donate books to library project

In 1961, the National Federation of Republican Women established the Mamie Eisenhower Library Project as a memorial honoring the former first lady.

Kingwood Area Republican Women have participated in this project for many years and, through the leadership of Literacy Chairman Nancy Fulton, recently donated the following books to Kingwood Library in loving memory of Bill Foster and Robert Lupton, deceased spouses of longtime active KARW members Dixie Ann Foster and Skippy Lupton:

■ "Quiet Strength" by Tony Dungy

■ "The President's Table: Two Hundred Years of Dining and Diplomacy" by Barry Landou

■ "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time" by Greg Mortenson

■ "Life Would be Easy if it Weren't for Other People" by Connie Podesta

■ "Encyclopedia of American Political Parties and Elections" by Larry Sabato

■ "Holding Her Head High: In-



Submitted photo

Kristi Whittington, second from right on the back row, librarian at the Kingwood Library, accepts a donation of books from KARW members, standing, from left, Halene Crossman, Alice Rekeweg, Nancy Fulton; and seated, Anne Geldens, Betty Newton, Skippy Lupton and Dixie Ann Foster.

spiration from 12 Single Mothers Who Championed Their Children and Changed History" by Janine Turner

Through this project, Kingwood Area Republican Women hope to contribute to the citizenship education of the community. Visitors to the Kingwood Library are en-

couraged to check out these books and others this summer.

For information about KARW and how to become involved in this active group, please contact Alice Rekeweg at 281-360-7457 and check the website at www.kingwoodarearepublican-women.org.



MAKING A NEW FRIEND: Connie Dye, left, entertains children with a sock puppet during the preschool story time for the children.

Kingwood's library full of summer events for all

To beat the summer heat, the Kingwood Branch of the Harris County Public Library System has a host of events for the entire family to enjoy.

For preschool children, there are a variety of story time events and arts and crafts events. Teenagers can play video games, and there's a book club for adults.

For more information, call 281-360-6804.

'Rock Band' video game will rock Kingwood Library

By **JENNIFER SUMMER**

jsummer@hcnonline.com

Belting out tunes and jamming out sweet guitar licks to the beat of a drum may sound like a band practice, but these will be the virtual sounds filling the Kingwood Library on Thursday afternoons.

The Kingwood Branch Library is inviting all teens from around the community to test their musical abilities with the video game "Rock Band" and challenge their friends to perform at their best to get to the

ROCK BAND GAMING

■ **WHEN:** Starting April 17 through the summer, Thursdays at 4 p.m.

■ **WHERE:** The Kingwood Branch Library

■ **HOW MUCH:** Free and open to the public

■ **INFO:** Call 281-360-6804

expert level.

"We have all seen the popularity of video games and technology on

the rise in recent years. We are going to incorporate more technology into our library to encourage more teenagers to get involved and see what the library has to offer," Jim Johnson, reference librarian and youth activity organizer, said.

"Rock Band" is a video game similar to "Guitar Hero," but it allows for more players to show off their skills as a virtual rock star.

Each player has a choice to be the singer, guitarist, bassist or drummer that must hit a particular key, note or drum beat that is displayed

on the screen to receive points.

The game also lets the player decide what genre of song they wish to play, what their character can look like and play a virtual rock concert in any music hall or concert hall across the world.

"'Rock Band' allows for teens to all play a game together, meet other teens and have fun. Public libraries are not what they used to be. We are focused on up-and-coming technology and being able to provide that to our guests," Johnson said.

To keep up with the technology boom, the Kingwood Branch Library also provides computer classes to adults and teenagers to help them learn more about software, programs and technology.

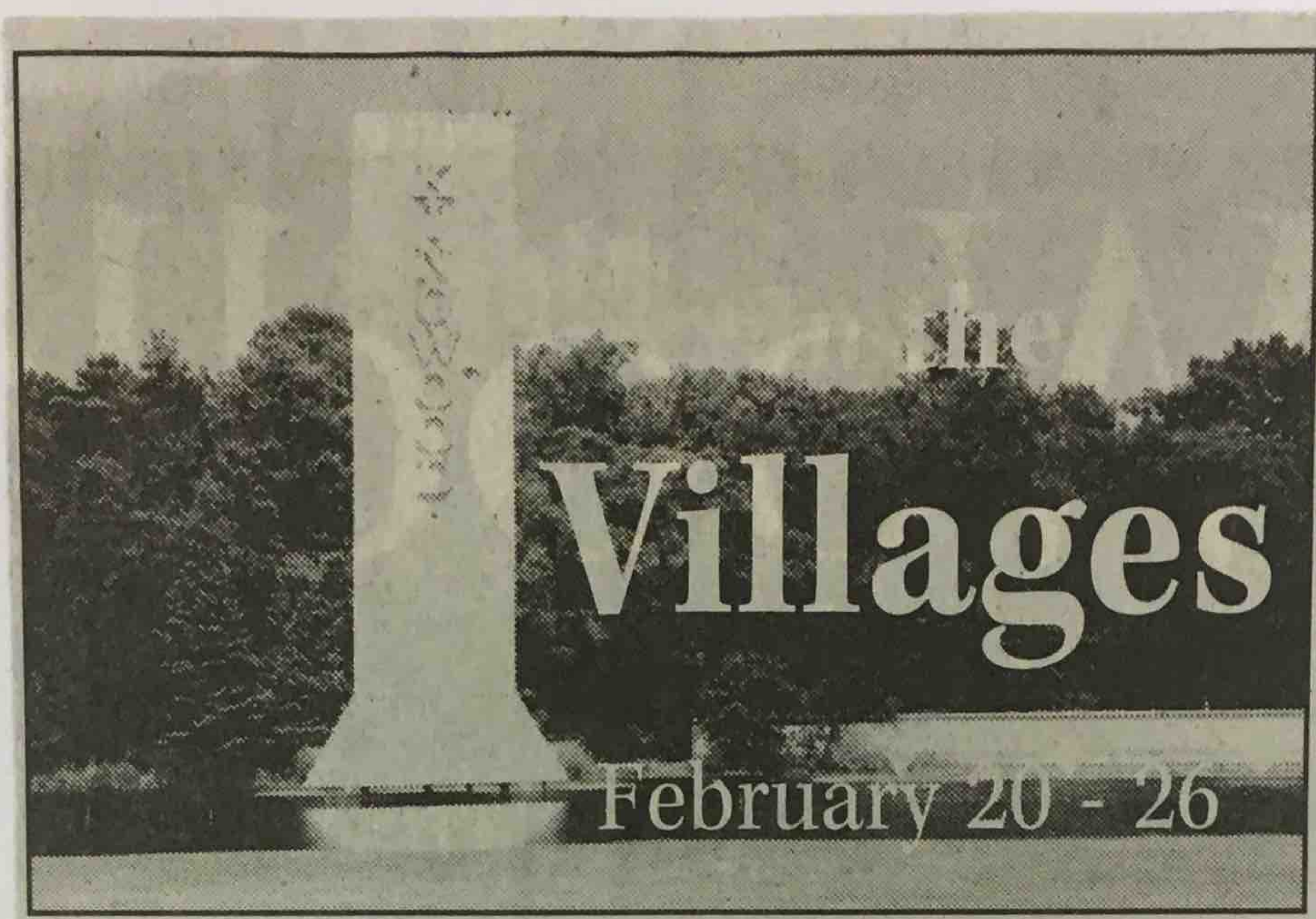
Johnson describes the library as a social hub where community residents can visit to get information, take classes, play games or meet others that share the same interests.

"Technology has become a big part in our lives and playing 'Rock Band' is just something we can do

to get teens out of trouble after school and during the summer and get them involved," Johnson said.

This program, like every other program offered at the Kingwood Branch Library, is free and open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

"I hope all the teens and guests who join us for 'Rock Band' gaming will get to experience fun and a way to connect with those who have similar interests. This is our chance to get people into the library to have fun and rock out," Johnson said.



ESL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Kingwood Branch Library is seeking volunteer tutors to help adults learn to read, write and speak English. A free training workshop will take place at the library on March 1 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Volunteers do not need to speak another language or have teaching experience. Lessons focus on basic reading, writing and spoken English skills and navigating cultural differences. The library provides materials for tutors and students. After training, each volunteer will be matched with a student or small group of students meeting at the library at a mutually convenient time. For more information, or to register for this workshop, call the Kingwood Library at 281-360-6804.

**VIEW FULL CALENDAR
AT**

www.thekingwoodobserver.com

Dragoneers bring fun and excitement

Andrew McDaniel gives an enthusiastic thumbs up after finishing an armlet craft in Dragoneers, a school-age kids program at the Kingwood Branch Library. The Dragoneers meet on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. for fun, games and great reading. All Harris County Public Library programs are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the library at 281-360-6804 or visit at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood.



Books



Be a Dragoneer



The Kingwood Library recently hosted a cultural event to celebrate Chinese New Year. Gina Wei, left, from New Tang Dynasty TV Houston, and Connie Dye, librarian, welcome guests to the event.

Chinese culture explored through performances at library

The audience was transported across time and space to the Tang Dynasty, the most glorious era in Chinese history, by viewing the previous year's highlights of New Tang Dynasty TV Chinese New Year Spectacular performances at the Kingwood Library on Dec. 13.

The legend of celebrating Chinese New Year on the lunar calendar with fire crackers was explained to the audience by the musical "Guau Nian" (passing

through New Year) program. One learned that in ancient times, Nian was actually a fiery beast. It lived high up in the mountain. At the end of each year it would come down to the village and harm people. Some villagers discovered that Nian was afraid of fire and loud noise. Thus, villagers started to light up fire crackers during the end of year to scare Nian away. This was how the tradition of celebrating Chinese New Year with fire

crackers got started.

The essence of traditional Chinese culture was also illustrated through other performances. To watch these highlights, visit <http://www.ntdtv.com/>

Teachers interested in showing these performances to their classes can go to <http://www.education.ntdtv.com/> where many different learning materials and lesson plans are available to help children to learn more about the traditional Chinese culture.

Kingwood Library announces October events

Weekly story times:

Toddler Time - Thursday, 10 a.m.

Program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years. Sign-ups required. Call library for further information at 281-360-6804.

Preschool Story Time - Tuesday,

10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m.

Designed for 3-6-year-old children, but all are welcome.

Children's programs:

Oct. 9 and 16, 4-5 p.m. - Dragoneers

Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. - Pre-School Craft

Programs for teens:

Oct. 6, 2-4 p.m. - Teen Read Week: Kingwood City Limits Open Mic Afternoon

Adult programs:

Oct. 15, 7-9 p.m. - Kingwood Library Book Group: "Falling Angels" by Tracy Chevalier

Oct. 17 - 7-9 p.m. - Opera Preview with Ann Thompson

All programs are free and open to the public.

For more information, call the Kingwood Branch Library at 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net.

Children slay their way through books

By **SUSAN MEINHOLZ**

smeinholz@hcnonline.com

Calling all varlets! Read books and be welcomed into the knight-hood of the Kingwood Library's Dragoneer Club.

Any varlet (a "young child" in middle English language) of elementary school age is encouraged to join in the fun craft activities, participating in special events and moving up the ranks towards knighthood, and receiving colored jewels by reading books.

It is a popular program that many area children enjoy.

The club meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Kingwood Library, located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive.

On Sept. 11, the club will kick off the year with the book "The Prophecy" by Hilari Bell. "It's a pretty exciting book and relatively new," said Connie Dye, the children's librarian. All participants will receive a free book, T-shirt and booklogs.

Throughout the program, varlets will be able to move through the ranks of page, squire and knight by attending three meetings and reading five books of their choice.

As participants move up the ranks, they will be given a colored jewel representing various positive character traits.

Each meeting there are creative activities planned, and three times a year they have an advancement cer-



Submitted photo

Kingwood Library children's librarian Connie Dye presents two of the many area children who have advanced to the ranks of knighthood through the library's Dragoneer program.

emony, which includes a parade.

At the first meeting, Carolyn Humphrey will read the first chapter from Bell's book, and future meetings include puppet making and puppet shows, participation in the FOLK (Friends of the Library Kingwood) book sale, pirate fun and some playtime with ferrets.

Once a participant reaches knighthood, there is an opportunity to continue on to the Order of the Red Dragon and then the Order of the

White Dragon, which includes more jewels and special recognitions.

The Dragoneer Club is a chance to keep school-age kids coming in," Dye said.

"When kids come to the library, it seems like it's always all business; this is something for fun."

The club is free to participants, FOLK underwrites the cost of the program.

"Thank goodness for FOLK," said Dye. "We couldn't do it with-

out them paying for the program."

"It's educational fun for the kids," said Frances M. Pelham, FOLK's publicity chairperson. "It's one of the many ways FOLK's fundraising monies are spent for the betterment of the Kingwood Library programs and the community."

Abby, Maddy and Tobin Johnson have received the rank of knighthood and the Order of the Red Dragon. They are excited about participating in the Dragoneer Club again.

"I loved going to the meetings and hearing about new books," said Abby.

"I liked designing and making our shields. Being a member of the club made me want to read even more books," said Maddy.

"We had great parties and got to design our own shields when we were made knights," said Tobin. "It was fun reading lots of books."

Tracy Johnson was happy to find a program that both her son and daughters liked.

"It's something that both girls and boys can enjoy," she said. "My kids love it; they get upset if we miss a meeting."

For more information, contact the Kingwood Library at 281-360-6804.

August FOLK book sale tops record

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's August used book sale exceeded all records.

"This success is attributed to the quality and quantity of books donated by the Kingwood Library community," said Frances Pelham, FOLK's publicity chairperson. "The awesome 'voices' of FOLK delivered the times and dates of this book sale to the community and the many volunteers worked diligently to set-up the book sale room, kept the tables and shelves stocked and cashiered."

Volunteers included representatives from The Kingwood and Livable Forest chapters of The National Charity League, The Women's Club, St. Martha's Confirmation class and many new and old individual volunteers.

"The most important contributors to the success of all of FOLK's used book sales are you, the patrons of the book sales," said Pelham. "The funds made at this sale and all money made by

the Friends Of the Library Kingwood fundraisers are used to augment Harris County's funding support of our library. The money raised by FOLK ensures our community library provides the best possible material and services today and in the future at the new library on the horizon."

FOLK's next used book sale is Nov. 16 for FOLK members and Nov. 17 for the public. Book and media donations are accepted year-round during the business hours of the library. Because of storage space, textbooks and encyclopedias are no longer being accepted.

"All membership fees beginning at a mere \$15 annually go to support the library," Pelham pointed out. "Become a Friend of the Library today."

Membership checks can be mailed to FOLK Membership, P. O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas 77325-5353, or dropped off at the Kingwood Library.

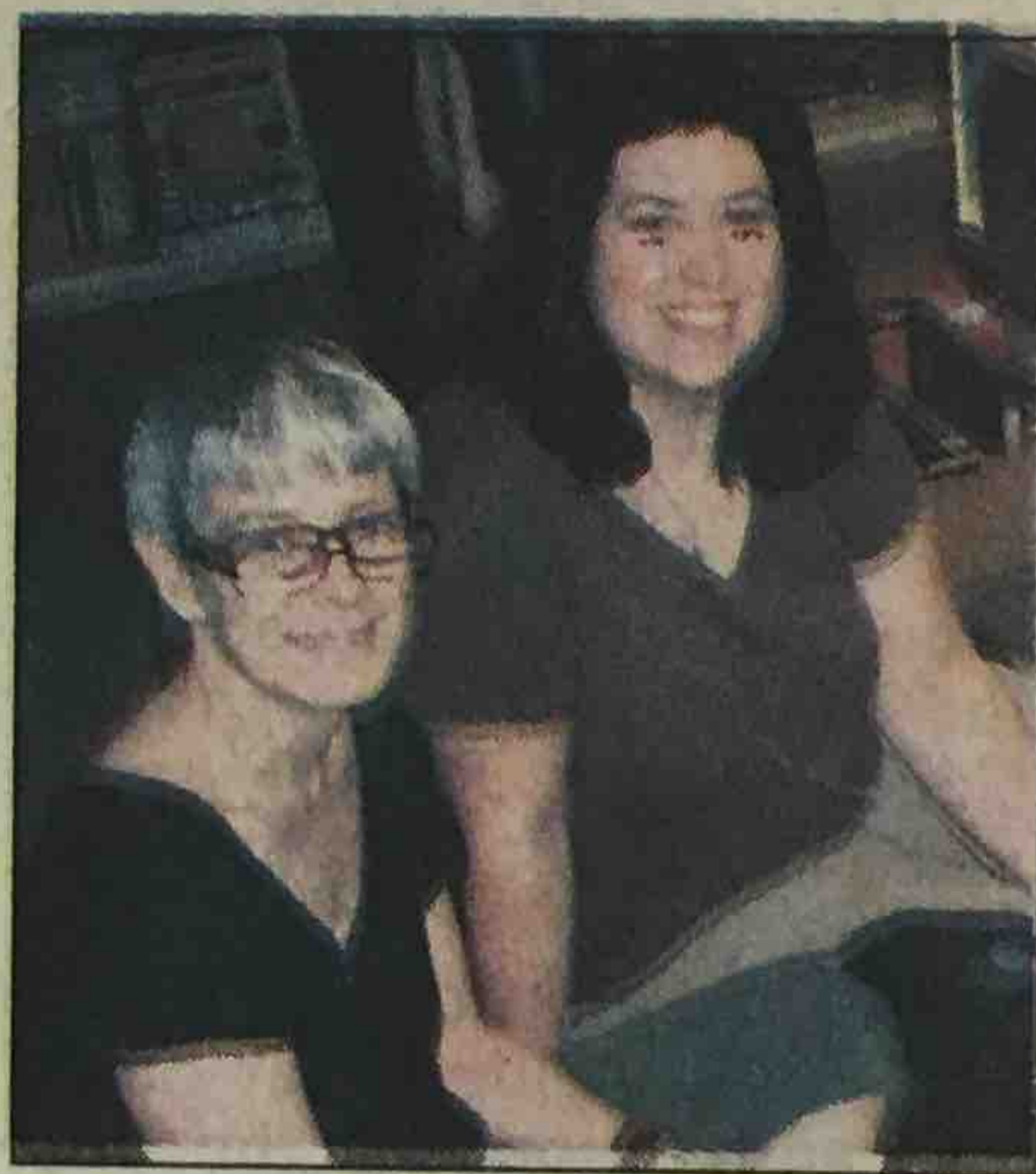
Friends Of the Library Kingwood offers next used book sale in August

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's next used book sale is Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive at West Lake Houston Parkway, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. FOLK members shop early on Friday, Aug. 5, from 5 - 8 p.m.

FOLK's August used book sale offers an ideal opportunity for teachers to replenish their classrooms with books at a minimum cost. However, non-teacher patrons of FOLK's book sale need not fear. There are plenty of books and other materials for everyone.

In addition to the large selection of newer released and children's books, there will be books in the following categories: fiction (including mysteries and romance), non-fiction, science fiction, biographies, arts/literature/classics/poetry, business/computer/reference, religion/inspiration, self-help, gardening, cooking, crafts/hobbies, home improvement, humor, western, coffee table, parenting, medical/diet/exercise, travel and young adult books. The newest category (rare, older, first edition books) has been well received. Also for sale are media materials such as videos, CDs, cassettes and music.

Hardback and large soft-cover books start at \$1 while standard size paperback books are only 50 cents. Newer released hardback and coffee table books sell for a mere \$3. Children's and young adult books range in price from 25 cents to \$1. Videos, video



Terry Townsend and Diane Abbott are members of FOLK.

games, CDs, cassettes and other items of interest are also sold at bargain prices.

Tax deductible book, magazine and media donations are accepted during library business hours. The library has first choice of all donated items. That means donated items may end up on a library shelf, or they may be sold at one of FOLK's used book sales. Either way, the library is the benefactor of the generous donations from the community.

To learn more about FOLK and how becoming a 'friend' of the library will enhance the material and services offered by the library, stop by the library's circulation desk at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. FOLK memberships start as low as \$15 annually.

KINGWOOD LIBRARY

4102 Rustic Woods Drive, is open Monday 1-9 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 1-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 281-360-6804.

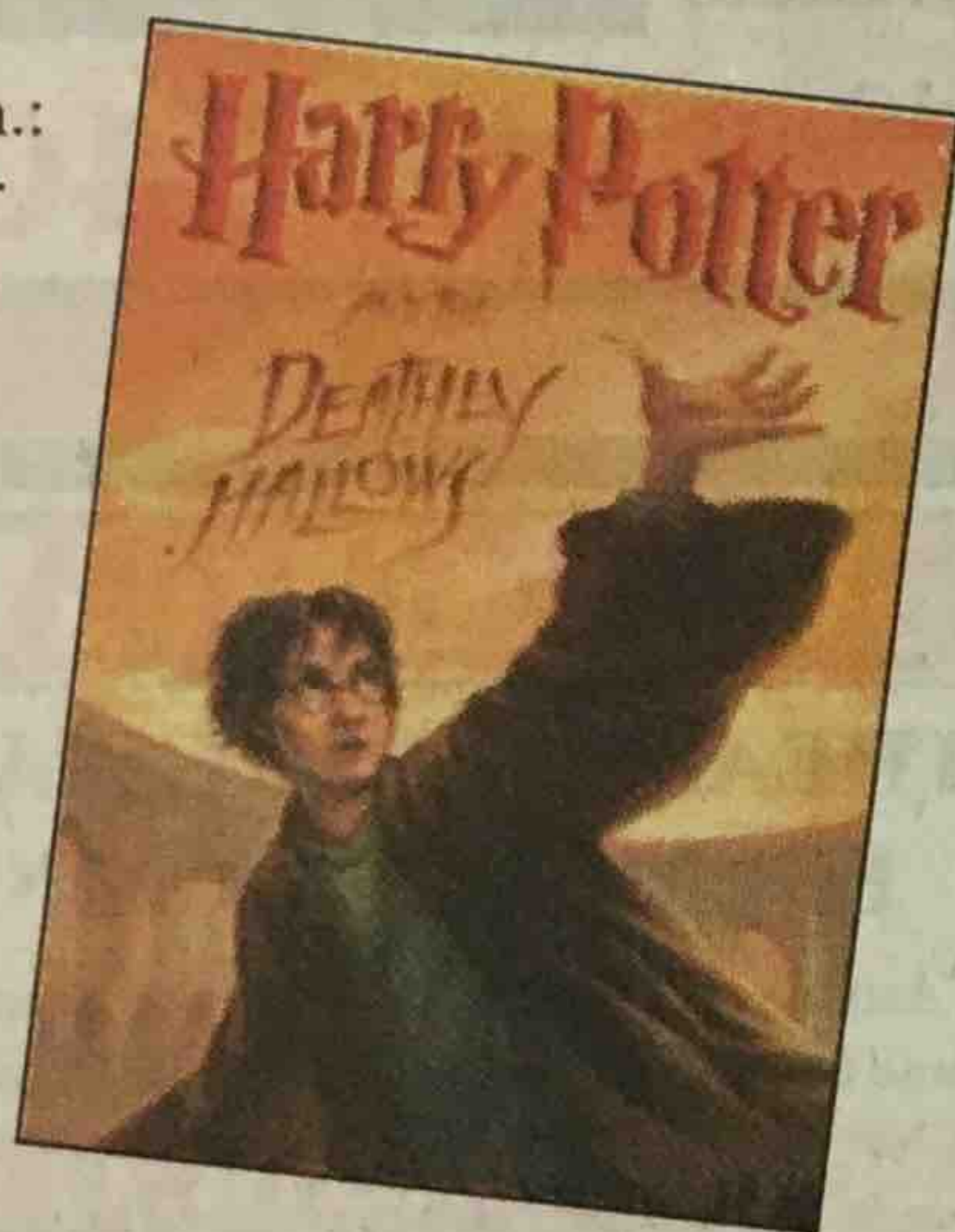
STORY TIMES:

Thursdays at 10 a.m.: Toddler Time. Sign-ups required.

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m.: Preschool Story Time.

Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.: Pirate Treasure read aloud for school age children.

Thursdays at 11 a.m.: Mother Goose Lapsit for children 0-18 months. Sign-ups required.



JULY PROGRAMS:

July 11, 18 and 25 at 2:15 p.m.: Pirate Crew Call. A weekly craft or activity for school age children.

July 11 at 6:30 p.m.: Holy Handbags! Make a no-sew handbag. Sign-ups required.

