



FRIENDS' FOCUS

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

Vol. 2005, Issue #3



SEN. BINGAMAN HEARS LIBRARY PLANS

On Wednesday, August 24, Sen. Jeff Bingaman was the honored guest at the Belen Municipal Building for a presentation about Belen's Becker Street Enhancement Program. Since the Enhancement Program includes the plan to renovate and expand your library, Beverly McFarland, Library Director, and Bernice Boyle, President of the Friends of the Library, were invited to make presentations for the Senator. Beverly described the current needs of the library and showed the proposed plans for its renovation and expansion. Then Bernice talked about the Friends of the Library and its mission and membership, the establishment of a special building fund by the Friends' Board, past and future fundraising activities, and the raffle for a signed special edition of the newest Harry Potter book (see top of page 2). Beverly and Bernice thanked Sen. Bingaman for his past support and encouraged him to consider including the library in future appropriations.



Belen City Councilor and Mayor Pro Tem David Lopez, Sen. Jeff Bingaman, and Rep. Don L. Tripp listen to Bernice Boyle's presentation about the Friends of the Belen Library and its fundraising efforts.

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The Board of the Friends of the Library thanks Sen. Jeff Bingaman for visiting Belen and expressing interest in the library. From left to right, Bernice Boyle, President; Sen. Bingaman; Donna Hernandez, Treasurer; and Tami Wiggins, Vice-President.

Officers of the Friends of the Library

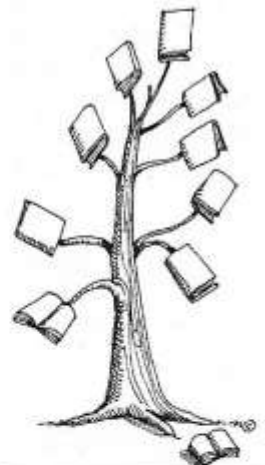
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Our Mission

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

October 2005

NEWS**FRIENDS RAISE FUNDS FOR BUILDING PROJECT**

The Friends of the Library continues to work hard to raise funds for the renovation and expansion of your library.

The most exciting activity may be the raffle of a signed special edition of J.K. Rowling's newest book, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Fifty signed books were made available, one for a library in each state, and the Belen Library won New Mexico's only copy. The Library Board voted to donate the book to the Friends so that it could be raffled as a fund raiser for the library's building fund. Tickets sell for \$1 each or \$10 for a book of 11 and are available at the library, businesses around town, and at special civic events. The sale ends Dec. 16, and the drawing will be held Dec. 19. Special thanks go to the Raffle Committee, which formed quickly and organized the raffle effort in record time: Donna Hernandez, Committee Chair and Friends Treasurer; Katherine Trujillo, Assistant Library Director; Ronnie Torres, Belen Mayor; and Friends members Elise Acree and Barbara Price.

The annual Friends book sale is scheduled for the last weekend of October. You can buy a whole bag of books for only \$1! Volunteers are encouraged to help with sale set up at the library at 9 AM on Thursday, Oct. 27. Members of the Friends are invited to the preview portion of the sale, complete with refreshments, on Friday, Oct. 28, 2-5 PM. Then on Saturday, Oct. 29, sale to the general public is 9-2 PM. All book donations are welcome, especially children's books. Due to space limitations, the library cannot accommodate book donations, so call Tami at 864-3700 to coordinate donations.

The Friends also had a table at the Belen Farmers' Market several times this summer. The sale of books, popcorn, soft drinks, and bottled water raised more than \$200. Thanks to Friends and friends of Friends George Boyle, Sylvia Brady, Rhiannon Dent, John Hernandez, Mike Racine, and Edith Schulz. Future appearances of the Friends include the Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 15, and the Parade of Lights on Saturday, Nov. 26. Learn more about your library, its planned renovation and expansion, and Harry Potter!

LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAMS A SUCCESS

The library's summer reading programs, sponsored in part by the Friends of the Library, featured the Talking Books Program for children ages 3 to 12 and the Teen Reading Incentive Program for young adults ages 13 to 18. Almost 500 young people participated by submitting reading logs to earn raffle tickets for prizes, including three bicycles donated by Bethlehem Masonic Lodge No. 56. This program has grown so popular that it can no longer be contained in the program room and has been moved out into the main part of the library. Thanks to all participants and the Masonic Lodge!

READERS' GROUP STILL GOING STRONG

The Friends of the Library Readers' Group continues to provide a lively forum for discussion of books, reading, and all things word related! Recent past selections include *Oh, My Stars* by Lorna Landvic, *Memory of Running* by Ron McLarty, *The Sign of the Book* by John Dunning, and *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamante. The next meeting of the Friends Readers' Group is Monday, October 31, at 10 AM for discussion of *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

Everyone is invited 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. Just read the book and show up! Call June Romero, the Group's facilitator, at 864-1825 if you would like more information about the Readers' Group.

Thanks to June Romero for her ongoing facilitation of the Readers' Group!



NEWS

LIBRARY BOARD MEETS WITH FEATURED GUEST

Last quarter's meeting of the Board of Directors of the Belen Public Library was a unique and special one. Mark Wunder, Sen. Jeff Bingaman's Field Representative from Albuquerque, was the featured guest at the gathering, held Monday evening, September 12. The meeting began with dinner at Pete's Café. During dinner, members of both the Library Board and the Board of the Friends of the Library answered questions from Mark about the library and discussed with him library needs and fundraising efforts. Discussion topics included the unusually large size of the area served by the library, future trends in library design, and the current condition of the library. After dinner, the group moved to the library for presentations. Architect John Pate provided copies of the proposed floor plan and described the renovation and expansion project. Beverly McFarland, Library Director, gave Mark a tour of the library. The group then continued to discuss funding needs, the current use of the existing facility, and requirements for the expanded library. Mark commented that his office would investigate federal funding options, and he encouraged the group to continue its fundraising activities as well as its search for other sources of funding.

The more formal portion of the meeting began after the call to order and approval of the previous meeting's minutes. The Board officially approved the donation to the Friends of a signed special edition of the newest Harry Potter book (see top of page 2) and then heard the Director's Report from Beverly and the Friends of the Library report from Bernice Boyle, Friends' President. Following comments from Board members and guests, the date of the next meeting was set for Monday evening, December 12.



Beverly McFarland, Library Director, describes the condition of the existing library for Mark Wunder, Sen. Bingaman's Field Representative. Behind them are Belen City Councilor Jeff Trembly and Library Board members Serena Douglas and Brenda Mack.

FRIENDS HOST BOOKSIGNING

On Saturday afternoon, September 10, the Friends of the Library hosted a reception and booksigning for Pari Noskin Taichert, a national award-winning journalist and author of mysteries set in New Mexico. Pari's appearance was part of the launch of her nationwide publicity campaign for her latest book, *The Belen Hitch*. Pari gave a short presentation about writing and ten things she has learned as a writer. After answering questions from the audience, refreshments were served and Pari signed first-edition hard copies of *The Belen Hitch*.



Bernice Boyle, President of the Friends of the Library, thanks author Pari Noskin Taichert for her appearance on behalf of the Friends.

Pari's first book, *The Clovis Incident*, has been a regional bestseller since its publication last year by UNM Press, and it was nominated for an Agatha Award. Pari is now working on her next book, with Socorro as a possible setting.

The Friends of the Library thanks Pari for her appearance on behalf of the Friends, her support of the Belen community, and her contribution for a lifetime membership in the Friends!



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



Maintain your membership! If the date on your address label has come and gone, renew using the form below. →

To:



B7002+B125-02 R005



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.