

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Avondale Ribbon Cutting

by Anna Campos

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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Friends Trends

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Anna Campos

Peg Phelps

Annette Centanni

The Dr. Joseph and Constance Carroll Avondale Library was dedicated on September 24, 2025. Dr. Carroll and his wife were prominent leaders in the Black community in the Greater New Orleans area. Avondale Library is the first-ever “flex library” in the parish, featuring mobile shelving and reconfigurable spaces. It also has a high-tech community meeting room, three private study rooms and twelve public computer stations.

Marie Orth and Barbara Starks manned a desk during the event. Marie took all the pictures except the ones of her and Barbara, which were snapped by a library staff member.



Exterior view of the Avondale Public Library in Terrytown.



Barbara Starks and Friends President Marie Orth manned a desk with information about the Friends and giveaways.



Irene Lunkin, JPL Library Executive Superintendent, Barbara Starks and Patricia Cox cutting cake served at the ceremony.



The Friends book cart will be stocked by Barbara Starks.



Interior views of the library.

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.



Photo by Liz Avrill

Pictured left to right: President, Marie Orth, Guest Speaker, Eve Lion and Recording Secretary, Sue Craig.

General Meeting

Our most recent General Meeting was held Wednesday, September 17th. Our Guest Speaker was Eve Lion, Humana MarketPoint Licensed Sales Representative. Her talk, “Stretch Your Grocery Dollars,” was informative and interactive. She offered many tips and tricks to save money at the grocery store and ways to minimize waste by storing food properly. Many members in the audience shared their suggestions and ideas as well.

Nearly forty people attended the meeting. We all enjoyed the lovely array of treats provided by the Friends and coordinated by Hospitality Chair **Judy Welcker**.



Mystery Writers Association Donation by Anna Campos

At the September Friends of JPL Board meeting, one item in the budget report caught the eye. It was a \$15,370.00 credit from the Mystery Writers Association. Jefferson Parish Library Director, Jessica Styons explained it this way: “I have a friend who is a member of the Mystery Writers Association, and she asked me if the JP Library would like to be a beneficiary of the association’s charity auction, to be held here in New Orleans in August. I said, ‘Yes, but the Friends of the Library would need to be the designated recipient.’ And then I didn’t think any more about it. Then on Wednesday, August 27, my friend called and said the conference had some money for me and would I like to come pick it up on Saturday.”

Jessica continued, “I knew I couldn’t ask anyone from the Friends to go downtown on such short notice, and Saturday was my day off, so I decided to go pick it up myself. I thought it would be a couple of thousand dollars at most.”

Mystery writer, Michael Connelly, donated the item that brought the biggest amount – the naming rights to a character in an upcoming book. This brought in \$3,100!

The conference’s charity auction must’ve been a REALLY big deal, because their gift to the Friends was a lot more than a couple of thousand dollars. Thank you very much, Mystery Writers Association!



Judy Zawislak is working hard on her first day back from her summer in Maine.

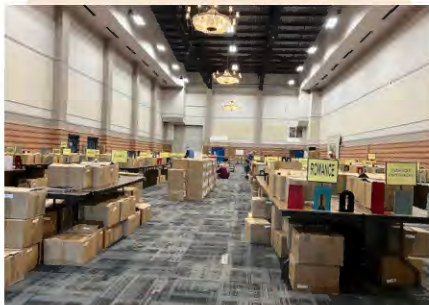


If you are reading a print copy of this newsletter and would like to receive it online, send an email to friendsjpl3@yahoo.com. In the subject line write “Subscribe Newsletter.”

FALL Big Book Sale a Great Success!



*Set Up Day - Thursday, October 23rd
Volunteers unpacked boxes to display the books in their appropriate categories.*



With much anticipation, more than 500 book seekers came through the doors within the first 30 minutes on the opening day of our Fall Big Book Sale.

We grossed more than \$63,000 for the three day sale!

Photos by Marie Orth, Susan Ward and Rose Catalanotto



Cashiers getting ready for the crowd.



Atmos Group Volunteers (not in order)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Tory Bernard</i> | <i>Andrew Folse</i> |
| <i>Kisha Winley</i> | <i>Molly McGreevy</i> |
| <i>Darius Roy</i> | <i>Leah Oby</i> |
| <i>Alicia Salazar</i> | <i>Brooke Dufrene</i> |



The first hour of the sale on Friday was jam-packed!



As usual, the line of book lovers snaked all around the building on opening day.



Thank You Volunteers!