July 16 at 3 p.m.: Teen movie.

July 16 at 7 p.m.: Kingwood Library book group for adults. This month's selection is "Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri.

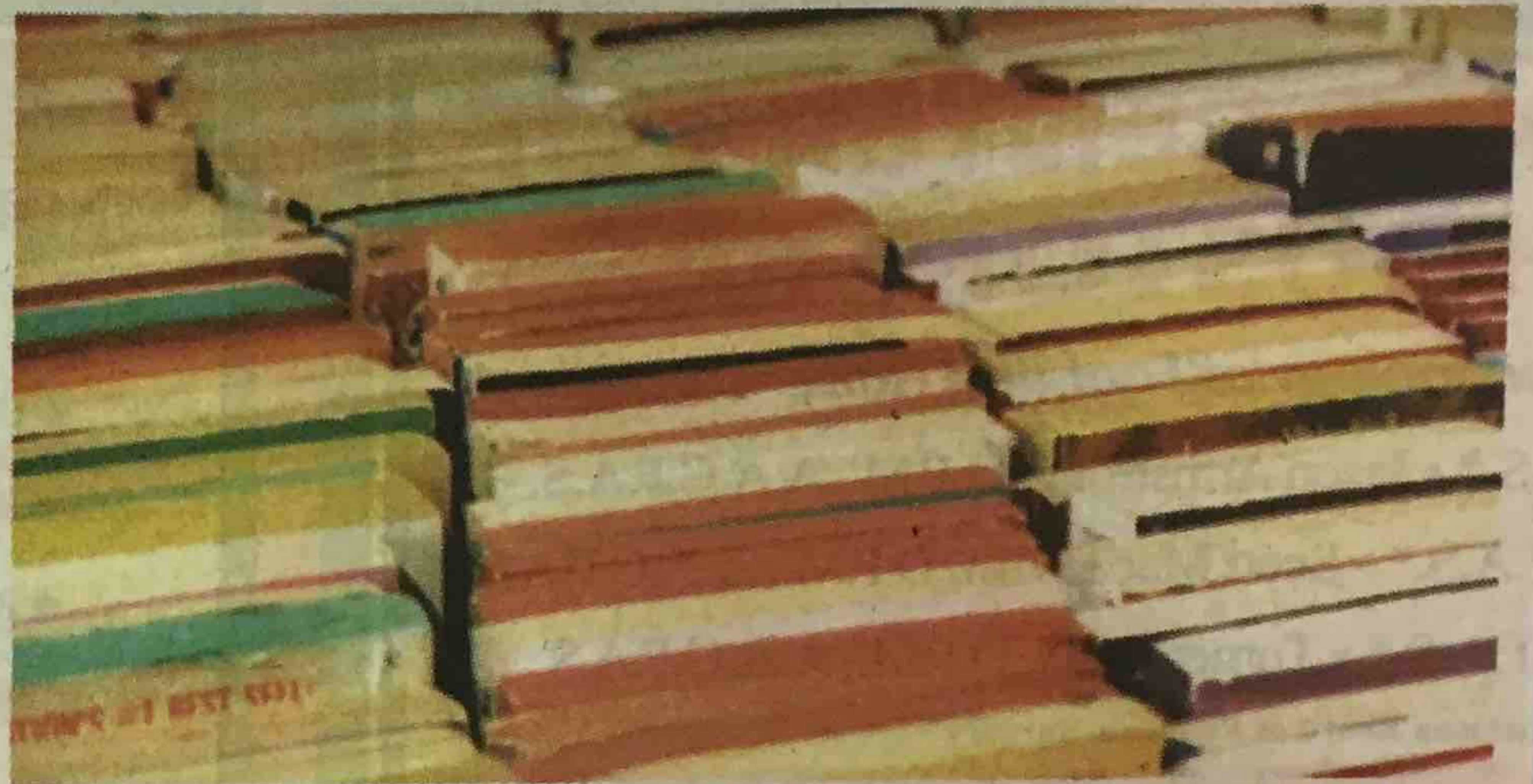
July 19 at 2:15 p.m.: Harry Potter party.

July 25 at 3 p.m.: Teens Got Game!

**All tickets are free.*

All programs are free and open to the public. For information about your library's program schedule, call 713-749-9000 or log on to <http://www.hcpl.net>.

USED BOOK SALE!



FOLK's (Friends Of the Library Kingwood's) next Used Book Sale is Saturday, August 4, at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop early on August 3 from 5 – 8p.m. The sale is an opportunity for teachers to replenish books in their classrooms without spending a bundle. Additionally, children, parents and the community have the opportunity to purchase a variety of books. Books/Mags/Media and other donations range in price from 25 cents to \$3. Children's books will be plentiful.

Diverse summer programs offered at the Kingwood Branch Library

Programs for Teens

July 11 – 6:30 p.m. – Holy Handbags! – Make a no-sew handbag from bandanas. Sign up at the Information Desk beginning June 28.

July 16 – 3 p.m. – Teen movie – Contact the library for more information.

July 25 – 3 p.m. – Teens Got Game – Old standards, new favorites, challenge your friends.

Aug. 15 – 7 - 8:30 p.m. – End of Summer Party

Adult Programs

July 16 – 7 p.m. – Kingwood Library Book Group – “Namesake” by Jhumpa Lahiri. Contact the library for more information.

The Kingwood Branch Library will also partner with the Deerbrook Mall Barnes & Noble for an Adult Summer

Reading Program. Contact the Kingwood Branch Library for more information.

Programs for all Ages

July 14 – 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. – Kingwood Wargamers

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Kingwood Branch Library at 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net

Weekly Story Times

Mother Goose Lapsit - Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Designed for children 0-18 months and their parents. Sign-ups required. Program includes nursery rhymes, finger plays and songs.

Toddler Time – Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years. Sign-ups required. Call library for further

information at 281-360-6804.

Preschool Story Time - Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m.

Everyone welcome. Designed for 3-6-year-old children, but all are welcome.

Pirate Treasure Read-Aloud – Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.

Summer Read-Aloud for School-age Kids – Begins May 29 and ends Aug. 14.

Pirate Crew Call – Wednesdays 2:15 p.m.

Weekly Craft or Activity for School-age Kids. Begins May 30 and ends Aug. 8.

Children's Programs

July 19 – 2:15 p.m. – Harry Potter Party

Aug. 15 – 7 - 8:30 p.m. – End of Summer Party

Aug. 16 – 2:15 p.m. – James Gibson's Pirates – Free tickets available beginning Aug. 6



Kingwood Area Republican Women help citizens stay informed through books donated to the local library. From left to right are Halene Crossman, Skippy Lupton, Glenda Piacenti, Betty Newton, Nancy Fulton, Christi Whittington (librarian) and Alice Rekeweg.

Republican Women donate books to library

In 1961, the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) established the Mamie Eisenhower Library Project (MELP) as a memorial honoring our former first lady. In 1992, tapes and videos were added to the book list.

Kingwood Area Republican Women have participated in this project for many years, and through the leadership of literacy chairman Nancy Fulton, recently donated the

following books to Kingwood Library: "Wings of Change: The Army Air Force Experience in Texas During WWII" by Thomas E. Alexander; "When Washington Crossed the Delaware: A Wintertime Story for Young Patriots" by Lynne Cheney; "The West's Last Chance: Will We Win the Clash of Civilizations?" by Tony Blankley; "A Time for Freedom" by Lynn Cheney; "Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who

Loved Books" by Kay Winters; and "The Weekly Standard: A Reader 1995-2005" by William Kristol.

Through this project, Kingwood Area Republican Women hope to contribute to the citizenship education of our community. For information about Kingwood Area Republican Women, contact Alice Rekeweg at 281-360-7457 or visit www.kingwoodarearepublicanwomen.org.

Touring Taste of Dance Salad Festival comes to Kingwood Branch Library

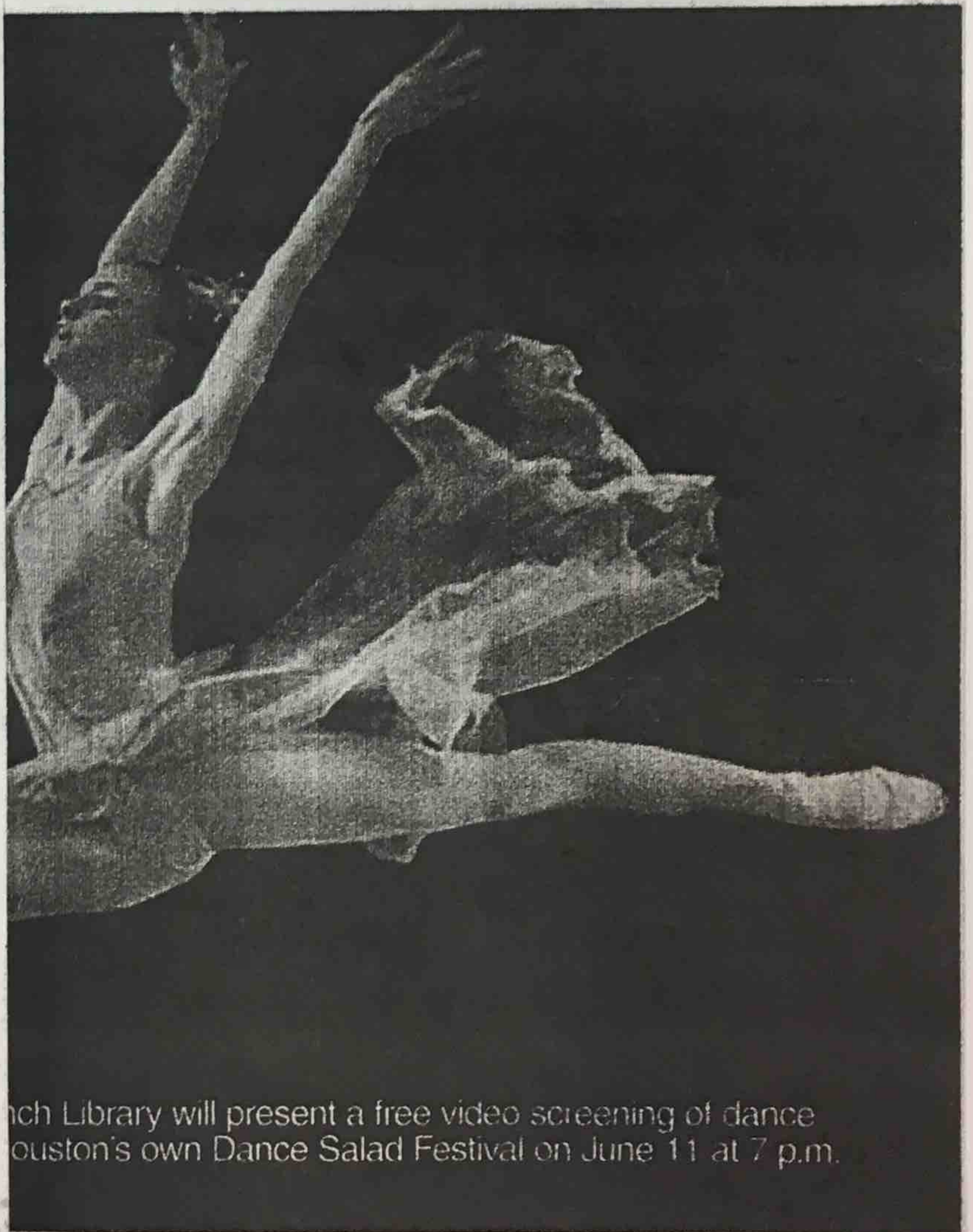
Houston is known for bringing the best, and that includes dance. This year, Houston's own Dance Salad Festival was named "the best international contemporary dance festival outside of Europe." Come to a free video screening of these dance performances at The Kingwood Branch Library on June 11 at 7 p.m., you'll see why they're raving.

Those who enjoy watching "Dancing with the Stars" on TV will be captivated by this hour-long show on video. It features some of the most exciting dancers demonstrating a mix of styles. There is modern dance that incorporates masterful moves with magnificent music. In modern ballets, the tutus are gone, replaced by gorgeous bodies demonstrating thrilling movements executed with the strength of athletes. This is dance that combines consummate skill with exquisite beauty.

These dance companies perform in top theaters internationally; apart from Dance Salad Festival, a person would have to travel all over the world to see the artists that are on this video. The choreographers who created these dances are recognized as some of the very best makers of dance working today. It's all about star companies giving star performances.

About 10 pieces by different artists, specially selected by Dance Salad Festival Director Nancy Henderek are designed to give people a taste of what this festival offers each year live at the Wortham Theater Center, the week leading up to Easter. (In 2008, the live performance dates will be March 20 - 22.) One of the festival's staff will be at the video screening to talk about the show and answer any questions. Come and enjoy.

A Touring Taste of Dance Salad Festival is funded in part by grants from Harris County and the Texas Commission on the Arts through the Houston Arts Alliance. Additional information about Dance Salad Festival is on their Web site www.dancesalad.org



Kingwood Branch Library will present a free video screening of dance performances from Houston's own Dance Salad Festival on June 11 at 7 p.m.

New library will be like a tree house

By LINDA CAROL BUTLER
Contributing Writer

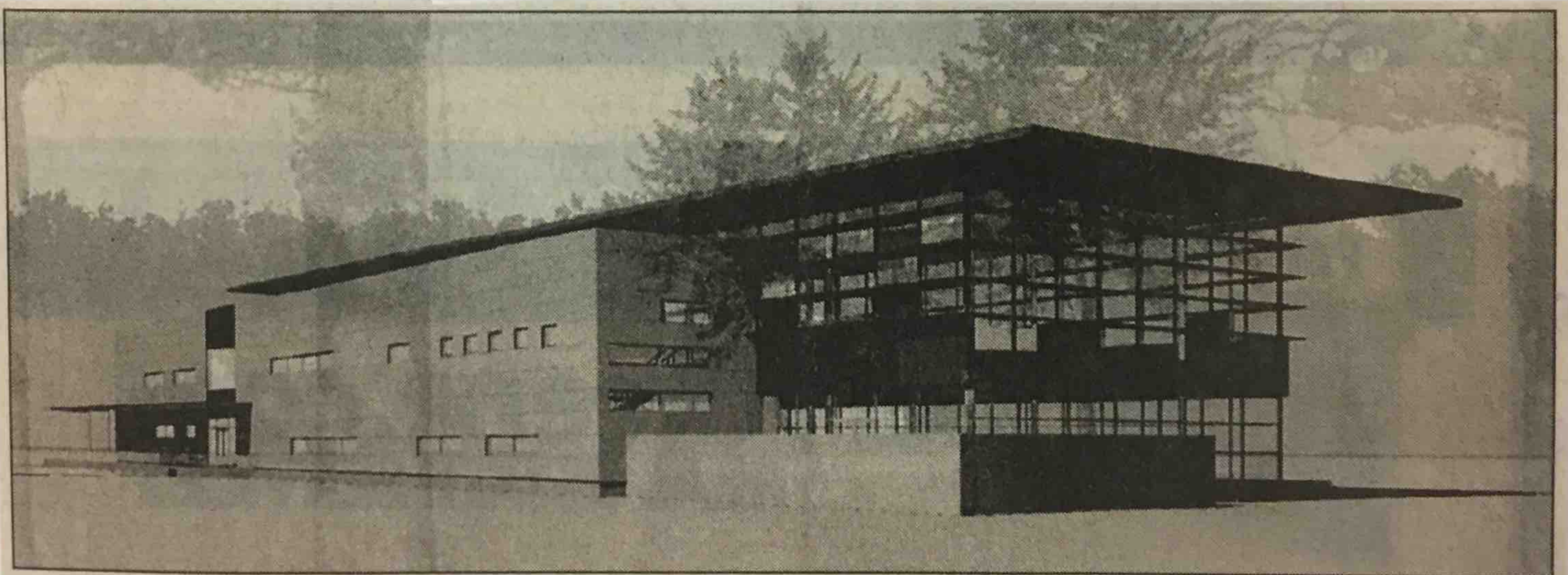
Imagine curling up in a comfortable chair with a good book, sipping a cup of cocoa and gazing down into an enchanted forest right here in Kingwood. This will be the new Kingwood library. The design plans were shown to the public at a meeting May 22 at Creekwood Middle School. "The modern glass and

brick building will be surrounded by a densely wooded area with walking trails. "I call it 'the big tree house,'" said Issa Z. Dadoush, director of the Building Services Department of the city of Houston. "It will have a park-like atmosphere where you can take a book and walk outside."

Rhoda Goldberg, interim director of Harris County Library; Addie Wiseman, coun-

cilwoman from District E; Christi Whittington, Kingwood Library librarian; and J. R. Lynch, manager of Branch Services, joined Dadoush and Kingwood residents to view a virtual computer tour of the library plans. "We hired the best of the best," Dadoush said as he introduced members of the design team of Kirksey Architects.

LIBRARY, 8A



Architectural rendering of the new Kingwood library.

Diverse summer reading programs offered at the Kingwood Library

'Sail Away With Books'

pirates take over Kingwood Branch Library

Avast there, mateys! This year's Summer Reading Club, "Sail Away with Books," is full of pirates, pirates, pirates and lots of fun besides. The fun begins May 29, the Tuesday after Memorial Day weekend, and because school starts late this year, it doesn't finish until Aug. 18. Sign up any time; read or have read to you 10 books and receive a certificate and a free paperback.

Join the Pirate Invasion and come to the Pirate Treasure Read-Aloud every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. for all those exciting stories especially for school-age children, and the Pirate Crew Call Wednesdays at 2:15 p.m. for making Pirate Pokes, playing games, weaving mats and an epic squirt gun battle. (Wear your getting wet clothes.)

Go west with "Westward Ho, Carlotta" and travel with opera diva Carlotta as she tames the Wild West on June 7. Music lovers can pick up their free tickets beginning May 29. The Ferrets are coming back to Kingwood Wednesday, June 13, so those who like cute, fuzzy, little animals shouldn't forget to pick up free tickets.

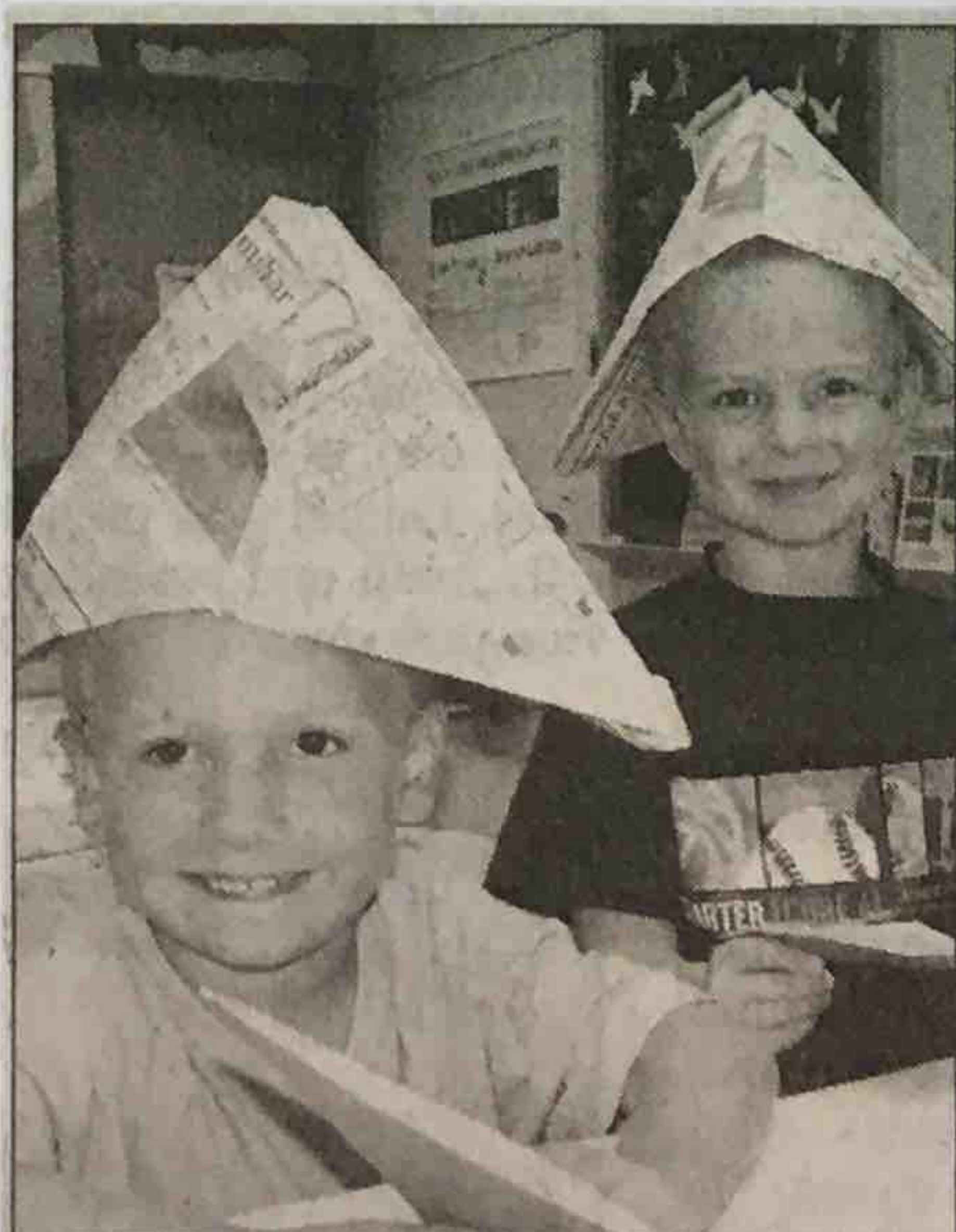
The annual variety show is back, all pirates and all silly, Thursday, June 21, with performances at 10:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. with free tickets available beginning June 11. July 19 is the big Harry Potter Party in celebration of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" movie and the release of book 7, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Children can come as their favorite character, get sorted, look into the Mirror of

Erised, get a scar, make potions and find the snitch, all in one afternoon.

Whether a person has been able to participate this summer or not, everyone is invited to the last summer party of the season on Wednesday, Aug. 15, beginning at 7 p.m. This year there will be snacks, prizes, face painting and magician Ted Swank. So there's lots of fun for everyone.

On Aug. 16, James Gibson will have a pirate program at 2:15 p.m., so dress the part and come along. Free tickets are available for the program beginning Aug. 6.

Besides all of the summer activities, story times for young children continue on their regular schedules. Come join the library's scurvy pirate crew this summer and set sail for treasure and fun.



Kids will enjoy pirate activities at the library this summer.

FOLK honors supporters

On May 7, Friends Of the Library Kingwood honored people who had assisted them in making a difference in the Kingwood Community. Look for the following books added to the shelves in their honor.

