

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

NO. 54

September 2018

2018 Volunteer of the Year is Marie Breerwood

by Peg Phelps



Robert Campos

Marie Breerwood, left, received her award from Awards Chair Sandra Blount.

Described as ‘a lovely lady who quietly gets the job done,’ Marie Breerwood was presented with the Volunteer of the Year award for 2017-18. This recognition came at the volunteer luncheon held on June 1, 2018 at Chateau Estates Golf and Country Club.

Marie is a longtime member of the Friends. During her twenty plus years, she has served on the Board and on the book sale committee, and still serves as a loyal member of the sorting crew. She has maintained book carts at multiple branches and is currently doing weekend duty, along with her husband Greg, by emptying the dona-

tion bins. Marie can also be seen during the chaos of opening day at the Big Book Sales, calmly operating the credit card machine. She prefers to work in the background, but her artistic talent is visible at every social function the Friends hold, and at every visit made to the Friends Store, where her decorations put a welcoming and finishing touch on every space she oversees.

Several years ago, she was recognized as a Friend of Distinction. However, this year her quiet efforts were recognized with the ultimate award as 2018 Volunteer of the Year. 📖

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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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Patricia Cox, Judy Zawislak, Lisa
Conescu, Joan Demers, Jan DeVidts, Judy
Welcker, Sandra Blount, Milly Spear

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

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Centanni

Contributing Editor: Peg Phelps

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library GENERAL MEETING

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie

Guest Speaker:

Susan Larson

Author and Radio Host of
NPR's
"The Reading Life"



Sign up to volunteer for the Big Book Sale
October 18-21 at the Pontchartrain Center

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

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library
BIG BOOK SALE
October 18-21, 2018
The Pontchartrain Center
Williams Blvd. at the Lake in Kenner
Thursday - Saturday 10 AM to 8 PM
Sunday Noon to 5 PM

Over 65,000 Books
Audiobooks, DVDs,
Records, CDs,
& Puzzles

Free Admission and Parking
Cash and Major Credit Cards
SORRY NO CHECKS

Volunteers Welcome 504-455-2665

Janice Paine is honored with 2018 Friend of Distinction Award

by Jan DeVidts and Anna Campos




Robert Campos

Sue Helwig, left, presented Janice Paine with the 2018 Friend of Distinction Award.

Janice Paine, this year's Friend of Distinction awardee, has been with the Friends for over three years. She began by checking DVDs to list on Amazon and when Amazon limited our ability to sell them on-line, she easily transitioned to listing books. In fact, she is considered one of the most productive of all of our listers. Carefully checking and documenting the condition of each book, her descriptive listings have contributed thousands of dollars of profit to the Friends.

She also still checks special DVDs and other audio/video items to determine if we can sell them in Collectibles and she regularly volunteers to help in the Collectibles area during the annual Book Sale. She works at the Sorting Center on Monday and Thursday afternoons, so few of the regular sorters ever see her. She just quietly goes about her work every week, rarely missing any days.

She is invaluable to the Amazon team and a true pleasure to work with. 

Box Award

Rick Demers, right, receives the Box Award from Anna Campos. He was honored for the long hours he works as a cashier at the Book Sales. Robert Campos (not shown) also received a Box award for the many boxes he has moved and the bins he has emptied at the Sorting Center.



Robert Campos

Friends of JPL Donation Guidelines

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library welcomes donations of books from the Jefferson Parish Library and from the public. FJPL reserves the right to refuse or discard donations as identified below:

Condition: Books with the following flaws: taped, torn, or bent covers; damaged spines, malodorous; wet, mildewed, or excessively dirty books; and/or excessive underlining or writing on the pages.

Age limitations in certain categories:

- Health—must not be older than 5 years
- Self-Help—must not be older than 5 years
- Business—must not be older than 5 years
- Encyclopedias—must not be older than 2 years (some exceptions)
- Textbooks, any category—must not be older than 5 years
- Computers—must not be older than 3 years

Categories: We cannot accept the following:

- Magazines
- Sets (or partial sets) of law books
- Readers Digest Condensed Books
- Home-recorded videos

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library WIN A QUILT!

