

## A Note from your Director

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

It seems that a sentence I frequently use is, “Women’s Storybook Project is really growing.” And it’s true!

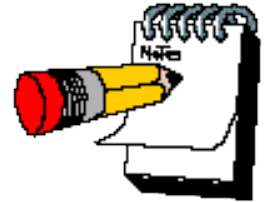
We are providing this program to more mothers and children, more in the community are learning about us, and more are contributing monetarily and with volunteer hours. After collecting and counting books from the three Barnes and Noble Bookstores in three cities, we are shelving 6,885 books – more than double the amount collected from last year’s drive.

Linda Cox, JoAn Martin and Betsy McCrane are recruiting more volunteers, and last month I was contacted by the principal from the Hobby Unit. He has had many requests from offenders about WSP and wondered when we could start our program at their unit! If you have friends/family in the Waco or Temple area, please tell them about Women’s Storybook Project. We will need more volunteers.

As was mentioned in the last Book Notes issue, my garage has been emptied of books, and my home office has fewer files and notebooks. It is such a pleasure to have our own space at 700 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and by the end of the year, we will have our own “place” among non-profit organizations. Barry Silverberg is helping guide the way to applying for our 501(c)3. This process involves the formation of a board and the construction of by laws. Although Austin Community Foundation has been our non-profit umbrella for several years, it is time to fly on our own.

The future looks bright for Women’s Storybook Project, a truly beautiful program. When you read “Making Connections” and the back cover, you will see that you are making a difference.

*Judith*



### Awards, Awards !!

For the second year in a row, Storybook has been selected to receive a prestigious Governor’s Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award. The Texas Board of Criminal Justice will recognize the WSP for its efforts to improve the lives of incarcerated mothers and their children. To be chosen is truly an honor and acknowledges the hard work of all of the volunteers that make this program a success. The award will be presented April 8.

Active commitment to social justice is a hallmark of Reform Judaism. That commitment in-

*(continued on page 3—Awards)*

### College Students Get Involved

Three very prominent university programs have joined forces with Storybook offering exciting improvements, support, and important research.

The University of Texas, McCombs School of Business will be involving the students in Business



*Shabbir Hussain, Amanda Elizondo, Fabian Rojas, Daniel Korman, Melissa Lau taken at WSP's new office!*

*(continued on page 5—Students)*



**Book Notes**  
**The communications newsletter**  
**Women's Storybook Project**  
**of Texas**

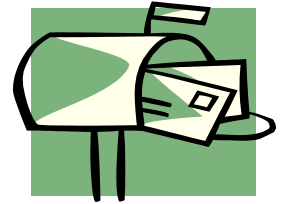
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**Want to make a tax free contribution?**  
**Send it to:**

**Women's Storybook Project of Texas**  
**c/o Austin Community Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 5159 Austin, TX 78763**  
*a 501(c)3 non-profit organization*

**Making Connections**

A letter from a  
 grateful grandmother



7-17-10

Dear Judith Dullnig,  
 It gives me great pleasure to write you and thank you very much for the opportunity we experienced when we received the book and the tape for each of our 3 grandchildren.

My grandchildren had not seen their Mommy since March and hearing her read from each book was the next best thing to her being here.

The expression on their faces was priceless - it was one of great joy and excitement, and at the same time almost disbelief that they were actually hearing their Mom's voice. The best thing is that each <sup>time</sup> they want to hear their Mom's voice, the tape can be replayed anytime and as many times as they want.

Our hope is that this wonderful program will continue and expand so that more children will experience joy as our grandchildren did.

Sincerely,



**Can you help?**

- Correspondence Secretary to write thank you notes
- Volunteers needed to help plan for the Barnes and Noble Book Drives: a committee will be formed
- Two volunteers to schedule and to set up for the Texas Book Festival
- Volunteers interested in stepping into a co-leader position are needed

(Awards - continued from page 1)

spires Reform congregations across North America to pursue a wide range of activities designed to *l'taken et ha'olam*, to mend the world.



The Fain Awards were established in 1983 to honor those congregations whose work in the area of social justice proves exemplary. The award, presented every

two years, recognizes programs that demonstrate creativity, involve a sizeable portion of the congregation, and promote effective advocacy work (amongst other criteria).