Dragoneers Club – Leaders and Program Presenters

Houston P.D. Chief of Police Harold Hurtt: "Passionate Nation: The Epic History of Texas"
Read first chapter of "Hatching Magic" by James L. Haley

Kathleen Aten - leader: "Flapper: A Madcap Story of Sex, Style, Celebrity and the Women who made America Modern" by Joshua Zeitz

Used Book Sale

Pam Smith: "Jeweled Garden: A Colorful History of Gems, Jewels, and Nature" by Suzanne Tennenbaum

NCL – Kingwood Chapter

Carolyn Kramer: "Decorative Arts" by Judith Miller

NCL – Livable Forest Chapter

Tina Stanford: "The Female Brain" by Louann Brizendine

Kingwood Women's Club - Past Chairmen and helpers extraordinaire

Suanna Davis: "1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die"

Joe (Jose) Ruiz: "100 Characters from Classical Mythology" by Malcom Day

Roland Alley - UBS: "History in the Making: An Absorbing Look at How American History has Changed in the Telling over the Last 200 Years" by Kyle Ward

Kingwood Library Garden – Kingwood Garden Club

Nancy Giffhorn – President: "American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Perennials"

Regina Ripley – Head Gardener-Kingwood Library: "Bayou Bend Gardens: A Southern Oasis" by David B. Warren

Community Contacts

Judy Hopkins - Keller Williams Realty: "1001

Paintings You Must See Before You Die"

Mark Heinrich - Keller Williams Realty: "1001 Albums You Must See Before You Die"

Tracy Stunja – RE/MAX: "Art Deco" by Derek Avery

Bill Davis – Humble Rotary: "Financial Founding Fathers: The Men Who Made America Rich" by Robert E. Wright

Bruce Ward – Ward Bros. & Assoc.: "Championship Selling" by Tom Blake

Rick Alspaugh – Alspaugh's Ace Hardware: "Weber's Charcoal Grilling: The Art of Cooking with Live Fire" by Jamie Purviance

Dr. Karen Perkins – HISD "The Classical World: An Epic History from Homer to Hadrian" by Robin Fox Lane

Publicity – Printing - Mailing

Brenda Themis – Kwik Kopy: "Art Nouveau" by Judith Miller

Mark Linabury – KingwoodNow.com: "Anatomy of Buzz: How to Create Word of Mouth Marketing" by Emanuel Rosen

Stephanie Gillette - Kingwood College TV Channel 42: "Something in the air: Radio, Rock and the Revolution that Shaped a Generation" by Marc Fisher

Linda Woehst – The Times Kingwood College Newspaper: "History Behind the Headlines, v. 6"

Cynthia Calvert – The Tribune: "History Behind the Headlines, v. 4"

Susan Meinholz: – Kingwood Observer: "History Behind the Headlines, v. 5"

Pat & Ray Guard – Forest Image (publicity): "A Photographer's Life" by Annie Liebovitz

Jennifer Jozwiak – Coffee News: "Blue Bell Ice Cream" by Dorothy Macinerney

Special Appreciation

Humble Pest Control (sprayed in and around sheds): "Encyclopedia of Insects and Spiders" by Rod Preston-Mahfam

Walter Schroeder (built entertainment center): "Wood: Craft, Culture, History" by Harvey Green

Kingwood Observer May 9, 2007

Kingwood Branch Library celebrates The Big Read

Join the Kingwood Branch Library in celebrating Asian/Pacific Heritage Month by participating in The Big Read. This year's book is "The Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan. The Kingwood Library Book Group will host a discussion on Monday, May 14, from 7-9 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 16, Houston area artist Lim Chung will conduct a workshop on Chinese Calligraphy for teens and adults. Registration is

required, so please sign up at the information desk or call 281-360-6804.

On Wednesday, May 23, at 7 p.m., local acupuncture practitioner Annees Gurmani will conduct an information session about acupuncture and its benefits. No registration is required.

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information about the branch closest to you, call 713-749-9000 or log on to www.hcpl.net



Branch Librarian Christi Whittington, right, appreciates all the volunteers at the library including Kingwood High School junior Whitney Liang who has been volunteering since she was in the ninth grade. Photo by Susan Meinholz

Kingwood library celebrates volunteers

By SUSAN MEINHOLZ
News Editor

Billionaire Malcolm Forbes once said, "The richest person in the world — in fact all the riches in the world — couldn't pro-

vide you with anything like the endless, incredible loot available at your local library." On April 23, the staff of the Kingwood Branch Library held a luncheon to thank the wonderful volunteers that help make the library a

priceless gem in the community. Volunteers were treated to a delicious lunch, presented certificates and serenaded by staff

LIBRARY, 10A

LIBRARY

Continued from page 1A

members. "We hear you're volunteering; Shelving books and other stuff; You put up with everything; You just can't get enough," sang the group to the melody of an original song by Jeff Coyle, the assistant branch librarian.

The library was decorated with a cruise theme and each table had a lollipop centerpiece for the "Good Ship Lollipop." "We are honoring volunteers today for helping the library in all the tasks behind the scenes," said Christi Whittington, branch librarian. "Our volunteers are a dedicated and wonderful group of people. We love them."

Reference Librarian Elizabeth Ronald, who supervises the daily volunteers on the floor, said the volunteers are

extremely helpful and great to have around. "They are so easy to work with," said Ronald. "They are flexible and willing to do whatever you need. The volunteers are also a great morale booster for the staff. It's a real treat to have them here."

Volunteers help in all areas of the library, including shelving books, creating bulletin boards, assisting the circulation staff and handling books on hold. Members of the Kingwood Garden Club donate many hours maintaining the beautiful "Garden of Hope" that blooms in front of the building. Friends Of the Library Kingwood raises funds through the annual Buy-A-Book campaign and quarterly used book sales. They also donate their time to such special projects as the children's summer reading programs, Patron Count Week and are generally on call to help the library in any way they can.

Marilyn McCreight and Marianne Lincoln are members of FOLK and said they enjoy spending their time volunteering at the library. "I've always been interested in books and reading," said McCreight. "Volunteering at the library not only helps the library, it is a contribution to the community."

Lincoln is the former branch librarian and currently serves as FOLK's historian. She said it is exciting to see how much the library has grown and she knows the value of volunteers. "I have always loved libraries," she said. "Volunteers are the backbone of community support."

Kingwood High School junior Whitney Liang volunteers every Saturday. She has been helping the library since the ninth grade. "I love books," she smiled. "Volunteering at the library is a way to give to the community."

smeinholz@hcnonline.com

Kingwood Observer May 2, 2007



**Staff members of the Kingwood branch library dressed up as crew members to serenade library volunteers during their volunteer appreciation luncheon. The theme was the good ship lollipop.
*Photo by Susan Meinholz***

Input sought on new library

By SUSAN MEINHOLZ
News Editor

At a public meeting to discuss the city of Houston's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), council member Addie Wiseman provided an overview of current capital improvement projects and answered questions from a crowd of more than 200 area residents assembled at Creekwood Middle School on Feb. 8. Representatives from various city departments including public works, fire and police, were also on hand to provide information. A top priority of the CIP is the construction of a new

Harris County library that will be located at Bens View, south of Town Center. The property had been purchased by the city of Houston for a 6,000-square-foot community center.

After the new library is built, the community center will be housed in the 12,000-square-foot library building currently located on Rustic Woods Drive. The joint effort of the city of Houston and Harris County was orchestrated by Wiseman after she confirmed with Issa Dadoush, the director of the city's building services, that the library could be converted into a community center. Wiseman met with Harris County Precinct 4

Commissioner Jerry Eversole, Houston Mayor Bill White and attorneys from the city and county to discuss the details. The city will be contributing \$6 million to the library which will cost \$2 million a year to operate. Now that the project is in the programming phase, the city will invite residents to give input at an upcoming scheduled meeting and then have another public meeting to discuss their plans, based on the community's input. This process is expected to be completed within 90-120 days. Another project that Wiseman said the city is committed to is the

INPUT, 9A

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widening of Northpark Drive from West Lake Houston Parkway to Mills Branch Parkway.

When the meeting was opened up to public comment, several residents approached the microphone.

Dee Price, president of the Super Neighborhood Council and the Kingwood Service Association, presented an updated Super Neighborhood Action Plan.

"Many of them are projects you are already working on and we want to convey our support for the library and the community center," said Price. "We really appreciate the progress that has been made; we're behind that 100 percent and the expansion of Northpark." Wiseman pointed out that the SNAP is a critical part of the process and thanked Price for her involvement. "For as long as I have been on council, you have been very involved with Super Neighborhood Council and, of course, for many years with the Kingwood Service Association," said Wiseman. "For those of you who don't know, Dee was recently recognized as a Woman of Achievement (by the FamilyTime Foundation) because of her involvement in the community and all that she does."

Price also mentioned there was a non-CIP item that asks for a dedicated portion of Kingwood and Northpark drives and West Lake Houston and Mills Branch parkways as part of the Houston bike-way program. Russell Stalzer, representing area cyclists, submitted the request.

Brian Schumacher and Ted Swanson each discussed their concerns over the recent mutilations of animals by pit bulls. "These dogs are not social dogs. They are volatile. They are trained to kill, attack and mutilate," said Schumacher. Swanson said that animal control refused to come out because no human being was attacked. Wiseman said that loose aggressive dogs were a growing concern in Kingwood. She said she will discuss the problem with the city attorney as well as with the liaison for the health department bureau. Wiseman also said she is optimistic about the new director of the Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care and expects to have increased service from the organization.

Schumacher also had an issue with being subjected to advertising left on front doors.

Dr. Mike Woehst thanked Wiseman for helping to make Kingwood a great place to live and asked if the city could have the streets swept more, particularly on Woodland Hills Drive, and do something about the rundown businesses with overgrown weeds on Loop 494. Wiseman said that part of the problem with the sweeping was with the medians and that Neighborhood Protection Corps can investigate the properties on Loop 494 and issue citations.

Jim Morris appealed for someone to take responsibility for maintaining the drainage ditch in Bear Branch that services many villages in Kingwood. Wiseman will meet with the Harris County Flood Control to go over the issues and get together each of the entities that may be responsible.

Krueger spoke about current and future projects regarding water treatment plants, water storage tank rehabilitation, drainage problems small limited construction and small limited improvements including the redesign and revision of the median at Kingwood High School. They are also working on sidewalks for a stretch on Mills Branch Parkway and will meet about drainage and service problems in the Oak Manor subdivision.

Book group starting up at Kingwood Library

By ALICIA ANGST
Observer Reporter

Reading is a key that opens up new horizons and new adventures. It allows people to learn about things they may never see or experience in person. It is also a good source of laughter and fun. The Kingwood Branch Library is starting up a book discussion group.

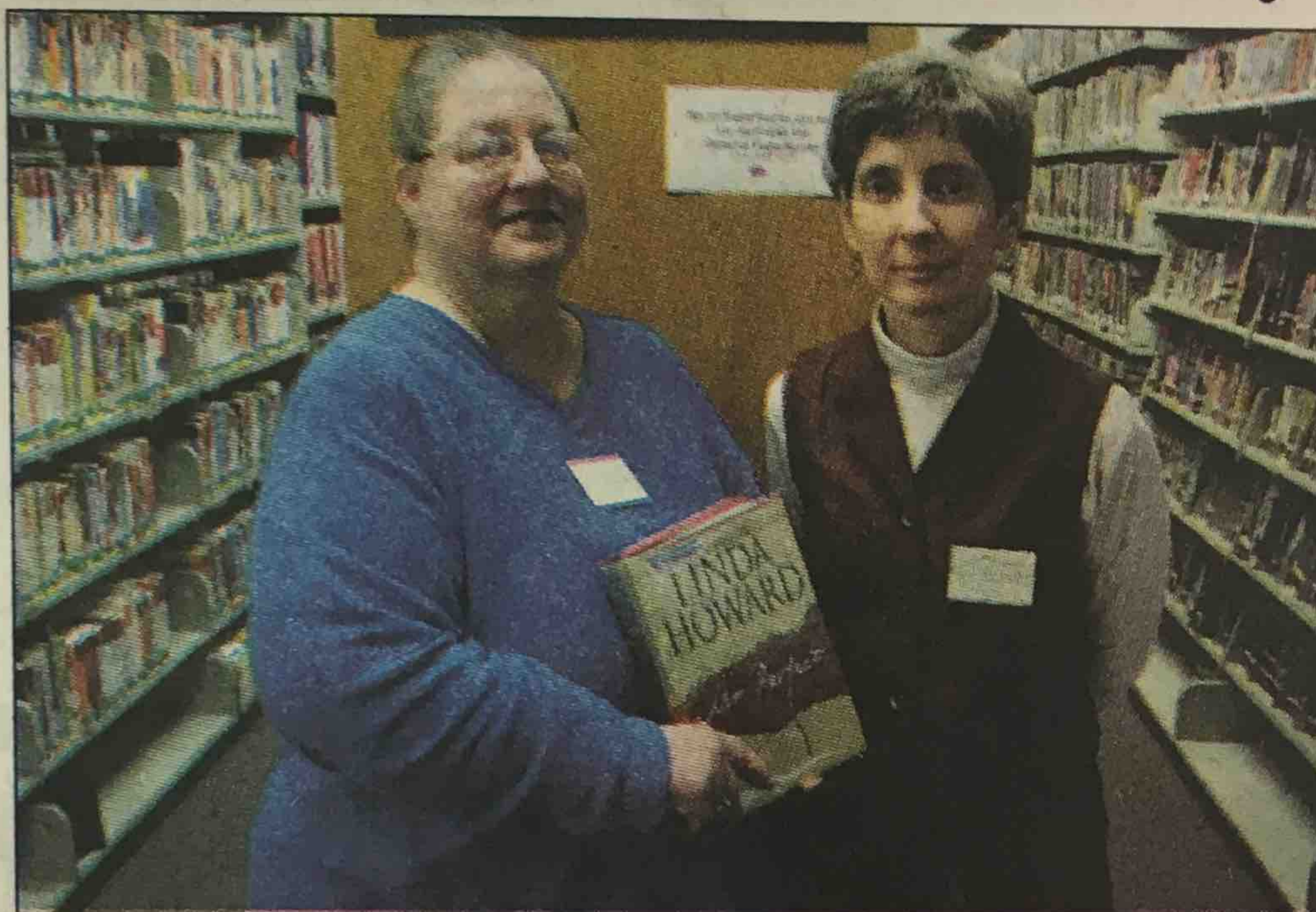
This group is for adults. It meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. A different book will be discussed each time.

The first meeting is Feb. 19 and in honor of Valentine's Day, the first selection is Linda Howard's "Mr. Perfect."

The group will be led by library staffers Elizabeth Ronald and Connie Dye.

"It's a romance and for the guys, it's a 'serial killer' romance," said Dye. "There is quite a bit of suspense."

The book is readily available through the library system.

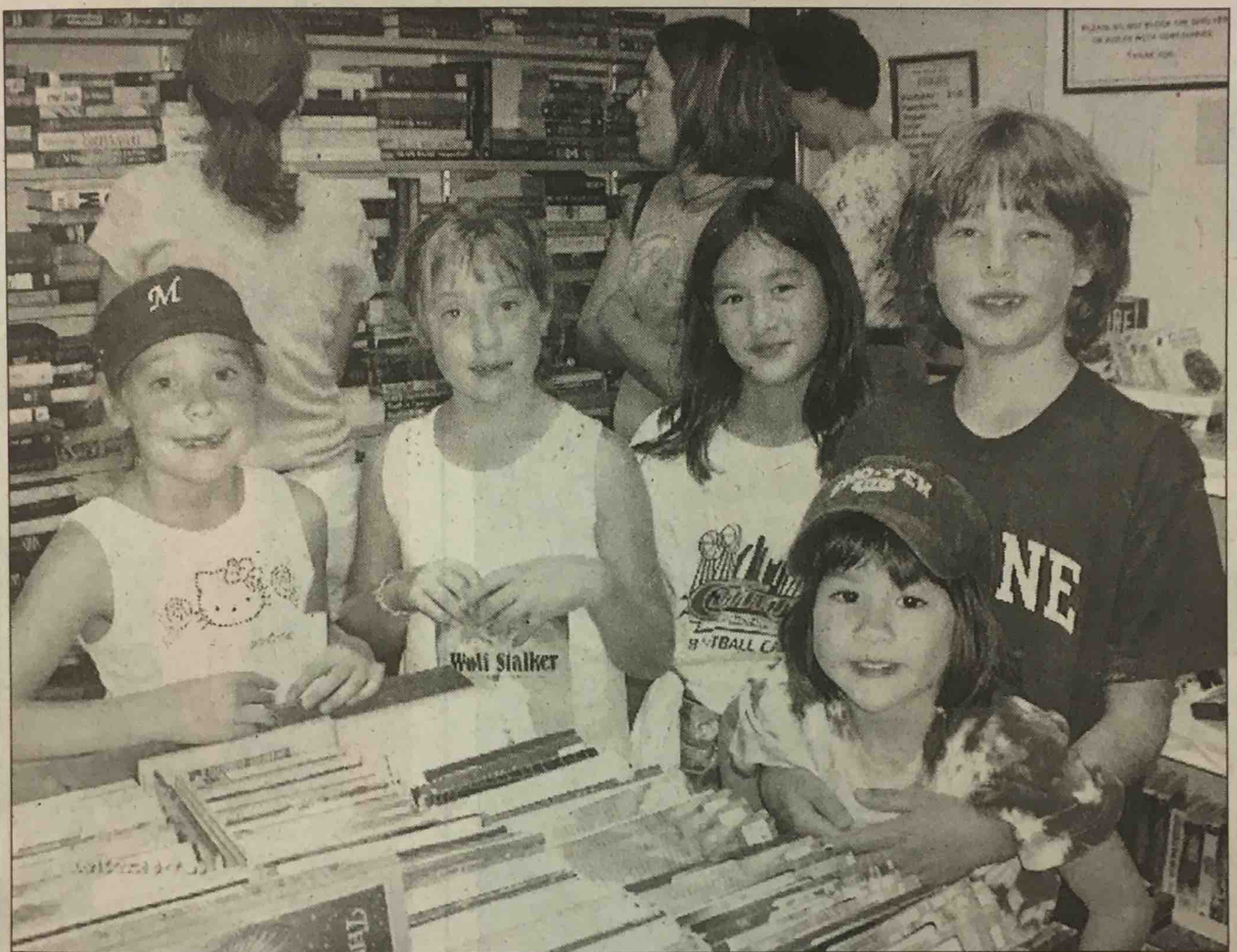


Kingwood Library staffers Connie Dye and Elizabeth Ronald are heading up a new book discussion group that will meet on the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. Photo by Alicia Angst

"We want to encourage people to read the book," said Dye. "For next month we will let the group decide what we want to read."

For more information, call 281-360-6804 or visit www.hcpl.net

aangst@hcnonline.com



The Johnson and Chong families, Maddy Johnson, Abby Johnson, Gracie Chong, Tobin Johnson and Anna Chong, found great books to buy at the last FOLK Used Book Sale. The next sale will be Feb. 10.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE KINGWOOD LIBRARY

On Feb. 21, the Kingwood Library is celebrating Black History Month with programs for children and adults. From 4-5 p.m., the library will host a children's program, "Goobers, Hoppin' John, and Benne Seed Cookies: African American Food." Then from 7-8:30 p.m., there will be a program for adults entitled "Twentieth Century African American Music - A Discussion." All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Kingwood Branch Library at 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net



***Colonial Dames
donate books to library***

The Joseph Underwood Chapter, Colonial Dames XVIIIC, presented two books for the children's section of the Harris County Library, Kingwood Branch. The books are true stories about Abigail Adams and the Lost Colony of Roanoke. Connie Dye, librarian, accepted the books on behalf of the library. Marilyn Evans, presidents, and Betty Anderson, chaplain, are pictured with Dye. For more information about the Colonial Dames DAR chapter, call 281-358-6815.

'Spring' into action by joining Friends of the Library Kingwood

Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) was chartered in April of 1981 for the purpose of focusing public attention on library programs, its facilities, and the needs of the library. The objective of FOLK is to promote the cause of the Kingwood Branch Library in the community by holding fundraising events and funding cultural activities. In layman terms, to be a friend of the Kingwood library.

FOLK was instrumental in the opening of the Kingwood library in August of 1983 as FOLK members went door-to-

door collecting money to buy books for the new library. In 1986 the Texas State Library selected Kingwood library friends' Buy-A-Book Campaign as the (Texas) State Library Project of the Year.

The numbers of people who patronize the library and FOLK fundraisers are high. For this, we (the library and FOLK) are forever grateful. However, FOLK members are in the 200 hundred range, while there are over 60,000 residents in Kingwood. You can change the percentage of FOLK members versus

Kingwood residents today by becoming a friend of the Kingwood library.

By now, you may be asking yourself, "How can I, my family or my club help add books, equipment and enhance programs at our local library?"

I'm glad you asked. Becoming a member of FOLK is easy. You can either stop by the library's circulation desk, or you may complete the membership card and mail it along with your check to FOLK - Membership, P.O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas, 77325-5353.

FOLK membership fees, like other fundraising monies, are used to enhance the services and programs of the library. Additionally, membership fees (like other donations to FOLK) are tax deductible.

Other opportunities abound for interested FOLK members to volunteer at the library or assist with FOLK fundraising activities.

For more information regarding FOLK or volunteerism opportunities, pick up an information flier at the library, or call the library at 281-360-6804.

FOLK and the Kingwood Library need you....

By Frances M. Pelham, FOLK's Publicity Chairperson

The Observer's February 23, 2006 front page story of a new library in Kingwood was an awesome announcement. However, we know that an announcement does not mean there will be a groundbreaking ceremony tomorrow; **BUT** there are things we can do today through FOLK to help ready the KW library for a newer spacious facility.

There are basically four ways by which the Friends Of the Library Kingwood raise money for the KW library. They are as follows:

- Used Book Sales. There are two ways to assist with this fundraiser. First: Donate (tax-deductible) used books, magazines and audio-visual materials. Second: Patronize the book sales. You will need to replace your donated items, right?

- Buy-A-Book Campaign. The annual Buy-A-Book Campaign is held in October of each year. However, you can donate money to buy books at any time.

Many patrons purchase books in memory of a loved one, or as a tribute to a friend, acquaintance, or family member. With the purchase of an honorary book, your name along with the name the person being honored will be placed in the front of your purchased book

- Contributions and grants from corporations and non-profit organizations. Contributions are received mostly from corporate matching fund programs. When you donate money to FOLK, don't forget to attach your company's matching fund document to your check. Grants are received out of the generosity of profit and non-profit entities. If you belong to an organization that issues grants, please remember the library.

- Membership fees. These fees come from you and me when we become members of FOLK. Becoming a member of FOLK is as simple as writing a check annually in an amount as low as \$15.00. Like Buy-A-Book, memberships into FOLK are accepted all year round. However, April 1st – March 31st

of each year is FOLK's official membership drive. So as I write my check to continue my FOLK membership, I hope you will write that first check to become a new Friend of the KW Library.

FOLK's role in the building of a new library facility is to participate in the purchase of books, audio-visual aids and equipment for the building. As the reality of a new library gets closer, there will be new and different fundraising activities you will be asked to support.. In the meantime, I ask you to join me today by supporting FOLK's ongoing fundraisers described above.

And last but not least, it's never too late to visit 'your' library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. You can also view all of the programs going on at the library by visiting their website: <http://www.hcpl.net>, Branch Information/Kingwood. FOLK's mailing address is: P. O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas 77325 (for those membership and buy-a-book monies). Or, leave a message for a FOLK representative by calling the library at 281-360-6804.

FOLK's next Used Book Sale is Saturday, August 19, 2006 for the General Public and Friday, August 18, 2006 for FOLK members.

Pictured above: The Kingwood Branch Library, a Harris County Public Library, honored its volunteers at the annual Volunteer Luncheon on May 1. The theme was tea party and we saw a few "June Cleavers" attending. The Kingwood Branch volunteer program encompasses year-round volun-



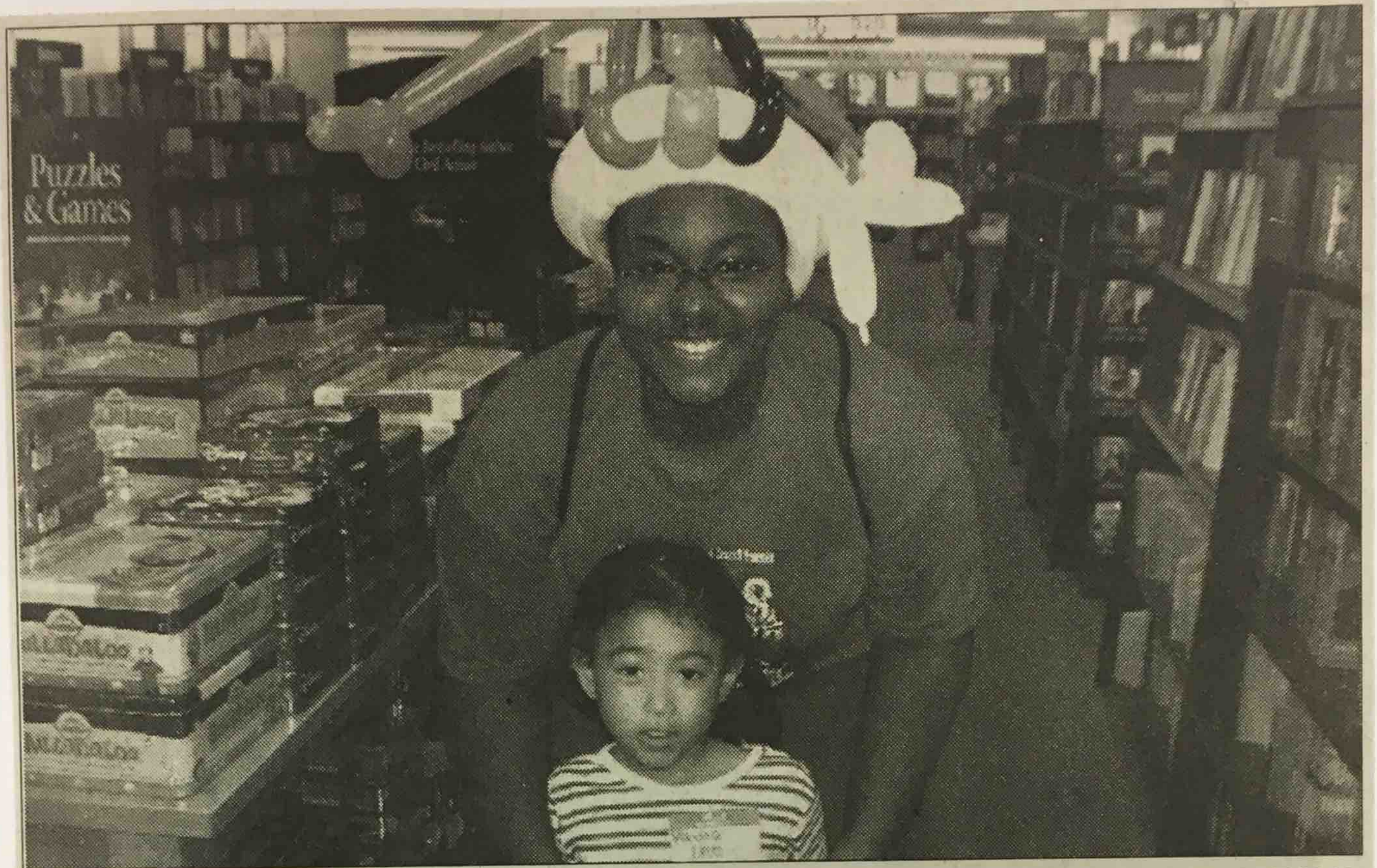
teers, summer volunteers and teen volunteers. They help get the items ready for pick-up that are being held for customers; shelve books, CDs and audio cassettes, DVDs and videocassettes; put up bulletin boards; help with children's and young adult programs; mend damaged books, replace torn covers on books and AV materials; and any other tasks as needed. They are a vital part of the Kingwood Branch Library and always seem happy to be of such much needed help. We appreciate each and every one of them. We thank them for their help, we thank them for their sense of humor; we thank them for keeping us grounded in why we are here – to serve the community.

