

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Business Booms at Friends Store

by Annette Centanni

The Friends' Store, located in the lobby of the East Bank Regional Library, has been in existence since June 19, 1998. Twelve years later, it is doing a booming business, generating an average of \$35,000 gross, \$26,000 net, yearly for our organization. It provides a growing clientele with a place to buy reasonably priced gift merchandise and books, and furnishes them with a place to have a relaxed and delightful shopping excursion.

The idea of a shop was born in 1997, and was set in motion by then-president Kathleen Deao. A number of volunteers stepped forward to help: Carolyn Lindsay, Mark Lazarre, Grace Flanagan, Rosemary Cox, Sandra Blount, Arlene Manguno and Fay Bilby. Joan Adams, then library director, offered space and office furnishings.

Fay Bilby became the first Store manager, assisted by Carolyn Lindsay, who had a flair for decorating. Together they trained a staff of volunteers to wait on customers. Using seed money from the Friends, Fay and Carolyn built up an inventory of small gift items as well as books, and created a "boutique" out of donated space. The resulting shop quickly became popular to a growing bargain-hunting customer base. Within a year, Fay had paid back the \$1,000 in start up money, and contributed \$5,000 more in donations to the library. Since then, the Store contributions have totaled more than \$216,000.

At present, Patricia Cox is the Store manager, assisted by four great right-hand ladies: Sandra Blount schedules volunteers; Blamid Sunseri (liaison between Sorting and the Store) selects donated books; Marie Breerwood does seasonal decorating; Arlene Manguno handles book signing activities. There are 27 volunteers on the roster, 12 of whom are regulars; the rest substitute as needed.

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Rose F. Bradford is one of the many volunteers who staff the desk at the Friends Store.

Friends General Meeting

**East Bank Regional Library
February 24, 2010 at 1:00 PM**

**Speaker: Linda Molinaro, Co-head of Special
Collections at EBR**

**Topic: JPL Resources for Genealogical
Research**

Don't Miss Our Big Book Sale

Thursday - Sunday

March 11 - 14, 2010

10 AM - Noon Thursday through Saturday

Noon - 5 PM Sunday

Ponchartrain Center in Kenner

We find good homes for used books.

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

(a member of the association of Library
Trustees, Advocates, Friends and
Foundations)

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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/>

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Editors: Anna Campos, Annette
Centanni

Friends Store

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The Store is open on Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am – 6 pm, and Friday through Monday, 1 pm – 5 pm. More than half its inventory is hardback and paperback books of all kinds. Other items include greeting cards, stationery, small gifts, and a nice selection of watches and costume jewelry. Seasonal items are great sellers, as are tote bags, “New Orleans” items and the newly introduced New Orleans afghans, made especially for the Friends. In fact, the afghan has done so well that Patricia plans to keep it as part of the permanent inventory. Friends cookbooks, also a favorite, are down to just 24 left for sale.

Patricia states that she would like to see the Store open on Friday through Monday mornings as well (Sundays excluded), but at present there are not enough regular volunteers to man it. Weekends and holidays have been a challenge since the Store’s inception. She muses, “[They] could be a really profitable time for us.” Alas.

From modest beginnings in 1998, the Store has grown in scope, service to its customers, and profits for the library system. Certainly Fay Bilby and Carolyn Lindsay must be looking down, as angels do, approving the enterprise it has become and cheering it on.

If you would like to join the volunteer staff, call 455-2665 and leave your name and number. Patricia would be delighted to hear from you.



Some of the many items available for purchase in the Friends store.

Friends Favorites

by Annette Centanni

I am always interested in what other people are reading, which books are their all-time favorites, and which books can be pinpointed as having had an influence on their lives. In this new column, I will share with you some of the answers I have collected. It will be an ongoing enterprise, featuring three Friends each newsletter, randomly selected. Please be forewarned: I WILL get around to each of you at Sorting, but you will never know when your response will be printed, so keep reading!

Those of you who are Friends reading this, who are NOT readily available for interview at the Center, but who want to participate, please contact me at aecentanni@cox.net with your contribution to the column. I will be delighted to include your response in my "lottery."

Doug Robillard

Doug recommends *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville because, in his opinion, it is THE novel written in English with the widest scope, the widest range of emotions, the most philosophical ideas, and the greatest material content. Its sheer power and force have no comparison!

John Hoffschwelle

Among John's favorites is *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy. At the time, John reports, he was encouraged to realize that some politicians are able to put their country first, ahead of their political aspirations. He read this book in the 1960s, but still remembers its message vividly.

Mary Anna Lightner

Mary Anna enjoyed all 10 books in the Jan Karon's "Father Tim" series, each of which she has read twice! She found so many things to like in the set: humor, characterization, mystery, and spirituality. Father Tim was a man who lived up to his Christian

principles, and who truly loved people. As he worked through his many problems, and helped others to do the same, he always acted with heart and compassion. Father Tim's marriage to Cynthia, Mary Anna says, is a great example of what it means to be compatible with a partner. The first book in the series is *At Home in Mitford*.

Time to clean out the attic or garage?

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library welcome donations of hardcover and paperback books, records, DVDs, CDs, and audio and video tapes. We regret that magazines and encyclopedias cannot be accepted. Donated items can be brought to the sorting center at 6640 Riverside Drive, suite 100, the building next to Wagner Library. The volunteers are there to help on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Books may also be left in the blue drop boxes at the rear of the building. For more information, please e-mail friendsjpl@Yahoo.com or call 455-2665 and leave your questions on the message machine. Donated items will be sold at the next Big Book Sale, scheduled for March 11-14 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. All proceeds benefit the Jefferson Parish Library System.



News Notes

Recent happenings and coming events for Friends of JPL

by Anna Campos

Holiday party: On December 9, 2009, the Friends of JPL hosted a Holiday Party for the staff of the library system. A brief Friends business meeting included the donation of funds to be used by the library branches to purchase items not available through the system. It was followed by a media presentation on ongoing improvements to branches. Titled “Building Back Better,” it was narrated by Lon Dickerson, Library Director, and highlighted the use of the grants applied for after Katrina. Following the presentation, Mr. Dickerson introduced recently hired staff to the audience. A holiday reception provided by the Friends followed the program.

WWII Museum purchases Nuremberg documents: The World War II Museum recently purchased a set of the Nuremberg Trials documents from the Friends. The set, titled *The Nuremberg Trials: Trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal*, consists of 42 volumes and was donated to Friends a year or so before hurricane Katrina. The Friends purchased the four missing volumes on the Internet, but were unable to sell the set either online or at a book sale. Lisa Conescu, who handles collectible books for the Friends, contacted the Museum staff and they acquired the books for the Museum's new Stephen Ambrose Reading Room.

Sorting Center move: At some point in the near future, Friends of JPL will be moving to a new location. Jefferson Parish, the owner of the building in which the Sorting Center is currently located, wishes to vacate it so that it may be sold. Tentative plans are for the move to take place after the March book sale. More information will be forthcoming in a future issue.



WWII Museum archivist Lindsey Barnes receives the Nuremberg Trials records from Friends.

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