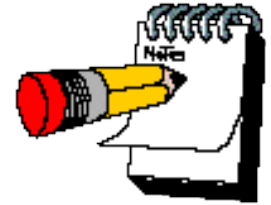


A Note from your Director

What a busy time for Women's Storybook Project! I'd like to share a few exciting facts and events with you.

- 1,616 children received books and tapes in the past year!
- WSP will begin serving a fourth Gatesville facility, Mountain View, in September, 2008.
- The current number of volunteers is 100. This includes new volunteers, volunteers in training, and volunteers who help in Austin. Even more volunteers are needed as we open Mountain View since not all of the volunteers are available to travel to Gatesville very month.
- There has been discussion about a documentary on Women's Storybook Project of Texas. Mike Bicknell, a co-worker of volunteer, Kate Moss, is also a graduate student at the University of Texas School of Communications. He would like to produce a documentary about us for his thesis. What good news!



Also, at this time, I would like to thank Pat Roberts, Ron Stimson, and Angela and Steve Nunley. This is the first anniversary of Book Notes, and I know that you have enjoyed this quarterly update. I am continually amazed at this professional publication and that the time, expertise and cost has all been donated! Thank you, Book Notes team.

I wish all of you a happy, safe summer, *Judith*

WSP Fifth Annual Social

The gracious Sylvia Fitz opened her home on the evening of May 15 for an invasion of nearly 30 enthusiastic volunteers who gathered to celebrate the fifth year of WSP's noteworthy accomplishments. Volunteers mingled, visiting with



Enthusiastic new and seasoned volunteers enjoyed a lovely evening sharing stories of WSP experience and successes.

(continued on page 3—Social)

Texas Library Conference

Over 8,000 people gathered in Dallas April 16-18 for the Texas Library Association Conference where librarians had an opportunity to view new books, meet authors and publishers and to see the latest items on the market. Women's Storybook project rented a booth, and Judith Dullnig and Judy Darnell took it upon themselves to increase awareness of the purpose of WSP and how those in this literature friendly group could help.

Hundreds of fliers and copies of the article about WSP in the Texas Library Journal were distributed to those in attendance. Judith even contacted publishers at their booths spreading the word about WSP and our goals and needs. One publisher shared with her that "hurt" books could potentially be donated to WSP. "Hurt" books is an industry term for new books that are

(continued on page 4—Library)



- **Sylvia Fitz** for hosting this year's gathering of WSP volunteers
- **Brownie Troop 2129** in Cedar Park for organizing a book drive
- **Good News United Methodist Church** for donating books collected in a Mother's Day book drive. Also **Sisters of Faith UMW** group for donating one month's postage
- **Cedar Park United Methodist Church** and **Covenant Presbyterian Women's Team** for donating books and mailers
- **Westlake United Methodist Church** for donating books and assembling a group of women who are preparing to volunteer
- **Granville High School, Granville, TX,** for submitting WSP as a community project for competition and conducting a book drive
- **Kathy Hanson** for volunteering to send invitations for the 2009 social gathering
- **Andrea Michael** for writing and submitting the WSP grant to the Episcopal Diocese of Texas
- **Holt McDougal** for donating 24 boxes of new books
- **Holt McDougal employees** for donating \$270.35 collected in a charity drive

Judith Dullnig, and Wanda Stimson receive donations from Kelly Plant, and Sandra Walker.



Story Book has been a wonderful program for my family. It has allowed me to stay connected and bond with my daughter, through the joy of reading. Reading books to my daughter has allowed me an awesome opportunity to contribute to her life and to encourage her to read more. Storybook has been a blessing for incarcerated women. It has allowed Mommy to be home even though she is away. D.R.

Making Connections

Letters from an 11 year old child and her caregiver



Dear Ms. Dullnig,
 thank you for letting mommy do the tape Book it was so cool. I love to hear mommy voice. I love to hear her read a story to me. Thank the ladies for letting mommy do this.
 Maggie

My daughter is an inmate at Gatesville, Tx. Your "Project Storybook" recently let her read a book to Maggie. I thank you all so much for taking the time to do this. Maggie was so excited to hear her mother's voice. She cannot visit very often, since it is 2 1/2 hrs. for us to travel. It lets Maggie have a personal touch from her mom.

Thank you again.



What's Happening?

- Andrea Michael and Judith Dullnig have been working on writing a grant for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, Mission Funding. For the past three years, grants from this source have helped fund WSP's efforts.
- We are finalizing arrangements with Warden Black to open a fourth Gatesville facility, Mountain View, in the fall of 2008! Linda Gise, the principal, will be working with Angela Nunley, the team leader for the facility.
- An electronic copy of Book Notes is now available upon request. If you would like to be removed from the regular mailing list and receive only an electronic copy, contact Angela Nunley at angelanunley@gmail.com



Volunteer Spotlight

Kathy Brothers Communications Chair

Donations of books, mailers, tapes, postage, supplies, services, and monetary gifts guarantees that WSP can continue making a BIG impact. But who has the important job of acknowledging this generosity? It's Kathy Brothers, our Communication Chair, who writes personal notes of thanks to those who donate. These carefully written notes go a long way toward forging relationships that can turn into opportunities.