Photo by Pat and Ray's Studio

Kingwood Observer January 25, 2006

FOLK

Friends - Of the Library
Kingwood's first used book sale in 2006 is Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Dr. at West Lake Houston Parkway from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop on Friday, Feb. 17, from 5-8 p.m. Tax-deductible books, magazines, and other donations are accepted during business hours of the library. To learn more about FOLK and how becoming a "friend" of the library will enhance the material, programs and services offered by the library, stop by the library's circulation desk. "Friend" memberships start as low as \$15 annually.



Kids of all ages have fun at FOLK.

Bookfair a big success

FOLK and Barnes & Noble's first bookfair was enjoyed by all. And because so many people patronized the event, it was an awesome success.

Likewise, FOLK's used book sale was patronized by a lot of people shopping for

those bookworms on their holiday list. FOLK's next used book sale is Friday, Feb. 17, (FOLK members* only) from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 18, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for the general public. FOLK used book sales are held at the Kingwood

Library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. Tax deductible donations are accepted throughout the year during library hours.

*FOLK memberships start at a mere \$15 annually.

KINGWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY

Are you prepared for a natural disaster? Do you remember Hurricane Rita? Do you remember Tropical Storm Allison? Hurricane season is right around the corner and it is never too early to start getting ready. January 2006 is "Get Organized Month." In this spirit, the Kingwood Branch Library will be hosting a Disaster Preparedness presentation on Monday, Jan. 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. Professional organizer and Kingwood resident Ellen

Delap will discuss steps you can take to prepare for the worst in addition to general information about organizing your important papers and more.

Book fair to benefit Kingwood Library

Books, CDs, and/or DVDs are awaiting you at Barnes & Noble/Deerbrook Mall on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) have joined with Barnes & Noble for a Book Fair. This event provides a perfect time to do some early holiday shopping.

FOLK and Barnes & Noble's Book Fair benefits all participants. Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of sales made with book fair vouchers to FOLK.

During the month of November, book fair vouchers will be available to the community via many sources. Those sources include, but are not limited to, the following entities: newspapers, kingwood-now.com Web site, Kingwood branch library and local businesses.

The next step is easy. Bring your book fair voucher along with your holiday list to Barnes & Noble/Deerbrook Mall on Thursday, Dec. 1, during normal business hours and shop, shop, shop.

Your shopping will be made more enjoyable as various groups will be on hand to entertain you. There will be a children's story hour. And, to assist you with your shopping, FOLK members will be available.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Kingwood Branch Library will be hosting Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 5 from 6 until 9 p.m. Santa Claus will be in the Kids Realm from 6 to 9 p.m. The North Harris County Dulcimer Society will provide music from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends Of the Library Kingwood (F.O.L.K.). All are invited. For more information, please call 281-360-6804.

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FOLK

Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) have joined with Barnes & Noble for a Bookfair to be held at Barnes & Noble/Deerbrook Mall on Thursday, Dec. 1. Bring your Bookfair voucher (available at numerous locations throughout Kingwood, and at the Kingwood library) along with your holiday list and SHOP! SHOP! SHOP!

Local Marine speaks about experience in Iraq

By MARTIN WILLHOITE
Contributing Writer

Sgt. David Polyansky, a Houston lawyer who left his job to reenlist in the Marines, addressed a group of veterans and other attendees on Nov. 11 at the Kingwood Library's commemoration of Veterans Day. Polyansky's mother, Alice Rekoweg, sporting a "Marine's Mom" temporary tattoo on her cheek and fresh from participating in the Veterans Day parade in downtown Houston, introduced the Marine.

The Marines accepted Polyansky's request to reenlist with the Houston-based First Battalion, 23rd Marines in August 2004 and after a brief training period in California, he was deployed to al-Anbar province in Iraq, the largest and one of the most volatile of Iraq's provinces.

Polyansky's talk came as thousands of United States military personnel continued to take part in Operation Steel Curtain, begun November 5, in al-Anbar up to the Syrian border.

Polyansky served with the intelligence unit attached to the First Battalion gathering information and conducting raids. He described his experiences in Iraq and addressed the issues of intelligence collection, foreign insurgents and the rule of law for the crowd assembled at the library.



David Polyansky spoke to a group at the Kingwood Library on Veterans Day. Pictured are Alice Rekoweg (Polyansky's mother), Polyansky, Vicki Williams, Donna Stroh, Karen Fleming, Terrie Bauer, Carmen Greigo and Glenn Rekoweg. The women are part of the organization Blue Star Moms. Photo by Martin Willhoite

The Marines would establish their presence in towns from which insurgents operated and begin to interrogate residents.

"The first night is horrible," Polyansky said in describing the resistance of the insurgents who would soon thereafter attempt to leave the towns or blend into the population.

Following their entrance into the city, Polyansky and the Marines would go door-to-door throughout the city and collect and pursue intelligence leads. Families would be segregated by gender and interrogated.

"The process is immediate," Polyansky said of the turnaround time on much of the information they would gather. He would speak with countless people in a day and almost invariably they would say, "There are no terrorists here."

Fear of terrorist reprisals is a serious problem for those who the insurgents believe to be cooperating with American forces. Polyansky told the story of a man who sought assistance from the Marines after insurgents kidnapped his family. The insurgents believed the man to be working with American troops.

"Of course he wasn't," said Polyansky.

Using the information provided by the man, the Marines

set out to free the man's family.

"We showed up, busted through the doors, and pulled his family out," Polyansky said.

It was there that the Marines discovered a basement filled with weapons and explosives under the house where insurgents held the man's family. The American troops proceeded to detonate the weapons under the house and made a further discovery: the insurgents had hidden weapons in the support beams of the house as well.

Polyansky discussed the difficulty of countering reprisals against informants, as well.

"I hesitate to say this, but the only way to counter this is to have a long-standing presence in these cities and that is a terrifying prospect," he said.

Reliability of information poses another major problem. Polyansky described an incident in which bad intelligence was received and its consequences. An informant presented information that al-Qaida members were operating from an area near the Marine base. The Marines attempted to conduct a raid on the al-Qaida operatives, only to learn in the field that the intelligence was bad and an ambush awaited them.

Polyansky and the Marines of the 1/23rd would attempt to build relationships with locals in the towns they entered to collect intelligence.

Intelligence officers would also attempt to assemble field intelligence and information back in the barracks, establishing patterns and connections before acting upon it. Polyansky described the disconnect between the modern accoutrements of the barracks with their computers, iPods, and VCRs and the field situations to which he and other soldiers would soon return, which included 130 degree heat, extended periods away from the base and few resources.

"It's a surreal experience," he said.

Polyansky also addressed the nature of the insurgency and the issue of foreign terrorists and insurgents in Iraq coming across the porous border shared by Iraq and Syria.

Polyansky told the audience that large numbers of foreign fighters streamed across the Syrian border on a daily basis. Some of these fighters came from as far away as France, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Chechnya he said. They crossed the border with money to dispense to local Iraqis who would assist them.

"There is no economy out there," Polyansky said of al-Anbar province.

To add to the problems, insurgents extort money dispensed by Americans to Iraqis for reconstruction efforts.

This money typically funded infrastructure projects such as police stations. And once the police station or school funded by the American forces is built, the insurgents blow it up.

Polyansky discussed the development of the rule of law as well in Iraq. While noting that this is progressing, he stated that the "most important question is how they incorporate the Sunnis."

"They have incorporated some American aspects but they have really developed it around their own beliefs," Polyansky said of the mixed nature of the Iraqi constitution.

When asked about the media coverage, Polyansky replied, "Do I get frustrated that the media is not reporting the positives? Absolutely."

"We have made incredible gains," he added.

Polyansky has returned to his legal career and married his fiancée, Kirsten, since returning to the United States this past spring.

His talk was part of a commemoration of Veterans Day organized by Aimee Hoffschneider, head of circulation at the library. Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Enduring Freedom spoke about their experiences and displayed memorabilia collected during their service.

FOLK

Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) have joined with Barnes & Noble for a Bookfair to be held at Barnes & Noble/Deerbrook Mall on Thursday, Dec. 1. Bring your Bookfair voucher (available at numerous locations throughout Kingwood, and at the Kingwood library) along with your holiday list and SHOP! SHOP! SHOP!

A TOURING TASTE OF DANCE SALAD FESTIVAL

The Kingwood Branch Library is hosting a free screening of the spring 2005 season performances of the Dance Salad Festival. Created by multi-award winning video artist, Laurie McDonald, this specially commissioned film of the 2005 concert originally presented at the Cullen Theater, Wortham Center will be shown at the Kingwood Library on Monday, Nov. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Both the video artist and festival staff will be present to talk about the companies presented at the festival and the process of capturing this art form on film. If you missed the 2005 concert at the Cullen Theater, Wortham Center or would like to see these magnificent performances again, this free event is for you. Free to the general public. Additional information about Dance Salad Festival is on their Web site: www.dancesalad.org

Kingwood Observer December 21, 2005

FOLK

The month of October is FOLK's (Friends Of the Library Kingwood's) annual buy-a-book campaign. Contributions to the BAB campaign provide FOLK with the money to buy new books, audio and visual materials for the Kingwood Library. For more information, call the Kingwood library at 281-360-6804. To contribute to FOLK's buy-a-book campaign, make check payable to FOLK Buy-A-Book and mail to FOLK at P. O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas, 77325-5353, or drop your check by the library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. All donations are tax deductible.

Kingwood Observer December 28, 2005

KINGWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY

Are you prepared for a natural disaster? Do you remember Hurricane Rita? Do you remember Tropical Storm Allison? Hurricane season is right around the corner and it is never too early to start getting ready. January 2006 is "Get Organized Month." In this spirit, the Kingwood Branch Library will be hosting a Disaster Preparedness presentation on Monday, Jan. 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. Professional organizer and Kingwood resident Ellen Delap will discuss steps you can take to prepare for the worst in addition to general information about organizing your important papers and more.

The Kingwood Library announces several programs in November

STORYTIMES FOR PRESCHOOLERS:

Mother Goose Lapsit - Designed for children 0-18 months and their parents. No sign-up required. Program includes nursery rhymes, finger plays, and songs on Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Toddler Time - Program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Sign-ups required. Call Library for further information at 281-360-6804.

Preschool Storytime - Everyone welcome. Designed for 3-6 year old children on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m.

November 18, 2005 - 5:00 to

8:00 p.m. - F.O.L.K. Booksale Preview - Booksale preview open to FOLK members. Membership costs \$15.00 per year and may be purchased at the preview.

November 19, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - F.O.L.K. Booksale

November 24-26, 2005 - Library Closed for Thanksgiving

November 28, 2005 - 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - A Touring Taste of Dance Salad Festival - Created by multi-award winning video artist, Laurie McDonald, this specially commissioned film of the 2005 concert originally presented at the Cullen Theater, Wortham Center will be shown. Discussion following.

FOLK teams up with Barnes & Noble

Friends of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) have joined with Barnes & Noble for a Bookfair. This event provides a perfect time to do some early holiday shopping. FOLK and Barnes & Noble's Bookfair benefits all participants. Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of sales made with Bookfair vouchers to FOLK.

During the month of November, Bookfair will be available to the community via many sources. Those sources include, but are not limited to, the following entities: newspapers, Kingwood branch library and local businesses.

The next step is easy. Bring your Bookfair voucher along with your holiday list to Barnes

& Noble/Deerbrook Mall on Thursday, Dec. 1, during normal business hours and SHOP.

Your shopping will be made more enjoyable as various groups will be on hand to entertain you. There will be a children's story hour. And, to assist you with your shopping, FOLK members will be available.

Kingwood Observer November 9, 2005

FOLK

The month of October is FOLK's (Friends Of the Library Kingwood's) annual buy-a-book campaign. Contributions to the BAB campaign provide FOLK with the money to buy new books, audio and visual materials for the Kingwood Library. For more information, call the Kingwood library at 281-360-6804. To contribute to FOLK's buy-a-book campaign, make check payable to FOLK Buy-A-Book and mail to FOLK at P. O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas, 77325-5353, or drop your check by the library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. All donations are tax deductible.

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's holiday used book sale

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's (FOLK's) next Used Book Sale is Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive at West Lake Houston Parkway from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

FOLK members are invited to shop on Friday, Nov. 18, from 5-8 p.m.

FOLK's November Used Book Sale is the perfect time to do some early holiday shopping. Books are perfect gifts for those bookworms on your holiday shopping list.

In addition to the newer-released and children's books, you will find books in the following categories at the used book sale: fiction (including mysteries and romance), non-fiction, science fiction, biography, arts/literature/classics/poetry, business/computer/reference, religion/inspiration, self-help, gardening, cooking, crafts/hobbies, home improvement, humor, western, coffee table, parenting, medical/diet/exercise, travel and young adult books. Also for sale are media materials: videos, CDs, cassettes and music.

Hardback and large softback books start at \$1 while standard size paperback books are only 50 cents. Newer-released hardbacks and coffee table



The new FOLK booksale is approaching and will take place Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Kingwood Library located on Lake Houston Parkway. Photo courtesy of Pat Guard

books sell for a mere \$3. Children and young adult books range in price from 25 cents to \$1. Videos, CDs, cassettes, and several other items of interest are also sold at bargain prices.

Because it is the holiday season, FOLK and the library staff would like to remind the community that you have the opportunity (now and throughout the year) to pay tribute to a family member, your own family, friends and/or a special event with an everlasting gift, a book. By purchasing a book for the Kingwood Library in honor of that special person and/or event in your life, you will be giving a gift that will be enjoyed by others over and over again.

For details on purchasing an honoree book for a special person/event, see one of the Kingwood librarians.

Tax-deductible books, magazines, and other donations are accepted during business hours of the library.

To learn more about FOLK and how becoming a 'friend' of the library will enhance the material, programs and services offered by the library, stop by the library's circulation desk at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. 'Friend' memberships start as low as \$15 annually.

What's new at the Kingwood Branch Library

If you have been to the Kingwood Branch Library lately, you have noticed something new at the circulation desk. They now have three self-checkout machines for your convenience.

In order to keep the high customer service standards that you have come to expect, the Harris County Public Library (HCPL) system installed self-checkout machines in the libraries that have high circulation.

The Harris County Public Library system now has the highest circulation in the state. Last year, they circulated over 10 million items, a 19 percent increase system-wide.

The Kingwood Branch is one of the highest circulating branches in the system. They circulated 459,756 items last year.

That was an increase of 22 percent from previous year and puts Kingwood in seventh place out of 26 branches (that includes the newest, biggest branches — Barbara

Bush/Cypress Creek, Clear Lake City/County, and Cy-Fair College/County branches).

They also answered 21,078 reference questions, requested 9,606 items from other HCPL branches, loaned out 93,583 items to other HCPL branches, requested 981 items through InterLibrary Loan and presented 290 programs with an attendance of 6,628.

All of this was accomplished without an increase in staffing.

As you can see, the staff at the Kingwood Branch has been very busy and welcomes the addition of the self-checkout machines. These machines will help them keep up with the added responsibilities higher circulation brings without sacrificing excellent customer service.

So, the next time you visit Kingwood Branch library give the new self-checkout machines a try. The staff will be there to help you.

TODDLER TIME REGISTRATION

The new series of nine Toddler Time programs at the Kingwood Library begins on Tuesday, June 7. These programs are specifically designed for children from 18 months to 3 years. Each week, the program will have themed songs, stories and fingerplays specifically for toddlers. Registration is the week of May 24 through Saturday, May 28. The Toddler Time programs will be each Tuesday at 10 a.m., and each Thursday at 10 a.m. Because of the age of the children, each session has only 10 children and their caregivers, so registration is important. For more information, or to register, call the Kingwood Library at 281-360-6804.

KINGWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY

The following programs have been announced for May at the Kingwood Branch Library: Toddler time, for 18 months to 3-year-olds, sign-ups required - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.; Preschool Storytime, designed for 3 to 6-year-olds - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m.; Mother Goose lapsit, for 0-18 months and their parents, no sign-up required - Thursdays at 10 a.m.; Nugames will meet on May 21 from 12-4 p.m.

Go wild at the Kingwood Library

Go Wild! Read at the Kingwood Library this summer.

The summer reading program is here, and they are planning a busy summer. The sign-up for summer reading and Read-To-Me Clubs began May 31, the Tuesday after Memorial Day. Keep track of everything you read, or have read to you, (storytimes count, too). When you get 10 books read, show your list to a librarian and start helping the tree get new leaves and flowers. At the same time, pick up your certificate and choose a free new paperback book provided by the sponsors.

They still have preschool storytime every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. for kids from 3-years-old to 6-years-old.

For the old kids, they have a special Wild to Read Aloud at 1:30 p.m. These are stories of humor, adventure with heroes, tricksters, and scalawags galore and a new chapter of an exciting chapter book each week just right for listening to on a hot summer's afternoon. Drop in and join the fun.

Every Wednesday at 2:15 p.m., the Wild & Crazy Fun Club has some type of craft, video, or activity to keep you busy. On June 1, the first Wild & Crazy Fun Club will make Wild & Crazy beaded and braided bookmarks. The other

week's activities will be posted in the library lobby each week.

The first week will be busier yet when Lee Oates of Bearclaw Knives shows how people made primitive tools and weapons. This is for school age children.

Jean Kuecher's Marionette Theatre will present "Sleeping Beauty and the Handsome Prince" on Wednesday, June 15. This play is so funny even boys will like this show (Even if it does have a princess in it). This is intended for school-age children. Free tickets are available beginning June 6.

The Wild & Crazy Fun Club isn't cancelled, just moved to Thursday at 2:15 p.m. for an afternoon of War, Sorry, Uno, Candyland, and all those other exciting games.

The annual summer variety show is Thursday, June 23, at 10:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. It's back, sillier than ever, with puppets, skits, songs and rhymes. This is for kids from 4 to 8 year old. Free tickets are available beginning Monday, June 13.

Nancy Leary of Jesse Jones Park will tell all about venomous snakes Thursday, June 30 at 2:15 p.m. Find out which of those innocent snakes you see around Kingwood are deadly snakes in the grass. Pick up your free tickets beginning Monday, June 20.

To get in the mood for the new Harry Potter book, we will have a Harry Potter marathon beginning Wednesday, July 13 at 2:25 p.m. with "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Thursday will be "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." Friday afternoon will be "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Don't forget, if you aren't buying your own copy, you can reserve a library copy of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" at the library.

Our last big program before the end of summer celebration is Jungle Jim's World of Bugs. If you didn't see him the last time he came to visit, you owe it to yourself to come a see him this time. If you like creepy crawlies, and ooie-gooies, this is your program. This is recommended for kids second through sixth-grade. Jungle Jim will be at the Kingwood Library July 21 at 2:15 p.m. You can get your free tickets beginning July 11.

The whole family is invited for one last blast before school. The end of summer celebration will be Wednesday, July 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. There will be snacks, games and fun. Have some fun before you go back to school.

The folks at the library are looking forward to a fun summer. They hope they can count on you to join them as they go wild and read.

TODDLER TIME

The new series of nine Toddler Time programs at the Kingwood Library begins on Tuesday, June 7. These programs are specifically designed for children from 18 months to 3 years. Each week, the program will have themed songs, stories and fingerplays specifically for toddlers. The Toddler Time programs will be each Tuesday at 10 a.m., and each Thursday at 10 a.m. Because of the age of the children, each session has only 10 children and their caregivers, so registration is important. For more information, or to register, call the Kingwood Library at 281-360-6804.

Kingwood Branch Library calendar

The following programs are scheduled for June at the Kingwood Branch Library.

Children

Wild & Crazy Fun Club

June 8, 16, and 22, at 2:15 p.m. - Program of crafts, activities, and videos designed for school age children. No signup required. Just come and have fun!

June Kuechner's Marionettes

June 15, 2:15 p.m. - "Sleeping Beauty and the Handsome Prince" - For laughs, and excitement, see marionettes act in the play "Sleeping Beauty and the Handsome Prince" Recommended for school age kids. Free tickets are available beginning June 6.

Annual Variety Show

June 23, 10:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. - Come on get silly! It's time for the annual variety show with silly songs, silly puppets shows and silly skits. So get in a silly mood and get free tickets beginning Monday, June 13. Recommended for children 4 through 9 years.

Wild & Crazy Fun Club

June 29, 2:15 p.m. - Water Balloon Battle for Freedom - Now is the time to don your "getting wet" clothes and come battle for the Honor of your Clan! This activity is recommended for children K through fourth-grade. Come Loaded for Bear.

Snakes Alive!

June 30, 2:15 p.m. - Venomous Snakes with Nancy Leary - Learn all about the venomous snakes in the Kingwood area. Learn which snakes are dangerous. Nancy Leary of Jesse Jones Park's lively program will show you everything you ever wanted to know about local venomous snakes. Recommended for school age children. Free tickets are available beginning Monday June 20.

Storytimes for preschoolers

Mother Goose Lapsit

Thursdays at 11 a.m. - Designed for children 0-18 months and their parents. No sign-up required. Program

includes nursery rhymes, finger plays, and songs.

Toddler time

Thursdays at 10 a.m. - Program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years. Signups required. Call the library for further information at 281-360-6804.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. - Everyone welcome. Designed for 3-6 year old children, but all are welcome.

Young adults

Live Clue

June 8, 7 p.m. - Come to the library for a game of Live Clue. Signup will be required. Lotions & Potions

June 15, 7-9 p.m. - Gift yourself or a friend!

Teens Got Game!

June 18, 1-4 p.m. - Old standards, new favorites - challenge your friends.

Adult

Final Twist Mystery Writers

June 20, 7 p.m. - Panel discussion with the Final Twist chapter of the "Sisters in

Crime" mystery writers organization.

The following books have recently arrived at the library.

Fiction

"In the Company of Liars" by David Ellis

A woman accused of murder is caught in a torturous psychological maze.

"The Breakdown Lane" by Jacquelyn Mitchard

A wry and moving journey of loss and healing

Non-Fiction

"The Oasis Guide to Asperger Syndrome: Advice, Support, Insight and Inspiration" by Patricia Bashe, M.S.Ed.

A fully revised edition of this comprehensive guide for parents, teachers, therapists and anyone who knows or works with someone who has AS.

