

Friends Trends


A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 68

September 2023

Bylaws Revisions, Again

by Anna Campos

Due to recent events, the Friends Board has found a need to revise our Bylaws once more. They were last updated in February 2021 to reflect the need for online participation and voting during the pandemic. The major change this time will be the procedure for approving the budget. Additional changes include a notice that, for liability reasons, the Friends will not sponsor alcohol at library events; and the addition of the Awards Chair to the list of committee chairs. The new Bylaws will be presented at the October 4, 2023, General Meeting. A vote for approval will be taken at the first General Meeting in 2024. Links to the February 2021 and September 2023 Bylaws can be found on the Friends JPL website, <https://www.friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org/> 

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

GENERAL MEETING

10:00 A.M.
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave.
Metairie, LA

Guest Speaker:
Mel Buchanan
NOMA Curator of
Decorative Arts
and Design
"FASHIONING AMERICA:
GRIT TO GLAMOUR"

DOOR PRIZES include docent tour for four
and three exhibition catalogs.
Winners must be present.

Sign up to volunteer for the Big Book Sale
October 20-22 at the Pontchartrain Center

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



FRIENDS of the JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Free Admission and Parking

Big Book Sale

3 Days Only!
October 20 - 22, 2023
Friday - Saturday 10 AM to 7 PM
Sunday Noon to 5PM
The Pontchartrain Center
4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner

Over 65,000
Books, DVDs,
CDs, Records,
Audiobooks,
and Puzzles!

Cash and Major
Credit Cards
Sorry, No
Checks Accepted

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



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We find good homes for used books.

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

(a member of United for Libraries, the
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Advocates, Friends, and Foundations)

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Judy Zawislak, Lisa Conescu,
Joan Demers, Jan DeVids, Sandra Blount,
Jo Ann Rosenfeld, Michele Thomassie,
Sharon Simmons, Anna Campos

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

“Fashioning America: Grit to Glamour” to be featured at Friends of the Jefferson Public Library meeting

by Peg Phelps

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library will hold a General Meeting on Wednesday, October 4, at 10 a.m. at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Avenue, in Metairie. The guest speaker will be Mel Buchanan, Curator of Decorative Arts and Design at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Her topic on October 4 will be an overview of the new exhibition entitled **“Fashioning America: Grit to Glamour.”**

The exhibition, on view at NOMA through November 26, takes a broad look at fashion history with an emphasis on the spirit of innovation and the diversity of the United States' fashion heritage. The exhibition spotlights over 100 American designers and brands with garments from the 19th century to the present day.

Three copies of the exhibition catalog, valued at \$65 each, as well as a docent-led tour for four people, will be awarded as door prizes. Winners must be present when tickets are pulled at the end of the meeting.

Volunteers will be able to sign up to help at the Big Book Sale, scheduled for October 20-22, 2023, with set up day on October 19. The sale will be held at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner.

For more information on either of these events, call the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library at 504 455-2665 or e-mail friendsjpl@yahoo.com



Correction: The headline on page 8 of the July 2023 issue of *Friends Trends* should have read: “The April Book Sale.”

Focus on three new Friends

by Peg Phelps; photos by Anna Campos

To say the Friends are fortunate is an understatement. We are so lucky to have at least nine new members since January who have become active and enthusiastic volunteers. Today we introduce three of them.

Liz Averill grew up in Lakeview and attended Mt. Carmel Academy and Nichols State, and is retired from the Jefferson Parish Public Schools, where she was a special education teacher for fourth and fifth graders. She has been married for 48 years to Greg, and they have three children and five grandchildren. Liz avers that she is an avid reader who was at the library all the time. She found the membership application when she went to the Friends Store to purchase books. Sorting and packing books keep Liz busy during the two days per week that she volunteers.

Merilynn “Mopsy” Donelon also grew up in New Orleans, and attended UNO and Xavier. She worked as a pharmacist for 45 years, primarily as a consultant for nursing homes. Mopsy even met Barbara Coman’s daughter when she was a student. (Barbara is another one of our volunteers. The theory of six degrees of separation does not apply in New Orleans. As we all know, we are a lot closer than that.) Mopsy has been married to Jim for more than 50 years, and they have four daughters and eight grandchildren. Her introduction to the Friends was at EBR, where she asked a librarian if there was a volunteer group, and was immediately escorted to our sorting room to be introduced.

