



# FRIENDS' FOCUS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Belen Public Library  
333 Becker Avenue, Belen, NM 87002  
www.belenfriends.org

Vol. 2007, Issue #4



## FEBRUARY 26 TENTATIVE GRAND OPENING

Your newly renovated and expanded library is just about complete! City officials have tentatively scheduled the grand opening of the facility for Tuesday, February 26, from 10 AM to noon. A ribbon cutting will occur at 10 AM followed by an open house with refreshments and opportunities to tour the library. Many elected officials and The Cat in the Hat are expected to attend. An ongoing slide show documenting library construction will be shown in the lecture hall, and a humorous library-related short video will be continuously screened in the teen library. All Friends of the Library and their friends are invited to attend this exciting event. To verify the date of the grand opening, watch the *Valencia County News-Bulletin* or call any of the Friends officers listed at right. Please volunteer to help the Friends host the occasion by calling Pat at 861-7067 or Bernice at 861-2032. In the meantime, visit [www.belenfriends.org](http://www.belenfriends.org) or <http://www.flickr.com/photos/belenpubliclibrary/> to see color photos of your new library.

### Officers

#### President

Pat Boyle  
861-7067

#### Vice President

Karen O'Kain  
864-7714

#### Treasurer

Donna Hernandez  
861-1285

#### Secretary

Bernice Boyle  
861-2032

#### Book Sale Chair

Laura Hawes  
861-1925

#### Refreshments Chair

Barbara Guenley  
861-2219

#### Communications

Tami Wiggins  
864-3700

#### Readers' Group

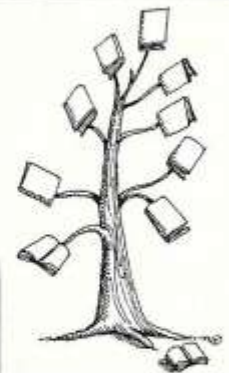
June Romero  
864-1825

#### Library Director

Beverly McFarland  
864-7522



*The books and shelves in the photo above left at the library's temporary quarters at the Belen Recreation Center on South Main are now in the renovated library on Becker Street (above right). The teen lounge and the lecture hall at the new facility are shown in the photos below.*



### Our Mission

The Friends of the Library supports libraries, learning, and the promotion of reading.

Dec. 2007



## ANNUAL BOOK SALE THE BEST EVER

We say it every year, but every year it's true: this year's annual book sale put on by the Friends of the Library was the best yet! The sale, again staged at Belen City Hall, was Friday and Saturday, October 19 and 20. Book Sale Chair Laura Hawes directed numerous volunteers in unloading many truckloads of books and transforming the Council Chambers into a bookstore. Sale goers commented that this year's sale was better sorted and organized and offered better books of a higher quality. Thanks to the large number of book lovers who came from Belen, Los Lunas, Albuquerque, Socorro, Mountainair, and all over Valencia County to purchase books and other materials, more than \$1570 was raised. Much of these proceeds support the library's children's reading programs.

The sale requires a great deal of time and effort to execute. Thanks to **Laura and Don Hawes** for their hard work on the sale throughout the year and for organizing and executing the actual sale; **Belen Consolidated Schools** for providing storage space for books; the army of **volunteers** who moved books, set-up and broke down the sale, and helped return the Council Chambers to its pre-sale state; **City officials and staff**, especially **City Manager Sally Garley** and **Mayor Ronnie Torres**, who accommodated the sale at City Hall; and everyone else who worked to make the 2007 event a success!

The 2007 sale is hardly over, but the Book Sale Committee is already accepting donations for the 2008 sale. Almost any kind of book, as well as CDs, DVDs, and videos, are appreciated. Children's books are especially needed. Arrange for pickup by calling the library at 864-7522 or Laura Hawes, Book Sale Chair, at 861-1925.

## Officer Nominations Sought

The Friends Nominating Committee has announced that it is accepting nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Please consider serving in one of these positions, and call Bernice at 861-2032 to volunteer. Nominations must be received by Bernice by Friday, March 21; after that, nominations will be taken from the floor at the annual meeting. (See page 3.)

## SPECIAL NEWS FOR MEMBERS

### New Members Join the Friends

Evelyn M. Arnold	Lewis	Ellen T. Salazar
Mary Lucy Baca	Shawnee Mark-	Don Schcough
Peter Baca	land	Angie Silva
Betty Barron	Roger A. Martin	Mario R. Sisneros
Angela Cano	James McFarland	Jeanette Storey
Leona Chavez	Maurine McMillen	Roger Swanson
Quillan Chavez	Bill & Stephanie	William Sweeney
Barbara Flores	Moss	Louise B. Thomas
Pat Harmon	Richard & Carol	Jeanette Urriaga
Linda Hixon	Palmer	Rita Veix
Mary Lampkin	Robert G. Ri-	L.K. Vosnic
Dawayne & Pam	morin	Monique Walker

### Thanks for Helping with Library Move

Thanks to everyone who volunteered lots of time and great effort to assist library staff in packing and unpacking books, putting the books in order on the shelves, and breaking down a mountain of empty boxes. Special thanks to John Best, George & Bernice Boyle, Phil & Barb Bransky, Serena Douglas, Barbara Flores, Linda Frazer, Tom & Pat



*George and Bernice Boyle unpack and organize the children's library.*

Fritts, Laura Hawes, Donna Hernandez, Peggy Johnson, Bill Nitler, Karen O'Kain, and Nan Windle.

### Friends Present Gift to City

The Friends have raised \$6,200 for furnishings for the children's and teen rooms of the new library. Please plan to attend the City Council meeting on Monday, February 4, at 6 PM when the Friends Board will present this hard-earned donation to the City. Your presence will support your library and show solidarity for your Friends group.

