

# Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

NO. 43

September 2014

## Raise a Reader promotes early reading

by Anna Campos

As everyone knows, the primary mission of the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library is to raise money for the library system. But the Friends have another project, one that is undertaken jointly with the Jefferson Parish Library and the Jefferson Volunteers for Family and Community. The Raise a Reader program provides the parents of young children with a packet containing a board book and literature about reading to children; parents of new babies also get a burp pad. The library provides a parent's guide, a library card application, and a schedule of library hours and branches. The Jefferson Volunteers sew burp cloths for new babies, and the Friends provide a board book, the bags, pocket folders, and suggestions for developing reading skills.

Funding for this program comes from small grants to the Jefferson Volunteers and the Friends; the Friends make up the considerable remainder of their



*The Raise A Reader ladies make packets for area hospitals once a month. From left: Marilyn Bankston, Collette Ricaud, JoAnn Bonck, Sandra Blount, and Roslyn Corr.*

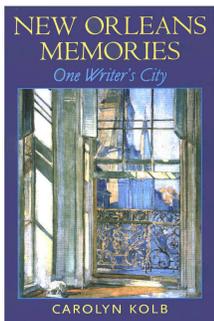
part of the expenses with money from their budget. The program was begun in 1999 by Ethel Tarleton when she was president of the Friends. It is spearheaded today by another Friends president, Sandra Blount.

In addition to Sandra, four other ladies gather

See **Raise** page 9

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

## GENERAL MEETING



**Guest Speaker:**  
**Carolyn Kolb**

Author of *New Orleans Memories: One Writer's City*

A passionate native's salute  
to the past and present glories  
of the Crescent City



1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24, 2014  
East Bank Regional Library  
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie

Sign up to volunteer at our Big Book Sale October 16-19 at the Pontchartrain Center!

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

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

## BIG BOOK SALE

**October 16-19, 2014**

Thursday-Saturday 10 AM to 8 PM  
Sunday Noon to 5 PM

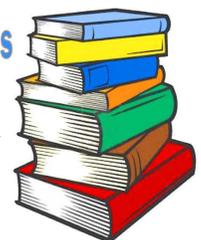
Over 65,000 Books, DVDs, CDs, and LPs

New this sale! Large selection of railroad and WWII books!

**The Pontchartrain Center**  
Williams Blvd. at the Lake  
in Kenner

Cash, Checks, Visa, Discover, Mastercard  
Free Admission and Parking

P. O. Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055 • 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

Sandra Blount, President  
Anna Campos, Vice President  
Peg Phelps, Treasurer  
Sue Hellwig, Recording Secretary  
Annette Centanni, Corresponding  
Secretary

### Board of Directors

Blanid Sunseri, Robert Campos,  
Patricia Cox, Judy Zawislak,  
Diane Schlefstein, Lisa Conescu,  
Joan Demers, Aileen Janney,  
Jan DeVidts, Maria Tujague

### 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

## Award Winners

by Peg Phelps



*Volunteers of the year Mary Anna Lightner and Mary Lou Spanja pose with Friends of Distinction Ann Buchel and Robert Campos. Not pictured are Diane Davey and Ted Blohm, who were vacationing when the picture was taken.*

Six wonderful and hard-working volunteers received awards at the Volunteers' Thank You luncheon held on Wednesday, June 4. Recognized as Volunteers of the Year were Mary Anna Lightner and Mary Lou Spanja. Named Friends of Distinction were Robert Campos and Ann Buchel. In addition, Ted Blohm and Diane Davey were made members for one year in recognition of the work they have done for our group.

Mary Anna was praised for her long-term service as a sorter and packer. She was recognized for her assistance at the book sales as a member of the book sale committee, as a cashier, and for helping Aileen Janney to prepare and serve lunch to the many volunteers.

Mary Lou was cited for her longevity, since her service goes back prior to 2002, when we had our book sales at Clearview Mall. Mary Lou was also recognized for her help as a cashier at the book sales, and for having served in the past as a board member and recording secretary. Her most amazing accomplishment, however, remains the sorting, pricing, and packing of almost all of the children's books that go to each sale.

