



# FRIENDS' FOCUS

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

Vol. 2004, Issue #2



## LIBRARY BOARD MEETS SEPT. 13

The Board of the Belen Public Library, in a meeting on Monday, September 13, considered and discussed several topics. John Pate, an architect with Molzen-Corbin & Associates, presented preliminary drawings for library renovation and expansion. Renovation will include a larger office for the library director and a staff workroom. Expansion will include a 5,300-square-foot project/meeting room with a kitchen, seating for up to 100 people, and a teen library. The area can be closed off from the library and used for meetings and banquets when the library is closed. In addition, the children's library will be enlarged. **The Friends of the Library has been asked to encourage as many members as possible to show support for the library by attending the Belen City Council meeting on Monday, October 4, at 7:00 pm when Mr. Pate will present these preliminary plans to the Council.**

Another topic at the meeting was "GO Bond C," which is one of four bond issues on the November ballot. Passage of Bond C: Library Books Acquisitions would benefit all New Mexico cities, towns, and villages by providing funds to replace outdated, worn-out, and lost books with new books, educational materials, electronic resources, and computer upgrades. The legislation had widespread bipartisan support and was signed by Gov. Richardson. The Belen Public Library would receive \$70,318, and an additional \$87,816 would go to the Belen School District. The Friends of the Library encourages you to vote FOR this bond issue on November 2.

Beverly McFarland, Director of the library, reported on several items. She and the library staff attended a training conference, and she provided a library services report and an activity summary for June 1 - August 31. Ms. McFarland also told the Board that reconfiguration of the current project room will begin on November 1. The room will be divided in half: the west half will be incorporated into the children's library as a temporary expansion to provide much-needed space, and the east half with the sink and cabinet will remain as the project room.

Friends of the Library President Bernice Boyle provided information about several Friends activities. She remarked that 11 people have joined the Friends since July and that the library's book club is up and running (see page 2). She also outlined the Friends upcoming annual book sale (see page 3).

### 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



### Our Mission

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

September 2004



## News

### NEW BOOK CLUB OFF AND READING!

June Romero, a member of the Friends of the Library, is spearheading a very successful book group effort. The Friends of the Belen Library Book Club formed within a week of publication of the July newsletter, which included a call for book group members on the front page. The group now has 10 members and meets the last Monday of each month at 10 am at the library. Membership in the Friends is not a requirement for joining the group, but membership is only \$5 and includes a cloth book bag.

The first meeting of the club was held on Thursday, July 29. At this formational meeting, ideas such as how to choose books to read, when to meet, and what sorts of books would be read were discussed. The second meeting occurred on Monday, August 30, and the book

selection was Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*. Comments about this book were interesting and varied, and some members liked it while others didn't.

The third meeting of the group was Monday, August 27, and included lively and thought-provoking discussion of *The Master Butchers Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich.

The next meeting of this dynamic book club is Monday, October 25, at 10 am at the library. Richard Russo's *Empire Falls* will be discussed. Please come! Call June at 864-1825 if you are interested in joining the group or have questions about the book group experience.

THANK YOU, JUNE, for your dedicated and effective guidance of this new venture for the Friends!

### Young Readers Participate in Summer Reading Program

The summer reading program at the library began Wednesday, June 9, and continued until Tuesday, July 20. More than 500 readers from age 3 to 18 participated and read 2,280 books! Participants submitted reading logs to earn raffle tickets for prizes. The Bethlehem Masonic Lodge donated three bicycles for prizes for the program. Kieona Montoya, 4, won the bike for the pre-school through second grade group. Zane Nunez, 9, was awarded a bike for the third grade through sixth grade group. And Gloria Martinez, 14, won the teen mountain bike.

The Friends thank all the readers who participated in the program this year. A special thanks is extended to the Bethlehem Masonic Lodge for its generosity in providing the bicycles. A significant portion of the budget of the Friends of the Library supports this worthwhile program, but contributions from the community are always helpful and much appreciated!

### PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR FotL MEMBERSHIP!

Be sure to maintain your Friends of the Library membership so you can keep member benefits coming your way. Benefits include free admittance to the preview of the October book sale and receipt of this newsletter to keep you informed of library- and reading-related news. Your membership is current if the date shown on your address label on the back page of this newsletter has not passed. If it's time for you to renew your membership, complete the form at the bottom of the back page and mail it in with your membership dues, or stop by the library to complete a form. Thanks for being a Friend!

<http://www.youseemore.com/belen>



## Upcoming Event

### OCTOBER MEANS ANNUAL BOOK SALE TIME

It's almost time for the Friends' wildly popular annual book sale! Thursday, October 14, at 9:00 am, members begin set-up of the sale by sorting books and arranging them on tables in the program room. On Friday, October 15, from 2:00 - 6:00 pm, members of the Friends of the Library are treated to a private preview of the sale where they can receive a bag of the books of their choice for only \$1 and sample a variety of refreshments. Then on Saturday, October 16, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, the sale is open to the public.

As you can imagine, this sale requires time and effort to plan, set up, and run. One way you can help is by donating books for the sale. Just drop them off at the library's front desk. If you're unable to drop them off yourself, call the library at 864-7522 to arrange pick up of your books. Another way to help is to volunteer to assist with set-up or refreshments. It's not too soon to call Sue Raether, the Book Sale Chairperson, at 864-3326 and let her know how you can help. She has taken the lead on the book sale for a number of years - thanks, Sue!

*Sue Raether, right, is Book Sale Chairperson.*



### MEET THE BOARD OF THE BELEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Board of the Belen Public Library is a group of five people from your community who are appointed by the Mayor for 2-year terms with the approval of the City Council. Board members may also be reappointed. The Board guides the library in serving the community's needs. The Board's responsibilities include adopting long- and short-range plans for the library's growth, supporting the library director, reviewing and recommending any changes to the library budget, fulfilling the legal and professional responsibilities of trustees, and keeping informed of library developments.

Your Board consists of: B.W. Battin, President; Lorraine Garcia, Vice-President; Brenda Mack, Secretary; Serena Douglas; and Ed Padilla. Non-voting members are Jeff Trembly, City Council Representative; Beverly McFarland, Library Director; and Bernice Boyle, President of the Friends of the Library.

#### Friends News of Note

- Plan now to attend the Belen City Council meeting on Monday, October 5, at 7 pm. Preliminary plans for the library's renovation and expansion will be presented. Jeff Trembly, the Library Board's City Council representative, has indicated that the more people who attend the better!
- A new book drop for the library is on order and should arrive within a month. There is currently a 3-day grace period for overdue books until the book drop is installed.
- On November 2, be sure to vote FOR "GO Bond C" (see the front page).



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



Please attend the Belen  
 City Council meeting  
 Monday, October 4, at  
 7:00 to show support for  
 plans to renovate and ex-  
 pand your library!

To:

87002+8125

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you believe in libraries, learning, and the promotion of reading, join the Friends of the Belen Public Library! Your membership entitles you to participate in the Preview Book Sale, receive the Friends' Newsletter, and much more! Are you a current member? Check the date on the mailing label of this newsletter to verify when your membership expires.

New Member       Renewal      \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please check a Membership category:

Individual (\$5)       Patron (\$25)  
 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.