

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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May 2019

JPL branches are now linked by a telecommunications system

by Peg Phelps, with help from Marylyn Haddican



The videoconferencing room at the East Bank Regional Library, and a view of the console used for coordinating virtual meetings. Photos by Anna Campos.

As most of you know, Jefferson Parish is long and narrow, and a river runs through it. (That would be the Mississippi, by the way.) Driving distance from the Kenner library branch, for instance, to the Grand Isle library branch is almost 100 miles, and can take up to two hours time on a good traffic day. Several of the other branches are an hour away by car. While this makes for a diverse landscape and population, it can also make it difficult and time-consuming for the employees of the 16 locations of the Jefferson Parish Library to meet simultaneously.

Enter the Jefferson Parish Library's IT department, which cooked up a scheme to make meetings possible without leaving the comfort of each branch location. Through the magic of telecommunications, every branch will soon be able to participate in a meeting with every other branch just by sitting in their own branch meeting rooms.

Each meeting room will contain at least one camera

and TV screen, and each meeting participant will be provided with a microphone. The participants will all be able to see the main meeting venue, and hear what is being discussed. Each person will also be able to add their own comments by using the microphone. Certain supervisory personnel can also connect to the system using their office telephones, making it easier for one-on-one meetings between people in diverse locations. Several of the locations are already able to do this, and the rest will be able to do so very soon.

The ease of meeting this way will save many hours of driving and eliminate the absence of key employees at their local branches.

Because part of the cost of this project was financed by funds provided by the Friends, on April 24 a demonstration of this system was presented to members of the board and anyone else wishing to participate. Yet another victory for IT and for the Friends!!



We find good homes for used books.

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

(a member of United for Libraries, the
Association of Library Trustees,
Advocates, Friends, and Foundations)

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Mission

The Friends of the Jefferson Public
Library is an independent, nonprofit
organization of civic-minded volunteers.
We support the Jefferson Parish Library
by promoting library awareness, providing
needed unbudgeted items for all its branches
through fund raising, and
participating in literacy programs.

Address and Phone

P. O. Box 9391
Metairie, LA 70055
504-455-BOOK (2665)

Web Site

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

Friends Trends

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Centanni

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Teen Chat Library Event



Rosedale Library hosted a Teen Chat with some Disney authors the weekend of the last book sale. Pictured are, from left, author Dhonielle Clayton, Assistant JPL Director Verdie Richberg, author Zoraida Cordova, and Friends Board Member Patricia Cox. The Friends provided prizes and refreshments for this event. Photo by JPL staff.

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The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

Spring greetings, Fellow Booklovers! Rejoice with us in welcoming three new volunteers to Sorting. They have been coming regularly, are settling in and seem to enjoy the tasks they have been doing. **Susan Ward** is a graphic designer who likes to work the book sales, sort, and assist in the production of the book sale bookmarks and various postcards that are sent out. She is always thrilled to get bargains on books she meets that she just can't live without. **Jack Young**, a retired Professor of Exercise and Physiology, has just moved to the area from Las Vegas where he taught at the University of Nevada. He likes to price and pack fiction. We can often hear him chatting about "teacher stuff" with former P. E. teacher **Joan Fontaine**. **Kim Cason**, semi-retired from nursing, and an exercise buddy of **Peg Phelps**, is our most recent recruit. She also enjoys pricing and packing fiction.

While we delight in reporting three new volunteers, we are missing **The Redhead**, still recuperating from a hip replacement. We also miss **Ouida Prieur**, whom we hope to see return any day now. Hurry back, ladies. **Mary Lou Spanja**, who broke a bone in her foot when she dropped a bag of groceries on it, was out for only a couple of weeks. Thankfully, she's back, as is Chris deVillasana, from his horse riding injuries!

Sorting has not had much success in recruiting new volunteers to help empty donation bins on the weekends, however. This is a crucial job that must be undertaken sometime over every Saturday or Sunday. If you would like to volunteer, it would only be a once-a-month job, working as you can around the weather. The Friends have inherited an additional bin from the Old Metairie Branch, bringing the total to seven. All seven often fill up over week-



Anna Campos

The Friends' new book bin was recycled from the Old Metairie Branch.

ends.

Speaking of bins, I thought I'd share a funny fact about them that always amazes us. Each bin has a sign clearly marked in LARGE lettering that says, "**Donations Only.**" In spite of the signs, library patrons persist in returning library books in them. When the library informs them they have to pay for a book they have not returned, they telephone us to ask if we have found "a book with a red cover." Such customers never know the title of the book they want us to retrieve.

But, I digress...

