

# Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 60


April 2021

## Regular hours again!

**The Friends Store at East Bank Regional is now fully staffed.**

*by Anna Campos, with help from Sandra Blount*

Beginning this month, the Friends Store, located in the lobby of the East Bank Regional Library, has resumed its regular hours. (The store had been operating under reduced hours due to the Covid epidemic.) This means it is open on Sundays and Mondays from 1 to 5 PM, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM to 6 PM, and Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 PM. "We are delighted to be reopening the Store on a full-time basis. Our customers have been inquiring about more hours, especially on the weekends," says Sandra Blount, who schedules volunteers for the Store. "Most of our volunteers are returning, I am glad to say. Of course, we are in need of substitutes," she adds. (Call 504-455-2665 or email [friendsjpl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsjpl@yahoo.com) to volunteer.)

In addition to selling donated books, the Store also carries jewelry, glassware, puzzles, seasonal items, and "items you can't find anywhere else," as Sandra's customers tell her. The New Orleans afghan (featured on page 6), is also sold in the store, and customers can take a chance on a New Orleans-themed quilt. The quilt can be viewed on page 5. 



*The friends Store. Photo by Anna Campos.*

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## 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!



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If you are reading a print copy of this newsletter and would like to receive it online, send an e-mail to [friendsjpl3@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsjpl3@yahoo.com). In the subject line, write "Subscribe Newsletter."

*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)

#### Officers

Diane Schleifstein, President  
Judy Welcker, Vice President  
Peg Phelps, Treasurer  
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Marie Orth, Corresponding  
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Anna Campos, Past President

#### Board of Directors

Annette Centanni, Patricia Cox,  
Judy Zawislak, Lisa Conescu,  
Joan Demers, Jan DeVids,  
Sandra Blount, JoAnn Rosenfeld

#### 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

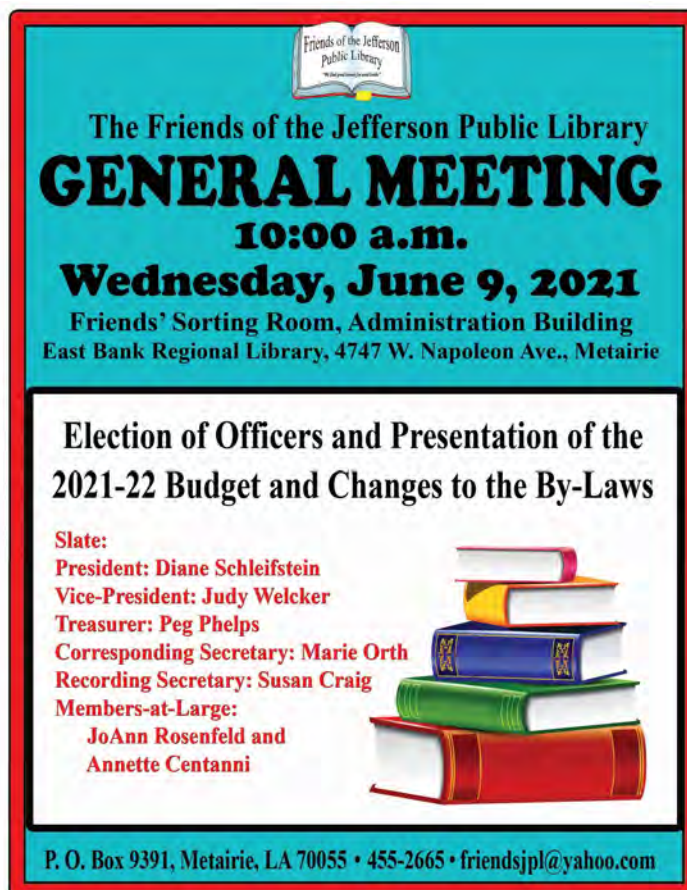
P. O. Box 9391  
Metairie, LA 70055  
504-455-BOOK (2665)

#### Web Site

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

#### Friends Trends

*Editors:* Anna Campos,  
Annette Centanni  
*Contributing Editor:* Peg Phelps



The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday, June 9, 2021**  
Friends' Sorting Room, Administration Building  
East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie

**Election of Officers and Presentation of the  
2021-22 Budget and Changes to the By-Laws**

**Slate:**  
**President:** Diane Schleifstein  
**Vice-President:** Judy Welcker  
**Treasurer:** Peg Phelps  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Marie Orth  
**Recording Secretary:** Susan Craig  
**Members-at-Large:**  
JoAnn Rosenfeld and  
Annette Centanni

P. O. Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055 • 455-2665 • friendsjpl@yahoo.com

The first Friends General Meeting since the COVID pandemic began will be held on Wednesday, June 9, at 10:00 AM in the Friends' Sorting Room at the East Bank Regional Library. It will be strictly a business meeting to confirm Board decisions made during the pandemic and to discuss bylaws changes that will be voted on at a future General Meeting in the fall.

