

# Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 72

January 2025

## 75 years and counting!

by Annette Centanni



Left, Nicholas Caluda, director of the West Bank Regional Library, prepares to bury a time capsule in front of the East Bank Regional Library. Right, the Da Kulture brass band, photographed by Darlene Scalf.

This much-anticipated birthday party, graced with special cake and coffee for everyone, kicked off a months-long celebration of 75 years of library service to the residents of the Jefferson Parish community. November 9<sup>th</sup> was the big day for East Bank Regional Library and its guests. The event featured speeches on the history of the library alongside the development of Jefferson Parish, displays, activities for children, and party favors. Special recognition was given to our Friends of the Library organization for its contribution of over \$1,500,000 since its inception in 1985. Attendees were then entertained by Da Kulture Brass Band and followed them outside in “second line” for the burial of a time capsule, which will not be opened until the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2099. What a grand celebration it was! (More pictures on page 2)



Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

# WAREHOUSE SALE

# SALE

**One Day Only!**  
Saturday February 8, 2025  
9 am - 2 pm or until sold out  
East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA  
Hallway Directly off of Lobby

**Gently Used**  
**Children's Books**  
(E, J, Fiction & Non-Fiction)  
**Cookbooks and Fiction**  
(Hardback & Paperback)  
Also Puzzles \$1-\$6 ea.

**Boxes Cannot Be Opened**  
Cash and Major  
Credit Cards accepted  
504-455-2665 • friendsjpl@yahoo.com

**\$5 boxes**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

## GENERAL MEETING

10:00 A.M.  
Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
East Bank Regional Library  
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Elisabet Trujillo**  
Nutrition and Community Health Agent  
LSU AgCenter

*"Protein Power:  
Energize Your Day"*

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

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  
Barbara Coman, 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,  
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

## More Anniversary photos



*Jean-Luc Albin of Maurice's bakery donated the anniversary cake. Darlene Scalf photographed this as well as the time capsule shown at right.*



*The library's own brand of coffee was served at the anniversary celebration and was available in the Friends' store.*



*Michael Rodan, Barbara Starks, and Friends President Marie Orth manned the Friends table during the anniversary celebration.*



PO Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055  
504-455-2665 [friendsjpl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsjpl@yahoo.com)





## The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

by Annette Centanni

**G**reetings, Fellow Booklovers! My best wishes to you for a healthful, productive and peaceful 2025.

How do I begin to catch you up on all that has been happening with the Friends since our last newsletter? My best bet is for me to jump right in, with an account of our main event, our October **Big Book Sale**. It was a huge success, both in dollar sales and as a feat of human cooperation.

An army of 119 volunteers came together to man pre-set-up day through take-down. To those who arranged for publicity, met the truck to be loaded, set out hundreds of bookends and thousands of books, ran the Collectibles, Oldies, Sets and Auction stations, we express a most sincere Thank You. The telephone committee, book sale organizers, cashiers, and book straighteners were awesome! To mention a few volunteers by name, **Maurice Coman** and the **Matthews** team of **Peggy and Fred**, provided an invaluable time and patience-saving service by pre-tallying the huge orders bought by dealers. We celebrate all of you! (*Book Sale photos are on pages 6 and 7.*)

The sale grossed \$59,400 and netted \$42,800, but the Friends are still receiving bank deposits from Thrift Books, who again took our unsold books on consignment. Teachers from 19 schools took 54 boxes of free books for classroom or library use. Thousands of books found new homes. It was truly a win-win community event.

**Crisis averted.** With volunteers to feed for four days, Hospitality chair **Judy Welcker** tripped and broke a bone in her hand right before the sale. However, with help from husband **Stephen**, assistant **Jo Ann Rosenfeld**, and others who stepped up to fill in, she pulled it off with her usual aplomb. The after-sale Thank



Judy Welcker's hand

You Coffee she hosted was a winner, as well, with brunch provided by **Caffé Latte Da**. **Rose Catalanotto**, **Marie Orth** and **Anna Campos** presented the 1<sup>st</sup> ever entertainment skit on how to properly set up books at the sale (*see photo on page 10*), then **Judy W.** was presented with a "Wooden Spoon" award for keeping us all fed in spite of her broken bone.



The Wooden Spoon award

**Spotlight on five Friends at the Library's 75<sup>th</sup>.** If you attended the celebration on November 9<sup>th</sup>, you saw our President, **Marie Orth**, make her speech about the Friends' role in the growth of the library in the community. It was spectacular, and we were so proud of her being asked to speak at the occasion. **Barbara Starks** and **Michael Rodin** also had parts to play on that special day. Nervous, but with a tutorial from **Marie**, **Barbara** and **Michael** capably manned a table before and during the Anniversary presentation. (*See photo on page 2.*) They hawked Friends' literature, and debuted **Susan Ward** and **Kathryn Firmin's** new Jefferson Parish Friends of the Library brochure. They also signed attendees up for a raffle of books donated by the Friends. The many winners

See **The Shadow** page 4

*We find good homes for used books.*

## The Shadow

*continued from page 3*

were thrilled, and we were very proud of **Marie, Barbara, Michael, Susan and Kathryn.**

**Normalcy resumed?** After the three big events we either hosted or participated in, you'd guess that life at the Center might have settled down, but you'd guess wrong. A new parking place with ramp was built right outside our back door. This ramp will ease cart delivery of large donations. (See photos on page 8.) And now we have received word from the library that new carpet squares will be put down in our entire working/sorting area. Workmen will move shelves and lay the carpet for us, but every book/box/worktable/computer will have to be moved and everything put back in its proper place when their work is finished.

