



FRIENDS' FOCUS

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

Vol. 2006, Issue #1



FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 26

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Library is scheduled for Sunday, March 26, 2006, at 2 PM at the library. All Friends and their friends are invited to attend the gathering which will begin with a regular business meeting of the Friends Board and the election of officers for 2006-2007. The Nominating Committee will present these nominations: Tami Wiggins, President; Pat Boyle, Vice-President; Donna Hernandez, Treasurer; and Bernice Boyle, Secretary.

The second part of the event will feature a presentation by Kathy and Lance Chilton, writers and founders of LIBRO, a reading project sponsored by Lovelace. Together with friends, they wrote *New Mexico: A New Guide to the Colorful State* and then *Touring New Mexico*, both published by UNM Press. Each book took 6 years of work. Lance followed up this writing experience with many articles and short stories, and now writes a regular column in the *Albuquerque Journal*. Kathy continued the experience with more illustration work for UNM Press, the Museum of New Mexico Press, and a variety of other books. Both Kathy and Lance are involved with literacy projects. They work with the "Read to Me Campaign" and a literacy program in Oaxaca, Mexico. Kathy says, "Books have always been important in our lives. Not only have books informed, amused, entertained, and challenged us, but volumes also insulate the walls of our home, weigh down gluing projects, and keep us awake (or put us to sleep) at night." Kathy and Lance live in Albuquerque.

Please join the Friends of the Library at the meeting on March 26!

Friends' President Wins Award

By Tami Wiggins, Friends Vice-President

Bernice Boyle, President of the Friends of the Belen Library, has been named the recipient of the New Mexico Library Association's (NMLA's) New Mexico Library Amigo Award. This annual honor is given to an individual whose work on behalf of the local library has resulted in significant progress and/or achievement for that library; or in recognition of work in the promotion of library service within the state. Bernice will receive the award April 20 at the NMLA's annual meeting in Farmington. Since Bernice's election as Friends President two years ago, she has been unflaggingly dedicated to not only the Belen Library and its improvement, but also the Friends organization, its membership, and its outreach. We believe the award went to THE most deserving person, and heartily congratulate Bernice!

Officers of the Friends of the Library

President

Bernice Boyle
861-2032

Vice President

Tami Wiggins
864-8560

Treasurer

Donna Hernandez
861-1285

Book Sale Chairman

Laura Hawes
861-1925

Library Director

Beverly McFarland
864-7522



Our Mission

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

March 2006

NEWS**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

You know that the excellent staff at our library works very hard, but did you know that your library is still always in need of reliable volunteer assistance? And did you know that one of the roles of any Friends of the Library group is to provide volunteer help for projects when asked by the library director? The many benefits of volunteering include a sense of purpose and fulfillment in knowing you are needed and providing a vital service for your community. As a volunteer, you also receive free membership to the Friends of the Library which includes a subscription to this newsletter and free admission to the preview evening of the annual book sale. And senior volunteers receive benefits through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Call 864-7522 or visit the library to volunteer to:

- Become a tutor for the Valencia County Literacy Council
- Bring books to the homebound
- Perform basic book repair
- Read aloud to children through the BOOK program
- Adopt a shelf to keep books in order and in good condition
- Organize revolving exhibits for the display case
- Pick up books for the book sale
- Care for plants

DO YOU eBay?

And speaking of opportunities to volunteer, the library is in particular need of someone who can auction several rare books on eBay. These books are worth too much to be sold at the annual book sale or on the book cart in the library lobby. Please call Bernice at 861-2032 to volunteer for this project.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Friends thank Ace Expressions for providing the engraving on the plaques for the memory wall in the library. These beautiful plaques denote those who have lifetime memberships in the Friends.

READERS' GROUP SELECTIONS VARY

The Friends of the Library Readers' Group has been meeting regularly to discuss an interesting variety of books. There's something for everyone! Past picks include *The Sign of the Book* by John Dunning, *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant, *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson, and *The Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck. The next selection, *No Life for a Lady* by Agnes Morley Cleaveland, will be discussed on Monday, March 27. Everyone is welcome to attend the 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 required. Call June Romero, the Group's facilitator, at 864-1825 for more information.



NEWS**LIBRARY RECEIVES FUNDING**

From information provided by Beverly McFarland, Director, Belen Public Library

Expansion and renovation of your library, first proposed just two years ago, could begin as early as this summer, thanks to Legislative appropriations of \$1.1 million.

The library was designed in 1984 when no one could imagine the changes the Internet would bring to libraries. On any given day, 160 people visit the library's computer labs, and the library hosted more than 42,000 computer sessions last year. During the past five years, attendance at library programs such as the Readers' Group, Literacy Program, book sales, and computer workshops has increased by 200%. Many events are held in the public reading room because the meeting room has seating for only 50 people. This means computer labs are closed and public reading is disturbed. The Children's library is so small that it can house only 1,700 books. With nearly 5,000 students in the Belen School District, that is only one-fourth of a book per child.

The City of Belen had the foresight to purchase the entire block of 300 Becker Avenue, preserving ample room to add on to the existing library. A challenging aspect of this project was to design an addition to the building large enough to meet needs while leaving sufficient space for parking. The

Becker Street project, with its diagonal parking, helped alleviate this problem. The final design (1) maximizes the parking lot, adding 6,000 square feet of new space, (2) doubles the library's size, and (3) compliments the existing structure. John Pate of Molzen-Corbin & Associates, the designer of the original library building, has created preliminary renovation and addition plans that include:

- A Teen Power Library with patio entrance
- New, expanded public restrooms
- 1,000 linear feet of additional shelf space
- A children's library twice the size of the current one, with a family learning center
- A public meeting room with seating for 100 and a utility kitchen
- 1,200 square feet for technical services/storage
- Easy access for the disabled

The Friends continues to seek ways to increase its building fund which will go toward furnishings such as kitchen appliances, artwork, seating, and tables. (Use the form on the back page if you wish to make a donation to the building fund.)

The Board of the Friends thanks all those who wrote letters and e-mails and made phone calls to legislators to request their support of this funding. "You see a library; we see a future!"

PLANNING FOR BOOK SALE UNDERWAY

Laura Hawes, Book Sale Chairperson, has announced that activities for the Friends annual book sale are scheduled for October 19—21, 2006, at Belen City Hall. Thanks to Belen Mayor Ronnie Torres for providing this facility until the sale can move back to the "new" library (hopefully in 2007). On Thursday, October 19, join fellow Friends in setting up the sale. The preview sale for Friends members only will be Friday afternoon, October 20. The public is invited to the sale on Saturday, October 21.

This very popular sale requires an incredible volunteer effort. Please consider helping the Friends by:

- Donating the use of a facility for year-round, street-level book storage and sorting. The Friends appreciates its current facility in the basement of the Harvey House, but navigating books up and down stairs is time-consuming and dangerous.
- Loaning a low, open-bed trailer to move books to and from the sale in October.
- Assisting with moving books from the Harvey House basement onto the trailer.
- Working one of the days of the sale—or all three!
- Donating books. Almost any kind of book will be accepted but children's books are especially needed.

The next book sale should be bigger and better than ever. If you have any questions or ideas, or would like to volunteer to help, call Laura at 861-1925.



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

ALBUQUERQUE NM 871



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 MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 8700

Check the date on your address label. If it has come and gone, 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.