Two Generations of Outstanding Friends
A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends of Fondren Library:

It has been a wonderfully busy fall for the new board and our dedicated director, Mary Bixby. Our initial fall event, the Distinguished Guest Lecture, featured a reading and discussion by the noted author and essayist, Susan Sontag. In spite of the rainy weather we had a large and appreciative audience. Following on the heels of that memorable event, Lee Seureau and Chuck Wheeler presented the most successful Book Sale yet...so many books, so little time.

At the annual Homecoming Brunch it was a special pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of Past President (1991-1993) Elaine Illig Davis. In this issue we are delighted to share with you the text of her sparkling, informative talk.

Next on the Friends' calendar is a dynamite evening at the newly restored Rice (Hotel). Susie Glasscock and her committee have been planning an event in celebration of the devoted service to the library by William Hobby and wife Diana. The gala is always a great party and a marvelous event in support of the library. President Malcolm Gillis has agreed to be the auctioneer for the evening working with Chief Spotter Bucky Allshouse! The gala honoring the Hobbys will support the Friends' new Special Collections Endowment Fund. Our present endowment fund which supports the purchase of books and materials for the library has reached $2.3 million.

The library, under the leadership of Charles Henry, has also been busy this fall, holding grand openings for two new departments: the Geographic Information System/Data Center and the South Central Intellectual Property Partnership (SCIPPR). And just to whet your appetite for future events, we are already planning the Fondren 2000 Tour of Libraries in Ireland and/or Scotland. Call Mary Bixby for details or to add your name to the list of (possible) participants.

We need your support and enthusiasm for all our activities and, as Elaine Davis will attest, you will have fun being of service to the library. So please don't hesitate to offer your time, talents, and ideas.

Sincerely,

Texas Anderson
President

FONDRÉN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present building was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library celebrated its half-millionth volume in 1965 and its one-millionth volume on April 22, 1979.

THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a program of memorials and honor gifts, secure gifts and bequests, and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that are needed to support teaching and research at the university.

THE FLYLEAF

Founded October, 1950, The Flyleaf is published by the Friends of Fondren Library. MS - 245, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892. The Flyleaf is a record of the activities of the Friends, the Fondren Library, and the generosity of the library's supporters. The Flyleaf is published three times in each academic calendar year and is also available online at the Friends of Fondren web site at http://ruf.rice.edu/~fofl/.
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The Fondren Library Master Planning Study is now in its final phases. The origin of the Study can be traced to the goals and general mandate of the Report of the Library Planning Committee, published in the spring of 1997. The Report identified areas of Fondren activity considered most critical for the coming decade and suggested ways to build upon the current foundations of excellence as well as address those areas of services and programs that were new or in need of stronger development. The aim is to create a library of national prominence, a model of creative flexibility adaptable with elegance and energy to the ongoing transformations brought about by the surge in digital resources, changes in research methodologies, and the emergence of startling new areas of academic research, best epitomized at Rice by nanotechnology and related work under the supervision of our Nobel laureates.

The details of Fondren’s evolution were left to a future process, which became known as the Master Planning Study, inaugurated in late 1997 with the hiring of architects Geoffrey Freeman and Wendell Wickerham from the prestigious Boston firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott. SBRA, as it is usually abbreviated, has a remarkable record of new and restored libraries to its credit, including the beautifully-renovated Boston Public Library, as well as work performed at many prominent educational institutions in America.

During the past year, the architects have met with nearly two hundred members of the University community, including faculty from every school, students, administrators, and librarians, and members of the Friends. Many themes have emerged from these interviews, which have allowed the architects to draw preliminary spatial arrangements that best meet the articulated needs of our complex community. An intensive cost analysis is now underway to determine the price of construction and the overall library project. A narrative distillation of the year’s work, with accompanying diagrams and a detailed budget, will be presented to the Board of Trustees during the spring semester.

