

# Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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*An interior view of the renovated Live Oak Library.*

## Renovations continue at six parish libraries

*by Annette Centanni, with Marylyn Haddican, Library Director, and photos by Daniel Gitlin*

Marylyn Haddican is so pleased with the renovations at Live Oak in Waggaman, that she has coined a word to describe the facility: “lightier.” According to Marylyn, it is definitely lighter, brighter, more open, and more patron-friendly. The addition of four windows, attractive paint, comfortable furniture, and lower shelves produce an ambiance that is very exciting. “You should see it!” exclaims Marylyn. The formal ribbon cutting ceremony for Live Oak was held on May 23.

The plans for Rosedale Library are now complete, and bids for the renovation are being considered. Also in the works are plans to expand the parking area.

At River Ridge, plans for a 10,000 square foot new library are complete. The E-Branch, now in a strip mall, will then be permanently housed in the River Ridge facility. There will be a meeting room, a section for children, study rooms, and new book and DVD collections.

The carpeting at East Bank Regional is presently being replaced with more practical carpet tiles. This

will be completed by mid-July, with no library closure. Also, two exciting innovations have recently become available to the public at East Bank Regional: a 3-D printer, housed in the old tax/copy room, and the *Times Picayune Archives (1837-1988)*. “[The latter] is very user-friendly,” states Marylyn; “All anyone needs is a library card number to log on



*Lots of scissors at the Live Oak ribbon cutting! Can you find Library Director Marylyn Haddican, Friends President Sandra Blount and Secretary Sue Hellwig, and Friends Store manager Patricia Cox and her grandchildren, Harrison and Marshal Serio?*

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*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)

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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

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### Web Site

<http://www.friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org/>

### Friends Trends

Editors: Anna Campos, Annette Centanni  
 Contributing Editor: Peg Phelps

## Cobb County Library Book Sale

by Anna Campos, photos by Robert Campos



The Cobb County Library System, which includes the town of Marietta, Georgia, recently had its semi-annual book sale. The sale nets about the same amount of money as the Friends of JPL sale, but there are major differences between the two. The Friends of the Cobb County Library are not allowed to handle money—the library staff does that. The Friends help the staff set up the books before the opening (a process that takes about three days) and total up people's books before they check out. The associate director of the library, Jonathan McKeown, is in charge of the sale.

Another major difference between the Cobb County sale and ours is in the matter of overhead. The Cobb County Library does not pay site rental, moving or storage fees. The book sale takes place at the state fair complex, and prisoners move the books from a county-owned warehouse to the fairgrounds. Fairgrounds workers set up the tables before the sale and pack everything up when it ends.

The books, which have been donated at the various branch libraries, are not individually priced; a copy of the price list is posted on the entrance door and throughout the building. Rather than sorting books by subject, all books are arranged by the first letter of the

Cobb County Public Library Book Sale Prices	
Adult Hardbacks	.....\$1.50
Large format paperbacks	.....\$1.00
Pocket paperbacks	.....50¢
Comic Books	.....25¢
Reader's Digest Cor'd	.....25¢ or \$2.00 a box
Magazines (or \$2 a box)	.....10¢
DVDs & CD (singles)	.....\$2.00
Multi-DVD/CD sets of movies & books	.....\$4.00
Books on audiotape	.....\$1.00
Records & VHS & Puzzles	.....50¢
Empty A-V Cases	.....10¢
Children's Hardbacks	.....\$1.00
Children's pbns, board & picture bks	.....50¢
Cash or Checks ONLY Make checks payable to CCPLA	
All books must be paid for & removed from the building by 3:00 p.m. today.	

