

THE SPOTLIGHT

We welcome our new board member, Uche Ogwudu, to the Friends of the Library!



Uche is already a committed volunteer, and she is ready to embrace this new role as board member. Here are 5 facts about Uche to help you get to know her.

- 1) Uche works as a financial planner, educator, and coach. Her passion for finance and wealth management has led her from the corporate financial world to her own investment and financial literacy business.
- 2) She is a big believer in community work; this includes sorting donated books at the library and collecting used phones and computers for a primary school in Nigeria.
- 3) Uche has raised her 3 children to love books and the library. She states, "Wherever I live, my kids grow up in the library." When one of her sons helped at the book sale, she remembers that he lit up. "It was home for him," she says.
- 4) Uche believes in diving into new subjects and reading all she can about them. She will read about any topic, but she especially enjoys digging into espionage thrillers and parenting resources.
- 5) She stays active by playing tennis and dancing. She looks forward to when she can again host in-home dance parties and Bible studies with her friends.

Dedication Plaque for Rose Anne Brasher

By Jocelyn Francis

Thank you to Carol Hodge and Murray McCarley for arranging a plaque to honor Rose Anne Brasher. Rose Anne was instrumental in the purchase of the 'Two Children Reading on Log' statue by Randolph Rose for the library. We're happy to have the opportunity to give her credit for the statue and highlight her substantial contribution to the Temple Public Library and community.



2021 Midwinter Book Sale Cancelled

By Diann Anderson & Pat Pole

Sadly, the 2021 Mid-Winter Friends book sale has fallen victim to the COVID pandemic. While the inventory of books and media is overflowing, the ability to currently staff the sale is insufficient.

A survey of volunteers from prior sales was done in January to determine if adequate support was able to staff the sale. Even with reduced sale hours, the available manpower was in short supply.

With two missed sales, the ability to store more donations is limited. Please hold onto your donations until after the Labor Day sale, which we are hopeful to sponsor.

A sincere thanks to all our valued members for your patience and flexibility. Surely we will appreciate a return to near-normal more than ever before Labor Day. In the meantime, take advantage of the \$5 bag sale available at the Circulation Desk.

Friends of Temple Public Library Cancel Sale, Extend Memberships Again

By Nancy Mills Mackey, Membership Chair

Second verse same as the first: for the second time in the history of the Friends of the Temple Public Library, we are canceling one of our annual sales, and extending memberships AGAIN.

Last summer, the Friends canceled our 36th Annual Labor Day Used Book Sale because of COVID-19. Hoping to be able to hold the Mid-Winter Used Book Sale in February 2021, Friends volunteers carried on with sorting and storing donated books. However, COVID-19's numbers swelled after the holidays, the library closed (except for on-line programs and phone and curbside services) and the inability to recruit enough volunteers have forced Friends board members to reconsider plans for the Mid-Winter sale. To allow our valued members to take advantage of two book sales per membership year as usual, we have decided to extend memberships again another six months.

If your membership was due to be renewed at the Labor Day 2020 sale, it will now be due at the Labor Day 2021 sale. Those with memberships normally renewing Mid-Winter 2021, will now have until Mid-Winter 2021 to renew. This means every member will have received two membership years for the price of one. Your support is essential to us, and we hope we can count on you this summer, when we will email and mail renewal notices prior to the Labor Day 2021 sale. We currently have almost 300 members, including 17 Patrons, one Benefactor and nine Lifetime members. We understand this change in the normal annual membership practice might be confusing; if you have a question, please feel free to contact me directly at (254) 913-3890 or nancymillsmackey@gmail.com

In the meantime, we hope you will take advantage of the Friends \$5 bag sale by calling the library at 254-298-5556 to choose or try a genre and arrange curbside service. This creative alternative to our annual sales has already brought in \$650 and helped reduce our over-abundant sale inventory of quality library withdrawals. Keep reading and donating your gently used books to the Temple Public Library. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Labor Day 2021 sale (dates not yet determined), which will feature many more books than in the past. So, keep in touch via our Facebook page or website for updates.

"The health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries." — American astronomer, planetary scientist and astrophysicist Carl Sagan (1934-1996)



Rose Anne Brasher was a longtime member and supporter of the Friends of the Temple Public Library, serving in many roles including Friends board member, Corresponding secretary and Treasurer, book sales chairman, book sorter, and generous donor. She was honored by the organization with the Best Friend Award and was named Honorary Lifetime Member. She also donated the bronze sculpture of children reading on a bench which sits at the entrance to the library.

Lifetime Members Jerry and Madiene Gibson Honored With \$2,500 Gift To Friends of the Temple Public Library from First Baptist Church of Temple

By Nancy Mills Mackey

In January, the Friends of the Temple Public Library was surprised with a generous donation of \$2,500 honoring Lifetime Friends Members Jerry and Madiene Gibson. First Baptist Church of Temple made the gift in recognition of the Gibsons, who have been servant leaders at First Baptist for 55 years.