**Other news of note.** Michele Thomassie recently updated the sorting, scanning and pricing guidelines for the sorters to follow. Thank you, **Michele**, for this and for your Social Media posts on new projects the Friends undertake, including eBay listings. We have a new table runner with Friends' motif, designed by a member of our Amazon staff. (See table runner on page 2.) It will be used at coffees, General Meetings and on all special occasions. Also, the Friends are now participating in the Head Start project to collect children's books to benefit teachers' classroom libraries. Gifts to the library included \$1,200 for special outreach expenses, \$250 for a 3D printing mold creation project and \$1,000 for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary time capsule and plaque.

**How we earned our salt this year.** You know about the book sales. The book carts have raised over \$3,600 for 2024, while eBay tallied nearly \$1,000 in sales. The online Amazon endeavor, which has a 100% overall customer satisfaction rating for

the year, grossed \$69,000 and netted \$36,600. At a recent, third Warehouse Sale, we sold 149 boxes of books and CDs for a total of \$745. The Store had net sales of \$21,400 for the year. Raise-A-Reader continues to distribute literature to new mothers in the interest of furnishing us with the next generation of readers. Since our checking account now looks pretty healthy, we will soon be giving the library a donation that will make Director **Jessica Styons** very happy!

**A little excitement and levity.** There was panic and two more frantic searches for lost rings to end this last period. The first was **Darlene Scalf's** loss during the October book sale. The second was **Sharon Simmon's** loss of a wedding ring while taking out a cartload of trash. It



*Left, Darlene Scalf's ring, found by Barbara Madere and photographed by Darlene. Right Sharon Simmons with her recovered ring.*

came off unnoticed with the glove she had on. Fortunately, both rings were found and returned to their respective owners.

**Darlene Scalf, Mopsy Donelon, Christy Pepper and Molly McLanahan** are always up to a sit-

See **The Shadow** page 5

## The Shadow

*continued from page 4*

down or cleaning job. This time it was for a set of donated miniature cars that couldn't be sold at a sale, but are perfect for sale in the Friends store.



*photo by Peg Phelps*

Their freshening-up made the cars look just about new, and the group of ladies cleaning them had waaaay too much fun doing it!

**And finally, at the Store.** The last two months turned out to be their busiest and their best. According to Store Manager **Patricia Cox**, all shifts were filled thanks to **Sandra Blount's** astute scheduling. Kudos go to **Barbara Coman** for working the most shifts by volunteering to substitute for vacancies. The Store's gross income was over \$28,000, reflecting their sale of over 4,000 books and 4,600 retail items. All is good!

Until next time,

Your friendly **Shadow**

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## Worth a thousand words



*Left, Anna Campos (left), Barbara Coman, and Rose Catalanotto show off their (almost) matching tennis shoes.*

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

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# The Fall Big Book Sale

October 25-27, 2024 at the Pontchartrain Center



The boxes of books were moved to their proper tables on Wednesday.



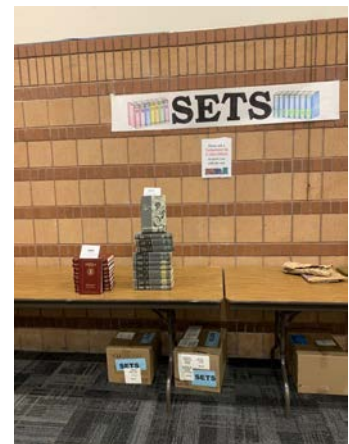
Many, many volunteers unpacked the books on Thursday and placed them on/under the tables. Beverly Marino photographed Anna Campos, Pam Falgoust, and Fay Champagne as they sorted the Oldies.



The kitchen staff : Jo Ann Rosenfeld, left, and Judy Welcker, taken by Beverly Marino. The volunteers enjoyed their good meals from Thursday till Saturday, as can be seen from her photo at right.



Angela Herber arranged the sets. Here's how they looked on Thursday...and on Sunday.