Our Audio/Visual man, Robert Campos, was praised for handling the records, disks, DVDs, and audio and video

See **Awards** page 10

## Friends' Book Reviews

by Annette Centanni

Diane Davey: *Master and Commander* by Patrick O'Brien

Diane Davey's recommendation for something new to read is an exciting British Royal Naval series by English author Patrick O'Brien. It was made into the 2003 film, "Master and Commander" starring Russell Crowe. The series is "different from what I usually read," states Diane. "I watched the movie on TV, then discovered that it was adapted from the first of about twelve books. Since then, I have checked out five from the library, four to read, and the fifth on audio tape, since our library no longer had it available in book form." The books are differently interesting, says Diane, because they are written from the British point of view. Starting in the early 1800s, they introduce the reader to Napoleon, then progress through time to the War of 1812. The fictional main characters, Captain Jack Aubrey and ship's surgeon Stephen Maturin, meet historical characters. Diane states that these two "benevolent and strong leaders" see their ship and crew through historically correct battles that accurately portray the life and struggles of the time period. Diane found that it was hard to root for the heroes knowing that they were fighting against the Americans, but often found herself doing just that! She admits the books can get technical in their use of terminology, however. She's had to look up many a naval and British term to achieve full understanding. The flagship book, *Master and Commander*, was first published in England in 1969, then released in America in 1970. In 2003, the book was listed on the BBC's "The Big Read" poll of the UK's best-loved novels.

Judy Welcker: *New Orleans Houses: A House-*

*Watcher's Guide* by Lloyd Vogt

Judy Welcker recommends *New Orleans Houses: A House-Watcher's Guide* by Lloyd Vogt. She first heard of it from Casey Stuart, who was a guest speaker at one of our own Friends' General Meetings. She loves the book and currently has it displayed on her coffee table! It is part history, part reference, and is helpful in identifying different styles of houses. Judy admits that she is fascinated by both New Orleans architecture and history, and says they can both be found in this book. The author/illustrator describes more than 20 specific types of architecture, distinguishes between styles and periods, and presents more than 100 pen and ink sketches of common house types, from Queen Anne to Creole Cottage. Published locally by Pelican Publishing, this book is now a current bestseller on Amazon.com. It includes an architectural history and historical development of each period, and a glossary of architectural terms. Along with *New Orleans Houses*, Judy enjoyed *The Accidental City* by Lawrence Powell. It describes how New Orleans came to be located where it is, and tells of its French and Spanish influences.

Wendy Luna: All manner of Vampire books!

Since childhood, Wendy has been fascinated with vampires. She says that since the mid-sixties, she has watched every vampire movie that has come out. Thus, it is no wonder that two of her favorite books are Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Ann Rice's *The Witching Hour*. According to Wendy, both are powerful reads!

In *Dracula*, one is caught up in the intriguing mystery of the novel. The monster is fascinatingly sexy and charming. He puts a spell on his victims and draws them (and you) in, until he is

See **Reviews** page 10



## The Shadow Knows (and TELLS) All

Fall greetings, Dear Readers! Since it has been 5 months since I last set hand to Newsletter, you had better settle in with your spectacles and a nice cup of coffee. Not all of my news is current, I'll admit, but since you have never seen it in print, it might be new to you and of interest, nevertheless.

**The April sale** was a booming success, with net profit of \$35,000.00 (gross, over \$50,000.00), \$5,000 more than the October, 2013 sale. There were several reasons for this: **Debbie Reed** assisted **Peg Phelps** in advertising, adding some heretofore untapped venues of spreading the word. **Bob Breck** of Fox 8, **Sally-Ann Roberts** of Channel 4 and **Peggy Scott Laborde** of PBS graciously mentioned our sale on their broadcasts, and **Anthony Centanni** erected signs on several neutral grounds around the West Esplanade area. A new committee, consisting of **Judy Z.**, **Anna Campos**, **Ouida Prieur** and **Mary Anna Lightner**, called volunteers to man the sale, resulting in an army of about 100 to do the labor. No stone was left unturned. To illustrate the meticulous care with which the sale was administered by the Sale Committee, tuna salad was even provided for the Catholics for the Friday during the Lenten sale by **Maria Tujague!** For the coming October, 2014 sale, **Judy Zawislak**, Sale Chairperson, has promised to purchase at least 10 new signs. Hopefully, we will again have news coverage, so keep watching these favorite channels and report any sightings to the Shadow.