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## What We're Reading

(Books are rated with stars ★ 0-5)

by Annette Centanni

**Joan Fontaine**—Joan is currently trying to read *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. Since it is being made into a movie, Joan says she would LIKE to read it, but has lost interest and can't seem to get past Chapter 3. Joan does not recommend this book. NO STARS

Joan DOES recommend *Home to Holly Springs*, a book in the beloved "Father Tim" series by Jan Karon. It is an easy-reading book with lots of heart. ★★★★★

**Maria Tujague**-- Maria is reading three books at once! The first is *Italian Louisiana History & Tradition* by Alan Gauthreaux. "Many Italians were persecuted, some even put to death, during Louisiana's early days," says Maria. "The reason? Their neighbors thought they were all associated with the Mafia." Maria recommends this book ONLY if you can tolerate very small print. ★★★

Her second read is *Plum Lucky*, in the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich. Very funny! ★★★★★

The third book Maria is reading is a true account, *Bound by Honor: A Mafioso's Story* by Bill Bonanno. ★★★★★

**Ann Buchel**—Ann, whose major job in sorting is to produce the Choice Fiction table fare for the Big Book Sale, is rereading many of the David Baldacci novels she comes in contact with in her work. When she spies a novel she hasn't read in a while, she says to herself, "Oh, this one was good, but I don't remember how it ends!" and takes it home for another run. Ann considers all Baldacci novels to be ★★★★★

Ann has also just finished *Numbered Account* by Christopher Reich, and passed it on to a friend. It is a thriller involving money laundering.

★★★★



## Focus on a Friend: Diane Pittman

by Peg Phelps

Diane Pittman is a volunteer who was a librarian in her working life. She was born in Auburn, New York, and lived in that state until the seventh grade, when her father accepted a position in Sarasota, Florida. Diane attended Florida State University, and spent a summer at the University of Mexico while pursuing her bachelor's degree in Inter-American Studies. It was at Florida State where she met Randy Pittman, her future husband. Randy was still in school when Diane graduated, so she spent one year in Eau Gallie, Florida, teaching Physical Education. She and Randy married in 1967 while she was working for the Florida State Library in the cataloging department. One month later he enlisted in the Navy, and they were stationed in Millington, Tennessee, close to Memphis. Diane avers that

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*We find good homes for used books.*



## The Shadow Knows (and TELLS) All

Greetings, Faithful Readers! I hope all of you are well and enjoying the spring flowers. I will plunge right in, as I have a lot to share with you.

**The Big Book Sale:** At sorting, where there is never a dull moment, the current buzz has been about the success of the March 31-April 3 sale. According to **Judy Zawislak**, chair of the proceedings, a record 106 volunteers participated. 947 of the 1,537 boxes taken to the sale were sold. Afterwards, over 40 boxes were given to the 10 schools which had pre-registered, and the rest were sold to a dealer for \$1.00 a box. The Amazon and Collectibles area sold 113 books or sets, for a total of \$2,150. Of **Sue Hellwig's/Anna Campos'** 48 boxes of Oldies, 30 boxes were sold.

Treasurer **Peg Phelps** reported an income of \$51,804 for the sale, expenses of \$15,297, and a net profit of \$36,507. While not a record-breaking sale, the Friends were very pleased,



Photos by Ann Buchel

as Friday, April Fool's Day, turned out to be the Deluge of the Decade, with far fewer customers than usual.

**Tuesday, March 29**, the PRE-set-up day, stands out in my mind as an eye-opening experience. Slidell Movers, under the direction of **Judy and Lou Zawislak**, were their usual



efficient selves. **Shirley and John Sweeney** and **Ted Blohm** moved boxes like they weighed nothing. It was amazing! Boxes were sorted according to table layout, book ends were pried apart and distributed, table signs were put up, and box cutters were wielded to cut tape on sealed boxes; the Collectibles area was set up with cardboard barriers, colorful drapes, table cloths and book stands. **Sue Hellwig, Joan Demers**, other volunteers and I saw to the Collectibles set-up. **Anna Campos**, who was at a national library convention in California, had left complete instructions and a cardboard mock-up of the area so that her stand-ins would not go



Photo by Online Sales Staff

astray.

