



Between Friends

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Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

Spring 2010

Are you listening? There's great music in the libraries!

Maybe you have heard that there is some great music being performed in the libraries. In the fall of 2009, the Library began a partnership with the non-profit AMP Concerts. Each month, AMP helps to secure a different touring musician or group for a live concert in one of our branches.

So far, the lineup has been amazing! September featured Australian singer Wendy Rule, accompanied

Free performances

by cellist Rachel Samuel (see photo); in October, folk duo Small Potatoes entertained audiences at the Lomas-Tramway and Hillerman libraries; and in November, singer/songwriter Anais Mitchell played for an audience of more than 140.

SINGER WENDY RULE (left) and cellist Rachel Samuel entertain in the garden of the Tony Hillerman Library in a September performance supported by the Friends. This was one of a series of musical events presented through a partnership between the Library and the non-profit AMP Concerts.



It was a really big sale!

What a weekend it was! The two-day November 2009 Friends book sale brought in a total of \$29,515. The previous record set in November 2008 was a little over \$20,000. Back in the days of the sales at the Pit, the take for the *annual* event was about \$32,000 to \$35,000.

According to Friends administrative coordinator Melissa Carlisle, "The attendance was huge." More than 1,300 people showed up on Sunday for the \$3/bag sale. Friends second vice president Patti Watson was interviewed before the sale on channel 7, and both channels 4 and 7 filmed at the event. Patti estimated the value of the coverage at \$5,500!

Thanks to the support of the Friends, the libraries are able to offer concerts by these and other well-known musicians at no charge to the public. This is a great benefit for our loyal patrons, who love to visit the libraries, check out materials and attend programs, as well as a unique and fun way to bring new Library users in the doors.

If you haven't heard until now, keep an ear—and an eye—out for the 2010 music lineup. Check out www.cabq.gov/library, as well as www.ampconcerts.org. Coming up on February 18 are Hungrytown and on March 30 Walter Strauss and Mamadou Sidibe, both at noon at the Tony Hillerman Library.



Between Friends

President's message: Have a cup of coffee with your book!

By Brian Morris, President
Friends for the Public Library

Over the holiday season and at the beginning of the New Year, I hope you saw the great media coverage we received on our plans to house a coffee and sandwich shop in the Main Library Downtown. This is a great partnership between the Library System and the Friends

which we found after an extensive Request For Proposals and submittals of plans to run a coffee shop.

We were even able to use a salvaged counter from the South Broadway Library to serve as the main feature of the new coffee shop!

We hope this new addition will bring greater awareness to the many services offered at the

Main Library, such as its free monthly concert series, book readings and signings, and also increase the foot traffic into our own Bookshop which we operate in the same facility.

Look for The Coffee Connection to open in late May or early June. And be sure to budget some *extra time* for your visits to the Main Library Downtown. You'll soon have even more to do there!

A great partnership

for the Public Library, where FPL leases the space from the Library, then we sublease it to a for-profit entity to realize more dollars into the FPL budget to fund Library programs...and, perhaps more importantly, to get more foot traffic into our libraries.

The \$1.7 million renovation of the Main Library Downtown several years ago included plans for a retail space at the entrance. This is a common concept in libraries across the country—whether at college libraries, public libraries or high school libraries. It increases revenue to programs like ours, but also gives a *new reason* for someone to set foot into a library.

The approximately 1,000-square-foot space is being built out with funds remaining from the renovation project with GO Bonds monies to house The Coffee Connection,



THE FIRST TRAVELING TRUNKS ARE HERE AND THEY ARE TRAVELING! Thanks to the combined efforts of the Friends and the AP's grant Teaching American History, the traveling trunk, El Camino Real and the Santa Fe Trail, is available for use by various educational programs in Albuquerque, including civic groups organized for the education and enlightenment of the community, public schools, as well as charter and private schools. They include replicas of artifacts and clothing from the early 1800s of travelers from the South and pioneers from the East. Several additional trunks are planned.

**Visit
The Friends
Used Bookshop
at the Main Library**

**5th & Copper NW
768-5123**

**Open:
Mon.-Sat. 10:30 am-4 pm
Closed: Sundays**



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 Director: “I want a really good book to read...”

As I write this, we remain in the midst of a lengthy cold spell. Our customers are using the Library more than ever, and we hear them say over and over again: “I want a really good book to read.” We all know that feeling, and your Public Library is here to help.

The first thing I recommend to everyone is to talk with staff. Our staff are avid readers who love talking about books. However, even if a staff member reads science fiction and you like to read mysteries, don’t worry! We have solutions for you.

Another good option is to browse the displays throughout our libraries. Our imaginative staff feature interesting and engaging books in a variety of subjects and genres. Most likely, you will find something you might not read otherwise.

