

BOOKISH IN BELEN

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Belen Public Library

November 2022

Belen Public Library Programs & Services

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

DJ's Bakery Café is awaiting
equipment upgrades and will open
sometime in December!

New issue of **Strange Magazine**
releasing on November 21!

Take a **computer class** on Tuesdays
and Fridays or get individual help.
Call Jessica at 505-966-2602.

Bring the kiddos to an engaging
assortment of **children's programs**,
Tuesday through Saturday:
LEGOs, Crafts, STEM, Story Time,
Music & Movement, and
Girls Who Code.
Call Summer at 505-966-2608.

Experience meditation in motion
by taking a **Tai Chi class** on
Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Discuss the books you're reading
at the monthly meetings of the
Belen Readers Book Club,
held on third Mondays at 10 a.m.

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



Organizing expert and *Spark Joy* author Marie Kondo on
decluttering your book collection:

*"It's going to be labor-intensive and time-consuming, but you
need to take all the books down and put them on the floor.
Physically pick each book up, one by one. If the book inspires
you, keep it. If not, it goes out. That's the standard by which
you decide."*

Now for the good news: Books on Becker stands ready to
receive your book discards, with gratitude! We will find them
new homes so they can become "twice-loved books." Dona-
tions are the lifeblood of our nonprofit secondhand bookstore.

If your kids or grandkids have outgrown any of their books,
we would be especially delighted to receive them as a dona-
tion. **We are currently in great need of children's books**, as
we allow each child who visits the bookstore to take home
two free books. We are committed to promoting book-rich
homes throughout the community. Happy Holidays!

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

Winter Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 11-4, Saturday 10-4

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!

BPL's First Career Online High School (COHS) Graduates Celebrated



Belen Public Library Director Kathleen Pickering's passionate advocacy for the COHS scholarship program, along with funding from the Friends and several generous community donors and grantors, have borne fruit. Two local women have completed the 18-month program and earned their accredited high school diplomas. Moreover, they now enter the workforce with valuable career-specific qualifications.

By strategically leveraging matching fund opportunities from the New Mexico State Library and pledges of financial support from the Friends, Pickering has parlayed two scholarships into eight. Three additional students are currently enrolled in the COHS program, and several new applicants are moving through the qualification process.

For more information about the COHS program, contact Kathleen Pickering at kathleen.pickering@belen-nm.gov. We applaud Johanna and Marina for their perseverance, and we wish them well in all their future endeavors!

The mind, once stretched by a new idea, never returns to its original dimensions. —RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Library Announces Results of 2022 Survey

Kathleen Pickering

Every five years, the State requires the Library to conduct a Community Needs Assessment to gather feedback on how people use both the Library and the Harvey House Museum, how they learn about programs, and their level of satisfaction with services received. In March and April of 2022, 172 survey responses were submitted to the Library. The ages of respondents ranged from 12 to 86, with an average age of 50.

Of those who responded, 84% have a Belen Public Library card. Most respondents (62%) visit the Library either weekly or monthly. Despite COVID closures, 48% of respondents had visited the Museum within the preceding year. The most common method for finding out about Library and Museum services and programs was the Library's website, followed by the News-Bulletin, word of mouth, Library staff, and the Library's Facebook page.

According to survey respondents, the five most important services provided were borrowing books, internet access, Museum events and programs, free Wi-Fi, and adult programs. However, the respondent subpopulation between the ages of 20 and 40 rated children's programs and borrowing books as the most important services.

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*I stepped into the bookshop and breathed in that perfume of paper and magic
that strangely no one had ever thought of bottling.*
—CARLOS RUIZ ZAFON



Save the Date

If you didn't go through the looking glass with us at this year's Scarecrow Festival, then, as the White Rabbit would say, *you're late, you're late, for a very important date!* But never you mind, because we have it on good authority from the Cheshire Cat that next year's Festival will be even better.

And if you're disappointed that you missed our first Free Prize Giveaway at the bookstore, don't worry. We had so much fun, we're going to do it one more time this year—with a fresh set of prizes—at the **Miracle on Main Street** event on **Saturday, December 17**. Look for details in December on our Friends and bookstore Facebook pages (see page 4) and on flyers posted at the library, bookstore, and other community hubs.



Survey Results

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In relation to the level of satisfaction with staff customer service at the Library and Museum, the median response to every question was a positive “Strongly Agree,” but the statements “They are professional in their dealings with me” and “They are friendly” received the highest ratings.

For level of satisfaction concerning facilities and resources, the median response to every question was a positive “Strongly Agree” again, but the statement “Library staff is always helpful” received the highest rating.

The open-ended questions elicited many supportive comments, including the common sentiment that things were good now and could not be improved upon. Staff received high praise for their service to the public. Others commented on the importance of having a good quality library as part of the well-being of our community, the Library’s role in supporting literacy and programs for children, and the efforts made to meet the needs of the community. Other comments noted the rich history and quality exhibits provided by the Museum and the access it provides to the younger generation.

A few suggestions were made about how to improve both facilities. Some mentioned wanting earlier morning hours at both the Museum and Library. More events and programs are desired, as well as food and coffee at both facilities. More advertising and outreach across all methods of communication was suggested. Other areas for consideration include better computer equipment, a bigger book collection, and better printing, copying and fax equipment.

Conclusion Overall, the community comments indicate that the Library and Museum are providing services valued by the public. Furthermore, the staff provides high-quality customer service as well as high-quality programs, events, and exhibits. Areas for improvement include upgrades to public-facing equipment, expansion of the book collection, and more live events and programming.

This is the final issue of BOOKISH IN BELEN. We have appreciated your readership over the past three years, and we hope you have enjoyed learning more about the Friends, the bookstore, and the Library. Going forward, we will publish a Friends annual letter with the year’s highlights, set to debut next November.

Meanwhile, we will continue to share organizational news and information on Facebook and on our website at www.booksonbecker.org. We encourage you to visit the informative Facebook pages listed below.

Friends: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Belen-Public-Library-102203195889336>

Bookstore: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057066805227>

Library: <https://www.facebook.com/Belenpubliclibrary>

Museum: <https://www.facebook.com/belenharveyhouse>

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