Enter for a chance to win this
unique fleur-de-lis handmade quilt!



4' x 5'

Tickets available in the Friends Store
Only \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Drawing will be October 21, 2018



Go to 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!

NOTICE: The Online Sales department is still in need of egg cartons (especially the plastic one-dozen size).

An interview with the new President:

Diane Schleifstein (DS) answers questions from Annette Centanni (AC)

AC: Diane, you have worn many hats at the Friends. When did you first become a Friend, and why did you become involved?

DS: After I retired in 2008, I was looking for something new to do; I've always liked books, and the Library is near my house. It seemed like a good place to volunteer.

AC: As a Friend, what are some of the activities you have participated in? So far, what has been your favorite activity? Least favorite?

DS: My first assignment was an arduous one: it involved diving into boxes of books at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chase, which had received a huge donation of books from the closing Naval Base in Iceland. Cheryl Ledet, Rick and Joan Demers and I took on the task of getting them all back to the Center on Riverside. Little by little, I started working at the Sale, the Store, Amazon, the book cart at the Wagner Branch Library, and as a member of the Board. My favorite activities are working with the Amazon ladies who pack and list books, waiting on customers at the Store, and wrapping Christmas presents at Barnes & Noble when the Friends participated in that program; my least favorite activity is bending over to unpack books at book sale setup.

AC: What other interests or hobbies outside the Friends do you enjoy?

DS: I love playing Mahjongg and canasta at the People Program. I also enjoy crocheting and knitting, though I'm not currently working on anything. I spend a lot of time reading, walking, and enjoying my grandchildren.

AC: Who or what in the Friends organization has influenced you or impacted you the most?

DS: I am grateful to Joan Demers for immersing me into the Friends the way she did on the Iceland project, and for encouraging me to get more involved. More recently, Anna Campos helped me set up a library at Shir Chadash, and Jan DeVidts taught me to pack and post Amazon sales.

AC: Being President is a great challenge and a huge commitment. We thank you in advance for the many hours you will spend in service to all of us. Why did you accept the invitation to take the office?



Diane Schleifstein (photo by Anna Campos)

DS: I served as Vice-President and sort of eased into the job. I knew that I would have the help I needed to lead the group, because so many dependable volunteers do so much of the hard work that is involved in running the organization.

AC: What in your background do you expect will help you the most in being an effective leader in the organization?

DS: I have had experience as President of two other organizations, the Hadassah and the Shir Chadash Sisterhood.

AC: What do you anticipate to be the most challenging aspect of your office?

DS: I expect that the most challenging aspect of my office will be to foster the continuing leadership of the volunteers that are already in place, and to encourage others to become more involved, not only for the welfare of the group, but for their own self-satisfaction.

AC: Looking back over the years as a Friend, of what are you most proud?

DS: I am proud of the new friendships I have made with people who are so organized and so committed to volunteerism. I am amazed at the jobs they all do to keep the Book Sale, Store, Sorting and Amazon running so smoothly and so well.



Friend Milly Spear receives 2018 Alliance for Good Government Civic Award

by Annette Centanni

Milly Spear, 2015 Friends Volunteer of Distinction and 2016 Volunteer of the Year, was recently honored by Jefferson Parish's Chapter of Alliance for Good Government. Milly, present at the annual awards ceremony, was not at first aware that the presenter was speaking about her. She thought, "Oh, I bet I know that person; we are involved in some of the same activities!"

After her twenty year career at A T & T, Milly became a professional volunteer, serving for ten years at Ochsner's Golden Opportunity Program. She also spent six years at the VA Hospital assisting homeless veterans. She continues adding to her fifteen years of service at the Jefferson Performing Arts Center, staffing and planning their annual fundraising gala. She has served at Angel's Place, providing support to families of terminally ill children. Milly enjoys working at Second Harvest Food Bank, which she says is extremely well-run. She has also worked in various senior citizen centers, and continues to volunteer as a tour guide for writers and documentary film makers. She has pursued all of these activities while continuing her education in Psychology, with a specialized interest in PTSD.

As a Friend, she works weekly at the Store, helps at the Big Book Sale and was recently elected Board Member-at-Large.