As new plans for the library at Rice coalesce, some of the more provocative themes to guide the reorganization of space and services can be identified. They include the need for an open, dynamic building wherein students and faculty can observe each other in the act of research and scholarship; where new technologies merge gracefully with more traditional resources; and where library staff help steer the Rice community through labyrinthine yet exciting avenues of intellectual exploration. We will need to recognize, "It is no longer the size and scope of the collections...that make a library great..."

The aim is to create a library of national prominence, a model of creative flexibility adaptable with elegance and energy...
perhaps more programmatically than in the past, that we are created in large part by our questions, and that a library that structures its staff and services to assure the most polished and sophisticated response to those questions is the kind of institution necessary to position Rice well into the next century. The new library thus reveals the process of questioning and its myriad resolutions. A more traditional library, organized by the processes associated with coherent and secure material storage and access, often conceals this activity in a variety of service and assembly compartments.

The nature of knowledge acquisition and professional expertise has also changed remarkably in the late twentieth century, particularly in contrast with some assumptions prevalent when Rice opened near the century’s beginning. It was reasonable to expect that a student could learn a sufficient amount of knowledge in a particular field to carry him or her through a career. Today, the knowledge acquired through a degree in some fields of engineering or computer science, for instance, becomes obsolete within five years, and sometimes less than that.

We will need to recognize, perhaps more programmatically than in the past, that we are created in large part by our questions...

Academic fields that are less susceptible to rapid methodological change, such as the humanities, also have become more volatile with the introduction of digital technology in teaching and research, which often brings about new ways of extrapolating meaning from texts and images.

The knowledge base of the very finest of undergraduate and even graduate degrees is thus more transient. This suggests that future leaders will not be marked by their retention of information garnered in a college or university but by their ability to formulate questions of precision and insight in a world of changing perspective and understanding. The new library at Rice will insist on bringing students together to foster collaboration, multiple perspectives, and to encourage communication and interaction. The best learning strategies have, and will continue to have, a major social component—great universities, like Rice, are consistently residential.

The library, as the heart of any school, must also be structured by the act of questioning that is contextualized by a vibrant, inquisitive community. Without question the new Fondren Library will have quiet, serene spaces to encourage private thinking and individual rumination so critical to self discovery and the refinement of new ideas. At the same time it is important to acknowledge the metamorphoses that are now apparent, and to incorporate this recognition into the planning process. It is no longer the size and scope of the collections or the number of staff or miles of stacks that make a library great but the degree of sophistication by which those resources are queried, reconstituted, and understood.

The success of the new Fondren will be measured by the ability of our graduates to provide leadership in a world as flush with possibility as it is with challenge. The new building will thus need to embody a dynamic process quite distinct from the comfortable mastery that informed the design of its predecessors. By expanding upon that tradition in a thoughtful and constructive way, the next library will reflect, and reflect brilliantly, the academic mission of the University, readied for the extraordinary achievements that surely lie ahead of us.
Meet the FOFL Board

Were it not for the fact that an ancestor present at the Alamo as Santa Ana’s army approached accepted the dangerous task of riding out alone to seek reinforcements and thereby escaped the fate that met those who stayed behind, the Friends of Fondren might not have been blessed to count Elizabeth Kidd among its elect. But that young man rode out and when Elizabeth Kidd returned to Houston six years ago after an absence of 19 years that took her and her husband Albert, a Rice graduate and term member of the Board of Governors, to London, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and New Jersey, she quickly reinforced the Friends, as president and gala chair, among other things. Who is this heroine? Born Elizabeth Minter (yes, as in David Minter, her uncle, professor of English and former interim librarian) White, in Houston, where she attended high school before pursuing her bachelor’s degree at the University of Texas in Austin and marrying her high school (Bellaire) sweetheart, Albert. She earned a master’s degree in international affairs at Drew University and continued her studies to within a dissertation of obtaining a Ph.D. at Rutgers University. It goes without saying that she has not allowed herself the time to work on that dissertation since returning to Houston, serving as chairperson of the Serve Houston Youth Corp, (which sponsors 120 high school students earning scholarships through community service), as president of her neighborhood civic association, as a charter member of the Women in International Security society and a member of the American Political Science Association, in addition to her duties to the Friends and as mother to three sons scattered from home to Austin to London, England. A passionate reader, Elizabeth still hosts Club 1619, the book club she organized upon her return to Houston, perpetuating a tradition of organizing a book club at every stop along her journey through life. While husband Albert plans the construction of an eventual home outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Elizabeth continues to devote much time, energy and wise counsel to the Friends. We can only hope that construction in Santa Fe progresses as slowly as it does here in Houston.

