

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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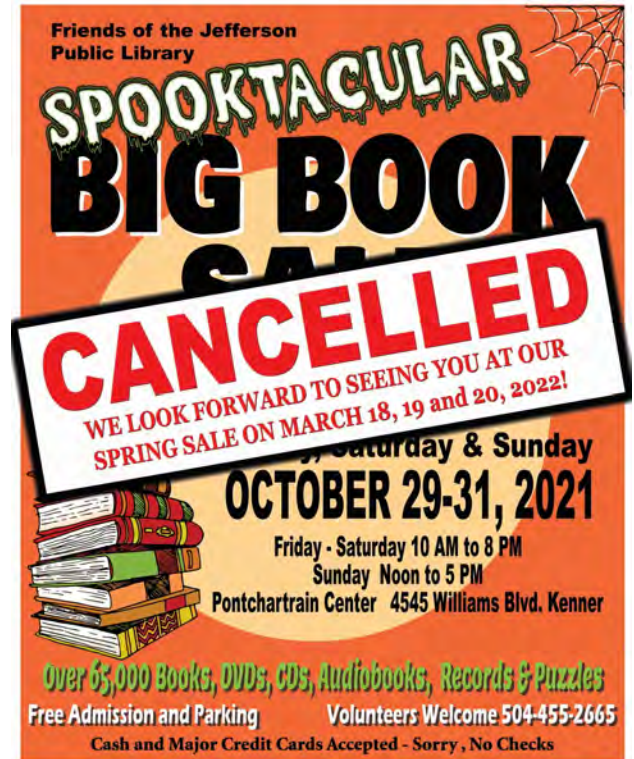
October 2021

Cancelled again!

Shortage of volunteers causes October Big Book Sale to be postponed till March.

by Anna Campos

The Friends have postponed their semi-annual Big Book Sale three times since March 2020, and the lingering effects of the pandemic, plus the disruption of Hurricane Ida, have caused the Friends Board to postpone it again, to March 18-20, 2022. Many of the regular Sorting volunteers have not come back since the Covid outbreak, and the Book Sale Committee felt there might not be enough people to work at the sale, especially if their homes were damaged during Hurricane Ida. 100 volunteers are needed in various capacities to staff a Friends Book Sale. To volunteer for the March sale, please call 504-455-2665 and leave your contact information.



Puzzle sale at EBR

by Peg Phelps



Anna Campos

There will be a sale of jigsaw puzzles at the East Bank Regional Library on Saturday, October 30 from 9 AM until 4 PM. The sale will feature 20 tables of used puzzles and games. (See ad on page 6.) Quite a few puzzles are available, since we have not been able to have a Big Book Sale since October, 2019. Puzzles range in price from .50 cents to \$6.00, and from 24 piece children's puzzles to 2000 piece puzzles for the 12 and older set. Many of these puzzles are top-notch brands, such as Buffalo, Ravensburger, Springbok, Hometown, Dowdle, and White Mountain, and feature the art of Charles Wysocki, Heronium, Eric Dowdle, Jane Wooster Scott, Art Poulin, Ellen Stouffer, Thomas Kinkade, and Terry Redlin, among others. There will also be a small number of board games available. Cash and credit cards will be accepted for payment. We regret that we cannot accept checks.



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

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

News from the Friends Store

by Patricia Cox

The Friends Store is happy to welcome back our regular volunteers as well as three new faces – Pam Francis, Marcia Richea and Susan Young. Our substitute list is eager to work extra hours as well!

After returning to our full schedule this summer, the store finally turned in normal numbers like those pre-COVID! We sold three to four hundred books, the same amount of non-book items and saw income over \$2000 per month.

Our afghans are still selling – Cheryl Smith sold 5 one morning in early August. The weather definitely has no bearing on the afghan sales.

We received so many wonderful donations during the time we were closed and opened limited hours. Our expenses are much lower! Customers love browsing through our ‘tchotchkes’ and our \$.50 basket.

