

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY


No. 69

March 2024

Rodney retires from book carts duty

by Peg Phelps, photo by Anna Campos

After serving for many years, Rodney Tujague has announced his retirement from Book Cart duty.

Rodney and his late wife, Maria, began volunteering with us after Hurricane Katrina, when they moved to River Ridge. Most of us know Rodney as the man who uses the computer to look up books that lack an ISBN, for possible listing on Amazon. However, for many years, Rodney also took care of the book cart at the North Kenner branch. When the carts at River Ridge and Rosedale needed a volunteer, he switched to those branches, since they are closer to his home. He has now decided that it's time for someone else to take care of the carts. Do not despair, however--you will still see Rodney at his computer in the sorting room every Tuesday and Thursday. 



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

GENERAL MEETING

10:00 A.M.
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie

Guest Speaker:
Glen Laborde
Louisiana Master Gardener
"The Beauty of Southern Vines"


Sign up to volunteer for the Big Book Sale
April 12-14 at the Pontchartrain Center

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



BIG BOOK SALE

Friends of Jefferson Public Library
www.friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org

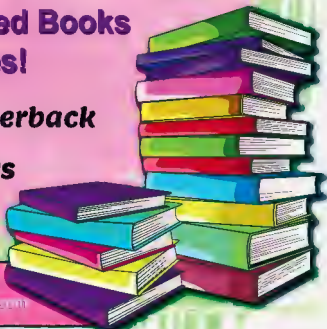


April 12-14, 2024
Pontchartrain Center
4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner
Friday & Saturday: 10AM - 7 PM
Sunday: Noon to 5 PM

Free Parking Free Admission

Over 65,000 Used Books at Bargain Prices!

Hardcover & paperback books, puzzles
DVDs, CDs and LPs



Cash & Credit Cards
Sorry, No Checks Accepted

Volunteers Welcome
504-455-2665 • friendsjpl@yahoo.com

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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Sharon Simmons, Anna Campos, Barbara
Coman

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

Bylaws approval

Bylaws changes which were presented at the October 4, 2023, General Meeting will be approved at the March 20 meeting. Links to the February 2021 and September 2023 Bylaws can be found on the Friends JPL website, <https://www.friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org/>

Volunteer of the Year

Every year in June, the Friends honor one or more outstanding volunteers at our Volunteer Luncheon, to which those who have worked 50 hours or more will be invited. Pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter contain a nomination form for Volunteer of the Year and a list of past award winners. If you wish to nominate someone, fill out the form and return it to the designated address.

QR code



This is the QR code for the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library website. If you move your smartphone over the symbol, it should pull up the Friends homepage.

Judy Zawislak named a Volunteer Activist by St. Elizabeth's Guild

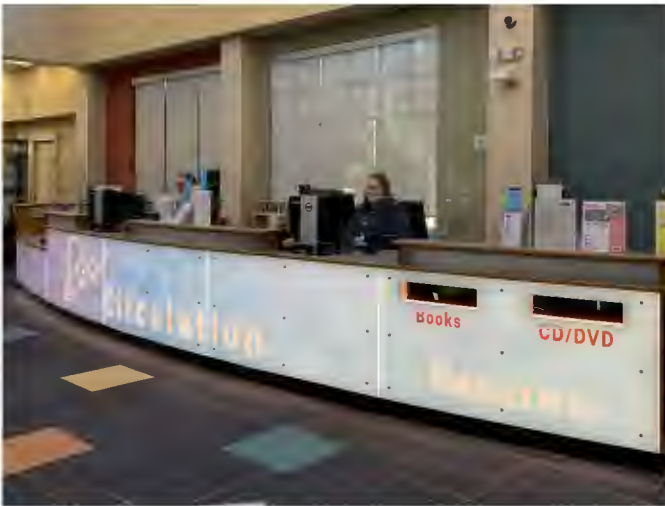
by Peg Phelps; photo by Meade Phelps

Our own Judy Zawislak has been named a recipient of a Volunteer Activists Award by St. Elizabeth's Guild. Judy began her career as a dental hygienist, and was honored for her long-standing volunteer work with Raintree Children and Family Services, the Newcomers Club, and the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library. Judy will be honored at a luncheon on Wednesday, April 17, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. For tickets to attend the luncheon, please contact Patricia Cox at FriendsJPL@Yahoo.com. No one is more deserving of this honor than Judy, who has worked tirelessly with many of our activities, including, but not limited to, serving as the long-term chair of the book sale. Congrats, Judy!