Milly Spear poses with the plaque awarded to her by the Jefferson Parish Chapter of the Alliance for Good Government. (Photo by Anna Campos)



They got the message: Peach was the color of the day at the June Volunteer Luncheon. From left are Peg Phelps, John Sweeney, Ouida Prieur, Lynn Simmons, Maureen Howat, Rose Bradford, Anna Campos, Rosemarie Goetz, and Judy Welcker.

Robert Campos



The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers!

It has been an uneventful, El Niño kind of summer at the Center, the Store and on the Amazon front. It seems the Friends' activities have been as peaceful as the Gulf has been—so far, save one tiny little scare. But that's good, right? I guarantee that by late September, things will start ramping up for the October Big Book Sale, and we'll all be busier than we need to be.

However, I won't go there yet; my stated duty is to keep you abreast of all of the happenings, great or small, so here goes!

Amazon's May and June months were quiet, both in amount of listings, and in deposits made into our bank account. Many listers were either out of town or occupied with medical challenges. July and August were busier, with combined deposits of over \$6,000. Everybody was back at work. On one recent Wednesday, there were ten volunteers and only seven computers. However, with packing normal shipments and readying Collectibles and Amazon books for the October 18-21 sale, everyone still had plenty to do to keep herself occupied. Nevertheless, it was decided that one new laptop computer should soon be seriously considered. . .

The Amazon ladies have selected the silent auction items for the October sale. There will be a Norman Rockwell Collectible book, another book entitled *A History of the*

Rolling Stones, and an LSU football jersey featuring the name of Tyrann "Honey Badger" Mathieu, (also a former St. Augustine star) who is now a 7 million dollar NFL player. Be sure to check out the auction table when you visit the sale.

Around Sorting, **Judy Zawislak**, Sale Co-Chair, left in June for her annual stay in Maine. (Thankfully, she's is back, now.) Others were in and out on vacations, cruises, or occupied with visiting relatives. With pretty much a skeleton crew all summer, the lunch table had plenty of elbow room. On one such day, **Anna Campos** remarked, "We can really tell who all the talkers are—and they are not US!" Hmmm.

On August 9, nearly half of that summer crew was out being honored by West Jefferson General Hospital for their work in the Raise a Reader project. Chairman **Sandra Blount** was thrilled! She reported that this was the first time Raise a Reader had ever been recognized in the community. Raise a Reader provides hundreds of packets of informational literature and books every month to new mothers and to toddlers in local hospital ERs. The group has been a functioning arm of The Friends for 19 years. Those attending the luncheon and ceremony at WJGH included **Sandra, Maria and Rodney Tujague, Sue Hellwig, Rosemarie Goetz**, FJPL President **Diane Schleifstein, Patricia Cox, Collette Ricaud** and **Lesla Albrecht**. **Peg Phelps** was also invited, but was unable to attend.

Back at Sorting, there were a few visitations during the summer: **Ouida Prieur's**

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The Friends Raise a Reader team poses with West Jefferson Hospital staff at their Thank You luncheon. Clockwise from top left, Rodney Tujague, Rosemarie Goetz, Collette Ricaud, Sue Hellwig, Patricia Cox, Pamela Helmstetter (WJMC Prenatal Registered Nurse), Monica Bologna (WJMC Chief Nursing Officer), Lesa Albrecht, Raise a Reader chair Sandra Blount, Diane Schleifstein, and Maria Tujague. Photo by Rosalie Simmons.

grandson **Brett** and his wife **Christina** had heard from her so much about the Friends that they wanted to see the operation firsthand. They were given the grand tour. My grandson **Edward** (8) also visited. He was disappointed that he couldn't stay and help.

The Book Carts in library lobbies have been doing a flourishing honor-system business all summer, thanks to the volunteers who have been keeping them stocked. At the request of branch manager **Charles McChesney**, **Sue Hellwig** trekked all the way down to Lafitte to set up a new one at the library there. **Diane Schleifstein** has reinstated the cart at the Wagner branch on Riverside. There is now a book cart at every Jefferson Parish Library branch where clients can purchase paperbacks at a low cost. (The Grand Isle cart is handled by the librarians,

and they send us the money.)