Raise a Reader recently lost a packet packer, **Rosemarie Goetz**, who moved to Atlanta to be near a son and his family. Amazon will miss **Rosemarie** as a lister. **Sandra Blount** still has **Collette Ricaud** to help her, but sometimes it is just the two of them working. If you are interested in assisting, it is also a once-a-month job, but it is nice, cushy, sit-down-and-chat work.

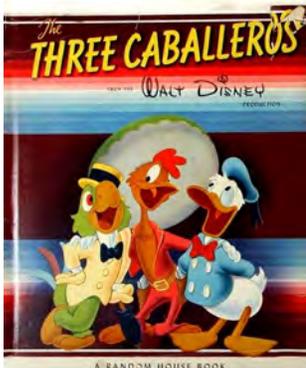
See *The Shadow* page 4

The Shadow

continued from page 5

Sandra Blount, Raise a Reader Chair, recently applied for and received a \$500 Entergy grant to help defray the cost of folders, packet materials and books for newborns and toddlers who are in area hospitals where the packets are headed. Congratulations, Sandra.

Sorting volunteers, but mainly **Maria Tujague**, are now using a newly refurbished scanner since the old one had been malfunctioning. **Rick Demers** accomplished the final steps in downloading apps and parameters. It is music to my ears to hear its little voice again call out, "Oh, Yeah!" as I am one of the Amazon listers who benefits from its revelations.



Jan Devidts

One of our Amazon books recently sold for \$350. It had been on the inventory since well before we left Riverside Drive for East Bank Regional in 2011. The Three Caballeros, based on the Walt Disney cartoon, was the only one of its kind on Amazon, and in very good condition for its age. It still had its original dust jacket, making it both rare and very valuable. It had apparently just been waiting for the right customer to come along. You can see why our listers, who have been trained to research such finds and to price them competitively, are worth their weight in gold, literally.

Graphic (comic book format) novels have become hot items in Amazon sales lately, with recent totals of \$640. Two graphic novels sold for over \$100 apiece; who knew that such innocuous little cartoon books could be such profitable items. Again, the expertise of current listers, who are quick to recognize valuable books when they spot them, cannot be overestimated.

Skipping back to the March Big Book Sale, which is now just a memory, Friends made a LOT of money in the four days we were open at the Pont-

chartrain Center. The sale went off without a hitch. Chairs **Judy Zawislak** and **Peg Phelps** have the routine down so pat that the 112 volunteers who participated knew exactly how to deal with any situation that arose. 1,675 boxes of books were taken and displayed, a monumental feat. All leftover books were either donated to classroom teachers or taken by Thrift Books on consignment, for which Friends will be getting checks over the next few months as they are sold. Thank You Brunch attendees learned that first day sales totaled \$29,175, and that gross sales totaled \$55,096. This was not a record, but a very respectable intake. Patrons complimented our well-maintained tables, efficiency during the event, and our overall organization



JPL Staff

Above: Friends President Diane Schleifstein presents Library Director Marylyn Haddican with the latest Friends donation to the library system.

As a result of the profits accrued by the **Sale, Amazon and the Store**, the Friends were able to present \$100,000 to Library Director **Marylyn Haddican** on May 1 at the General Meeting. The monies will be used to purchase items and fund projects not covered in the Library's regular budget. Look for photos in this article taken by Jo Ann Rosenfeld documenting both the Big Book Sale and the Thank You Coffee. (See pages 7 and 8 for Book Sale Photos, and page 9 for Thank You Coffee photos.)

Our next Big Book Sale is scheduled for October 10-13, 2019, so mark your calendars now.

See **The Shadow** page 5

The Shadow

continued from page 4

Look for a change in presentation of DVDs and CDs at the October sale. Some customers have suggested ideas they believe will provide better access to this popular area. **Judy Z.**, who devises the configuration of the floor plan, and the Book Sale Committee have been hard at work brainstorming a new set up to accommodate our patrons' wishes.

As noted in an earlier newsletter, the Old Metairie Branch, Belle Terre, Terrytown and West Bank Regional Libraries are undergoing, or will soon be undergoing, renovation. As a ripple effect, our sorting center has been the beneficiary of numerous pallets of books that were weeded in anticipation of closures. They are now piled in the hall beyond the Administration entrance and elsewhere, just waiting for Friends to sort, price and pack for a future sale. Volunteers, notably **Diane Pittman**, the **Tujagues**, **Judy Z.**, **Judy Howat**, and **Peg P.** have put in extra hours to whittle the piles down to manageable levels. As an *unexpected* ripple effect, book cart providers for these branches, **Sue Hellwig** and **Judy Z.** will have a little holiday from their monthly cart duties. Sadly, the income the carts provide will reflect a little less for 2019.

For **Store** news, **Patricia Cox** notes that only one word can describe business since the publication of our last newsletter—SLOW. Bad weather, Mardi Gras, Easter and some unplanned events have led to numerous closures, which have had a toll on the bottom line. Volunteers have even been spotted catching up on their reading on days the Store was open, but had no customers!

