

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 71

September 2024

Barbara Coman is Volunteer of the Year

photo by Meade Phelps



Barbara Coman, left, receives her award from Sandra Blount.

Editors note: This is the speech Sandra Blount gave when she presented Barbara with her award.

“Our Volunteer of the Year is someone who joined us after the pandemic was over, and has made quite an impression! Her enthusiasm is contagious. She does what she says she will do. She sorts books, but when either the doorbell or the phone ring, she stops whatever she is doing to answer. Her many duties include emptying the bins one weekend per month and supervising the other weekends. She arrives early on Tuesdays and Thursdays to open the door to the Sorting Center. She jumps at the chance to substitute in the Friends Store.

We at the Sorting Center know she must get those 10,000 steps in daily. Did I also say that she is our new Vice-President? It is my privilege to announce that our 2024 Volunteer of the year is none other than Barbara Coman.”



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

GENERAL MEETING

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday, October 2, 2024
East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie

Guest Speaker:
Mel Buchanan
Curator of Decorative Arts and Design
at the New Orleans Museum of Art

*“Sand, Ash, Heat: Glass at the
New Orleans Museum of Art”*

Special Door Prizes!



Sign up to volunteer for the Big Book Sale
October 25-27 at the Pontchartrain Center

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

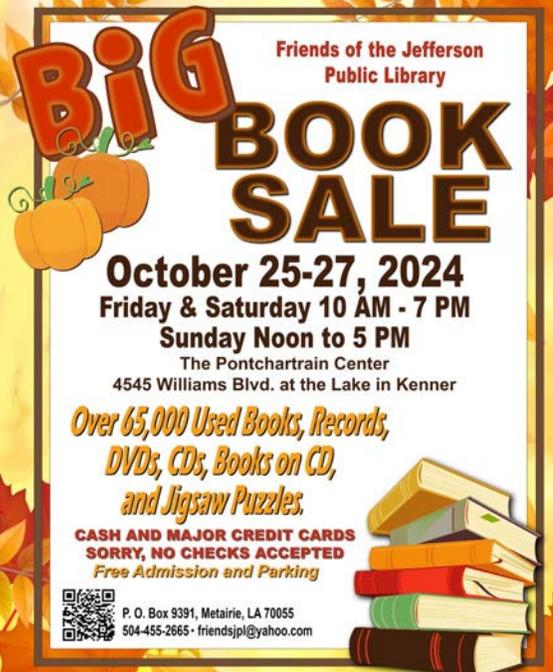
Friends of the Jefferson
Public Library

Big BOOK SALE

October 25-27, 2024
Friday & Saturday 10 AM - 7 PM
Sunday Noon to 5 PM
The Pontchartrain Center
4545 Williams Blvd. at the Lake in Kenner

*Over 65,000 Used Books, Records,
DVDs, CDs, Books on CD,
and Jigsaw Puzzles.*

**CASH AND MAJOR CREDIT CARDS
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October 25-27 at the Pontchartrain Center

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We find good homes for used books.

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

(a member of United for Libraries, the
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Advocates, Friends, and Foundations)

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Jan DeVidts, Sandra Blount, Jo Ann Rosen-
feld, Michele Thomassie,
Sharon Simmons, Anna Campos, Betty
Small, Rose Catalanotto

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 Notes

Recent happenings at the Jefferson Parish Library



A check for \$100,000.00 was
presented to Nathan McArthur,
Library Operations Director, by
Friends President Marie Orth at
the May 22, 2024 General
Meeting. Photo by Anna Cam-
pos.



The Wagner Branch of the library system, located on
Riverside Drive in Metairie, is closed for remodeling.
Photo by Diane Schleifstein.



PO Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055
504-455-2665 friendsjpl@yahoo.com

Libraries and librarians connect us to unknown worlds
both real and imagined.”

—Joe Harvey, *From Blue Ground*

Friend of Distinction Audrey Munoz

by Patricia Cox, photo by Meade Phelps



Patricia Cox, left, presented the Friend of Distinction award to Audrey Munoz

Our member of Distinction joined us over 25 years ago —pre Y2K! She is gracious, quiet and reserved.

Her work ethic is terrific. She loves the Friends store and is always ready to lend an extra helping hand.

She has seen us through lots of changes and challenges—ours and hers. Family illness, back surgery, the pandemic and storm closures are the only things that have kept her from her appointed duties.

She bounces back and doesn't miss a beat.

She keeps the most accurate records – receipts are always in order. I NEVER have to redo them.

She is also a whiz at working & fixing the calculator and the credit card machine.

