

Friends Trends

No. 74

September 2025

Two Volunteers of the Year



Susan Ward, left, receives her Volunteer of the Year award from Marie Orth.

Susan is a long-time member of the Friends organization. She is a devoted and reliable worker at the sorting center as well as the book sales, and is ready and willing to take on any project and completes it with meticulous care. For many years she has done a beautiful job preparing the bookmarks and postcards for the Friends book sales and makes any changes when asked. Last year, she redesigned our brochures and worked to have them produced. She was also instrumental in obtaining our new table banners. Susan is kind and always very eager to help with anything that needs to be done.

--Marie Orth



Anna Campos, left, gives the Volunteer of the Year award to Betty Small. Darlene Scalf took these photos at the annual Friends Volunteer Luncheon. (More information and awards begin on page 3.)

Betty is always willing to help in any way! She is very friendly and well-liked by everyone. She empties bins, sorts, scans and packs books quietly and competently. She also works with Amazon, in the Friends gift shop and as a cashier at the Book Sale. She is generous with her time and energy in all extra events such as the puzzle and warehouse sales.

Betty is a good listener, and can often be found deep in conversation with fellow volunteers. She is a real asset to the Friends.

--Anna Campos

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."

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 Rosenfeld,
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

**From the Editor**

I have been the editor of Friends Trends since August 2009. It has been a pleasure to produce it, and I have enjoyed working with my co-editors, Peg Phelps and Annette Centanni, throughout that time. But all good things must come to an end, and I leave this newsletter in the capable hands of my fellow Friends volunteer, Susan Ward. Susan has design experience, and I am confident she will produce an outstanding newsletter.

Thank you to Kathryn Firmin for helping me transition this newsletter from Publisher to Canva. And thank all of you who have contributed stories, pictures, suggestions, and recipes. I'm sure your help will be needed for issues to come.

Anna Campos, Editor
Friends Trends

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

Friends of Distinction



Above, Judy Zawislak, left, gives John and Shirley Sweeney their Friend of Distinction Awards

This year's Friend of Distinction award is presented to a couple who had over 100 volunteer hours for the last two book sales. Over the past twelve years, they have been dedicated enough to be the first to show up every day. During setup, they put boxes under the tables by category on Wednesdays, and help alphabetize the Choice Fiction tables on Thursdays. During the sale, they work the floor, straightening and sorting books on the tables. They are always willing to help both shoppers and other volunteers, and are truly an indispensable contribution to the success of the book sales. They also have provided us with creatively decorated and delicious cookies at Christmas time which are gratefully appreciated by all.

--Sandra Blount

Other Awards

photos at the Volunteer Luncheon taken by Darlene Scalf



Sandra Blount, left, awards the Friend of Distinction to Sue Craig, and to Michael Rodan.



Maurice Coman could not be present to receive the Bin Award, which was given to him because he empties our six donation bins weekly, rain or shine, and boxes them up for the sorters. His wife Barbara Coman took this picture.



Peg Phelps, left, presented a Friends gift to President Marie Orth, and Patricia Cox, left, awarded a bouquet to one of our longest-serving volunteers, Aileen Janney.



PO Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055
504-455-2665 friendsjpl@yahoo.com

We find good homes for used books.

The Volunteer Lunch

held June 13, 2025, at Austin's restaurant. Pictures taken by Darlene Scalf



MLIS Reception

August 6, 2025



Four recent library school graduates were honored at a reception in the staff lounge of the main branch of the Jefferson Parish Library. Shown with library director Jessica Styons, left, are, from left: Leonel Castell and Atticus "Atti" Brecka, both from the East Bank Regional reference department, Jordan Herbert, floater at EBR, and Rae Vosberg, who works in the teen department at EBR Library.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library
GENERAL MEETING
 10:00 A.M.
 Wednesday, September 17, 2025
 East Bank Regional Library
 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA

Guest Speaker:
Eve Lion
 Humana Market Point
 Licensed Sales Representative
"Stretch Your Grocery Dollars"

Sign up to volunteer for the Big Book Sale
 October 24 - 26 at the Pontchartrain Center

FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BIG Book Sale
3 Days Only!
October 24 - 26, 2025
 Friday - Saturday 10 AM to 7 PM
 Sunday Noon to 5 PM
 The Pontchartrain Center
 4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner

Over 65,000 Books, Records, CDs, DVDs, Books on CD, and Jigsaw Puzzles!
Free Admission and Parking
Cash and Credit Cards
 Sorry, No Checks Accepted

Volunteers Welcome!
 P. O. Box 9391
 Metairie, LA 70055
 504-455-2665
 friendsjpl@yahoo.com

We find good homes for used books.

Two Warehouse Sales



The two photos at left were taken by Darlene Scaf at the June 21 Puzzle and Warehouse sale. The Friends sold approximately 165 boxes in 40 minutes! We took in \$930.00, plus \$15.00 in coupons.

Below, Anna Campos took the picture of the line in front of the EBR Library before the August 9 sale began. Profits at that sale were \$1077.00 for puzzles and \$851.50 for boxes, making a total of \$1928.50.



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!



Like us on
Facebook

We find good homes for used books.

