

H CELEBRATING
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A OF
SERVICE

Handicapped Resource
Association of Texas
August/September 1997



THE RESOURCE

Educating, advocating
and empowering adults with
disabilities

Newsletter sponsored by Westlake's Arlington Hardware

20th Anniversary



Celebration!

Be extra sure you get your tickets soon for the October 17 **Celebration! HRA.** If you didn't make it last year, you may not know that this is a night of **FUN**

with all the necessary ingredients: a gala dinner, drinks and magical entertainment by performing artist Andy Hickman. Master of Ceremonies will be local celeb **Scott Murray!** Please join us and let us thank you for being a friend to HRA in 1997.

This year we will honor our friend and role model **John Dycus.** If you don't know John, -well, you should. As Associate Publisher of UTA's *The Shorthorn*, John has mentored, moulded and befriended student journalists for thirty years. At the same time John's positive influence and spirit pulled HRA through difficult times; by taking on jobs much bigger than himself, his can-do example became contagious. John breaks down barriers. He personifies the spirit of HRA, and is somebody everybody should meet. He'll just make ya feel good.

Individual tickets and sponsored tables are still available for you to bring colleagues and friends to **meet and support HRA** under the name of your business. Your attendance is important! Proceeds from Celebration! HRA will be used to continue **uninterrupted services** to our clients in the face of continual legislative cuts. A portion of each ticket is tax deductible.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, American Airlines, Lockheed-Martin, Westlake's Arlington Hardware, UTA, Arlington National Bank, Harris Methodist and others will be there to support HRA.

We'll start with a 6:30 reception; dinner at 7:00 with entertainment following. Lots of fun **door prizes** will be given away, and absolutely no additional fund-giving opportunities (aside from your ticket), will cross your path.

continued...see Celebration on p. 2.

RAMPS project: It's all uphill from here

Six local Kiwanis clubs under James Long and the Six Flags Sunrise Kiwanis Club are ready to carry out HRA's RAMPS project to build home access for those who cannot afford to build them. Their teams are ready to go!

HRA is fiduciary for the project, which it proposed last year to Tarrant County Housing Finance Corporation. The project budget is \$4,000.

Westlake's Arlington Hardware will donate storage space for ramps and the trucks to deliver them. The Junior League of Arlington has approved the program for the placement and training of their novices and will staff the project from an operations base at HRA.

The Richardson Kiwanis will provide advice and assistance to the six groups; it has a long history of building ramps for their area's people with disability. (They're fast, too - four Richardsonites can build a ramp in half a day!)

HRA is now taking applications for the RAMPS project. If you live in Arlington or Mansfield and have financial need, you are eligible to apply.

For information on how to apply please call Olivia Acosta at 469-1977.

Attendants!

In case you missed this tidbit, as of Labor Day your salary increased to \$5.30 per hour - (15 cents higher than the new minimum wage). The \$5.15 minimum wage is the second part of a 1996 law passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton to boost the minimum wage by 90 cents.

PAC Training begins this month

Training will be given at all levels - I, II, and III. Training for Dallas Attendants will be September 13; for Tarrant County, September 16.

Level III classes will be taught for the first time this year, as its first group of Attendants hits the BIG THREE.

Budget Cuts Cut!

Meet Jim Liddell

and
FDR Uncovered

Send Your Comments:
Cookbook for Disabled
and FDR Memorial

DFW Classic Car Show Report

Another car show is on the books for HRA.

During the weekend of July 12 & 13, about 1500 people attended one of the best-looking car shows yet. Over 100 cars were on display, in all makes, models, shapes, sizes & colors. Amazingly, the weather cooperated this year and instead of monstrously hot it was only, I'd say, *beastly* hot. But there was lots of shade for everybody.

Live music, the Volkswagen Bug Swarm III, and the Collectible Toy Expo punctuated the sea of cars with little "hot spots" of their own.

Arlington National Bank, Gary McKinney Auto, The Texas Rangers and Arlington Morning News supported the show benefitting Great Southwest Rotary Club and HRA.

Big thanks go to all who helped put together this 5th Annual event!

