



FRIENDS' FOCUS

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

Vol. 2009, Issue #1



ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES MELZER

Dr. Richard Melzer, a history professor at the University of New Mexico - Valencia Campus for 30 years, will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Belen Public Library. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 2 PM at the library at 333 Becker Avenue. The event will be in the library's lecture hall and is free and open to the public.

The gathering will begin with a brief business meeting which will include the election of officers for 2009-2010 (see "Nominate an Officer" on page 2) and a vote on proposed bylaws revisions (see page 3). This will be followed by a presentation by Dr. Melzer, who specializes in 20th century New Mexico history. He will talk about his newest book, *Fred Harvey Houses of the Southwest*, which focuses on these famous hotels and restaurants along the Santa Fe Railway from the 1870s to the 1960s. The oldest Harvey descendent has called the book the best ever written on the subject and has recommended it to all his famous family's surviving members. Dr. Melzer has published ten other books, including *Buried Treasures: Famous and Unusual Gravesites in New Mexico History*, and more than 100 articles about our state. He is an award-winning teacher, author, and community leader. He is probably best known in the community for his monthly historical article in the *Valencia County News-Bulletin*, a column he has edited without interruption since 1998. Dr. Melzer lives in Rio Communities with Rena, his wife of 25 years.

After adjournment of the meeting, a book signing and reception will be held for Dr. Melzer, and refreshments will be available.

SPRING BOOK SALE SCHEDULED

The Friends' annual spring book sale is scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday, April 17 and 18. The event will be held inside the lecture hall of the Belen Public Library at 333 Becker Ave., and books will be for sale for only \$1 per bag. On Friday from 1:00 – 4:30 PM, members of the Friends will be treated to a private preview of the sale, and Saturday from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM the sale is open to the public. You can renew your membership in the Friends or become a member at either sale. Refreshments will be available from the Red Stone Café, located next to the lecture hall.

Book donations are always accepted. Drop books off at the library or arrange for pickup by calling the library at 864-7522, Laura at 861-1925, or Pat and Tom at 861-5365. You can also talk to Laura, Pat, or Tom to volunteer to help with sale set-up on Thursday morning, April 16, or take-down on Saturday afternoon, April 18.

Officers

President

Pat Boyle
861-7067

Vice President

June Romero
864-1825

Treasurer

Donna Hernandez
861-1285

Secretary

Bernice Boyle
861-2032

Book Sale Chair

Laura Hawes
861-1925

Refreshments Chair

Barbara Forrest
861-1236, 859-1229

Communications

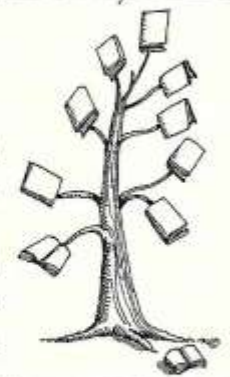
Tami Wiggins
864-3700

Readers' Group

June Romero
864-1825

Library Director

Deborah Graham
864-7522



Our Mission

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

March 2009

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

The Friends Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the positions of Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary for 2009-2010. Nominations already received are Sue Raether, Vice-President; Donna Hernandez, Treasurer; Dorie Corrao, Secretary. Nominate your-

self or another Friend by calling Pat Boyle (861-7067) to have your name included on the ballot. Officers will be elected at the Friends annual meeting on March 29. Nominations must be received by Friday, March 20. After that, nominations will be taken during the meeting.

Thank You, Sale Co-Chairs!

The Friends Board extends a big thank-you to Pat and Tom Fritts for volunteering to Co-Chair the Book Sale Committee with Laura Hawes. Laura and her husband Don have worked hard for several years to organize and execute successful sales, and the Friends now holds two sales each year. Laura and Don will continue their work with the skilled and enthusiastic assistance of Pat and Tom. Book donations and volunteers are always needed for the sales. See page 1.

YOUR LIBRARY TURNS 82

The Belen Public Library was founded by the Belen Women's Club on March 28, 1927. In 1953 the Library became the Eastern Valencia County Public Library with funding from the Town of Belen, the Los Lunas and Belen School Districts, Valencia County, and the New Mexico State Library. In 1966 the Mayor of Belen accepted the land, building and contents of the Public Library property.

Group Suggests Books for 2009

"Reader's Choice" was the theme for the first meeting of 2009 of the Friends of the Library Readers' Group. Books read and recommended by attendees included: *The Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood; *Outliers* and *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell; *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows; *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch; *A Free Man of Color* and *Fever Season* by Barbara Hambly; *Circle of Three* and *Flight Lessons* by Patricia Gaffney; *Giant Treasury of Beatrix Potter* by Beatrix Potter; *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy; *Learning to Fall* by Philip Simmons; *Everything Good Will Come* by Sefi Atta; *Pope Joan* by Donna Cross; *These is My Words* by Nancy Turner; and *The Ranch* by Danielle Steel.

At the next meeting on March 30, the group will discuss *One Good Turn* by Kate Atkinson, and on April 27, *Sing Them Home* by Stephanie Kallos will be featured. At the May meeting, to be held on May 18 due to the Memorial Day holiday, the Group will discuss *Home* by Marylynn Robinson.

