



Between Friends

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Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

Spring 2006

New procedures at book sales find receptive audience

New policies announced at the November book sale found a good response from the book-buying public.

The policies, which were formally instituted at the December sale, included the banning of cell phones, lap-top computers and hand-held electronic devices from the sales room. Customers were also requested not to carry books

Less aggressive atmosphere

away from the tables unless they were prepared to purchase them. They were advised to take them to the book hold area if they had more books than they could carry. Books left unattended or found on the floor would be restocked.

The policies were designed to give customers an equal opportunity to shop. There had been complaints that dealers were dominating the tables with their computers, intimidating other buyers, monopolizing the space and carrying off large quantities of books to review at their leisure.

Other buyers voiced appreciation for the new, written policy which, they said, created a less aggressive atmosphere.

"ALPHABET SOUP": Erna Fergusson was a woman of letters, and letters are what inspired artist Pete Beeman of Portland, OR, in developing his new stainless steel sculpture at the Erna Fergusson Library and the Paseo del Nordeste Trail. Mr. Beeman was commissioned to create "Alphabet Soup" by the 1% for Arts Project. Dedication ceremonies were held on November 10.





President's message: Great cities need great libraries!

This past fall, I was asked to serve on a Library Task Force as part of Mayor Martin Chavez's transition to a new term. I served on this Task Force with Sandra Richardson, co-chair (who is also a member of the Board of Directors for Friends for the Public Library); John Cordova, co-chair; Darlene Couchman; Judy Gibbon; and Berent Groth. Our mission was to thoroughly study the current Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System and to make recommendations on how that system can be improved.

Needed: Sixty hours a week

The process was very educational. We visited a number of branches, and investigated everything from technology to book return. The result was a 40-page report, which was submitted to the Mayor's office in December 2005. I will not go into great detail, but will summarize our recommendations:

More hours at all city branches. We recommended that all city libraries be open 60 hours a week. We believe consistent hours among all city branches will help eliminate confusion and make our libraries more accessible to more people.

More funding. Our task force estimated that \$6.5 million in additional funding is needed to expand hours, services and hire staff to

open all city libraries 60 hours a week.

Master plan for new libraries. We recommended planning and building new libraries in high-growth areas, maintaining and cleaning older libraries and adding new libraries to the city's Decade Plan.

State-of-the-art technology. We recommended funding for additional technology staff, the addition of new digital services to the Library's web page, more public-access computers and programs to educate Library users on available technology.

More books, digital databases and Spanish-language materials. We recommended adding digital resources, such as e-books, databases, etc., while maintaining the Library's print collection.

In doing our research, we discovered that (to no one's surprise) New Mexicans love their libraries. In 2004, the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs published a report, "On Fertile Ground, New Mexico Counts on Cul-

ture." According to that report, attendance at libraries far outstrips every other type of cultural venue. The average New Mexico household visits libraries 15.5 times a year (metropolitan areas) or 18.8 times a year (non-metropolitan areas). Compare those numbers to 3.9 and 5.2 visits (respectively) for art galleries, and 3.8 and 3.5 visits (respectively) for performing arts events.

Our Library System is growing, yet funding has not kept up with the growth. Use of traditional services, as measured by circulation, has grown 55 percent in the past four years. Yet, staff positions grew by 5 percent during the same period. Library hours were expanded by 6 percent in fiscal 2005

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THIS PHOTOGRAPH of William Thomas was misidentified in the last issue of *Between Friends*. As a winner in the Albuquerque Summer Reading Program, William received a new bike and a "Read Albuquerque" T-shirt.

Friends
Used Bookshop
at the Main Library

is closed for remodeling
until March 2006

It will be worth the wait!



Between Friends is published quarterly by the Friends for the Public Library, a non-profit corporation in support of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System.

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

From the Library Director: Great improvements under way

It's winter...time to ponder, read great books and plan for spring. It's also one of the busiest seasons in Library use. January, February and March are high-use months at all the branches. Students are doing papers, adults are looking for tax information and parents are bringing children to Story Times and other programs.

At the Main Library, even during this very busy time, staff are working hard to provide services while construction continues on the new entryway and new work spaces. Every day, a new area of the building is involved in the project. Customers have been going around fences and using the west side entrance for a few months as the new east side "greenhouse" vestibule is constructed. A new retail space, which may house an "Internet Cafe," is also being built on the east side. Trees and other new landscaping are now installed as part of the attractive exterior upgrades. When completed by mid-February, the new entryway will lead customers into a changed floor pattern on the first floor, with new displays, new conference rooms, new circulation and information desks and other features. The Friends Bookshop will double in size and receive a face lift. Much of the \$1.4 million project is behind the scenes, correcting safety defects in this 30+-year-old building. But there is no doubt that, when this project is completed, the Main Library will be more attractive and will enhance the Downtown area.

During 2006, other renovations will continue at the Cherry Hills Library, where a new shade structure will allow for outdoor programs, and the Wyoming and Lomas Tramway libraries will begin interior renovations to replace worn desks, chairs and work areas. More public access computers will be added to these and other libraries over the next few years, with thanks from the Friends and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's grant of \$159,000.

During the winter, I hope that you will find time to read a good book while you navigate past our construction. But, by the end of 2006, great improvements will be in place and you will enjoy visiting your Main Library again.