Married for 42 years to her husband, Charles, this mother of two and grandmother of one is a fifth generation native Texan. A graduate of the University of Texas with English and history degrees, she has secondary education teaching credentials. She worked as an editor and technical writer for various software companies in Austin, but is retired now.




Retirement has brought her opportunities for community volunteer work, including WSP which Kathy enjoys the most. She also takes pleasure in foreign travel, preferring to experience life with the native residents rather than the more touristy experiences. Although she admits she takes terrible pictures, she treasures the wonderful memories she has collected. Also, at age 51, Kathy was one of six winners of the Ladies Home Journal "I'm Getting Better" contest, giving us all hope that "older" is not necessarily a bad thing.

Her journey with WSP began with the Life and Arts section of the Austin American Statesman in June of 2006. The feature article, "Unlocking Mothers' Voices" highlighted WSP and captured her attention. Then her Jazzercise class distributed fliers and collected donations. Kathy felt compelled to contact Judith, and joined in with donations of materials and time.

(more)

Writing thank you notes became her WSP niche. Additionally, Kathy took the initiative to take a grant writing class at University of Texas with the goal of encouraging Judith to pursue this funding avenue for WSP.

As Kathy resolutely states, "I am so partial to this project because it reaches children who may be labeled as "at risk" later in their lives. Strengthening the mother-child bond can't help but improve the chance that these children of incarcerated mothers will go to school everyday, finish school, stay out of gangs, etc. In fact, the mothers express exactly that hope quite often in their brief taped messages before reading a book to their child. I feel honored to have had a chance to participate."

Storybook Project is honored to have such a committed volunteer! Thank **YOU**, Kathy Brothers! 

Social- continued from page 1)

old friends and making new, as they enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Many of those in attendance were interested volunteers or volunteers in training.

Judith gave her "annual report", including growth statistics (see Notes from Director) and anticipated future events (see What's Happening). Schools, churches and organizations that participated in the past year were acknowledged as well. Some of these are listed below; others appear in the Thank You section of this issue.

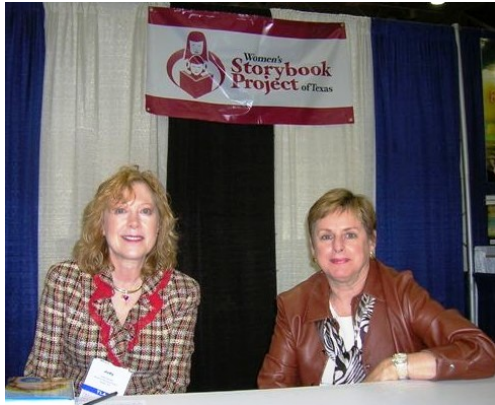
- St. Matthews Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Shalom continue to financially support WSP and are represented by women who volunteer repeatedly
- NCJW, National Council of Jewish Women, Austin, frequently volunteer
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Antonio, continue to financially support WSP regularly
- A presentation of the project was given to a Child Development Class at Austin Community College; an opportunity to make the community aware of WSP
- Holt McDougal, a publishing company, donated 25 boxes of new books

Everyone in attendance agreed upon one thing: Women's Storybook Project of Texas is a rapidly growing success!

(Library—continued from page 1)

not saleable due to slight damage such as small nicks.

As a result of contacts made at the conference, Judith has already received word that one publishing company is mailing books to WSP, the Woodlands Christian Academy in Houston will be conducting a fall book drive, and a book reviewer is sending books as well. Attending the conference turned out to be a very worthwhile endeavor!



Judy Darnell and Judith Dullnig at the WSP booth at the Texas Library conference.



Can you help?

Contact
Judith Dullnig
(512) 560-8739

- A **new schedule** will soon be e-mailed for August – January 2009. Check your calendars for availability for the second and third Saturdays of each month and sign up when the schedule arrives. If you have questions, please contact Felicia Kutchev at r2fkutchev1@yahoo.com
- The **Texas Book Festival** is coming up (November 1 and 2). Volunteers will be needed to assist in providing information at the WSP table.
- An **assistant team leader** is needed to support Angela Nunley at Mountain View. Duties might include such things as helping to lead the group and to mail tapes and books.