Darlene Scalf grew up in California, where she taught high school for 30 years. Subjects included ceramics, art, journalism, art history, and world history. She has a son and a daughter. When her husband became ill, she needed help caring for him, so moved to Harahan to be near her son, who has lived in New Orleans for 22 years. Since she enjoyed volunteering at the library in California,




Darlene Scalf and Mopsy Donelon.

she asked the librarian in Harahan about opportunities, and was directed to our group. She has made herself right at home sorting and packing books, and has become an expert at checking the donated games to be sure all the pieces are



Liz Averill

there. Her main request is for name badges so she can remember everyone’s name. Darlene has never been to a Big Book Sale, so she has quite an experience to anticipate!

All three women commented about how helpful, patient, and kind everyone is, and how well organized the whole operation is. They enjoy participating in the banter that goes back and forth about families, books, gardening, hobbies, and whatever other topics come up on any given day. They agree that libraries are very important to communities, and are happy to be helping to support the Jefferson Parish Library System. Mopsy says she is astonished at how much money the Friends make, and at how many people attend the sales or purchase books from us through Amazon sales, our book carts, and in the store. It’s nice to know there are so many book lovers. I think it can be said that these three volunteers are among those book lovers. 

News Notes

Recent happenings at the Jefferson Public Library



The Friends provided refreshments at the August MLIS reception for those who have completed a library degree recently. From left are Anna Campos, Marie Orth, Judy Welcker, Mopsy Donelon, Marie Breerwood, Peg Phelps, and Judy Howat. Photo by Jessica Styons.

The honorees and guests:

First Row: Shannon Kitchens, Latasha LaSalle, Kellie Vedros, (3 ladies wearing eyeglasses) Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng, Jefferson Parish Deputy Chief Operating Officer Cherreen Gegenheimer

Second Row: Library Director Jessica Styons, Library Board President Becky Knight, Robert Beard, Jessica Buckey, Bridget Johnston, and Friends of Jefferson Public Library President Marie Orth. Photo by JPL Staff.



Gaylord Boxes

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

Thank you!

We find good homes for used books.

EBR gets a Romance book cart

story and picture by Anna Campos

Library Director Jessica Styons recently received a letter from a patron, Mary Ellen Arceneaux. She was remembering the Fiction Sale the Friends held at the East Bank Regional library several years back. Mary Ellen writes, "For many years I've gone to the book fair (sic) at the Pont(chartrain) Center but cannot manage that anymore. Parking is just impossible, particularly for ladies of my age—85!!"

Mary Ellen continues, "I imagine many of us 'oldies' would love to come and plow through our favorite romance books. TV is too depressing these days so we enjoy 'adult make believe.' Could you think about trying such a sale again?"

Jessica passed Mary Ellen's letter to the Friends Board and they decided to put a Romance book cart in front of the Friends store at the East Bank Regional Library. (Romance books are not sold in the store.) Mary Ellen stopped by recently to check out the new cart and have her picture taken.



Mary Ellen Arceneaux poses with the new Romance book cart.

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!





The Friends Need You!

Renew Your Dues
or Become a Member

On-Line:
friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org
 or Call:
 504-455-2665



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.

We find good homes for used books.



The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers!

For once there hasn't been a book sale for me to enthuse about. It's lazy summertime, and everybody has been either coming from or going on vacations. The Friends have *surely* been dormant for the last two months, you might suspect, right? Wrong! Actually, they have accomplished more in two months than you can imagine. With my nose for news, I have kept track of everything you need to know about *what* has been happening, and *to whom*!

Around Sorting, there have been quite a few new members. I have met most, and know that they are all fitting in nicely and enjoying themselves. They all seem to love chatting up a storm while they work, too. You can read **Peg Phelps'** article about some of them in this very issue on page 3.

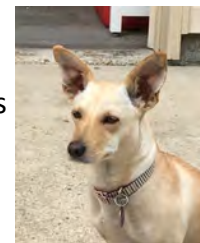
I *do* have three varied stories about "old" members that you may know, however.

There are many sorters who take puzzles home regularly, work them, and return them with notes, "**All pieces present**," taped to the boxes. One such sorter, **Diane D.**, recently worked a puzzle with one piece missing. She was very dismayed. By sheer chance, she decided to peruse the plastic baggies with stray puzzle pieces displayed at sorting, and found the missing piece! Amazing, but true!