**Set-up day** on Wednesday went without a hitch. **Judy Welcker**, with tutorials from **Aileen Janney** (lunchroom pro, emeritus) and **Mary Anna Lightner**, undertook her maiden lunch-provider experience. It's a big job, **Judy**; we appreciate all of your hard work and efforts.

**Day 1 of the Sale** was a \$29,000 day. Many thanks go to the cashiers who manned the morning shift, the line managers, and the volunteers who tallied the extra-large orders. Because of you, no one complained of undue wait-times in line.

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*We find good homes for used books.*

## The Shadow

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MY favorite part of the sale, as cashier, was in talking to the customers about favorite authors we have in common, and in listening to unique stories. This time, there were two ladies who drove in from Lafayette to attend the sale, a lady who drove from a small town in Texas, and the precious little girl who had saved \$6.00 to spend on her own choices. She proudly counted out her tab in quarters, nickels and dimes!

If you were one of the 106 volunteers, we appreciate your dedicated service. Thank You! I hope you attended the Thank You Coffee on April 22, to hear the praise of **Marylyn Haddican**, Library Director, who stopped by for a brief visit.



*Will Hunn sent this picture of himself and Loli. Kuniko's photo was taken by Anna Campos.*



**Around Sorting**, Will Hunn has been talking about his new best friend, a Shih Tzu named **Loli**, short for Lolita. We want to see all of the cute pictures you have been taking of her, **Will. Kuniko Izumi** dropped by for a visit on April 19. Her husband, "T," was in town for a conference, so **Kuniko** had a few free hours to chat, to price some books, and to get tips she could pass on to new Friends in Kentucky, where she now volunteers.

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## Library Renovations

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to [www.jplibrary.net](http://www.jplibrary.net). With this access, a patron can email an article to himself, print it out, and conduct genealogical research from home."

Finally, there are plans to add a meeting room at the Terrytown Branch in the near future.

All of these renovations have come at a dear price, however. Marylyn avers that Friends' monies have contributed significantly to the success of the works in progress. Friends' funds have covered some of the considerable architectural fees, and the addition of weatherproof book drops, video conferencing equipment, and security cameras. She is happy with the support system that the Friends provide for the Library, and looks forward to many more years of the productive partnership.

Marylyn says that when she started working within the library system 30 years ago, the Parish owned only two library properties and rented the rest. Today, the Parish owns ALL SIXTEEN library locations, bought with millage monies; grant money furnished the bulk of other necessities. She feels that this ownership is a credit to what Parish government is capable of with the trust and supporting vote of the public. On December 10, 2016, a millage vote will be presented for public approval. THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX, Marylyn stresses, but the renewal of a millage already in existence. It will appear on the ballot coupled with other millage for drainage and recreation. Although the renewal will be voted on in December, it will not go into effect until late 2018, when the current millage expires. Marylyn asks all Friends to spread the word of the opportunities the Library provides to the community and to vote on December 10. ♣

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## The Shadow

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**April 26 was Clean Out the Storage Room Day** at the Center. **Judy Z.** and **Peg P.** spent the entire morning throwing out or reorganizing “stuff” that had been taking up space since it was moved into our current center in late 2011. **Judy Howat** and **Marie Breerwood** accepted the task of trying out the ball point pens and



*This sign, found in the storage room, will bring back memories for old-time Friends volunteers. Photo by Anna Campos.*

organizing the other miscellaneous objects that had accumulated in a junk box. I, **The Shadow**, appropriated a number of these pens, plus a stash of scratch paper for Amazon use, and was happy to have them. Finally, an entire table of sundries was offered to that day’s sorters, free for the taking. “One man’s trash...” etc.!

That same day, a crisis was averted when **Marie B.** volunteered to tackle the teetering tower of terror that the top Religion shelf had become. It seems that **Aileen J.**, usual Religion pricer/packer, had taken the day off to view the new elephant exhibit at the zoo. We were really tempted to text you, **Aileen**, before **Marie** stepped up.

