

# BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belén Public Library

August 2020

## Belén Public Library Programs & Events

Curbside pick-up continues at the library. Request materials by placing reserves at <https://belen.biblionix.com/catalog/> or by phone with library staff (966-2600).

To request an appointment for computer time or for Wi-Fi use on the patio, call the library at 505-966-2600. Wi-Fi is available in the parking areas surrounding the library building from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Library stacks and restrooms are still closed to the public.

## Summer Reading Program

Despite the unique challenges of these times, the determined staff of the Belén Public Library implemented another successful Summer Reading Program for adults, teens, and children.

From Connie Ridley, Circulation Manager:

*Summer Book Bingo had 20 adults register and 12 participate in the program. From June 17 to July 20, the adults were given different Book Bingo cards to fill out with books that they read during this time frame. The Bingo cards included fun categories like: Read Your Favorite Author, Read a Book in a Genre You Usually Don't Read, and Read a Book by a New To You Author. In total there were 236 books read by 12 patrons!*

From Nicole Evans, Teen Librarian:

*The teen summer reading program was a mix of online and curbside. There were eight people registered, five people actively turning in their reading logs, and one person actively participating with the videos posted on Facebook and YouTube.*

*continued on page 4*

333 Becker Avenue  
Belén, New Mexico  
505-966-2600  
[belenpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:belenpubliclibrary@gmail.com)



## BOOKS ON BECKER

Our nonprofit secondhand bookstore at 513 Becker Avenue in the downtown Belén Arts District is **temporarily closed**.

Although we miss serving our local customers, welcoming our out-of-town visitors, and greeting our neighbors, our store's inventory, browsing environment, and all-volunteer staff present some challenges to safely re-opening during a pandemic.

We thank you for your past patronage. We are optimistic about the future. We look forward to once again interacting with the wide and wonderful community of book-lovers.

*We will meet again!*

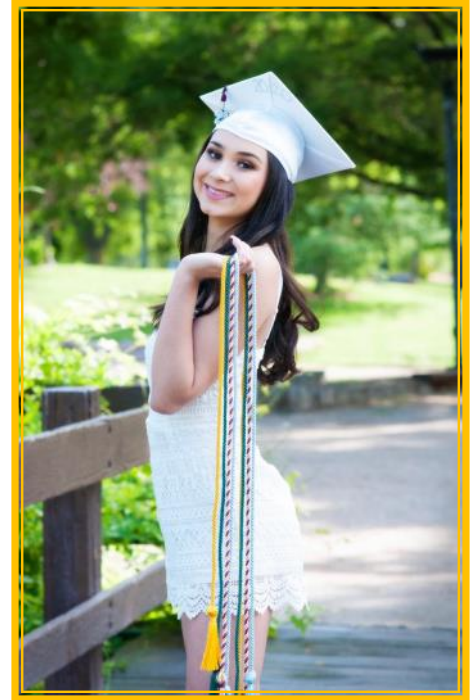
## Deborah Graham Memorial Scholarships 2020

*There's a million things I haven't done but just you wait. Just you wait.*  
—LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

We are pleased to announce that four college-bound graduates of Belén High School have each been awarded a \$1000 Deborah Graham Scholarship.

The annual Scholarship awards are made possible by generous support from Lifetime Friends member Janis Marston and by the Friends. The Scholarships honor the memory of a past Belén Public Library director.

Congratulations to the Scholarship recipients and best wishes to them as they embark on their college adventures.



**Kayla Montoya**  
will study Medicine at UNM



**John Thomas Begay**  
will study Business at NMSU



**Ethan Trujillo**  
will study Philosophy and Music at UNM



**Bishop Martin Cervantes**  
will study Computer Science at NM Tech

# Book Buzz

Are you looking for your next great read? The following book recommendations and commentary are courtesy of the super-readers of the Belén Friends Readers' Group book club.

The opinions expressed are those of book club participants who read these titles as a group or individually. They are published here in the hope you'll find them useful in your book selection process.

All titles are currently in the Belén Public Library's catalog in various formats: hard copy, e-book, and/or audiobook. Happy reading and listening!

## FICTION

*The Coroner's Lunch* by Colin Cotterill (first in a mystery series)

"loved the way the characters popped off the page"  
 "some of the characters a bit too quirky"  
 "really liked that the protagonist was an older character—and the Laotian setting"

*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

"characters were well-developed"  
 "previously unknown history about WWII and the Channel Islands was learned"  
 "the epistolary style took getting used to but worked well for this book"

*Lush* by Natasha Friend (YA)

"The viewpoint character struggles with being 13 and with the reality that her father is an alcoholic and her mother thinks all problems can be solved with yoga. She's too embarrassed to talk to friends but links up with a sympathetic listener by way of an anonymous note at the library. I thought the book would be very good for 13-year-olds, particularly if they were facing similar problems ... the only sexual content is some mild making out."