Lane Murray Unit

This Gatesville unit houses approximately 1300 female offenders of all custody levels under the supervision of Warden Lorie Wills. Working in tandem with Hilltop and other Gatesville units, contract grazing, edible field crops, a farm shop, regional pest control, security horses and dogs, and swine are its main agricultural operations.

Lane Murray also offers the offenders an extensive education program (through Windham ISD) including programs such as literacy, special



education, parenting, English as a second language, cognitive intervention, career and technology training, and Project Rio (Reintegration of Offenders). Volunteer initiatives in addition to WSP at Lane Murray include substance abuse education, life skills, parent training, support groups, and religious/faith based organizations. Lane Murray was where Storybook began in 2003 under the approval of Warden Bodkins.



Seventeen WSP volunteers, the largest group ever, met and had lunch at "Chez Pruitt" in Gatesville prior to going to Woodman, Hilltop and Lane Murray units on May 17.

Woodman Jail



Woodman Jail is for short-term offenders (from 1 day to 2 years) with lesser degree crimes or for holding prisoners who are in transition and waiting bed space at another unit. Diagnostic intake and substance abuse screening and assessment are completed there. Senior Warden Teresa Moya and her staff focus on reintegration and reentry for the over 800 offenders housed at Woodman.

Educational programs, offered through Windham ISD, include literacy, pre-release programs and parenting seminars, as well as business, technology, painting and decorating programs. The school's principal, Lori Rockwood, oversees the offenders' participation in WSP. Additionally, some of the teachers double as volunteers for Storybook, donating their Saturdays to help.



left to right:
LaVonda Popp,
Judy Darnell,
Warden Moya,
Gloria Kelly,
Liz Davis,
Kay Crawley

Hilltop Unit

Situated at the highest point in the area, Hilltop, currently overseen by Warden Black, started as a boy's reformatory in 1889. It has been a women's facility since 1993. It is a minimum custody facility with offenders as young as 14 and as old as 80 or more housed there. Inmates are often there for drug related crimes or sexual offenses. Hilltop includes a Trusty Camp where offenders are not required to be behind the razor



A star of stone stands outside the historic Hilltop Unit in Gatesville.

Photo by David Nunnelee

wire. The unit houses about 350 prisoners with another 200 in the trusty camp. Hilltop offers diverse work experiences for the offenders as it is home to a garment factory (where men's underwear, Texas flags, and blankets are made) and a very successful swine farm as well as other agricultural programs. Prison operations and maintenance departments, as well as vehicle maintenance and repair work, are also housed there.



Has your address changed ?
Make a financial contribution ?
Add a supporter to the mailing list ?

Women's Storybook Project of Texas
c/o Austin Community Foundation
P.O. Box 5159 Austin, TX 78763



WSP thanks
PILLAR TO POST
THE HOME OF HOME INSPECTION
(512) 515-0021
for donating the printing and
distribution of Book Notes

Who's Who

Judith Dullnig, Director
Judy Fox, Volunteer Chair
Felicia Kutchey, Scheduling Chair
Sylvia Fitz, Supplies Chair
Kathy Brothers, Communications Chair
Pat Roberts, Newsletter Chair
Angela Nunley, Newsletter Production Chair
Nancy Wallace, Lane Murray Team Leader
Paula Jameson, Lane Murray Team Leader
Judy Darnell, Woodman Team Leader
Liz Davis, Woodman Team Leader
Pat Roberts, Hilltop Team Leader
Lynne Riley, Hilltop Team Leader

jjdull@earthlink.net
jzfox@austin.rr.com
r2fkutchey1@yahoo.com
sylvia.fitz@sbcglobal.net
kdbrothers@hotmail.com
pastrob@swbell.net
angelanunley@gmail.com
nweichertwallace@satx.rr.com
tmys@austin.rr.com
adarnell@austin.rr.com
bbqliz@austin.rr.com
patsrob@swbell.net
lynne_riley@sbcglobal.net





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



I love this program. It gives me a chance to connect with my daughter. I don't get to hear from her, but through this program she can hear my voice instead of always reading my letters. It takes special people to do this and y'all are very special. Thank you. F. W.

I am so thankful for Storybook. I have a 8 yr old daughter and have been away from her now for 2 1/2 years. I was to the point of not knowing what to write to her anymore. This program made all of the difference. My daughter loves to hear me and enjoys the books. Again – thank you. S.D.

Thank you so very much for allowing me to be a part of my children's daily lives through cassette tape and literature. I was able to read to my 2 older children when they were younger, but my son was a year old when I went away, so those memories he missed....for a while J. Now he is constantly listening and wanting to read himself at the age of three. This has been a beautiful gift to our family. Thank you.

Since my daughter started getting the books I read for her she has started having my mother take her to the library to find more books. the last visit we had she read to me for the first time "We've All Got Belly Buttons".

The smiles you give to the children are priceless. A memory lasts forever.