The last scheduled General Meeting was to have been on March 18, 2020, at which time officers were to be voted on. Since this meeting was cancelled the Board has been operating under emergency procedures that are not included in the present bylaws. The president, secretary, treasurer, and most board members had planned to complete another term, and the vice president and one new board member were appointed by the president with board approval. These officers and board members will be confirmed at the upcoming general meeting. Bylaws changes that deal with instances when the board and membership cannot meet in person (as happened in 2020) will also be discussed. Copies of the original and revised bylaws will be available at the June 9 meeting, and links to both can be accessed from the Friends Homepage, <https://www.friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org/>



## In Memoriam

### Grace Flanagan

*August 18, 2020*

Grace was a Friends member and a volunteer at the Book Sales over many years. Patricia Cox said of her, “She was fun to work with—she had an opinion on everything! She always came to our meetings and expressed those opinions!

“She came into the store through the years and when she had to stop driving, she had ‘Kenneth’ (her driver) drive her to the sale and the store. Just during the holidays last year, Kenneth told me she was slowing down.”

If you wish to make a donation in her memory, you can send a check payable to the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library. Put Grace Flanagan’s name in the memo section of the check and mail it to Friends of the Jefferson Public Library, P.O. Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055.

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## Book Sale volunteers needed!

*by Peg Phelps*

Our Big Book Sale is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, October 28-31, 2021, with set up day on Wednesday, October 27. Since this will be the first book sale we have held in two years, we would like to poll our members and find out who is willing to volunteer to help with any aspect of the sale. We need volunteers to do any of the following jobs: unpack books, move boxes, straighten tables, and generally help with anything that comes up at the sale. If you think you might be interested in helping on any of the dates, please e-mail [FriendsJPL@Yahoo.com](mailto:FriendsJPL@Yahoo.com) or call 504 455-2665. Please give us an e-mail address or a phone number so we can contact you in October.



*File photo of Spring 2013 Big Book Sale.*

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**“Take a good book to bed with you—books do not snore.”**

**--Thea Dorn**

*We find good homes for used books.*



# What the Friends have been reading

by Annette Centanni

At the onset of the pandemic, I quit reading. I couldn't concentrate enough to enjoy a book. This had never happened to me before, so it was both disorienting and distressing. Eventually, I began to pick up books I had loved and laughed through in the past, such as the zany *The Silent Miaow* by Paul Gallico, and some Frances Parkinson Keyes I had enjoyed more than 50 years ago, in happier times. However, the book that started me on my journey back to sanity was *The Best of James Herriot*, a collection of short stories recounting his favorite memories as a country vet. It was an outstanding read, reflecting his love for life, his wife and children, and his satisfaction with his chosen profession.

Instead of my usual Spring anecdotal column, this time, I have decided to share with you the books that have kept a cross-section of some of our Friends alive, well and operational during the time of their isolation. Until we meet again, put a face to each name below, and pick up one of their recommendations!

Judy Howat. Judy just finished *Never Far Away* by Michael Koryla. Judy says she enjoys mysteries, "...and this was a good one: Five Stars."

Jo Ann Rosenfeld. Jo Ann recommends *Devil in Winter* by Lisa Kleypas: Five Stars. Jo Ann reads to relax and to learn about different cultures. She says historical romances full of adventure, mystery and happy endings always top her list of "must-reads," and this book is one of those.

Marie Breerwood. Four Stars. Marie enjoyed *The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History* by

Boris Johnson. Marie reports that it was easy to read, and told of how Great Britain endured WW II before the U.S. got involved.

Anthony Centanni. Anthony devoured *The Evening and the Morning* by Ken Follett, prequel to *The Pillars of the Earth*. (If the house was too quiet, I knew that he was holed-up reading it.) It is set in 997 A. D., as England was turning from the Dark Ages into the Age of Enlightenment, and features an array of good and stunningly evil characters. Five Stars!