"Puttin' On the Grits: a Guide to Southern Entertaining" by Deborah Ford

Covers all the details of hosting festivities large and small.

Programs at the Kingwood Branch Library - July 2005

The Kingwood Branch Library will be closed on July 4, 2005 for Independence Day.

The Kingwood Branch Library has many fun things planned for July at the library.

The following events are planned for children:

June 29, 2:15 p.m. - Wild & Crazy Fun Club Water Balloon Battle for Freedom - Now is the time to don your "getting wet" clothes and come battle for the honor of your clan. This activity is recommended for children K through fourth grade. Come loaded for bear. On July 6, 13, and 20, The Wild & Crazy Club will have a program or crafts, activities, and videos designed for school age children. No sign up required. Just come and have fun.

June 30, 2:15 p.m. - "Snakes Alive!" Venomous snakes with Nancy Leary - Learn all about the venomous snakes in the Kingwood area. Learn which snakes are dangerous. Nancy Leary of Jesse Jones Park's lively program will show you everything you ever wanted to know about local venomous snakes. Recommended for school age children. Free tickets are available now.

July 21, 2:15 p.m. - "Jungle Jim the Bug Man" - See some of the scariest, most exciting bugs in the world. More creepy-crawlies in one place than you ever thought possible. Come and see for yourself. Recommended for school age children. Free tickets will be available beginning 11 July.

July 27, 2005 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - End of summer celebration - Games, fun, and surprises for the whole family. Everyone welcome.

July 30 - The summer reading program ends.

For preschoolers, the library offers these fun events:

Thursdays at 11 a.m. — Mother Goose Lapsit - Designed for children 0-18 months and their parents. No sign-up required. Program includes nursery rhymes, finger plays, and songs.

Thursdays at 10 a.m. — Toddler time - the program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years. Sign-ups required. Call the library for further information at 281-360-6804.

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. — Preschool storytime — Everyone welcome. Designed for 3-6 year old children, but all are welcome.

Young adults will enjoy the following:

July 16, 1-4 p.m. - Teens Got Game! - Old standards, new favorites - challenge your friends.

July 20, 7-9 p.m. - Flip-Flop Follies! - Make your own flip-flops from duct tape.

Finally, adult programs for July include:

June 20, 7 p.m. - Final Twist Mystery Writers — Panel discussion with the Final Twist chapter of the Sisters in Crime mystery writers organization.

New Books at the Kingwood library:

Fiction

"Highway 61 Resurfaced" by Bill Fitzhugh

"Leeway Cottage" by Beth Gutcheon

"In a tale that spans a long-term twentieth century marriage, wealthy Sydney Brant marries Danish pianist Laurus Moss on the eve of the Nazi Invasion of Denmark and finds their marriage challenged by disparate views of the world."

"The Coal Tattoo" by Silas House

"The Hummingbird's Daughter" by Luis Alberto Urrea

Non-Fiction

"Strong Women, Strong Hearts: Proven Strategies To Prevent and Reduce Heart Disease Now" by Miriam E. Nelson, PhD and Alice H. Lichtenstein, D.Sc.

"Perfect Balance: Dr. Robert Greene's Breakthrough Program For Finding the Lifelong Hormonal Health You Deserve" by Robert A. Greene, M.D.

"Take Big Bites: Adventures Around the World and Across the Table" by Linda Ellerbee

"Caring For Your Baby and Young Child: Birth To Age 5" (rev ed.)

"A Hundred and One Days: a Baghdad Journal" by Asne Seierstad

"The Story of My Life: an Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky" by Farah Ahmedi with Tamim Ansary

Kingwood Observer July 6, 2005

OPERA AT THE LIBRARY

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 7 until 9 p.m. at the Kingwood library, Ann Thompson will preview the two operas of Houston Grand Opera's fall repertory period: "Boris Godunov" by Mussorgsky and "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. Visuals, musical selections and informed, informal commentary will make for a pleasant evening even for those whose primary interest is not in opera. For information, call the library at 281-360-6804 or Ann Thompson at 713-465-0755 or awthompson@mindspring.com

Kingwood Library Programs July 2005

The Kingwood Branch Library has many fun things planned for July at the library.

The following events are planned for children:

July 21, 2:15 p.m. - "Jungle Jim the Bug Man" - See some of the scariest, most exciting bugs in the world. More creepy-crawlies in one place than you ever thought possible. Come and see for yourself. Recommended for school age children. Free tickets will be available beginning 11 July.

July 27, 2005 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - End of summer celebration - Games, fun, and surprises for the whole family. Everyone welcome.

July 30 - The summer reading program ends.

For preschoolers, the library

offers these fun events:

Thursdays at 11 a.m. — Mother Goose Lapsit - Designed for children 0-18 months and their parents. No sign-up required. Program includes nursery rhymes, finger plays, and songs.

Thursdays at 10 a.m. — Toddler time - the program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years. Sign-ups required. Call the library for further information at 281-360-6804.

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. — Preschool storytime - Everyone welcome. Designed for 3-6 year old children, but all are welcome.

Young adults will enjoy the following:

July 16, 1-4 p.m. - Teens Got Game! - Old standards, new

favorites - challenge your friends.

July 20, 7-9 p.m. - Flip-Flop Follies! - Make your own flip-flops from duct tape.

New Books at the Kingwood library:

Fiction:

"Highway 61 Resurfaced" by Bill Fitzhugh

"Leeway Cottage" by Beth Gutcheon

"In a tale that spans a long-term twentieth century marriage, wealthy Sydney Brant marries Danish pianist Laurus Moss on the eve of the Nazi Invasion of Denmark and finds their marriage challenged by disparate views of the world."

"The Coal Tattoo" by Silas House

"The Hummingbird's Daughter" by Luis Alberto Urrea

Non-Fiction:

"Strong Women, Strong Hearts: Proven Strategies To Prevent and Reduce Heart Disease Now" by Miriam E. Nelson, Ph.D. and Alice H. Lichtenstein, D.Sc.

"Perfect Balance: Dr. Robert Greene's Breakthrough Program For Finding the Lifelong Hormonal Health You Deserve" by Robert A. Greene, M.D.

"Take Big Bites: Adventures Around the World and Across the Table" by Linda Ellerbee

"Caring For Your Baby and Young Child: Birth To Age 5" (rev ed.)

"A Hundred and One Days: a Baghdad Journal" by Asne Seierstad

"The Story of My Life: an Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky" by Farah Ahmedi with Tamim Ansary

Free books at the library

The Harris County Public Library 2005 Summer Reading Program, "Go Wild...Read!," provides reading related programs during the summer months. The library brings scientific and cultural events to children who might not otherwise have access.

The library has partnered with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Young Audiences, Houston Grand Opera, and other community organizations in order to provide free educational and fun activities.

Each branch offers two or more activities per week during a nine-week period at HCPL's 26-branch libraries. Several libraries are hosting summer art camps with a free bus field trip to The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

for Art Storytime.

Children who participate in the "Go Wild...Read!" program are encouraged to read 10 books or finish five hours of reading over the summer. Participants in the program use a reading log to keep track of the number of books read or the amount of time spent reading. After participants have read 10 books or complete five hours of reading, they can choose a free book for their achievement.

These books and some summer reading activities are provided through grants from foundations like the Strake Foundation of Houston.

Contact your local Harris County Public Library or go online at www.hcpl.net for more information on summer reading activities.

KINGWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY

The following programs have been announced for May at the Kingwood Branch Library: Toddler time, for 18 months to 3-year-olds, sign-ups required - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.; Preschool Storytime, designed for 3 to 6-year-olds - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m.; Mother Goose lapsit, for 0-18 months and their parents, no sign-up required - Thursdays at 11 a.m.; Nugames will meet on May 21 from 12-4 p.m.

OPERA AT THE LIBRARY

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 7 until 9 p.m. at the Kingwood library, Ann Thompson will preview the two operas of Houston Grand Opera's fall repertory period: "Boris Godunov" by Mussorgsky and "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. Visuals, musical selections and informed, informal commentary will make for a pleasant evening even for those whose primary interest is not in opera. For information, call the library at 281-360-6804 or Ann Thompson at 713-465-0755 or awthompson@mindspring.com

Kingwood Observer July 20, 2005

OPERA AT THE LIBRARY

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 7 until 9 p.m. at the Kingwood library, Ann Thompson will preview the two operas of Houston Grand Opera's fall repertory period: "Boris Godunov" by Mussorgsky and "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. Visuals, musical selections and informed, informal commentary will make for a pleasant evening even for those whose primary interest is not in opera. For information, call the library at 281-360-6804 or Ann Thompson at 713-465-0755 or awthompson@mindspring.com

Kingwood Observer July 27, 2005

FOLK USED BOOK SALE

FOLK's next used book sale is Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Kingwood library, 4102 Rustic Woods from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop early on Friday, Aug. 19 from 5-8 p.m. Books, magazines and other donations range in price from 25 cents to \$3 dollars. Book, magazine, and other donations are accepted (all year round) during business hours of the library. All donations are tax deductible. Stop by the library's circulation desk to learn more about FOLK and how becoming a 'friend' of the library will enhance the material and services offered by the library. "Friend" memberships start as low as \$15 annually.

Kingwood Observer August 3, 2005

FOLK USED BOOK SALE

FOLK's next used book sale is Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Kingwood library, 4102 Rustic Woods from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop early on Friday, Aug. 19 from 5-8 p.m. Books, magazines and other donations range in price from 25 cents to \$3 dollars. Book, magazine, and other donations are accepted (all year round) during business hours of the library. All donations are tax deductible. Stop by the library's circulation desk to learn more about FOLK and how becoming a 'friend' of the library will enhance the material and services offered by the library. "Friend" memberships start as low as \$15 annually.

Kingwood Observer August 31, 2005

Kingwood Observer August 17, 2005

FOLK USED BOOK SALE

FOLK's next used book sale is Saturday, Aug. 20 at the Kingwood library, 4102 Rustic Woods from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop early on Friday, Aug. 19 from 5-8 p.m. Books, magazines and other donations range in price from 25 cents to \$3 dollars. Book, magazine, and other donations are accepted (all year round) during business hours of the library. All donations are tax deductible. Stop by the library's circulation desk to learn more about FOLK and how becoming a 'friend' of the library will enhance the material and services offered by the library. "Friend" memberships start as low as \$15 annually.

Kingwood Observer August 31, 2005

Programs at the Kingwood Branch Library

Storytimes for preschoolers:

Thursdays at 11 a.m. - Mother Goose lapsit - Designed for children 0-18 months and their parents. No sign-up is required. The program includes nursery rhymes, finger plays, and songs.

Thursdays at 10 a.m. - Toddler time - Program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years. Sign-ups are required. Call the library at 281-360-6804 for further information.

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. — Preschool storytime — Designed for 3-6-year-old children, but all are welcome.

Children:

Sept. 20 - 4 to 5 p.m. -
Dragoneers - Dragoneers are

school age children who meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month for special programs, activities, and crafts. This month, Dragoneers with an ID card will receive a free book.

Sept. 22 - 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. - Preschool craft - A fall craft just for kids 3 to 6 years old. Don't forget to sign up beginning Monday Sept 14.

Adult:

Sept. 17 - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. -
Nugamers

New books at the Kingwood
Library:

Fiction:

"The Hallowed Hunt" by Lois McMaster Bujold - an epic tale of devotion and strange destiny.

"The Summer He Didn't Die" by Jim Harrison - a collection of short novellas.

"A Change of Heart" by Phillip Gully - a tale that captures the flavor of small-town America.

Non-Fiction:

"The Divine Visitor: What Really Happened When God Came Down" by Jack Hayford

"Matchbook: The Diary of a Modern Day Matchmaker" by Samantha Daniels — America's hippest matchmaker borrows from her real-life experiences to create an urban love story about

searching for "The One."

"Baby Laughs: The Naked Truth About the First Year of Mommyhood" by Jenny McCarthy.

"Mary Pride's Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling" by Mary Pride.

"The Wal-Mart Way: The Inside Story of the Success of the World's Largest Company" by Don Soderquist - a guide for students, entrepreneurs, and seasoned corporate veterans alike.

"The Oasis Guide to Asperger Syndrome: Advice, Support, Insight and Inspiration" by Patricia Bashe, M.S.Ed. — a fully revised edition of this comprehensive guide for parents, teachers,

Kingwood Observer September 7, 2005

DRAGONEER CLUB

The Dragoneer Club's first meeting of the school year will be held on Sept. 20 at the Kingwood Library from 4-5 p.m. The Dragoneers will receive a free book and their identification card at this meeting. Dragoneers (program designed for elementary age children) enjoy special programs, activities and crafts during club meetings which are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. For more information, call 281-360-6804.

OPERA AT THE LIBRARY

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 7 until 9 p.m. at the Kingwood library, Ann Thompson will preview the two operas of Houston Grand Opera's fall repertory period: "Boris Godunov" by Mussorgsky and "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. Visuals, musical selections and informed, informal commentary will make for a pleasant evening even for those whose primary interest is not in opera. For information, call the library at 281-360-6804 or Ann Thompson at 713-465-0755 or awthompson@mindspring.com

Kingwood Observer September 28, 2005

KINGWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY

The following programs have been announced for May at the Kingwood Branch Library: Toddler time, for 18 months to 3-year-olds, sign-ups required - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.; Preschool Storytime, designed for 3 to 6-year-olds - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m.; Mother Goose lap-sit, for 0-18 months and their parents, no sign-up required - Thursdays at 11 a.m.; Nugames will meet on May 21 from 12-4 p.m.

FOLK

The month of October is FOLK's (Friends Of the Library Kingwood's) annual buy-a-book campaign. Contributions to the BAB campaign provide FOLK with the money to buy new books, audio and visual materials for the Kingwood Library. For more information, call the Kingwood library at 281-360-6804. To contribute to FOLK's buy-a-book campaign, make check payable to FOLK Buy-A-Book and mail to FOLK at P. O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas, 77325-5353, or drop your check by the library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. All donations are tax deductible.

Introduce a child to the Kingwood Library

2004 FALL

During the 2004 National Children's Book Week November 15-21, 2004 Let's Book.

Let's rock...let's roll...let's move...let's go...let's discover...let's fly...let's do it all...with children's books.

Since 1919, educators, librarians, booksellers, and families have celebrated Children's Book Week during the week before Thanksgiving. So, this year, join the party and share the joy of reading..."Let's Book" says www.cbcbooks.org/cbw Web site.

During the 2004 National Children's Book Week, seize the opportunity to introduce a child to the world within a book by

visiting your Kingwood library. Library hours are as follows: Monday, 1-9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 1-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17 the Kingwood Library's children's librarian, Connie Dye, will host "Kool Stories for Kool Kids" from 4 to 4:30 p.m. Also during this time, the library will be unveiling a "classic" collection of juvenile titles starting with a book donated by Laura Hawkins and Judith Rozelle in the memory of their mother, Helen Spector.

What better time than The 2004 National Children's Book

Week to "purchase" a book in the name of your family, a friend, and/or a special event like Hawkins and Rozelle did in the memory of their mom. A book is a gift that will be enjoyed by others over and over and over again.

The Kingwood library offers many programs for all age groups throughout the year. You can find out more about those programs through the following resources: www.hcpl.net, Kingwood library's notice board, Kingwood *Observer*, www.kingwoodnow.com, KWC-TV (Kingwood College's Ch42), Forest Image publication (bi-monthly), or by calling the Kingwood library at 281-360-6804.

Programs at the Kingwood Branch Library

The following programs are planned during the month of October at the Kingwood Branch of the Harris County Library:

Children:

Dragoneers - Bats, Oct. 4 and Harry Potter, Oct. 8, 4 to 5 p.m.

Adult:

Nugamers - Oct. 8, 11 a.m. to

5 p.m.

Opera Preview with Ann Thompson - Oct. 12, 7 to 9 p.m.

Books on the Bayou - Oct. 17, 6:30 to 9 p.m. - Book discussion of "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini with Kingwood Book Group.

Introduction to ADD/ADHD with Susan MacHugh - Oct. 26, 7 to 9 p.m.

OPERA AT THE LIBRARY

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 7 until 9 p.m. at the Kingwood library, Ann Thompson will preview the two operas of Houston Grand Opera's fall repertory period: "Boris Godunov" by Mussorgsky and "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. Visuals, musical selections and informed, informal commentary will make for a pleasant evening even for those whose primary interest is not in opera. For information, call the library at 281-360-6804 or Ann Thompson at 713-465-0755 or awthorpson@mindspring.com

KINGWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY

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FOLK buy-a-book campaign kicks off with generous donation

By SUSAN MEINHOLZ
Observer Reporter

Judy Hopkins and Mark Heinrich, owners of Keller Williams Realty Northeast, proved to be great friends to the Kingwood library by being the first in line to donate to the Friends of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) annual buy-a-book campaign.

Hopkins and Heinrich presented Frances Pelham, FOLK publicity chairman, and Christi Whittington, branch librarian, with a \$1,000 check at a recent Kingwood Chamber luncheon.

"Keller Williams is proud to support community organizations like FOLK," said Hopkins.

"Without the volunteer activities of these wonderful people, we

wouldn't be able to have such a wonderful library. Our community library is an essential element of this thriving community and an asset that many people looking to relocate to Kingwood are seeking."

The FOLK buy-a-book campaign was launched in 1983 by a group of dedicated residents who went door

FOLK, 12A

FOLK

Continued from page 1A

to door asking neighbors to help the newly-opened Kingwood branch library fill its shelves with books.

The ambitious effort raised \$30,000 its first year and has been generously supported by

library materials.

"All these additions to the collection have enabled the Kingwood library to maintain a well-rounded, current and relevant collection to offer the community," said Pelham. "Supporting FOLK is a great opportunity for residents to give the community the gift of enjoying books over and over again."

To contribute to FOLK's buy-

Kingwood residents each year thereafter.

Pelham said that FOLK appreciates the generous support of the community. "It's our major campaign of the year and Kingwood has always been extremely supportive," said Pelham. "Kingwood is an awesome community."

The donations supplement Harris County's annual funding

a-book campaign, mail your check, payable to FOLK Buy-A-Book, to P. O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas, 77325-5353, or drop your check by the library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive.

All donations are tax deductible.

If your employer participates in the matching funds program, which allows companies to

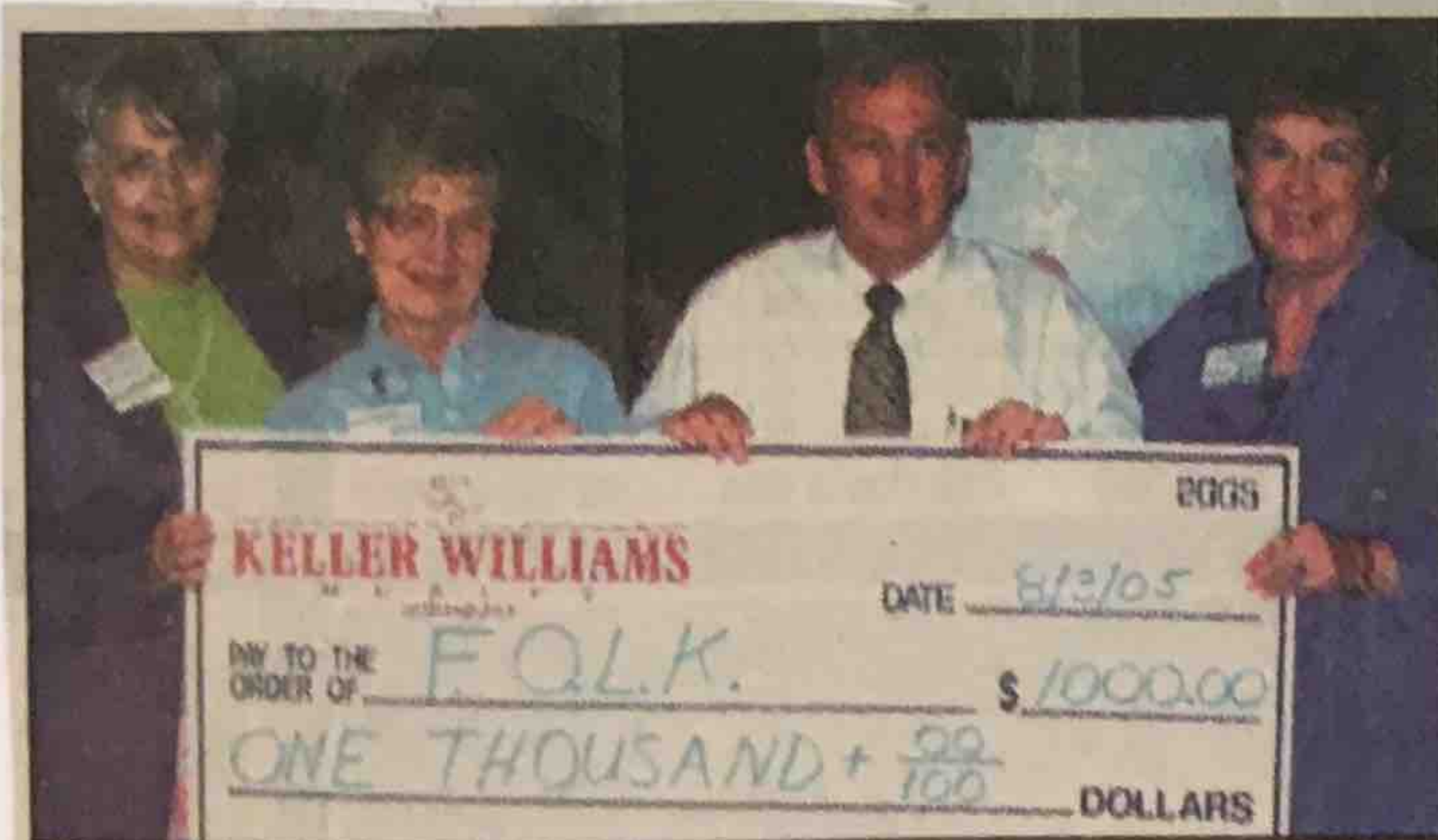
budget for the library. Kingwood's library is part of the Harris County library system. It is not a branch of the city of Houston's library system.

FOLK has provided new adult books, audio-visual materials, large print collections, children's picture books and juvenile literature, computer financial subscriptions, such as Value Line, and numerous other types of

match employee contributions to nonprofit organizations, attach your company's matching form to your check.

For more information about FOLK, or how to become a friend of the library, call 281-360-6804.

Susan Meinholz welcomes your comments at smeinholz@mail.hcnonline.net



Kingwood Branch Librarian Christi Whittington, and FOLK Publicity Chairman Frances Pelham are happy to accept a donation from Keller Williams Realty owners Judy Hopkins and Mark Heinrich to kick-off this year's buy-a-book campaign. Left to right, Whittington, Pelham, Heinrich and Hopkins.

Photo by Susan Meinholz

Programs at the Kingwood Branch Library are coming our way

Kingwood Branch Library announces the following programs:

The Dragoonier Club

Designed for elementary school children ages 7-11 year olds, will take place on Sundays, Oct. 12, 19, and 26 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. The titles, respectively,

are "Dragonhatcher," "Drago's Quest," "Fall Festival For Dragoneers"; costumes optional

Preschool Craft

On Oct. 23 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. the library will hold sign-ups for preschool crafts. In order to have adequate materials for all, the children should be

signed up at this time.

Storytimes for preschoolers

Every Thursday at 11 a.m. - The Mother Goose lapsit is designed for children 0-18 months and their parents.

Toddler Time

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and every Thursday at 10

a.m. This program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years. Sign-ups are required.

Preschool storytime

Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. Preschool storytime is designed for 3-6 year old children, but all are welcome.

Young adult programs

On Oct. 16 from noon to 4 p.m. everyone welcome to Nugamers-Model wargaming with miniatures.

Adult programs

On Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. the Kingwood Garden Club will

discuss "Plant Now, Bloom Later."

On Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. Ann Thompson will present an opera preview of fall repertory of "Madama Butterfly" by Puccini and "Salsipuedes" by Daniel Catan.

