

Friends Trends

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JEFFERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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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Friends Trends

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February Warehouse & Puzzle Sale

Photos by Rose Catalanotto & Betty Small

Everyone loves a good book and puzzle sale. And the February 28th sale was no exception. Buyers streamed in to snap up the \$5 boxes of fiction, children's and romance books as well as the large selection of puzzles. The sale netted an astounding \$1,758 in cash and credit card sales. 140 boxes of books of the 160 that were brought were sold. 26 boxes of CDs and 20 boxes of DVDs were also sold along with numerous puzzles.

The volunteers said they had a great time and claimed it was fun!

The next Warehouse and Puzzle Sale is scheduled for July 25th.



Heading into the sale.



Puzzles galore!



Checking out.



*Maurice, Barbara, Anna,
Sharon & Peg at the
check out station.*



*Loading up
their purchases.*

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.

Spring 2026 Jigsaw Puzzle Extravaganza



Photo by Rose Catalanotto



True puzzle fans! Take a look at those t-shirts.



The Puzzle Contest.

Photos by Anna Campos



The winning puzzle.



Three-time winners:
Brandi Clement and
Christina Anderson

The duo won the Spring 2026 event held February 28th by finishing the 500 piece Gallison puzzle “Wonder & Bloom” in 55 minutes.

Belle Terre Library Receives Braille American Flag

[f @Jefferson Parish Library](#)

The Jefferson Parish Library was honored Monday, January 26, 2026 to receive a tactile Braille American flag as a donation from the Blinded Veterans Association to the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library. The raised-surface flag, underwritten by the Marrero Lions Club, includes a Braille version of the Pledge of Allegiance and will be displayed at the Belle Terre Library. A similar version will be mounted at the Westwego Library. These emblems join Braille flags previously installed at both the East Bank Regional and West Bank Regional Libraries. Present at today’s dedication ceremony (from left): Selena Muhobarec, Library Assistant Director; Robert Beard, Westwego Library Manager; Nicholas Caluda, Belle Terre Library Manager; Jessica Styons, Library Director; Joe Burns, representing the Blinded Veterans Association; and Judy and Donald Harrison, representing VFW Post 6640 in Metairie.



General Meeting



The General Meeting & Volunteer Sign Up for the Spring Big Book Sale was held March 25, 2026 at the East Bank Regional Library.

Our Guest Speaker was Master Gardener, Laura Boland Wright. Her presentation was about three of the gardens, the Hummingbird, the Native Plants, and the Train. This was part of a special series of talks, “*Exploring the Gardens of the the New Orleans Botanical Garden: A Master Gardener Series*” led by Master Gardeners who volunteer at the New Orleans Botanical Garden. Ms. Wright’s presentation was informative and interesting and was accompanied by many lovely slides of the gardens.

As usual, we enjoyed the array of treats provided by the Friends and coordinated by Hospitality Chair **Judy Welcker**.



Photo by Susan Ward

Photos by Anna Campos



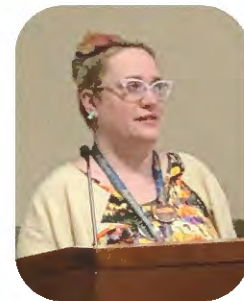
Library Director Jessica Styons receives a bouquet from Friends President Marie Orth. Jessica was voted Library Director of the Year by the Louisiana Library Association.



Marie Orth gives a gift to Laura Bowland Wright, our General Meeting speaker.



Marie Breerwood's flowers adorned the food table.



Library staff member Shannon Kitchens explains the soon to be completed Makerspace area in the EBR Library.



We find good homes for used books.

SPRING Big Book Sale!

Unless otherwise noted, all photos by Barbara Coman's brother Mike



Photo by Susan Ward

Bringing in the many, many boxes of books on Wednesday before the sale.

Our Spring Big Book Sale was held April 17-19.

Our sales seem to get better and better. This sale was even more successful than last year's Spring Big Book Sale by about \$800!



Patricia Cox getting ready for the crowd.



Photo by Anna Campos



Set Up Day - Thursday, April 15th.

Photo by Anna Campos



Book lovers waiting patiently. Sometimes for hours!



Photo by Susan Ward

The line wrapped beyond the end of the building.



And they're off!



Our volunteer cashiers waiting for the first sale.

We find good homes for used books.

MORE SPRING Big Book Sale



Shoppers galore!



Shoppers perusing the Collectibles area.



Checking out.

..... *Thank You Volunteers!*

Voting on the Slate of Officers for the 2026-2028 Board at the General Meeting - May 13, 2026.

