

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

No. 73

April 2025

Floored! Sorting Center gets new carpeting

by Anna Campos



The Sorting Center got a much-needed facelift when new carpeting and lighting was installed the week of February 17. Robert Campos captured before and after pictures of the new flooring. More



information is on page 3 of The Shadow column.



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

GENERAL MEETING

10:00 A.M.

Monday, April 14, 2025

East Bank Regional Library

4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA

Guest Speaker:

Catherine Campanella



Local Historian, Author and Educator

"A Metairie Timeline"



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

Sign up to volunteer for the Big Book Sale
May 2 - 4 at the Pontchartrain Center




BIG Book Sale


Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

May 2 - 4, 2025
Friday & Saturday
10 AM - 7 PM
Sunday Noon to 5 PM

The Pontchartrain Center
4545 Williams Blvd. at the Lake in Kenner
Free Admission and Parking

Over 65,000 Used Books,
Records, DVDs, Books on CD
& Jigsaw Puzzles





Cash & Major Credit Cards
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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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Jan DeVids, Sandra Blount, Jo Ann Rosen-
feld, Michele Thomassie,
Sharon Simmons, Anna Campos, Betty
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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

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

Volunteer of the Year nominations are due

by Anna Campos

Do you know someone who has worked tirelessly and faithfully for the Friends? Nominate them for an award. The last two pages of this newsletter contain the Volunteer of the Year nomination form and the list of prior Volunteer of the Year and Friend of Distinction winners. There are also forms available in the sorting center, as well as an envelope for returning completed forms. Nominations are due by May 1st.



**Note: the April Friends General
Meeting is on MONDAY
rather than the usual Wednesday.**



**Don't forget to vote "Yes" to
renew the library millage on
May 3rd. (This is a renewal,
not a new tax.)**



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The Shadow Knows (and TELLS All)

by Annette Centanni

Greetings, Fellow Booklovers! Are you ready for some Spring weather and a successful May 2nd Big Book Sale? I am. And I say “good riddance” to snow storms and the winds that caused Jefferson Parish’s cancellation of Mardi Gras on Veteran’s! Weather and new carpet-laying events wreaked havoc with our January and February bottom lines in Sorting, Amazon sales and the Store. Thankfully, we are now back to what we call “normal,” working hard on internet, eBay, Store sales, and preparing for our upcoming May 2-4 whirlwind.

Sorting was closed for one week due to the snow, and two weeks for the carpet, but is now in full swing after the February 25th reopening, which was celebrated with cake! We love the colorful new carpeting and the brighter new light fixtures the library installed for us. Thank You to all who fiscally and physically made the renovation possible! We appreciate all of the many volunteers who cleared shelves and moved computers and furniture to facilitate the process. Those who cleaned, vacuumed and put the Center back in working order performed a service well beyond the call of duty, and we thank you, also.

Backing up to the beginning of January.

Yes, we are back in business, but to back up, many other occurrences happened during the first quarter of the year. The Friends have a new Big Book Sale Chairman-in-Training: **Barbara Co-man**. **Judy Zawislak**, long-time mainstay Co-Chair with **Peg Phelps**, has decided to retire at the end

of 2025. **Barbara** will have two book sales to prepare to fill **Judy’s** big shoes. Then, “the notebook” will officially be handed over. We promise to help you to our last breaths, **Barbara**.

In early February, Friends hosted a General Meeting with guest speaker **Elisabet Trujillo** of the LSU Ag Center, who spoke on “Protein Power: Energize your Day.” Her slide presentation and handouts were very well-



General Meeting speaker
Elisabet Trujillo



Selena Muhoherac, left, with
Marie Orth

received.

Also at the meeting, **President Marie Orth** presented the library with a check in the amount of **\$100,000**. We are always so delighted when that can happen!

On February 8th, a crew of volunteers held a Warehouse Sale at EB Regional featuring mainly boxes of children’s books and fiction along with tables of displayed puzzles. This was held in conjunction with the library’s puzzle contest that always draws a big crowd. Some of our customers went to their cars, opened their sealed boxes, and came back for more \$5 boxes!



The Warehouse Sale, photographed
by Darlene Scalp

All of the puzzles and all but 20 of the 290 boxes were sold. They are being kept for the May sale. This one-day sale netted **\$1,798**.

Sandra Blount and **Sue Craig**, as Raise-a-Reader representatives, attended the West Jeffer-

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We find good homes for used books.

