



# FRIENDS' FOCUS

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

Vol. 2008, Issue #1



## SIMMONS HIGHLIGHT OF ANNUAL MEETING



Dr. Marc Simmons, "New Mexico's best known and most distinguished historian" (UNM Press), will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Belen Public Library. The meeting will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at 2:00 PM in the new library's lecture hall. This event is free and open to the public.

The meeting, the inaugural event of the lecture hall, will begin with a brief business meeting and the election of officers for 2008-2009. (See "Officer Nominations Sought" on page 2.)

The main portion of the meeting will feature a presentation by Dr. Simmons, an independent scholar and author who has published 45 books on New Mexico history. His writing, research, and lectures have focused on Spanish colonial New Mexico, the Santa Fe Trail, and the life and times of Kit Carson. Another of his special interests is El Camino Real. His fourth grade social studies

book, *New Mexico!*, was first published in 1984 and has been through several editions. Early in his career, he worked as a horseshoer and apprenticed with noted blacksmith Frank Turley of Santa Fe. Together they published the standard *Southwestern Colonial Ironwork: the Spanish Blacksmithing Tradition*. For 35 years Simmons has written a weekly history column that has appeared in various regional newspapers. In 1993 King Juan Carlos of Spain admitted him to the knightly Order of Isabel la Católica for his contributions to Spanish colonial history.

After his presentation, a reception will be held to honor Marc, and refreshments will be served. Please join the Friends for this event Sunday, March 30!

## GRAND OPENING WELL ATTENDED

Your newly renovated and expanded library was the center of attention on Tuesday, February 26, when a ribbon cutting and open house was staged to show it off to the community. The 10 AM ribbon cutting was followed by the 2-hour open house, which included refreshments, tours of the library, a mariachi band, an ongoing slide show documenting library construction, and The Cat in the Hat. Many elected officials, the state librarian, library board members, and scores of citizens attended the lively event, hosted by library staff and the Friends. For more information and photos from the occasion, visit [www.belenfriends.org](http://www.belenfriends.org) and [www.flickr.com/photos/belenpubliclibrary/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/belenpubliclibrary/).

### Officers

#### President

Pat Boyle  
861-7067

#### Vice President

Karen O'Kain  
864-7714

#### Treasurer

Donna Hernandez  
861-1285

Bernice Boyle  
861-2032

#### Book Sale Chair

Laura Hawes  
861-1925

#### Refreshments Chair

Barbara Guenley  
861-2219

#### Communications

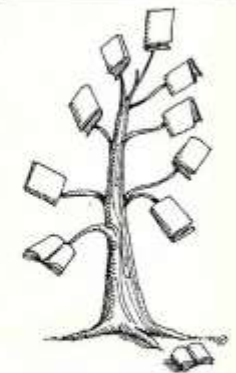
Tami Wiggins  
864-3700

#### Readers' Group

June Romero  
864-1825

#### Library Director

Beverly McFarland  
864-7522

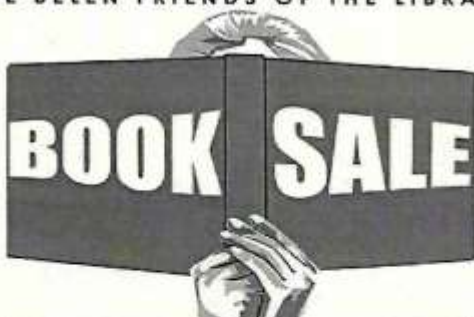


### Our Mission

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

Mar. 2008

THE BELEN FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



**BOOK SALE**

MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS ONLY  
FRIDAY, APRIL 25  
1 pm - 5 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
SATURDAY, APRIL 26  
9 am - 2 pm

LOCATED INSIDE YOUR NEW BELEN LIBRARY  
333 BECKER ST, BELEN, NM 87002  
<http://www.belenfriends.org>

## MEET YOUR NEW FRIENDS

### New Members Last Quarter

Claudia Barreto	D.J. Hathaway	Nanci Neilsen
Thomas Broderick	Stephen M. Hensley	Donna Nicholas
Ron Eggert	Melissa Miera	Jon and Dorothy Pitts

## Nominations Sought

The Friends Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are a member of the Friends and would like to provide a nomination or serve in one of these positions, call Bernice Boyle, current Friends Secretary, at 861-2032 to volunteer. Nominations must be received by Bernice by Wednesday, March 26; after that, nominations will be taken from the floor at the annual meeting. (See page 1.)

## "THANKS FOR YOUR HELP"

Beverly McFarland, Director of the Belen Public Library, submitted this message: "Thanks so much for the Friends help with the Library's grand opening. You helped make it a special occasion that will be remembered by everyone. We couldn't have done it without our "friends."

