

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 65

January 2023

A New Locale

2022 Friends Holiday Party is celebrated in the East Bank Regional staff lounge

story and pictures by Anna Campos



Above, there was plenty of light and space in the East Bank Regional staff lounge. Right, the Grinch is up to his usual mischief.

There was no piano, as is available in the Napoleon Room, so Friend Anthony Centanni was unable to serenade us with holiday music this year. But there WAS an uninvited guest who provided entertainment of sorts. The Grinch showed up and tore up decorations, shook up the bottled soft drinks, and otherwise created havoc. (It is rumored that he was in town for a performance in New Orleans.) The Friends sure hope that he never shows up at another party again! 📖

The Friends' East Bank Holiday Party is normally held in the Jefferson and Napoleon Rooms of the East Bank Regional Library. Because these rooms were unavailable, Library Director Jessica Styons gave her permission to hold it in the staff lounge at the East Bank Regional Library. It was a spacious and airy room, and everyone seemed to enjoy the change of venue. Our new library director spent a lot of time at the party, and her table was crowded with staff members wanting to meet and talk to her.



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. 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)

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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
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Web Site

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

Friends Trends

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Centanni

Contributing Editor: Peg Phelps

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library GENERAL MEETING

10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 22, 2023
East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie


Guest Speaker: Gwen Kelley
Genealogist, Librarian and Local Historian

**Topic: Uncovering your Family Roots:
Getting Started in Genealogy**

Sign up to volunteer for the Big Book Sale April 14-16 at the Pontchartrain Center!

P. O. Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055 • 504-455-2665 • friendsjpl@yahoo.com

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library



BIG BOOK SALE

Over 65,000
Books, CDs, DVDs,
AudioBooks,
Records, Puzzles

Pontchartrain Center
4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner
April 14-16, 2023

Friday - Saturday
10 am to 7 pm
Sunday Noon to 5 pm

Free Admission and Parking
Cash and Major Credit Cards
Sorry No Checks Accepted

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Volunteers Welcome! 504-455-2665

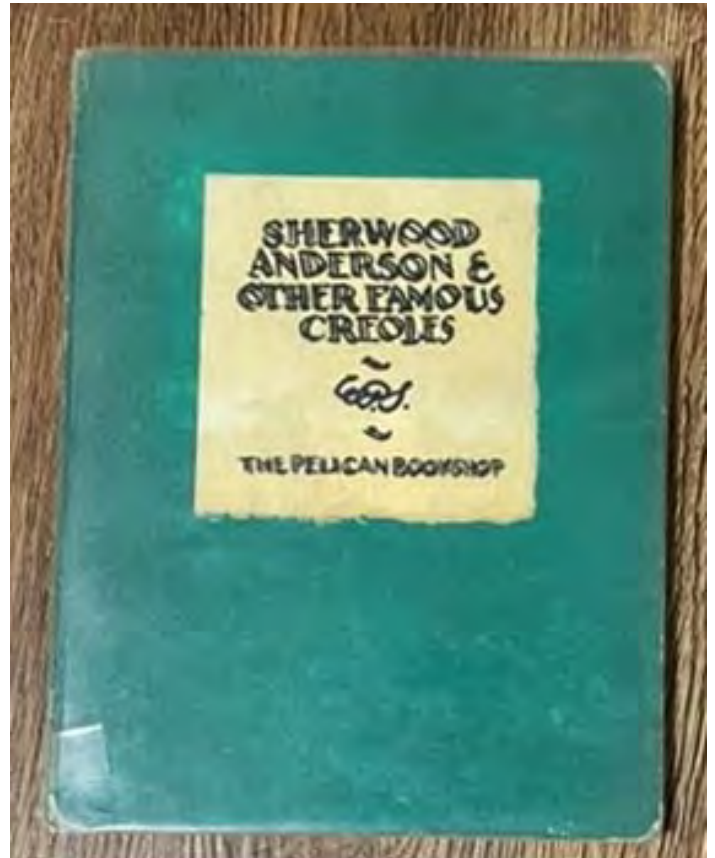
Friends sell collectible book for \$3,500 **CASH**

by Annette Centanni; photo by Amazon staff

It was a hardback with a protective clear plastic cover, an unobtrusive little book with some edge wear, foxing on the text block and a small surface tear on the back cover. An amateur would have pronounced it “old” and not given it a second glance! But the Amazon Friend who found it is no amateur. She realized this was a valuable parody volume created by the Nobel Prize-winning novelist William Faulkner and renowned silver artist William Spratling, one of a second “issue” of just 150 copies dated January, 1927. Further, it was inscribed and dated by her “friend and admirer,” W. P. Spratling, to New Orleans’ own Grace King. Spratling had supplied 42 sharp caricatures of New Orleans denizens of the time, and Faulkner supplied the succinct captions for the caricatures, as well as a Foreword. The book is titled *Sherwood Anderson & Other Famous Creoles*.

