MOORE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
WWW.TEXASCITY-LIBRARY.ORG

JANUARY 2021

Sharing Your 2020 Stories

Moore Memorial Public Library is inviting patrons to share their COVID-19 stories. Much has changed regarding the way we go about our daily lives, including the necessary adjustments made every day when it comes to working, sending children to school, taking care of families, running local businesses and more. Everyone has a story to tell. Consider sharing your stories to offer hope, provide inspiration or highlight the resilient spirit of Texas City. One hundred years from now, those stories will provide insight and a perspective to a point in time that can only be told by those who were there. Students, local business owners, parents, teachers, community members, are encouraged to submit written stories, short audio and video diaries, posters, artistic creations, images and more. To contribute to the library’s COVID-19 Collection, simply find the following link (https://bit.ly/2y3bzkU) on our homepage at http://www.texascity-library.org/ and fill out the online form. If you do not have a Google account, please email Theresa Mayfield, our Local History Librarian, at tmayfield@texascitytx.gov and she will help you get started. Please consider taking part in this historic project; your contribution will be counted as part of Texas City history for future generations to come. Thank you!

Oral History: The African American Experience

The African American Experience—Texas City Oral History Project is well under way! Community members who would like to share their experiences of living in Texas City from 1950 – 1970, are welcomed to contribute. The goals of this project are to collect, preserve, and make available the personal accounts of individuals from African American communities in Texas City, through the use of digital audio, and video recordings. These recordings will allow future generations to listen to those who were part of the historical happenings and narratives taking place in Texas City. Interviews will be recorded, digitized, transcribed, and exhibited to the public through the library’s digital archive. Please consider sharing any documentation that helps tell your story. All items will be digitized and returned to the owner, unless otherwise stated. For more information, please contact Theresa Mayfield to schedule a preliminary interview. Once completed, these oral history interviews will be preserved in the archive and made available to the community at large. Thank you!
New Adult Programs!

Now stop; collaborate and listen! Join Jessica, our Adult Services Librarian, for our brand-new Cookbook Club this spring via Zoom! Start out 2021 with great eats and good company! The theme for our spring Club will be **Spice, Spice, Baby!** Each month will revolve around a different spice and style of food. Patrons can register for the monthly Club Zoom meeting and pick up a spice at the reference desk the first Monday of the month. The Cookbook Club Zoom meetups will be on the third Thursday of the month, time to be determined via survey of participants' preference. Participants will be able to talk about their creations, their favorite recipes, an enjoy good food with fantastic people.

**January's theme** - Cinnamon & Muffins  
**February's theme** - Cumin & Vegetables  
**March's theme** - Ginger & Cookies  
**April's theme** - Curry & Poultry

**Saturday Adult Pilot Programs via Zoom** (registration required to obtain Zoom Link):

**Saturday January 23rd at 2 P.M. : Overcoming Stress and Anxiety Using Meditation**

We are living in a time that often feels confusing and stressful. Incorporating meditation in our lives can be the change that makes a difference. Join Daya Sharma as he teaches a simple meditation technique to increase personal well-being.

**Saturday February 20th at 11:30 A.M.: Beginning Yoga with Samantha Copeland from Yoga on 6th**

Have you wanted to try yoga but didn’t know where to start? Join us for a 1 hour online beginner class. This session will walk you through every pose, step by step and help you gain basic knowledge of yoga terminology.

**March Virtual Naturalization Information Session —Time and Date TBD**

Be on the lookout in January & February for updates about our naturalization program! We will join the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to learn about the citizenship process from Mrs. Ramirez of USCIS. This session will be free.

To register for these programs or to learn more information, email Jessica at jmatos@texascitytx.gov or call 409-643-5974.

**LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:** The library will be closed on the following dates:

**MLK Day:** The library will be closed **Monday, January 20th. We will re-open Tuesday, January 21st at 9 AM.**
We are excited to join with Beanstack by Zoobean to create fun reading challenges. Patrons can use Beanstack to register for Seasonal Reading Challenges, keep track of on-going challenges like 100 Books Before College or 1000 Books before Kindergarten, and earn incentives! From January 6th to January 31st, we will participate in Beanstack’s Winter Reading Challenge, “Book Like Us,” sponsored by Simon and Schuster (S&S). We challenge our patrons to read as much as possible during the month and to keep track of how much they’ve read on our Beanstack site at www.texascitylibrary.beanstack.org or on the Beanstack Mobile App (site will go live on Wednesday, January 6th).

The more you read, the more entries you’ll earn for prize drawings at the end of the challenge, including book collections and virtual author visits for MMPL. Happy reading!

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2021 TAX SEASON

The library will have a limited supply of the Form 1040 bundles available at the Reference Desk. If additional forms or schedules are needed, library staff can help patrons print them from the IRS website. Please bring the names and numbers of the forms, publications, or instructions you need to the Reference Desk. Regular print charges apply.

The deadline for filing individual tax returns is Thursday, April 15. Forms, instructions, and FAQ’s can be found at the IRS website at https://www.irs.gov/. Click on the “Help” link at the top of the page to access FAQs and other information about a wide variety of topics. Click on the “Forms and Instructions” box to search for forms, which are available for both the current year and for prior years if needed. There are many options available for filing your taxes. If your income is $72,000 or less, you can file online at the IRS website using IRS Free File.