*We find good homes for used books.*



# More Book Sale photos



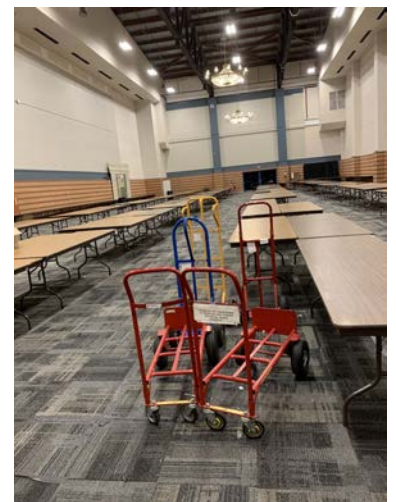
*Left, the first day of the sale was busy, but our experienced cashiers, right, made sure no one waited too long. Photos by Darlene Scalf.*



*Children seemed to find places to peruse their choices.*



*And when the lights go out, the shopping continues on.*



*Left, Darlene Scalf recorded some of the interesting people she saw at the sale. Above, here's her picture of the empty Pontchartrain Center after the sale.*

*We find good homes for used books.*

# A ramp to dream about

by Peg Phelps

On Thursday, October 31, we were met with a very pleasant surprise when we arrived at the sorting center. Work had started on the long-awaited sidewalk and ramp from the back parking lot, which will make it infinitely easier to accept and transport book donations to our door. Until then, we either had to pull the loaded carts up the curb, or push the loaded cart all the way over to the ramp near the handicapped parking in front of the Administration entrance. Neither of these choices is very pleasant in 95 degree weather. Our donors were also forced to park behind other cars in order to unload.



The ramp, along with an official space reserved as a loading zone, opened for use on Thursday, November 7. We are so grateful to the library administration, maintenance department, and Jefferson Parish for making it so much easier for us to accept donated books.



*Mary Ellis Hasseltine, right, shown with Rose Catalanotto, was the first customer to use the new ramp. Photo by Michele Thomassie.*



## Announcing new FJPL brochures

by Annette Centanni



The Library's November 9<sup>th</sup> 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recently prompted a long overdue revision and facelift to the Friends' brochure. The project was undertaken by graphic artist Friend, Susan Ward and copy editor Friend, Kathryn Firmin. It features an update of who we are, how we show support and how we raise funds for library projects. Their bright, new leaflet includes both standard information on becoming a member as well as new approaches to accessing the Friends' domain: our website and a QR code to scan.





# The Warehouse Sale

November 9, 2024 at the East Bank Regional Library



149 boxes of children's books, cookbooks, CDs and fiction sold for \$745.00. Left, Fred Mathews sets up boxes before the sale, while Lou Zawislak, below left, takes a break. Below right, Sharon Simmons looks for children's books. Beverly Marino snapped Lou and Peg Phelps took the other two photos.



## News Notes

Recent happenings at the Jefferson Parish Library

Patricia Cox took this picture of the poster advertising the Friends Store. It was placed in the hallway near the voting machines during the last election.



# The Thank You Coffee

November 15, 2024 (photos by Darlene Scalf)



From top: those who worked at the Book Sale enjoyed a delicious brunch with sumptuous desserts. After the meal, Marie Orth, right, Anna Campos and Rose Catalanotto enacted a skit showing how to set up books at the sale.

*We find good homes for used books.*



# The Braille Flag Dedication Ceremony

by Anna Campos

On January 4, the East Bank Regional Library celebrated the donation of two Braille flags. They are gifts of the Blinded Veterans Association. The event included a concert by the Marine Forces Reserve Band and a lecture on the life of Louis Braille by Cyril Lagvanec, Ph.D. The bronze version of the flag will be placed outdoors near the flagpole and the polymer replica will be in the Children's Library. 📖



Left, the audience included many military veterans. Center, Charlene Moore, left, Talking Books and Braille librarian, and Sheila Coleman, coordinator, represented the Louisiana State Library Talking Books & Braille Library at the event .

# The Holiday Party

December 4, 2024 at the East Bank Regional Library



Above, some of the delicious food brought by the volunteers. Right, library staff and Friends volunteers filled the East Bank Regional Library staff room. Photos by Jo Ann Rosenfeld.

# What's cooking at the Friends?

*Will Hunn fixes this for special events*

## Fried Cauliflower

### Ingredients:

1 large cauliflower, portioned into florets  
 Italian or seasoned bread crumbs  
 1 egg plus a smidgen of added milk  
 About 3 tbs Canola oil  
 Parmesan or Parmesan (with Romano) cheese, grated

### Do this:

Soften florets: Heat in a microwave steamer on high for about 3 minutes, or steam on the stove till partially softened.

Beat egg and milk. Dip florets into egg wash, then coat with bread crumbs. Heat oil in skillet. Fry florets, frequently turning them for even browning in the oil (which need not quite cover them).

Drain florets on paper towels and pat dry if needed. Sprinkle liberally with parmesan cheese.

Should be sufficient as an appetizer for about eight people.



*Cauliflower grown by David Firmin.*

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.

**The Friends  
Need You!**

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or Become a Member*

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"Like" us on Facebook to get our reminders and updates on the latest happenings and Friends events!



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