Long-time board member, Dorothy Knox Houghton, is a native Houstonian who attended the Kincaid School and Lamar High School before majoring in English at Bryn Mawr and earning a master’s degree in English literature from the University of Texas. Her Houston roots and connections to Rice University run deep. Her family still owns the homesite of her great-great-grandfather, John P. Harris, for whom Harris County and Harrisburg are named, and her stepfather, Edmund McAshan Dupree, was among the first graduating class from Rice. She and her husband of 30 years, Tom Houghton, also a native Texan, reside in a last home designed by noted architect, Birdsall Briscoe, for her mother and stepfather. It is no surprise that one of her passions is Texas and local history. Long active in the Houston Junior League, she proposed a project that led to the publication of Houston’s Forgotten Heritage: Landscape. Houses, Interiors, 1824-1914 (Rice University Press, 1991), which she co-authored. It was very well received, and she and her co-authors were honored at the annual Friends of Fondren Authors Reception. The Houston Club and its City. One Hundred Years, published in 1995, is her second book. She has also authored numerous articles on local history for various publications including our own Flyleaf. Much of the research for her books was done in the Fondren Library. She refers to Rice as “her adopted college” and “cannot imagine Houston without it.” Dorothy has served on various gala committees and as secretary during her tenure on the Friends board.
Susan Sontag is Fifth Distinguished Guest Lecturer

by Kathryn V. Smyser, Event Chair

Essayist, novelist, and cultural critic, Susan Sontag delivered the fifth annual Friends of Fondren Library Distinguished Guest Lecture on Sunday, October 18, 1998. The Brown Foundation of Houston again provided generous underwriting support for this Friends’ event.

A crowd of over four hundred, undeterred by thunderstorms and floods, heard a captivating personal chronicle of Ms. Sontag’s life as a writer, excerpts from her play, Alice in Bed, and a reading from her forthcoming novel, In America. Introducing Ms. Sontag, Vice Provost and University Librarian Charles Henry praised her courage and compassion, qualities manifest in her lecture which recounted a life of “incessant self-reinvention” through writing.

The origins of Ms. Sontag’s career as a writer can be traced to early years spent as a reader, specifically as a reader of novels, which she deems the “books of life.” Recounting the experience of reading Les Misérables at age nine “through buckets of tears,” she recalled that novels enlarged and deepened her and fostered the formation of a moral perspective on life. Her early aspirations for a career in medicine gradually receded as the demands of writing compelled a professional commitment.

Ms. Sontag’s first novel. The Benefactor, published in 1963, was followed by a series of extraordinary collections of essays, including Styles of Radical Will, On Photography, and AIDS and Its Metaphors. The success of these essays led her to concentrate on nonfiction for almost thirty years despite persistent discomfort at what she termed her “failure of courage” in allowing her work as an essayist to supersede her commitment to the primacy of the novel. The Volcano Lover, published in 1992, marked Ms. Sontag’s rebirth as a fiction writer. Continuing with this renewed commitment to the novel Ms. Sontag will publish a new novel, titled In America, in 1999. Like The Volcano Lover, In America is a historical novel. The book tells the story of late 19th century Polish immigrants to the United States and, in the process also tells the story of its own invention.

Ms. Sontag’s discussion of her life and work and the primacy of the art of fiction in both was an inspiring presentation. Her lecture, at once exceptionally intelligent and intensely personal, spoke eloquently to the obligation of the educated mind to be accompanied by a courageous spirit. Ms. Sontag’s appearance as the Friends’ fifth Distinguished Guest Lecturer thus carried forward the Friends’ tradition of bringing to Rice individuals whose appearance on campus enriches our understanding of our world and ourselves in ways that endure long after the Sunday afternoon spent in Stude Hall has passed.