Peg Phelps. Peg recommends *The Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson. It is the story of Jennifer Doudna, who along with Frenchwoman Emmanuelle Charpentier, developed the CRISPR technique, which is essential to the vaccines now available to fight COVID-19. For this discovery, they were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020. Five stars.

Will Hunn. Will happily digested *Logically Fallacious* by social psychologist Bo Bennet, PhD. Will states that it contains over 300 fallacies as well as a sizable addendum on cognitive biases and heuristics. The author's motto is, "Expose an irrational belief, keep a person rational for a day. Expose irrational thinking, keep a person rational for a lifetime." 4.5 Stars.

Collette Ricaud. Collette's intriguing read was *Coroner's Journal: Stalking Death in Louisiana* by Louis Calaldie, M. D. It is a biography by the doctor who was the Deputy Coroner in Baton Rouge from 1993-2003. Five Stars.

Marie Orth. Marie recommends two books by

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## Reading

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the same author, Colson Whitehead. She says *The Underground Railroad* was outstanding (Five Stars), and *The Nickel Boys* was very good, as well. Four stars.

Sue Craig. Sue's pick is *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. She describes it as very thought-provoking and very timely, and rates it 4.5 stars. Sue also says that she has just started a mystery/thriller by Lisa Gardner, a new author for her, so the "jury is still out on [it and] her."

Maureen Howat. Maureen recently enjoyed two books: *Night of Miracles*, a heartwarming story by Elizabeth Berg (Four Stars), and *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah, set in Alaska.

Judy Zawislak. Judy couldn't limit herself to one book to recommend, so she listed three of her recent favorites! Like Sue Craig, Judy enjoyed *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. It features a middle-class Mexican book store owner fleeing a drug cartel because of her husband's journalism. Another of her choices is *The Piano Tuner* by Daniel Mason. In the 1880s, a British piano tuner travels to Burma to repair a special piano. She says she liked both books very much, but also has to recommend *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout.



Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library, Metairie, LA as your charity. Amazon will donate .5% of all your sales to the Friends!

## Friends of the Jefferson Public Library WIN A QUILT!

Enter for a chance to win this unique fleur-de-lis handmade quilt!



approx. 3' x 5'

Tickets available in the Friends' Store  
in the East Bank Regional Library  
504-455-2665

**Only \$5 each**

**Drawing will be June 15, 2021**

## Gaylord Boxes

The book sale committee is looking for used pallets and/or Gaylord boxes for packing books after the sale. If anyone can sell or donate either used pallets or used Gaylord boxes to us, please call 504-455-2665 or e-mail [FriendsJPL@Yahoo.com](mailto:FriendsJPL@Yahoo.com). Pallets and Gaylord boxes must be in usable condition.

Thank you!

