

BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belén Public Library

February 2020

Belén Public Library Programs & Events

March–April–May 2020

Census Help: Questionnaire Assistance Site for responding online	Tuesdays Thursdays Saturdays March 12 thru April 30
Friends Readers' Group book club March book: <i>The Hundred-Foot Journey</i>	March 16 April 20 May 18 10am–12n
Pixel Chicks coding club for girls	Mar 7, 21, 28 Apr 4, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16 10:30-11:30am
Computer Learning Lab classes	Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am–12n
Parkinson's Connection of NM support group	2nd Tuesdays 3pm-4:30pm
New Mexico Women in Film	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 3pm-5pm
Belén Stitchers	Thursdays 2pm-4pm
Hub City Chess Club	Saturdays 11:45am– 2:45pm
Dungeons & Dragons gaming club	Saturdays (occasional)

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



BOOKS ON BECKER

- ◆ a nonprofit secondhand bookstore in the downtown Belén Arts District, at 513 Becker Avenue (*near 6th St*)
- ◆ open Wednesday through Saturday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- ◆ thousands of books for \$1.00 or less (*cash only*)
- ◆ seven bright rooms; comfy chairs; organized by genre
- ◆ free street parking
- ◆ your purchases help fund Library programs and college scholarships for local youth

Come find your treasure!

Friends President's Message

June Romero

I have always imagined that paradise would be a kind of library. —JORGE LUIS BORGES

Dear Friends, Supporters and Lovers of Reading,
Happy 2020! We hope you have times of peace and calm, and time to read.

Borges was right! Libraries are a kind of paradise. The Friends of the Belén Public Library (Friends) is dedicated to that paradise.

The Friends is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that's purpose is to provide support for the Belén Public Library. Support comes primarily from Books on Becker, a volunteer-run bookstore that sells used, donated books. Book sales support the Library's programs, including children's reading programs, teen activities, adult reading fun, and the Friends Readers' Group (book club).

A second goal for the Friends is to promote reading and learning. Books on Becker gives free books to children and teachers—and places boxes of free books in local post offices and businesses.

The Friends continue to advance learning by providing four \$1000 scholarships yearly to four graduating seniors from any Belén high school who plan to attend a college or university in New Mexico or out of state.

Friends Readers' Group members enjoy friendships while they read, share thoughts, and discuss book selections.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join the Friends. Membership information is available at the Library and at Books on Becker.

Before I close, I want to offer this "recipe" for a pleasurable any-time. Prepare your favorite hot drink (mine is spiced tea). Turn off or mute your cell phone. Wrap a soft rug or quilt around your legs. Open your newest or old favorite book. Smile. Lose yourself in the delight of reading. Paradise.

We are the Friends of the Belén Public Library. We have a good time together. We are proud to support the Belén Public Library. We welcome you.



Treasurer's Report

Merita Wilson

Balance Forward from 2018	\$1,612.19
Income (2019)	
Book Sales and Membership Dues	\$8,530.89
Donations	\$3,505.00
Wells Fargo Grant	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$17,035.89
Expenses (2019)	
Library	\$ 846.59
<i>Children's programs, guest speakers, supplies, subscriptions & books</i>	
Operating Cost for Books on Becker	\$1,522.95
Membership	\$ 456.21
<i>Annual meeting, plaque engraving & tote bags</i>	
Memorial Park Bench Engraving	\$ 500.00
Scholarships (4 @ \$1,000)	\$4,000.00
Wells Fargo Grant expenditures	<u>\$ 218.54</u>
Total Expenses	\$7,544.29
Current Balance (January 2020)	\$11,103.79

Bookstore Manager's Report

Dorie Corrao

Books on Becker, the Friends' secondhand bookstore, launched with great excitement in August 2018 and entered 2019 on an upbeat note.

The store is a true community project, supported by the Belén Mayor, City Council, and Public Library. Bookstore proceeds are a critical source of funding support for Library programs.

The bookstore is organized into four rooms of fiction, two rooms of nonfiction, and a children's room. Fiction offerings include novels, short stories, crime/thrillers/mysteries, science fiction, Christian fiction, romance, and young adult books.

Nonfiction topics include biographies, art, music, poetry, theater, sports, Bible-based religion, New Age and Eastern philosophies, and humor.

Our inventory is diverse, often in "like new" condition, and remarkably inexpensive. Most hardcover and trade paperback books are \$1.00 and mass-produced paperbacks are 25 cents. Even specially priced books like coffee-table and vintage books are an incredible bargain.

Children, teens, and teachers may take home up to two free books on each visit. We donate surplus books to the Library's free bins, the Maximum Security Prison library, several outlying communities, the Heart of Belén free library, and the Belén Community Center.