I am delighted to present to you the 2024 Friend of Distinction: Audrey Munoz



Two Box Award winners

photo by Meade Phelps

Sandra Blount and Betty Small received this year's Box Awards from Judy Zawislak, at left. The Box Award is given to recognize those who go above and beyond the normal and therefore move a tremendous amount of the Friends' boxes and/or books. Judy Zawislak received the first Box Award in 2015. Joan Fontaine created the pottery "boxes" that have been awarded in the years since.



The Volunteer Luncheon

June 14, 2024. Photos by Meade Phelps



Above, left: Lisa Conescu presided over an installation/rededication ceremony for new and incoming board members. Right: President Marie Orth received a gift for her service.



Left: flowers were awarded to Judy Zawislak, left, and Peg Phelps, right, by President Marie Orth. Below, from left to right: Christy Pepper, Peggy Mathews, and Liz Averill were some volunteers attending the luncheon for the first time.



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We find good homes for used books.

The Puzzle and Box Sale

July 27, 2024



Held in conjunction with the East Bank Regional Library's puzzle contest and swap, the Friends' Puzzle and Box Sale netted \$1,692.60 plus \$45 in redeemed coupons. (See *The Shadow*, page 10, for more details about the sale.)

Above, left: Rose Cancionne took the picture of shoppers Lori Rose and Holly Martin. Right: mother and daughter shoppers, as well as the couple loading multiple boxes from the Warehouse sale into their van, were captured by Darlene Scalf. 



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

The MLIS Reception

August 14, 2024



In August, the Friends hosted a reception in honor of the six library employees who completed their Master of Library and Information Science degrees, plus a seventh who was not able to attend last year's event. Honorees and dignitaries are, from left, Sarah Schnadelbach (EBR Library), Mario Bazile (Chief Administrative Officer for the Parish – not a graduate), Julia Frederiksen (EBR Library), Nicholas Caluda (WBR Library), Jessica Styons (JPL Director), Christian Gruber (North Kenner Library), Frank Boimare (EBR Library), and Nicole Ruiz (Belle Terre Library).

All photos were taken by Darlene Scalf, including the selfie with her favorite librarian, Frank Boimire.



Photos from the big donation

Nola Home Improvement donated two truckloads of HUGE boxes of children's books. Beverly Marino took the first four photos.



Unloading the first shipment.



The first day's shipment was loaded into boxes.



These strong young people carried the second shipment of boxes into the Administration corridor.



Friends volunteers repacked the books into boxes for the warehouse sale.



Left: Tess Knatzner poses with some packed boxes for the Warehouse Sale. She was the person at NOLA Home Improvement who was responsible for saving the books from a demolished school library. Photo by Anna Campos.

Right: after two days, the books were finally all packed up! Photo by Angie Wollschlaeger of the JPL staff.



Where do you like to read?

by Annette Centanni

Sorter/online lister **Betty Small** reports that enjoyable reading time in her household depends on who is at home and whether or not the TV is on. No uninterrupted reading is possible if her husband, single son or a grandchild is around. When all is quiet, her favorite spot is the kitchen table with natural light streaming over her shoulders.

Michael Rodan, sorter, prefers to read in his Lazy-Boy recliner, where he can relax in cool, quiet comfort.

My next two interviewees, both deliriously avid readers, wove a complete story around their respective reading experiences. **Darlene Scalf**, sorter/puzzle checker, loves to read with her dog in her lap. Her favorite living room chair leans back in just the right position to accommodate the two of them and a book. Darlene also says she reads at least one chapter in bed every night before going to sleep.

Although in my book, these are two great reading retreats, Darlene's revelations didn't end there. She told me about another sweet reading spot she is *quite* fond of. It's a Mexican restaurant in her

neighborhood which she frequents when they are less busy. The servers keep refilling her drink and keep letting her read, blissfully undisturbed. To complement her experience, Darlene found out that her usual server used to live less than 10 miles from where she lived in California. He always welcomes her with a smile and a kiss on the forehead! Way to go, Darlene!

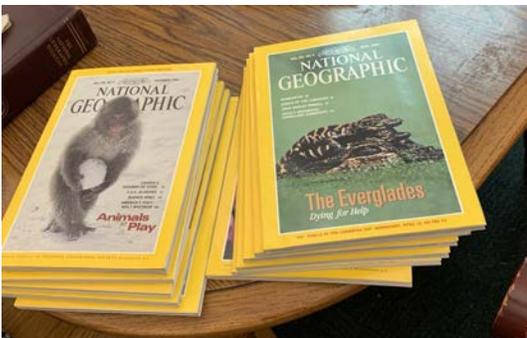
My last interviewee for this issue was **Susan Ward**, who is both sorter and a graphic artist, available for special projects around the Center. Susan says that she resides comfortably with books all around her. She claims (and who am I to doubt it) that she regularly reads two or three of them at one time without getting their plots mixed up. Like Darlene, she reads in bed, allowing herself at least one hour before turning in. At other times, her favorite chair in the living room permits her to read utilizing natural light. The crime/mystery books she prefers allow her to get the proper "fix" of escape and entertainment to sustain her reading habit.