The Shadow

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son Medical Center Health Expo on March 22nd. Their main mandate was to distribute Raise-a-Reader packets to promote early reading to children. They also distributed Friends' Sale bookmarks, Friends' literature and manned a raffle basket of Friends' items.

Book Carts, etc. Upon the retirement of **Jo Ann Rosenfeld** from the position, **Peggy Mathews** will now be in charge of the popular Romance Cart at East Bank Regional. It is rumored that **Barbara Starks** has been courted to man a new cart at the Avondale Library when they are ready for it, and she is "thinking about it." **Jo Ann** says that she has conferred with **Barbara** about the books she would choose, and reports that **Barbara** is "spot on" for the job.

In an effort to encourage and engage more readers, **Michele Thomassie** has started a monthly book theme recommendation on Facebook. If you are on this social media site and are interested, please check out the themes and offer your own recommendations in the comments section.

Sharon Simmons reported 1,664 hours of volunteer service in January, but February hours were understandably depressed. Internet sales were shut down for one week in January due to the snow storm, and for two weeks in February for the carpet. Since "A to Z Amazon" now takes nearly 50% of our sales dollars, our internet net profits are not what they have been in the past. Our Amazon lady listers never say die, however, and expect to rally soon. To add a bright note, **Patricia Cox's** eBay netted \$183.47 for the sale of five items during the two slow months.

At the Store, things have been really slow,

according to **Patricia Cox**, Store Manager. "Either the weather was bad and people weren't venturing out, or the weather was beautiful and no one wanted to be indoors. Most of the Carnival season was beautiful, so sales were slow." On the positive side, she remarked, "We received a wonderful donation of beautifully framed artwork from a well-known frame shop. They are all in the Store for unbelievably low prices." Customers are welcome to come in, browse, and take home a new picture to brighten up a room!

There are two important events in May that you won't want to miss. There is **a millage renewal vote** to support Jefferson Parish Libraries that will be coming up on May 3rd, with early voting on April 19-26. Our own East Bank Regional Library on West Napoleon will be an easily accessible site for this early voting, as will West Bank Regional Library. This is the renewal of an already existing millage, **not** a new tax.

Another important event is our next **Big Book Sale on May 2-4**, with set-up on May 1st. We hope you will attend, spend and bring 10 of your friends! See you there!

Until next time,

Your friendly **Shadow**

"Readers make their own personal connections to works, irrespective of the writer's intentions, and each reader gains something unique."

—Michiko Aoyama

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

Congratulations, Patricia!

by Annette Centanni



Photo by Meade Phelps

Patricia Cox has recently been elected President of the Jefferson Parish Library Board. This is the third non-consecutive term she has accepted during the fourteen years she has been of dedicated service to the board.

Patricia's Friends duties include managing the Store, participating at our monthly board meetings, and co-managing our eBay account.



In Memoriam

Maureen Howat

1941-2025



Maureen worked with us for many years, making the ex-library children's books acceptable for sale in the store by removing all the library markings.

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 Maureen Howat'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.

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."

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.

Another big donation

March 11, 2025. Photos and captions by Darlene Scalf



Above, JUST SOME of the boxes of donated books from that day, added to an already QUITE FULL area in the sorting room.



The entrance back door hallway



The picture on the left is of a very nice man who had just finished donating 3 boxes of books, when the big vehicle arrived with those thousands of books. He volunteered to help unload, pack AND stack those boxes, first in the sorting room, and then in the entrance back door hallway! Once those thousands of books were unloaded, we INSISTED he join the late-lunch crowd for a piece of cake and a glass of ice water! When we asked him his name, he said to just call him "Alias," because he didn't want to be notified to officially join our volunteer group! ☹️ But I DID write a thank you note, made out to his wife, "Mrs. Alias," for letting him help us! ☹️



This picture shows ONLY SOME of the MANY volunteers, who helped unload and box thousands of books, brought to us in a rented vehicle, because the woman who brought them DID NOT have enough room in HER vehicle.

Those having lunch are doing so AFTER our regular lunch break, because it took at least an hour and a half to deal with all those books!!!

Those of us who sat at the lunch tables for the normal lunch time did NOT realize WHY the other volunteers were not with us!!!

We find good homes for used books.

Warehouse Sales tremendously successful

by Peg Phelps

The Friends are often fortunate enough to have more donated books than we can sell at our book sales, on Amazon, and in our store, so in July of 2024 a new outlet was invented—the Warehouse Sale. At these sales, a box of books of a certain category is sold, sight unseen, for a flat price, usually \$5. Categories have included CDs, children's books, cookbooks, fiction, and romance. The sales are usually held in conjunction with the Library's Puzzle Extravaganzas.



