

# Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 70

May 2024

## Meet the proposed new board members

photo by Anna Campos



From left: Betty Small, Barbara Coman, and Rose Catalanotto.

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

# GENERAL MEETING


**10:00 A.M.**  
**May 22, 2024**

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

**Election of Officers**

Slate: President: Marie Orth; Vice-President: Barbara Coman  
Treasurer: Peg Phelps; Corresponding Secretary: Collette Ricaud  
Recording Secretary: Sue Craig  
Members-at-Large: Annette Centanni, Betty Small,  
and Rose Catalanotto

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



Every two years, at the May General Meeting, the Friends Board is up for re-election. This time, our President, Marie Orth, has consented to continue in office, as have our Treasurer, Peg Phelps, Recording Secretary Sue Craig, Corresponding Secretary Collette Ricaud, and Member-at-Large Annette Centanni. We will have three new candidates for office at the meeting: Barbara Coman as Vice-President and Betty Small and Rose Catalanotto as Members-at-Large. Feature articles on all three candidates can be found on pages 3 and 4 in this issue. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

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

Marie Orth, President  
Judy Welcker, Vice President  
Peg Phelps, Treasurer  
Sue Craig, Recording Secretary  
Collette Ricaud, Corresponding  
Secretary  
Diane Schleifstein, Past President

#### Board of Directors

Annette Centanni, Patricia Cox,  
Judy Zawislak, Lisa Conescu,  
Joan Demers, Jan DeVidts, Sandra Blount,  
Jo Ann Rosenfeld, Michele Thomassie,  
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

## New Feature

“Where Do You Like to Read?” is the first in what will be an ongoing series of articles from our talented co-editor, Annette Centanni. If you enjoy reading in unusual locations, contact her at [friendsjpl3@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsjpl3@yahoo.com)

## 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 will pull up the Friends homepage.

*Editor's note:* you may notice that there are a LOT of pictures in this issue of Friends Trends. Our volunteers have been busy photographing all our Friends events. Now everyone can see how much fun we have!

## Proposed Vice-President

by Peg Phelps



Our candidate for vice-president is Barbara Coman, who was born and raised in New Orleans. Except for her college years at USL in Lafayette, she has lived here all her life. She graduated in 1981 with a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics and worked in three different hospitals over 28 years. After a short break, she worked for 10 additional years in a nursing home. Barbara is married to Maurice and has one adult daughter and two brothers.

Barbara found her way to the Friends when her daughter saw a notice about the Puzzle Extravaganza at the library in early 2023. Having always been a big puzzle fan, she went to the event. While there, she met some members of the Friends who were there to sell puzzles, and joined on the spot. Since that fateful day, Barbara has immersed herself in Friends' activities. She regularly participates in sorting books, where she is the official "door answerer". This helps her to achieve her goal of 10,000 steps per day. She also opens up on sorting days, and coordinates the emptying of the book drop bins on weekends. Barbara also covers a shift at the gift shop once a week.

The thing she likes best about her involvement with the Friends is being around other people who love books as much as she does. Since her family is small and she's retired, it has been difficult to meet new people, and her participation helps her to form new friendships.

Barbara avers that she is happy to have been nominated to serve as Vice-President, where she will be responsible for reserving the meeting rooms and finding interesting speakers, and of course filling in for the president when needed. She feels capable of handling these responsibilities, since she served for many years on various boards with the Sierra Club, both locally and at the national level. She likes to contribute and help wherever possible.



 A yellow rectangular advertisement with a border of colorful books. The text reads:
 

**The Friends  
Need You!**

*Renew Your Dues  
or Become a Member*

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

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

# Candidates for Member-at-Large

by Peg Phelps



One of our candidates for member-at-large is Betty Small, who grew up in Gentilly, and worked in law offices in New Orleans for more than 40 years. She and husband John have been married for 41 years, and have two adult children and three grandchildren. Betty also has two sisters.

