

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 63

April 2022

Big Book Sale a Big Success

by Peg Phelps



The opening day line at the Pontchartrain Center. Photo by Anna Campos. (More book sale photos on page 4.)

“It’s a Nirvana for book lovers.” “You make my wife so happy by having this book sale again. She was so sad when you had to cancel for two years.” “We missed you and are glad you are back.” “We can’t believe it has been 2½ years since the last sale.” “Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

These are some of the comments reported by Friends’ volunteers at the recent book sale, which was held on March 18-20 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. On opening day, the line snaked around the building and through the parking lot. Customers were generally very happy that we were able to have the sale, and they showed it by what they said and what they bought. Even though we cut the sale from four days to three and closed an hour earlier than before, we still grossed over \$62,000.00, and netted more than \$44,000.

By the numbers, we had 123 volunteers help

at the sale. We brought 2,000 boxes of books to the sale, and at the end sent 23 pallets of Gaylord boxes to Thrift Books to be sold on consignment. Sixteen of the \$3 coupons that we gave to new or renewing members were turned in, and 15 of the coupons that were awarded to summer reading participants were used. This does not include the techies who displayed their coupons on their phones! The Collectibles section made over \$5,000.00, and all the comic books (over 1,000) sold. The Pontchartrain Center rent was \$856.00 less since we cut the sale to three days. We made \$130.00 on the four auction books, and \$146.00 on the quilt raffle. Twelve teachers, representing eight schools, took 27 boxes for free at the end of the sale.

In general, the sale was a great success, and we are so glad that our customers are happy! We hope everyone will join us again from October 7-9, 2022 for the next sale.



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

Diane Schleifstein, President
Judy Welcker, Vice President
Peg Phelps, Treasurer
Sue Craig (Hellwig), Recording Secretary
Marie Orth, Corresponding
Secretary
Anna Campos, Past President

Board of Directors

Annette Centanni, Patricia Cox,
Judy Zawislak, Lisa Conescu,
Joan Demers, Jan DeVidts,
Sandra Blount, JoAnn Rosenfeld

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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504-455-BOOK (2665)

Web Site

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

Friends Trends

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

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library GENERAL MEETING

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

**Friends' Sorting Room, Administration Building
East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie**

Election of Officers

**Slate: President: Marie Orth; Vice-President: Judy Welcker
Treasurer: Peg Phelps; Corresponding Secretary: Collette Ricaud
Recording Secretary: Sue Craig
Members-at-Large:
JoAnn Rosenfeld, Annette Centanni and Michele Thomassie**

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

**The Friends
Need You!**

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"Unsubscribe to Friends Trends" in the subject line.



In Memoriam

Kathy Norton

April 16, 1948-January 3, 2022

Kathy joined the Friends around 1996 and started the newsletter in October, 1997. According to Patricia Cox, she remained a loyal member even after she moved to Diamondhead, MS, and came back to help whenever she could and to visit several long-time members.

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 Kathy Norton'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.

News Notes

Recent happenings at the Jefferson Public Library



At the January 19 General Meeting, members approved the Bylaws that had been proposed at the June 9, 2021, General Meeting, as well as the 2021-22 budget. There were also sign-up tables for volunteering for the March Book Sale. Photo by Diane Scheleifstein.

Gaylord Boxes

The book sale committee is looking for used pallets and/or Gaylord boxes for packing books after the sale. If anyone can sell or donate either used pallets or used Gaylord boxes to us, please call 504-455-2665 or e-mail FriendsJPL@Yahoo.com. Pallets and Gaylord boxes must be in usable condition.

Thank you!

A good book is the best of friends,
the same to-day and forever.

—Martin Farquhar Tupper

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."

The Book Sale in pictures



Top row: two views of the Book Sale taken by Anna Campos Thursday before opening day, and the Cookbooks section taken later that morning.

Middle: Anna also found Evelyn McPherson enjoying a book in the hallway of the Children's section while her mother shopped.