Thank You coffee

by Annette Centanni

The Thank You Coffee this November was special in many ways. Graciously hosted by Judy Welcker and her crew of volunteers, it was both well-attended and enthusiastically enjoyed. Who does not love scrambled eggs, crisp bacon, sausage and a whole host of breakfast casseroles, pastries and fruit catered by Caffè Latte Da? Friends' camaraderie was also superb. The highlight of the day for volunteers who only work the Sale twice a year, however, was the surprise special presentation to the Library Director, Jessica Styons. It was a check in the amount of \$100,000 for the library! Many Sale volunteers had never witnessed the fruits of their labor, and now they have.



Photo by Beverly Marino

Friends President, Marie Orth, presenting Jessica Styons, Director of the Jefferson Parish Library System with a \$100,000 check from the Friends.



Photos by Betty Small

Speakers Peg Phelps, Marie Orth, and Barbara Coman.



Volunteers enjoying good food and conversation at the Thank You Brunch.



Photos by Betty Small



Photo by Patricia Cox

Congratulations,
Jeanne Bee, for winning the raffle.

This handcrafted quilt, stitched by members of quilting clubs at various library branches was raffled by the *Friends of the Jefferson Public Library* at the quilting expo, "Binding Us Together: Quilts and Stories" on Saturday, October 18, 2025.

Proceeds from the raffle will go toward funding Memory Café gatherings at multiple Jefferson Parish library branches, regularly scheduled social occasions for those with cognitive decline and their caregivers.



Photo by Beverly Marino



Holiday Party

*December 3, 2025
at the West Bank Regional Library*

Photos by Anna Campos



Getting ready for the party.



Judy Welcker and Marie Orth.



The library staff enjoyed themselves.

*Delicious Food, Fun, and Laughter was enjoyed by
the Library Staff and the Friends!*

Very First Warehouse Sale on the West Bank!

by Marie Orth

The West Bank Regional Warehouse sale was held in the atrium of the library on December 3, 2025. A few weeks before the sale **Sharon Simmons, Collette Ricaud, Michele Thomassie, Will Hunn and Marie Orth** went to WBR to go through books the library had purged. This group was able to get 27 boxes for our warehouse sale: 9 boxes of children's nonfiction, 8 boxes of junior fiction and 10 boxes of young children fiction. These were supplemented with children's books, romance, and adult fiction which had been brought back from the Big Book Sale in October. They also got some of the books from the sorting center. All boxes (114) sold and there were several requests for more boxes. The Friends made \$575.00, which includes one \$5.00 donation.

A fantastic first effort and more to come in the future!



Photo by Anna Campos

Leo Castell and Library Blend Coffee

by Anna Campos, with help from Leo Castell

One of the features of the Jefferson Public Library's 75th Anniversary celebration this year was the introduction of a special coffee called Library Blend. It was the brainchild of a newly-minted librarian—Leo Castell. Leonel was awarded his library degree last year from the University of Southern Mississippi and has been working at JPL since 2018. He began as a floater, going from branch to branch, and then worked in the East Bank Regional circulation department. Now he is a reference librarian at the EBR Library.



“I wanted something that would reflect the different attributes of the patrons of the library,” Leo says. He included dark chocolate to emphasize the seriousness and maturity of the library’s adult patrons while honey reflects the levity and sweetness of children. He also wanted simplicity—a simple name (“Library Blend”) and simple packaging with the JPL 75th Anniversary logo on the front. Leo meticulously arranged the colorful squares on the back label by hand to match the 75th Anniversary Logo.

During his undergraduate years, Leo worked as a barista at PJ’s coffee for 5 years. When he was about to graduate from UNO, he went to a career workshop. He was ready to submit his resumé when he saw a posting for Library Associate at the Jefferson Parish Library. Leo applied and was hired one month later. While working, he took one online course per semester until he earned his Master’s Degree.

Fast-forward to last year when the 75th Anniversary Committee began to plan for the library system’s celebration. Leo says, “As I understand it, (Library Director) Jessica Styons got the idea for the library to have its own coffee from an acquaintance she made who worked at Orleans Coffee. From there she suggested to (Committee Chair) Nicholas Caluda that we create a library coffee as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration.”

Nicholas asked Leo to take on the project of developing a coffee for the library due to his background as a barista. Leo was quick to point out that he had no experience creating a coffee roast from the ground up. Nonetheless, he was up to the challenge. At Director Styons’ suggestion, he contacted Orleans Coffee and designed the coffee and the label on the 1-pound bag.

Leo says, “The novelty of us having our own specialty coffee blend sort of sells itself, so I didn’t want any kind of fancy name or flashy packaging overshadowing that. I was striving for something a bit more minimal and elegant, but also clear: I didn’t want this coffee to be mistaken for anything other than the *Jefferson Parish Library’s* coffee roast.”