Sorter/Lister **Diane Pittman's** dog **Sara**, a terrier-chihuahua mix, has recently been declared "Hero." Twice! On the first occasion, she alerted her mom to call Animal Control to rescue an abandoned

baby possum that she found behind the garage.

Secondly, **Sara** diagnosed **Diane's** recent case of Covid before she even took the test. While **Diane** was relaxing, **Sara** unexpectedly jumped onto her lap and became agitated when she sniffed **Diane's** nose/mouth area. **Sara** had never acted this way before, so **Diane** suspected she was on to something. Test positive.



Sara the Covid-sniffing dog.

Board member **Jo Ann Rosenfeld** has had great success in manning her new "Romance" (honor system) book cart at East Bank Regional. Her first month in business netted close to \$100! I was at the board meeting when **Jo Ann** volunteered her services, and know her well, so I can tell you *why* her cart has been such a hit. It seems **Jo Ann** is a self-proclaimed "expert" on romance authors and all of their books. She was *delighted* to shout out, "I'll do it!" when **President Marie Orth** asked for a volunteer. "I know just the kind of romances she wants!" piped **Jo Ann**.

You can read the whole story about **Mary Ellen Arcenaux**, the "senior" library patron whose request for a romance cart was affirmed that day. It can be found on page 5.

Stories aside, other endeavors Friends took part in this summer were numerous and varied.

One of our missions is to furnish support to the library by providing funding for projects, small and large, not covered in their budget. There were many such opportunities to do so this summer.

We purchased two copies each of five books requested by East and West Bank Regional Libraries.

We furnished three prizes for the recently held
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Adult Spelling Bee: \$20, \$15, and \$10 certificates redeemable at our Big Book Sale.

The Friends provided pizza and snacks for the well-attended **Teen Lock-In** library event held on July 29-30th at EBR.

The Friends hosted a **Graduation Reception** in August for library staff members who had earned their Masters Degrees in Library Science. It was attended by **Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng** as well as 30 library staff members. **Director Jessica Styons** noted that she would like to make this reception an annual event, since she felt that it was both affirming for the graduates and an encouragement to those who might be thinking of furthering their education. **Judy Welcker and her committee of volunteers** furnished the refreshments and their set-up. *(See story and pictures on page 4.*

The Summer Reading Program, which the Friends partially underwrite every year, surpassed all expectations, reported **Erin Korosi, Youth Services Coordinator**. The Friends provided tote bags and other prizes to the hundreds of participants of all ages who had read and attended various programs all summer long.

The board voted to donate 25-30 “coffee table-type” books per West Bank Regional’s request for prizes for their new pilot program, **Bingo for Books**. It is scheduled to start in September and run through January 2024. Sorters will be on the lookout for “nearly-new” books that fit the description. These will be delivered to WBR, no doubt, by **Sue Craig**, who is one of our two liaison persons who cover everything West Bank.

Back in our own Sorting Center and imme-

diately environs, more activities of note have been transpiring.

Sharon Simmons, our new Louisiana state “volunteer hours logger,” has reported that during the month of July alone, 62 volunteers contributed a total of 1,032 hours of service. This included the Store, which had reported 122 hours from 17 volunteers.

One relatively new sorter, **Betty Small**, and one brand new one, **Barbara Starks**, have begun trying their hands at listing under the tutelage of both **Anna Campos** and **Mary Penot**. **Betty** and **Barbara** have also mastered the art of packing Amazon sales and getting them out for prompt mail delivery.

Friends once again partnered with the library on July 29th to co-host another **Puzzle Extravaganza**. This time the profits totaled **\$413**.

Raise-a-Reader has been busy. One of my fondest childhood memories has been of the times my mother and I spent reading to each other and laughing over the antics of “Freddy the Pig” and the adventures in Carolyn Haywood’s “Eddie” and “Betsy” books. **Sandra Blount** and her crew of **Collette Ricaud** and **Marie Orth** have been endeavoring to foster those same memories in others with the **Raise-a-Reader** packets they pack for distribution in East and West Bank hospitals. New mothers each receive a board book and literature encouraging them to read to their infants and to seek and utilize library membership. **Sandra** adds that **Raise-a-Reader** could not continue its mission without the ancillary services of **Patricia Cox** and **Peg Phelps**, who see to the printing of the literature, the purchase of bags, and the purchase of board books. **Sue Craig** has been in charge of delivery to the hospitals

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for many years.

