

BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belén Public Library

February 2021

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 areas including restrooms
are still closed to the public.

NEW Browse the Free Cart next to the book
drop box, each Wed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Career Online High School

We are pleased to announce an exciting
opportunity for adults who did not complete
high school to earn a fully accredited high
school diploma and get a head start on one
of ten potential career paths, all at no cost
to the student.

In January, the Belén Public Library (BPL),
in conjunction with the New Mexico State
Library, launched its involvement in the
Career Online High School (COHS), an 18-
month diploma completion program availa-
ble only through public libraries. COHS is
designed for serious adults age 19 and above
who want to enroll in college or advance in
the workplace.

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



HISTORY KIDS
NEIGHBORS ROMANCE
MYSTERY TOURISTS
BOOKWORMS HUMOR
ART VOLUNTEERS
PATRONS ADVENTURE
FANTASY TEENS
FRIENDS TREASURE

All this (and more) awaits you at
Books on Becker
our nonprofit secondhand bookstore
at 513 Becker Avenue
in the downtown Belén Arts District.

Although we are **temporarily closed**,
we look forward to serving you when we re-open.

Keep the faith and keep reading!

We do not need magic to change the world. —J. K. ROWLING

COHS

cont'd from page 1

COHS is not a GED program or a casual sign-up-and-take-some-classes program. It is a chance for adults to finish high school. At completion, participants will have a nationally accredited high school diploma acceptable at any U.S. college, plus a certificate of basic education in the chosen career field.

The BPL is not involved in the instruction. This is done online by certified instructors and an academic counselor. The Gale Cengage online platform was funded by the New Mexico State Library and provides tutor-supported curriculum for students.

The BPL's role is to recruit and screen potential students, shepherd them into assessment, collaborate in the acceptance process, and monitor progress. Three BPL staff members have completed training for that role.

Once a student completes a rigorous screening process and is accepted, the BPL will provide him or her with a \$1,295 scholarship to cover the program cost. Initially, the New Mexico State Library will provide the BPL with one scholarship to match each scholarship the BPL generates. The BPL will be seeking help throughout the community for their scholarship fund and to identify potential students.

If you'd like information about the COHS program or want to help, contact Library Director Kathleen Pickering at Kathleen.Pickering@belen-nm.gov or 505-966-2600.

Get Social with the Library

The Belén Public Library now has more ways than ever to reach you. Stay up to date with our latest services, such as curbside, DIY videos, story times, special animations, recipes, new books, new movies, opening procedures, and so much more!

You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok and subscribe to us on our YouTube channel. You can find us on all channels: @belenpubliclibrary.

Do you miss the museum? Do you like learning about Fred Harvey? Stay up to date with the Harvey House on Facebook and Instagram: @harvey_house_museum.



In Memoriam: Dana Bowley

The Belén Public Library lost an invaluable member of its team when Dana Bowley, Computer Learning Lab Coach, passed away unexpectedly on December 28, 2020.

Dana was a veteran newspaperman and served as editor of the Valencia County News-Bulletin from 1988 to 1993. As the Library's computer coach, he helped countless locals gain vital computer skills. He also contributed content on various Library-related topics to the Friends' newsletter; the article about the Career Online High School (COHS) program in this issue was his final submission.

Dana was a passionate advocate for the COHS program and instrumental in its adoption by the Belén Library. Through his leadership, the Library was able to secure a matching grant for COHS scholarships from the New Mexico State Library.

To honor Dana's memory and his commitment to the COHS program, the Belén Public Library is asking for donations to fund its first COHS student, who, once selected, will be awarded the **Dana Bowley Memorial Scholarship**.

A GoFundMe page for this effort, in the name of the Friends of the Belén Public Library, has been created by Nicole Evans, Young Adult Services Librarian. If you would like to help fund the scholarship, visit the GoFundMe page at: <https://gofund.me/5fa5ac63>.



Friends and Library Partner on Updated Juvenile Nonfiction

One good book in the hands of a kid can lead to a moment of illumination and a lifetime of exploration. Few know this better than librarians, and rarely is it more consequential than when a child opens a good nonfiction book.