Proposed Slate of New Officers and Board Members

Vice-President:

Rose Catalanotto

Rose has been a Member-at-Large on the Friends Board since 2024. She was honored as a Friend of Distinction in 2023.



Rose Catalanotto

Members-at-Large:

Peggy Mathews

Peggy has been a Friend for about 3 years. She sorts and packs books and works at warehouse and puzzle sales as well as the Big Book Sale.

Mopsy Donelon

Mopsy sorts and packs books. She also volunteers at the Big Book Sale. She has been a Friend for about 3 years.



Some of the current Board Members



Mopsy Donelon (left) and Peggy Mathews (right)

Friends' Funds Spur Renovations, Innovations to J.P. Library System

by Annette Centanni with Library Director Jessica Styons

Since Jessica Styons' appointment as Director of the Jefferson Parish Library System in November of 2022, the use of funds donated by the Friends has gone in the direction of renovation, refurbishment and innovation. Varied projects have been completed or are being undertaken mainly in the Gretna, East Bank Regional and West Bank Regional branches.

In Gretna, the needed facelift involves the replacement of mismatched, worn furniture, and refreshment of the children's area to make it more child-friendly and appealing. Much new shelving has been installed. A boat, whimsically placed in the outside area, attracts climbers and thinkers of all ages.

At East Bank Regional, there is a new room suitable for quiet reading or studying. Other quiet spaces have been designated for nursing mothers or as a secluded refuge for youngsters experiencing a meltdown.

The West Bank Regional, which had not been renovated for many years, has allocated a special area suitable to accommodate teens' study and cooperative collaboration.

Both EB and WB Regional libraries are being equipped with an innovation called a "Makerspace". These spaces house specialized equipment for various needs. Equipment will include items such as dress forms, sewing machines, 3-D printers, digital recording equipment, facilities for the production of ceramics and facilities which invite the community to come in and research/formulate ideas leading to the creation of new enterprises.

The library has also furnished needed ramps and has provided necessary accessibility in varied locations throughout the parish. With some of the funds, it has purchased many books, particularly local history volumes not available from regular vendors.

Of course, the Friends have always funded the Summer Reading Program, which serves thousands of toddlers, youth, teens and adults. However, this program has been expanded, and every year becomes more sophisticated in its breadth and attractiveness, something it could never do without access to the "unbudgeted" money supplied by the Friends.

Are these renovations and innovations being put to good use? You be the judge. The parking lots at every library are always full, and the rooms inside are always beehives of activity. Since the library personnel are so open to change for the betterment of the community, the community seems to be responding to the changes with their dedicated presence.



Outdoor boat for kids



Children's seating/study tables, kitchenette, and browser bins



New teen furniture

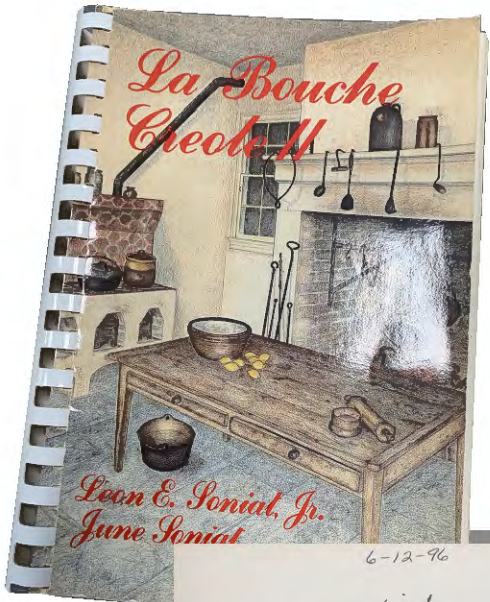


New adult lounge furniture

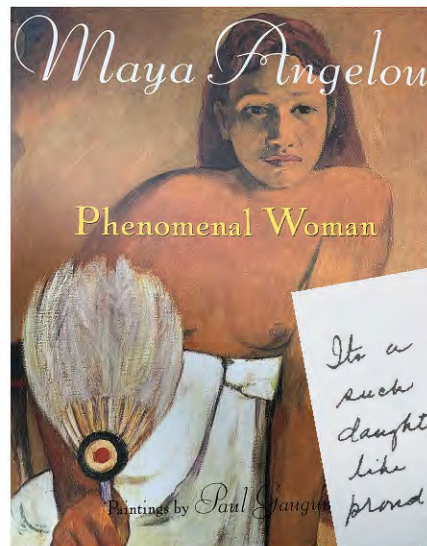
Inscriptions /in-skrĭp'shənz/

Have you ever received a book with an inscription from someone? Have you ever written one? Did you ever read an inscription in a book and wondered about the person who wrote it and who received it?