Betty's involvement with the Friends of the Library stems from her husband's efforts to find something to occupy her time after she retired in 2021. He knew that Betty loved to read, and that the entire family had used the library for leisure reading as well as school and professional use. John asked one of the librarians about volunteer opportunities, and was given the Friends' phone number, which Betty subsequently called.

Since that momentous day, Betty has immersed herself in Friends' undertakings. She has worked in the gift shop, and has learned to sort, check, and pack books. She also works listing, packing, and shipping books with the Amazon crew.

Betty enjoys the camaraderie of the Friends, and finds them to be an interesting, friendly, and happy group, where every person is eager to take on any job that they are capable of performing. She looks forward with confidence, and the help of her Friends, to handling anything that the position of member-at-large will entail.



Our other candidate for Member-at-Large is Rose Catalanotto. Rose was born and raised in New Orleans, where in 1975, she earned a B.A. in Art History at UNO. Upon graduation, she worked at ARC of New Orleans, and discovered that she enjoyed working with special needs children. This led to a M.Ed. in 1981 in Early Childhood Special Education, followed by 27 years of working with special needs kids.

After she retired in 2011, she completed the Master Gardener program, and subsequently volunteered at the WW II Museum's Victory Garden for seven years. She just couldn't stay away from those children, so from 2012 to 2018 she worked as an Early Steps instructor, seeing children in their homes and at day care facilities.

As a teacher, Rose attended many Big Book Sales, often taking a day off from work to do so. She replenished both her personal and her classroom libraries at the sales, and always looked forward to the next one. Encouraged by Judy Zawislak and Maria Tujague, she signed up to help. In 2021 she ran into Robert Campos, who told her that the sales were cancelled because of COVID-induced lack of volunteers. This was the impetus for Rose to commit to helping at the sorting center two times a week, which she has been doing since that fateful meeting with Robert. She now sorts, scans, prices, and packs, and finds it fun and challenging.

She believes that she has never worked with a nicer, more supportive group who all share the same goal of earning money to support the Jefferson Parish Library System. Rose loves being around books and people who enjoy reading, both of which allow for a stimulating exchange of ideas.

Rose considers it an honor to be asked to serve on the board and to further support the goal of "finding good homes for used books."



# The March General Meeting

March 20, 2024



*Master Gardener Glen Labord, left, spoke at the meeting on "The Beauty of Southern Vines." Right: Afterward, attendees enjoyed the bounteous food seen below. Photos by Anna Campos.*



# Setting up the Book Sale

April 11 2024



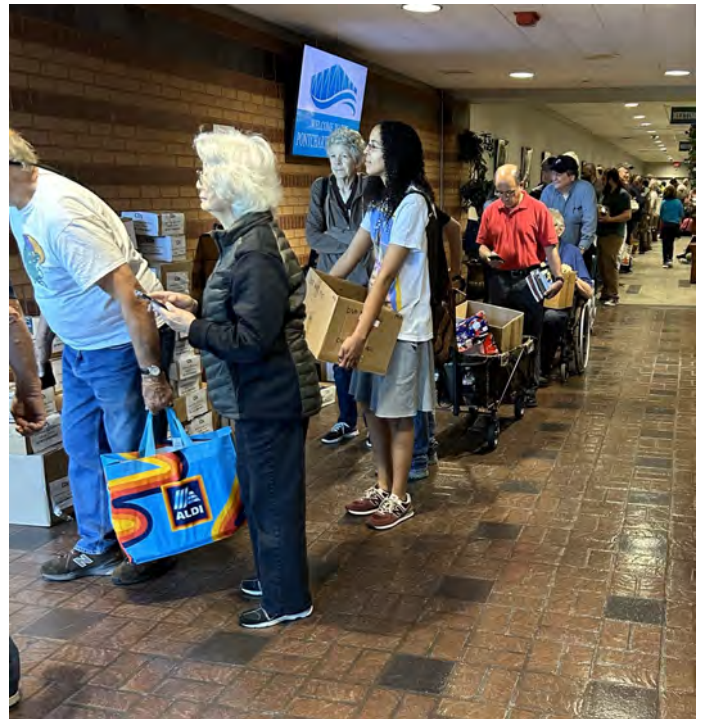
*Left: A special team arranges the Choice Fiction alphabetically by author. Above: The sets were arranged by Angela Herber. Photos by Anna Campos.*