Major events of 2019 were as follows:

- ▶ We gave up a large children's section for the Bugg Lights Museum but in return gained more rooms. With generous donations and trips to secondhand stores and yard sales, we obtained almost enough bookshelves to fill our rooms. There are still spots where we would like to replace short bookshelves with tall ones, if anybody has a donation in mind.
- ▶ We survived an extreme rain event and flood on October 4. Despite a marvelous, quick response with sandbags from the Belén Fire Department, the City shut us down due to health and safety concerns. With loads of woman- and man-hours by dedicated volunteers, we were able to reopen three weeks later with a cleaner, brighter, more open, and better organized bookstore.
- ▶ In August, we shut down the store for one day and celebrated a successful first birthday with a pot-luck provided by the volunteers.

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At the Heart of Belén is a Library

We could surely argue that the value of a library is priceless. It's a place of community, friendship, and neighborliness. It's a wellspring of literacy and learning. It's a source of boundless entertainment. And we humans do like our entertainment. We like it face to face, in print, on screen, and with sound. We're suckers for a good story, any time, anywhere.

But if we were to put a dollar value on Our Library, even if it seems ridiculous to try to do so, it might be this:

\$549,285.40

Over half a million dollars.

Because that is what we cardholders saved in just one year. It's the value of all the items we all checked out in 2019.

At no charge.

That's a lot of money in our pockets. And quite a few stories for our souls.



Membership Report

Diana Phillips Ulibarri

January 2020

Individual	45
Family	19
Patron	4
Lifetime	43

Total Members 111

Friends membership applications are available at Books on Becker and at the Library's Circulation Desk.

☑ Everybody Counts

There are many good reasons to respond to the 2020 Census. The top one: it's so easy! You'll be able to respond online, and the Belén Public Library is a designated Questionnaire Assistance Site.

Perhaps you're unsure of your computer skills or the reliability of your internet connection. Perhaps you've never responded before or aren't sure how to respond. Or perhaps you want to avoid having census workers come to your home. Whatever your situation, the Library can help.

Even if you don't have a library card, you can use their computer stations. Plus, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from March 12 through April 30, trained assistants will help you navigate the census website. If you have questions about this service, call the Library at 505-966-2600.

Valencia and Socorro Counties are considered "hard to count" census areas. If we're under counted, New Mexico will miss out on a lot of federal dollars for vital healthcare, nutrition, education, and infrastructure programs. So when you receive your census postcard, take ten minutes and answer just ten questions online. There is no citizenship question, and responses are confidential. Even if you don't receive a postcard, you must respond between March 12 and April 30.

Yes, participating in the census is the law, but do it for your friends, your family, your neighbors, your community. And let the Library help!

Bookstore *cont'd from page 3*

Books on Becker is run by a wonderful group of volunteers who love reading and books. They have a strong desire to support the Library, as well as literacy in Belén and the surrounding communities. We are always looking for volunteers who feel the same way and would enjoy the opportunity to meet, greet, and help patrons find books that meet their needs/interests.

Even if you don't yet have time to volunteer, a visit to this great bookstore of bargains and fun should be on your To-Do List. We hope to see you soon!

Deborah Graham Memorial Scholarship Fund

In early March, the Friends will distribute scholarship applications for college-bound seniors to senior class counselors at Belén High, Infinity High, and Canon Christian Academy. Four \$1000 scholarships will be awarded in May 2020.

The Fund is made possible by generous support from Lifetime Friends member **Janis Marston** and by the Friends. It honors the memory of a former Library Director.

- ▶ **Friends members**, for supporting us in our mission through your membership dues
- ▶ **Volunteers for Books on Becker**, for your invaluable hard work and outstanding dedication
- ▶ **Belén Mayor Jerah Cordova & the Belén City Council**, for making the bookstore possible (as well as highly visible with a traffic-stopping neon sign)
- ▶ **Community members** who have kindly donated books and shelves to the bookstore, and who come to shop
- ▶ **Frances Zeller & the Harvey House Volunteers**, for your thoughtful gift of hand tools & appliances for the bookstore
- ▶ **Estate of Baldwin G. Burr**, for your generous donation to the Friends
- ▶ **Facebook**, for the Community Action Grant that funded the creation of the Library's Computer Learning Lab
- ▶ **American Library Association**, for the Libraries Lead with Digital Skills grant and Spotlight Award grant, for enhancements to the Computer Learning Lab
- ▶ **Wells Fargo**, for a grant to support the Library's Youth Financial Literacy and Career Readiness Program
- ▶ **Girls Who Code**, for financial support for the Pixel Chicks girls coding club
- ▶ **Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund**, for a grant to support Belén's Freedom to Read Week celebration

Newsletter photos courtesy of Dorie Corrao

¡Muchas Gracias!

Connect with Us

Bookstore inquiries: shop@booksonbecker.org

Membership inquiries: join@booksonbecker.org

Newsletter & general inquiries: connect@booksonbecker.org

 Follow [Books on Becker](#) & [Belen Public Library](#) on Facebook

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

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