The May Book Sale

May 2-4, 2025



Left, a Friends volunteer photographed Marie Orth, left, and Darlene Scalf manning the volunteer sign-in table on the Thursday before the sale. Right, the line on the first day stretched all the way around the Pontchartrain Center.

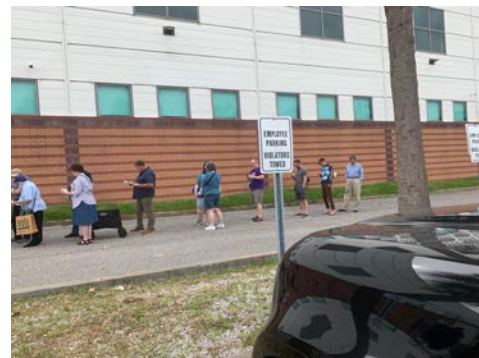


photo by Anna Campos

Left, Hall C of the Pontchartrain Center shortly before the doors opened on Friday, May 2. Right, things were pretty chaotic after opening. Photos by Harvey Orth.



photo by Patricia Cox

Left, at the end of this sale, volunteers packed all the books into smaller boxes rather than using the large Gaylord boxes. It was tiring work, causing some people to sit wherever they could find a spot. Right, the boxes are put on pallets and loaded into the truck to go to Thrift Books. The sale grossed \$57,851.58.



photo by Anna Campos

We find good homes for used books.

More Book Sale Photos

taken by Darlene Scalf



We find good homes for used books.

**In Memoriam
Darlene Scalf
1949-2025**



Darlene had a way of making each person's day better, whether it was a kind word, her sharing her latest joke at the lunch table or just a simple smile, which Darlene always arrived with and carried throughout her time with the Friends. Many of the photos in this and past issues of this newsletter were her work. She will be sorely missed.

If you wish to make a donation in her memory, you can send a check payable to the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library. Put Darlene Scalf's name in the memo section of the check and mail it to Friends of the Jefferson Public Library, P.O. Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055

The Shadow is Retiring



It has been a good run, but it is now time for the Shadow to quietly fade away.

Along with Anna Campos, I have been your Friends Trends co-editor since August, 2009, and became Your friendly Shadow in the May, 2011 issue. That means that Anna, Peg Phelps and I have been correcting each-others' bloopers for a very long time! I will continue to write articles as assigned by your new editor, Susan Ward, but will no longer function as the tell-all Shadow. I hope you have enjoyed seeing your names in print on occasion as much as I have delighted in recognizing your accomplishments and/or surprising you.

--Annette Centanni

NOTICE: the Online Sales department is still in need of packing materials and small boxes (3" high or less).

We find good homes for used books.

Cashiers with a plus

by Annette Centanni; photo by Darlene Scalf



When is a cashier more than just a cashier? The answer is, “When he or she is a Friend-of-the-Library Book Sale cashier.”

At the last sale two customers remarked that our cashiers have the “smiling-est faces in Jefferson Parish.” They greet the public as they file in, engage them in conversation, and listen to their stories. Cheryl Ledet—long-time cashier--has been doing this for years, and by example

has passed the tradition on to all the cashiers. Last May, Sharon Simmons left her register to assist at the “Big Order Table” when no one else was around to supply the service. Jaye Herzog signed up one more teacher to receive free classroom books by putting her in contact with the proper person. Our cashiers re-count orders rather than shortchange a customer.

This past May, in addition to their usual duties, all cashiers supported our library directly. They handed out voting information and encouraged residents to support the library in its quest for a much-needed millage renewal in the current election. The millage proposal passed.

Treasurer Peg Phelps values her cashiers and is thus actually protective of them when they are asked to do multiple tasks at the sale. She has been known to say, “No, you can’t have her; she’s my cashier.” No wonder why.



photo by JPL Staff

JPL Community Engagement Librarian Erin Korosi reported that this year’s Summer Reading Program had its highest-ever completion rate: 57%. 5166 children and adults registered and 2968 completed the program. There were 999 total programs, both in-house and outreach. Total attendance at the programs was 20,694. Readers logged 38,407 books read and 1,421,704 minutes of reading time. All prizes were provided by the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library. One of the prizes was the mystery Squishmallow assortment, shown here with the winner from Rosedale Library.

We find good homes for used books.



The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All) by Annette Centanni

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers! Hope you had a great summer, but are now ready to gear up for the next Big Book Sale. Mark your calendars for October 24-26, with set-up day on the 23rd.

Looking back, our May sale was a huge success, with gross earnings of \$57,800. Several new records were set during that sale: 494 customers streamed into the Pontchartrain Center during the 1st half-hour! 124 volunteers served, and 26 lucky pre-registered teachers came on the last day to collect their boxes of free books for their classrooms. All of the book sets sold due to the superb salesmanship of **Angela Herber**, and Collectibles set an all-time high record.



Angela's sets

Two anecdotes from the sale which illustrate the effect it has on the community stand out in my mind. They show that as Friends we affect many lives we don't even realize we are touching. The first was reported to me by cashier **Arlene Manguno**. An elderly lady who had come all the way from Diamondhead told **Arlene** that she has been coming to our sale for years. She then confided to Arlene that the days she comes to the sale are the two best days of her life. Imagine.

