



Between Friends

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Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

Fall 2006

Eileen Longworth retires as Library director

Library director Eileen Longworth, who has been on medical leave since March, has now retired on disability, effective August 18.

Eileen has served as director since January 2000, when she left her position as director of the Salt Lake County Library System, for whom she worked for about 12 years. Earlier, she was assistant

"Vision and dedication"

director of the Salt Lake City Public Library, and, before that, adult services coordinator for the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland.

Eileen has acquired many friends and admirers during her stint in Albuquerque. As outgoing Friends president Patti Watson said, "Eileen has truly been a catalyst for change and great improvement in the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System during her tenure as our director. She has updated the Library's collection and technology and instilled a true commitment to customer service among every member of the staff. Our Library System would not be the remarkable asset to our community it is today without Eileen's vision, dedication and, most of all, her understanding of the important role libraries play in our quality of life and our future."

Eileen has also served as president of the New Mexico Library Association and has worked for the passage of State General Obligation Bonds for libraries in 2002 and 2004. She was closely in-



Eileen Longworth

involved in the design of the new Erna Fergusson Library.

Eileen earned a master's degree in library science from Catholic University of America and a bachelor's degree in government and politics from the University of Maryland. She was named Librarian of the Year in 1989 by the Utah Library Association and received a Public Service Award in 1990 from the Utah State Legislature.

She and her husband, Bruce, live in Corrales and plan to continue to do so. (See page four for a letter from Eileen.)

Participation grows in Library's Summer Reading Program

Keep an eye out for kids riding around on shiny new bikes in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County this fall. Those lucky kids could be the recipients of some of the 48 bikes that were given away during the grand prize drawing for the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System's 2006 Summer Reading Program.

This year's program, sponsored by the Friends, was the most successful one to date, with a total of 23,383 people participating and reading for fun over the summer. Participants logged over 188,000 hours of reading.

During the nine-week program, children, teens and adults were encouraged to register, read and attend any of the programs the libraries offered. Children and teens collected a prize for every hour they read. For every 10 hours of reading, all participants had a chance to enter their names into a raffle for additional prizes.

Young readers earned prizes from tiger hand-puppets and Target gift certificates to new bicycles and helmets. Participating adults, of which there were

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Between Friends

President's message: An organization that gets things done!

I am excited to begin my term as president of the Friends for the Public Library! I'm excited because of the many dedicated volunteers, donors and members of the Friends. I'm excited because we're a strong organization that gets things done and makes a difference in our community.

I'd like to start off by thanking Patti Watson for her leadership as president of the Friends over the past few years. Because of her leadership and vision, the exposure

And, she has overseen the remodel of the Friends Bookshop at the Main Library, which is absolutely beautiful and amazing. The shop has nearly tripled in size, has beautiful bookshelves, vibrant walls, modern lighting and tons of books for sale. It looks so good that many patrons have asked, "Where can I find the *used* books?" It truly looks like a world-class shop where you'd find expensive, new books!

There's many more exciting projects going on through the Friends. We have teamed up with the Library Advisory Board to bring New York Times best-selling author James Bradley to Albuquerque on Saturday, October 7. The festivities include a Family Literacy Fiesta from noon to 4 pm at the Main Library. The Friends, the Advisory Board and the Downtown Action Team are hosting two events: an evening presentation at the KiMo from 8 to 9:30 pm with Bradley and a benefit reception from 6 to 7:30 pm with the author, who wrote "Flags of Our Fathers" and "Flyboys." The reception will include hors d'oeuvres, a personal visit with Bradley and book signing. The reception will benefit "Every Child Ready to Read," a literacy preparedness program for preschoolers and their parents. Look in the mail soon for a brochure that will tell you how to buy tickets.

In addition, the Friends Board of Directors voted unanimously to support financially the campaign for the Quality of Life Initiative

which could increase annual funding for the Library System by over \$4 million. This initiative will also increase funding at the BioPark, the Albuquerque Museum, the NM Symphony Orchestra and many other arts and cultural organizations. We'll have more details on the initiative in our next newsletter. The QOLI is expected to be on the November ballot for approval.