As a humorous aside, **the fastest sale on record** was reported at the April sale, also. A

lady pulled up to the curb, dashed inside, purchased a blue-lined box of romance for \$5.00, had **Chris deVillasana** carry it out to her car, and drove off! Another not so amusing occurrence took place. I call it the **Sad Saga of the Signs**. The signs put in place by **Anthony C. ALL** had Jefferson Parish **permission and documentation** in clear plastic baggies taped to their backs. On the first day of the sale, however, a Jefferson Parish truck picked up the two at Vets and Transcontinental and **hailed them away!** As a million-to-one coincidence, our own **Peg P.** happened to spot the theft, but caught in traffic, couldn't catch up with the fleeing vehicle! Furious and frustrated, **Peg** called me, the **Shadow**, to call the parish office to have the signs put back. Within two hours, the offending parish workers had been admonished and instructed to return our signs to their proper places. But it was a hassle none involved ever want to experience again!

**Around Sorting**, there is always something going on. This spring **Judy Z.** found \$400 in a book, and **Diane Davey** found a large, crisp bill in one of the bins! **Judy Howat** had cataract surgery in early May; by the way, her husband **Walter** is doing well with his recent skin cancer surgery and treatment, and appreciates all of the prayers and good wishes from the Friends. **Lucille Lee** was in town visiting with **Aileen Janney** for three weeks. Sorters put her to work cutting fliers. It was like old times. As a farewell gift to old friends, **Lu** made her famous bread pudding, with a special portion set aside for **Judy Z.** who doesn't like raisins. She also bought a huge Sam's box of Sun chips for everybody to enjoy.

**Joan Fontaine** brought her grandson **Alex** to sorting to show him what Granny did for fun. It so happened that he was able to help **Peg P.** out of a crunch by packing a lot of DVDs she

See **The Shadow** page 6

## Online Sales Corner

Our listers and packers for Amazon orders have been working extra hard this year. Some of the recent comments from Amazon customers are a testament to how well our on-line sales are doing and we are on our way to making 2014 one of our best years!

*"I loved this seller donating to rebuild their library. Everything was just as he said. Came at lightning speed. God bless you Jefferson Parish and it was an honor to be part of your library. I will keep an eye out for you again. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS SELLER AS ONE OF THE BEST!"*

*Vicki N.  
Amazon Customer*

*"Fast Shipping! These folks are excellent. The book was in better description than described and all proceeds go to rebuild the library. Thank you and I look forward to buying more books from you."*

*Robert W.  
Amazon Customer*

To keep these wonderful comments coming (and ensure a REALLY successful year), the Online Sales department needs your help. Please save your shallow boxes, bubble wrap, plastic newspaper bags, and padded envelopes for them.



Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library, Metairie, LA as your charity. Amazon will donate .5% of all your sales to the Friends!



*Amazon lister and packer Paulette Mauterer is pictured holding the type of box that is especially needed by the Online Sales department. Its dimensions are roughly 11" l x 9" w x 3.5" h.*

## 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!"



**"Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life."**

**— Mark Twain**

**If you do not wish to receive future issues of *Friends Trends*, address an e-mail to [friendsjpl3@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsjpl3@yahoo.com). Use "Unsubscribe to Friends Trends" in the subject line.**

## The Shadow

*continued from page 4*

was swamped with. **Joan** was also instrumental in procuring a wonderful 720-book donation from one of her neighbors.

Meanwhile, Friends funded the Summer Reading Program for the children of Jefferson Parish. At least two of our own took advantage of the program: **Diane Schliefsstein** took her grandchildren **Harry** and **Annabel** to enjoy many of the offered activities. They all attest that the Reading and Crafts Program is well worth the funds we provide.