If your income is greater than $72,000, the IRS provides Free File Fillable Forms but you must do your own calculations. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make $57,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help, particularly for those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues. For more info, use the VITA or AARP Tax-Aid locator tool on the irs.gov site, or call 1-800-906-9887 (VITA) or 888-227-7669 (AARP).

Online tax filing is also available from Turbo Tax (https://turbotax.intuit.com/), TaxAct (https://www.taxact.com/) and H&R Block (https://www.hrblock.com/online-tax-filing/). All three websites offer free filing for simple returns, and charge a fee for more complicated returns. Explore your options early so that you will be ready to file your taxes before April 15!

REMEMBERS:

- Unemployment benefits are taxable income. Taxpayers who unintentionally do not include unemployment income on their taxes could face a tax bill, penalties, or interest charged by the IRS. A drop in income from job loss could mean some households are eligible for deductions and credits that they did not qualify for in the past, such as earned income tax credit or child and dependent care credit.
- Relief checks from the CARES Act - This money is not taxable. This money was actually an advanced payment on the Recovery Rebate Credit for 2020 tax filers.

If you did not receive your payment as part of the CARES Act or only got a partial payment, you can resolve this issue on your 2020 taxes when you file. If you were overpaid, you will not owe. If you did not get a relief check because your income was too high, but it has since fallen in 2020 and made you eligible, you can get the payment via the Recover Rebate Credit. -
Grab 'n Go!: Games and Crafts

Ages 12 - 18 only

Never say the library can't be flexible.
With some ingenuity, our teen programs have been adapted into take-home kits. These kits are designed to be picked up on-site and done from the comfort of one's home. So far, kits have included a murder mystery escape room, a DIY ping-pong Halloween lantern how-to, a D&D-inspired paper garland, and a nifty snowman made from a sock.

And we can't forget our take-home manga kits! These bags feature two cardstock cubeecrafts, manga recommendations, and a way to suggest new series for the library to purchase. So if you like what you've read so far, be sure to check our FaceBook page (@moorepubliclibrary) or Instagram (@mmpltxc) for announcements about upcoming kits!

Among Us: Are You Sus?

Ages 12 - 18 only

In space, no one can hear you impersonate...but they sure can hear that emergency button alarm when it's hit. Teens can now access private Among Us gaming sessions through our new Discord server! There's only been one session so far, but a repeat is guaranteed for current and potential server members. And thanks to the streaming capabilities of Discord, other future games may appear on the MMPL Teens Server.

If you'd like to join us during our next session on Friday, January 29th at 4 PM, be sure to contact our Young Adult Librarian, Maegan, at (409) 949-3008 or mrocio@texascitytx.gov.
With the goal of promoting reading and building early literacy skills, the children's department tried something new this fall by giving out LitKit bags and preschool Busy Bags. People expressed their appreciation for these items making us happy to say we will continue doing it this coming new year. Our monthly LitKit bags for ages 8 to 12 included a book and related fun items and activities. The weekly handouts for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5, included activities and tools to help build pre-reading skills. We will continue to have regular monthly giveaways with a variety of craft and book kits this spring for ages 6 to 12 and bi-weekly handouts for the 3 to 5 age group.

With a reduction in group holiday activities in the city, the library decided to provide some holiday fun for children visiting on-site. In October, library patrons saw a book themed pumpkin patch when they walked into the lobby of the library. Children got to visit the patch and pick a pumpkin bag filled with fun activities and prizes for a special Halloween treat. In December, the library became festive with lots of fun decorations. Children decorated paper ornaments to hang on the holiday tree in the lobby. Special gift bags were handed out the week of December 21st. These gift bags provided some goodies, activity sheets and a MMPL hat.

Last October, the children's department began offering families the opportunity to have individualized storytimes with one of our librarians. This program, Storytime for You, for preschoolers aged 3 to 5, will continue in the new year. Program days and times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9, 10 or 11 am and can be scheduled the week before programs occur. Storytime for You includes stories, songs, fingerplays, bubbles and more! Call our children's staff at 409-643-5966 or 409-643-5983 to schedule a storytime. Note: Storytimes are limited to 4 individuals, 1 parent and up to 3 children. For more information, contact the children's department staff at (409) 643-5966 or (409) 643-5983.
Become a Friend of the Moore Memorial Public Library

Friends Membership Form

Please return this form, along with your payment, to Friends of Moore Memorial PL, 1701 9th Avenue North, Texas City, TX 77590.
Thank you for supporting the library.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please make checks payable to Friends of MMPL.

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City/State Zip ____________________________

Phone ____________________________

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The Friends’ dues for calendar year 2021 (Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021) are the following:

- Individual ($10) ___
- Family ($25) ___
- Senior Citizen 60+($5) ___
- Student ($5) ___
- Sustaining ($50) ___
- Valued Friend ($100) ___
- Life Member ($1,000) ___

For more information about the Friends of the Library, email bbuffa1@gmail.com

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