Kingwood Observer October 12, 2005

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On Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 7 until 9 p.m. at the Kingwood library, Ann Thompson will preview the two operas of Houston Grand Opera's fall repertory period: "Boris Godunov" by Mussorgsky and "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. Visuals, musical selections and informed, informal commentary will make for a pleasant evening even for those whose primary interest is not in opera. For information, call the library at 281-360-6804 or Ann Thompson at 713-465-0755 or awthompson@mindspring.com

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A TOURING TASTE OF DANCE SALAD FESTIVAL

The Kingwood Branch Library is hosting a free screening of the spring 2005 season performances of the Dance Salad Festival. Created by multi-award winning video artist, Laurie McDonald, this specially commissioned film of the 2005 concert originally presented at the Cullen Theater, Wortham Center will be shown at the Kingwood Library on Monday Nov. 28, 2005 at 7:30 PM. Both the video artist and Festival staff will be present to talk about the companies presented at the Festival and the process of capturing this art form on film. If you missed the 2005 concert at the Cullen Theater, Wortham Center or would like to see these magnificent performances again, this free event is for you. FREE to the general public. Additional information about Dance Salad Festival is on their website: www.dancesalad.org

FOLK BOOKFAIR

Barnes & Noble Booksellers benefiting Kingwood Library. Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) have joined with Barnes & Noble for a Bookfair. The Bookfair will be held Barnes & Noble/Deerbrook Mall on Thursday, December 1, 2005. Bring your Bookfair voucher (available at numerous locations throughout Kingwood, and at the Kingwood library) along with your holiday list and SHOP! SHOP! SHOP!

FOLK

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's (FOLK's) next used book sale is Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive at West Lake Houston Parkway from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop on Friday, Nov. 18, from 5-8 p.m. Tax-deductible books, magazines, and other donations are accepted during business hours of the library. To learn more about FOLK and how becoming a "friend" of the library will enhance the material, programs and services offered by the library, stop by the library's circulation desk. "Friend" memberships start as low as \$15 annually.

Wiseman announces plans for community center and library

By SUSAN MEINHOLZ
Observer Reporter

At the annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meeting, held at Creekwood Middle School on Feb. 16, District E City Council member Addie Wiseman announced that a new 35,000-square-foot library will be built on the property located on Bens View, originally purchased by the city of Houston for a community center.

The community center will move into the 12,000-square-foot library building, currently located on Rustic Woods Drive, that will be renovated to accommodate the center.

Originally, funds were allocated for a 6,000-square-foot community center to be built at Bens View next to the Kingwood Greens Village. Problems arose from concerns expressed by the residents of Kingwood Greens about the proximity of the center

to their neighborhood and the realization that 6,000-square feet would not be sufficient space for the center.

It was also determined that plans to add on to the existing county library in Kingwood were going to be a challenge and costly due to the technological requirements.

Wiseman said she knew the task was hers to solve and decided the best solution was to swap land with the county.

After Issa Dadoush, director of the city's building services, determined that the library could be converted into a community center, Wiseman met with Harris County Pct. 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole, Houston Mayor Bill White and attorneys from the city and county to discuss the details.

The idea for the swap originated with *Observer* editor

WISEMAN, 12A



Houston City Council member Addie Wiseman addressed citizens' questions at the annual CIP meeting. Photos by Susan Meinholz

WISEMAN

Continued from page 1A

Cynthia Calvert.

White had been presented with this idea by Calvert over a year ago when he called her to get her feedback regarding negative comments about the community center planned in Kingwood that he had heard expressed at a Kingwood luncheon.

Calvert told the mayor that the community desperately needed a larger library and was the one to suggest the idea to use the city property and funds, which were originally designated for a community center, for a larger library. The old library, a county property, could then be used as a community center. She suggested it would be prudent and make sense to simply switch.

Wiseman thanked members of Friends of the Library Kingwood (FOLK), some of whom were present at the meeting, for their diligence, dedication and patience with the library, and expressed her excitement about the projects moving forward. "When I first came to you five years ago and asked if I could have the honor of representing you down in City Hall, I shared with you the many things I hoped to accomplish during my time there," said Wiseman.

She said it was very important to her, Eversole and the mayor to get the project rolling while they were all still in office.

"It's a done deal," she said. "We're going to make sure it reaches a point of no return before any of us are out of office."

Due to term limits, Wiseman will finish her third and final term

in two years.

Another topic of great interest was the recent sidewalk projects in Kingwood.

There have been concerns regarding culverts and the design of the sidewalks in Forest Cove and the close proximity to the road of some portions of the new sidewalks built along Kingwood Drive.

"As a community member and a mom I still had concerns about 'What if' and I saw ample opportunity (for) 'what ifs' and tragedies that can result," said Wiseman.

Forest Cove resident Max Pirner was very concerned about ponding and the potential flooding issues with the vertical rebar installed on the culverts. "We have enough flooding problems," he said. "Residents have to go out and rake them (the bars) off, otherwise their homes flood. We are the fourth largest city. This is lousy infrastructure design."

Wiseman explained that after a drowning of a young boy occurred in Houston, she ordered every open storm drain that tied into a closed system at elementary schools to be fitted with bars. She said during this time the city had received a letter from a Forest Cove resident pointing out that there were open culverts in the neighborhood so the city installed bars on those, as well.

Dan Krueger, from the city's public works department, addressed the issue, as well. "It's better to be able to easily take off the debris that might accumulate at the entrance of the culvert than if the debris gets in and clogs the culvert within, and you potentially have the same flooding affect." Krueger said he will come out to Forest Cove and address the ponding concerns along Chestnut Ridge.

Friends of the Library Kingwood's first used book sale in 2006 coming Feb. 17

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's (FOLK's) next used book sale is Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Dr., at West Lake Houston Parkway, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop on Friday, Feb. 17, from 5-8pm.

In addition to the newer-released and children's books, shoppers will find books in the following categories at the used book sale: fiction (including mysteries and romance), non-fiction, science fiction, biographies, arts/literature/classics/poetry,

business/computer/ reference, religion/inspiration, self-help, gardening, cooking, crafts/hobbies, home improvement, humor, western, coffee table, parenting, medical/diet/exercise, travel and young adult books. Also for sale are media materials: videos, CDs, cassettes and music.

Hardback and large softback books start at \$1 while standard size paperback books are only 50 cents. Newer-released hardbacks and coffee table books sell for a mere \$3. Children and young adult books range in price from 25 cents to \$1. Videos, CDs, cas-

settes and several other items of interest are also sold at bargain prices.

As the new year starts, FOLK and the library staff would like to remind the community that it has the opportunity (now and throughout the year) to pay tribute to a family member, friends and/or a special event with an everlasting gift, a book. By purchasing a book for the Kingwood Library in honor of that special person and/or event in your life, you will be giving a gift that will be enjoyed by others over and over again.

For details on purchasing an honoree-book for a special person/event, see one of the Kingwood librarians.

Tax-deductible books, magazines and other donations are accepted during business hours of the library.

To learn more about FOLK and how becoming a 'friend' of the library will enhance the material, programs and services offered by the library, stop by the library's circulation desk at 4102 Rustic Woods Dr. 'Friend' memberships start as low as \$15 annually.

FOLK

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Friends of the Library Kingwood's first used book sale in 2006 is just around the corner

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's (FOLK's) next used book sale is Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Dr., at West Lake Houston Parkway, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop on Friday, Feb. 17, from 5-8pm.

In addition to the newer-released and children's books, shoppers will find books in the following categories at the used book sale: fiction (including mysteries and romance), non-fiction, science fiction, biographies, arts/literature/classics/poetry,

business/computer/ reference, religion/inspiration, self-help, gardening, cooking, crafts/hobbies, home improvement, humor, western, coffee table, parenting, medical/diet/exercise, travel and young adult books. Also for sale are media materials: videos, CDs, cassettes and music.

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FOLK needs more donations for May sale

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's February used book sale was such a tremendous success that books are needed for the upcoming May book sale.

FOLK's next used book sale is Saturday, May 13, at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Dr. at West Lake Houston Parkway, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FOLK members are invited to shop early, on Friday, May 12, from 5-8 p.m.

Tax deductible books, magazines and other donations are accepted during library business hours*. The library has first choice of all donated items; donated items may end up on a library shelf or at one of FOLK's used book sales. Either way, the Kingwood

Library is the benefactor. Another way to increase the library's revenue from FOLK's book sales is to recycle books; after reading the bargain purchases, return them to be sold again.

To learn more about FOLK and how becoming a 'friend' of the library will enhance the material and services offered by the library, stop by the library's circulation desk at 4102 Rustic Woods Dr. FOLK memberships start as low as \$15 annually.

• Library hours are Monday, 1-9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 1-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday.

Go Wireless at Harris County Public Library

Harris County Public Library offers free wireless access to the public. The service is available using an individual's own laptop, or he or she can check out one of the laptops available at the library. There are more than 126 laptops available for use throughout the system. To check out a laptop, just present a valid Harris

County Public Library card.

Harris County Public Library began wireless service in 2002. It was one of the first library systems in the state to bring up WIFI in all its locations.

Harris County Public Library has 26 branches located throughout Harris County. All branches offer computers, Internet connec-

tions and wireless connections, as well as more than 2 million library materials including books, books on tape and CD, videos and DVDs.

For more information about the branch closest to you, call 713-749-9000 or log on to www.hcpl.net

Retirement has introduced me to more good FOLKs in Kingwood

In August of this year, I will have lived 30 years in the Livable Forest. Twenty-five of those years I was employed by JPMorgan Chase where I met, assisted and worked with many Kingwood folks.

The main question asked of me when I retired from Chase in 2001 was, "What are you going to do, travel?" You see, those folks saw me as a workaholic and were concerned I would not be satisfied to sit at home. My standard response became, "Norris and I have done some traveling so I think I will write a book." Well, I haven't written that book, YET. But I am not sitting at home, either. I am working with books, a lot of books. You see, I am a volunteer for and a member of FOLK (Friends of the Library Kingwood).

The Observer's February 23, 2006, front page story of a new library in Kingwood was an awesome announcement. However, we know that an announcement does not mean there will be a groundbreaking ceremony tomorrow; BUT there are things we can do today through FOLK to help ready the Kingwood library for a newer spacious facility.

There are basically four ways by which the Friends Of the Library Kingwood raise money for the KW library. They are as follows:

- Used Book Sales. There are two ways to assist with this fund-raiser. First: Donate (tax-deductible) used books, magazines and audio-visual materials. Second: Patronize the book sales. You will need to replace your donated items, right?



My Turn

Guest columnist

Frances Pelham

- Buy-A-Book Campaign. The annual Buy-A-Book Campaign is held in October of each year. However, you can donate money to buy books at any time.

Many patrons purchase books in memory of a loved one, or as a tribute to a friend, acquaintance or family member. With the purchase of an honorary book, your name, along with the name the person being honored, will be placed in the front of your purchased book.

- Contributions and grants from corporations and nonprofit organizations. Contributions are received mostly from corporate matching fund programs. When you donate money to FOLK, don't forget to attach your company's matching fund document to your check.

Grants are received out of the generosity of profit and nonprofit entities. If you belong to an organization that issues grants, please remember the library.

- Membership fees. These fees come from you and me when we become members of FOLK. Becoming a member of FOLK is as simple as writing a check annually in an amount as low as \$15.00. Like Buy-A-Book, memberships into FOLK are

accepted all year round. April 1 – March 31 of each year is FOLK's official membership drive. April 1 is just around the corner, so as I write my check to continue my FOLK membership, I hope you will write that first check to become a new Friend of the Kingwood Library.

FOLK's role in the building of a new library facility is to participate in the purchase of books, audio-visual aids and equipment for the building. As the reality of a new library gets closer, there will be new and different fund-raising activities you will be asked to support. In the meantime, I ask you to join me today by supporting FOLK's ongoing fund-raisers described above.

I love the time I spend at the library and the time spent with my new friends, FOLK. If you see me in the library, be sure to say hello. Of course, I see many of you at the back door as you drop off your donations.

And last but not least, it's never too late to visit 'your' library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive. You can also view all of the programs going on at the library by visiting their Web site: <http://www.hcpl.net>, Branch Information/Kingwood. FOLK's mailing address is P. O. Box 5353, Kingwood, Texas 77325 (for those membership and Buy-a-Book monies). Or, leave a message for a FOLK representative by calling the library at 281-360-6804.

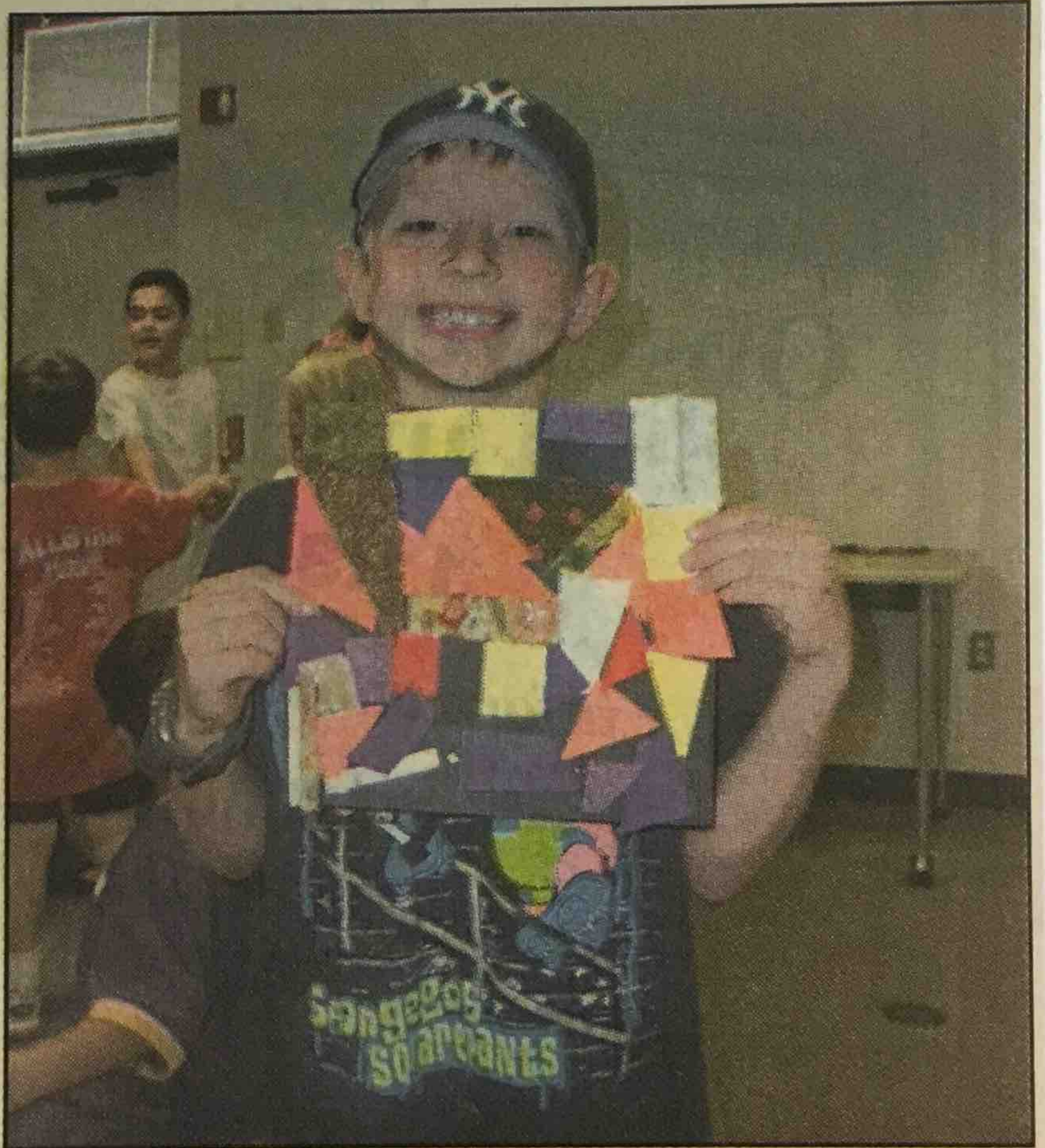
Frances Pelham is a longtime Kingwood resident and volunteer at the Kingwood Library since retirement.

Abakadoodle supports Arts Advocacy Day

Abakadoodle joined Americans for the Arts in conjunction with the Congressional Arts Caucus and The Creative Coalition to cosponsor Arts Advocacy Day 2006. This national event (www.americans-forthearts.org/events/2006/aad/001.asp) took place March 13-14, in Washington, D.C.

Abakadoodle franchises nationwide participated in such ways as providing free art workshops/shows; delivering creativity supplies to family shelters, children's hospitals and schools in need; as well as talking to parents about inspiring creativity at home. In Kingwood, Abakadoodle celebrated Arts Advocacy Day by providing free art activities at the Kingwood Branch public library.

Arts Advocacy Day kicked off in Washington, D.C., on Monday, March 13, with a day of legislative training sessions and guest speakers, capped by the 19th annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy by William Safire, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and longtime political columnist for the *New York Times*. During his presentation at the John F. Kennedy Center, Mr. Safire previewed new preliminary research results linking brain activity with arts education learning. On March 14, a Congressional Arts Breakfast featured brief talks by members



Free art classes at the library brings smiles.

of Congress and other elected officials, as well as celebrity guests, followed by visits to Capitol Hill.

In support of Arts Advocacy Day, Abakadoodle held a free

art class at the Kingwood Library for children 3-12 years of age.

To learn more, contact Brenda Males, director, at 281-360-9001 or BMales@abakadoodle.com

Programs announced at the Kingwood Branch Library for March 2006

The Kingwood Branch Library has programs for all ages planned for the month of March:

Storytimes for preschoolers:
Mother Goose lapsit, designed

for children 0-18 months and their parents, will be held on Thursdays at 11 a.m. No sign-up is required. The program includes nursery rhymes, finger plays and songs.

Toddler time, a program indi-

vidualized for 18 months to 3 years, is on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Sign-ups are required. Call library for further information at 281-360-6804.

Preschool storytime, Tuesdays

at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., is designed for 3-6-year-old children, but everyone is welcome.

School age children:
On March 21, from 4-5 p.m.,

the Dragoneers will meet with activities for school-age children.

Adult:
On March 8, 15, 22 and 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the library

will hold the AARP for those requiring tax help.

On March 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Nugamers will meet to play tactical combat games using miniature scale figures.

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Mother Goose lapsit, designed for children 0-18 months and their parents, will be held on Thursdays at 11 a.m. No sign-up is required. The program includes nursery

rhymes, finger plays and songs.

Toddler time, a program individualized for 18 months to 3 years, is on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Sign-ups are required. Call library for further information at 281-360-6804.

Preschool storytime, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., is designed for 3-6-year-old children, but everyone is

welcome.

School age children

On March 2 at 10:30 a.m., the library will have Dr. Seuss' birthday party. The Cat in the Hat will visit with stories and a birthday cookie.

On March 21, from 4-5 p.m., the Dragoners will meet with activities for

school-age children.

Adult

On March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the library will hold the AARP for those requiring tax help.

On March 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Nugamers will meet to play tactical combat games using miniature scale figures.

'Once Upon a Monday' event held to benefit Harris County Public Library System

In appreciation for her enduring support of libraries and literacy, the Harris County Friends of the Library honored Mrs. Barbara Bush at their first-ever award dinner on Monday, March 13, at the Houstonian. Since Mrs. Bush was unable to attend the event, she sent a video message of her acceptance where she spoke about the importance of libraries and literacy. On her behalf, Peter Roussel, former White House deputy press secretary under President Reagan, accepted the award.

The Friends of Harris County Public Library raised more than \$28,000 for library programs and materials. Event-goers enjoyed the silent auction, which offered items such as original artwork, a publishing contract, and box seats to the Astros. After viewing the auction items, event-goers were then treated to dinner and a presentation of last year's Summer Reading Club activities throughout HCPL.



Pictured from left to right: Peter Roussel, former White House deputy press secretary; Christi Whittington, branch manager, Kingwood branch; and Greg Burns, branch manager, Evelyn Meador branch.



From left to right: Cathy Park, library director; Jeannette Loverdi, event chair; Rhoda Goldberg, library deputy director; and Peggy Kruckemeyer, Harris County Friends of the Library president.

Great Activities at the Kingwood Library

Friends Of the Library Kingwood's (FOLK's) next Used Book Sale is Saturday, November 13, 2004 at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Drive at West Lake Houston Parkway from 9:00 until 3:00.

FOLK's November Used Book Sale is the perfect time to do some 'early' holiday shopping. Because of the generous donations from the community and library patrons, you will find a large selection of Newer Released Books (books published between 2001 and 2004) and another awesome selection of Children's books. These will make perfect gifts for those bookworms on your holiday shopping list.

Books and other materials will be selling at bare minimum prices. Hardback and large softback books start at \$1.00 while standard size paperback books are only \$.50. Newer released hardbacks and coffee table books sell for a mere \$3.00. Children's and young adult books range in price from \$.25 to \$1.00. Videos, CDs, Cassettes, and several other items of interest are sold at the same bargain prices.

Because it is the holiday season, FOLK and the library staff would like to remind the community that you have the opportunity (throughout the year) to pay tribute to a FAMILY MEMBER, YOUR OWN FAMILY, FRIENDS AND/OR A SPECIAL EVENT with an everlasting gift, a BOOK. By purchasing a book for the Kingwood Library in HONOR of that special person and/or event in your life, you will be giving a gift that will be enjoyed by others over and over and over again. For details on purchasing a book for a special person/event, see one of the Kingwood librarians.

The Kingwood Library's newest children program is **The Dragoner Club**. It was designed to keep the 'fun' in reading during the school year for elementary school age children. On Tuesday, October 5, 2004 at the Kingwood Library, the first meeting of **The Dragoner Club** hosted more than fifty children to hear Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner, Jerry Eversole, narrate Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher by Bruce Coville. You can sign-up to become a Dragoner at the Kingwood Library during normal (Saturday) library hours (10am - 5pm).

Future meeting dates, themes, and guests can be found in The Forest Image, The Observer, at KingwoodNow.com and on the bulletin board at the library.

Volunteers are always welcomed to assist with library programs. If you would like to assist with the Dragoner Club, or any other library program you can reach the Kingwood Library's

Branch Manager, Wendy Schneider, at 281-360-6804.

The Dragoner Club is sponsored by FOLK (Friends Of the Library Kingwood). For more information about FOLK, or how to become a **FRIEND** of the library, leave a message with the library staff at 281-360-6804 and a FOLK member will return your call.



Playing in the Jazz Band from New Orleans at the Kingwood Library's Holiday Party were, from left, Tony Dillon, drums; Yukiko Koml, vocalist; Leo Jermaine Williams, bass; Torrence Bowie, sax; and M. Ichikawa, guitar.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE KINGWOOD LIBRARY

On Feb. 21, the Kingwood Library is celebrating Black History Month with programs for children and adults. From 4-5 p.m., the library will host a children's program, "Goobers, Hoppin' John, and Benne Seed Cookies: African American Food." Then from 7-8:30 p.m., there will be a program for adults entitled "Twentieth Century African American Music - A Discussion." All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Kingwood Branch Library at 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net

Book donations needed for Kingwood Library

Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) would like to thank the community for patronizing their 2006 Used Book Sales. The Friends group has a solution for the bookworms on everyone's holiday shopping list. For the next two months, the public can find hol-

iday gifts, newer published and coffee table books for sale on FOLK's daily used book shelves at the Kingwood Library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive.

FOLK needs the help of the community, so pass the word. Book and audio/visual aide

donations are needed on an ongoing basis to ensure FOLK has the quantity of books needed to generate sufficient funds to benefit the library. As people purge their bookshelves, move in or out of their homes, they are asked to consider donating books to the library.

Donations are tax-deductible and are accepted during business hours of the library.

FOLK's next Used Book Sale is Feb. 9, 2007 (FOLK members), and Feb. 10, 2007. Tax-deductible FOLK memberships start at \$15. Membership fees also benefit the library.

Kingwood Library offers workshop for English tutors

Learning to read, write and speak English opens up many windows of opportunity for someone first gaining these skills, and it can be just as meaningful for the person assisting people as they learn.

Kingwood Branch Library

offers an opportunity to start the new year off right by joining a program designed to help adults read, write and speak English for work purposes, to help their children in school or for other daily uses. The library hosts a free training workshop for new vol-

unteer tutors on Jan. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Because learners come from a variety of language backgrounds and instruction is in English, second language ability is not required for tutors. All materials, including easy-to-follow les-

son plans, are provided. Tutors can meet a student or small group of students at any branch library, including Kingwood, Atascocita or Octavia Fields.

For more information or to register for this workshop, call the library at 281-360-6804.