**Quiet Special Sorting Mondays** were called for at least two months during the summer. A number of old faithfuls participated: **Peg, the Redhead, Maria** and **Rodney Tujague, Joan Fontaine, Robert Campos, Ouida Prieur, Aileen Janney, Mary Lou Spanja**, and of course, yours truly. It was nice getting to know **Judy Welcker** better on these quiet days. **Maria** once remarked, "It's so QUIET in here today; now we know who the Big Mouths are." And **Ouida** piped up, "Yeah, **Maureen (Howat)!**" (NOT!) **Ouida**, we miss you. Get well soon! Speaking of **Maureen**, she took Thursdays off during June and July. Her daughter was off work, and they planned to spend Thursdays doing things together. Family comes first!

**Chris deVillasana** conducted his last board meeting in May, and new president **Sandra Blount** took over with the June meeting. The Shadow wasn't present, but a faithful elf informed her **Sandra** kept the meeting to about an hour. One of **Sandra's** first acts was to try to negotiate a compromise between the Friends and Cup & Chaucer (in library lobby) so that the Friends can continue to have refreshments at their General Meetings. Details are still up in the air, but there **will** be home made sweets and coffee or Coke at the September 24th meeting.

**Sandra** has also negotiated with Walgreens and Walmart to be able to buy the needed 4,300 pocket folders for Raise a Reader at back-to-school sale prices. Oh, one other thing about the inventiveness of our new president! One day she showed up at Sorting sporting a black fingernail. She said it happened when she was locked out of her house. Her story involved a doggie door big enough for a Lab...; well, anyway, ask **Sandra** for the details the next time you see her!

**Odds & Ends** abound at Sorting, also. It came out around a board table that **Peg P.** and **Aileen Janney** are in the habit of watching their neighbors' trash when they walk their dogs. "Why?" you may ask. They regularly pick up bubble wrap, peanuts and Amazon-appropriate boxes to help save shipping costs on customer orders. Can you believe **Peg** went to her 50th high school reunion in Elmira, New York this summer? Word is out that she was a cheerleader back then. Who knew? **Debbie Reed** and husband **Bob** visited **Judy & Lou Zawislak** in Maine; they apparently needed a break from picking up donations from the Westbank Barnes & Noble. Since he is no longer the Prez, instead of sweating emptying drop off bins, **Chris deVillasana** spent his spare time sweating, taking riding lessons this summer, something he's always wanted to do. He hasn't decided whether or not he wants to learn to jump! The Shadow will have a Get Well card ready, just in case.

"Bees to honey" was the way **Sue Hellwig** described the banana cakes **Peg P.** has made at least twice recently. Her secret ingredient, I found out, is cream cheese. **Sue** remarked that she was going to the gym for a "cardio" to work off her slice. Surely all of those boxes of collectibles you lug home to computer check work off SOME calories, **Sue**.

*See **The Shadow** page 7*

## The Shadow

*continued from page 6*

A thankless task was undertaken on August 13: the moving of 300 boxes from Sorting to storage. There were just too many boxes of library weeds for them to be taken to the October sale, since the smaller of the Pontchartrain rooms will be used. **Robert Campos, Greg Breerwood, Rodney Tujague, Meade Phelps** and **Chris deVillasana**, all **HE MEN** and our **HEROES** made the move with the help of longtime movers **Jennifer & Josh Alvarez**, daughter and grandson of the **Mr. Alvarez** who is hired during sale time. Unfortunately, **Ted Blohm**, the biggest of the lot, was out of town at the time! Ah, **Ted!** You know when to slip out of town!

An old friend, **Sally Hoffschwelle**, was spotted at the Clearview Mall in mid-August by none other than yours truly. She was celebrating her birthday by attending a movie with her daughter **Mary**. She said to tell everyone at Sorting hello, and promised to see everyone at the October sale.

Amazon sales have taken off like a house afire these past few months. In one 30 day period, Amazon receipts totaled \$6,356! I don't know if this is a record, but the Amazon ladies are doing mighty well! Packers have been working like mad to keep ahead of the orders. **Paulette Mauterer** has had to scream, "Help!" numerous times in the past couple of weeks, however. **Peg, Aileen** and **Diane Pittman** have answered the SOS to pull SOLD books from the shelves; **Diane** has recently volunteered to learn to pack to relieve some of the pressure on **Paulette**, who has done an excellent job keeping Amazon customers happy. In addition to packing, **Paulette** is learning to list, tutored by **Anna C.** She was as proud as a peacock when she sold her first two books in early June.

