

Book Notes



PROGRAMS



Jill Gonzalez

I am so honored to join you as the Executive Director at The Women's Storybook Project! What a privilege to serve the children and help connect them to their incarcerated mothers. Your years of service and dedication are a testament to the power of this program.

The Snowy Day and Clifford the Small Red Puppy are my earliest "book memories." I remember my mom reading these books to me and learning to read so that I could read to my little sister. The joy of literature has been a part of my life since the very beginning.

I've started volunteering at prisons and my goal is to make it to each one by March. I can't wait to meet and learn from you all! Your passion for the mission is contagious and exhilarating. Please don't hesitate to email, call or stop by. (jill@storybookproject.org) I'm

looking forward to doing all I can to support your amazing work.

MEDIA

If you haven't had a chance to see or read the latest press on the WSP, links to all are available on our website. Please take advantage of them to hear the great stories being told! Many of you may not have met Laura yet, being that she is in Houston. Take a listen – you'll feel like you've known her for years. Though she's new to the Women's Storybook Project, she's a champion for the cause!



Modern Mrs. Darcy Podcast, with guest Laura Summerhill (Plane/Henley volunteer), August 2018



Women's Day Magazine, September, 2018

With a readership of over 20 million, we have a feeling that the phone will keep ringing from this article for a while! Judith has been busy fielding calls and emails about how WSP runs and how others can start a program.

Connect Kindness Podcast with guest Judith Dullnig, September 2018



Judith will be hosting media again in November, so keep your eyes and ears peeled for more excellent coverage.

AWARDS



L-R: Linda Cox, Betsy McCraine, Jill Gonzalez, Jamie Dickens, Linda Carey, Jeri Saper, Pat Yeargain and Sun Connor

The Women's Storybook Project of Texas has been selected as the 2018 Texas Center for the Book Literacy Award winner. We will receive \$1,000 to use in our future work. The purpose of this award is to highlight a winning organization while promoting a greater appreciation and awareness of literacy efforts statewide," said Coordinator Rebekah Manley. "The judges recognized how WSP utilizes books as a powerful connector and encourages reading across generations."

Office Hours: The new WSP offices on Bee Cave Road are open for business and either Jill or Sun will be at the office on M (10-2), W (10-2) and F (11-3). Please stop by if you are in the area!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Dugie Graham

Dugie Graham is a doer of good deeds! She has been with WSP since 2008 when she retired and moved to Austin. Most of you already know Dugie and so we asked her what might surprise us. She said,



“I once ran for public office! When my kids were small I put my whole heart and every free moment I had into volunteering at their elementary school. My “deal” is that public education needs to be the best there is for ALL kids! I ran for a seat on the school board and won my election! Serving in that role was so valuable to me and I learned so much.”

I currently volunteer in several areas in my church: Worship Design Team, Lay Leadership Team, Congregational Care. I love to sew, quilting specifically. I love to cook and bake. My motto is that “life is too short to repeat a recipe.” I seldom follow recipes but will use them for tips or ideas. Baking homemade bread is particularly satisfying.

I encourage anyone who asks about Storybook to ask me anything, to come join us. I always tell them how much it means to me to be part of such a far-reaching organization. I let them know how we send love in packages to kids who need it!

The most important skill to have for being scheduling chair, is to care about our team leaders and to provide them good teams for their visits. Good communication is a necessary component and while not every call and email is urgent, many are time-sensitive; so being available is valuable. Most of the work I do is at the computer. But most of all, this is not difficult!

When asked what she'd like volunteers to know, Dugie says: “There are opportunities for service within WSP beyond prison visits! We rely heavily on volunteer hands on weekdays too.”

(Awards continued from Page 1)
The awards were given at the Texas Authors Celebration and kicked off the Texas Book Festival. The Award annually selects a nonprofit organization that has made significant contributions toward increasing literacy in Texas.



Congratulations Debra!

WSP volunteer Debra Taylor of San Saba, Texas was presented the “Judy Burd – Windham School District” Award during the Governor’s 2018 Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award program!

“Each of these award recipients has given countless hours of volunteer service within the TDCJ panel and we are extremely grateful for their efforts,” said director Collier. “They help to make a profound impact on the lives of thousands of offenders and, in doing so, make Texas safer. They are truly everyday heroes.”