Amazon Internet Sales, also! Due to the dedication and conscientiousness of listers and packers, our “Amazon” business continues to thrive. The net profits for the months of June and July totaled **\$8,048.89**. Four books each sold for **over \$100**, but the most expensive sale was a book on **Mad Magazine** artwork, which sold for **\$289!** Our Amazon account continues to report a 99% lifetime feedback satisfaction rating.

At the Store. Store Manager Patricia Cox reported this issues’ news to me with a sigh. In her own words, “INFLATION is a bummer!” She stated, “The ‘Big’ store news is that inflation is causing us to raise the price on our signature NOLA Throws.” Patricia went on, “Our recent order of afghans brought

a surprise on the invoice—a \$7 increase in the price of each blanket.”

Even though shipping costs have increased, Patricia has managed to keep the base price the same until now. This time, however, the store will have to raise the selling price by \$5, thus make \$2 less profit on each sale. She says that this will keep the price under \$50 per afghan.

Sorry you had to read it first here, Dear Readers. But news is news. It might help to remember that the New Orleans Afghan is a unique gift, only available at our store. Visit the Store, commiserate with the staff, then buy several of the hundreds of bargains whose prices are still the best around town.

Until next time—but first, meet me at the Sale on **October 20-22, 2023**, or for set-up on **October 19th**. We will all have a great time!

Your friendly Shadow

Worth a thousand words



Left: Customers at the Friends book sales may have noticed many puzzles marked, “has all pieces.” This is because someone **counted** all the pieces for each puzzle, as Darlene Scalf is doing here.

Right: Beverly Marino Checks a box of dominos. Photos by Peg Phelps.



Book Carts: Year-round mini book sales

by Annette Centanni; photo by J.D.

There is now an honor-system book cart in just about every Jefferson Parish library branch. The Old Metairie Branch supports two and the newly-minted East Bank Regional Branch is in the process of setting up a needed second. These carts each have an attached donation box to collect the modest fees suggested on the displayed paperbacks. For the last few years, the carts have become increasingly popular, and have begun to average upwards of \$3,000-\$3,500 per year.



Eight volunteers presently service their branches once to twice monthly, or as needed. They refill their carts, change strategies as deemed necessary, and collect the donations. Sue Craig services four libraries: Belle Terre, Lafitte, Live Oak, and Westwego. Will Hunn takes care of Gretna and West Bank Regional. Diane Schleifstein services Wagner and North Kenner. Also, Rodney Tujague services both River Ridge and Rosedale; Judy Zawislak, Old Metairie; Patricia Cox, Lakeshore; Jo Ann Rosenfeld, East Bank Regional;

and an Amazon volunteer, the Harahan Branch. Each volunteer is aware of the needs/desires of his own patrons, and chooses books that are most likely to please.



By Charing Cross in London Town
there runs a road of high renown,
where antique books are ranged on shelves
as dark and dusty as themselves.
And many booklovers have spent
their substance there with great content,
and vexed their wives and filled
their homes
with faded prints and massive tomes.

--Norman Davey

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

We find good homes for used books.

What's cooking at the Friends?

Lisa Conescu made her biscotti for the MLIS reception in August.

Mandel Bread Almond flavored

1 cup sugar	2 tsp. baking powder
½ cup Crisco	¾ tsp salt
3 eggs	1 tsp. vanilla
3 cups flour	1 cup nuts (almonds)

Blend sugar and Crisco until creamy. Add 1 egg at a time; add vanilla and nuts. Add flour, baking powder and salt. This must be mixed by hand; consistency will be like soft rubber until baked. Spread on ungreased baking pan into a long, low loaf and bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes.

Before it cools, cut into strips. Stand these strips with raw sides up. Bake them again, until they brown in the oven.

Lisa says, "I know it as a family recipe handed down to me. It is a little denser than some biscotti. (The crumbs after the second bake are extra delicious!)"



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

It had been startling and disappointing to me to find out that story books had been written by people, that books were not natural wonders, coming up of themselves like grass.

--Eudora Welty