Meet Jim Liddell

At first, new Board Member Jim Liddell wasn't sure whether he wanted to be interviewed by the nosy roving HRA reporter who called him. But the friendly single guy soon warmed up after the questions started flying.

Jim grew up in Arlington and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin's Architecture program. He worked as a practicing architect for ten years until Multiple Sclerosis began inhibiting him more than his career would allow. After about two years as a client of HRA, someone from HRA called to propose the idea of Jim taking a position on the Board of Directors. As Jim puts it, he said, "ok." And the rest is history.

Jim is currently taking classes at UTA for fun; studio art is his bag at the moment. He particularly enjoys painting and video classes, as one might expect from an architect.

When asked the question, "Few people know I _____," he answered, "have a 21 year-old son".

Jim hopes to do whatever he can to support HRA with ideas and expertise during his time on the Board.

Welcome, Jim Liddell!

Celebration! HRA

continued from page 1

Tickets are available through HRA at 469-1977. Or, fill out this form and mail it to the address below.

SEE YOU THERE!

NAME _____

I'D LIKE TO RESERVE _____ INDIVIDUAL TICKETS @ \$50 EACH.

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Predicted Budget Cuts Dropped

HRA, bracing itself for the impending shock of a 10% cut from Texas Rehabilitation Commission, breathed a sigh of relief recently when it learned that TRC had decided to forego the reduction in funding. After TRC proposed the cut, an outcry from consumers all over Texas persuaded TRC to revisit the options and find the savings elsewhere.

HRA retains \$400,000 of funding due to this new decision. TRC funding will remain at the same level until August 31, 1998.

DFW Airport Changes Parking Policies

DFW Airport has changed its policy regarding free parking for patrons with disabilities. DFW says it has lost as much as \$2 million a year to the free parking and pushed for legislation to remove the benefit.

"Every disabled patron will be treated like any other patron on September 1," said Kevin Cox, the airport's Deputy Executive Director of Governmental Affairs.

So guys, take a little extra cash when you go to park at the airport.

Executive Director Search Still On

Informed sources say that the HRA board is in its second round of an Executive Director search. Resumes will be accepted until September 29, and the board hopes to have the position filled in November.



INTERNET RESOURCES

Access Media

Through this site you can find media and legislative information about disability, as they put it, "in a form that is useful to you."

<http://www.human.com/mkt/access/index.html>

Challenge 2000

This is a fairly extensive site created in the Chicago area but includes career and job search listings all over the U.S. There is a job seeker's manual, a page for resume building, the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Handbook, and information on your legal rights on the job.

<http://www2.interaccess.com/netown/jobs/jinternet.htm>

Impact

This organization "promotes full participation of people with disabilities in their communities and enhances prospects of people with disabilities, achieving their fullest human potential."

Very nice, well designed site, although some graphics slow to download. Cover story from this site about Franklin Delano Roosevelt is printed in this newsletter.

<http://www.impactcil.org/>

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Writer of Cookbook Requests Ideas

The HRA roving reporter has been in contact recently with Nicolas Steenhout, a creative guy who has come up with an idea for a cookbook designed to circumvent some of the physical challenges of cooking and the kitchen.

Nicolas, a chef by trade, says he has a love for and understanding of food and cooking and would like to address the issue of disability, which he feels is lacking in the culinary field.

He is looking for ideas, gathering comments, and looking for peoples' own solutions to cooking with disabilities.

Some topics of interest to him: safety in food handling (sanitation, creative ways to carry hot pots safely, etc.); using mirrors to check on food; cooking with fresh ingredients rather than frozen or

ready-made; dietary ways to help regulate bowel control, and adding calcium to the diet (from non-dairy items where possible). He wants to keep recipes to a minimum number of ingredients and to make recipes for one-pot cooking while reducing cutting, chopping, and so on. Nicolas has visited the adaptive kitchen of the Rehab Institute of Chicago and spoken to management there, where he picked up some common sense items for kitchen planning, but needs more input from those who face these challenges every day.

If you have any ideas or personal experiences to share (no suggestion too small!) please e-mail Nicholas at nsteen@rocketmail.com, or call one of the following numbers: 817-469-1977 (Olivia Acosta at HRA) or 817-265-6518 (Cynthia Brink). One of us will forward your comments to him.