A young Jefferson Parish speech and language teacher assured me that he had already voted for the library millage, and that he was already a member of our Free Books Program. Further, he said that he gives extra credit to teens who show him that they have a new library card. ---We do make a difference.

In addition to the party atmosphere prevalent at the lunch table every Tuesday and Thursday, there were four designated parties enjoyed by attendees this summer. The first was the after-sale Thank You Brunch catered by Caffe Latte Da, hosted by **Judy & Stephen Welcker** and crew. 70 volunteers attended. 54 of us were eligible to attend our June luncheon held at Austin's. In early August, our volunteers hosted a reception for library staff members who had recently received their Masters of Library and Information Science degrees. On August 12, Friends said goodbye to **Molly McClanahan**, our youngest volunteer, who is

See **The Shadow** page 11

We find good homes for used books.

The Shadow

continued from page 10

leaving the area to continue her college education. **Mopsy Donelon** baked a scrumptious cake to celebrate the occasion, and **Molly** was thrilled with the good wishes she received all around. Look for pictures of these events scattered over this issue.

Around sorting this summer there were many moments of surprise, levity and just good sportsmanship. One day, **Juley Kennedy** and **Christy Pepper** volunteered to take out the trash. Unfortunately, they misjudged the looming cloudburst and got straggly-haired drenched. After they had dried themselves off as best they could, they were game enough to have lunch and keep working. Here they are pictured (on a better day) receiving their awards: rain ponchos **Anna Campos** had brought in for them.



Molly and her cake



from left: Juley and Christy receiving their Rain Awards from Anna. Photo by Peg Phelps.



Barbara Coman on her first day back.

Barbara and Maurice Coman took off shortly after the May sale for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the British Isles. **Anna Campos** snapped a picture of **Barbara** on her 1st day back at work. From her smile, I think she appeared as glad to be back as we were to have her.

Mary Ellis Hasseltine happened to be sitting at the lunch table the moment she heard Pope Leo XIV had been elected, and she realized she had once met him. It seems Pope Leo and **Mary Ellis'** uncle had both belonged to the Augustinian religious order and **Mary Ellis** met him at her uncle's funeral when **Pope Leo**, then **Cardinal Robert Prevost**, delivered the eulogy.



See **The Shadow** page 12

We find good homes for used books.

The Shadow

continued from page 11

In Raise-a-Reader news, volunteers **Sandra Blount** and **Sue Craig** will now be delivering boxes of informational packets to a pediatrician on the Westbank, who requested them to distribute to his “new mothers.” Kudos to you, ladies, and to all who help you assemble the packets for the next generation of readers. Raise-a-Reader has also just received a \$1,000 grant from Entergy.

In other news, **Michele Thomassie** reports that we have 800 new Facebook followers since she has been Social Media chair. **Jo Ann Rosenfeld** says that she is pleased with continued Book Cart success. Book Cart monies have totaled \$1,713.45 since the beginning of 2025. As **Jo Ann** and I love to say, “Pure gravy!” **Barbara Starks** is primed, prepared with paperbacks, and ready to load her cart at the new Avondale library the minute it opens in September. The ebay ladies report recent sales of nearly \$700 for their efforts with odd donated items that can't be sold at any other venue.

And there you have the full scoop!

Looking forward to seeing you at the sale,
Your friendly Shadow

Store news

as told to Annette Centanni by Patricia Cox

At the Store, Manager **Patricia Cox** had a great summer. In her own words, “After a long, slow winter, store sales picked up in May and June.” **Arlene Manguno** and **Audrey Munoz** had an unheard of \$300+ Thursday in the middle of June. **Phyllis Gaillot** worked two Saturdays every month, and usually turned in \$100 in sales each time. “**Barbara Coman** broke a record by selling two New Orleans Afghans on a Sunday afternoon. All of that activity was no doubt due to the great Facebook coverage by **Michele Thomassie**.”

Patricia continued, “An extra Thank You to all the store volunteers. We stayed open all summer. Almost everyone let [volunteer manager] **Sandra Blount** know ahead-of-time about vacation schedules,” so **Sandra** was able to fill in all of the slots with substitutes. All was good!

We find good homes for used books.

What's cooking at the Friends?

Sweet Potato Pie

From Will

INGREDIENTS:

1(15) oz. can Bruce's sweet potatoes, a.k.a. "yams"
1/2 cp sugar
1/2 stick of butter or "I Can't Believe It's not Butter"
1/2 can of evaporated milk
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 eggs
1 refrigerated pie shell (Walmart's Great Value or Pillsbury)

DO THIS;

In a bowl put sweet potatoes with only one-half the can's juice.

Mash until lumps disappear, then beat well with mixer (a hand-held does just fine).

Beat the eggs, add them along with the other ingredients, and beat well.

Pour mixture into pie dish and place into oven on 2nd rack from the bottom.

Bake at 365 degrees for about 50 minutes.



HAVE a recipe you'd like to share? E-mail a copy to camposanna@hotmail.com. Include a photo if you can.

We find good homes for used books.