## FRIENDS PRESENTS GIFT TO CITY



Did you know that the Friends of the Library raised \$6,200 for furnishings for the children's and teen rooms of the new library? Donna Hernandez, Friends Treasurer, and Pat Boyle, Friends President, represented the Friends at the Belen City Council meeting on February 4 to present this gift to the City of Belen. From left to right above are Rudy Jaramillo, Mayor Ronnie Torres, Jeff Trembly, Pat, Donna, Therese Olivarri, and Mayor Pro Tem David Lopez.

## Readers' Group Meets March 31

The next meeting of the Friends of the Library Readers' Group will be Monday, March 31, at 10 AM in the lecture hall at the new library. The group will discuss *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. Future reads are *Peony in Love* by Lisa See (April), *Blasphemy* by Douglas Preston (May), and *Playing for Pizza* by John Grisham (June).

The Group meets on the last Monday of each month at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome; membership in the Friends is not required. For 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, group facilitator, at 864-1825.

## THE BOOK NOOK FRIENDS ONGOING BOOK SALE

**HARD COVERS: \$1**

**PAPERBACKS: 25 cents**

Inside the library during regular hours (outside the lecture hall, near the Red Stone Café)

## CONGRATULATIONS, FRIENDS!

By Pat Boyle, President of the Friends of the Library

The hard work of the Friends was realized February 26 with the formal grand opening of the renovated and expanded library! Your dedication to a beautiful new library started more than 3 years ago when a crowd of Friends filled City Hall for a Council meeting to express the need for expansion and renovation of the library. Through your donations, volunteer work, and participation in book sales and various fund raisers, the Friends were able to contribute \$6,200 to the City last month toward furnishing the library's children's and teen rooms. This is truly YOUR library! Many of you attended the grand



opening and ribbon cutting, which was a huge success. Special thanks go to Pat and Tom Fritts, Dolores Padilla, Linda Frazer, Barbara Guenley, Barbara Forrest, Karen O'Kain, Donna Hernandez, Laura Hawes, George Boyle, and Evelyn Arnold for volunteering time and talent to make the occasion memorable.

Though we have reached this major milestone, the Friends still has a lot going on! The annual meeting in March (see page 1) and a first-ever spring book sale in April (see below) are just two upcoming events. If you are interested in volunteering, contact one of the Friends officers or committee chairs. Do you have a vision of potential greatness for the Friends? Consider running for the Board - elections will be held at the March annual meeting. Contact Bernice Boyle (861-2032) or me (861-7067).

Thank you, Friends. You have a lot to be proud of!

### BRAVO, LAURA AND DON HAWES!

Laura Hawes, Friends Book Sale Chair, and her husband Don were recognized as "Unsung Heroes" at the annual Martin Luther King Day candlelight vigil at Anna Becker Park in Belen on January 21. Laura and Don were commended for their dedication and hard work for several years to manage and coordinate the Friends popular and hugely successful annual book sales. We heartily agree that Laura and Don deserve this recognition by our community. Congratulations!

### Library Hosts "Tail Waggin' Tutors" Program

What do you get when you bring children, dogs, and books together? According to Therapy Dogs International (TDI), you get happy, confident children who love to read. TDI's Tail Waggin' Tutor program is coming to the Belen Library this summer, and Beverly McFarland, Library Director, is seeking a volunteer to manage the program. Claudia Barreto, a member of the Friends and the therapy dog handler, will bring Neptune and Miracle to the Library from 9:00 to 11:00 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 4 through August 7. Beverly needs someone to manage the program, which includes making appointments for children every 15 minutes and handing out books for them to read. For more information, visit <http://www.tdi-dog.org/>, and then call Beverly at 864-7522 to volunteer for this unique and rewarding program.



### Please Volunteer!

**ANNUAL MEETING, Sunday, March 30, 2 PM:** Provide refreshments or help set up before the meeting or clean up afterward. Call Pat at 861-7067.

**SPRING BOOK SALE, Thursday-Saturday, April 24-26:** Help set up the sale on Thursday, or assist during the sale on Friday or Saturday. Call Laura at 861-1925.

**KEEP THE LIBRARY BEAUTIFUL:** The Friends "adopted" the area around the library as part of the Keep America Beautiful campaign. With the completion of the new library, let's keep it looking like new. If you have an hour to spare for litter patrol, call Pat (861-7067). Gloves and trash bags will be provided.



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



To:

**OOPS! →**  
 If the date on your address label  
 is history, renew your membership  
 now! See below.

87002#8125 8005



## 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.