Reading adventures to be continued in a future newsletter!



Scavenger hunt for *National Geographic*s

by Annette Centanni with Peg Phelps



Anna Campos

A few years ago, Deena from the Reference Desk at East Bank Regional approached the Friends with a list of 76 issues of *National Geographic* magazines that the library was missing. They ranged from the year 2004 to 2020. She optimistically asked if we could keep a lookout for them. Over the years, various Friends sorted through any issues that came in, all the while presenting to Deena the ones we found from her list. In June of 2024, we finally took her the last issue that she needed to complete the set.



How the library saved me

thoughts shared with Annette Centanni by Arlene Manguno

Nobody could have been born into a busier, more loving extended family than Arlene Manguno, surrounded by aunts, uncles, grandparents, and lots of noisy cousins. It all came to an end for her, however, when her father had to move his family to St. Louis in order to take a job that would often require him to work seven days a week. At the time, Arlene was all of a tender six-years-of-age. With her mother busy, too, suddenly there was little time for Arlene except for their nightly reading-out-loud time.

Feeling sad and alone, with no neighborhood kids to play with, Arlene missed her lively former life. The long summertime days soon began to weigh heavily on her little shoulders.

Until! One day, she slipped away and wandered into a library just three blocks from their new apartment. (Just how this happened Arlene doesn't remember—but times were safer in the early 1940's.) The librarian welcomed her warmly, asked her if she could read, and permitted her to sign her name to her first library card. The sweet librarian made her promise never to lose a book or to get it dirty, and told her that she could take as many as seven books home with her if she would return them. What joy filled her heart! As the librarian got to know Arlene, she recommended many new titles she thought Arlene would enjoy. She says she remembers that librarian well to this day, as an instrument of opening up a whole new world for her.

Today, that same six-year-old is still alive and well in Arlene—she still has that same curiosity, enthusiasm and joy she felt then, reading her first library books. And she has never felt lonely again. Books that she had put aside for “someday” helped her survive the Covid shutdown four years ago. To this day, Arlene says she is never without a book in an airplane, airport, or waiting around somewhere during one of life's many expected or unexpected intermissions.



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The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

by Annette Centanni

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers! Where has the summer gone? It might have slipped by some of us, but I can tell you who it *hasn't* slipped by—the main branch of the library and the Friends of the Library. All summer, every time I drove up to the site, the parking lot was packed.

This year, 5,288 patrons participated in the Summer Reading Program: 3,061 kids, 596 teens and 1,631 adults. Participants recorded 2,206,409 minutes spent in reading! The Friends again participated in the event by donating all of the incentive prizes that were given away. **Erin Korosi**, librarian in charge of the program, deemed the whole summer a great success.

The Friends subsidized many other projects the library undertook this summer. One was the Spelling Bees conducted at both East and West Bank Regional libraries. We helped by providing Book Sale coupons as prizes for the events. We also provided food for the Adult Murder Mystery event at the River Ridge branch, and the Teen Lock-In, which is part of the EBR Summer Reading Program. \$300 in gift coupons for our Book Sale served as prizes for the Puzzle Extravaganza at EBR, Harahan and Belle Terre branches. Additionally, we purchased two copies each of several books the Grand Isle branch wanted to add to its permanent collection. They were all Louisiana-themed. We also furnished packs of crayons for the Library Outreach department to be used as giveaways for the Back-to-School Bash

at West Bank Regional.

Past President Diane Schleifstein, who teaches Mahjong every summer at the EBR, requested three new Mahjong sets for the group she moderates. We purchased them for \$99 per set, and **Diane** attests that they have been well broken-in already.



Mah Jong group photo by Diane Schleifstein.

If anybody asks you how the Friends spend the money they earn, now you can tell them what we did just this summer!

The Friends' own activities included a Puzzle Extravaganza and a Warehouse Sale that was held at East Bank Regional. The puzzle sale, which was our part in the Extravaganza, netted \$757.60, and the box sale of books and CDs netted \$935. *(Photos of the sale are on page 5.)* **New V.P. Barbara Coman** reported to the Board that the boxed books sold out in just 20 minutes!

A reception was hosted on August 14th by a committee of Friends coordinated by **Hospitality Hostess Judy Welcker**. *(Photos on page 6.)* It was in honor of the six library employees who had this year completed requirements for their Masters of Library and Informational Sciences. All guests pre-

See **The Shadow** page 11

We find good homes for used books.