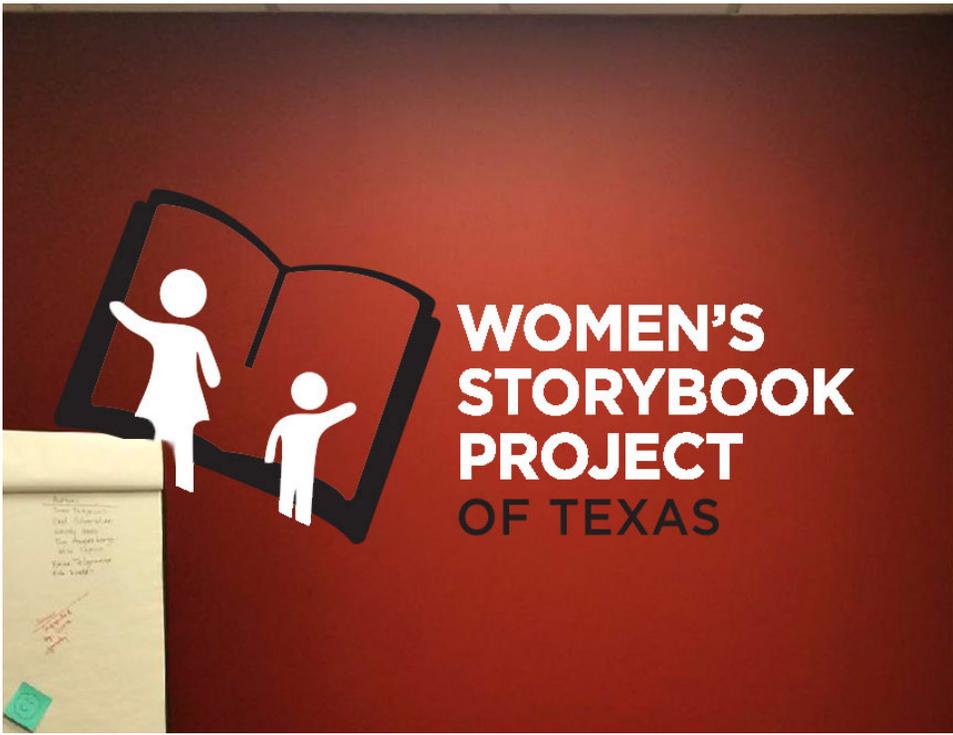
DONATIONS



A new office chair for Sun from the Grahams!

THANK YOU so much to our recent donors!

- Amy’s Ice Cream
- David and Dugie Graham
- Finkel Family Tzedakah Fund
- Friends Meeting of Austin
- Jamie Dickens
- Jeri and Paul Saper
- Montgomery County Book Festival
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- St. Matthews Episcopal Church and School
- St. Thomas Episcopal Church
- Trull Foundation
- Westlake United Methodist Church
- Love, Tito’s - *In-kind donation*



“my parents were incarcerated and their parents before that and I'd not known anything better and had been in trouble myself. However, after participating in this program I'm determined to end the cycle.”

Please send new volunteers to the WSP website first to sign up and not to the TDCJ. This is an important step and helps us welcome new volunteers!

Volunteer Opportunities: Do you have a couple hours to spare? No? We're looking for you! Busy people are the best, most efficient volunteers! WSP could use some help with supplies management and volunteer wrangling. Please give us a call or stop by to find out more.

How do you like the wall at our new office?

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER	<p>Besher's Book Drive 11/3</p> <p>EVERY WEEKEND: Barnes and Noble in Sunset Valley – Holiday Book Drive for WSP! Thank You Barnes and Noble!</p> <p>Windham School District: Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon – Guest Speaker – Judith Dullnig - 11/9</p>
DECEMBER	<p style="font-size: small;">Saint John's UMC presents</p> <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold; color: red;">Gifts of Hope</p> <p style="font-size: small; font-weight: bold;">an alternative gift market</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">December 1 & 2, 2018</p> <p>ST. JOHN'S UMC ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET - 12/1+2 Saturday 10-3, Sunday 12-3, 2140 Allendale Road – A great place to pick up holiday gifts that will include an opportunity to support WSP</p>



We'd like to thank our Texas Book Festival chair, Jamie Dickens and volunteers for their outreach efforts. We received donations and over 100 prospective volunteers!



We're excited to announce that we've been selected as an Austin Trail of Lights STARS at the Trail organization! We can't wait for our WSP volunteers to experience a magical night at the Austin Trail of Lights. Be sure you check out the Trail this year. All ticket proceeds support the Trail of Lights Foundation and the wonderful programs they provide to the Austin community.



**WOMEN'S
STORYBOOK
PROJECT
OF TEXAS**

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I am writing to you to tell you thank you for the chance for my daughter to be in this program, and the chance for my two grandchildren to hear their mom read to them. I cried, and my grandchildren were hugging the tv and they tell me “I want to read the book again with mommy.” I tell them okay and I really appreciated it from the bottom of my heart and you made my grandson’s best birthday wish come true. Thanks, from -----’s mom in the Henley Unit

A Caregiver. September 2018