We also have a new section of ‘collectible’ books. These are from the ‘collectible’ section of the sorting center. After four book sale cancellations our ‘collectible’ section is bursting at the seams.



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

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



Approx. 4' x 5'

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

Only \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Drawing will be October 30, 2021 at 4 pm

Cheryl Ledet receives Appreciation Award

by Anna Campos



Anna Campos, left, presents the Appreciation Award to Cheryl Ledet. Photo by Meade Phelps.

At this year's Friends Volunteer Luncheon, held at Andrea's Restaurant on June 4, 2021, Online Sales volunteer Cheryl Ledet was given a very special award. As a Friend of the Jefferson Public Library for more than sixteen years, she was a sorter at the Friends' Riverside location, and has worked at countless book sales. She worked with Joan Demers when Joan started the Online Sales Department, and has continued to pack and ship books on weekends to this day.

During the lockdown last spring, Cheryl offered to pack and ship book orders, thus enabling the Friends to keep our Amazon account open—and earning money for the Friends when we were unable to sell books in the Friends store or at our semi-annual book sales.

Cheryl has been a cashier at almost every Big Book Sale since 2007, and is almost always there all day during all four days of the sale. Not only that, she *really* interacts

with each customer she serves.

She is always willing to go the extra mile. If she is working on Sunday, she will stay late when needed to help the weekend teams empty the donation bins.

Cheryl Ledet is more than the Volunteer of the Year for this year: This award was given in appreciation of her many years of service to the Friends.



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. Pallets and Gaylord boxes must be in usable condition.

Thank you!

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!



Like us on
Facebook

In Memoriam

Blanid Sunseri

1931-2021



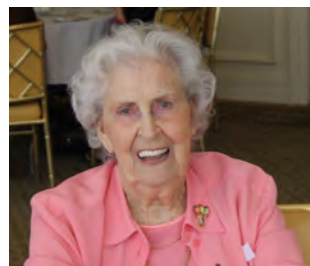
Blanid was a long-time member of the Friends who did many volunteer tasks, including sorting, cashiering and other book sale tasks, and choosing all the books for the store. She also served on the board several times. In addition, Blanid handled the Friends phone messages and emails. (And she always announced when it was lunch time in the Sorting Center! —*ed.*)

A display shelf in her honor has been purchased through a Friends memorial fund. It will be placed in the Special Collections area of the East Bank Regional Library and will be used to hold special displays.

In Memoriam

Ouida Prieur

1927-2021



In addition to sorting books at the Friends Sorting Center, Ouida also enjoyed working in the Collectibles Area at the Friends book sales. And every Christmas she would set up a miniature Christmas village in her living and dining rooms. Then she would have an open house so all her friends could see it.

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 Ouida Prieur'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.

“A library is a good place to soften solitude; a place where you feel part of a conversation that has gone on for hundreds and hundreds of years even when you’re all alone. The library is a whispering post. You don’t need to take a book off a shelf to know there is a voice inside that is waiting to speak to you, and behind that was someone who truly believed that if he or she spoke, someone would listen. It was that affirmation that always amazed me. Even the oddest, most particular book was written with that kind of crazy courage—the writer’s belief that someone would find his or her book important to read. I was struck by how precious and foolish and brave that belief is, and how necessary, and how full of hope it is to collect these books and manuscripts and preserve them. It declares that all these stories matter, and so does every effort to create something that connects us to one another, and to our past and to what is still to come.”

—Susan Orlean, *The Library*

The Fourth Monday Book Club reminisces

by Annette Centanni

Recently, members of the book club I belong to, made up of lifelong, dyed-in-the-wool readers, experienced one of the best sessions we have ever had. The discussion was led by Arlene Manguno and her daughter, Julie Thompson, who had formulated the questions and pre-emailed them to the members. The first question opened the floodgates for the lively, nostalgic, two-hour discussion which ensued:

What book did you read as a child that brought you the most joy? Some of the reminiscences the question inspired are as follows.