ADULT PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

On Jan. 10, from 7 - 9 p.m., the Kingwood Library will host an opera preview. Visitors can come preview the upcoming Houston Opera Season with Ann Thompson. Kingwood War Gamers (formerly NuGamers) will meet on Jan. 13 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Join in playing tactical combat games using miniature scale figures. Then, Jan 20, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., there will be ESL Tutor Training. Help someone learn to read, write and speak English. Second language skill is not needed. Pre-registration is required. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Kingwood Branch Library at 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net



Livable library

Kayla Acosta, right, and Brogan Melchior, of the Livable Forest Charity League, enjoy a day of philanthropy work at the Kingwood Library.

GEOCACHING

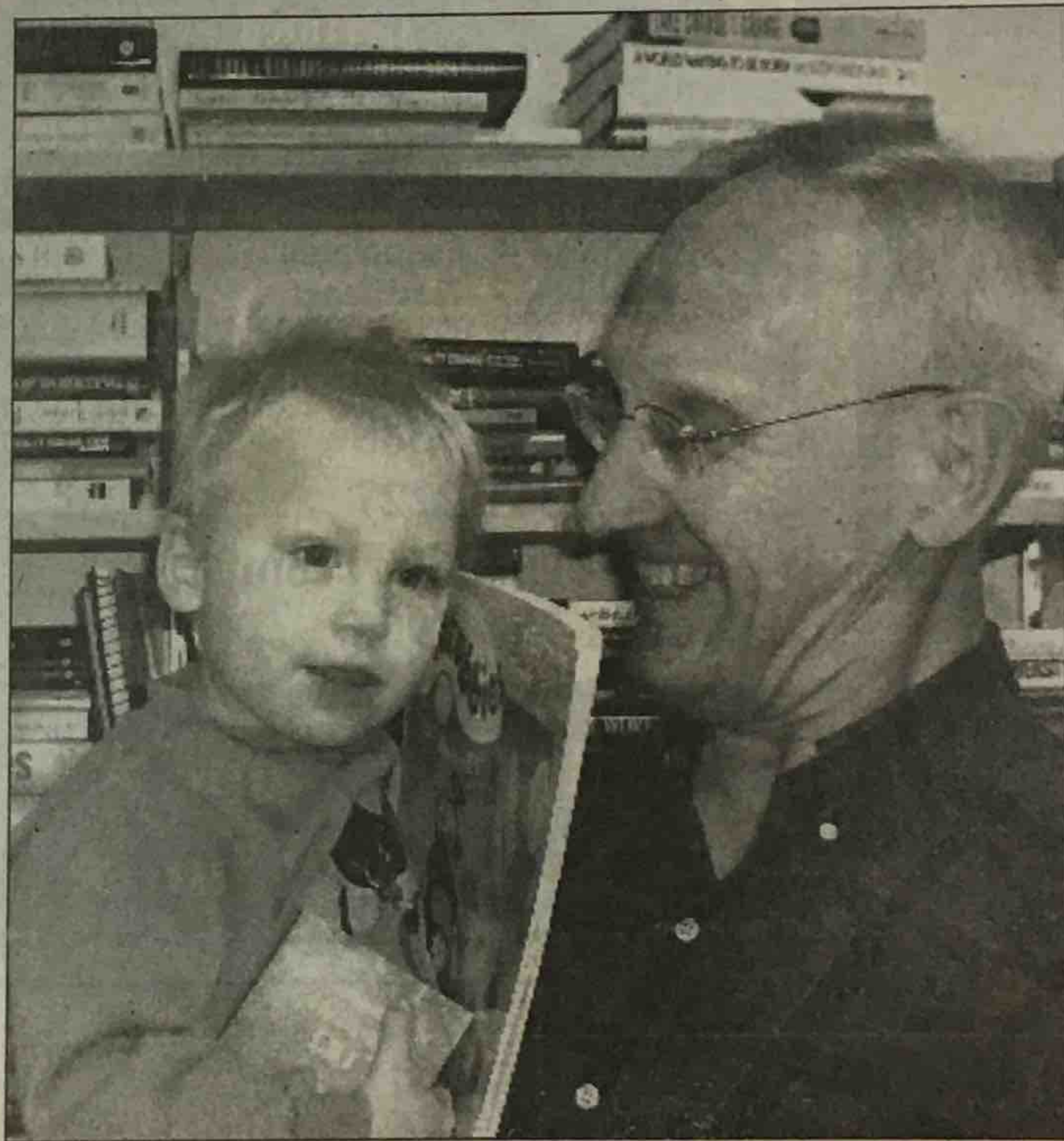
The Kingwood Library is hosting an "Introduction to Geocaching" presentation on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 11 a.m. Geocaching is a kind of treasure hunt using GPS units to locate cache containers hidden all around the community. The latitude and longitude coordinates are posted on the Internet site www.geocaching.com and players, known as geocachers, search for them. For more information, call Greg Benson at 281-382-6066.

Book donations needed for Kingwood Library

Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) would like to thank the community for patronizing their 2006 Used Book Sales. The Friends group has a solution for the bookworms on everyone's holiday shopping list. For the next two months, the public can find holiday gifts, newer published and coffee table books for sale on FOLK's daily used book shelves at the Kingwood Library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive.

FOLK needs the help of the community, so pass the word. Book and audio/visual aide donations are needed on an ongoing basis to ensure FOLK has the quantity of books needed to generate sufficient funds to benefit the library. As people purge their bookshelves, move in or out of their homes, they are asked to consider donating books to the library. Donations are tax-deductible and are accepted during business hours of the library.

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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Kingwood Library is hosting a Holiday Open House on Dec. 11, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Santa Claus will be visiting the Kids Realm. There will be live music by a jazz quintet. Refreshments will be provided by Friends Of the Library Kingwood. All programs are free and open to the public. For information, call 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net

Kingwood Observer November 22, 2006

FOLK BOOKFAIR

Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) will partner with Barnes & Noble at Deerbrook Mall on Friday, Dec. 1, for a Bookfair, which will benefit the Harris County Public Library - Kingwood Branch. Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of sales made with Bookfair vouchers to FOLK. Bookfair vouchers will be available at numerous community businesses and at the library during the month of November.

GEOCACHING

The Kingwood Library is hosting an "Introduction to Geocaching" presentation on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 11 a.m. Geocaching is a kind of treasure hunt using GPS units to locate cache containers hidden all around the community. The latitude and longitude coordinates are posted on the Internet site www.geocaching.com and players, known as geocachers, search for them. For more information, call Greg Benson at 281-382-6066.

Friends of the Library Kingwood join forces with Barnes & Noble

On Friday, Dec. 1, the Friends Of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) will join with Barnes & Noble for a Bookfair. This event provides a perfect time to do some early holiday shopping.

FOLK and Barnes & Noble's Bookfair benefits all participants: Barnes & Noble with sales revenue, Kingwood Library with a percentage of the sales and the purchaser with beautiful gifts for family and friends.

During the month of November, Bookfair vouchers will be available to the community via many sources. Those sources include, but are not limited to, the following entities: newspapers, www.kingwoodnow.com Web site, Kingwood branch library and local businesses.

The next step is easy. Bring a Bookfair voucher along with a holiday list to Barnes & Noble/Deerbrook Mall on Friday, Dec. 1, in

during normal store hours, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., and shop.

Shopping will be made more enjoyable with lots of entertainment starting at 10:30 with Ms. Connie reading to the children. Next, Doris Fisher, the author of a children's book, will be signing her book. And don't miss the clown, Dottie Dimples, AKA Diane Pagano.

The afternoon hours will be just as exciting. Starting at 1 p.m. there will be a Sisters in Crime book signing followed by Home Run Ministries with three types of entertainment. That's not all, The Webb Family Trio and the Bear Branch Choir will perform later in the day.

FOLK board members, chairpersons and other volunteers will be available to assist in any way they can.

For more information, contact a FOLK member by leaving a message at 281-360-6804, or call Barnes & Noble at 281-540-3017.



From the left are Connie Jaeger, FOLK special project chairperson; Carolyn Humphrey, FOLK president; and Christi Whittington, KW Library Branch manager. Each hold a voucher needed to do early Christmas shopping at FOLK and Barnes & Noble's Bookfair.

WAR MOVIE MARATHON

On Nov. 11, the Kingwood Library is hosting a Veterans Day War Movie Marathon from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Come to the library to watch classic war movies. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Kingwood Branch Library at 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net

WAR GAMERS

On Nov. 18, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., the Kingwood Library is hosting Kingwood War Gamers (formerly NuGamers). Join in playing tactical combat games using miniature scale figures. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Kingwood Branch Library at 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net

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October 2006 Events at the Kingwood Library

Story times

Mother Goose Lapsit, Thursdays at 11 a.m. - Designed for children 0-18 months and their parents. No sign-up required. Program includes nursery rhymes, finger plays and songs.

Toddler Time, Thursdays at 10 a.m. - Program is individualized for 18 months to 3 years. Sign-ups required. Call Library for further information at 281-360-6804.

Preschool Storytime, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. - Everyone welcome. Designed for 3-6-year-old children, but all are welcome.

Children's programs

Oct. 10 and 24 - 4-5 p.m. - Dragoneers

Oct. 31 - 4-5 p.m. - Halloween Party

Adult programs

Oct. 11 - 7-8:30 p.m. - History of Mexican Cuisine - Hispanic Heritage Month Program

Oct. 18 - 7-9 p.m. - Opera Preview - Preview the upcoming season of the Houston Grand Opera with Ann Thompson

Programs for all ages

Oct. 14 - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Kingwood War Gamers (formerly NuGamers) Join in playing tactical combat games using miniature scale figures.

Oct. 27 - 5 - 9 p.m. - FOLK Book Sale Preview - for FOLK Members, memberships can be purchased at the door for \$15.

Oct. 28 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - FOLK Book Sale - Proceeds support library programs

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Kingwood Branch Library at 281-360-6804 or log on to www.hcpl.net

FOLK Buy-A-Book campaign benefits library



Members of Friends of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) proudly display their 2006 Buy-A-Book campaign brochures. The first campaign in 1983 had FOLK members raising money by going door-to-door. In the front row, from left, are Bonnie Montgomery, Frances Pelham and Jill Ioerger. Left to right in the back row are Leslie Willoughby, Judy Hinckfott, Celine Schanzer and Anne Niendorff, 2006 campaign chairman. Photo by Barbara Vosbein

By BARBARA VOSBEIN
Observer Reporter

The Friends of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) was chartered in April of 1981 as an organization made up of people interested in book and libraries. Since then, FOLK has worked to focus attention on library services, facilities and needs, and to stimulate gifts of books, magazines, desirable collections, endowments and bequests.

One of the major ways in which FOLK assists the Kingwood Branch Library is through its annual Buy-A-Book campaign, held during the month of October. The first Buy-A-Book campaign was held in 1983, when FOLK members raised \$30,000 to purchase books for the new library by going door-to-door in the neighborhood.

Although donations to the Buy-A-Book campaign have not matched that amount since then, FOLK member Frances Pelham said, "We feel with the community's generous donations, we will be able to exceed that amount before the bigger and better library is built."

"Kingwood is a community," she added. "We're in a community that works as a community, and the community supports our library. We're extremely lucky to live and work in Kingwood."

According to Anne Niendorff, FOLK's 2006 Buy-A-Book campaign chairman, Buy-A-Book donations will once again be used to augment Harris County's funding support of the Kingwood Branch Library.

"With donated funds, FOLK has provided new adult books, audio-visual materials, large print collections, children's picture books and juvenile literature, financial subscriptions, such as Value Line and Chartist, as well as numerous other types of library materials," Niendorff said. "All of these additions to the collection, above and beyond the level funded by Harris County, have enabled the Kingwood Branch Library to maintain a well-rounded, current and relevant collection to offer our community."

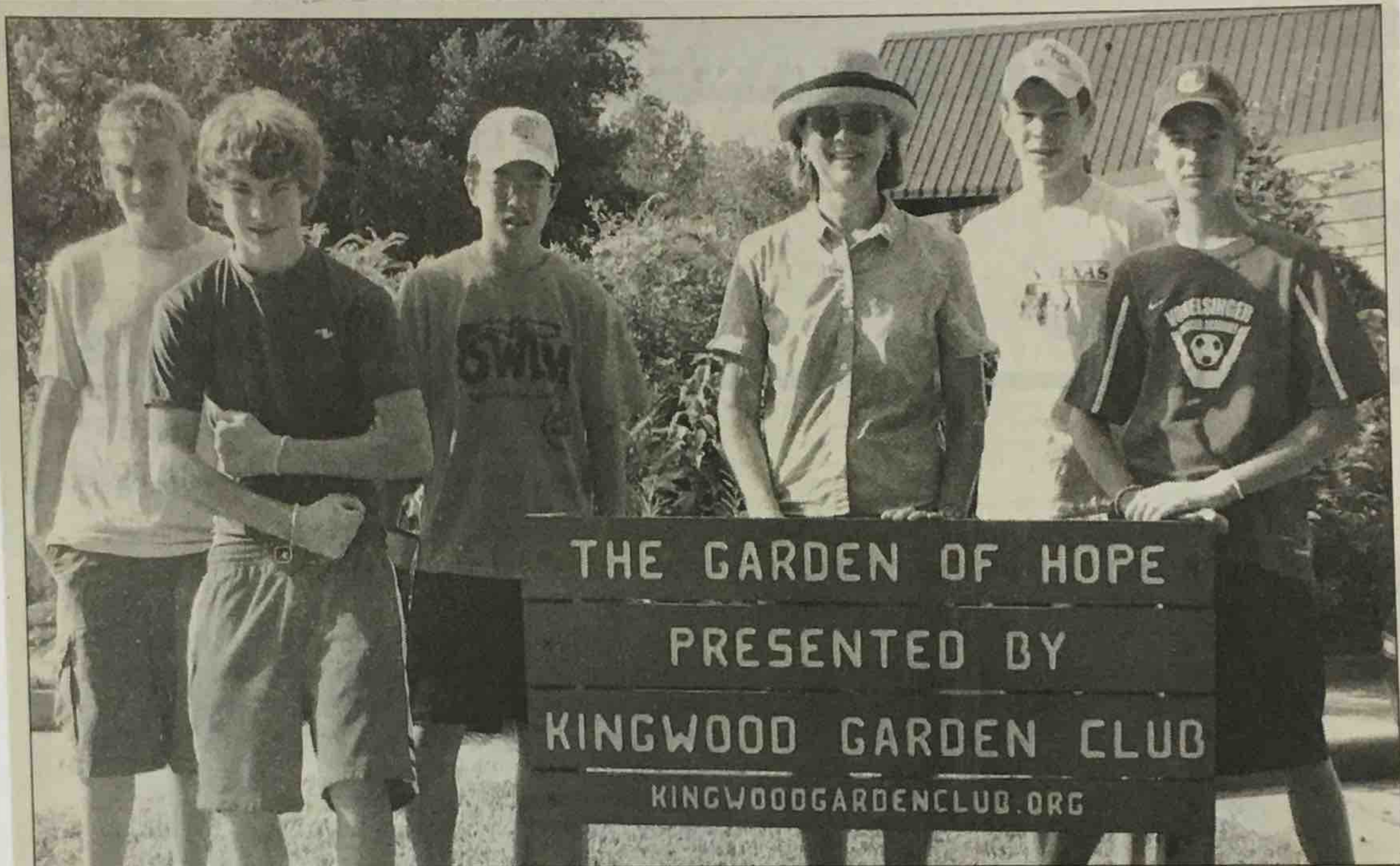
Judy Hopkins and Mark Heinrich, co-owners of Keller Williams Realty Northeast, located at 20665 W. Lake Houston Parkway in Kingwood, have already donated \$1,000 to FOLK's 2006 Buy-A-Book campaign.

This year, the Rotary Club of Humble Intercontinental will once again donate \$500 to the FOLK Buy-A-Book campaign.

Kingwood resident Linda Dumas is a major supporter of FOLK's Buy-A-Book campaign, as well.

"I love everything about books—the stories and information they contain, the feel of them in my hands, and the way they look," Dumas said.

"Although my great joy now is that I can afford to have my own library full of books, I have never forgotten the wonderful things I learned and the places I went through library books. Buying book for the library give me enormous pleasure. When it comes to the library, I'm definitely in favor of 'pass it on.' The Buy-A-Book campaign is a fantastic chance to serve the reading community."



The Garden of Hope

The thanks of the community go out to Regina Ripley, center, and the other members of the Kingwood Garden Club who maintain the beautiful show of flowers at the entrance to the Kingwood Public Library. The year-round show of flowers is an inspiration to all and provides a tranquil oasis to sit and reflect. Ripley's efforts were supported by her group of Eagle Scouts, who have helped her erect a new sign at the entrance to the parking lot and more recently installed new seating. Their time and hard work deserve the thanks of us all.

Children slay their way through books with library program

By SUSAN MEINHOLZ
Observer Reporter

Molly and Patrick McShane participated in the program last year and are looking forward to another year of fun.

Calling all varlets! Read books and be welcomed into the knighthood of the Kingwood Library's Dragoneer Club.

Any varlet (a "young child" in middle English language) of elementary school age is encouraged to join in the fun of creating fun craft activities, participating in special events and moving up the ranks towards knighthood and receiving colored jewels by reading books.

On Sept. 12, the club will kickoff the year with the book DRAGON, 4B

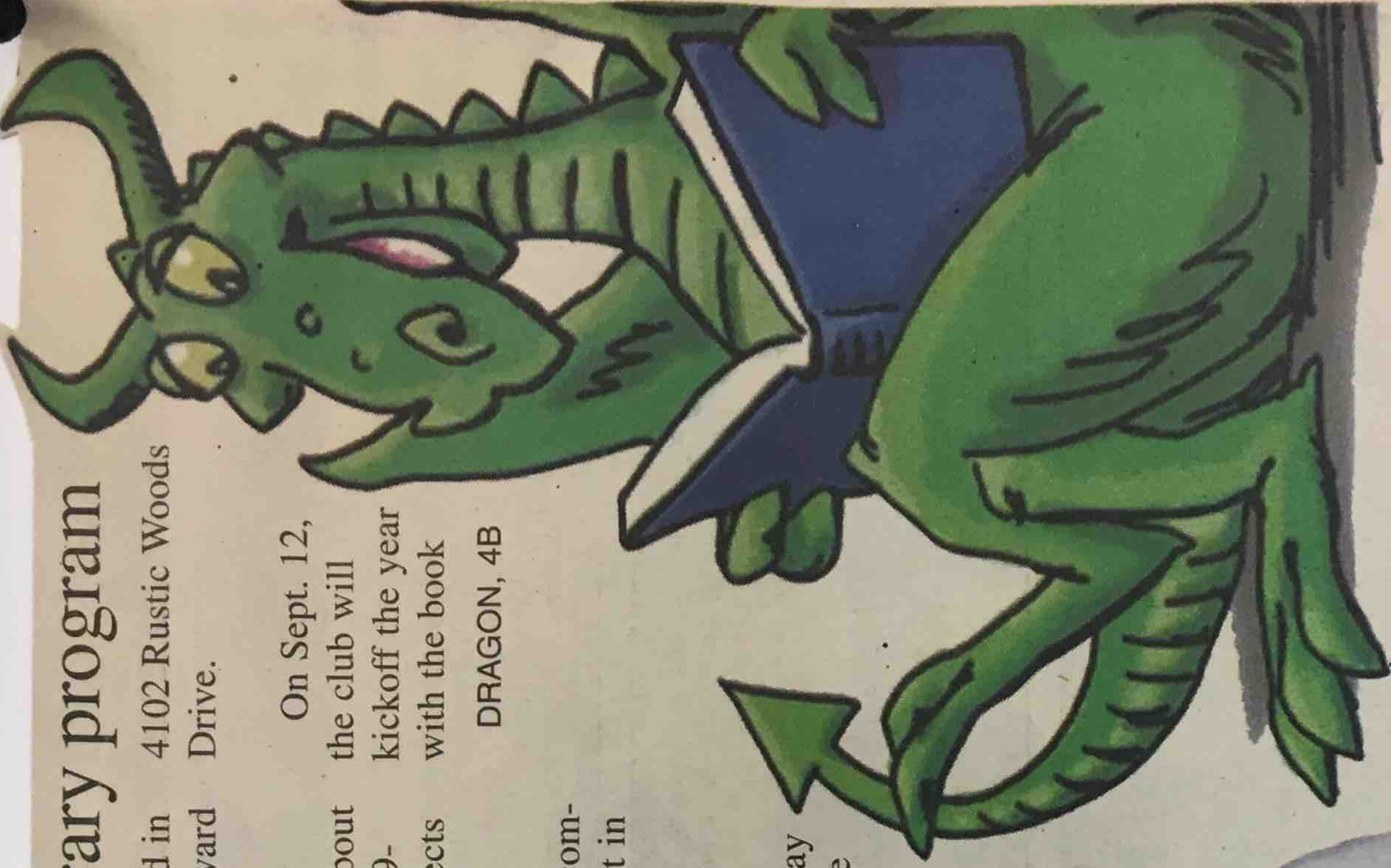
"I love Dragoneers because you learn about different animals and other nations," said 9-year-old Molly. "You get to make art projects and it encourages a love for reading."

"I love Dragoneers because you get to compete for a cool dragon trophy, and I won it in 2006 for reading the most books," said Patrick, 6.

The club meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 4 to 5 p.m. at the

Kingwood Library located at

It is a popular program that many area children enjoy.



**DRAGONEER CLUB
KICKS OFF
SEPT. 12, 4 P.M.
KINGWOOD
LIBRARY**

Jamie Kadinopoulos, left, joined fellow Dragoneers Tobin Johnson and Sam Kadinopoulos in reading books and participating in fun activities to reach the rank of knighthood. Photo by Susan Meinholz

DRAGON

Continued from page 1B

"Hatching Magic" by Ann Downer. All varlets will receive a free book, T-shirt, official Dragoneer identification card and booklogs.

Throughout the program, varlets will be able to move through the ranks of page, squire and knight by attending three meetings and reading four books of their choice.

As participants move up the ranks, they will be given a colored jewel representing various positive character traits.

Jamie Kadinopoulos, 11, really enjoyed the fun and practical things they planned for the group. "Making the shield was the best. We had a really fun party at the end," he said. His brother, Sam, 8, joined because he loves to

read.

"It is fun and active. Miss Connie (the children's librarian) is the best. She keeps on teaching us fun things."

Their mom, Raine Kadinopoulos, said it was a great way to encourage her sons to read.

"It was a fun way to encourage reading by advancement through the ranks to knighthood," she said. "It encouraged Sam to move on and enjoy reading through a series of books from easy chapter books to Dragon Slayer's Academy, and now he is enjoying the Harry Potter series."

Each meeting there are creative activities planned, and three times a year they have an advancement ceremony, which includes a parade.

At the first meeting, Houston Police Department's Chief of Police Harold L. Hurtt will read the first chapter from

Downer's book, and future meetings include puppet making and puppet shows, participation in the FOLK (Friends of the Library Kingwood) book sale and a re-enactment of pioneer days.

Once a participant reaches knighthood, there is an opportunity to continue on to the Order of the Red Dragon, which includes more jewels and special recognitions.

The club is free to participants; FOLK underwrites the cost of the program.

"It's educational fun for the kids," said Frances M. Pelham, FOLK's publicity chairperson. "It's one of the many ways FOLK's fundraising monies are spent for the betterment of the Kingwood Library programs and the community."

Abby, Maddy and Tobin Johnson have received the rank of knighthood and will be working on the Order of the

Red Dragon. They are excited about participating in the Dragoneer Club again.

"I loved going to the meetings and hearing about new books," said Abby.

"I liked designing and making our shields. Being a member of the club made me want to read even more books," said Maddy.

"We had great parties and got to design our own shields when we were made knights," said Tobin. "It was fun reading lots of books."

Tracy Johnson was happy to find a program that both her son and daughters liked.

"It's something that both girls and boys can enjoy," she said. "My kids love it; they get upset if we miss a meeting."

For more information, contact the Kingwood Library at 281-360-6804.



Maddy Johnson, left, holds the Dragoneer flag with sister Abby. The flag leads the way during the club's advancement parades. Photo by Susan Meinholz

smeinholz@hcnonline.com



Susan Mitchell, Tammy Waldrop, Chris Mandelski, Doris Fisher, Dana McFarland and Monica Vavra, from left, are members of The Kingwood Area Children's Writers and Illustrators Critique Group, which writes picture books, chapter books, novels, magazine articles and puzzles for children. Photo by Luisa Hart

Authors form writing group for children's literature

By LUISA HART
Observer Reporter

The Kingwood Library is not only home to hundreds of books and the Dragoneers, but is also home to the Kingwood Area Children's Writers and Illustrators Critique Group.