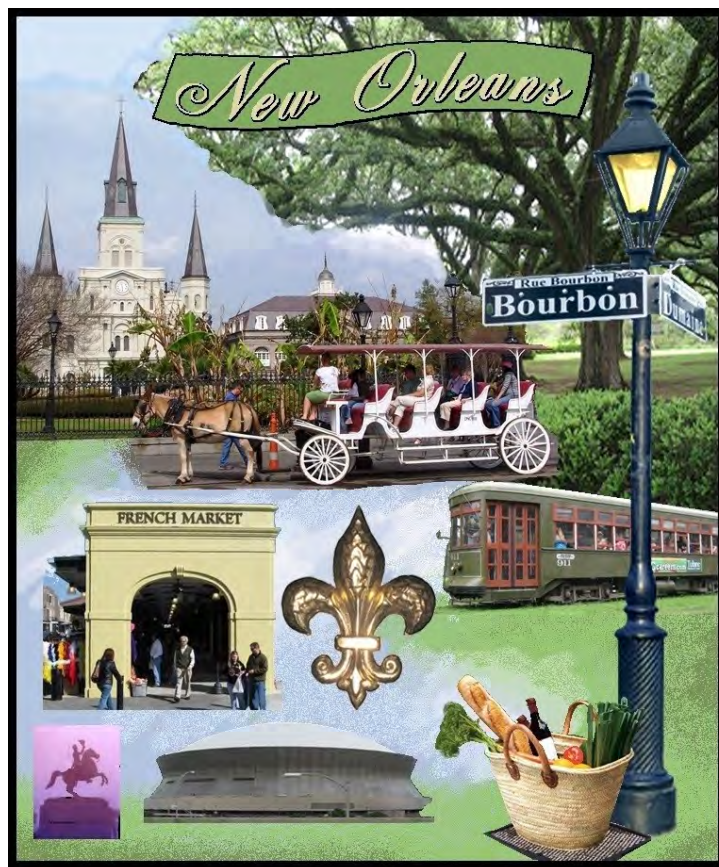
# Inside the NOLA afghan

by Anna Campos and Patricia Cox

“They are homegrown, toasty warm to snuggle up in, colorful, stylish, and casual enough to ‘throw’ anywhere. They are a vibrant symbol of all that we in the New Orleans area hold dear in our culture that was almost swept away when Katrina struck. They make great wedding, birthday, anniversary, graduation, and just-about-anything-else gifts. And they are still available **ONLY** at the Friends’ Store at East Bank Regional Library.” So wrote Annette Centanni in the December 2010 issue of *Friends Trends*.

If you saw that quote and picture again in an ad in the January 2019 issue of *Friends Trends*, or on the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library website, you may have wondered who took the wonderful pictures of New Orleans scenes, and who arranged them so well.

Friends’ Store manager Patricia Cox explains how the afghan came about: “Before Katrina, we carried a similar lap throw—that company went out of business. After Katrina, I began getting a lot of requests for ‘that New Orleans blanket’. I worked with one of my vendors to have the custom throw made. The vendor is located in North Carolina, so it’s made in the USA! I took the pictures for the throw, sent them in, and the company sent me a couple of designs to choose from. We combined a



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few things and eliminated some things till we got what we sell today.”

It has now been 12 years since the afghans debuted, and they are still a hot item at the Friends’ Store. In fact, almost 1900 have been sold to date. The afghans sell for \$40.00 in the store—\$55.00 including shipping if ordered from the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library webpage.



I do love secondhand books that open to the page some previous owner read oftenest.

—Helen Hanff

*We find good homes for used books.*



# St. John, New Brunswick, Free Public Library

story by Peg Phelps, photos by Meade Phelps

Upon walking into Market Square in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, I was surprised to discover a large, full service library. Some research revealed that the Saint John Free Public Library was incorporated in 1883 as the first tax-supported public library in Saint John, hence the inclusion of "Free" in the title.

The Saint John Free Public Library consists of three branches, the central branch in the Market Square complex, East Branch in the Saint John Transit Building, and West Branch in Lancaster Mall. All of these libraries are under the Fundy Library Region, which is headquartered in Market Square.

New Brunswick's very first library opened in Saint John in 1811, and operated on a subscription basis with a fee being charged for the use of the collections. By 1874, plans for a free public library in Saint John were initiated by the President of the Mechanics' Institute. Mechanics' Institutes are educational establishments originally formed to provide adult education, particularly in technical subjects, to working men. The Mechanic's Institutes libraries eventually became public libraries after the establishment of free libraries.

In 1883, the first tax supporting a public library in Canada was passed, and the Saint John Free Public Library opened in the City Market at Market Square. The library was subsequently housed in the



*The St. John Public Library, Market Square, New Brunswick, Canada.*

Masonic Temple until 1901, when it was learned that Andrew Carnegie had extended his philanthropy to include Canadian cities. The Mayor therefore wrote to Carnegie, asking that he contribute to the construction of a library building. The Carnegie organization required that any grant not exceed ten times what the City was prepared to appropriate to annual operating costs. A \$50,000 grant was needed but by that time the City was only paying \$2,500 toward annual library costs. It was therefore necessary that the Library assessment (tax) be doubled to \$5,000. In addition, the City would have to provide the building lot. All of this was accomplished by 1902, and Andrew Carnegie deposited \$50,000 to the credit of the St. John Library. The new library building, located at 20 Peel Plaza in Saint John, was opened in 1904.

In 1983, the library returned to its roots, moving into newly renovated quarters in the Market Square harborfront complex, which is where I found it. Opened in 1876, Market Square also houses the New Brunswick Museum and various shops and restaurants. The old Carnegie building is now the Saint John's Art Centre.

The library interior is warm and inviting. Best of all, this is the only library in the world where you can sit in the reading room and look at the Bay of Fundy as you read your book.