Jerry and Madiene Gibson's love affair with the Temple Public Library has lasted decades, and just like their 65-year marriage, it has only grown stronger with each succeeding year. Madiene, 84, recalls walking to the library from her childhood home on North Second Street every summer day to borrow a book: "I always was a reader. There wasn't much to do in the summer back then, and we didn't have TV. But I was never bored because I read everything the library had," she says.

The library's allure never faded. After earning her undergraduate degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and her master's degree from Baylor University, Madiene migrated from classroom teaching to the Temple High School library, where she was head librarian for many years. She also was a longtime First Baptist Church librarian and a guiding force for the Friends, serving as president in 1994-1995 and receiving the Best Friend Award in 1996.

"Those were fun years. We had a good group of volunteers enthused about what we were trying to do (expanding the library from the old post office building to the former NationsBank building at Carpenter Plaza)," says Madiene, who also has served on the board of the Foundation of Temple Public Library for more than 25 years.

Jerry's involvement with the library also goes back many years. He served on the city's Library Board in the early 1990s when plans were made to move the library from the post office building, and he also rolled up his sleeves many times to help move thousands of boxes of books to the Temple Mall for early Labor Day book sales (1985-2008).

"It was quite an endeavor," says Jerry, 87, who went on to become Friends treasurer for nine years and was named Best Friend in 1998.

Madiene, who is a native of Temple, and Jerry, who moved to Temple with his family when he was three years old, met in Sunday school at First Baptist. They began dating when she was a sophomore and he was a senior at Baylor University. When Jerry graduated and joined the U.S. Army, Madiene withdrew from Baylor so they could marry in 1955 and she could go with him to San Francisco, California, for two years. "My dean tried to talk me out of it, but I wasn't going to let my love go off without me," she says.

After Jerry completed his army service, he joined Arthur Young & Co. in Dallas, but the couple soon returned to Temple. A certified public accountant, he was secretary/treasurer for Griggs Equipment in Belton until 1972 when he started Superior Chaircraft in Belton with Bob Kennedy and Boyd Waters. They sold the company in 1988, but he stayed on another five years before starting Merit Seating Inc. with James Beauchamp, David Weakley and Terry Teague.

Jerry and Madiene have invested in their community by giving back to other organizations aside from the Friends. With Madiene's brother and sister-in-law, Lamar and Judy Eidson, they chartered Kids Against Hunger in Central Texas; the local chapter of this national organization is now part of Hope for the Hungry. Jerry also served on the Temple Independent School District Board for nine years and was treasurer for the Temple-Belton Habitat for Humanity for nine years.

In a December 20, 2020, letter recognizing the Gibsons, the First Baptist executive team led by Dr. Joe Loughlin, senior pastor, said "their involvement at First Baptist has been invaluable." Jerry served as church treasurer for 31 years, as eastside door greeter at the downtown building, Sunday School teacher, Deacon Chairman, and on many Search Committees. He also served on the committees that dealt with the insurance claim when First Baptist's downtown facility burned in 2010 and planned the new facility on West Adams, "a monumental task" completed in 2014. In addition to serving as church librarian, Madiene, who was born into First Baptist, has taught Sunday school, tended babies in the nursery and "whatever else I was asked to do."

Now that they are "retired from all paid and unpaid jobs," says Jerry, they have more time to count their blessings, which include three grown children, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. "We're proud to live in Temple, and we have a lot of things, including our library, for which we are grateful," adds Madiene.

(Author's Note: It has been my privilege to know, volunteer with and learn from Jerry and Madiene Gibson for the past 41 years. They are two of our community's most exemplary citizens.)



Children's Program News

By Erin Gaines, Children's Librarian

Virtual programming continues with Story Times on Wednesdays at 10:30am on the library's Facebook page and on The City of Temple's YouTube channel.

Join us on ZOOM for STEAM Team, a variety of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math activities, the third Tuesday at 4:15. This program is great for ages 6-12. Meeting ID is 946 7664 9440.

Great Escapes Book Club, a new program for tweens meets on ZOOM the third Thursday at 4:15, meeting ID 913 4417 1599. This year we're trying out a different concept; instead of reading and discussing the same title, participants may share about a book (or books) that they have recently enjoyed.

We will celebrate Read Across America Day on March 2 on Facebook and YouTube. RAAD is an initiative of the National Education Association "to encourage everyone to pick up a book and read to a child."

Thank you, Friends, for all you do for our library and community.

For more information about youth programs and services, contact gaines@templetx.gov.

Bargains Galore at the Library

By Diann Anderson

We know you miss the Labor Day and Mid-Winter sales that have been cancelled during the COVID pandemic. Be assured all is not lost. You can purchase grocery bags filled with quality library withdrawals for only \$5 each. To the extent possible, the bags have been labeled according to genre – Fiction, Children, Non-Fiction, Religion, Large Print, Romance, Crafts, Westerns, and more.

