

BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belén Public Library

December 2020

Belén Public Library Programs & Services

Library services have been curtailed by the current county-based Public Health Order.

Limited curbside pick-up is available;
call 966-2600 for details.

Wi-Fi is available in the parking areas
surrounding the library building
from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.,
Monday through Saturday.
The password is Guestwifi.

Appointments for computer time and
virtual classroom use are suspended.

Library stacks and restrooms are
still closed to the public.

Talking Books & More

Do you or does someone you know have vision loss? Do you have a disability that prevents you from reading a standard print book, for example, an inability to hold a book or turn pages? If so, both the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe and the Belén Public Library can help.

The State's Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBDP) program provides qualifying New Mexicans with audiobooks and magazines on digital cartridges. The digital player needed is provided to LBDP participants for as long as they are in the program.

continued on page 2

333 Becker Avenue
Belén, New Mexico
505-966-2600
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!

Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul.

—JOYCE CAROL OATES

Talking Books

cont'd from page 1

The LBDP program is free. Furthermore, if any Belén Public Library patrons register with the program, our Library can become a lending source for the digital cartridges and players. This would enable local LBDP participants to receive and refresh their resources right at the Library. Otherwise, delivery is through the mail.

There are additional ways to access program materials. All LBDP titles are also available to participants as free downloads from the National Library Service's BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) website, as well as through BARD Mobile, a smartphone app for Android and iOS.

LBDP participants have the option to enroll in other services too: one that provides Braille books and magazines and another that provides large-print books by mail to the homebound or visually impaired.

For more information about the LBDP program, to explore the Talking Books catalog, or to download an application, visit www.nmstatelibrary.org/direct-and-rural-services/lbph. If you have questions, call the State Library at 1-800-456-5515 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or email sl.lbpd@state.nm.us.

Membership Report

Julie Sanchez

November 2020

Individual	44
Family	19
Patron	5
Sponsor	1
Lifetime	44
Total Members	113

We'd love to call you "Friend."

Friends memberships start at just \$10 and support both Library programs and college scholarships for local seniors.

Download a membership application at:
www.booksonbecker.org/membership

PNM Donates Laptops to Libraries

The PNM Foundation has finalized an agreement to donate 20 Surface Pro laptops to the Belén Public Library, to support local students with remote schooling.

Kathleen Pickering, Library Director, worked with PNM on this exciting opportunity and explained that the donated laptops will be distributed among the Belén, Los Lunas, and Bosque Farms libraries, as well as the Rio Abajo Community Library in La Joya, once it reopens.

The three Valencia County libraries plan to limit use of the laptops to library premises, although Los Lunas is considering a pilot program to allow check-out of a few of their devices.

At the Belén library, students will borrow the computers for use in the "virtual classroom," formerly the café area, once it reopens.

Watch future issues of BOOKISH for more about PNM's generous gift and how our local libraries are deploying these timely resources.



The bookstore's "Tree for all Seasons"
May your days be merry and bright!

Patron Profiles

The patrons of the Belén Public Library are as varied as its catalog holdings. And each cardholder finds value in the Library in his or her own way.

This past summer, Susan Dubiel (pronounced doo-bee-EL) opened a picture framing shop in Belén. Her mission is to make picture framing affordable for everyone. One satisfied local customer told us that Susan's price for a quality custom framing job was about one-third of the quote she received from an Albuquerque shop.

We recently connected with Susan to find out more about her business, her story, and her library experiences.

Bookish: Tell us about your background in framing.

Susan: As the daughter of a carpenter, I grew up with a love of woodworking and all the fun tools out there. I began to learn about framing during a job stint at the West Point Military Academy, where the frame shop was available to employees. From there, I couldn't stop and love it more every day. My shop on Reinken is a dream come true, where my goal is to frame anything and everything at affordable prices.

Bookish: How long have you lived in the area and been using the Belén Library? Where are you from originally?