News Notes

Recent happenings at the Jefferson Public Library



The library used some of the money donated by the Friends to purchase an updated circulation desk for the East Bank Regional Library. Photo by Anna Campos.

Right: Friends President Marie Orth, left, and Library Director Jessica Styons pose with the \$100,000 check presented to the library from the Friends. Photo by Peg Phelps.



The Fall Book Sale

October 20-22, 2023



Our intrepid volunteers captured these before and during the sale. J.D. shows us what the room looked like on opening day, the cashiers at work, and the Collectibles area. Judy Zawislak photographed the Sets area and a young customer searching for the perfect book.



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

We find good homes for used books.



The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers! Is it already time for another Big Book Sale? It seems as though we just had one. However, since October we have been occupied with a Thank You Brunch, multiple Puzzle Extravaganzas, a Library Staff Holiday Party and a Warehouse Sale, so it is no wonder memories of the October '23 sale are a bit blurry. Nonetheless, it *was* outstanding! Our gross income topped **\$60,000** and net profits were **\$41,803**. Our usual 2,000 boxes went to the sale, and 105 volunteers manned the set-up, assisted customers and cashiered. The 471 customers who clocked in the first 30 minutes created a rousing start to the sale, and 30 lucky teachers participated in the free-books program just before closing time. Thrift Books, which took our unsold books on consignment, is still sending us checks for the books they sold for us online.

The Thank You Brunch and Holiday Party were most enjoyable, with food arranged by Hospitality Hostess **Judy Welcker**. **Judy**, along with Book Sale co-chairs **Judy Zawislak** and **Peg Phelps** are three ladies who never cease to amaze with their competence, enthusiasm and willingness to continue coordinating for us.



Holiday Party food. Photo by Judy Welcker.

That brings us up-to-date to our next sale, which will be held on **April 12-14**, with set-up on

the 11th. You won't want to miss it!

News about Sorting, eBay, and Amazon, etc. Sorting is going great, what with all of the new volunteers we now have. They quickly dispatch any donations that come in, and are always looking for more. If you know of anyone who wants to donate books, games or puzzles, you know where to direct them!

Sorting's **Barbara Coman** has recently accepted the job of opening the Center for volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. She will also be scheduling the volunteers who have agreed to come in on weekends to empty the donation bins, and will open up for them, too. When this was announced at a board meeting, **Barbara** received a well-deserved round of applause!



Barbara and bin. Photo by Anna Campos.

This is *not* an insignificant commitment, as all of us are well aware.

Jo Ann Rosenfeld has accepted the job of Chairman of Book Carts. As Chair, she will coordinate the efforts of the cart volunteers as needed, count the money and report all results to Treasurer, **Peg Phelps**, who will then run the profits to the bank. There is another change regarding book carts, too: after many years of managing the carts at River Ridge and Rosedale, **Rodney Tujague** will be retiring from these duties. **Christy Pepper** will be taking his place at River Ridge, while **Peggy Matthews** will be staffing Rosedale. We thank you for your years of competent and devoted service, **Rodney**.

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We find good homes for used books.

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The new storage unit. Photo by Ted Blohm.

In giving more credit where credit is due, hearty thanks go to **Ted Blohm** for overseeing the research concerning, and purchase of our new storage container for boxes being taken to a sale. It cost a “mere” \$3,844, but was sorely needed and will serve us well for many, many years.

Two long-time volunteers, **Diane Pittman** and the **Jo Ann** above are bursting their buttons these days about what else—their granddaughters. I just had to tell you so you can congratulate them when you see them. **Diane** and **Randy Pittman’s Hannah** earned Dean’s List status in her first semester at college. **Jo Ann’s Logan** has recently been accepted into the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, where out of 1,000 applicants, only 100 are accepted. Congratulations to both girls and to their proud families!