**Around the lunch table, Maria Tujague’s** stories have become more and more outrageous. You really missed it if you weren’t there to hear how she fell into a huge, cafeteria mixing bowl at Holy Cross High School—and had to shout for help!

In another story, she told about a black day she had in the park many years ago. While she was swinging, she slipped off, pulling her

knit pants around her knees. She then managed to tangle the swing around her face, while catching her fingers in the chains. Aside from the fact that she actually broke a finger, it WAS a funny story, made funnier by her patented deadpan deliverance. Oh, **Maria!**

**Diane Pittman** wasn’t in town for the sale or for a few weeks afterward, but she’s back now, regaling sorting and the lunch table with her cruise adventures in Prague and in Budapest. **Collette Ricaud** is a welcome addition to sorting and to the lunch table scene, also. Now, you not only help **Sandra Blount** in the Raise a Reader enterprise, **Collette**, but volunteer every week in sorting. Kudos!

**Book Cart Updates:** Book carts in various libraries generate about \$3,400 per year in pure profit that goes straight to the bottom line. Thank you, folks, for your continued dedication to this endeavor: **Sue Hellwig**—Belle Terre, Lafitte, Live Oak, West Bank Regional and Westwego; **Will Hunn**—Gretna and Terrytown; **Chris de Villasana**—Harahan; **Patricia Cox**—Lakeshore; **Rodney Tujague** (NEW book cart volunteer)—North Kenner; **Judy Zawislak**—Old Metairie; **Marie Breerwood**—E-Branch; and **Kathy Lloyd**—Rosedale.

**New Board Members:** **Judy Welcker** has recently become the new Social Chairperson in charge of refreshments for all General Meetings and Big Book Sales, thus will be attending all meetings. **Lyn Simmons** (of the Store), and **Wendy Luna** (of Amazon) have accepted At-Large positions. **Maria Tujague** will continue in her At-Large position for another term.

**Amazon Sales:** Amazon reported the best March since 2010, with revenue of \$3,711 and the sale of 213 books. It proudly boasts its best crew ever of listers and packers: **Rosemarie Goetz, Diane Schleifstein, Wendy Luna,**

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*We find good homes for used books.*

## The Shadow

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**Janice Paine, Anna Campos, Cheryl Ledet, Paulette Mauterer, yours truly,** and star new recruit, **Kathy Brady**, who is working out to be a really quick study.

**Raise a Reader:** President **Sandra Blount** and crew continue to pack over 300 informational packets per month, and distribute them to neighboring hospitals. In doing so, they also distribute good will throughout the community. Thank you for your work, ladies and gentlemen!

**At the Store:** Store Manager **Patricia Cox** reports that during the usually slow First Quarter, the store sold 1,800 books and 1,100 gifts. **The Shadow** would call that anything but slow, **Patricia!** Congratulations to you and to your dedicated crew. One substitute, **Charlene Weaver**, moved away, and one substitute signed on. "**Charlie,**" says **Patricia**, "was a good, willing worker, fun to be around; we wish her well." The store staff looks forward to working with the new sub, **Phyllis Gaillet**. **Tom Langley** and **Dan Daroza** are substitutes hoping for permanent spots. One long-time store staffer, **Don Schoenbrun**, is recuperating from surgery. Your friends at the store and Big Book Sale Friends wish you a speedy recovery, Don.

As a last thought, the store staff reminds everyone to come in to see their great selection of books for "beach" reading! Remember—Kindles may be great to pack, but no one wants to get sand in theirs! Think BOOKS!