So far, four such sales have been held, in February, July, and November of 2024, and our most successful sale yet, in February of 2025, when we also sold jigsaw puzzles. We sold 270 boxes of books and many, many puzzles, earning income of \$1798, which will benefit the Jefferson Parish Library System. The sale took place on Saturday, February 8, beginning at 9 am, in the hall next to the entrance to the library at EBR. Teams of Friends' volunteers helped customers choose boxes of books and

then helped the customers get the boxes to their cars. Customers were only too happy to peruse the puzzles and pick out a few of those, too. At one of the sales, a customer bought one box of fiction, took it to her car, and opened it to see what it contained. She was so pleased with what she found that she came back and purchased several more boxes.

This is yet another outlet for us to get books into the hands of readers. Watch for the next sale sometime this summer!!



Above: this happy family and the one on the left were photographed by Darlene Scalf.



Above: Darlene Scalf captured buyers perusing the puzzles.



From left to right: the checkout line, photographed by Darlene, and the empty and almost empty DVD and children's sections, photographed by Anna Campos.

We find good homes for used books.

What's cooking at the Friends?

From Anna Campos' recipe files

Nutty Meringue Bars

Line a 13x9 baking pan with foil, leaving extra to make handles on each end. Preheat oven to 325°.

Ingredients:

1-1/4 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 eggs, separated
1-1/2 cups packed brown sugar, divided
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup butter, softened.

Mix flour and baking powder; set aside.

In a small bowl, beat egg whites until frothy; gradually beat in 1 cup sugar until a stiff meringue forms. Fold in nuts and vanilla; set aside.

In a large bowl beat butter, egg yolks and remaining 1/2 cup sugar until fluffy. Stir in flour mixture until well blended. Spread in greased baking pan. Spread meringue mixture on top. Bake 25 minutes or until top is light brown and firm to the touch.



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



The Friends Need You!

Renew Your Dues
or Become a Member

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



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**

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Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

Please use this form to give your reasons for nominating one of our members as volunteer of the year. Please describe, in detail, your reasons for nominating this person. The committee will consider the work done in the past year, the number of hours expended, any office or committee chair the nominee holds, and his or her overall participation in Friends' activities. A list of previous recipients is printed on the reverse side of this page. Use more than one sheet of paper if necessary. Please return this form in person to the sorting center, email (or request an e-copy from) friendsjpl@yahoo.com, or surface mail to Nominating Committee, Friends JPL, P. O. Box 9391, Metairie, LA 70055, no later than May 1.

Name of nominee:

Why does this person deserve to be named Volunteer of the Year?

Your Name (optional):

(See back of form for a list of prior award winners.)

Volunteer of the Year Awards

1999: Ethel Tarleton
2000: Fay Bilby
2001: Judy Zawislak
2002: Peg Phelps
2003: Kathy Norton
2004: Brenda Huchingson
2005: Jack Weldon
2006: David Valentine & Carolyn Lindsay
2007: Blamid Sunseri
2008: Arlene Manguno & Joan Demers
2009: Ailleen Janney & Sue Hellwig
2010: Patricia Cox
2011: Anna Campos & Annette Centanni
2012: Chris deVillasana
2013: Jan DeVidts and Sandra Blount
2014: Mary Lou Spanja and Mary Anna Lightner
2015: Ted Blohm and Diane Davey
2016: Millie Spear and Paulette Mauterer
2017: Maria and Rodney Tujague
2018: Marie Breerwood
2019: Collette Ricaud
2021: Cheryl Ledet (Special Award)
2022: Judy Welcker
2023: Michele Thomassie
2024: Barbara Coman

Friend of Distinction Awards

2005: Lisa Conescu
2006: Patricia Cox
2007: Judy Zawislak & Peg Phelps
2008: Sally & John Hoffschwelle; Sandra Blount
2009: Mary Lou Spanja
2010: Marie Breerwood
2011: Kuniko Izumi & Kathy Pennington
2012: Maria Tujague & Rick Demers
2013: None
2014: Robert Campos and Ann Buchel
2015: Milly Spear
2016: Leslie Fall
2017: Judy Welcker
2018: Janice Paine
2019: Marie Orth
2022: Rose Bradford and Diane Pittman
2023: Rose Catalanotto and Sharon Simmons
2024: Audry Munoz