## Other fiction recommendations:

*Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline  
*Mrs. Pollifax* detective series by Dorothy Gilman  
*Us Against You* by Fredrik Backman  
*Blue Labyrinth* by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (set near the Salton Sea)  
*The Wives* by Tarryn Fisher (psychological thriller)  
*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini  
*The Light Between Oceans* by M. L. Stedman  
*Blue Moon* by Lee Child (a Jack Reacher crime thriller)  
*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

*Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris (based on true story about destitute parents who offered their children for sale in 1931)

*Cave of Bones* by Anne Hillerman (mystery set in New Mexico)

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson (a woman delivers books by horseback to remote areas of Kentucky in the 1930s)

## NONFICTION

*The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown (Depression-era; 1936 Berlin Olympics)

"the first time I really found nonfiction compelling ... there was so much detail ... the journalistic approach worked for me"

"the racing scenes made me homesick for Philadelphia ... couldn't put the book down, partly because there was a tension point on every other page ... the amount of detail Brown worked into the book was phenomenal"  
 "the book is appropriate for middle school readers"  
 "it was the best book I ever read in my life"

*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

"a memoir about growing up in the 1960s in abject poverty with an alcoholic father"  
 "a book about hope"  
 "the book was a hoot in some places and would be appropriate for high school and upper middle grade students"

*The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough

"enjoyed the way the author brought Wilbur and Orville and their sister Katherine to life ... book stresses how the former bicycle mechanics used scientific methods to study and test every step of their unimaginable achievement ... they were totally focused on their goal, and they persevered in spite of ridicule and criticism from their fellow Americans"

## Other nonfiction recommendations:

*Ladies of the Canyons* by Lesley Poling-Kempes (intrepid women exploring the Southwest in early 1900s)  
*A German POW in New Mexico* by Walter Schmid (memoir of his capture in North Africa and life in a POW camp in the Mesilla Valley)  
*Hill Women* by Cassie Chambers (a Kentucky woman earns two Ivy League degrees and returns home to help other women)  
*The Path Between the Seas* by David McCullough (the building of the Panama Canal)

*The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.* —ALBERT EINSTEIN

## Summer Reading Program *cont'd from page 1*

*Every week teens would be issued a new reading log or would record their numbers online. Prizes included Imagine Your Story t-shirts, water bottles, Party Snaps noisemakers, glow sticks, and Domino's pizza vouchers. The top readers received a Kindle. The teens read over 8,100 minutes in six weeks!*

From Alyssa Aragon, Children's Librarian:

*The children's summer reading program was a hybrid of online and curbside services. We had 51 registered and 25 active participants. Every week, science and art activities were posted on Facebook for the children to follow along with. Every week they also brought in their reading logs to receive prizes. To qualify for a prize, a reader read for at least 30 minutes during the week, and the reader with the most minutes each week earned an additional prize. Books, small toys, and candy were given weekly. The top overall readers for the summer were given a grand prize. First-place grand prize was an emoji backpack full of prizes, including a Kindle. Second-place grand prize was a Razor scooter and a Kindle. The third-place prize was a manta ray kite. The kids read over 14,000 minutes this summer!*

### The Belén Harvey House Museum

at 104 North 1st Street

is now open to groups of two by appointment only.

For information, call 505-861-0581.



## Census Update

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 Census self-response deadline has been moved to the end of the Census counting period on October 31. You can still respond online, by phone, or by mail without a Census taker coming to your door.

Census takers have begun home visits, mainly to encourage self-response, but in mid-August will begin home visits for the purpose of leaving with completed Census forms.

Official Census takers will have certified credentials and photo IDs. They will not ask for personal information such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, or the respondent's citizenship status.

Visit <https://2020census.gov/> to respond to the Census online, or respond by phone by calling 1-844-330-2020 (en español 1-844-468-2020).

## Friends Annual Meeting Cancelled

Due to continuing restrictions on mass gatherings, we regret to announce that the Annual Meeting of Friends members featuring renowned author Michael McGarrity, originally scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2020, has been **cancelled**.

### Members as of July 2020

Individual	45
Family	19
Patron	4
Sponsor	1
Lifetime	44
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>113</b>

*Change: +1*

*Download a Friends membership application at: [www.booksonbecker.org/membership](http://www.booksonbecker.org/membership)*

*Bookstore photos courtesy of Dorie Corrao*

## Connect with Us

Bookstore inquiries: [shop@booksonbecker.org](mailto:shop@booksonbecker.org)

Membership inquiries: [join@booksonbecker.org](mailto:join@booksonbecker.org)

Newsletter & general inquiries: [connect@booksonbecker.org](mailto:connect@booksonbecker.org)

Follow [Books on Becker](#), [Belen Public Library](#), and [Belen Harvey House Museum](#) on Facebook

Explore the bookstore's Amazon Wish List at: [www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FAD88Y6F4YZH](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FAD88Y6F4YZH)

Peruse our newsletter archive at: [www.booksonbecker.org/newsarchive](http://www.booksonbecker.org/newsarchive)

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