To that, **The Shadow** says, "**AMEN!**"

Until next time,

Your friendly Shadow



## Focus

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Elvis was living at Graceland at the time, but she does not recall any sightings! While living there, she worked in the cataloging department of the Memphis Public Library

Their next stint was in Jacksonville, Florida, where she was hired as a library assistant at the Bolles School, a private school for boys in grades 7 through 12. It was while living in Jacksonville that their son, Rob, was born in 1969. Because she loved working at the library so much, Diane began working on her Masters in Library Science through correspondence courses.

When they moved to Tampa, she continued her studies, graduating in 1976 from the University of South Florida with her MLS degree. Diane's subsequent job hunt led her to the Pasco County School System, where she worked for 20 years as librarian in two different schools. One of those schools was new, so she was able to set up the library from scratch, a task she really enjoyed.

In 1991, when son Rob graduated from college, Diane and Randy decided to pursue their dream of living in Colorado, a state they had fallen in love with on their many vacations. Randy sold the insurance company he worked in with his parents upon their death, and Diane took early retirement from the Pasco Schools. They arrived in Fort Collins, Colorado, with no jobs and no friends. That soon changed when Diane found a job with the district library system in library support and cataloguing. Part of her job was to help the school librarians, many of whom had little or no training or experience. During her 14 years there, she oversaw the move from the card catalogue system to three different automated systems.

When asked if she and Randy participated in the outdoor sports for which Colorado is so well known, Diane said that they skied a few times, but settled on snow shoeing and snowmobiling as safer sports for their 50-

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# What's cooking at the Friends?

*People have been known to come from across the river for a slice (or two) of Peg Phelps' famous banana cake.*

## Banana Cake from Cane River Cuisine

- 2 sticks butter or margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 whole eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup sweet milk
- 1 ½ cups mashed bananas (3 medium)



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour three 8" round layer cake pans. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs. Beat well. Add dry ingredients and milk alternately. Add bananas. Dough will seem stiff. Spread evenly in pans. Bake for 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out almost dry. Do not over-bake, as cake will be too dry. Remove; cool in pans 20 minutes, then on racks until cold.

## Cream Cheese Icing

- 8 oz. cream cheese (large package)
- 16 oz. confectioners sugar (one box)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 cup toasted chopped pecans (optional)

Mix cream cheese, milk and vanilla in mixer. Gradually add sugar. Mix until smooth. Frost between layers and top and sides of cake. Sprinkle with pecans if desired.

## 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!"



Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://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!



## Focus

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something bodies.

Desiring to spend more time with their son and granddaughter, in 2009 she and Randy retired to River Ridge. While they were still getting settled, they came to EBR to use the computers, and happened to see the Friends' store. Diane stopped in and chatted with the volunteer on duty, who told her about the volunteering opportunities with the Friends. A visit to the old sorting center on Riverside Drive sealed her fate, and she has been helping ever since. She says she loves the camaraderie, the compassionate people, and the fun of volunteering with the Friends.

Diane also loves reading, and gets her library "fix" each week when she helps at the school library at St. George's Episcopal, where her granddaughter will be in sixth grade next year. She has also begun to mark items off her bucket list. She took piano lessons for a while, and now just enjoys playing. She also is learning how to do genealogical research, and has had great success finding lost members of both her family and Randy's. She has enjoyed aerobic exercise for 30 years.

We love having Diane as a volunteer, and we are so happy that she stopped in the store on that fateful day and asked about the Friends. ❀

## Cobb County

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author's last name.

As we do, the Cobb County sale features a special price on Sunday—theirs is a box sale. Atlanta Thrift sells any leftover books online for the library.

Collectibles are a problem, Mr. McKeown stated, as there is no entity to check their worth online. There is a provision for a Collectibles silent auction at the sale on Sunday, and he was hopeful that the Library Board would initiate a program like ours to sell the more valuable books on Amazon. ❀



## In Memoriam

Walter J. Howat

April 2, 1936 - April 9, 2016

Walter was the husband of Judy Howat and brother-in-law of Maureen Howat, both of whom are Sorting Center volunteers. He was a strong supporter of the Friends and participated in many Friends' functions.

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