The book was published as “sort of a private joke,” but the four hundred original copies sold within a week and the edition is now a collector’s item. This copy boasted autographs of 36 of the 42 caricatures under their pictures.

A collaborating group of Friends was responsible for the sale. They had spent months, both research-



ing the volume and spreading their tentacles to search for possible buyers. A Baton Rouge contractor and collector turned out to be *very* interested, and showed up at the Center for the purchase with **CASH!** It was said that ALL parties were very happy with the transaction!



Gaylord Boxes

The book sale committee is looking for used Gaylord boxes for packing books after the sale. If anyone can donate these to us, please call 504-455-2665 or e-mail FriendsJPL@Yahoo.com. Gaylord boxes must be in usable condition.

Thank you!

We find good homes for used books.



The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

Greetings, and Happy 2023 to you, Fellow Book-lovers!

A General Meeting and a Puzzle Extravaganza

Whew! The Friends have been busy since I



Tammany Baumgartner, left, and Friends President Marie Orth. Photo by Anna Campos.

last reported to you in September. We started the Fall season with a General Meeting. **Tammany Baumgarten**, master gardener, presented "Planting for Fall Interest" to a crowd of 80. Also, the Friends presented the library with its first *full* \$100,000 check since the pandemic. As guests were leaving, many purchased gardening books offered by the Friends, and/or an assortment of donat-

ed plants. This mini-sale generated \$91, a good start to our *next* \$100,000 library gift, and provided a cap to the resounding success of the whole morning.

In late September the Friends partnered with **Chris Smith** of the library to host an exciting puzzle exchange, a puzzle-working contest, and a puzzle sale. That day the Friends earned \$567 in sales and pleased a whole lot of enthusiastic attendees.

The Fall Book Sale

Friends *live* for the Big Book Sale, right? Set-up day, October 6, saw more volunteers than we have ever had; the whole process was accomplished in under three hours. Lunch was hosted by Hospitali-

ty Chair **Judy Welcker**, who did her usual fantastic job of providing food for 100+ volunteers.

Book stories to warm all our hearts abounded during the sale. A book dealer from Houston told us that ours was the nicest book sale he had ever been to. There were many compliments from customers on how well-run the sale is. My favorite stories were ones I heard first-hand as a cashier. One morning I sold \$125 in classics to two gentlemen. When I asked if they were teachers they chuckled, "No, these books will be used in a movie set." Another time, a man bought a box of hardcover fiction for his 93-year-old neighbor who, he said, "...does nothing but read." Now, that's a good neighbor!

The October sale grossed over \$61,500 and netted \$42,700, no chump change for three days' work. Of the 2,000 boxes taken to the sale, about 1,100 were sold. Thrift Books took the rest on consignment, and will send the Friends an agreed percentage as the books sell over the next few months. Teachers representing 22 schools took 55 boxes in our "free-book" program.

What is really amazing is that 586 people clocked-in during the first 15 minutes we were open! That says a lot about the publicity the Friends generated, and about our growing reputation as a friendly, hospitable community resource of great bargains. (*Book Sale photos are on page 7.*)

The Thank You coffee held on October 28 saw the Center bursting at the seams with about 60 attendees. Again, **Judy Welcker** hosted a delicious brunch for the Sale volunteers, who lingered 'till the



Some of the items for purchase at the tabletop sale. Photo by Anna Campos.

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We find good homes for used books.

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very end. Diane Schleifstein managed the accompanying table-top sale, a fun browsing activity which netted \$93.

At Home in the Center

Sorting has added three new members to its already lively crew: **Beverly Marino**, a retired nurse, **Merilynn Donelon**, a retired pharmacist, and **Jaye Herzog**, a retired math teacher. **Jaye** has become an Amazon listing trainee, and **Beverly** and **Merilynn** have started sorting. As an added bonus, before the last sale, **Beverly** called two sign companies she knew and obtained five new, *free* Book Sale signs for us. We love it when any new recruits are well-connected.