The Group meets in the lecture hall at the Belen library, 333 Becker Avenue, on the last Monday of each month at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend; membership in the Friends is not required. For more information, call June Romero, group facilitator, at 864-1825.

CAN YOU WEBMASTER?

The Friends is in dire need of a computer expert to maintain its Website at belenfriends.org. This volunteer position has been open for some time, so if no volunteer steps forward by Friday, April 3, the Website is in danger of being taken off-line. Call Tami at 864-3700.

THANKS, NEW FRIENDS!

Lillian Beckett
Pat & Kimberly Fleming
Jesse Hackrey
Justin Hackrey

Darlene Kepler
Brandi Key
Alonzo & Renee Mondragon
Veronica Muela

EVENT CALENDAR

2009 FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, March 29, 2 PM, in the library's lecture hall. See page 1.

FRIENDS ANNUAL SPRING BOOK SALE - Friday afternoon and Saturday, April 17 & 18, 2009, in the library's lecture hall.

FRIENDS ANNUAL FALL BOOK SALE - Friday afternoon and Saturday, October 16 & 17, 2009, in the library's lecture hall.



PROPOSED BYLAWS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BELEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Article I Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Friends of the Belen Public Library.

Article II Purpose

Section 1 The purpose of the friends shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in libraries; to focus public attention on the library; to stimulate the use of the library's resources; to receive and encourage gifts, endowments and bequests to the library; to support and cooperate with library staff in developing library services and facilities for the community; and to support the freedom to read as expressed in the American Library Association's *Bill of Rights*.

Section 2 The Friends shall do no lobbying nor shall any of its members derive benefit from its operation, directly or indirectly.

Section 3 The Friends is a nonprofit, educational and charitable organization.

Article III Membership

Section 1 Membership in the Friends shall be open to all individuals or institutions in sympathy with its purposes that pay annual dues.

Section 2 Classification of membership and their dues shall be: Individual \$5; Family \$8, Patron \$25, Sponsor \$50, Life \$100.

Section 3 Contributions to the Friends and dues are tax deductible.

Section 4 Each Individual, Family, Institutional, Patron or Sponsor Member shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 5 The Board of Directors may grant the title of Honorary Lifetime Member to individuals who have made a great contribution to the Belen Public Library. Such a member shall enjoy a lifetime membership without payment of dues.

Article IV Officers

Section 1 The elected officers of the Friends shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

Section 2 The Nominating Committee shall nominate the slate of officers. The nominations shall be submitted to the membership in writing with the prior consent of the candidates at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting with the consent of the additional nominees.

Section 3 Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting. Officers shall be elected for a term of one year.

Section 4 The Board of Directors shall fill a vacancy that occurs in an office for the remainder of the term.

Article V Duties of Officers

Section 1 The President shall preside over and conduct meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors, appoint committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except nominating, and shall serve as or appoint someone to serve as the representative of the Friends at meetings of the Belen Public Library Board of Trustees.

Section 2 The Vice-President shall be President-Elect, assist the President, assume duties of the President in the absence of

the President, chair the Program Committee, and shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 The Secretary shall take minutes of all membership and board meetings, keep a list of the membership, conduct the correspondence of the organization, and shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 4 The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the organization, keep and maintain the financial records of the organization, make a detailed Annual Fiscal Report to the membership, compile such other fiscal reports as may be required by law, and shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Article VI Meetings

Section 1 The Friends shall hold at least one meeting a year.

Section 2 The annual meeting shall be held on a date in the first quarter of the calendar year to be determined by the Board of Directors. Members shall be given written notification of the annual meeting at least one week prior to the date. This notification shall include the officers' slate chosen by the Nominations Committee.

Section 3 The Board of Directors may call a special meeting of the Friends membership at any time. Members shall be given written authorization of the meeting at least one week prior to the date.

Section 4 A quorum shall consist of those members present.

Section 5 The parliamentary authority shall be *Roberts Rules of Order, New and Enlarged Edition*.

Article VII Board of Directors

Section 1 The Board shall consist of the elected officers of the Friends, the chairs of the standing committees, the person appointed to serve as the Friends' representative to the Belen Public Library Board of Trustees if other than the President, and one representative of the Belen Public Library staff as designated by the Library Director.

Section 2 The Board shall meet at least once prior to the annual meeting.

Section 3 A quorum shall consist of those members present.

Article VIII Committees

Section 1 Standing committees shall be: Book Sale, Program, Communications, and Refreshment. The President as needed section 2 additional committees.

Article IX Finance

Section 1 The fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Section 2 Dues of all members shall be payable annually.

Article X Amendments

Section 1 Amendments to these bylaws may be made at any meeting of the general membership by a two-thirds vote of those present provided written notice of the proposed amendments has been given to each member at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Article XI Dissolution

Section 1 Upon dissolution of the Friends its assets shall be transferred to the Belen Public Library Board of Trustees.

Adopted 1976, amended 4/15/87, amended (proposed) 3/29/09