Patricia reported that things picked up for Mother's Day. She predicts that with school closing, the children's section should be busier. Patricia and her crew ask all of our members to spread the word that our store is always a great place to shop. They also ask that you don't forget about the New Orleans Afghans as graduation and June wedding gifts!

There's really good news this time from Sorting, Amazon and Store sectors: the Friends have

been blessed with two new honorary grandchildren. **Marie** and **Greg Breerwood's** granddaughter is named **Cecelia**, and is called "**Cece.**" **President Diane** and **Mark Schleifstein** also welcomed a granddaughter, **Rose Ray Bradley**, born in New York. Both babies have been reported by their grandmothers as "just beautiful"!!

Other good news I have to report about Friends involves **Amazon**, the **Big Book Sale**, the **Board**, and matters that pertain to relationships with and among each other. I wouldn't be **The Shadow** if I didn't love catching someone doing something good and sharing it with you.

As two cases in point, on one recent Monday there were 28 Amazon books to be shipped, five classified as "late." Two of our faithful weekend packers, for personal reasons, had not been able to come in. **Paulette Mauterer**, sole Monday packer, was on the verge of pressing the panic button, when **Joan** and **Rick Demers** volunteered to help her get the books mailed. This was a feat which took over seven man-hours to accomplish. In March, **Judy Z.** requested help at the Center on Book Sale moving day. **Anna Campos** and **Peg Phelps** stepped up, left their comfort zones, and dealt with the Slidell Movers. They got the 1,675 boxes loaded and on their way! The help they gave set **Judy** free to handle other pressing sale matters.

It always impresses me how fiscally responsible to the membership the Friends are. As a board member, I can attest that **Treasurer Peg P.** and the **Board** deliberate about every penny they spend. You know that members who have donated 50 or more hours of service are always honored with a lovely lunch. This year's lunch will be held on June 7 at Chateau Country Club; but even this lunch is paid for solely with membership dues, never monies earned by volunteers' labor. As a result, the \$100,000 checks to the Library have been going out more frequently, and for the past few years, more than once a year. Kudos to all our hardworking volunteers and to the **Board** for watching the dollars we earn.

See **The Shadow** page 6

Friends' Favorites

by Annette Centanni

Jo Ann Rosenfeld

One of Jo Ann's favorite books is *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. Jo Ann avers that she identified with protagonist Holden Caulfield at first because she was very close to his age when she read the book. Later, with multiple re-readings, she formulated other reasons for considering the book one of her all-time favorites. "There was a certain innocence about Holden that appealed to me," she states. "He was a teenage boy sometimes obsessed with sex and how to 'score' with girls, but [he had an innate] concern for animals and [his fellow] human beings." In spite of his bravado, Holden was very much a vulnerable, sensitive, caring person, but one who didn't always know how to navigate the world in which he lived. His signature question, "Where do the ducks go in the winter?" Jo Ann says, showed that Holden was concerned about others, especially in their times of need.

Salinger had Holden expose the hypocrisy that adults sometimes exhibit as they attempt to guide children. Holden had a vision of himself being "a catcher in the rye;" he wanted to "catch" children before they fell from innocence. When Holden told his sister Phoebe of his dream, however, Phoebe informed him that his interpretation of the song "Coming Through the Rye" was all wrong. There is no catcher in the rye in the song, she told him, and he couldn't be one.

But Holden's dream resonated with the sixteen year old Jo Ann and took root, because it appealed to her maternal instinct and to her sensibilities. Jo Ann mused, "Even at a young age, I would take care of animals and try to help others. I guess this feeling is what led me to become a social worker after college."



The Shadow

continued from page 5

And about those personal relationships, Friends really care about each other. Even if we only email, send a card, or call, we always take other Friends' illnesses or personal trials seriously. We listen, we understand, we comfort and we send good thoughts and prayers on their way whenever needed. I have witnessed, I know, and I tell all.

Aren't you proud to be called a Friend?

Until next time,

Your friendly Shadow

We're on FACEBOOK!!!

Check out the "Friends of the Jefferson Public Library" Facebook page!

"Like" us on Facebook to get our reminders and updates on the latest happenings and Friends events!



Cashiers needed for the Friends Store

The Friends Store, located in the lobby of the East Bank Regional Library, is in need of cashiers to work 4-hour shifts. Store hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-6 PM and Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 1 PM-5 PM.

If you or any other member you know would like to help out, please contact Sandra Blount at 504-835-1254 to sign up.

If you are reading a print copy of this newsletter and would like to receive it online, send an email to friendsjpl3@yahoo.com. In the subject line, write "Subscribe Newsletter."