Leo’s description on the back label of the coffee makes it clear that he has accomplished what he set out to do. It reads, “Dark chocolate: a more complex kind of sweetness that’s subtle and promotes thoughtfulness; this note represents the maturity and focus that comes with adulthood. Honey: a sweetness that’s inviting and meant to make you smile; this note represents the liveliness and bright personalities of children and teens. These two flavors represent a convergence of ideas that makes our library what it is, a place that’s as at home with children having fun as it is with adults doing research, and everything in between!”



UPCOMING Events

Friends of Jefferson Public Library

Warehouse Sale

ONE DAY ONLY!

**Saturday
February 28, 2026**

East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA
9 am to 4 pm or until sold out

\$5 Boxes:
Children's (E, J, Non-Fiction)
Young Adult, Fiction,
Romance, CDs

\$10 Boxes:
DVDs

**Puzzles
Priced as marked
\$2 to \$5**

**Boxes cannot
be opened.**

Cash and Credit Cards Accepted

504-455-2665 friendsjpl@yahoo.com

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

GENERAL MEETING

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave. Metairie, LA

**Guest Speaker: Laura Boland Wright
Master Gardener**

**"Exploring the Botanical Garden
in City Park"**

Sign up to volunteer
for the Big Book Sale
April 17-19
at the Pontchartrain
Center

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

Big BOOK SALE

FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

3 Days Only!
April 17 - 19, 2026

Friday - Saturday 10 AM to 7 PM
Sunday Noon to 5 PM
The Pontchartrain Center
4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner

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

**Free Admission and Parking
Cash and Credit Cards
Sorry, No Checks Accepted**

Volunteers Welcome!
P. O. Box 9391 Metairie, LA 70055
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If you do not wish to receive future issues of Friends Trends, please send an email to friendsjpl3@yahoo.com. Use "Unsubscribe to Friends Trends" in the subject line.



The Online Sales Department is in need of small shallow boxes (3 inches high or less) and air pillow packing materials.



“If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book.”

J.K. Rowling



We Need Your Phones!

The sorting center is in need of your discarded phones. They are used to scan donated books in order to sell them on our online store.

We Need

iPhone 8 or later with IOS 16.4 or higher or Android 10.0 or higher.

Erase all personal information by resetting the device to factory settings.



Thank You!

Little Free Libraries

Little Free Libraries began in 2009 when Todd Bol built the first one in Hudson, Wisconsin, as a tribute to his mother, a teacher and book lover. The movement quickly grew, and by 2012, it became a registered nonprofit, with over 150,000 libraries established worldwide, promoting community and book sharing. As of 2025, there are more than 200,000 Little Free Libraries in 128 countries, sharing over 400 million books. -Wikipedia-

Below are some samples of the Little Free Libraries in our communities.

River Ridge, Harahan, Metairie, Covington, Thibodaux, and Harahan.

Take a book. Return a book.



The Friends Need You!

Renew Your Dues or Become a Member.

Online: friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org or Call: 504.455.2665

We find good homes for used books.

What's Cooking at the Friends?

from Allrecipes.com. Janet Allen, who submitted the recipe, says, "These crisp chocolate biscotti cookies are wonderful with coffee. This recipe makes a lot, but they store very well and make a great festive gift."

Editor's Note: I asked Judy Howat if she would share her recipe for biscotti, and since she bakes many flavors, she said, "Which one?" Being a chocoholic, I promptly replied, "The chocolate one, of course!" So here it is. Perfectly delicious! Enjoy!

Judy Howat's Double Chocolate Biscotti

Prep. time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 40 minutes
Additional time: 1 hour 15 minutes
Total time: 2 hours 15 minutes
Servings: 36
Yield: 3 dozen biscotti

Ingredients:

2/3 cup white sugar
1/2 cup butter, softened
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 large eggs
1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
4 (1 ounce) squares white chocolate, chopped, or 4 oz chopped nuts
3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips



Directions:

Step 1: Beat sugar and butter together in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in cocoa and baking powder. Beat for 2 minutes. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Stir in flour by hand. Mix in white chocolate (or nuts) and chocolate chips. Cover dough and chill for about 10 minutes.

Step 2: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Lightly grease a cookie sheet. Divide dough into two parts and roll each part into a 9-inch long log. Place logs on prepared cookie sheet, about 4 inches apart. Flatten slightly.

Step 3: Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 20 to 25 minutes. Cool on cookie sheet for 2 minutes, then carefully transfer to a wire rack to cool for 1 hour.

Step 4: Preheat the oven to 325 degrees (165 degrees C). Cut each loaf into 1/2-inch wide diagonal slices. Place slices on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Step 5: Bake in the preheated oven for 9 minutes. Turn cookies over and bake for 7 to 9 minutes. Cool completely, then store in an airtight container.

Like to share a recipe?

Email a copy to benigo@cox.net and include a picture if possible.

Contact the Friends

Address and Phone

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friendsjpl3@yahoo.com

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