Judy Fox from Temple Beth Shalom submitted Women's Storybook Project for consideration for this award and recently received word that it has been chosen to receive it! Fain Awards will be presented at the Religious Action Center's Consultation on Conscience in Washington, D.C., May 1-3, 2011. The award will give WSP welcomed exposure. 🍷



- **Judy Fox** for submitting the application for WSP to be considered for the Irving J Fain Award.
- **Linda Gise** for nominating Woman's Storybook Project for a 2011 Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award.
- **Janice Langlinsais, Arboretum; Caren Berlanga, La Cantara, San Antonio; and Rea Demand,** of River Oaks, Houston, for your support and hard work during the Holiday Book Drives. It was the most successful drive ever!
- **Karen and Bill Donovan** for overseeing the Holiday Book Drive at River Oaks Barnes and Noble in Houston.
- **Wynona Montgomery** for sorting and

packing the 900+ books that were donated by the Houston community at the River Oaks Barnes and Noble during the Holiday Book Drive.

- **Norman Dykes**, Brenda's husband, for transporting boxes and placing them in our storage facility in Baytown.
- **Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Nu chapter in Baytown**, for supporting Women's Storybook Project.
- **Kelly Finkel** for accepting the role as Co-Team Leader with Judy Darnell at Woodman Jail.
- **Jenny Rutherford**, mother of team leader Rhonda Chandler. Jenny loves to help WSP and mails the books from Plane/Henley session. In February, she mailed 89 books and tapes - a record breaker!



Jenny Rutherford-mailing books for Plane/Henley

- **Linda Cox** for helping connect us with McCombs School of Business for our new website design.
- **Jeri Saper** for meeting with the UT MIS Team and for agreeing to update our website once the project is completed.
- **Judy Darnell** for helping with the sorting and packing of books received from Barnes and Noble Arboretum.
- **Rhoda Silverberg and Alice Marsel** for inviting Judith to speak at the Spring 2011 Dyslexia Conference: Looking at Texas through the Lens of Literacy. So many were interested in learning about the program and its relationship to literacy. It helped Judith to remember that WSP not only connects children with their incarcerated mothers, but it also brings them good literature and the joy of reading. 🍷



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Lydia Hewett Supplies Chair

*"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace." Jimi Hendrix*

Lydia Hewett, Storybook's new Supplies Chair, is a native Texan with her roots near Pometry where she grew up on a farm. After earning her bachelor's degree at Southwestern University, she moved to Austin. She went on to earn her masters at UT Austin and did some post graduate work in Adult and Developmental Education at Texas State. She also started an adult literacy program (ESL and GED) in Dripping Springs.

She has three grown children and five grandchildren ranging in age from 14 months to six years. She is pictured here with her one granddaughter, Kinsey. She and her significant other met through eHarmony!



Currently, Lydia works for the State Comptroller's Office in the bankruptcy area and teaches developmental math a couple of evenings a week at Austin Community College. One of her goals is to retire from the state and teach more classes at ACC. A second goal is to write a grant for funding to put literacy/youth encouragement signs into Metro buses. She attends Westlake United Methodist Church where she sings in the choir. Her talents include singing (she takes voice lessons while awaiting that dreamed-of call from Broadway!), knitting, and baking. She loves to play with her grandchildren, and read murder mysteries and spiritual works.

She first heard about WSP at a church Christmas party when Judy Fox was invited to speak about it. In 2008, she began volunteering in Gatesville, meeting many people as she floated where she was needed. Now she is taking over the supplies and "filling the really big shoes of

the former coordinator, Sylvia Fitz."

Lydia enjoys the feeling created by helping "the children and mothers come the closest that is possible to the very real and most important need of touch - by human voice. It's the next best thing to a hug!" 🤗

## Giving Others Donation Opportunities

WSP volunteer Pat Roberts was recently honored with a surprise 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Her daughter invited Pat's friends and family to donate a book to WSP in lieu of gifts, pleasing Pat tremendously.

Many people enjoy supporting Storybook with gifts of books and supplies when they can't actually volunteer their time. Here are some other creative ideas for ways to invite others in your community to participate:



Pat and her grandchildren admire the 30+ books donated to WSP in honor of her birthday.