Susan: I grew up in Port Jervis, New York, which is a small railroad town at the point where New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania meet. My very first job at the age of 14 was at the Port Jervis Free Library, where I earned a whopping \$1.00 per hour—but read some amazing books during that time. I moved to Belén (yet another small railroad town) in 1996 and got my library card within a week.

Bookish: You recently started a small business in Belén—during a pandemic(!) How did you use the resources of the Belén Library to assist you with that?

Susan: The pandemic shutdown was a perfect opportunity to learn new skills. The Belén Public Library offered some of the most amazing (and free!) online classes through Gale. The subjects that were particularly helpful to me were Starting a Small Business, Excel for Beginners, and Social Media for Small Businesses. Timing on all of these courses could not have been better.

Bookish: You've had some volunteer involvement with Books on Becker, the secondhand bookstore operated by the Friends of the Belén Public Library. Tell us about that.



Susan: Oh, where to start? First of all, I met some of the most amazing women who shared the same passion of reading and learning. Every single volunteer (led by the undaunted Dorie Corrao) worked their butt off to make Books on Becker the charming and welcoming spot that it is. Thanks to all of the folks who hauled in boxes of donations to fill our shelves. I cannot wait for the store to reopen!

Bookish: Is there a book you've read recently that you would recommend to others? What was its appeal?

Susan: Just finished *Squeeze Me* by one of my favorite authors, Carl Hiaasen. His books are wickedly funny and a welcome antidote right now.

Bookish: Is there anything else you'd like to say about the role of the Belén Public Library in your life?

Susan: Life without books is unimaginable. During the shutdown, thanks to the Library, I read the entire Jesse Stone series by Robert Parker. All via curbside pickup! I've used the curbside pickup many times in the past few months, and it's been flawless as well as a godsend at a time when books are needed more than ever.

Susan Dubiel Framing is at 515 West Reinken Avenue in Belén, between 5th and 6th Streets. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Susan at 505-918-9658 or email her at dubielframing@gmail.com. Visit her website at www.susandubielframing.com and find her on Facebook at [Susan Dubiel Framing](#).

A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination.

—CAITLIN MORAN

Library Launches Young Adult Programs

YA Virtual Volunteers

Are you curious about what librarians do besides ordering books? Have you been trying to strengthen your college application or add experience and skills to your résumé? Now you can volunteer virtually with the Belén Public Library!

By working on virtual projects, you can gain skills such as marketing, communication, research, budgeting, collaboration, and more.

Projects include:

- ▶ Make a video review or trailer about a Library book, e-book, audiobook, movie, video game, or manga.
- ▶ Select a Library item and create a “read-likes list” recommending similar titles (*if you like this, then you may like that*).
- ▶ Create a “how-to” or “tips & tricks” guide (written or video) about one of the Library’s online resources.
- ▶ Make a how-to video about your favorite crafting activity.
- ▶ Create a list of YA books you think should be added to the Teen Library.

You’ll earn virtual volunteer hours, and the content you create will be featured on the Library’s Facebook, YouTube, and/or Instagram sites.

Bookstore photos courtesy of Dorie Corrao

YA Virtual Book Club

Do you love YA books?

Do you enjoy reading and discussing popular YA books?

Then join us!

All club meetings will be held via Zoom and will include discussions, games, and movies.

Book ideas are welcome.

Sign up for either YA program by contacting Nicole Evans, Teen Librarian, at 505-966-2603 or nicole.evans@belen-nm.gov.

The Belén Harvey House Museum

at 104 North 1st Street in Belén is temporarily closed.

Visit their website at

www.harveyhousemuseum.org

for closure updates,

video tours,

a George Clark exhibit, and an online gift shop.

Connect with Us

Bookstore inquiries: shop@booksonbecker.org

Membership inquiries: join@booksonbecker.org

Newsletter & general inquiries: connect@booksonbecker.org

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

Explore the bookstore’s Amazon Wish List at:
www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FAD88Y6F4YZH

Peruse our newsletter archive at:
www.booksonbecker.org/newsarchive

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