Finally, I want to thank Library director Eileen Longworth for everything she has done to make our Library System a world-class facility. Eileen announced last month that she will be retiring after serving for six years as director of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System and a lifetime commitment to a career in libraries. We know that this decision to retire has been one of the most difficult of her life. However, we think it is important that Eileen continue to improve her health following her recent surgeries. Our thoughts continue to be with Eileen, and we know that we'll still see her in the libraries and at our many events.

—Brian Morris

Exciting projects coming up!

of the Friends has increased dramatically. We have increased revenues through our book sales and the Bookshop and thus have been able to fund more Library programs and initiatives that enhance the Library System and reading and literacy in our community.

I also want to thank Friends coordinator Melissa Carlisle for her hard work and dedication. Over the past year, Melissa has overseen book sales that have brought in more revenue than we anticipated.

The Friends office operations have been significantly upgraded, thanks to a donation of two computers from Pulakos & Alongi !

"Abe" Baudendistel gets state award

We congratulate Cletus "Abe" Baudendistel, a volunteer on Fridays and Saturdays at the Taylor Ranch Branch Library, who won the 2005 Governor's Award as outstanding New Mexico Volunteer.

The Friends
Used Bookshop
at the Main Library
is now open!

5th & Copper NW
768-5123

Mon., Tues. 12-4 pm
Wed.-Sat. 10:30 am-4 pm

July 15 was Bookshop Reopening Day!



An eager group of book buyers was on hand for the opening of the newly renovated and expanded Used Bookshop at the Main Library. Almost \$1,200 in books were sold the first day. Below: A bird's eye view from the main level of the Library.



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Editor:

Barbara Ruzinsky

Contributors:

Melissa Carlisle
Julia Clarke
Eileen Longsworth
Brian Morris
Riann Powell
Rose Ricco
Joe Sabatini
Patti Watson

Friends with a current membership receive *Between Friends* by mail, free of charge.



Between Friends

Eileen says her goodbyes: “We have shared so many things....”

This is a letter written by retiring Library director Eileen Longsworth to Library staff and members of the Friends Board of Directors.

Dear Friends:

We have shared so many things—good times and bad, new programs, new hires, new services, and new bosses. Since I started with the Library System in January 2000, we have truly evolved into a 21st Century library. We have

Now a 21st Century library

focused on our customers, and developed collections and services that are designed to make a positive difference for them. I am so proud of you all, so thrilled every time I walk into an Albuquerque Library and a staff member looks up and smiles. I see how our expectations have changed, how we now expect to improve, to have beautiful buildings and modern services. Most importantly, I see how our customers view us in new ways. We are more than just buildings with books; we are people who love to help them.

It is with regret that I need to let you know that I am resigning as the Library director, effective August 18. I am retiring on disability. This has been one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made, but health has to come before work, even when work is a voca-

tion, and a job is loved. Being Library director has been my dream job, but now it is time to move on, to get better, and to encourage a new dream in retirement. My husband Bruce and I will stay here, and continue to visit with you all—of course, I cannot give up reading and using the Library!

During the time I have been off, I have thought often of you all (well, every day, really) and I have known that the work that I had put into motion was continuing while I was gone. I have missed you all, your friendship and support. I have loved hearing from you and appreciated your prayers and good wishes. Each time I have visited a library, I have felt welcome and valued, as a friend, customer and as the director. I know that you will

continue to welcome me and all customers in the future.

You all will be in my thoughts as you grow and change. It will be wonderful to see how new leadership will do things better, and make the Library into an even more responsive organization. Thank you for everything. I will miss working with you, but all of us will move on, and do exciting things in the future. I am glad that I will be there to watch. I will be happy to help you in any way that I can in the future.

My sincere best wishes to you all. You are the best team of people to continue the important work of improving Library services. Thank you for all you have done, for your personal support, and your understanding of this difficult decision.