Diana Hobby, Susan Sontag, and Bill Hobby

Roxanne Shaw, Texas Anderson, Sally Reynolds, Henry Hernandez, and Albert Kidd (seated)
The 1998 Friends of Fondren Book Sale was a great success with approximately 6,000 books finding new homes. The sale netted over $8,000 which set a record for this popular event. Advance preparations, collecting, culling, sorting, re-boxing, and pricing resulted in a collection of high quality books available for re-purchase at this year’s three-day sale.

The Halloween weekend sale was held in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center and was kicked off by the FOFL member’s preview and advance sale on Friday evening. Event chairs Lee Chatham Seureau and Chuck Wheeler welcomed members who browsed while snacking on wine and cheese, coffee and cookies.

The long line of customers awaiting entrance to the Grand Hall formed early Saturday morning. Offerings were separated into fiction and non-fiction—both paper and hardback, foreign language, children’s books, cookbooks, Rice University publications, music, and better books. FOFL appreciates the assistance of Oscar Graham and Ed Snow for evaluating and pricing the collection of better books.

The 1999 sale will feature a table of mysteries with combined hard and paperback. Non-fiction volumes will be divided into math/science and humanities. Should you wish to down-size your library or make room for additions, the Friends of Fondren will happily receive your books at either of two locations. Boxed books in good condition may be delivered to: Star Motor Cars, 7000 Katy Road, - 713-868-6800 or Fondren Library Loading Dock - 713-285-5157.
McMurtry Papers Arrive at Fondren

A major collection of manuscripts by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Larry McMurtry, including novels, movie scripts and videos of daily filming for Streets of Laredo—complete with scribbled notes complaining because the TV towns needed more dust—arrived at Fondren Library in December.

The list of McMurtry manuscripts includes: Texasville, Buffalo Girls, The Evening Star, Streets of Laredo, and Terms of Endearment to mention a few. Also in the collection are collaborative works of McMurtry and Diana Ossana including manuscripts for the novels Pretty Boy Floyd and Zeke and Ned. Other works include the papers from two television mini-series Dead Man’s Walk and Streets of Laredo. Those papers include original scripts, production files, video cassettes of each day’s shooting, pertinent reference books, and correspondence with producers, directors and agents.

Rice and Mr. McMurtry have a long relationship. He earned his master’s degree from Rice in 1960 and served as an associate professor of English at Rice from 1969 to 1972. Mr. McMurtry left Rice to devote himself to writing. He now lives in Archer City, Texas, where he writes and operates Booked Up, a book store contained in four buildings with over 350,000 volumes.

Courtesy of Rice University Office of Media Relations and Information
On November 14th the Friends of Fondren paid homage to one of their past presidents, Elaine Illig Davis (1991-1993) at the annual Homecoming Brunch in the Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library. This is a favorite shared event of the Friends, and the crowd this year broke all past records.

In the same venue the Rice Engineering Alumni vice president, Paul Phillips, presented the Outstanding Alumna award to Patsy Chappelear. One of the earliest female engineering graduates from Rice, she noted her debt of gratitude to several of the teachers who assisted and encouraged her in her academic pursuits and recounted her responsibilities as research assistant for Professors Riki Kobayashi and T.W. Leland, Jr. She later joined Hudson Engineering Corporation where she remained until her retirement in 1986; she continues work as an engineering consultant and remains active in numerous professional organizations. Alan Hirshberg was honored as the Outstanding Young Engineering Alumnus. After graduating from Rice, Mr. Hirshberg broke engineering ground in the oil and gas business by showing that computer simulations could replace lab testing in some cases. He is now the senior department head and manager of upstream planning, analysis, and financial reporting for Exxon Company U.S.A.

