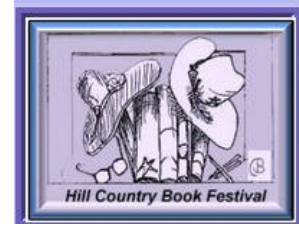


HISTORY OF THE HILL COUNTRY BOOK FESTIVAL AT GEORGETOWN



"Building Generations of Writers"

A committee of eight Georgetown, Texas residents, interested in improving the literacy rate in Williamson County, encouraging the interest in writing, and increasing the relationship between readers and authors organized the Hill Country Book Festival at Georgetown May 7, 2007. June 14, 2007 a Certificate of Formation was filed with the Office of Texas Secretary of State. March 5, 2008 the 501(c)(3) status was granted by the IRS.

The first Hill Country Book Festival was held October 11, 2008 in the Georgetown Public Library. Approximately 40 authors for children and adults interacted with the guests and readers. Five children's authors and illustrators, and four authors for adults presented literary programs to educate readers and encourage reading and writing for all ages. President Connie Miller received a Proclamation from Mayor Garver, that was presented to him on the day of the festival by Mayor Pro-tem Pay Berryman.

Saturday, November 15, 2008 several members of the Hill Country Book Festival prepared and conducted writing activities at the Georgetown Public Library to celebrate the National "I Love to Write Day."

Because of the success of the first festival, it was decided to hold two separate festivals, one for children and youth readers and authors, and one for adults. The Hill Country Book Festival for Children and Youth was scheduled for November 14, 2009 at the Georgetown Public Library.

Members of the Hill Country Book Festival actively publicized the upcoming festival through the Georgetown ISD first of the year orientation, Sun City Events, and Georgetown Community Events held around the square. Bookmarks, flyers, and brochures were distributed in public places along with uses made of the numerous media outlets.

A writing competition for students in the Georgetown area was designed and implemented. The secondary competition was achieved with the assistance of Paula Brock, Secondary Language Arts Coordinator of the Georgetown Independent School District while contacts for the elementary competition were made with the local elementary and middle schools and home schooling organization. Twelve high school and fifteen elementary students participated in the competition. Winners of the competition were announced at the November festival and selected entries were published in an anthology *Unleash the Magic* that is available through amazon.com and in eBook format.

The 2009 Hill Country Book Festival for Children and Youth was held November 14th at the Georgetown City Library. Approximately 200 adults and children intermingled with more than 40 children's authors. A variety of children's activities was provided throughout the day. Eight children's authors and illustrators presented their work to small groups of children throughout the day. A panel discussion of area educators was provided for older youth to help assist them in

making the best college selection for their particular situation. The highlight of the day was a magician who applied his magic to the power of reading.

The 2010 Hill Country Book Festival Authors' Spring Showcase for Adult Readers and Authors was held April 20, 2010 in the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Convention Center. Approximately 35 authors for adult readers participated in the event. This festival was deemed a huge success with a change in format with a more relaxed, interactive atmosphere as opposed to more formal author presentation. The 2009 writing competition anthology was released to the public at this festival with student authors there to autograph their writings along with the adult authors.

May 22, 2010 several of the students whose work was included in the 2009 anthology participated in a public book signing at the Hill Country Book Store in downtown Georgetown.

Due to the success of the previous three book festivals, the Hill Country Book Festival reserved the Georgetown Community Center, the largest public facility in the city, for August 20, 2011 for a book festival for all ages. Work is in progress raising funding and planning the program for a fourth successful community even.