The Shadow

continued from page 10

sent, however, got a huge surprise when the fire alarm went off during the festivities, and the building had to be evacuated! My trusty **Co-Editor Anna Campos** told me, "The day was hot, but it's a good thing it wasn't raining. It took them a while to check out the electrical system before we could get back to the party."



Evacuating after the fire alarm. Photo by Darlene Scaif.

An upcoming event the Friends will participate in will be the 75th Anniversary of the Jefferson Parish Library System, with kick-off activities beginning on November 9th. Look for details in **Chris Smith's** regular newspaper column. The theme will be "The Library as Center of the Community." The Friends will man a table during the event.

Back at Sorting, ever thinking of our finances, **Sharon Simmons** suggested that we purchase postage stamps before the price increase on July 14th. She volunteered to run the errand, and in doing so, saved us \$71.00. Book Carts chairperson **Jo Ann Rosenfeld** reported that as of August, book cart sales had totaled \$2,127.66 since January 1. Keeping us legal, **Peg Phelps**, treasurer, has filed our Annual Report with the LA Secretary of State. **Judy Zawislak**, Book Sale chair, has seen to the signing of our contract with the Pontchartrain Center for the fall Big

Book Sale. You see, our "bits & pieces" of tasks **do** take a village! And in our "village," everybody does his/her part!

In other items of interest, Bingo for Books has been a great success at West Bank Regional, and will continue as an ongoing activity. Participants love all of the "coffee table" books the Friends furnish as prizes. E-Bay, our outlet for donated odd items, has netted \$674 since the beginning of the year. Also, the 11,000 pounds of books sent to Thrift Books after the spring sale is still generating funds. As the books are sold, they periodically send us another check.

The ladies who list our more expensive donated books on **Amazon** netted \$7,080 in sales over June and July, in spite of vacations, computer headaches and Amazon's penchant for "improving" their system. Nine books sold for over \$100 apiece, and surprisingly, a graphic novel sold for \$500. These ladies *really* know how to research to ascertain the value of each book they set out on the internet!

And finally, a couple of funny things happened to liven up the August doldrums at Sorting last month. Two missing items prompted mass emails and whole-Center searches: one was a key search, and the other was a search for **Peg's** favorite glass flower vase. Both items were eventually found, hiding in plain sight. Isn't that always the case?



Peg found her missing vase.

The second occurrence involved surgical gloves, cotton and a bottle of Soft Scrub. One tired afternoon when an assortment of Sorting workers felt like sitting down after lunch, the bright idea was put to the group to tackle a whole box of classic

See **The Shadow** page 12

The Shadow

continued from page 11

books that needed freshening up. Fortunately, they agreed to do the tackling. Each book, worth about



Marie Breerwood and Christy Pepper, below left, are scrubbing the musty cases of some donated special edition books, while Darlene Scalf and Molly McClanahan, above, count pieces of jigsaw puzzles.

\$10, with its own ribbon bookmark and cardboard slipcase, was in serious need of a good wipe-down. Result: a box of classics for the sale that looked almost new. **Anna C.** captured the Friends' picture, plus other Friends who preferred to check puzzle pieces instead of soft scrubbing.

The Store had a slow, steady, uneventful summer, according to **Manager Patricia Cox**. **Patricia** writes, "Our Volunteer of the Year, **Barbara Coman**, has been filling the Sunday shift for our regular Sunday worker, **Amal**, who has been out after shoulder surgery. We really appreciate **Barbara** doing this—it's not an easy slot to fill!"

However, August has been the slowest month in a long time for the Store. In spite of all of the shifts being filled and the fact that the Store was open every day, it was the lowest income month all year. **Patricia's** pronouncement was that it was, "just too hot to shop."

If you missed the Grandparents Day sale, drop by the Store to visit the Collectibles corner. It features an ever-rotating collection of unique, one-of-a-kind articles. As a bonus, the Halloween items and decorations will soon be on display for your shopping pleasure.

That's all until next time. **See you at the Sale on October 25-27.** It's going to be as great as ever!
Your friendly **Shadow**

"A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face...It is one of the few havens remaining where a man's mind can get both provocation and privacy."

—Edward P. Morgan

What's cooking at the Friends?

Judy Zawislak bakes these (even on vacation in Maine!), and she provided the photo

Easy No-Flour Peanut Butter Cookies

Combine in a bowl:

- 1 egg
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup sugar

Stir well and shape into 1-1/4" balls and roll in sugar. Bake at 375° until edges are lightly browned, about 8 minutes. Cool one minute on cookie sheet, then transfer to a wire rack to finish cooling. Makes 32 cookies.

(Editor: These would be fun to bake with your grandchildren!)



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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