



FRIENDS' FOCUS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Belen Public Library
333 Becker Avenue, Belen, NM 87002

Vol. 2005, Issue #1



ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES AUTHOR

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Library is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, 2005, at 2 PM. All Friends and their friends are invited to attend! The meeting will consist of a regular business meeting of the Friends Board and the election of new officers. (The Nominating Committee has prepared a list of nominees - see item below.) In addition, the Friends Board is excited to announce that Pari Noskin Taichert, a local writer and author of mysteries set in New Mexico, has accepted the invitation to speak at the meeting. Pari has just completed a novel about Belen, titled *The Belen Hitch*, which is now at the publisher's. The writing of *The Belen Hitch* required Pari to spend time in our community for research and interviews. Pari's first



Pari Noskin Taichert, local author, will speak at the Friends annual meeting April 3.

book, *The Clovis Incident*, has been a regional bestseller since its publication last year by UNM Press. It has been nominated for an Agatha Award, and copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at the meeting. She is now working on her next book, with Socorro as a possible setting.

Pari is a native New Mexican who now hails from Albuquerque. She is a national award-winning journalist, and her monthly literary column appears in the *Albuquerque Tribune*. Tony Hillerman has said that Pari "is a skilled and witty writer," and others have stated that Pari "is a writer to watch" and "a beguiling new voice in mystery."

So plan now to attend the meeting to experience what promises to be an intriguing presentation!

NOMINEES FOR NEXT BOARD

At the Friends' annual meeting on April 3, the Nominating Committee will present this list of nominations for the Board for the 2005-2006 year:

- Bernice Boyle—President
- Tami Wiggins—Vice-President
- Donna Hernandez—Secretary/Treasurer

Officers of the Friends of the Library

President

Bernice Boyle
861-2032

Vice President

Tami Wiggins
864-8560

Secretary/Treasurer

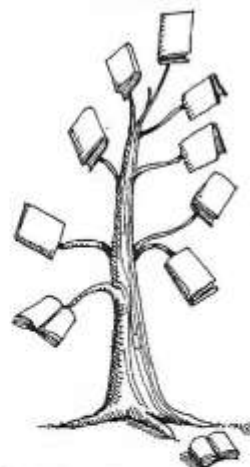
Donna Hernandez
861-1285

Book Sale Chairman

Sue Raether
864-3326

Library Director

Beverly McFarland
864-7522



Our Mission

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

March 2005

NEWS

READERS' GROUP CONTINUES TO THRIVE

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library Readers' Group is Monday, March 28, at 10 AM. The group will discuss *Dalva* by Jim Harrison. Recent past selections of the group include *Seldom Disappointed* and *The Sinister Pig*, both by Tony Hillerman, *An Unfinished Life* by Mark Spragg, and *The Master Butchers Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich. Discussions are always interesting, informative, and wide-ranging thanks to the diversity and enthusiasm of those attending!

Anyone may attend the Readers' Group's meetings on the last Monday of each month at 10 AM at the library. Meetings are informal, and membership in the Friends is not a requirement for attending the group. Just read the book and show up! Call June Romero, the group's coordinator, at 864-1825 if you



have questions about the Readers' Group. The Friends of the Library greatly appreciate June's unflinching dedication to the Group.

Pictured at left is June Romero, Readers' Group coordinator. At right, Donna Hernandez and Sue Raether participate in a Group discussion.



MEMBERSHIP FORM EXPANDS

The Friends of the Library membership form always included on the last page of this newsletter is now multi-purpose! The Friends Board has included an option to donate to the Building Fund for renovation and expansion of the current library facility. You have already shown that you believe in libraries, learning, and the promotion of reading by joining the Friends of the Library. Now consider making a donation to the Building Fund.

The membership form can still be used to renew your membership, which entitles you to attend a preview of the annual Book Sale, receive the Friends' quar-

terly newsletter, and much more! If you are unsure if you are current with your membership dues, check the date on the mailing label of this newsletter to determine when your membership expires. If it has expired, you may use the membership form to renew your dues.

Do you know someone who would like to become a member of the Friends? The form can also be completed to designate new membership. Just pass along the form or a copy of it to the interested person.

Thanks for your continued support of the Belen Public Library and its Friends!



New Book Drop Installed

The library's book drop has been installed and can now be used by library patrons! Early Tuesday, March 1, city employees Melvin Jaramillo and Alvin Peralta installed the new exterior book drop at the southwest corner of the library. To return books after hours or when you're short on time and can't come into the library, just drive behind the building and deposit your books in the new book drop.

At left, city workers Melvin Jaramillo and Alvin Peralta, along with Diana Phillips, the library's Circulation Manager, admire the new book drop.

NEWS

LIBRARY BOARD MEETS

The Board of Directors of the Belen Public Library held its quarterly meeting on Monday evening, March 14, at the library. After the call to order and approval of the previous meeting's minutes, Beverly McFarland, Library Director, presented the fiscal year 2005-2006 budget to the Board. The budget includes accomplishments from 2004 and goals for 2005 and beyond in categories such as Building and Grounds, Programs and Services, and Information Technology. After approval of the budget, the Board discussed the status of renovation and expansion of the library. The Legislature was still in session at that time, so there were no reports on individual capital outlay requests.

The meeting continued with Beverly's quarterly Director's Report. Particular items of note included installation of the new book drop (see page 2), receipt of a \$3,000 Viburnam grant (Belen's library was the only library in New Mexico to receive one), and the report that passage of "Go Bond C" last fall means the library should receive \$70,000 to be spent over the next two years. Beverly also thanked the Bethlehem Masonic Lodge for donation of the three bicycles for the recent Bikes for Books program.

Bernice Boyle, President of the Friends of the Library, provided an update on Friends activities. She noted that membership is steadily growing and is now approaching 200. Bernice reported that the annual meeting of the Friends will be April 3 (see the complete report on page 1). She also stated that the Board of the Friends has established a Building Fund for the library's renovation effort. At the end of each fiscal year, the Board of the Friends will contribute any excess funds to this building fund, and the Board is encouraging members to contribute to the fund as well (see the membership and donation form on page 4).

At the end of the meeting, there was a comment period for Board members and guests. B.W. Battin, President of the Board, thanked Bernice and the Friends executive board for their efforts toward an "impressive" Friends group. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 13.



The Library Board poses for a photograph at its most recent meeting. Shown in the back row, left to right: Lorraine Garcia, Vice-President; B.W. Battin, President; and Beverly McFarland, Library Director. In front: Serena Douglas; Brenda Mack, Secretary; and Jeff Trembly, City Council Representative. (Not pictured: Ed Padilla.)



Friends of the Belen Library
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 Belen, NM 87002
 505-864-7522
<http://www.youseemore.com/belen>



To:

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 Donation _____ 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.