Gus Schill, retired Alumni trustee, gave a glowing endorsement of this year’s Outstanding Friends’ recipient as he presented the award to past president Davis. So delightful were Elaine’s stories and her history of our organization, we decided to share those remarks (which follow) with our readers.

What a very special moment this is for me. To be honored by people I love for participating in a project I am devoted to makes me wonder if any one person should ever be singled out for being a Friend of Fondren Library.

I have to accept this award on behalf of all the friends, volunteers and board members who have made my years of service so rewarding. As all of you know, Rice people will do anything to help—they're ready to roll up their sleeves and go to work, no matter how large or how insignificant the activity. I remember sitting next to a prominent Rice surgeon who volunteered his lunch hour to help tie ribbons around the napkins for the gala dinner one year. He was as intent on the project at hand as he would have been in overseeing an organ transplant, and, thanks to his experience with suturing, he was also a lot faster than any of the rest of us.

Enthusiasm is another Rice characteristic. I remember the board’s enthusiasm that got us into a renewal of the Friends of Fondren Used Book Sale, which is now an eagerly awaited event. No one gave a thought to how much space boxes of books take up—you can’t just store them in your garage. We announced the space crisis—no problem, a board member happened to have an empty warehouse we could use. Local businesses agreed to act as drop-off stations, volunteers with station wagons and vans roamed Houston making house calls for donated books. When it was time to sort thousands of books
and transport them to Rice for the sale, volunteers—some of them library staffers and Rice faculty members—turned out and made it fun, not work. The sale not only raises money for library endowments and projects, but it brings book lovers together to celebrate the written word, the rare book, the gold-tooled leather bindings, the outdated typeface, the special ragged-edged paper, the ancient set with one volume missing. There’s a pleasure derived from books that one finds nowhere else—the excitement of starting a new novel, the satisfaction in rereading a beloved old one, the suspense in opening the best selling biography to page one, the sense of accomplishment when information one needs appears on the next turned page, the feeling of the successful sleuth when a paragraph opens your eyes to a new solution to an old problem. It’s certainly a universal love that has bonded the many Friends of Fondren together over the years.

So many of those Friends helped me during my board service: Joan Ryan, Tom Smith, Walter Baker, Betty Charles. We were so fortunate to have as board members Diana Hobby, Texas Anderson, Joanie Hard, David Elder, Sally Reynolds, Karen Rogers, Bob Patten, Elizabeth Kidd, Roxanne Shaw, Susan Merriman, Bettie Carroll, Herman Schulz, Bill Pannill, Charles Maynard. I know I’ve left someone important off my list. Our board meetings were full of laughter as well as progressive ideas.

There is another very personal reason I am so touched by this honor. Both my mother and father—Lillian and Carl Illig—have always been deeply committed to the Friends. The group—now the oldest support group on the campus—was founded in 1950, and by 1955, my father was serving a three-year term as president. My mother’s turn came in 1973, when she served as president until 1975. She is with us today, and I’d like to ask Lillian Illig to raise her hand so all her friends and devoted fans can say hello. Of course, I know I’m standing here trying to fill very large footprints left by both my parents. They were the Friends of Fondren Homecoming Honorees in 1985.

When Mother was president, the Friends decided to have a Charles Dickens type Christmas party. She loved to tell the story of the time the entire board meeting was spent debating the relative merits of two plum pudding recipes—the Craig Claiborne George the V recipe versus the easy recipe. My dear friend Gus Schill remembers well squirming throughout this infamous recipe debate—desperate to get back to his office and having little to contribute to the culinary discussion. What I remember is my mother’s kitchen covered with ripening plum puddings and the smell of brandy and cinnamon.

The party was a great success and got more publicity for the Friends than they ever dreamed possible when The New York Times featured a write-up on the party. It was written by Craig Claiborne, the food editor, so I’ll let you guess which recipe won out.

Since the early days of the Friends, the then-small group has grown to a thriving organization of nearly 1400 members. In 1976, Mr. and Mrs. H. Malcolm Lovett gave the initial gift of $1,000 for the library’s endowment fund. Today the endowment has grown to $2.3 million! And another endowment has been founded to preserve and make accessible the special collections of the library. And the gala set a record this year in netting $110,000. It is your devotion that has been a major factor in that remarkable growth.