# The Spring Book Sale

April 12-14, 2024



*Above: Darlene Scalf snapped a picture of the first morning of the sale. Below, left: Beverly Marino photographed the children's section, and Rose Catalanotto captured the checkout line at its peak (right). (The line moved fast—most customers said they only had to wait about 15 minutes.)*



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*We find good homes for used books.*

# Families at the Book Sale

April 12-14, 2024



*The Book Sale was a real family event—children loved having a hallway of books just for them. The pictures on this page were contributed by some of our Book Sale volunteers: Judy Zawislak, Beverly Marino, Rose Catalanotto, Darlene Scalf, and Anna Campos.*

*We find good homes for used books.*

## Where do you like to read?

by Annette Centanni

It's personal and varied. Some people can read anywhere, while others have to set a stage. By my experience, to many people who love to read, their preferred place actually has emotionally-charged connotations denoting peace or anticipation, well-being, comfort, and ultimately, personal restoration or catharsis.

I think that Friends are Friends basically because they have had a life-long relationship with books. Out of curiosity, I have begun asking a few of them where their favorite place to read is, and why this is so. This is what I have found out.

**Robert Campos** takes books to Starbucks because he enjoys books but he loves coffee to go with them. Another Friend takes his pickup to the park to get away from it all. My husband **Anthony** keeps a stack of Model Aviation magazines in the bathroom, but also has a reading lamp and a comfy

chair in the living room for serious reading.

Others told me a story when I asked them the question about their reading habits. **Sharon Simmons** says that her favorite reading spot is her office, where she has an arm chair and a foot rest with a vibrator. She closes the door for complete peace and quiet and settles in. She says she can also read in bed before bedtime, but hands down, she prefers her favorite chair and foot vibrator.

**Sue Craig's** favorite spot is her queen-sized, West Indies (circa 1860) four-poster, carved bed. She reads both early mornings and at night before bed-time. **Collette Ricaud** likes to read in her living room, where she has a chair with foot rest next to a window. Her choice always is to read where she can have natural light, but she has a floor lamp nearby to use when necessary.

*To be continued in the next issue...*




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## The Book Sale Coffee

May 3, 2024



*Left: volunteers enjoyed having the Thank You coffee in the spacious double meeting room at the East Bank Regional Library. Right: a close-up of some of the bouquets arranged by Marie Orth, Marie Breerwood, Kathryn Firmin, and Anna Campos. Photos by Anna Campos.*







## The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

by Annette Centanni

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers. Happy Spring to you!

Many of us celebrated its advent with our Big Book Sale on April 12-14. If you were there, you know what I mean. As anticipated, it was a bountiful boon to book dealers, customers, teachers, and our Jefferson Public Library alike. The Friends succeeded in raising over \$55,000 in 2 ½ days! After expenses, we netted approximately \$38,500 for the library, not counting the residuals that will keep coming in for several months due to sales by Thrift Books. They took our leftovers on consignment.

It was hard work with set-up, cashiering, continual re-organizing, assisting customers, and of course, takedown, but we had a lot of fun, too. Personally, I love seeing customers' expressions when I tally up their purchases and announce their totals. Many who pay with cash then tell me, "Keep the change for the library." Everybody goes away happy!

Two new additions to our usual line-up added levity to our work this time. The first was a volunteer "security guard," **Tim McLanahan**, who joined our regular security guard manning the floor. He greatly



"Security Guard" Tim McLanahan, taken by Peg Phelps

helped with crowd management with his professional dress, stern looks and dark shades, and our customers were safer and none the wiser. The second was the addition during our sale lunch times of **Jo Ann Rosenfeld**, who volunteered to serve as "assistant hostess" to Hospitality Hostess, **Judy Welcker**. She was a great help to Judy by facilitating food/ice distribution, and her offers of a napkin or the phrase, "Can I get you something to drink?" Believe me, these were welcome words to volunteers sitting down for the first time in hours!