And finally, **Betty Small**, both sorter and Amazon lister, had her first experience with finding money in a book. It was \$100 in a graduation card with no identifying information. We had to consider it a donation, and **Peg** quickly ran to the bank (again) to deposit it in our FJPL account!

Our newest money-making adventure, eBay, has been making some nice sales, featuring donations that Friends can’t sell on Amazon, a book sale or at the Store. Some of the recent items have included a genuine Indian blanket, some collectible Barbie dolls, and a quirky but cute ceramic frog. I say “adventure” because the Store and Amazon ladies who set up our account have been telling wild tales about the challenges they have faced with cus-

tomers bids, the packaging of items, and eBay’s idiosyncrasies. Sales took a huge leap, however, to reward their hard work when a hardcover bound collection of the first eight issues of Baseball Magazine sold for **\$1,500**. It was the May, 1908 issue, Volume 1, No.1 through the December, 1908 issue, Volume 2, No.2. All I can say is, “Great work, Ladies. Wow!”



The baseball book. Photo by J. D.

Our Amazon online service is due for congratulations of its own. During 2023, Amazon earned a net of **\$43,000**, which is as much as a book sale earns. At least 11 listers work year-round and contributed to this record. And since the fees Amazon charges us are now at 42%, this is harder work and a greater feat than you can imagine. As a reward, the Amazon ladies recently received a newly refurbished, faster and much needed computer.

Better than expected! Our first-ever Warehouse Sale netted **\$605**, and sold out in 1 ½ hours! The Puzzle Sale, in conjunction with the Library’s Puzzle Extravaganza netted a whopping **\$738**. As the Friends always help our library out in any way we can, we donated all of the prizes for the winners of the puzzle contest: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes. The prizes totaled \$100 in gift coupons, redeemable at the upcoming Big Book Sale at the Pontchartrain Center.

Those who gave up their Saturday to volunteer for these events included **Collette Ricaud, Peggy Matthews, Barbara Coman, Diane Pittman, Joan**

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Fontaine, Betty Small, Lisa Isenogle, Beverly Marino, Judy Zawislak, Mopsy Donelon, Peg Phelps and Sandra Blount. Fred Matthews and Meade Phelps volunteered to move boxes. Michele Thomassie and Christy Pepper came in later to help man the second shift.

News from the Store always comes to me from Store Manager **Patricia Cox**, who sends it to me as soon as I ask her for it. This time she reported that 2023 ended on an uplifting high note. Their cause for celebration was that for the first time since Covid, nearly four years, the Store had no closures during an entire month! It was October, and the Store is calling it "their month of Perfect Attendance." In addition, **Audrey Munoz** and **Arlene Manguno**, two of the most seasoned salespersons, were responsible for a big \$300 day at the end of October.

The Store's biggest celebration occurred, however, when **Marie Breerwood**, Store Decorator, returned the week before Christmas to add her unique Christmas touches to the scene. She was surely missed during the several months she was out nursing a broken knee. I, **the Shadow**, know firsthand that **Marie** was sorely missed at Sorting, too!

Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day started 2024 off right with complete sell-outs of holiday merchandise, perhaps due to **Michele Thomassie's** new ad campaign using Facebook. Stop by to chat, shop and to check out the St. Patrick's/Easter/Spring decorations if you haven't been there in a while.

Until next time,

Your friendly **Shadow**

"THE BEAUTY OF SOUTHERN VINES" TO BE FEATURED AT FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library will hold a General Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Avenue, in Metairie.

The guest speaker will be Glen Laborde, a master gardener since 2013. Glen's topic will be "The Beauty of Southern Vines." Stories, pictures and growing tips about the most beautiful vines of the South will be included in his presentation. Glen holds a Master of Science Education from UNO. He is a volunteer mentor for the New Orleans master gardening training classes and helps with the Pelican Greenhouse at their monthly plant sales. He loves tropicals, roses, camellias, and citrus.

Also at the meeting, volunteers will have an opportunity to sign up to help at the next Big Book Sale, to be held April 12-14, at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Hours for the book sale are Friday and Saturday (April 12-13) from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday (April 14) from noon to 5 p.m.