Call the library, 254 298-5556 to choose your selections and arrange for curbside pickup. Cash and checks are accepted.

Enjoy this new value-added opportunity to be introduced to authors and books you may have overlooked or not known...and to replenish your stash of reading materials.



Friends of the Temple Public Library

Mid-Winter Newsletter
February 2020

Dear Friends,

The big news we have for you is the cancellation of the Mid-Winter 2021 sale. It was a tough decision to make. The board had numerous discussions on and off the table. I am proud of the board for working so well together on deciding the best course of action.

While we are not having the sale, we do have a fun shopping opportunity. We started selling Mystery Bags of books for \$5 over the holidays. Like 'Bag Day' at the sales, we have filled large paper bags by genre. Since it has been so successful, we have decided to extend the sale. The bags are available through the Curbside service. Please help by letting others know about the sale!

In other news, the hiring process for our new director is finished. The new director is Natalie McAdams. She currently works for the Lake Dallas Public Library as the Director of Library Services & Website / Social Media Administrator. Her start date is March 1st. We are looking forward to working with her.

The new library catalogue is up and running. There are fun new features like similar author suggestions and expanded search functions. The website has also been updated. It is more user friendly, and you can now sign-up for the library newsletter.

We are hopeful for a Labor Day 2021 sale in August. Keep an eye out for developments on our Facebook page, website, and summer newsletter.

I have missed you all and hope to see you soon.

Jocelyn Francis,
President of The Friends of the Temple Public Library



President Jocelyn Francis reading with Kyla and Kamsi Nwankpa Fall 2019

Temple Public Library
100 West Adams Avenue
Temple, Texas 76501

2020 Best Friend Award given to the Circulation Staff

The Best Friend Award is given to an individual or entity that makes a significant contribution to the Temple Public Library. This year's award was inspired by the effort that the Circulation Department made to keep books flowing freely and the work of the Friends active despite the closure of the library to the public for long periods of time.

Led by Mary Garza, the department devised a strategy for receiving donations for the Friends, as well as developing a method to safely check out books to the public through the curbside service. In addition, the department improvised new methods so that patrons could get library cards online and assisted in publicizing other online services.

Other members of the department are Chris Schescke, David Craig, Richard Tarter, Peter Allen, Leiandra Salazar, Taylor Millender, Alison Archibald, Mark Hodges, Angelica Torija, Amy Ottinger, Rylie Hembree, Misti Rostovich, Yolanda Rios, and Hayli Sundberg.

The framed award was presented at the annual meeting of the Friends in October and later in person during the window of time that the library was open. Pictured below is President Jocelyn Francis presenting the 2020 Best Friend Award to Circulation Supervisor Mary Garza.



Reading in the Time of COVID-19

By Amy Longfield

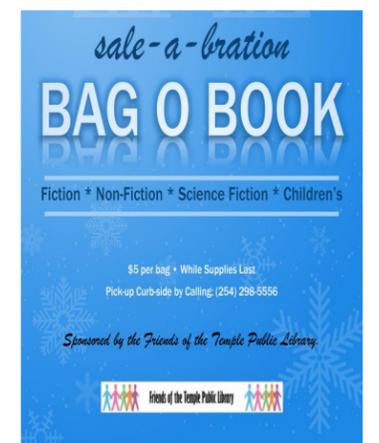
We are reading. The act is the same, but we are different.

We inhale news and current events but have trouble losing ourselves in a pleasure read. At the beginning of 2020, we pledged to read more. As the weather warmed, we turned toward Spring Break and the hope of Summer. We were ready to trade a fireplace glow for blue skies. We unspooled our cocooned winter selves and prepared to join the sun-filled days of written words and welcome conversation.

When our plans changed, our reading patterns followed. We were seeking the most recent information. Sorting through articles and reports and talking heads and tables of data. Grabbing pieces of history to moor us in the storms of uncertainty. Scrambling for activities for young children and ways to communicate risk and possibilities for teens and adults. Sitting with ourselves and hearing our own thoughts. Trying to block out those thoughts with the ease of streamed TV shows. Communicating with colleagues, family, and friends through screens.

Months later, I am reading again. It started with poetry. Ruminations on the natural world. Human nature. Loneliness. Caretaking. Experiences like my own. And experiences different from them. Poetry is short. Meaning-laden. Maybe you started reading again with recipes for home-cooked dinners or instructions for a DIY project. Maybe you were excited by a new book or opened an old book that spoke to you from the shelf. Perhaps you tried a new format like an audiobook. You usually like the feel of pages, but you find yourself transported by the sound of the words read to you. Maybe you have always been a one-book-at-a-time reader, and now you shuttle among several like you are wafting a tapestry in your mind. Maybe you can finally focus on a beach read in your home.

We are all reading in the ways we can. For information. For comfort. For life.



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