Peg Phelps. Peg ventured first, and had brought her treasured, yellowed, paperback copy of *Lad, a Dog*, by Albert Payson Terhune. She said reading it led to her lifelong love of reading about dogs.

The other members couldn't wait to share their own stories!

Anna Campos. Anna loved reading and re-reading *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. At a more tender age, however, her first love was *The Real Mother Goose*.

Louis Escalada. Louis explained that he was an early reader, but doesn't remember specifically falling in love with any one book from that time period. As an older child, he read just about all of the Hardy Boys series. The book that he remembers which had a *profound* effect upon his psyche was one he read as a senior in high school or as a freshman in college; it was *Heart of Darkness*, by Joseph Conrad.

Judy Zawislak. Judy remembers reading and memorizing the nursery rhymes in her *Childcraft* set. To this day she can repeat them. She enjoyed reading

the entire Laura Ingalls Wilder *Little House* series when she was ten.

Valerie Menowsky. Valerie adored the undersea creatures depicted in *Garden Under the Sea*. She resurrected her treasured copy, reread it not long ago as an adult, and brought it to show us how well-worn it was.

Julie Thompson. The first book Julie remembers cherishing is about the boy-mouse, Stuart Little. A series that also stayed with her by her re-reading it to her own children was *Mrs. Piggle Wiggles*. She describes the books as hilarious adventure stories, which feature ingenious solutions to the problems the characters encountered.

Arlene Manguno. Arlene, too, read and memorized *Mother Goose*, then proceeded to stories in The Brothers Grimm and by Hans Christian Anderson. She attributes the recognition of qualities she has aspired to in her own life, empathy and resiliency, to the reading of these beloved children's classics.

Will Hunn. Will remembers that the very first books he ever checked out of the library were about dinosaurs. Later, he loved reading *Black Beauty*; he traces his lifelong affinity for animals back to it. Will also prized comic books, reading every one he could get his hands on.

Robert Campos. There were no libraries where Robert grew up in the tropics, nor any books available to him in his little town. One neighbor, however, had a radio! ...And neighborhood children were invited on Saturdays to come and listen to the aired "series." Thus was born Robert's penchant for listening to stories. When he moved to New Orleans and learned to read English,

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Reminisces

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he checked out the biography of George Washington Carver. The first book that left an indelible impression on him was Jack London's *White Fang*.

My own reminiscences are ones very dear to my heart. Since summers in Metairie were long, hot and without air conditioning when I was a child, and since

my mother insisted I "rest" for an hour after lunch, we spent a lot of time together reading to each other. One of my fondest memories was of her and me laughing out loud to the antics in "*B*" is for Betsy, and *Little Eddie*, by Carolyn Haywood. Those *good* days washed back over me like a flood, because an innocent, thought-provoking little question had led to a session I wouldn't have missed for the world.



Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

Used

Jigsaw Puzzle Sale

East Bank Regional Library Lobby
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA

Saturday
October 30, 2021
9 am to 4 pm

Cash and Credit Cards Accepted - Sorry, No Checks

Recent Changes to the East Bank Regional Library

Story and photos by Anna Campos, with help from Marylyn Haddican



For several months over the summer, the front main entrance to the East Bank Regional Library and the administration area were roped off so that the sidewalks could be replaced. Those repairs are complete, but for some time now, men have been working on a huge new generator being set up right next to the Friends' Sorting Center entrance at EBR. One might have thought it was installed just in time for Hurricane Ida, but according to Library Director Marylyn Haddican, that is not so. The library is "(w)aiting on Atmos and we will have to close when they shut down and hook up," she says. In the meantime, and during the hurricane, the library used a partial generator. The new one was ordered a year ago, but the bidding process and materials shortages caused some delays. When it is completed, it will generate enough power for the

whole building.