For more information on either of these events, call the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library at 504-455-2665 or e-mail friendsjpl@yahoo.com.

—Peg Phelps

The Warehouse and Puzzle Contest/Sale

February 24, 2024 (photos by Marie Orth)



The Friends sold puzzles and boxes of books in conjunction with the East Bank Regional puzzle contest and swap. Left: the puzzle contest (photo provided by JPL staff). Right: Cashiers Mopsy Donelon, Peg Phelps, Barbara Coman, and Betty Small wait for customers (photo by Marie Orth).

**The Friends
Need You!**

**Renew Your Dues
or Become a Member**

On-Line:
friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org
or Call:
504-455-2665

He was a one-book man. Some men have one book in them; others, a library.

—Sidney Smith

Check your Closet: Joan Fontaine's black raincoat has been missing from the Friends' coat rack for over a month. If you have two, one might be hers.

We find good homes for used books.

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library
Post Office Box 9391
Metairie, Louisiana 70055
455-2665

Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

Please use this form to give your reasons for nominating one of our members as volunteer of the year. Please describe, in detail, your reasons for nominating this person. The committee will consider the work done in the past year, the number of hours expended, any office or committee chair the nominee holds, and his or her overall participation in Friends' activities. A list of previous recipients is printed on the reverse side of this page. Use more than one sheet of paper if necessary. Please return this form in person to the sorting center, email (or request an e-copy from) friendsjpl@yahoo.com, or surface mail to Nominating Committee, Friends of JPL, P. O. Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055, no later than May 1.

Name of nominee:

Why does this person deserve to be named Volunteer of the Year?

Your Name (optional):

(See back of form for a list of prior award winners.)

Volunteer of the Year Awards

1999: Ethel Tarleton
2000: Fay Bilby
2001: Judy Zawislak
2002: Peg Phelps
2003: Kathy Norton
2004: Brenda Huchingson
2005: Jack Weldon
2006: David Valentine & Carolyn Lindsay
2007: Blamid Sunseri
2008: Arlene Manguno & Joan Demers
2009: Ailleen Janney & Sue Hellwig
2010: Patricia Cox
2011: Anna Campos & Annette Centanni
2012: Chris deVillasana
2013: Jan DeVidts and Sandra Blount
2014: Mary Lou Spanja and Mary Anna Lightner
2015: Ted Blohm and Diane Davey
2016: Millie Spear and Paulette Mauterer
2017: Maria and Rodney Tujague
2018: Marie Breerwood
2019: Collette Ricaud
2021: Cheryl Ledet (Special Award)
2022: Judy Welcker
2023: Michele Thomassie

Friends of Distinction Awards

2005: Lisa Conescu
2006: Patricia Cox
2007: Judy Zawislak & Peg Phelps
2008: Sally & John Hoffschwelle; Sandra Blount
2009: Mary Lou Spanja
2010: Marie Breerwood
2011: Kuniko Izumi & Kathy Pennington
2012: Maria Tujague & Rick Demers
2013: None
2014: Robert Campos and Ann Buchel
2015: Milly Spear
2016: Leslie Fall
2017: Judy Welcker
2018: Janice Paine
2019: Marie Orth
2022: Rose Bradford and Diane Pittman
2023: Rose Catalanotto and Sharon Simmons

What's cooking at the Friends?

Sharon Simmons contributed this dish to the Holiday Party at West Bank Regional.

MARINATED VEGETABLES

1c chopped green peppers
 1c chopped celery
 1-10 oz can shoepeg corn
 1 small can English peas (I use LeSeur)
 1-10 oz can French cut green beans
 8 chopped green onions
 1 small jar chopped pimientos
 3/4 c apple cider vinegar
 1/2 c cooking oil
 1 tsp salt/pepper
 3/4 c sugar, Truvia, or Splenda

Bring vinegar, oil, salt, pepper, sugar to a boil. Set aside to cool. (If using Nutrasweet, add after removing from heat. Pour over vegetables and marinate 12-24 hrs. Drain.

Will keep 3-4 weeks in refrigerator.



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

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!



NOTICE: The Online Sales department is in need of small boxes (3 inches high or less) and packing materials.