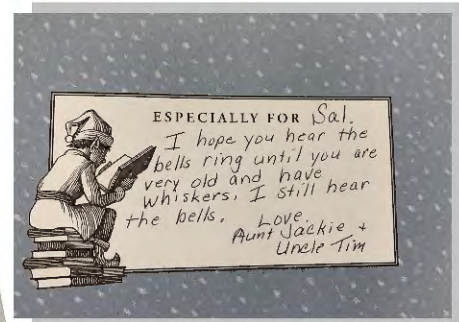
Well, **Christy Pepper**, a Friends volunteer did. While sorting books, she noticed there were quite a lot of inscriptions. She thought they might be of interest to our Newsletter readers. Other volunteers liked the idea, too. I'm sure there will be more inscriptions in future newsletters. Here are a few that Christy found.



6-12-96
 So Studs, my friend
 Enjoy reading these stories
 and using the recipes.
 Bon Appetit!
 Love Amiey
 Mrs. Lucy
 Laissez les bon temps rouler!
 (cajun motto)

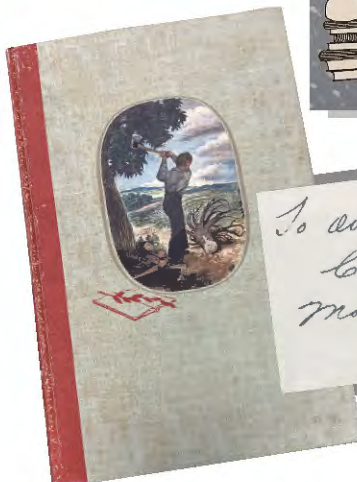


Nov 09
 Its a pleasure to have
 such a phenomenal
 daughter! like methus-
 like daughter! Love
 proud of you! Mom



ESPECIALLY FOR Sal,
 I hope you hear the
 bells ring until you are
 very old and have
 whiskers. I still hear
 the bells.
 Love
 Aunt Jackie +
 Uncle Tim

Christmas 1980
 Dear Dad,
 Merry Christmas!
 Thank you for the opportunities
 in this life that you and Mom have
 afforded me.
 I love you more as I grow.
 God bless you.
 Your son with love,
 Steve



To our little man
 Christmas 1950
 Mather and Taddy

UPCOMING Events



**Spring Big Book Sale
Thank You Coffee
May 27, 2026**

Volunteer Luncheon and Installation of Officers June 5, 2026 at Copeland's in Kenner

The Friends' annual Volunteer Luncheon is held for those who have worked 50 hours or more.

The Volunteer of the Year award will be presented at this time.

**Summer Reading Program
"DIG Discover Grow!"
May 30-July1, 2026**



MLIS Graduation Reception June 26, 2026

The reception honors the library employees who completed their Master of Library and Information Science degrees.



**Fall Big Book Sale
October 23-25, 2026**

**Mark your
calendars so you
don't miss these
important dates!**

If you do not wish to receive future issues of Friends Trends, please send an email to friendsjpl3@yahoo.com. Use "Unsubscribe to Friends Trends" in the subject line.

We Need Your Phones!

The sorting center is in need of your discarded phones. They are used to scan donated books in order to sell them on our online store.

We Need

iPhone 8 or later with IOS 16.4 or higher or Android 10.0 or higher.

Erase all personal information by resetting the device to factory settings.



Thank You!

If you are reading a print copy of this newsletter and would like to receive it online, send an email to friendsjpl3@yahoo.com. In the subject line write "Subscribe Newsletter."



The Online Sales Department is in need of small shallow boxes (3 inches high or less) and air pillow packing materials.

The Little Free Library Matches the House!



Photo by Anna Campos



"The America I love still exists at the front desks of our public libraries."

Kurt Vonnegut

The Friends Need You!

Renew Your Dues or Become a Member.

Online: friendsofjeffersonlibrary.org or Call: 504.455.2665



What's Cooking at the Friends?

Lorrie Guttman's Carrot Cookies

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter or margarine
 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 2 eggs, well beaten
 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 2 cups old-fashioned or quick cooking
 rolled oats, uncooked
 1 cup raisins
 1 cup shredded (not too finely) carrots
 1 cup chopped nuts



Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, beat butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar with an electric mixer until well mixed. Add eggs; mix well. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg; add to butter mixture and mix well. Stir in oats, raisins, carrots and nuts.

Drop dough by tablespoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Flatten slightly.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 25 to 30 minutes, or till done. Transfer to racks to cool.

Makes about 3 dozen cookies



Like to share a recipe?

Email a copy to benigo@cox.net and include a picture if possible.

Contact the Friends

Address and Phone

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