Bottom: Kevin Belton of cooking show fame visited the Collectibles Area! Left, Kevin poses with the Collectibles crew (Jan DeVids, Sue Craig, Lena Stockstill, Joan Kittok, and Angela Herber) and Anna and Robert Campos. Right, Joan Kittok and Kevin look at one of the Collectibles books.



Monica Belton



We find good homes for used books.

Photos from the Thank You Coffee

taken by Anna Campos



Volunteers at the March 2022 Book Sale were mailed a postcard inviting them to a brunch in the Sorting Center on April 27. After the meal, Book Sale Chair Judy Zawislak and Treasurer Peg Phelps reported on the outcome of the sale.

"I think we should sometimes read stories where everything's different from our world, don't you agree? There's nothing like it for teaching us to wonder why trees are green and not red, and why we have five fingers rather than six."

--Cornelia Funke, *Inkdeath*

We find good homes for used books.



The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

April, 2022 **The Shadow Knows and Tells All** Greetings, Fellow Booklovers. Happy Spring to all of you!

Well! After two-and-a-half years we've finally succeeded in resuscitating our beloved Big Book Sale! But it wasn't easy. As of late February, co-chair **Peg Phelps** was heard to say, "I'm so afraid we won't be able to have it," while counterpart **Judy Zawislak** appeared to get more and more introspective. It had occurred to them and to the Board that the March sale was only 2 ½ weeks after Mardi Gras; what would happen if there was another Covid outbreak? We toughed it out together, however, proceeded fearlessly and did pull it off.

What a sale it was! Set-up day seemed to set volunteers "a-bubble," contagious enough to last until the Sunday close. Though the sale was a reduced version, time-wise, the gross intake was comparable to the usual four-day total. Net profits totaled **\$45,677.71** in spite of the fact that the cost of moving had nearly doubled.

Every customer who came to my register to check out remarked about how happy he was to see us back in business. The Friends even received an anonymous greeting card from a customer in Gulfport, MS stating, "**Terrific book sale this weekend. So glad it is back...You all are the BEST!!**" signed, "**A loyal book fan of yours.**" This card will receive a place of honor in Historian **Sandra Blount's** scrapbook.

Tips abounded at my register! So many customers quipped, "Oh, keep the change!" The Collectibles section set a new record for a Big Book Sale: over \$5,000. Every one of the 1,000 **Sue Craig**-researched comic books sold, and the quilt raffle brought in \$146. Thanks go to **Ethel Tarleton**, the Friend who stitched and donated it. **Angela Herber**, in charge of the "sets" collection, had

them attractively displayed; she was so "tickled" at the attention and sales they generated. And she SOLD a lot!

The Collectibles ladies got a thrill when they were unexpectedly visited by **Kevin Belton**, local chef and WYES TV star. They confided that he did NOT purchase a cookbook, however! I was so sorry to have missed him and didn't get to meet his dimples in person. Be sure to see his picture and theirs on page 4 in the Sale section of this newsletter.



Quilt winner Rosalie Guidros. Photo by Patricia Cox.

In all, the Friends involved called the enterprise a resounding success, well in keeping with our mission to "find good homes for used books."

Judy Welcker, Hospitality chair, did a fantastic job of feeding the 100+ volunteers who worked the sale. She and her husband **Stephen** made all of the individually-wrapped sandwiches that were consumed over the three days. **Judy** extends her heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who donated other foods and snacks of all kinds.

A telephone committee made over 130 calls to muster the troops to man the sale. It consisted of **Judy Welcker, Milly Spear, Anna Campos, and Joan Fontaine**. People we haven't seen in over two years happily showed up to answer the call, as did many new volunteers whom we hope will consider a year-round commitment. In any case, we'll see everyone again at the **Fall Big Book Sale**, which has already been scheduled for **October 7-9, 2022**.

Incidentally, since 1987 **The Friends** have contributed **\$2,620,424** to the Jefferson Parish Library System. The monies have been used to fund needed items not included in the Jefferson Parish budget. I'd say this sale surely did its part to help us reach our next goal: shall we shoot for **three million???**

\$

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The Shadow

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Meanwhile, work has been going on as usual at the Sorting Center. New volunteers include **Bill Myers**, **Cathy Bowman** and her brother, **Michael Rodan**. The latter two came in to donate books and decided to become members. All continually work on the big pile that accumulates in the center of the floor, have lunch, chat, and generally share whatever has been going on in their lives. They have lots of fun!

