

BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belén Public Library

November 2021

Belén Public Library Programs & Services

The Library is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Face masks are required, along with a quick touchless temperature check.

No appointment is needed for computer stations and courtyard Wi-Fi.

To request the public meeting room, call Stephanie Wallace at 505-966-2606.

Computer classes on a variety of skills are held on Tuesday & Thursday mornings. To register, contact Summer Ludwig at summer.ludwig@belen-nm.gov.

Girls Who Code, a friendly, hands-on computer club for 6th to 12th graders meets Saturday mornings. For more information, contact Alyssa Aragon at alyssa.aragon@belen-nm.gov.

Teens aged 12 to 18 can develop their storytelling skills in writing classes plus submit stories to *Strange Fiction*, the Library's new YA magazine. To find out more, contact Danny Garcia at danny.garcia@belen-nm.gov.

For dates and times of these and other programs, check the Library's new online calendar at: www.belen-nm.gov/belen-public-library.

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



What is the value of a bookstore? In addition to generating essential funds for the Library's collection and programs, **Books on Becker** is a key thread in our downtown's economic fabric. Our nonprofit secondhand bookstore broadens the appeal of the Belén Arts District to both locals and tourists.

We support community literacy by giving surplus books to a variety of organizations including: Valencia County Shelter Services, Corazon de Belén little free library, the Free Store in Belén, teachers' resource centers, Genesis HealthCare (Belen Meadows), Central New Mexico Corrections Facility, Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation's silent auction, S.A.F.E. House, and Blue Star Mothers at Kirtland AFB.

Plus, we give away hundreds of books to children and teens who visit the store and select their two free books per visit. There is perhaps no greater value a bookstore can provide than supporting the next generation of young readers.

We hope you too find value at Books on Becker, and we hope to see you scooping up some bargains during the holiday gift-giving season.

Seven rooms. Comfy chairs. Thousands of books. Great prices.

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 12 noon to 5 p.m.,
at 513 Becker Avenue in the Belén Arts District.

Phone: 505-785-2835 (during store hours)

Purchases help fund Library programs and scholarships.

Come find your treasure!

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Comes to Valencia County

Imagine a Valencia County where every pre-K child has his or her own new books, up to 60 of them, and they're free. Dolly Parton can imagine that. Libros for Kids, an Albuquerque nonprofit, can imagine that. And so can Kathleen Pickering, Director of the Belén Public Library.

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the foremost early childhood book gifting program in the world. The Imagination Library (DPIL) provides a hand-selected, age-appropriate, high-quality book each month to registered children from birth until they turn five. Imagination Library books are free and delivered by mail directly to the child.

Through a new partnership between the Belén Public Library (BPL) and Libros for Kids, a DPIL affiliate, the Imagination Library has come to Valencia County.

If you have a child younger than 5 years of age, come to the BPL at 333 Becker Avenue in Belén and fill out a brief DPIL application. *There are no income requirements.* Children who live in Valencia County are eligible, and children who live in northern Socorro County are eligible if the family has a BPL library card. For those who live closer to the Los Lunas Public Library, applications are also available there. If you have questions, contact the BPL at belenpubliclibrary@gmail.com or 505-966-2600.

High-quality, age-appropriate books in the hands of all pre-K children is a game changer for any community. Because of Dolly Parton's extraordinary vision and the BPL's pivotal partnership with Libros for Kids, no young child who lives in our area need grow up without books in the home. Easy access to books facilitates family reading sessions, interaction (a critical ingredient in early brain development), vocabulary building, and kindergarten readiness.

Help us get the word out. If you know a family with a pre-K child, especially one with limited resources, tell them about this opportunity and encourage them to sign up. It could change their child's life. Imagine that.



Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

—W. B. YEATS

Belén Harvey House Museum Antique Toy, Bear & Doll Show

Free Antique and Collectible Appraisals

Saturday, December 4, 11 am to 5 pm

For details on this and other upcoming events at the Museum, visit www.harveyhousemuseum.org, follow their Facebook page, or call 505-861-0581.

Giving Tuesday is November 30

The good news is our bookstore has seven rooms. The not-as-good news is our bookstore has seven floors. That's a lot of floor area to clean and sanitize—with or without the occasional flood. The elves who clean Books on Becker's floors could really use a steam mop. And the elves who schlep boxes of books to and fro could really use a decent dolly (preferably with four wheels). If you'd like to donate either, you can drop off a new or gently used one during store hours. For easy ordering and shipping of a specific steam mop, visit our Amazon Wish List: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FAD88Y6F4YZH

Children's books continue to be in high demand at the bookstore. Please consider donating new or gently used kids' books for any age group, babies through teens. We promote youth literacy in our community by providing free books to kids and teens who visit the store.