The River Ridge and Terrytown branches presently have full-building gas generators, and one is in the planning for West Bank Regional as part of its renovations. According to Ms. Haddican, more generators for branches are in next year's budget.

When one thinks of generating power, one might think first of air conditioning to save the books from mold and mildew, but libraries are about so much more than books today. Ms. Haddican says, "I feel the main purpose is to get the building open and the computers up and running to serve the patrons. There is always a need for FEMA, Disaster Inquiry, Jobs searches and communications. The books and items are important but I think they are secondary to servicing the public during these unusual times."



Sidewalk repairs at the East Bank Regional Library.

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Jefferson Public Library.**

Go to 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!



The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers!

It has been such a long time since I have had something good to report to you, but finally the day has come. No, the book sale planned for October 29-31 will not come to fruition; no, not all regulars are back to their jobs; no, those who *have* returned have not yet seen everyone's smiling faces without masks, but we are moving in the right direction. We *do* plan to have a series of mini-sales in the library hallway, we *do* plan to host a library staff holiday party at West Bank Regional, and we *do* plan to soon present the Jefferson Parish Library system with a *semi-nice* check (I have heard \$50,000).



Mary Lou Spanja with the quilt she won. Photo by Peg Phelps.

The rebirth officially started with the Volunteer Luncheon at Andrea's in early June. A great time was had by all who attended. As more people began to trickle back to Sorting, one retiree made an appearance; **Mary Lou Spanja** had purchased a raffle ticket at the luncheon, won the Fleur-de-Lis quilt, and came in to

collect her prize. In true Mary Lou fashion, she stayed the day to work, tidy up the lunch table, and chat. She promised to visit again soon.

Another returnee was **Judy Howat**, who had brought her 8th grade grandson, **Spencer**, to visit. Spencer was greeted enthusiastically, then promptly put to work, but was a good sport about it.

A General Meeting, held on June 9 at Sorting, was attended by 40+ Friends. Coffee and treats were served along with non-stop chatter. Tabletop Sale Volunteer **Jo Ann Rosenfeld**, anticipating a crowd, was ready to make a deal if someone as much as fingered an item. She netted \$133.25 in an hour! **Patricia Cox** scooped up the leftovers she wanted for the Store, then **Marie** and **Greg Breerwood** took the unsold items to Red, White and Blue. It seems a lot of people benefitted from that General Meeting!

Three new volunteers joined the ranks of the regulars as they returned. They are **Melanie Whipple**, **Michele Thomassie** and **Rose Catalanotto**. The regulars include **Collette Ricaud**, **Jack Young**, **Joan Fontaine**, **Judy Welcker**, **Judy Howat**, and **Judy Zawislak**. **Rodney Tujague**, **Sue Craig**, **Aileen Janney**, **Ann Buchel**, **Marie Breerwood**, **Diane Pittman**, **Sharon Simmons** and **Sandra Blount** are back, as well, steadily and efficiently working to reduce the donation pile that always collects in the middle of the floor. "Every so often," **Chris de Villasana** shows up, Sorting Manager **Peg Phelps** says. **Robert Campos** and **Chris** were a great help over the summer doing the heavy jobs. **Lou Zawislak** and **Greg Breerwood** help empty the donation bins on the weekends. **Diane P.** sorts on Tuesday mornings, but has recently joined me in listing books on the Amazon inventory in the afternoons. **Anna C.** and President **Diane Schleifstein** have packed and mailed Amazon sales all summer, as has **Cheryl Ledet**, who has packed throughout the entire pandemic on weekends.

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We find good homes for used books.

The Shadow

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The Beat Goes On!

Though it has been a challenge without the four cancelled book sales, the Friends have always had a knack for raising lots of money for the library system. With the plethora of books donated, sorted, priced and packed into boxes this summer, and with our storage containers full to capacity, the powers-that-be made the difficult decision to sell, and earn what we could for these donations. The solution was the Book Bin, which has already come twice to haul truckloads away for their own online sales. A negotiation was agreed upon for the Friends to receive 18% of the profits Book Bin receives for the resale of the books. Also, the Friends are still receiving funds from a similar negotiation made with Thrift Books last November. The Amazon crew, in a separate deal, negotiated with the Book Bin representative to sell him a part of the Amazon online collection and some Collectibles. Their second such sale, which recently took place, resulted in a profit of over \$2,100 for the Friends.