In 1997, as you know, William and Diana Hobby announced a $21.4 million gift from the Hobby Foundation to Fondren Library. This generous gift is a giant step toward launching Rice into a new era of acquiring and enjoying the information that in the past was available only between the covers of books and journals. The library also will benefit from a 10-year $500 million improvement plan call “Rice: The Next Century.” A Boston architectural firm is analyzing Rice’s library needs and in 1999 will present a plan for expanding the central library to the west. The groundbreaking for this addition is scheduled for 2000. I only hope they bring back those wonderful cork floors and huge windows that made walking into the library a little like entering Wonderland.

We all know Fondren has much to be proud of today—frequently cited are its Southern History collection, rare first editions of 18th and 19th century philosophical works, and the Julian Huxley Papers. Fondren is also home to the Journal of Southern History, the Woodson Research Center Archives, and the Papers of Jefferson Davis. Librarian Charles Henry says this is our opportunity to become a leader in the New Age of libraries. His goal is to make Fondren the most innovative and creative academic library in the United States by expanding its physical space, enhancing research capabilities, enlarging the undergraduate reference library, networking with other state and national groups, and by exploring new technologies. Fondren Library MUST be in the forefront. We have no choice but to keep up, and there is no question that we will succeed. With supporters like the Friends, success is a given.

It is exciting to be part of this vibrant effort. I want to wish the Friends of Fondren Library continued success in the next century. Thank you again for honoring me.
Bookmark

Bookmark is the book club of the Friends of Fondren Library, featuring book reviews both in print and online at our web site. You can participate by adding your own reviews and comments. Log on to: www.rice.edu/Fondren which is the library’s home page. Click on Friends of Fondren, and at the Friends’ home page, click on Bookmark.

The God of Small Things

Review by Charles D. Maynard, Jr., Vice President, Publications

With two small children, I have more than my share of distractions, limiting the time I can devote to reading and forcing me to be ever more selective in choosing what to read. But it was precisely those two distractions that led me to pick up The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy’s 1997 tale of childhood, family, innocence, initiation and loss. In the opening chapter, the voice of the book, Rahel, a maternal twin speaking of her brother, Estha, “the older by eighteen minutes,” reflects:

“They were two-egg twins...”

“They never did look much like each other...there was none of the usual ‘Who is who?’ and ‘Which is which?’”

“The confusion lay in a deeper, more secret place.”

“In those early amorphous years when memory had only just begun, when life was full of BEGINNINGS and no ENDS, and EVERYTHING was FOREVER, Esthappen and Rahel thought of themselves together as Me...”

“...now she thinks of Estha and Rahel as THEM, because, separately, the two of them are no longer what THEY were or ever thought THEY’d be.”

Rahel, returning to her home in India from America after many years and reunited with her now reclusive and mute brother, recalls a “memory of waking up one night giggling at Estha’s funny dream.” She still knows his thoughts and speaks for him who will no longer speak for himself.

What intervened is the story Roy tells in language that astounds and uplifts with its artistry. John Updike, commented in the New Yorker: “A novel of real ambition needs to invent its own language, and this one does.” The New York Times Book Review said: “The quality of Ms. Roy’s narration is so extraordinary – at once so morally strenuous and so imaginatively supple – that the reader remains enthralled all the way through. And U.S.A. Today proclaimed: “Offers such magic, mystery and sadness that, literally, this reader turned the last page and decided to re-read it... It’s that hauntingly wonderful.” This reader did, too, but had to defer the pleasure to allow my wife to read it first.

The landscape of the book is literally exotic, but like fairy tale settings which, when actually visited, seem wholly familiar. The acuity of her depiction of childhood and a

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Fondren Saturday Night XIX

On Saturday, February 20, 1999, the Friends of Fondren Library will host Fondren Saturday Night XIX honoring Diana and Bill Hobby. Mr. and Mrs. Hobby are longtime leaders in government, business, and community service, and their involvement with and generosity to Rice University have been extraordinary. On December 11, 1997, the Hobby Family foundation designated endowment funds of $21.4 million to Fondren Library.