A Volunteer Orientation Leader position has been created to help neophytes get started and to assist them in beginning to feel at home. **Michele Thomassie** has agreed to take on this task. Also, **Sharon Simmons** has agreed to be the first Volunteer Coordinator. We expect both positions to evolve over time as needs arise, both to fill in gaps we never knew we had, and to troubleshoot problems before they occur. With these two take-charge ladies in place, **Peg Phelps**, Sorting Coordinator, can continue to say at board meetings, "Things are going well in Sorting," but with an easier mind.



A large group of volunteers attended the first-ever Sorting Meeting. Photo by Anna Campos.

There was a seminar-type/ refresher session in November for sorters, pricers, packers and other interested parties. It was given by **Judy Zawislak** and **Peg Phelps**, Book Sale Co-Chairs. The session was very well-attended and well-received, with lots of participation in the form of questions, answers and suggestions. The goal was to tighten standards on the quality/age of books eligi-

ble to go to the next sale. **Robert Campos** and **Ted Blohm** offered valuable packing tips so that the boxes of books going to storage would not collapse, as they now sometimes do.

Other Tidbits Around Sorting

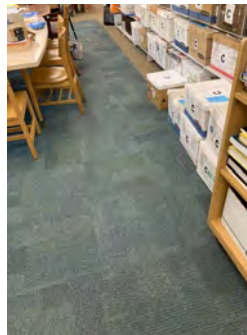
You can view the table we purchased in memory of **Ouida Prieur** at the newly renovated Harahan Branch. We all miss her so much.

Sandra Blount, Raise-a-Reader coordinator, has received a \$1,000 grant from Entergy.



Ouida's table. Photo by JPL staff.

The loose carpeting around the dining area has been replaced with carpet squares. They don't match our old carpeting, but they are a definite safety improvement.



Above, left: new carpet squares replaced the loose carpet in the Sorting center. Right: Sharon Simmons and Rose Catalanotto "testing" a game. Photos by Anna Campos.

Rose Catalanotto and **Sharon Simmons** were recently "caught" playing a donated game at Sorting! They claimed they *had* to try it out to make sure none of the pieces was missing.

The Amazon Branch

It was recently reported to the board that this year's Amazon sales totaled **\$81,000!** What sells and what doesn't sell is sometimes surprising; for instance, one of the first collectible books ever listed on our Amazon account fourteen years ago finally

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sold. It was a book printed in the early 1930's entitled *Whisky*. I remember hearing **Joan Demers**, who initiated our Amazon enterprise, saying, "Somebody is *eventually* going to buy this book." It sold for \$150.

The Tuesday morning after New Year's there was a frenzy of excitement over in the Amazon corner! There were 36 sold books to be packed, *and* while the ladies were packing, three more orders came in! **Diane Schleifstein** and **Mary Penot** had come in early, prepared to spend as much time as was needed to get the job done. I myself spent an hour just locating the sold books. While we were thus occupied, **Anna Campos** helpfully appeared and got busy cutting cardboard and packaging and organizing the detritus of supplies that naturally accumulates in the area. It was a morning to remember.

BTW, our Amazon enterprise has maintained a 99% *lifetime* feedback rating.

At the Store

Store personnel and customers were very happy to see **Sandra Blount**, Store Volunteer Coordinator, fully recovered from hip surgery and back on duty full-time. In a flash of expertise and energy, she sold over \$300 in merchandise during her first three shifts!

Then came the Christmas crush. The Store was busy selling the many wonderful donations it had received. What wasn't sold during December was sold during the 50% off sale afterwards.

Patricia Cox, Store Manager, and staff are now lining up the next series of holidays: Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day. For Valentine's Day, the highlight will be the auction of a beautiful, 52" by 64" **Heart Quilt**, crafted and donated by our own **Michele Thomassie**. Please drop by to see it, and put in your own bid. One lucky person will take it home on Valentine's Day.

Announcing the next Big Book Sale

The spring book sale will be held on April 14-16 with set-up day on Thursday, April 13. Remember, our sales are now held on **Friday-Sunday only**—three days instead of four. This sale will feature a new Baseball table at which 27 boxes of baseball books will be displayed. They were donated by the family of the late, noted New Orleans baseball statistician **Arthur Schott**. Many unique and interesting items will be available for purchase, so spread the news to any baseball fans you know.

I look forward to seeing you there in the crowd buying up all of the bargains at *every* table!