Library Director Kathleen Pickering has long bemoaned the outdated and incomplete juvenile nonfiction collection at the Belén Public Library. Recently, the Friends stepped up with the funding she needed to add 29 new hardcover books, refreshing and updating the collection. Subject areas for the acquisition include biography, art, technology, history, and cultural diversity.

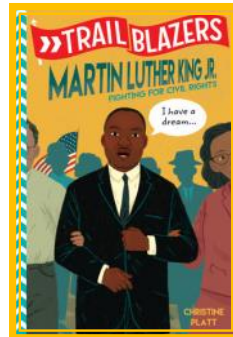
The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts—adopted by 41 states, including New Mexico—called for a shift to “building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction.” Specifically, K-5 standards “strongly recommend that texts ... support students in systematically developing knowledge about the world.”

Help the child in your life develop knowledge about the world. Check out the Library’s new non-fiction children’s books, listed below—and then check some out.



- ▶ Animals in Art
- ▶ Anthropologists at Work
- ▶ Artificial Intelligence
- ▶ Big Data and Machine Learning
- ▶ Celebrating Kwanzaa

- ▶ Chief Joseph
- ▶ First in Flight: How a Photograph Captured the Takeoff of the Wright Brothers’ Flyer
- ▶ From Slaves to Soldiers
- ▶ George Washington (Presidential Biographies)



- ▶ Immigration
- ▶ Jackie Robinson
- ▶ Joan of Arc
- ▶ John F. Kennedy
- ▶ Kid Artists
- ▶ Kwanzaa

- ▶ Lisa of Willesden Lane: A True Story of Music and Survival During World War II

- ▶ Louis Pasteur
- ▶ Machu Picchu
- ▶ Martin Luther King Jr.: Fighting for Civil Rights
- ▶ Mornings with Monet
- ▶ Muhammad Ali
- ▶ Out of Hiding: A Holocaust Survivor’s Journey to America



- ▶ Outdoor Photography
- ▶ Photography



- ▶ Rosa Parks
- ▶ The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler’s Ghettos
- ▶ Thurgood Marshall
- ▶ Venezuela

- ▶ Zora Neale Hurston: Author and Anthropologist

From the Reading Chair

Using modern imaging techniques such as MRIs, brain researchers have pinpointed a region in the brain's left hemisphere that appears to decode written language. In other words, it makes the joy of reading possible.

This *visual word form area* has been called the brain's "letterbox." It links the visual and language regions in your brain. As your brain is stimulated by incoming images, the letterbox identifies any that contain letters and links them to the brain regions that provide word pronunciation and meaning.

If you can read this, rest assured that your letterbox, located near your left ear, is hard at work.

We'd love to call you "Friend."

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

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

Voted Best Tourist Spot in Valencia County!

The Belén Harvey House Museum

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

Visit their hospitable website at
www.harveyhousemuseum.org.

Bookstore photo courtesy of Dorie Corrao

Vaccine Help for Local Seniors

Older Americans in our community can call three numbers if they need help registering online for the coronavirus vaccine:

- ▶ City of Belén Retired Senior Volunteer Program
505-966-2567
- ▶ Belén Senior Center
505-864-2663
- ▶ Valencia County Community Development
505-866-2072

Online registration site for the vaccine:

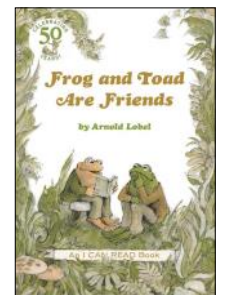
<https://cvs.vaccine.nmhealth.org>

Books to the Ceiling

by Arnold Lobel

Books to the ceiling,
Books to the sky,
My piles of books are a mile high.
How I love them!
How I need them!
I'll have a long beard
by the time I read them.

Arnold Lobel was an award-winning American writer and illustrator of children's books, including the Frog and Toad series, Owl at Home, Mouse Soup, and Fables.



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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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