In addition, the Amazon ladies have been averaging at least 100 books sold per month *more* than before the pandemic started. It is the biggest money-maker the Friends have going at the time. Profits have averaged in excess of \$3,500 per month for the last four months.

Book Carts in each neighborhood library, operating on the honor system, continue to average several thousand dollars per year. Overall, the Friends have done surprisingly well, even without book sales during the last year-and-a-half, thanks to the ingenuity and the diligence of the Board and the many selfless and faithful volunteers who have prevailed in spite of the pandemic.

The Fun is Back!

I would be remiss if I neglected to tell you of the bits and pieces that have made our Friends show up to volunteer, when they were skeptical about leaving their houses, when they have had to wear masks, when the work was heavy and hot, and when the prospects for a sale have been dismal. We have had fun! It was good to be with each other again, and good to experience some semblance of normalcy in our lives. For example, **Will Hunn** and **Peg P.** have kept the tradition of making cakes to share. Lunch times are still a good release from all kinds of tensions. Funny things still bubble up: Will H. brought the wrong lunch one day and wound up eating a plateful of mini-corn he had brought instead. With good humor, **Jack Y.** found out the hard way, why everyone leaves the cutting of price sticker strips to **Ann Buchel**, “the expert.” Stories abound: for *one*, Peg is telling everyone that if they are out attending a Brother Martin football game, to please watch out for the new punter; it’s her grandson, **Jacob Zimmer!** We are also still getting a kick out of finding surprising sums of money in books!

On a final note, on July 27th, I was at the center after closing time, and overheard **Sandra Blount** talking on the phone to a donor, who wanted to come in right away with a load of books Sandra wasn’t prepared to receive. She finessed the conversation so well, that I was *positive* said donor would be *happy* to come in at a later time to donate. Sandra is a class act, as are *you* and all of our volunteers. But we know that; that’s why we remain Friends.

Until next time,

Your friendly Shadow



2021 Volunteer Luncheon

held at Andrea's Restaurant on June 4, 2021 (photos by Meade Phelps)



We find good homes for used books.

What's cooking at the Friends?

Will is a Tuesday volunteer at the Sorting Center—and a very good cook!

Lace Cookies

from Will Hunn

Ingredients:

1 cp. Old-Fashioned Oats
1-1/2 tsp. all-purpose flour (or all-porpoise flour if you're in a jaunty, nautical mood)
1 cp. sugar
3/4 tsp salt
1 stick butter
1 egg
1/2 tsp vanilla

Do this:

Pre-heat oven to 300 degrees.
Mix oats, flour, sugar, and salt in a food processor.
Pour hot melted butter over mixture and stir until sugar has melted.
Add beaten egg and vanilla; stir well.
Cover large cookie sheet with non-stick aluminum foil.
Pour mixture over foil evenly and place on middle oven rack.



Keep a weather eye on the degree of brownness of the mixture as it can burn rather quickly, especially on the bottom (At about the 20 minute point I check the bottom by lifting the mixture edge with a spatula). Bake until the top is medium brown and remove from oven. Ovens vary and so can baking times.
After allowing the baked mixture to cool for a few minutes you can form cookie-sized segments by using the edge of a spatula, pressing all the way down to the foil. Note: the original recipe called for spooning out small amounts of the mixture onto the foil and spacing them about 2 inches apart, which I did the first few times, but then found the first-described, cruder method to involve less work--and the cruder shapes do not affect the flavor adversely. :0)

HAVE a recipe you'd like to share? E-mail a copy to camposanna@hotmail.com. Include a photo if you can.

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