Until next time,

Your friendly Shadow

NOTICE: The Online Sales department is still in need of egg cartons—any size, foam or cardboard.



Photos from the October Book Sale

Taken by Anna Campos



Above, left: All was in order before opening day. Right: After 10 AM Friday morning. Below, left: The cashiers look relaxed before the sale begins. Right: the children's section on Friday afternoon.



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News Notes

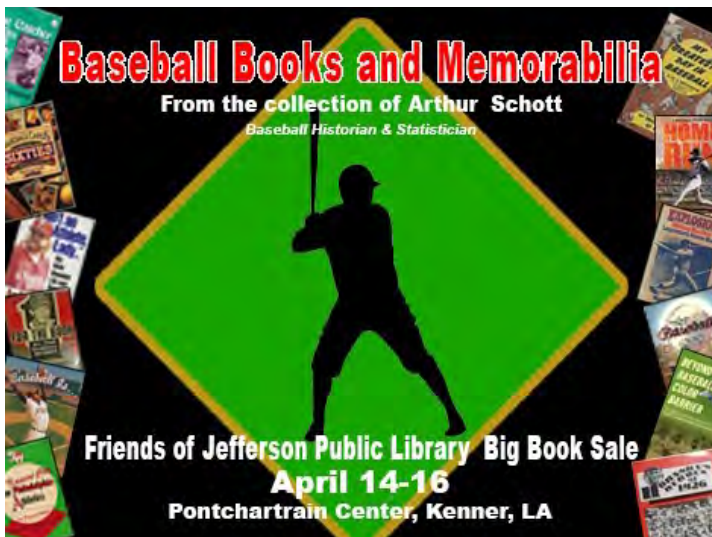
Recent happenings at the Jefferson Public Library



Anna Campos

The book bench, located in front of the East Bank Regional Library, is a recent acquisition purchased during the administration of former Library Director Marylyn Haddican. It was pointed out to her by a prior parish president, and Administrative Assistant Irene Lunkin located the business that manufactures it. The quotes on the bench are all from Shakespeare's plays—Marylyn says she has always loved Shakespeare.

The Jefferson Parish Library has a new logo, and the library webpage has a new look. But the online catalog is still available in its former format, for those of you who like things to stay the same. Just click on "Classic Catalog" at the top right of the homepage.



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!



Worth a thousand words



Greg and Marie Breerwood pose with some of the bouquets raffled off as door prizes at the fall Thank You Coffee. The flowers were provided by Marie Breerwood, Meade Phelps and Anna Campos, and were arranged by Anna, Marie Breerwood, and President Marie Orth. Photo by Anna Campos.



Past President Diane Schleifstein, left, and Store Manager Patricia Cox dressed for the occasion at the Holiday Party. Photo by Anna Campos.



Carol Howell won the quilt that was raffled off at the October book sale. Photo by Patricia Cox.



The sorters found a book safe in the donated books one day, and managed to track down the owner, Linda Guillot, shown at left. Photos by Anna Campos.

What's cooking at the Friends?

Michele Thomassie sometimes brings this delicious treat to the Sorting Center

Mimi's Banana Bread

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar
 - 2 teaspoons baking powder
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon
 - Pinch of nutmeg
 - 1 cup mashed ripe banana (2 to 3 medium bananas)
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ cup softened butter
 - 2 tablespoons milk (plant milk works as well as dairy)
 - 2 beaten eggs
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped nuts* (optional)
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped dried fruit* (optional)
- *(I prefer the combinations of dates and pecans or cranberries and walnuts, but anything goes)



Michele Thomassie

To bring out the flavors in this recipe, you can roast the bananas before (which does not require ripe bananas) and/or toast your nuts.

In a large mixing bowl combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and spices. Add mashed bananas, softened butter and milk. Blend with fork or electric mixer on low. Do not over blend. Add eggs and vanilla, mix until blended. Stir in nuts and/or fruit.

Pour batter into a greased 8x4x2 inch loaf pan. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 55 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. When I start to smell a wonderful baked banana bread scent I start to check my cake for doneness. Cool for 10 minutes on a wire rack. Remove from the pan; cool thoroughly on a wire rack. It's best to wrap and store the loaf overnight for a moister, less crumbly bread. If you must slice and eat immediately, it'll still be delicious!

You can also make muffins if you like; decrease bake time to 20 to 25 minutes following my "smell" rule.

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