

BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belén Public Library

May 2020

Belén Public Library Programs & Events

Curbside pick-up is now available at the Belén Public Library. Request materials by placing reserves with your library card on the library catalog website at <https://belen.biblionix.com/catalog/> or by phone with library staff (966-2600).

The library stacks are closed to the public until further notice. Limited computer use for important essential services may be available by phone appointment ONLY beginning May 18. Please call the library at 966-2600 for more information.

Due to coronavirus concerns, library programs & events are **temporarily on hold**, and Belén Harvey House Museum and Books on Becker are **temporarily closed**.

*As you shelter at home,
stay entertained and informed with*

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Start on the Library's catalog page:
<https://belen.biblionix.com/catalog/>



Log in to your account using your library card number and PIN.



Don't have a library card? Click the Sign Up button in the upper right corner to apply online.



For circulation and library card questions, contact the Circulation Manager at:
Connie.Ridley@belen-nm.gov



For general library inquiries, contact the Library Director at:
Kathleen.Pickering@belen-nm.gov



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BOOKS ON BECKER

(temporarily closed)

- ◆ 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. *(temporarily closed)*
- ◆ thousands of books for \$1.00 or less *(cash only)*
- ◆ vintage, collectible, and coffee-table books are individually priced
- ◆ kids and teens may select up to 2 free books per visit
- ◆ teachers may select up to 2 free books per visit
- ◆ seven bright rooms; comfy chairs; organized by genre
- ◆ free street parking
- ◆ staffed entirely by volunteers
- ◆ your purchases help fund Library programs and college scholarships for local youth

333 Becker Avenue
Belén, New Mexico
505-966-2600
belenpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Come find your treasure!

Digital Resources *cont'd from page 1*

Now you're ready to explore our curated links to FREE resources, under the *Electronic Resources* heading:

eBOOKS

- ▶ OverDrive – many contemporary titles for Kindle, computer, smartphone, etc.
- ▶ RomanceBookCloud – 1,000+ romance titles
- ▶ Project Gutenberg – classics & older literary works

AUDIOBOOKS

- ▶ OverDrive – listen on MP3 player, iPod, smartphone, computer, etc.
- ▶ AudioBookCloud – over 1,000 titles
- ▶ LibriVox – public domain titles

KIDS & TEENS

- ▶ Tumble Book Library – animated talking books
- ▶ TumbleMath – math picture books
- ▶ TeenBookCloud – graphic novels & much more

LEARNING TOOLS

- ▶ Gale Courses – hundreds of six-week courses
- ▶ Brainfuse HelpNow – tutoring for all grades, college test preparation, lifelong learning
- ▶ A to Z World Food – recipes from around the world
- ▶ Brainfuse JobNow – help with resumes & interviews

PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ El Portal/Newsbank – articles from ABQ Journal, Las Cruces Sun-News, Roswell Daily Record
- ▶ El Portal/Academic OneFile – articles from nearly 20,000 scholarly journals

OTHER VALUABLE RESOURCES

- ▶ Get computer help from the Library's Computer Learning Lab Coach, Dana Bowley: BelenComputerLab@gmail.com
- ▶ Explore Small Business resources: <https://gonm.biz/>
<https://belenchamber.com/>
- ▶ Respond to the 2020 Census by October 31: <https://2020census.gov/>
Note that Census workers will begin in-person interviews at nonresponsive households on August 11.
- ▶ Watch this video for Census response help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCM0XrSynFw>

Membership Report

Dorie Corrao

Save the Date

The Annual Meeting for members is scheduled for **Saturday, August 29, 2020**. The time has tentatively been set from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Belén Public Library.



The exciting news is that Michael McGarrity, well-known author of the Kevin Kerney crime dramas, has agreed to be our speaker.

Mr. McGarrity lives in Santa Fe and has a history of work within law enforcement and life in New

Mexico, which lends authenticity to his exciting novels set in various New Mexico communities. His characters are real—the type of people you might know (or avoid)—and his novels feature strong, believable women. His newest work (and final Kevin Kerney novel), *Head Wounds*, will be out in the fall.

Check him out on Facebook, his website at <https://michaelmcgarrity.com>, and Amazon, or at your local bookstore.

Members as of April 2020

Individual	45
Family	19
Patron	4
Lifetime	44
Total Members	112

Change: +1

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

Go Places with the Book Club

Laura Sanchez

Long ago Saint Augustine said, “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.” And vice versa, I say: A book is the world and those who read only one page do not travel.

The Belén Friends Readers' Group book club had several delicious tours through time and space booked for the next few months, but COVID-19 restrictions that temporarily closed the Belén library have postponed our cruises. With our March and April meetings canceled, we've had to delay our group's gourmet tour from Mumbai to London to a small town in France with Richard Morais's *The Hundred-Foot Journey*. Also delayed is our visit to the planet Rakhat by way of Puerto Rico, Istanbul, and the Vatican with *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell.

At this writing, the status of our May 18 meeting is undecided. Meanwhile, upcoming book club journeys include Ireland with Mary Pat Kelly's historical family saga *Galway Bay* and Mexico's Gulf Coast fishing towns with John Steinbeck's classic *The Pearl*. Other visits explore the complexities of life for Chinese-Americans and African-Americans with Celeste Ng's *Everything I Never Told You* and *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride.