- At holiday time, have a book exchange and bring along an extra book to donate.
- Hold a "Book Shower" at your church or synagogue or with a book/reading club.
- For Mother's Day, invite your congregation to bring donation books in honor/memory of their mothers.
- Scout troops can organize a book drive.
- Invite participants of reunions/luncheons/gatherings to bring a book.
- Make a money tree and invite others to "pin" the leaves (folding money) to the branches with little clips. Donate the money to WSP.

If you have other ideas, we'd love to hear them! Send your ideas to Pat Roberts. 🤗



## What's Happening?

- On February 18, WSP Volunteers Marge Gurrola, Topsy Woodson, Laurie Benavides, Gail Massad and Wanda Stimson staffed an exhibit table at the fourth Annual Sun City Nonprofit Fair. WSP was one of about fifty-five organizations soliciting volunteers and making their services known to this active senior community.
- The first training of WSP volunteers to be held in the new office is on March 5. Retired Warden Nancy Bodkin and Major Hensen will come from Gatesville to train about 10 new volunteers. Some important reminders are NO cell phones, avoid wearing all white, no open toed shoes, and no sleeveless tops.
- Storybook Project will once again receive the Governor's Award on April 8.
- McCombs School of Business students present their project, Women's Storybook Project Website Design, on May 12.
- The Fain Award will be presented to Storybook Project at the Religious Action Center's Consultation on Conscience in Washington, D.C., May 1-3.
- Judith Dullnig will be giving a presentation on April 19 at Rice University to attract prospective practicum students interested in undertaking the study to track Storybook's impact on recidivism.
- United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members. Their mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating



for justice. Linda Cox from Westlake Methodist submitted an article about Women's Storybook Project to Response, the United Methodist Women's magazine. It will be published in March and can be found at:

<http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umw/response>

- Forms are being built and conversations occurring with Apricot about the needs of Storybook Project's database. This will be a great secure on line tool for gathering and sharing data. 🍷

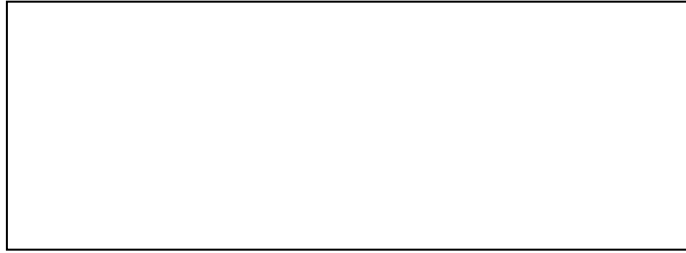
*(Students—continued from page 1)*

Systems Development Class with WSP. US News and World Report recognizes this program as #1 in public U.S. Management Information Systems. Judith and Jeri Saper will meet weekly with a team of five students (see photo) who will be creating a new face for WSP: an eye-catching website. The facelift will be a marketing tool for viewers with:

- Information about the program (history, the DVD, the most recent Book Notes, letters from caregivers and children, and awards)
- Links to allow viewers to contribute financially or through service (including the volunteer application and process)
- Links which will allow volunteers access to a calendar and the WSP Facebook page

St. Edwards University's American Dilemmas class with Professor Tim Braun offers background into the causes and effects of social problems in our society. Four of his students (Andrea Morales, Marivel Beltran, Emily Blasdel, Cecilia Hernandez) have interned with Storybook and have already sorted over 30 boxes of books as they eagerly await their approval letters. Professor Braun is impressed by how much his students learn while working with WSP as evidenced in the papers they write at the conclusion of their internship.

Houston's Rice University, as reported in the last Book Notes, has partnered with Storybook to track the program's impact on recidivism. Although this program has been temporarily postponed, the important study is expected to begin in the spring of 2012. 🍷



Austin Community Foundation  
P.O. Box 5159  
Austin, TX 78763



Women's  
**Storybook**  
Project of Texas

My Grandson LOVES it. He immediately recognized his mothers voice on the tape. He sits very still while I turn the pages for him and we do not have any other distractions during this special time ie: no T.V. or anything or anyone else around. It is what we do in the mornings to begin our routine for the day.