Kitchen staff Judy Welcker, left, and Jo Ann Rosenfeld. Photo by Beverly Marino.

At the end of the sale, 27 teachers who had pre-registered, representing 16 different schools received 55 boxes of free books. It was a fitting end to a perfect sale.

**The Sale Thank You Brunch** was held in the Jefferson and Napoleon meeting rooms of the library for the first time in many years. **Peg Phelps** and **Judy Zawislak**, co-chairs of the Book Sale, presented all of the pertinent numbers. The food catered by Caffe Latte Da and the camaraderie were enjoyed by all.

See **The Shadow** page 10

*We find good homes for used books.*

## The Shadow

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**Then, business by Sorting, Amazon, the Store, eBay and their many sub-groups resumed, as usual,** at full speed.

Our taxes were e-filed by **Ralph Cox**, who has been generously filing them for many years. Thank you, Ralph! The Friends greatly appreciate what you do for us.

**eBay and the Internet have been busy, as well.** eBay has sold numerous interesting items recently, most notably a \$200 book about the Krewe of Comus, and a hand mirror for \$75. With each passing month, eBay has become a more viable and valuable fund-raising tool for the Friends to utilize. During the past two months, Internet (Amazon) sales have netted \$6,260 to add to our kitty to be donated to the library. Kudos to all of the ladies who work in these departments.

In her capacity as Facebook facilitator for our **Social Media** sub-group, **Michele Thomassie** reports that the Friends' Facebook page followers have begun to increase in number. She is predicting that numbers will increase at a greater rate when our newly-minted QR code begins to appear on all of our printed literature. "Young people with cell phones know how to use QR codes," Michele told the board, "and will use them to find out what resources we have available."

**Volunteers abound!** We surely have a lot of new, productive—and younger—volunteers. We love them because they have new ideas, such as the QR code, and a lot of energy to share. They fit in just fine, too; we have a lot to teach them as well, and they are enjoying the process. **Sharon Simmons**, in charge of quantifying/reporting on volunteer services, says that Friends are averaging

68 volunteering members per month who total approximately 1,100 hours of work. Wow. It will be interesting to find out what the numbers will reveal in May, when she reports on our book sale.

**Raise-a-Reader.** Recently, **Sandra Blount** and **Sue Craig**, active R-a-R volunteers, attended a West Jefferson Medical Center Family Health Expo. They handed out Raise-a-Reader packets and Spring Book Sale book marks. On another occasion, **Sue** and **Sandra** delivered boxes of Raise-a-Reader materials to West Jefferson Hospital, Ochsner West Bank and Ochsner in Kenner, to be distributed to new mothers. Crescent City Family Services will also soon begin receiving boxes of packets as part of the WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Program. Not all arms of the Friends raise money, it seems, but all of our arms are concerned with promoting reading as a lifetime activity. We plant many seeds, and only time will tell what they will produce.

**Purchases for the Library.** The Friends have made some new purchases at the request of the library. They wanted four rotating Scrabble boards for their "Scrabble Scrambles," and two Genealogy books for the East Bank Regional Special Collections Department. The Friends' board unanimously also accepted Children's Librarian **Erin Korosi's** request for monies to help underwrite her Summer Reading Program. It will serve Babies through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teens, and Adults by providing incentives and prizes for the program. The cost to the Friends will be \$9,364.70. In 2023, 6,934 Jefferson Parish residents registered and participated in the program, and 2,395 completed it.

**Bits & Pieces to make you shake your head or to chuckle.** As you must know, I love to watch

See **The Shadow** page 11

## The Shadow

*continued from page 10*

and listen to people. Just last week I found out that **Sue Craig** *still* talks to herself... and now answers herself back. You should hear her when she is struggling to evaluate a “naughty” (her word) comic book or graphic novel. What she actually does with them all is to take them to a comic book dealer she knows, and then trade them for plastic sleeves to protect the comics that she takes to the Sale. I found out, too, that she puts the *really* naughty ones in the trash! Times have surely changed from my “Little Lulu” days.