For over a year, the friends of HRA have been using their KROGER CARES CARDS when they buy groceries. Each time you buy canned whipped cream, tofu or Cheetos, a percentage of all purchases made with the HRA card is donated directly to the agency. At the end of the year we should draw several hundred dollars from our Kroger account. So- we should all continue thinking of HRA when we shop at Kroger. Just show the card with Handicapped Resource Association printed on it before your checkout is complete.

Thanks to all of you who are helping HRA take advantage of the Kroger plan. If you need a new card call Kroger Card Queen Olivia Acosta at HRA.



1-800-235-0741

Start Your Metroplex Home Search from "The Showroom" overlooking Centerfield at the Ballpark in Arlington

Our Internet Address is:
<http://www.quikaccess-dfw.com/gvz/>



FDR Uncovered

from the website *Impact On Line*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected President of the United States four times: in 1932, 1936, 1940 and 1944. He died early in his fourth term. It was generally known that he had polio, but generally thought that his disability was minor, hardly noticeable. He had contracted polio in 1921, and by his first term, in fact, Roosevelt was severely disabled to the point that he was unable to walk unaided. He could not even take a step without the aid of at least one strong man to lean on.

Hugh Gallagher, in his book, *FDR's Splendid Deception*, makes the point that Roosevelt essentially deceived the world and "passed" as having little or no disability. In private he spent a lot of time in a wheelchair, but not in public. Very few photographs were taken of FDR while he was actually in his wheelchair.

Roosevelt would go to great lengths to conceal his disability. Gallagher points to some examples in his book:

The first tale is from 1928 when Roosevelt was to attend the Democratic Convention. James is Roosevelt's son:

"James surveyed the convention hall, seeking out the exits, the speaker's platform, and the location of the New York Delegation. Roosevelt was determined not to be seen in a wheelchair unless absolutely neces-

sary. He and James attended every session, arriving early each day in order to get their seats before the arrival of the other delegates."

"Occasionally James would take his father by wheelchair to the hall entrance close to the seats of the New York Delegation so he could get as close as possible. At the door, Roosevelt's braces would be locked and he would be pulled to a standing position. With James holding one arm, and a crutch under the other, he would slowly make his way down the aisle."

Today, the FDR memorial site in Washington, D.C. still depicts FDR as having no disability, when the disability must necessarily have been an influence on his personal development, his priorities and values.

The author of this article believes that it is "shameful" not to depict FDR as he really was; that this is deceptive to the American public.

Do you think FDR's statue should be recreated to depict him with his disability?

I would like to hear your comments for future newsletters. Send them to me by mail c/o HRA, or zap me an e-mail at alux@why.net.

-Cynthia Brink

SOMETHING DIFFERENT...

Have you ever been to an Organ Demonstration at the Meyerson Symphony Center? The Meyerson boasts the beautiful Lay Family Concert Organ, completed in 1992. The organ now has 4,535 pipes ranging in size from teeny weeny (3/16" in diameter) to really big (32 feet tall and 18" in diameter). It is a sight to see - and hear - and feel.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra Resident Organist Mary Preston gives **free** demonstrations on the following days this fall:

Wednesday, September 24 @ 12:30p.m. (public tour following at 1:00)

Wednesday, October 29 @ 1:00 p.m., (public tour following at 1:30)

Monday, November 24 @ 12:30 p.m., (public tour following at 1:00)

Tuesday, December 23, 1997 @ 12:30p.m. This is a special demonstration highlighting music of the Holiday season. (an extended 45 minute program with no public tour on this day)

If you haven't seen the hall, just visiting is worthwhile. Great architecture and a beautiful, wood-paneled performance hall in an classic multilevel theater style. No seat is far from the performance, and the sound is incredible.

Demonstrations are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required but requested for groups of 15 or more. Form more information call 214-670-3600.

Advertise your company here and reach over 1000 HRA clients and their families; employees of HRA, human service representatives and city offices in eleven counties in North Texas.

Prices range from \$35 to \$85 per bimonthly edition. Something to sell? Place your classified ad for just \$15.

The price of your ad also goes to help HRA build needed funds. For information please call Cynthia Brink at 817-265-6518.

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