### Friends Website Expands!

The Friends Website at [www.belenfriends.org](http://www.belenfriends.org) has added another feature: the Friends quarterly newsletters are now posted on the site. View not only this newsletter, but every newsletter printed since the first one in June 2004. Please provide comments, photos, or other input about the Website or the Friends via the "Comments" link on the site. (Thanks to Blue Skies Consulting for maintaining the site.)



## SIMMONS SLATED FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Marc Simmons, "New Mexico's best known and most distinguished historian" (University of New Mexico Press), will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Belen Friends of the Library on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at 2 PM in the new library's lecture hall. Dr. Simmons has published more than 40 books and hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles and chapters or introductions in books by other authors. His writing, lectures, and research focus on the Indian and Hispanic heritages of New Mexico. The annual meeting will be the grand inaugural event of the lecture hall and will also include a brief business meeting, refreshments, and election of 2008-2009 officers.

### Two Legislative Initiatives Address Libraries

Legislative initiatives this year include a biannual bond issue and an increase to state aid for public libraries. Please contact our State Representatives, especially Don Tripp, and Senators on behalf of these two issues, which would greatly benefit your library. You may know what bond issues have done for materials collections, but you may not know about the scant funding for State Aid to public libraries. Below is a comparison of what other states spend in relation to New Mexico.

- 21 states have a population under 3 million, and 14 of them offer state aid to libraries: Alaska, Ar-

kansas, Delaware, Kansas, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah, and West Virginia. New Mexico ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in population but 13<sup>th</sup> in state aid per capita, 12<sup>th</sup> in total amount of state aid, and 11<sup>th</sup> in amount of state aid per library.

- The total amount paid by these 14 states annually averages \$2,674,485; the median is \$838,977. New Mexico is \$273,000.

- The amount per library averages \$23,463, with a median of \$6,220. New Mexico is \$2,202.

- The per capita amount based on

the 2005 census averages \$1.67, with a median of \$0.83. New Mexico is \$0.14.

- To raise New Mexico's aid to match the other 13 states, we would need an average of \$3,264,180 to reach \$1.67 per capita and a median of \$1,622,317 to reach \$0.83 per capita.

The next legislative session is Jan. 15 - Feb 14, 2008. The Website for legislator information is [legis.state.nm.us](http://legis.state.nm.us). For more information, contact Susan Oberlander, State Librarian at 505-476-9762 or [susanoberlander@state.nm.us](mailto:susanoberlander@state.nm.us).

## READERS' GROUP MOVES TO NEW LIBRARY

Meetings of the Friends of the Library Readers' Group will now be held in the lecture hall at your renovated and expanded library! Attend the first meeting of the Group in the new library on Monday, December 17, at 10 AM to discuss *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson and to see how nice the facility looks. November's selection, *Reading Like a Writer* by Francine Prose, will also be discussed. (In lieu of its regular meeting in November, the Readers' Group helped with the library's move to the new facility.) Meetings in 2008 are scheduled for January 28 (*Ancestor Stones* by Aminatta Forna), February 25 (no book selected yet), and March 24 (*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini).

The Group meets regularly on the last Monday of each month at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome; membership in the Friends is not required. For a list of upcoming selections, or to see a list of what the group has read since its inception in July 2004, go to [www.belenfriends.org](http://www.belenfriends.org). For more information about the Group, call June, the group's facilitator, at 864-1825.

## Volunteers Still Needed

**Library Grand Opening on February 26:** This big event will be hosted by the library staff and the Friends. (See page 1.) Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments, help set up for the event, greet visitors and patrons, and clean up afterward. Call Pat (861-7067) or Tami (864-3700) to help.

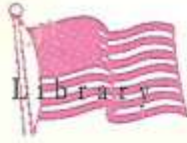
**Friends Presentation of \$6,200 Donation to City Council February 4:** This is the perfect volunteer opportunity: just show up! (Council meetings tend to be brief.) See page 2 for more information.

**Keep America Beautiful - Belen Library:** The Friends has "adopted" the area around the library as part of the Keep America Beautiful campaign to pick up litter. With the upcoming completion of renovation, construction, and landscaping at the library, we want to keep the whole library campus looking like new. If you have an hour to spare for litter patrol, call Pat (861-7067). Gloves and trash bags will be provided. And if you see litter while you are at the library, please pick it up!





Friends of the Belen Library  
 333 Becker Avenue  
 Belen, NM 87002  
 505-864-7522  
 www.belenfriends.org



\*\*\*\*\*  
 ★ **LOOK!** → ★  
 ★ If the date on your address la- ★  
 ★ bel has passed, simply renew ★  
 ★ your membership using the ★  
 ★ form below! ★  
 ★  
 ★\*\*\*\*\*

To:

\_\_\_\_\_

87002+8125



## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

If you believe in libraries, learning, and the promotion of reading, this multi-purpose form is for you! (1) Join the Friends of the Belen Public Library. Your membership entitles you to attend the preview of the annual Book Sale, receive the Friends' quarterly newsletter, and much more! (2) Are you a current member? Use this form to renew your membership. (3) Or donate to the building fund for the library's renovation and expansion!

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member    \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal    \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please check a Membership category and/or indicate the amount of your donation to the building fund:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$5)    \_\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$25)    \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of building fund donation  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$8)    \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime (\$100)

We need you! Please volunteer some time and energy to serve on a committee!

\_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments    \_\_\_\_\_ Program  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Book Sale    \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity

Mail your completed form along with a check made out to **Friends of the Library** to 333 Becker Avenue, Belen, NM, 87002. Or on your next visit to the Library, drop off your check and form at the front desk.