**Jo Ann Rosenfeld** came to the March board meeting in special regalia: a tiara and sash that were given to her on the event of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her birthday had actually passed, but she claims she was still entitled because she had been celebrating all month!



“Queen” Jo Ann Rosenfeld.

**Store news.** **Patricia Cox**, Store Manager, gave me this report: “There hasn’t been much going on at the Store since Easter. After all of the cold weather and rains, people were apparently out and

about, because they weren’t here! Sales were steady but not high. We celebrate whenever we have pre-holiday \$200 days, like **Cheryl Smith**, **Barbara Coman** and **Arlene Manguno** had before Easter. But...I did a *handstand* when **Holly Mo** had a \$200 shift during a slow week! Our senior volunteer, **Arlene**, underwent knee replacement during the ‘eclipse.’ Hurry up and get well, **Arlene**; your customers are looking for you!

“In spite of a closure because of the rain storm and a slow ‘eclipse’ day, the ‘short’ week produced two \$200 days. Mother’s Day on May 12<sup>th</sup> and Father’s Day right behind should produce some good sale days. Keep in mind that we have some great military and sports books Dad will enjoy.”

And there you have it, straight from **Patricia** to me to you.

Don’t forget the **General Meeting & Elections** on May 22, and the next **Puzzle/ Warehouse Sale** at East Bank Regional on July 27.

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!



**Word of the day:** Tsundoku. According to Google, tsundoku is “acquiring reading materials but letting them pile up in one's home without reading them.”

# Worth a thousand words



Tim McClanahan and his daughter, Molly, enjoy a laugh after she pins him with a “Security Enforcement Officer” lapel pin at the Book Sale Thank You Coffee. (See page 9 of “The Shadow” for details.) Photo by Robert Campos.

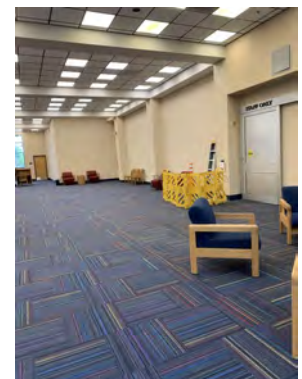


Judy Zawislak, left, received a Volunteer Activists Award from St. Elizabeth’s Guild at a luncheon on April 17. Peg Phelps photographed her receiving the award from Archbishop Aymond and Marie Orth captured Judy with her award.

## News Notes

### Recent happenings at the Jefferson Public Library

The EBR library has rearranged the entire fiction section to make room for a Makerspace area. We will keep you posted on future developments. Photo by Anna Campos



# What's cooking at the Friends?

*This favorite is baked often for the Friends by Peg Phelps. Photo by Diane Schleifstein*

## DARN GOOD CHOCOLATE CAKE

1 Chocolate cake mix (I have used Duncan Hines Devil's Food, German Chocolate, and Swiss Chocolate. All worked well)

6 Tbs. flour (to compensate for the smaller sized cake mixes)

1 small pkg. instant chocolate pudding

4 eggs

1 cup sour cream

1/2 cup each warm water and vegetable oil

1-1/2 cups chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.



Coat 12 cup Bundt pan with cooking spray, then dust with flour. Shake out excess flour. Set aside.

Place cake and pudding mix, eggs, sour cream, water and oil in large mixing bowl. Blend with mixer on low speed 1 minute. Stop and scrape down sides of bowl; increase speed to medium and beat 1 to 3 minutes more, scraping sides down again, if needed. Batter should be thick and well combined. Fold in chocolate chips; mix well. Pour batter into pan, smoothing with spatula. Place in oven.

Bake cake until it springs back when lightly pressed with finger and starts to pull away from sides of pan, 45 to 55 minutes. (Since the consistency of this cake is like a pudding, testing for doneness with a toothpick does not work!) Remove pan from oven and place on wire rack to cool 20 minutes. Invert onto rack, remove from pan, and cool 20 minutes more. For a nice effect, use a sifter to sprinkle some confectioner's sugar over cake. Serve warm if possible.

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.