Do our reading selections whet your appetite? You'll find some enthusiastic readers and extraordinary books at our monthly meetings, and new participants are always welcome. We usually meet on the third Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the public meeting room (it's a rather noisy group) at the Belén Public Library. The meeting usually adjourns between 11:30 and 12:00, or more accurately, moves on to a local restaurant for lunch.

Members take turns choosing books for each month. The selections usually balance out between fiction and non-fiction. The two semi-rules are:

- ▶ The chooser should have already read the entire book.
- ▶ Try not to choose something you suspect everyone will hate.

In December of 2019 we began a year-long experiment using a new program. The Farmington library's Book Kits to Go program sends 13 copies of the chosen book every month to participating library book clubs around the state. Local book clubs choose from a list of over 200 books. Our selection for January was Ann Patchett's novel *Bel Canto*. The February book was *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Copies of *The Hundred-Foot Journey* and *The Sparrow* were received from Farmington but cannot be distributed until the Belén library re-opens.

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A Call for Bookstore Volunteers

Merita Wilson

I am only one, but I am still one. I cannot do everything, but I can still do something. —EDWARD EVERETT HALE

Those of you who have visited Books on Becker, a 501c3 project of the Friends of the Belén Public Library, know what a wonderful little gem we have sitting in the heart of the Belén Arts District. The moment you walk in the door you know that adventure awaits, knowledge is at your disposal, and bargains are abundant.

What you may not know are the individual names, faces, and strengths of those who have spent countless hours over the past two years making Books on Becker the greatest little nonprofit bookstore in New Mexico. They are all uniquely different but have one common characteristic that unites them—they are all volunteers who make a difference in our community by generating funds for children, youth, and adult programs at the Belén Public Library, as well as college scholarships for local high school seniors.

Our volunteers warmly greet bookstore patrons and proudly give store tours to first-time visitors. Volunteers share their love of reading and help visitors find their next favorite book. When browsing turns to buying, they tally and bag books, take payment, and stamp frequent shopper cards. Often, they make on-the-spot decisions such as giving a patron that sixth book when he only has enough cash for five. Volunteers who work during store hours typically work from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. one day a week. We are open Wednesday through Saturday.

Behind the scenes, our volunteers use their individual strengths in other ways. They can be found transporting and mounting donated bookshelves or sorting, culling, and shelving donated books.

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Book Club *cont'd from page 3*

As we eagerly await a return to normalcy, there's also great pleasure to be had in staying home and studying travel brochures. Or setting out on your own literary excursion. If your stack of books-to-be-read runs low, all books mentioned are available on Kindle from Amazon. Happy journeys!

Deborah Graham Memorial Scholarship Fund

Due to early school closures, the **deadline** for scholarship applications has been extended to **June 30**. Four \$1000 scholarships will be awarded this summer. College-bound seniors from Belén High, Infinity High, and Canon Christian Academy may apply by downloading the application from this page: www.booksonbecker.org/scholarships

Hometown Heroes

On March 13 (yes, Friday the 13th), in keeping with the City of Belén's directive to shut down all City-owned buildings to public access by the following week, the volunteers at Books on Becker agreed to close the store. It was a rainy day, and while a volunteer was closing the store, there was a horrendous downpour and water began to flow under the back door and fill the hall.

Once again, the **Belén Fire Department** came to our rescue (you may recall our infamous flood of October 2019). They quickly delivered sandbags to the back door of the store and to the Bugg Lights Museum. Their actions prevented another disastrous flood at the bookstore. They are definitely our heroes!

Volunteers *cont'd from page 3*

Volunteers make curtains and throw pillows, water plants, hang art, and change store decorations. Some actually find enjoyment in mopping, dusting, and cleaning! Some volunteers gather and donate books to local charities, others ask for donations (especially children's books), and still others seek volunteers just like them.

As a Friends member and Books on Becker volunteer, I am asking each one of you to consider your individual strengths. Do you know books? We need your expertise. Do you like to socialize? We need your words. Are you good at organizing? We need your skill. Are you physically strong? We need your brute strength. If your heart is telling you that you need to be one of us, we need and want you! I promise you in a very short time you will know that you were meant to be a Books on Becker volunteer. Strengths will surface, friendships will form, and pride in being a part of this wonderful project will fill your soul.

Ready to join us? Please contact:

- ▶ **55 & Older** ~ Merita Wilson (Bookstore Manager) at meritawilson7@gmail.com
Volunteer background check and application are managed by the Mid-Rio Grande Senior RSVP program. A small stipend is allotted for senior volunteer transportation.
- ▶ **Under 55** ~ Kathleen Pickering (Library Director) at kathleen.pickering@belen-nm.gov
Volunteer background check, application, and drug testing are managed by the City of Belén.

- ▶ **Schultz Family Foundation** of Seattle, Washington, for a generous donation in memory of Gloria M. Baca
- ▶ **American Library Association**, for a grant in support of the Library as a 2020 Census Questionnaire Assistance Site

¡Muchas Gracias!

Bookstore photos courtesy of Dorie Corrao

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**, and **Belen 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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