*The reading room at the St. John Public Library.*



# Worth a thousand words



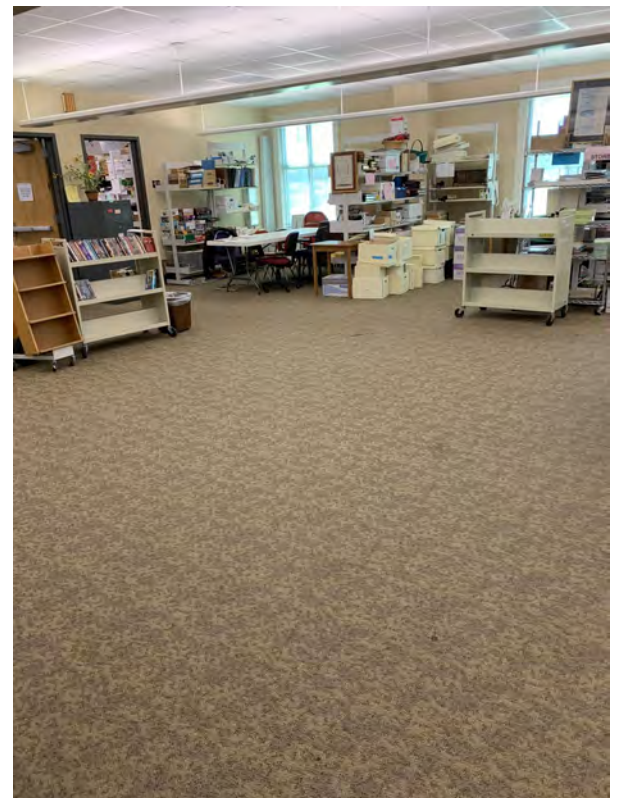
*Judy Mills of the The U. S. Daughters of the War of 1812, Chalmette Chapter, Patricia Cox of the Friends of the Library and library director Marylyn Haddican are shown holding some history books on the War of 1812. The books are being donated to the library system by the Chapter, and the Friends accepted the donation on the library's behalf. Photo by Margaret Thompson.*



*Online Sales volunteer Lisa Williams really knows how to dress for cold weather! Photo by Anna Campos.*



*The EBR all decked out last year for its role in an episode of NCIS New Orleans. Photo by Anna Campos.*



*Anna Campos took this rare picture of the sorting intake area when it was completely bare. The volunteers have been busy!*

*We find good homes for used books.*



# What's cooking at the Friends?

*Judy Zawislak brought these cookies to the Sorting Center one day.*

## The Traditional Blondie

1/2 cup butter  
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar  
1 large egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
6 ounces semisweet chocolate bits

Preheat the oven to 350°.

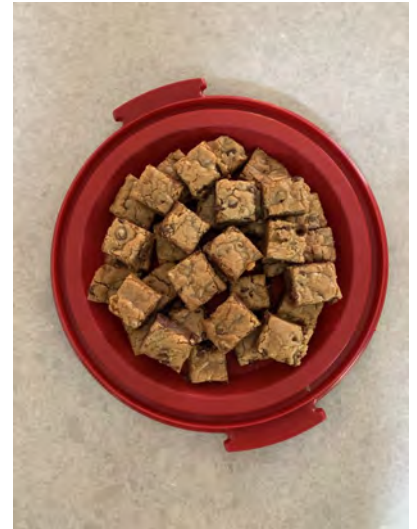
Butter an 8-inch baking pan.\*

Melt the butter in a small heavy pot over low heat. Stir in the sugar until smooth and dissolved. Transfer the mixture to a large mixing bowl and beat 1 minute. Add the egg and vanilla and beat until light and fluffy, scraping down the sides of the bowl occasionally. Stir in the flour and salt until just blended. Fold in the chocolate bits.

Spread evenly in the prepared pan and bake about 25 to 30 minutes, until firm on top and/or a cake tester comes out clean. Do not overbake. Cool and cut into squares.

**\*IMPORTANT!** Do not use cooking oil instead of butter or line the pan with aluminum foil. The cookies will be very hard to remove from the pan.—*Ed*.

HAVE a recipe you'd like to share? E-mail a copy to [camposanna@hotmail.com](mailto:camposanna@hotmail.com). Include a photo if you can.



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