The Wednesday Amazon ladies are a world unto their own. Tuesday/Thursday sorters have no idea how hard the Wednesday ladies work! **Janice Paine** has built up quite a stack of SOLD slips, mostly of the DVDs she has listed. **Wendy Luna** and **Diane Schleifstein** help "the other J.D." whip the packages out into the mail. These ladies also list; one of **Wendy's** first listings recently sold for \$90.00! When **Rosemarie Goetz**, another Wednesday lister, took a break by returning unlisted books to the sorting shelves, she remarked, "This is a LOT harder than it looks!" **Rosemarie** is a new grandmother (again) as of June 3. Her grandson, **Ryan Alexander**, joins **Maia**, 3, and **Jonathan**, 2. Congratulations to **Rosemarie**, son and his family!

The Store has had an eventful summer, as well. Volunteers sold over 825 books during the month of July. Thanks to **the Redhead**, the bookshelves stay stocked with attractive merchandise. The volunteers and their substitutes kept the doors open all through the vacations they took. President **Sandra Blount** worked extra shifts to keep all of the slots filled. Thanks go to **Milly Spear**, who graciously stepped in to fill the Thursday afternoon slot of regular **Arlene Manguno**, on leave of absence to care for her husband, **Larry**, after he suffered a stroke. Happily, however, **Larry** is much better and hopes to return to work.

The Store has become "headquarters" for Saints items, so be sure to stop in to shop. The usual supply of scarves, earrings and bracelets has been supplemented with a sparkling black and gold poncho. "You can never have too much bling to cheer the boys on!" says store manager, **Patricia Cox**.

*See **The Shadow** page 9*

## Legos clubs start at library

by Peg Phelps

Immediate popularity was the first reaction children had to the new Legos Clubs that have recently been started at several of the branches of the Jefferson Parish Library.

Always in search of things that will appeal to children, Youth Services Coordinator Erin Korosi began to notice articles in library journals about creating Lego Clubs in a library setting. In libraries nationwide, it has become very popular to offer programs that promote S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), and a Lego Club seemed to Erin to be a great way to incorporate these elements. A very easy program to run, it seemed like a good fit not only for the regional libraries but also for branches that do not have a dedicated children's librarian.

In October, 2013, a request for Legos came from the branch manager of the Old Metairie branch. After getting support from Library Director Marylyn Haddican, Erin started to look for a source of funding. Since none of the library's vendors supplied Legos and the library could not solicit donations, Erin turned to the Friends. With her initial budget, she decided that it would be best to purchase basic sets of Lego bricks rather than sets that build a specific structure. This was done so that the children could be more creative and use their imaginations.

Through the Friends, two basic sets, each containing about 600 bricks, were ordered. As requests came from the clubs for additional Legos or for specific pieces, The Friends purchased accordingly until all of the allocated funds were used up. The Friends also passed along several kits for building Lord of the Rings and Hobbit structures that were donated by Barnes & Noble. The branches who received these kits used them in various ways. Some had the kids work together to build the structure and others just mixed the pieces into the Lego collection.



*Young builders are intent on their creations at one of the library system's Lego nights, held at EBR and many branches. The Friends purchased the Lego blocks and they have been an instant success. (Photos by Daniel Gitlin.)*

The Old Metairie library was the first to start their Lego Club, in February of 2014. It caught on quickly there and had a good turnout. The Club at Old Metairie is temporarily on hold due to some staffing changes, but they hope to start it up again soon. Currently, four libraries have very active Clubs that meet at least once a month and another three offer Lego programs sporadically, but don't have a regular monthly program. Erin is currently in the process of finding out which branches would like to start up new clubs.

The Lego Clubs have gone over very well with both children and their parents. It is an activity that attracts all ages, but especially boys who are 6-10 years old, which is not always a group that is easy to

See **Legos** page 10

**The Shadow**

*continued from page 7*



*Harrison Charles Serio helps his grandmother, Patricia Cox, deliver materials to the Friends' Store.*



*Edward Centanni shows off his library books and his first-ever library card*

And finally, I couldn't resist passing on these little tidbits of eye candy about two grandsons, **Patricia Cox's** and my own. **Patricia's Harrison Charles Serio** was caught hitching a ride on a dolly on the way to the Store.