The Amazon ladies have been just as busy and have had just as much fun listing the 50 boxes of books they inherited when **Pelican Publishing** was liquidated. Many of the books were in pristine condition and could be listed as "Like New." In addition, **Sue Craig** and an ad hoc committee picked up four car loads from another donor. A third large donation came when a retiring professor donated his entire collection, so the ladies remain assured of what we like to call "job security." It is very exciting when someone finds a book worth more than \$100, but it is even more exciting when one is sold!

This month, after a two-year Covid hiatus, **The Board** voted to subsidize Children's Librarian **Erin Koro-si's** Summer Reading Program, "Oceans of Possibilities." This is just another example of one of the things **The Friends** do for the Jefferson Parish community. We will provide over \$5,000 in prizes for participating children, to encourage them to spend their 2022 summer reading and attending Library programs.

Book Carts have brought in \$686 since the 1st of January, pure gravy for **The Friends'** bottom line. Thanks go to volunteers who steadfastly keep the carts stocked with books they know their clients prefer.

And while we're thanking, let's not forget to

thank **Ralph Cox**, husband of **Patricia**, for once again keeping us legal by filing our taxes. We appreciate your services, **Ralph**, more than we can express!

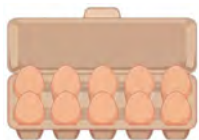
"The Friends' Store has become the 'Friends' Jewelry Store'," reports Manager **Patricia Cox**, with tongue in cheek. It all started when President **Diane Schleifstein** brought in a nice donation of costume jewelry that had been earmarked for an estate sale that was later cancelled. When Store sales became brisk, **Patricia** put a few pieces aside for Mother's Day, so if you hurry in, there is still a nice selection. Then, **Milly Spear** secured and brought in a vintage collection of costume jewelry that had been given to her by a friend. When Store Friend **Holly Mo** examined the collection, she thought that at least three of the pieces might be worth money, and when the two ladies took them to **Causeway Coin**, the man paid them \$550! **Milly** couldn't wait to present the check to **Treasurer Peg Phelps**. **Patricia** later remarked, "The highlight of the collection was a 90" string of pearls! Breathtaking!" And finally, "The Easter Egg necklaces donated by talented Friend **Susan Gaudry** 'hopped' off the shelf."

The Store recently welcomed one new volunteer, **Mary Penot**. **Patricia** reports that she brings a lot of enthusiasm to the job. I recently heard that **Mary** is learning the Amazon system, too, under the tutelage of **Anna Campos**.

Now, Dear Readers, you know everything that I know! I hope to see you at the Election and General Meeting on Wednesday, May 4th.

Until next time,

Your friendly Shadow



NOTICE: The Online Sales department is still in need of Styrofoam egg cartons (one or one-and-a-half dozen size).

Meet the Candidates

Voting on the slate of officers will take place at the May 4 General Meeting. An asterisk () indicates a returning member.*



photo by Harvey Orth

President—Marie Orth

“Before Covid my very favorite thing was working in the gift shop every Wednesday afternoon. I also was a substitute volunteer for the Raise-a-Reader program. I am now a member of that team. I helped Judy Welcker with refreshments at one of the Big Book Sales as well as volunteering during the sales themselves. Occasionally, I made refreshments for some of the general meetings. I have been the Corresponding Secretary for the current and past term. The last thing I attempted was weekend book bin emptying, but we barely got started when Covid shut us down. As time goes on I hope to become more active in this wonderful group.” Marie received the Friend of Distinction Award in 2019.