Book Buzz

Connie Ridley, Circulation Manager at the Library, has an enviable collection of colorful postcards. She received them this summer while administering her travel-themed Adult Summer Reading Program, which included crafting postcards from all 50 states and supplying them to program participants. Readers returned postcards from those states in which the books they read were set, inscribed with their comments.

The next time wanderlust strikes, consider a little armchair travel around the country with these selections enjoyed by the power-readers of the Adult SRP:

True Tales of the Everglades by Stuart McIver (Florida)
“This book is very educational – talks about Florida Everglades and Florida Keys.”

That Quail, Robert by Margaret Stanger (Massachusetts)
“A quirky book about a funny little bird determined to make his own way. Robert became part of the Kienzle family of Cape Cod in 1962 when they discovered one perfect little quail egg abandoned.”

Stargazer by Anne Hillerman (New Mexico)
“Part of her book series that continues the characters her father, Tony Hillerman, created. The Very Large Array down near Socorro plays an important part in the story.”

The Miracle Season by Kathy Bresnahan (Iowa)
“A real life story and event. A volleyball team that won state titles suddenly lost their star player in an auto accident. Story tells the struggle of how a school and volleyball team overcame this setback.”

Christmas Card Murder by Leslie Meier (Maine)
“Another in the series from Tinker’s Cove, Maine. Lucy Stone finds an old Christmas card with a mean message inside when she and her husband are doing renovations in their old New England farmhouse.”

Florida’s Birds by David S. Maehr (Florida)

Unfinished Business by J.A. Jance (Arizona)

My Story by Elizabeth Smart (Utah)

Finding Elodie: SEAL Team Hawaii by Susan Stoker (Hawaii)

A Walk Along the Beach by Debbie Macomber (Washington)

Death of a Christmas Card Crafter by Peggy Ehrhart (New Jersey)

Eugene: Images of America by David G. Turner (Oregon)

Permission to Dream by Chris Gardner (Illinois)

Legendary Locals of Albuquerque by Richard Melzer (New Mexico)

The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave (California)

I love the smell of book ink in the morning. —UMBERTO ECO

To Boldly Go

The staff at the Library is over the moon about their selection by the American Library Association to participate in the NASA@ My Library initiative. BPL was one of 60 libraries chosen from a national pool of about 150 applicants. NASA@ My Library was created to provide STEAM learning opportunities for library patrons across the country. STEAM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

Facebook has generously donated \$10,000 to the Friends of the BPL to be used to support NASA@ My Library activities and other upcoming space-related programming in the community.

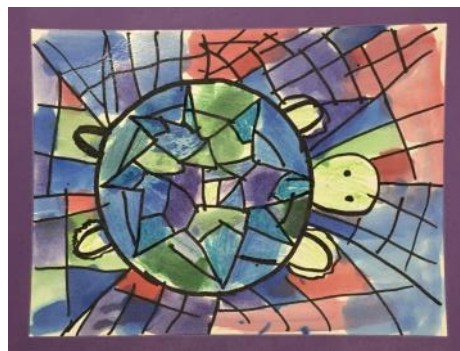
Programs will launch on the afternoon of December 4 with portable planetarium shows provided by the New Mexico Museum of Space History (NMMSH) at Eagle Park Recreation Center (limited seating). Other activities to anticipate include a series of streaming programs about NASA projects such as the James Webb Space Telescope, the scientific successor to the Hubble Space Telescope, and earth science focused on oceans; on-site visits from subject matter experts; and three NMMSH Rocketeer Academy programs for children in early 2022: *The Awful Truth About Zero-G* (kids reenact the discovery of gravity and learn about research in space), *Gimme A Hand* (kids build a working model of a hand and program it to pick up a pencil), and *Alien Autopsy* (kids work in a quarantine glovebox to dissect “alien” lifeforms).

To receive updates on the emerging schedule of activities, register for NASA@ My Library at: www.belen-nm.gov/belen-public-library/childrens-library/ or call the Library at 505-966-2600.

Art is Elementary

Through a collaboration between Kathleen Pickering, Library Director and Community Services Administrator, and local artist and educator Paula Castillo, the Library recently hosted the second show in a series of student art exhibits.

Artists and elementary arts educators Alecia Cargile, Paula Castillo, and Laura Wacha exhibited works made by student artists from La Merced, Central, and Jaramillo elementary schools. The students' joyful work celebrated their return to in-person learning following the pandemic.



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www.booksonbecker.org/newsarchive

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Bookstore photo courtesy of Dorie Corrao