The August board meeting was a momentous event: the meeting lasted a mere 35 minutes! It seems new **Prez Diane S.** has a talent for moving an agenda along. The September board meeting lasted only 45 minutes, and everything that needed to be discussed was taken into consideration.

At one meeting, new Corresponding Secretary **Marie Orth** reported that she had written only two Thank You letters for substantial donations since she had taken over the office in June. One was for the LSU football jersey which will be used as an auction item, and the other was for a donation of 1,000 books. Up to that point, donations had been steady, but unimpressive; things changed in August.

Apparently, summer clean-outs have increased donations to the point that Sorting Chair, **Peg Phelps**,



Anna Campos

has considered adding another sorting day to the weekly line up. Peg gets nervous when piles of books exceed mountainous proportions in the middle of the sorting room, and when library "weeds" start reproducing themselves in the hallway. You should see the stacks that need to be sorted now!

The Friends Store has had a "long, hot, lazy summer," as well, reports Store manager **Patricia Cox**. "Last spring's huge glassware donation is history! ... but we do still have lots of ceramics and puzzles." She also says we have new Saints earrings and scarves, right in

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We find good homes for used books.

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time to cheer our boys on. **Patricia** offers a standing invitation to stop in and shop.

Store Friends wish **Phyllis Gaillot**, a new volunteer, a speedy recovery. She had a fall and is still recuperating.

Patricia reported that the Store welcomed several more new volunteers since the last newsletter. They are **Lesla Albrecht, Richard Hubbard, Nancy Kleppner, Carole McGinnity, Holly Mo** and **Milda Young**.

Shadow closing note: Aforementioned new Store volunteers, please make sure we all know who you are at the book sale; introduce yourselves around to whom-ever you see. Or better yet, drop in at the Sorting Center and have a look around. I'm all in favor of Friends getting to know each other better!

Until next time,
Your friendly Shadow

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!



Worth a thousand words

Anna Campos captured these notable events.



Above: Sue Hellwig, left, surprised Peg Phelps with a Chantilly cake for her birthday. It was yummy!

Below: Ouida Prieur shows off her matching shirt, socks and shoes.



What's cooking at the Friends?

another of Maria Tujague's tasty treats.

Lemon Cheese Bars

Makes: 24 bars

Preparation Time: 15 minutes

Baking Time: 27 to 30 minutes

- 1 package (18.25 ounces) plain lemon cake mix
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil, such as canola, corn, safflower, soybean, or sunflower
- 2 large eggs
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (from about 1 lemon)



Anna Campos

1. Place a rack in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 350°F. Set aside an ungreased 13- by 9- inch baking pan.
2. Place the cake mix, oil, and 1 egg in a large mixing bowl. Blend with an electric mixer on low speed for 1 1/2 to 2 minutes. Stop the machine and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. The mixture should be crumbly. Reserve 1 cup for the topping. Transfer the remaining crust mixture to the pan. Using your fingertips, press the mixture evenly over the bottom of the pan so that it reaches all sides. Place the pan in the oven.
3. Bake the crust until it is light brown, 13 to 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and set aside. Leave the oven on.
4. For the filling, place the cream cheese in the same mixing bowl used to prepare the crust, and with the same beaters (no need to clean either) blend with an electric mixer on low speed until creamy, 30 seconds. Stop the machine and add the sugar, lemon juice, and remaining 1 egg. Beat on low speed until well combined, 1 to 2 minutes. Use the rubber spatula to spread the filling over the baked crust so that it covers the entire surface. Scatter the reserved crust mixture over the filling. Place the pan in the oven.
5. Bake the cake until the crust is golden brown and the filling just starts to set, 14 to 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and place it on a wire rack to cool for 30 minutes.
6. Cut the cake into 24 bars. Remove the bars from the pan with a metal spatula, and serve.

(Store these bars, covered in plastic wrap, at room temperature for up to 4 days or in the refrigerator for up to 1 week. Or freeze them, wrapped in aluminum foil, for up to 6 months. Thaw the bars overnight in the refrigerator before serving.)

--from *The Cake Mix Doctor*, by Ann Bym

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