—Eileen

Ernie Pyle Library in Albuquerque has found a place in “The Libraries We Love”

The Ernie Pyle Library at 900 Girard SE in Albuquerque has won a spot in “Heart of the Community: The Libraries We Love,” the first book to sing the praises and show the beauty of America’s beloved public libraries.

Chosen from hundreds of nominations, the Ernie Pyle Library was noted as an outstanding community resource. It is one of the 80 libraries selected that, as a group, display the full range of the diversity, style, history and contributions of libraries in the United States and Canada.

The branch is a little white house with a picket fence located in the UNM area. It was the only home owned by World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle. It is a historic landmark and has remained essentially unchanged since Pyle and his wife had it built in 1940. The full-color book will be published by Berkshire Publishing Group in October 2006.

Board of Directors for 2006-2007

Officers and directors to serve on the 2006-2007 Friends Board were elected at the annual membership meeting in June. New and continuing members are:

President: Brian Morris
 1st Vice President: Bob Daniel
 2nd Vice President: Ray Orley
 Treasurer: Dacia Comunas
 Secretary: Pat Watson

Directors at Large:
 Beverly Jones
 Marilyn Motteler
 Mike Puelle
 Sandra Richardson
 Barbara Ruzinsky
 Patti Watson
 Katherine Yuhas



The Friends for the Public Library is a volunteer organization that assists the Library through advocacy and fund-raising. Friends funds purchase equipment and supplies for Library programs, such as the Summer Reading Program, community outreach projects and workshops for day-care providers. Major fund-raising efforts include the monthly book sales and the Bookshop at the Main Library. To become a member, mail the form below with membership dues to Membership, Friends for the Public Library, P.O. Box 26657, Albuquerque, NM 87125-6657. Dues cover the calendar year from January 1 through December 31.

Yes! I want to be a Friend for the Public Library. NEW RENEWAL

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, free admission to our monthly book sales, and a 10% discount at any Friends bookshop. Proceeds benefit the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

- \$10 Student/Teacher (1 card) \$10 Senior (1 card) \$15 Individual (1 card) \$20 Family (2 cards) \$50+ Patron (4 cards)
 Corporate Membership: \$50 Bronze (5 cards) \$100 Silver (10 cards) \$250 Gold (15 cards)

Dues are for the calendar year, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. Join after November 1 and receive membership good through the following calendar year. Additional membership cards may be purchased for \$5 each.

Date: _____ # of additional cards (add \$5 per card): _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING. PLEASE CONTACT ME.

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 For information, call (505) 768-5167 • TTY users call (800) 659-8331

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P.O. Box 26657
Albuquerque, NM 87125-6657
768-5167
www.friendsforthelibrary.org

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Participation grows in Library's Summer Reading Program

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over 6,600, had the opportunity to enter a drawing for prizes like Isotopes baseball tickets and two round-trip airline tickets for every 10 hours they read.

Kids, teens and adults alike enjoyed the free performances that were offered throughout the run of the program at participating branches. Audiences were entertained by songs about dinosaurs and red wagons, participated in amazing magical feats and heard stories from all over the world.

Not only did participation increase, the Library also saw an increase in the number of youth assistants this year. More than 60 teenagers, ranging from 12 to 18, volunteered to help Library staff at the Summer Reading tables.

Although the program has come to an end, the Library continues its efforts to encourage people to read, both for education and for fun. Look for more Library literacy programs in the near future. For all the latest Library news and details on upcoming programs, visit the Library's web site at www.cabq.gov/library.

At the branches:

- Classic postcards of **Route 66** scenes from Chicago to the Pacific, with emphasis on Albuquerque and New Mexico, will be on display at the Special Collections Library through August 26. The cards will include highway vistas, local businesses, roadside attractions and contemporary vehicles.
- A special traveling exhibition, **"Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings,"** will be at the Main Library through October 7. The exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum focuses on how the book burnings became a potent symbol during World War II in America's battle against Nazism. It also examines their continued impact on our public discourse, and includes period artifacts, documents and news coverage, along with film, video and newsreel footage.