**Edward**, my four year old, is pictured holding his first library card. He was so proud to check out three

Clifford, the Big Red Dog books on his very own. Perhaps there is a little "chip" of book-loving me in him!

Until next time!  
Your friendly Shadow

**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. In the subject line, write "Subscribe Newsletter."**

**Raise**

*continued from page 1*

at the Friends Sorting Center once a month to assemble the packets for Jefferson Parish hospital neonatal and pediatric care units. They are JVFC coordinator Marilyn Bankston, JVCC members Jo Ann Bonck and Roslyn Corr, and Friend of JPL Collette Ricaud,

Marilyn Bankston delivers packets to the Ochsner Westbank neonatal unit and the West Jefferson pediatric unit, while past Friends president Chris deVillasana takes them to Ochsner Kenner. Babies and children in these hospitals are getting a good start on a lifetime of reading!

**EBR Sightings**

*photos by Robert Campos*



*A Barbie-scale dollhouse is on display near the entrance to the Children's section.*



*Former Friend Mary Ann Tourres, in town for a short visit, poses in front of Special Collections on the bench purchased by the Friends in memory of long-time Friend Jack Weldon.*

## Awards

*continued from page 2*

tapes. He was cited for the many disks and records he checks, and for the many cases he tapes and prices. He was also valued for the music he provides for the sorters while he is testing his wares. And of course, he is one of our members who moves boxes, empties donation bins, and delivers trash and recycled materials to their proper places.

In the area of fiction, there is none better than Ann Buchel, who was praised for helping to sort the fiction and for pricing and packing the Choice Fiction. Ann was also recognized for a job that many people do not know she performs-she is the "Price Sticker Lady." She prints all the price stickers we use on the books, and then cuts them so they are easy to remove. She is careful to keep track of sticker supply, and replenishes it when needed. To add to all that, Ann was thanked for serving as a cashier at our book sales.

While there are many, many dedicated volunteers in our organization, we were happy to be able to acknowledge these six hard-working people.

---

## Legos

*continued from page 8*

attract to the library. The kids like the challenge of making their own creations, but they also do a lot of collaborating with their peers, either building together or talking about what they have created with each other. The parents enjoy seeing their children actively engaged in creating something.

Erin's plans for the future include getting additional library branches to host their own Lego Clubs. She also looks forward to creating an online element to further the experience. This might involve posting pictures of some of the most creative Lego creations and then having a contest to write a story or a poem about them. There are unending possibilities when it comes to Legos!

## Reviews

*continued from page 3*

able to pounce! Dracula is an *alluring* monster, Wendy reports, whose character is partly based on the real-life European czar, Vladimir the Impaler, who was *truly* bloodthirsty and cruel. But Dracula is more seductive than Vladimir was, and far less gory. "Stoker would not have dreamed of presenting a gory Dracula," says Wendy. The reason is that the audience at the time Stoker wrote would not have tolerated all of the gore that is in movies and books today. As the suspense in the novel builds, all of Dracula's victims become pale and weak, a doctor is called in, and the authorities do everything possible to kill the vampire; Dracula *does* die, but sunlight kills him! It's a spellbinding read until the very end.

"*The Witching Hour* is NOT a novel for the faint of heart!" Wendy avers. First of all, it is 1056 pages long, but well worth the read. Ann Rice is "an incredible writer," says Wendy. "You know how unique New Orleans is; there's a mystery about the city itself," Wendy states. Ann Rice's vampire books are all set in New Orleans, and "capture it perfectly." Wendy describes Rice's style of writing as "profound," and her depth of description of the city as "intense" and "colorful." "I've read about ten of her vampire books, but *The Witching Hour* is my favorite. Ann Rice drew me in from the moment of entry, and transported me to worlds unimaginable."

Wendy draws the line at Ann Rice's demon books, however. Vampires, she likes, but demons are a whole other genre!

Author's note: I found it rather amusing and decided to pass it on to you, readers, that Wendy was a **dentist** in her life before she became a Friends volunteer! Wendy was amused, too, when I learned that, got a laugh out of it, and wondered about the correlation!