—Eileen Longsworth



Between Friends

Profile: New P & S member Hazel Thornton is organized for life

Hazel Thornton is a new member of the Friends Pricing and Sorting volunteer staff, committed to helping the Friends raise funds in support of our public libraries. She is also committed to helping individuals organize their personal lives. The latter is in a professional capacity.

For the Friends, Hazel spends most of her time working with old and potentially collectible books,

She deals with clutter

searching various computer sites to help determine value. Many of these items will end up in the monthly book sales, being sold at attractive prices to dealers, individuals or collectors. Books that turn out to be extremely valuable will be turned over to the Friends' consignment on-line bookseller, maximizing revenue for the Friends. Utilizing her mechanical engineering background and familiarity with items in that field, Hazel also works on valuing and pricing engineering and technology books.

It was an easy choice for Hazel to become a member of the Pricing and Sorting team as she knew of the Friends and their mission through her aunt, George Anne Hankins, who is also an active volunteer.

As a professional personal organizer, she founded and owns her business, "organizedforlife," with a web page, org4life.com, on the Internet. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers.

Hazel teaches clients the skill of becoming organized, how to deal with clutter and time management. She guides them through the process, focusing on savings in time and money, increasing efficiency and making life less stressful. She says her services are especially successful in residential, home office and professional office situations.

Hazel grew up in Boise, Idaho, and attended schools there before moving to the Los Angeles area where she lived most of her adult life. She earned associate degrees in drafting and fine arts from Mira Costa College in Oceanside and a bachelor's de-

gree in mechanical engineering from San Diego State University.

She worked as a technology planner for Pacific Bell, where she became interested in personal organizing services and took several courses in that field to prepare herself for retirement as a professional organizer. She began performing personal organizing services at no fee for friends and co-workers and gained valuable experience. When Pacific Bell downsized, she decided this was her opportunity to make two major changes in her life: move to Albuquerque where she had family and start up her own personal organizing services business.

So, in July 2005, she became an Albuquerquean, a local business person and a Pricing and Sorting staff member. We welcome Hazel to New Mexico and to the Friends!

—Rose Ricco



BIG THANK YOUs, along with Nambe serving pieces, were presented at a recent Friends Board meeting to three outstanding volunteers for the Summer Reading Program of 2005. From left: Betsy James, Jan Wright and her husband, Chris James, who created the logo for the "Read Albuquerque" T-shirts.

Historic city photographs by Caplin at Special Collections

An exhibit of photographs by Harvey Caplin (1925-1984), known as “New Mexico’s Million Dollar Outdoor Photographer,” will be at the Special Collections Library from February 28 through May 6.

Best known for his landscapes, Native American scenes and ranch life images, Caplin also created a remarkable visual record of Albuquerque’s World War II growth. He frequently did topical photo essays on assignment for Albuquerque Progress, the monthly magazine of Albuquerque National Bank.

The exhibit is a major retrospective of Caplin’s commercial and tourism photography, part of the city’s Tricentennial Celebration. It features large prints from original negatives provided by Gowen Arts of Old Town, as well as work shown in issues of Albuquerque Progress, New Mexico Magazine and picture postcards.

The Special Collections Branch is located at 423 Central Ave. NE at Edith. Hours are from 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesdays through Saturdays.



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.

Friends for the Public Library • PO Box 26657 • Albuquerque, NM 87125-6657

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Great cities need...

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(July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005), but the fiscal year 2004 average for libraries in similar-sized cities was 27 percent more hours per week than Albuquerque.

Finally, 2004 Albuquerque/Bernalillo County per capita expenditures, which includes bond funding for materials, was \$21.06, or 41 percent lower than the average of similar-sized cities.

Right now, in many fast-growing areas in the city, children and families are eight to 10 miles from their nearest branch. New libraries are needed, and they should have room, not only for technology, but also for places for families to read together and for children to get help with homework projects. Old libraries need remodeling so they can offer new services.

We realize money is tight, but we also believe that we cannot afford NOT to invest in our Library System. It's good, but we can make it even better. With increased leadership, commitment from the city and Bernalillo County and community support, I am confident that our Library System can become one of the great public library systems in our country.

—Patti Watson

Katrina family needs help

The Library System has hired Daniel Alcazar, former UNM undergraduate who holds a master's degree in library science, as a senior librarian and human resources coordinator. Daniel, his wife and two boys were flooded out of their home in Pass Christian, MS, by Hurricane Katrina and ended up in Texas. Moving to the new job in Albuquerque cost them several thousand dollars that is not being covered by FEMA or any other agency. We would like to help this family get a new start: You can send your tax-deductible contribution to Friends for the Public Library, Attention: Daniel Alcazar Relocation Fund, P.O. 26657, Albuquerque, NM 87125. Let's welcome them into our community!

A huge weekend sale!

The November 2005 two-day sale was a HUGE weekend! Saturday sales totaled \$15,045 and Sunday sales (at \$2 a bag) were \$1,957, for a weekend total of \$17,002.. (Yes, we know, Sunday should be an even number, but....) Those were records for both days, but that's not all! In January, we had another huge sale: \$10,787, which was a record for a non-holiday or non-event sale. About \$2,000 can be attributed to a large estate donation of engineering and advanced mathematics books.