The gala will be held in The Crystal Ballroom at The Rice (the former Rice Hotel). Cocktails, dinner, and silent and live auctions will benefit the Friends of Fondren Endowment Fund for Special Collections.

Susanne Glasscock, gala chair, predicts that the event will be a sell-out. Generous underwriters have reserved a record number of tables, and individual ticket sales are expected to be brisk.

The silent auction will feature some perennial favorites: a child’s dress handsmocked by Eleanor Curtis and the Glenwood Cemetery tour/picnic. New silent auction items in 1999 include a retired card catalog cabinet (with 45 drawers—great for crafts, hobbies, nuts and bolts), a week-end for six at Pirates Beach, an antique mah-jongg set, and a Rice Commencement program signed by Kurt Vonnegut.

The finale of this very special evening will be the live auction led by President Malcolm Gillis. He will offer for sale such treats as a trip for two to the 1999 Rice-Hawaii football game, a live miniature horse, the much-sought-after owl ring, and a visit to New England via Continental Airlines with accommodations at The Village Inn (pictured below) owned by a Rice alumnus.

Continued from p. 12

child’s mind is such that we unhesitatingly and comfortably accept as authentic the fictive realms of both the novelist and the child, almost as if they are our own recollections, as well as the child’s painful journey from the world she must imagine because of the understandable but ultimately futile efforts of parents to protect their children from the truth of harsh reality and the accompanying gradual discovery by the child of the human in the parent as the veil is lifted. These themes resonate dramatically through the story, the real events of which become a paradigm of the emotional process.

Fortunately, Ms. Roy is also a master of character. Hers are individually vivid and convincing in large part because she so skillfully and emotively presents the welter of familial relationships that have formed each of them, the truth of which the children eventually discover, though only at the culmination of the tale. The beautifully wrought evolution of the children’s psyches allows the reader to participate in the process and marvel at the subtlety and grace of the children’s perceptions of reality as they struggle to reconcile themselves to what is revealed to them. The truth, when fully known, is anything but subtle, and conventionally shocking, but ultimately entirely comprehensible in terms of the needs of the characters, characters who will live within you long after you turn that last page.
Membership in the Friends of Fondren Library is open to everyone. It is not an alumni organization. Membership contributions are as follows:

Recent Alumni (1-5 years since graduation from Rice) ...................... $10
Contributor .................................................................................. $50
Sponsor .......................................................................................... $100
Patron ............................................................................................... $250
Benefactor ...................................................................................... $500
Library Fellow ................................................................................ $1,000

Members of the Friends receive The Flyleaf and invitations to special programs and events sponsored by the Friends. Members who are not already faculty or staff of the university receive library privileges. A maximum of four books may be checked out for a period of 28 days, and a photo ID is required. Members must be at least 18. Checks for membership contributions should be made out to the Friends of Fondren Library and mailed to Rice University, Friends of Fondren Library MS 245, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas, 77251-1892, along with your preferred name and address listing and home and business phone numbers. Under Internal Revenue Service Guidelines the estimated value of the benefits received is not substantial; therefore the full amount of your gift is a deductible contribution.

Gifts and Memorials Program

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June 1, 1998–September 30, 1998

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Rice Authors Reception

The annual Rice Authors Reception is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 21, 1999, in the Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library. This event will honor Rice faculty, staff, alumni, and Friends’ members who have authored books published in 1998, edited journals published in 1998, composed major musical works or mounted one-person art shows in 1998.

If you are a 1998 author or if you know of someone who is, please contact the Friends office by Jan. 31, 1999, via phone (713-285-5157) or e-mail (mbixby@rice.edu).

1999 Annual Meeting

The Friends of Fondren Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 25, 1999, at Cohen House. The evening will begin with a reception, followed by dinner and program.