"We encourage children's writers," said Doris Fisher, who is the facilitator of the group. "We review and comment on manuscripts for books, articles, poetry, fiction and nonfiction specifically written for children. We love good literature for children. And we all hope to be published children's authors!"

The group was started by Fisher in 2003. "When I discovered other interested children's writers in the Kingwood-Humble area, we started meeting... offering suggestions, comments and sharing publishing news for children's writers," said Fisher.

The group has five published book authors and others have been published in children's magazines and online at *Wee Ones Magazine*.

Doris Fisher has had two children's books published, "Happy Birthday to Whooo?" and "One Odd Day," with a third slated for release next year.

On Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 11 a.m., Fisher will be reading during the Children's Storytime at Barnes and Noble Bookstore, located at Deerbrook Mall, 20131 Highway 59 in Humble.

The group meets at the Kingwood Library every other Thursday throughout the year from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The library is located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive in Kingwood.

For more information, contact Doris Fisher at abcdoris@doris-fisher.com or visit her Web site at www.abcdoris.com

lhart@hcnonline.com

Friends of the Library to hold used book sale this month

By MELECIO C. FRANCO
Observer Reporter

The Friends of the Library Kingwood (FOLK) will host their quarterly used book sale on Aug. 18 and 19 at the Kingwood Library.

The group is currently accepting book donations at the library to resell. The book sale is to raise money to purchase items for the library such as more books, furniture and computers.

"We raise funds for the library to make it more enjoyable for the people of Kingwood," said Carolyn Humphrey, president of FOLK.

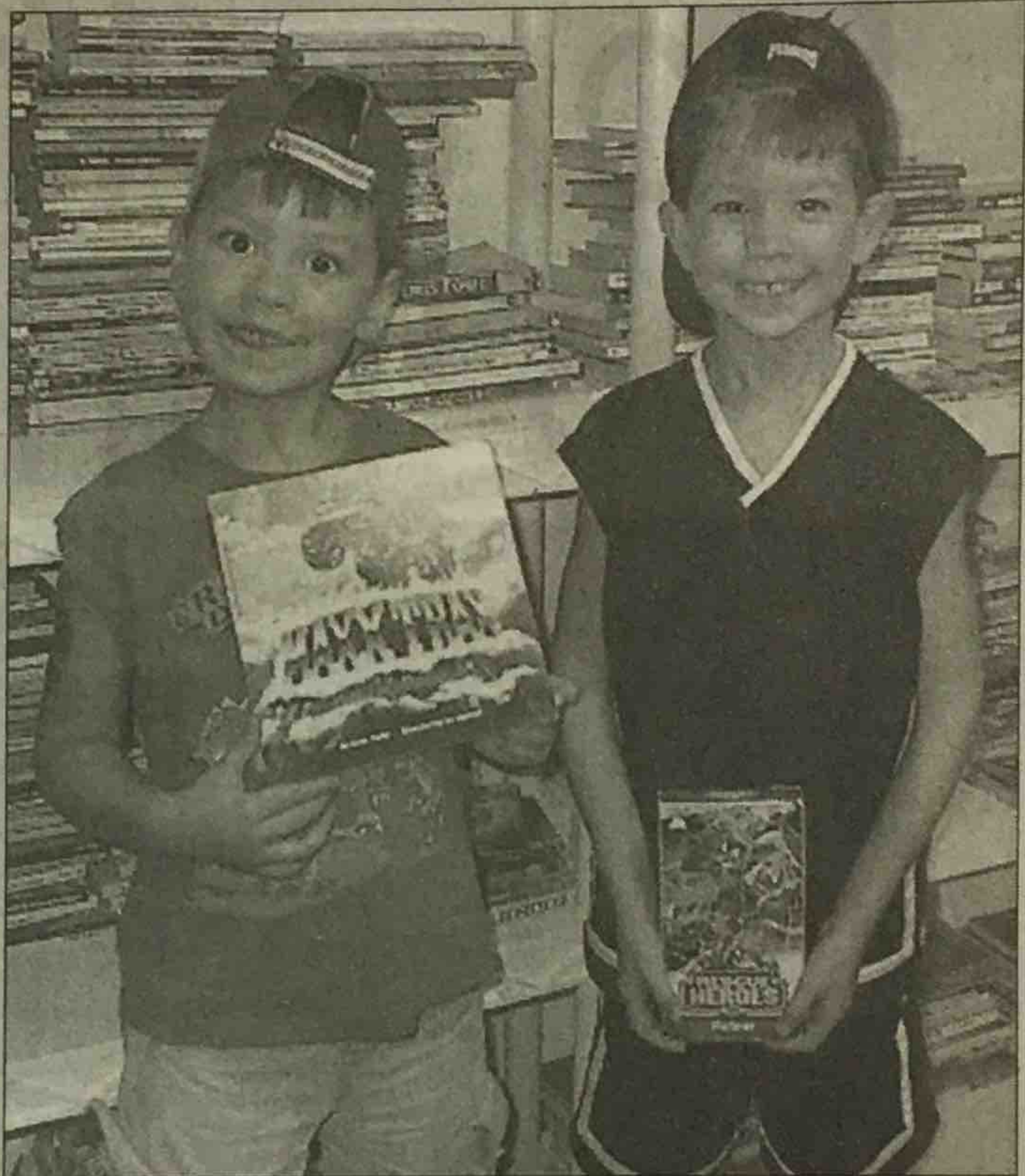
The book sale draws a large crowd and a long line forms at the door before the library opens, according to Humphrey.

Paperback books will cost 50 cents. Trade paperback books will cost \$1. Hardback books will cost \$1. New books will cost \$3. Magazines will cost 25 cents.

Only FOLK members will be allowed to shop on Aug. 18 at 5 p.m. The sale for the general public will be on Aug. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"FOLK members get first choice," said Humphrey. "That's one of the perks of being a member."

Membership in the organization is \$15 a year for a family. For membership information, contact the circulation



Book lovers will find great bargains at the Friends Of the Library Kingwood book sale set for Aug. 18 and 19. Grant Gens, left, and Drake Gens show off some of the books they found at a previous book sale.

desk at the library.

"We would love for the public to come out," said Humphrey.

The Kingwood Library is located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive at the intersection with

West Lake Houston Parkway. For more information, visit www.hcpl.net/branchinfo/kw/kwinfo.htm or call 281-360-6804

mfranco@hcnonline.com

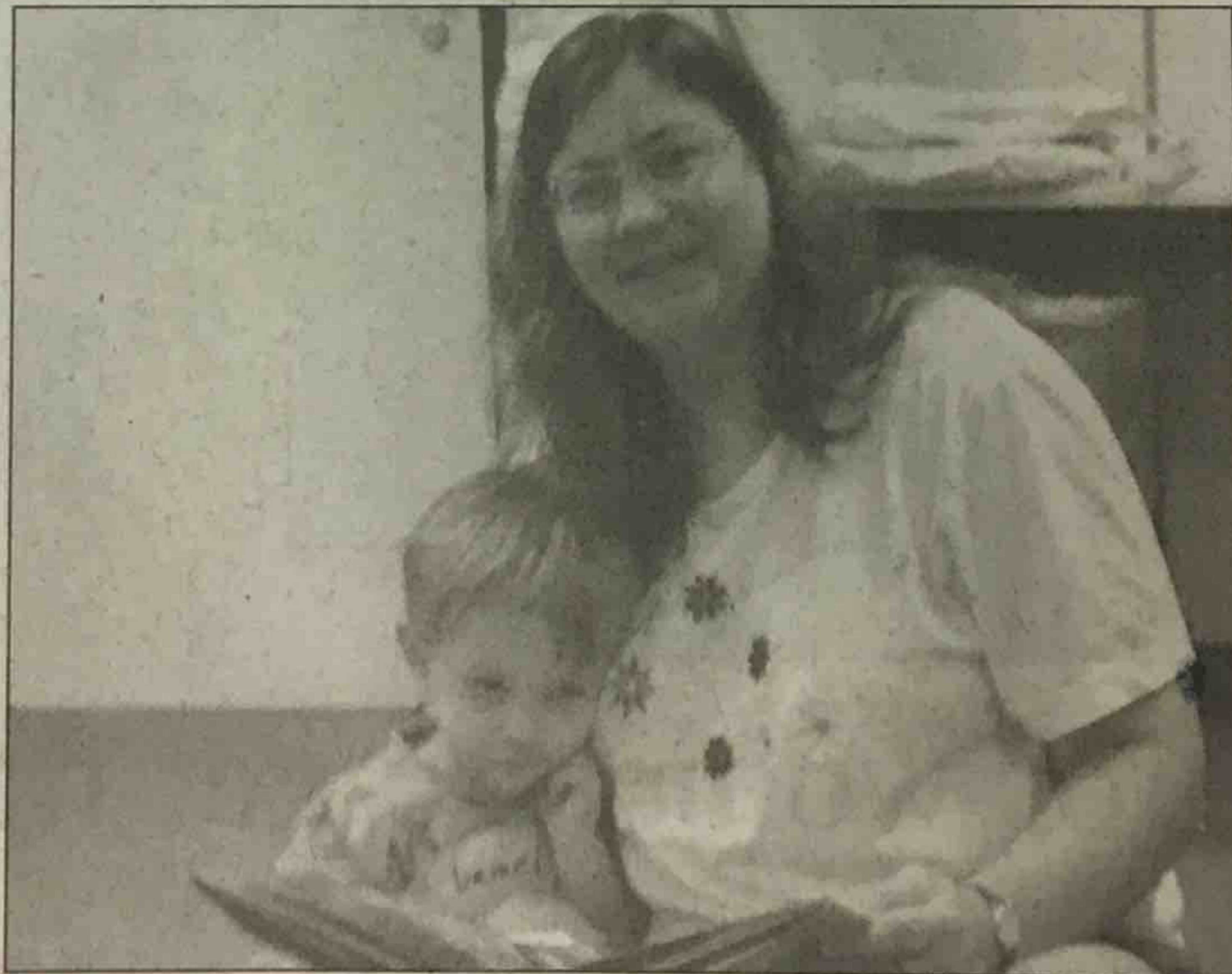
Early Childhood Kits now available at Kingwood Branch Library

One of the surest ways to help children become life-long readers is to read to them. Reading to children encourages them to read on their own when they get older. They build upon the experience of being read to for years. Usually children develop an interest in reading that will help them for the rest of their lives. Reading to children prepares them for school by improving their attention span and by developing their vocabulary.

A child's education usually begins long before he or she enters school. One way parents can contribute to the future success of their children is to read to them. Reading out loud to children is important and will help them in many ways as they get older. Reading to children gives parents quality time with them

and shows them that reading is important. Children whose parents or other caregivers read to them often learn to read earlier than other children.

To help parents who are not sure where to begin, the Kingwood Branch Library, a Harris County Public Library, now has several themed kits intended to promote early childhood development available for checkout. These kits can be used for reading to children at home and consist of several picture books and a tape or CD with a common theme. Themes include animals, bedtime, family, shapes and more. Ask to see a list of available kits at the Information desk at the Kingwood Library, 4102 Rustic Woods Dr., Kingwood, or call 281-360-6804 for more information.



Janice and Daniel Alexander read a book from an Early Childhood Development Kit at the Kingwood Library.

Kingwood Area Republican Women donate books

In 1961, the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) established the Mamie

Eisenhower Library Project (MELP) as a memorial honoring our former first lady. In 1992, tapes and videos were added to the book list.

Kingwood Area Republican Women have participated in this project for many years, and through the leadership of

Sidey; "The First Ladies of the United States of America, from Martha Washington to Laura Welch Bush" by Margaret Klapthor and Ollida Black; "The White House Garden" by William Seale; "General Ike - A Personal Reminiscence" by John Eisenhower; "American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country" by Kay Bailey Hutchison; and "Our Country's

Presidents" by Ann Bausum."

Through this project, Kingwood Area Republican Women hope to contribute to the citizenship education of our community. For information about KARW and how you can become involved in this active group, please contact Halene Crossman at 281-361-5454 and check the Web site at www.kingwoodarearepublicanwomen.org



Standing left to right are Cindy Bosze; Glenda Piacenti; Skippy Lupton; Audrey Peterson; Jeff Coyle, asst. branch librarian; and Halene Crossman. Seated left to right are Anne Geldens, Betty Newton and Nancy Fulton.

Cindy Bosze, literacy chairman, and member Nancy Fulton, recently donated the following books to the Kingwood Library: "The White House: An Historic Guide"; "The Presidents of the United States of America, from George Washington to George Bush" by Frank Freidel, Hugh

AUTHOR'S BOOK DISCUSSION

Gail Mount, author of the 2004 George Garret Fiction Prize-winning novel "Pitching Tents," will be hosting a book discussion about his novel at the Kingwood Library on Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m. For more information, call the library at 281-360-6804.

'The shelves are bare...'

Thanks to all who patronized FOLK's most recent Used Book & Magazine Sale. Adults, children, young adults and young at heart were thrilled with the many book selections at bargain prices. Where does that large selection of books, magazines, and media materials come from? You. FOLK and the recipient of the fund-raising monies (the Kingwood Library) continue to be so grateful for your generosity.

Book, magazine and media material donations are tax-deductible and accepted during library hours: Monday, 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

There are many behind-the-scenes volunteers who have a hand in making FOLK's Used Book Sale such a success. Those volunteers come from the Kingwood Women's Club, the Livable Forest and Kingwood chapters of the National Charity League, library patrons, book lovers and of course, FOLK.

So a huge thank you to the community for all your generous donations, the patrons of the library and FOLK Used Book sales and all of the many volunteers.

FOLK's next Used Book/Magazine Sale is Friday, Aug. 18, from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Kingwood Library for FOLK members, and Saturday, Aug. 19, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the general public. To become a "Friend" of the library, stop by the library's circulation desk.



William Pollard and Katelyn Boothe take time to read a couple of books they found at FOLK's May Used Book Sale.

FOLK memberships start at a mere \$15.

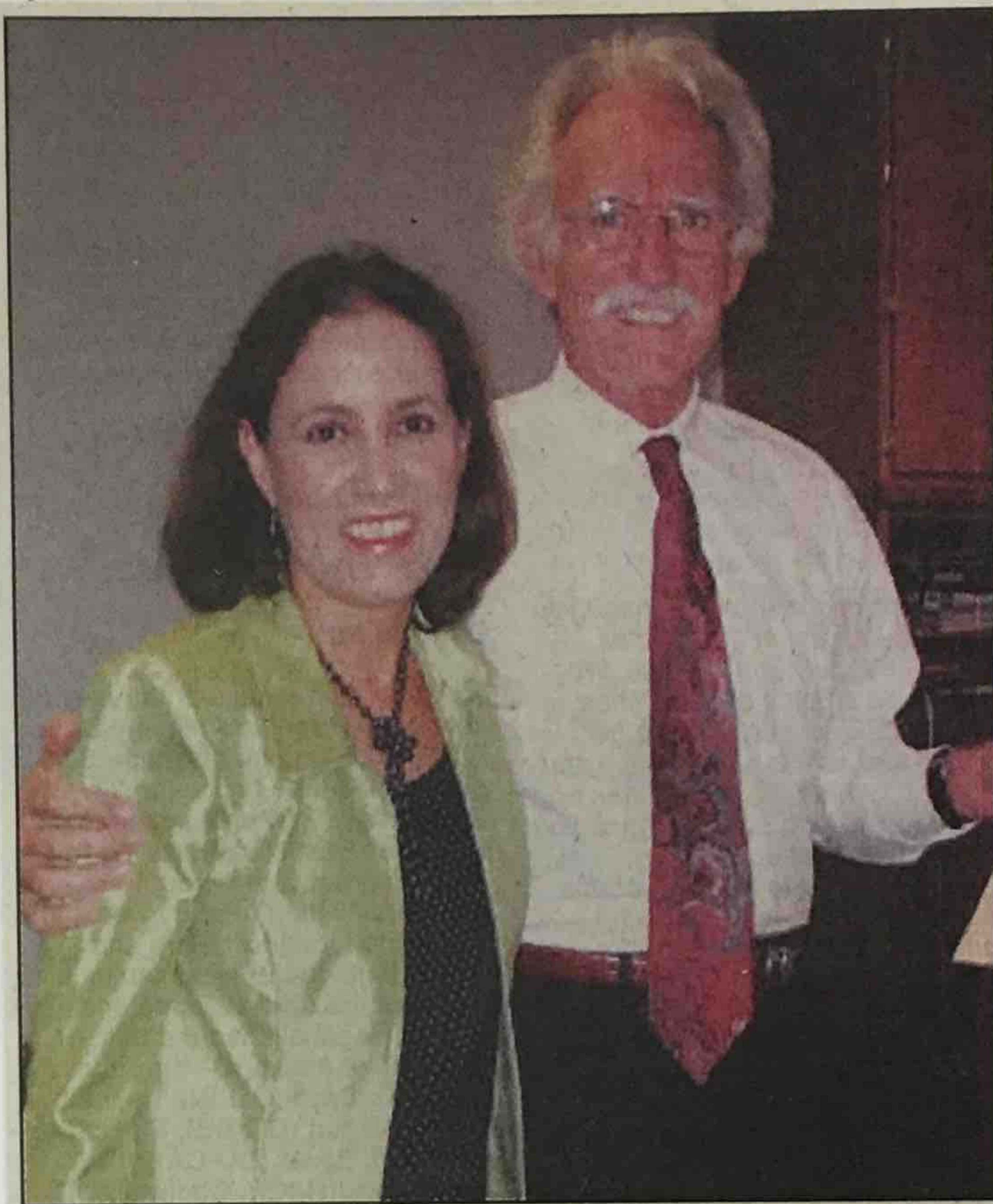
FOLK's August Used Book sale is a special one each year because it offers an opportunity for parents, students and teachers

to get ready for the new school year without stretching their budgets. Where else can you buy books ranging from 25 cents to \$3?

The Kingwood Library's

annual Summer Reading Program is underway for all ages. Stop by the library at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, or log onto www.hcpl.net for the various programs and their dates/times.

Kingwood Observer June 7, 2006



Appraisal lecture held at library

On May 22, the International Society of Appraisers and the Kingwood Branch Library hosted a lecture on the appraisal of books and documents. Lecturer John Payne gave an informative talk illustrated with some of his most renowned cases such as the appraisal of Andy Warhol's archives and the Nixon documents. Pictured are Maria Josefa Velazquez from the International Society of Appraisers and speaker John Payne.

Kingwood Observer June 14, 2006

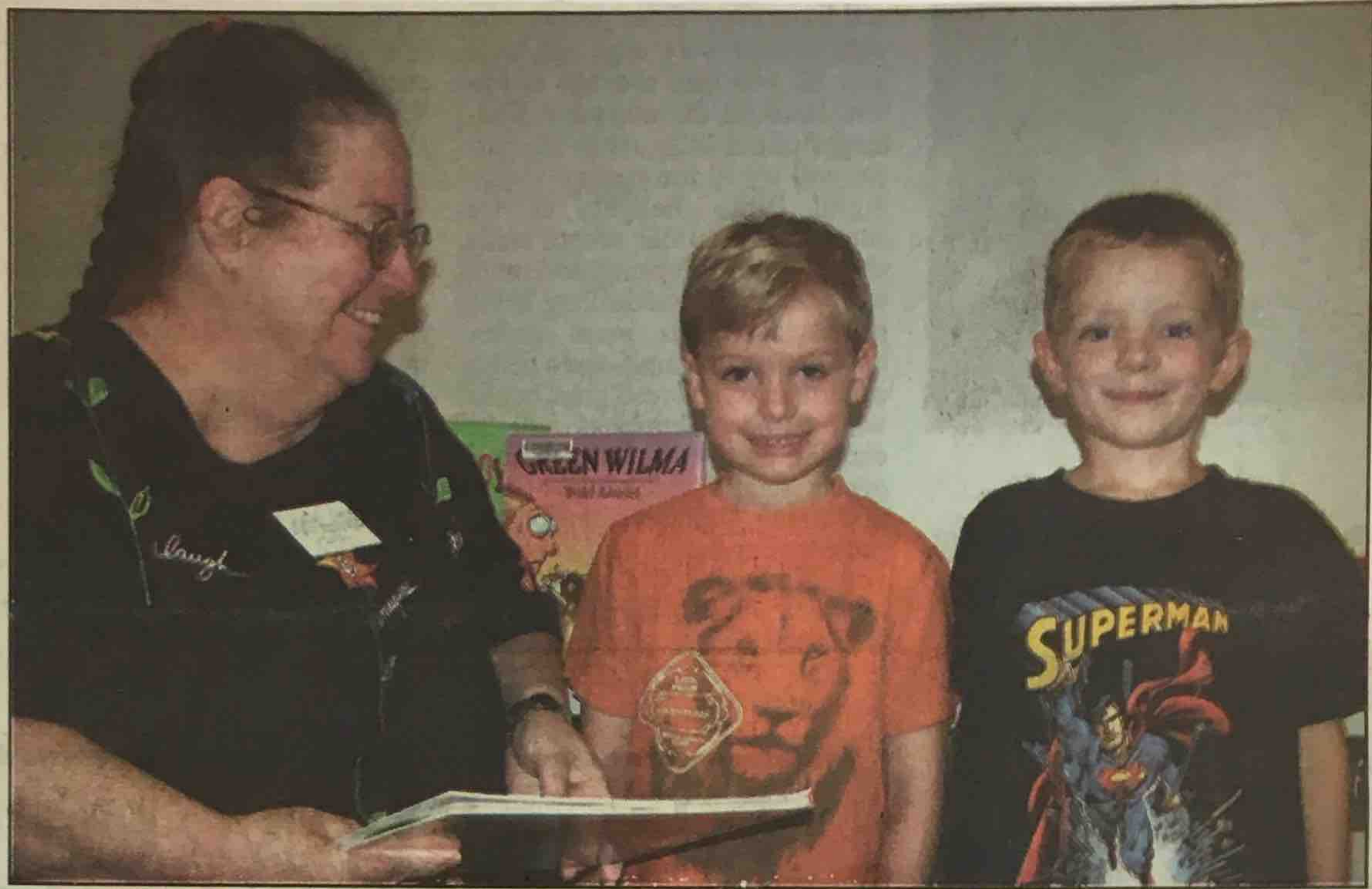
AUTHOR'S BOOK DISCUSSION

Gail Mount, author of the 2004 George Garret Fiction Prize-winning novel "Pitching Tents," will be hosting a book discussion about his novel at the Kingwood Library on Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m. For more information, call the library at 281-360-6804.

Library fun

The Harris County Public Library in Kingwood, located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive, has pre-school story time year-round on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:20 p.m. For more information about activities at the library, stop by for a calendar of events. Children's librarian Connie Dye helps Pierce Dietrich, left, and Samuel Johnston, right, choose books for story time.

Photo by Susan Meinholz



Stop and smell the flowers

Four-year-old Elizabeth Stoltz admired the flowers in the Garden of Hope before picking out a fun book to read at the Kingwood Branch Harris County Library located at 4102 Rustic Woods Drive.

Photo by Susan Meinholz

Kingwood Observer April 12, 2006

Geocaching at the Kingwood Library

Do you share a love of computers, electronic gadgets and the outdoors with your friends, relatives and neighbors? If so, geocaching may be for you.

Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt using a global positioning system device.

This adventure is one of the hottest hobbies on the planet. If interested, please

attend a geocaching presentation on Friday, April 21, 2006, at 4 p.m., in the Kingwood Branch Library, 4102 Rustic Woods. Attendees will leave library

premises and walk to a nearby geocache site. Parents or guardians are asked to attend with their children. If you have a GPS device, please bring it along.

For more information, please contact Jeff Coyle at 281-360-6804.

GEOCACHING AT THE KINGWOOD LIBRARY

Do you share a love of computers, electronic gadgets and of the outdoors with your friends, relatives and neighbors? If so, geocaching may be for you. If you are interested, please attend a geocaching presentation on April 21 at 4 p. m. in the Kingwood Branch Library, at 4102 Rustic Woods. Attendees will leave library and walk to a nearby geocache site. Parents or guardians are asked to attend with their children.