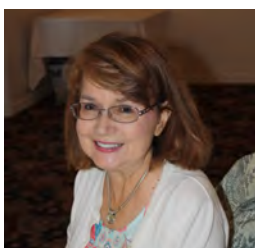


photo by Meade Phelps

Vice President—Judy Welcker*

Judy has been a member of the Friends since 2015. As vice-president, Judy coordinates the general meetings and other events such as the holiday party for the library staff, feeding the volunteers during the book sales, and the Thank You coffees for volunteers after the sales. She was named a Friend of Distinction in 2017.



photo by Anna Campos

Treasurer—Peg Phelps*

In 1995, Peg joined the Friends and started sorting books. Somehow she was appointed sorting chairman when the Friends were given a room in the old library administration building on Causeway Boulevard. She became treasurer in 1998, and has also done the posters, postcards, and bookmarks for the Book Sale and the invitations and programs for the Volunteer Luncheon. “Thankfully, these tasks have been taken on by other volunteers who are much better at the job, leaving (me) chairing sorting and handling the money as treasurer,” says Peg. She received the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2002.



photo by J. D.

Recording Secretary—Sue Craig*

Sue began volunteering with the Friends in 2005. She says, “I started out sorting books, as most of us do, and then around 2009 was asked to be recording secretary-which I have been ever since. My other activities include: researching and scanning books to be listed and sold on Amazon, researching and pricing all the “Oldies” and the comic books, maintaining book carts at four West Bank library branches, delivering Raise-a-Reader packets to the two West Bank hospitals, and working at all our Big Book Sales as a cashier, helping in the Collectibles area, and helping set up and maintain the “Oldies” and the magazine area. I simply can’t imagine life without my ‘Friends’.” Sue was a Volunteer of the Year in 2009.

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Candidates

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photo by Anna Campos

Corresponding Secretary—Collette Ricaud

“I joined the Friends in August 2012. Since then, I have helped with the Raise-a-Reader Program, worked in the sorting room (sorting, scanning, pricing and packing books), and worked and cashiered at book sales. Monday morning after the book sale, I meet Judy Zawislak and the ‘moving truck’ at the Pontchartrain Center and help load the supplies on the truck. Back at the library, we show the movers where to put the supplies in the Sorting Center.” In 2019, Collette was named Volunteer of the Year.



photo by Anna Campos

Member-at-Large—Jo Ann Rosenfeld*

“I have been a member of the Friends for about 6 years. I originally worked with listing books on Amazon and I coordinated the Table Top ‘Garage Sale’ items for two years. Recently I made a very popular meatball appetizer dish for our annual Christmas Party that we host for the employees of the Jefferson Parish Library. I also work shifts in the Collectibles section of our Book Sales at the Pontchartrain Center.”



photo by Anna Campos

Member-at-Large—Annette Centanni*

“I have been a Friend since 2007--almost 15 years. During that time, I have served on the board as Corresponding Secretary, and I am co-editor of the Friends newsletter. I work as a cashier at book sales and I list books online for sale on Amazon.” Annette was named a Volunteer of the Year in 2011.



photo by Bill Thomassie

Member-at-Large—Michele Thomassie

“I joined Friends of the Jefferson Public Library in October of 2021. I have since worked for Sandra Blount in the library bookstore as a backup, enjoying the chance to interact with other book lovers. I mainly work in the sorting center Tuesdays and Thursdays, sorting, scanning and boxing. I go wherever the need is. I have enjoyed sorting through the boxes of donated books, browsing titles as I go, and seeing the many curious and intriguing titles. I have also now experienced my first book sale on the volunteer side. I have attended many past FJPL book sales and this is the first time I did not buy anything at the sale! But, I have to confess that one of my favorite parts of the job is just to get to experience the smell of books all around me!”



What's cooking at the Friends?

There are several versions of this easy-to-fix cookie. This one is from Anna Campos.

Caramel Nut Crunchies

2 sticks unsalted butter
1 cup sugar (may use brown or white)
graham crackers
1 cup chopped nuts

Spread graham crackers in foil-lined pan.

Melt butter in saucepan; add sugar and boil 4 minutes, or until it begins to turn brown (do not let it burn.) Stir in nuts. (Or sprinkle them over graham crackers before baking.)

Pour mixture over graham crackers, tilting pan or spreading with a knife to coat as evenly as possible.

Bake in preheated 350° oven for 8 minutes. Cool before separating.



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

We're on FACEBOOK!!!

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