Book Sale photos

taken by Jo Ann Rosenfeld



Above, shoppers look through the books on the tables and sort through the books they plan to purchase.

Below: Friends volunteers at the book sale: Greg Breerwood cashiers, Charley Rome takes a break, and Leslie Fall finds some books for her niece, who is a school teacher.

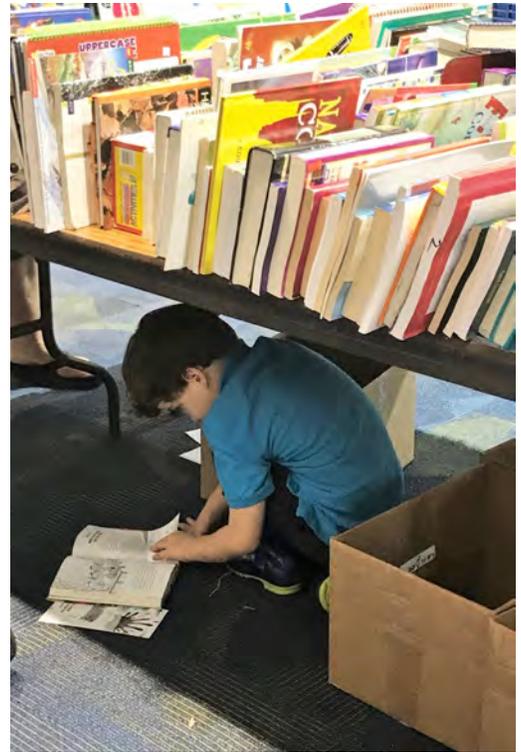
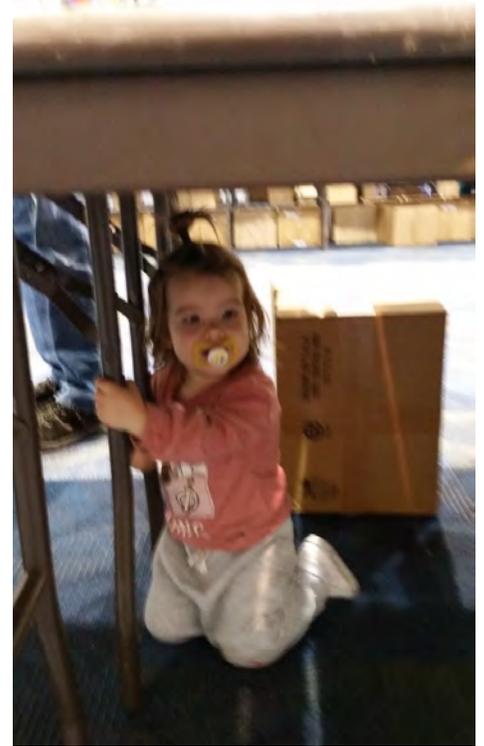


We find good homes for used books.

Children at the Book Sale



...and here are some of the children who came to the book sale. Evelyn Johns, left, and Sophia Chadburn were caught on camera by Rodney Tujague.



Kyle and Benjamin, left, were photographed by Judy Zawislak, and Jo Ann Rosenfeld snapped this photo of a little boy who found a quiet place to enjoy a book.

We find good homes for used books.

Thank You Coffee photos

taken by Jo Ann Rosenfeld



Clockwise from top left: Jeanne deMontluzin, Jack Young, Ann Buchel, Susan Young and Jim deMontluzon.



Sue Hellwig and Maria Tujague.



Mary Ellis Hasseltine, Maria Anthaume, Judy Zawislak, Susan Ward and George Hasseltine.

We find good homes for used books.

Worth a thousand words



Maria and Rodney Tujague celebrated Red Nose Day by wearing their noses to the Sorting Center. Photo by Anna Campos.



Patricia Cox photographed the Little Free Library on the Canal Street Walking Bike Path.

NOTICE: The Online Sales department is still in need of egg cartons (especially the styrofoam one-dozen size).

If you do not wish to receive future issues of *Friends Trends*, address an email to friendsjpl3@yahoo.com. Use "Unsubscribe to Friends Trends" in the subject line.

What's cooking at the Friends?

"I learned how to cook these from my mother-in law, and they have always been one of our favorites."—Anna Campos

Silvia's Pork Chops



Ingredients:

- 4-6 pork chops, slash fat
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- juice of 1/2 lemon
- equal amount Worcestershire sauce

Directions:

1. Mix garlic, lemon juice, and Worcestershire sauce in flat pan
2. Add pork chops, turning to coat both sides
3. Marinate at least 30 minutes
4. Broil or pan-fry chops

Have a favorite recipe you'd like to share? Send the recipe and a photo of the dish to Anna Campos at camposanna@hotmail.com.