

BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belen Public Library

May 2022

Belen Public Library Programs & Services

The library is fully open.
Face masks are optional.

Hours are
Monday through Saturday
from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Computer classes

Tuesdays & Fridays
RSVP to Jessica at 505-966-2601.

Teen Fiction Writing classes

Wednesdays & Saturdays
Call Danny at 505-966-2603.

Girls Who Code

Saturdays at 10 a.m.
Call Summer at 505-966-2608.

Children's Programs at 11 a.m.

Tuesdays: Story Time (preschool)
Wednesdays: Crafty Kids (preschool)
Saturdays: Music and Movement
Call Summer at 505-966-2608.

Tai Chi

Thursdays 10 to 11 a.m.

Belen Readers Book Club

Third Mondays at 10 a.m.

Open House Event at the Library Wednesday, May 25

See page 4 for details.

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



If you've browsed **BOOKS ON BECKER**, you know we have an entire room filled with mysteries and thrillers—and an entire room filled with fiction. But did you know we have two and a half rooms dedicated to nonfiction? We have a little something for everyone. Hidden gems include:

Aviation Memoirs Gardening Travel
Politics Animals Religion Home Repair

Are you thinking of downsizing your collection of DVDs or Blu-rays? We would be very happy to receive them as a donation. Just drop them off during store hours at your favorite nonprofit secondhand bookstore in downtown Belén.

We are thrilled to welcome a new employee to our establishment. Do stop by and say hello to Joyce, formerly a bookstore volunteer.

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

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 12 noon to 5 p.m.
Address: 513 Becker Avenue in the Belen Arts District
Phone: 505-785-2835 (during store hours)

Your purchases help fund Library programs and scholarships.

Come find your treasure!

Dive into Summer Reading

Educators and education researchers have long been aware of Summer Learning Loss (SLL), also known as “summer slide.” SLL is the loss of student skills and knowledge—or backsliding—experienced over the long summer break. This backsliding has likely been amplified in the past few years by pandemic-related disruptions to the classroom environment.

A 2020 Brown University study published in the *American Educational Research Journal* found losses in every summer between 1st and 8th grade in both math and English language arts. Analyzing recent (pre-pandemic) test scores for nearly 18 million students, study researchers discovered that *over half* of students exhibit SLL and, in fact, found that some “will lose nearly as much as what is typically gained in the preceding schoolyear.”

Enrolling your child or teen in the library’s Summer Reading Program is one simple (and free!) step you can take to promote their reading advancement and keep their brains active during the summer months. Not to mention put them in the running for an assortment of great prizes.

And for adults, program participation promotes mental stimulation and is just good plain fun. So what are you waiting for? Registration is now **OPEN**, so take the plunge at the Belen Public Library.

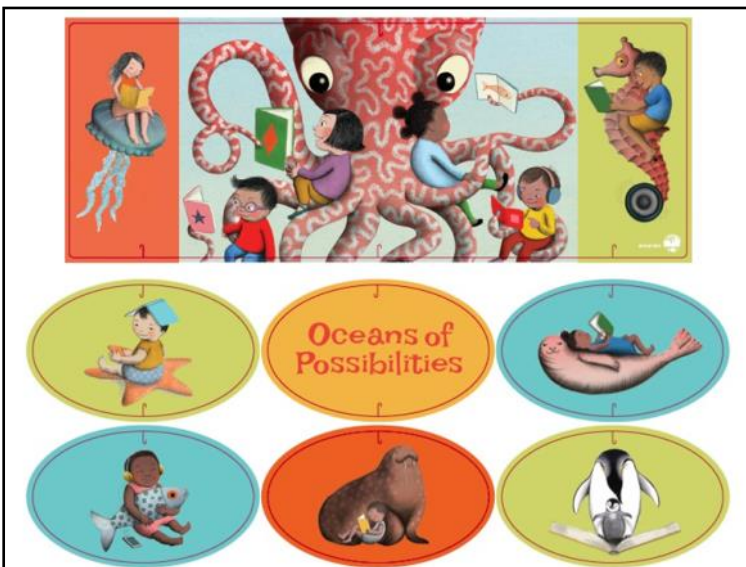
Dive into the Oceans of Possibilities **Adult Summer Reading Program** from June 6 to July 30. Each

registered patron will receive a packet of word searches, crossword puzzles, and trivia questions to answer for a chance to win some great prizes. Great for adults aged 19 to 99!

To register, contact Connie at 505-966-2607 or connie.ridley@belen-nm.gov.

The activities for the **Teen Summer Reading Program** include candy making, watercolor art, storytelling, VR games, an ocean-themed movie, and ABQ BioPark presentations. Prizes include merch from your YA series favorites. Runs June 6 to July 30.

To register, contact Danny at 505-966-2603 or danny.garcia@belen-nm.gov.



The **Children’s Summer Reading Program**, for kids up to age 12, runs from June 6 to July 30. Activities will include Albuquerque BioPark Aquarium presentations, crafts, movies, storytelling, ocean science topics, and much more!

To register, contact Summer at 505-966-2608 or summer.ludwig@belen-nm.gov.

What an astonishing thing a book is! It's a flat object made from a tree, with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person ...

—CARL SAGAN

Constellation of Talent Transforms Children’s Room

If you haven’t visited the Belen Public Library yet this year, when you do, you may not recognize the Children’s Room. Much of the old workaday shelving is gone, replaced by banks of attractive, sturdy, child-friendly book bins. A newly revealed 30-foot-long wall is now painted a vivid shade of orange and decorated with space-themed mural panels.

The planned removal of the old shelving proved to be the catalyst for a collaboration between Library Director Kathleen Pickering and local artist and Central Elementary art teacher Paula Castillo. As Pickering explained: “Taking out the old shelving was going to leave a big open area above the new shelves that we needed to do something with. Paula and I had already brainstormed lining up student art shows as part of the Belen MainStreet Arts and Cultural District jumpstart process. Then the library got the NASA@ My Library grant, plus STEAM funding from Meta (Facebook).”

Following a grant-funded presentation at Central Elementary on NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope, Castillo’s students created a series of colorful, thoughtful, and even humorous space-inspired art. After Pickering brought local artist and Friends board member Jo’l Moore onto the project, Moore re-envisioned the students’ art into her vibrant six-panel mural, collectively entitled *You Are a Bright Star*.

The mural was sponsored by the American Library Association, the Facebook Data Center in Los Lunas, the Belen Art League, and the Friends of Belen Harvey House.

The new book bins were made possible by GO Bond funds allocated through the New Mexico State Library. Pickering summed it up: “So when people are asked to vote in favor of supporting libraries with GO Bonds, this is an example of what we are able to do.”



Survey Raffle Winners Announced

Every five years, the library is required by the New Mexico State Library to conduct a community needs assessment. In early 2022, the library distributed a survey to gather feedback on how people use the library and Harvey House Museum, how they learn about programs, and their level of satisfaction with services received. The survey was distributed via area water bills, the library website, and library/museum visitors.

Of the 169 survey submissions, 147 respondents provided contact information and were included in a free raffle drawing. Prizes were awarded to three randomly-selected survey respondents. The Friends of the Belen Public Library provided funding for the prizes.

And the winners are ...

3rd place prize, \$25 gift certificate to Books on Becker: **Franchesca Castillo**

2nd place prize, Amazon Fire Stick: **Kathy Galloway**

1st place prize, tablet: **Pete Mushala**

The Belen Public Library thanks each and every community member who took the time to respond and provide valuable feedback. Library staff will compile and analyze survey responses, and the Friends will report on findings in a future newsletter issue.

Deborah Graham Memorial Scholarships

Seniors at Belen High, Infinity High, or Canon Christian Academy who have been accepted at a college of their choice may apply for a scholarship. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in the summer. For one of the scholarships, preference will be given to an applicant planning to study a trade school discipline.

For a scholarship application, see the senior counselor at your high school. **The submission deadline is June 1.**

The Graham Scholarships honor the memory of a former Library Director and are fully funded by the Friends of the Belen Public Library.

SUMMER KICK OFF OPEN HOUSE

at the Belen Public Library
333 Becker Avenue

Wednesday, May 25 ◆ 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Food Trucks ◆ Live Music ◆ Art Show
Scavenger Hunt ◆ Door Prizes

*Get a sneak peek of our new MakerSpace!
Sign up for our Summer Reading Programs!*

When family and friends visit this summer, start their whistle-stop tour at the **Belen Harvey House Museum**, voted best tourist spot in Valencia County.

Hours are Wednesday through Saturday,
12 noon to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit their website at www.harveyhousemuseum.org.

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