The Library’s website offers options galore. Library customers can sign up for our “Good Reads” monthly newsletters. This service brings together recommended titles, lists of bestsellers and award winners, an author directory, and much more. Our website also features lists such as “The 100 Notable Books of 2009” or “100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century.” Several of our branches have initiated blogs. The Cherry Hills Library staff has a blog titled “ABCreads.” The Juan Tabo Library staff encourages customers to explore books related to Route 66 with the “Armchair Adventures” blog. For young adults and teens, we have the “Wired to Information” blog. Fiction titles recently added to our collection also are listed.

Also on our website are links to Novelist and Novelist K-8. Both databases help readers find new authors and titles. One can search by using favorite books and authors to find others who write in a similar style or about similar topics. Teachers will find thematic units and other resources for incorporating fiction into the classroom.

Don’t forget about the book clubs that meet at the Cherry

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Between Friends

Why be a Friend of the Public Library?

By Bob Daniel, 1st Vice President
Friends for the Public Library

For over 40 years, the Friends for the Public Library have helped our Library System grow and remain a vibrant and important resource for the people of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

Making a difference

The Friends were pioneers in “Green.” For years, we have been collecting donated books from the community, as well as books “surplused” by the Library, and recycling them back into the com-

munity through our bookshops and book sales.

The impact of this has been felt by the public in a number of ways. First, many people own books who might not have been able to afford them without the opportunity to purchase them at a significant discount. Second, we have kept thousands of books and magazines out of the landfill by helping to find them new homes. Third, we have been able to provide vital funding to the Library System to help provide programs and training opportunities that might not have happened otherwise. And fourth, the Friends’ efforts have helped to keep our libraries current and dynamic, offering the community a tremen-

dous resource for information that many other communities throughout the U.S. have lost.

Through the Friends’ efforts, many programs taken for granted by the Library’s users have been implemented and expanded. The Summer Reading Program, storytellers in the branches, adult literacy training, computers and access, as well as books on tape, have all been developed or maintained by Friends’ efforts.

Today, the brick and mortar libraries are still viable, significant facilities. It is obvious to anyone who goes into a branch that Internet access and reading books are significant activities in our libraries today and will continue to be in the future.



FLURRY, a 95-pound Arctic wolf, was featured in a program presented at 14 libraries during October and December 2009 by the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary of Candy Kitchen, NM. The educational programs were sponsored by the Friends and the Sanctuary, a non-profit organization that provides permanent homes for wolves and wolf-dogs.

The Friends have not stopped trying to figure out new ways to help the Library continue as a premier information resource in our community. This support not only comes in the form of money—the result of selling used books—but also from helping with grant writing, political advocacy and providing an advisory system to assist the Library in developing and expanding current programs and future goals and ideas.

The Friends and the Library are a team that continues to strive to make Albuquerque a better place to live.

Thank you for your support of the Friends. You are helping to make a true difference in our community.

Natasha Casteel named assistant director of Library System

Natasha Casteel, former manager of the Lomas-Tramway Library, has been named assistant director of the Library System, replacing Ida Mazzoni, who has retired.

“Natasha comes to us with not only an extensive working knowledge of our system, but also with a rich background in library administration,” according to director Julia Clarke. She has assumed responsibility for those activities previously assigned to Ida.

Natasha has served as director of the Amherst Town Library in New Hampshire, as well as director of the Nichols Memorial Library in Kingston, New Hampshire. “Her tenure as head of Children’s Services in the Davidson County Public Library System in Thomasville, North Carolina, positions her to effectively play a key role as we plan the 2010 Summer Reading Program,” Clarke said.



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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Shop the Shop six days a week

The Bookshop in the Main Library is now open six days a week. Monday was added to the schedule at the beginning of the year. The shop is open every day except Sunday from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Volunteers are welcome to help staff the shop. According to shop manager Marilyn Motteler, "We always need volunteers. Right now, the need is for back-up for the regularly scheduled people who get sick or go on vacation, or have company and want time off. They will eventually work into the regular schedule as people leave the volunteer force.

"If you can't volunteer, please come and visit. We love to see new faces!" Two hours of free parking are provided in the garage on Fifth and Copper; tickets are validated at the main floor information desk.

"Best Storytime" in Albuquerque

The Library's Youth Services staff has once again been selected as the "Best Storytime" in Albuquerque the Magazine's annual "Best of the City" awards. The recognition is for the staff in *all* branches. (Look for the article in the December 2009/January 2010 issue.) Congratulations!

Make a Splash, READ!

That's the theme for the 2010 Summer Reading Program scheduled for June 4 through July 30. Summer Reading is a free program sponsored by the Friends for children, teens and adults. Everyone is encouraged to register, read and attend Library events and storytimes. Check with your local branch in May!

From the Director

(Continued from page 3)

Hills, Erna Fergusson, Juan Tabo, Los Griegos, Lomas-Tramway, Main, Tony Hillerman and Taylor Ranch libraries.

Just a reminder: There are "Fiction to Go" displays at nine of our libraries. These shelves contain gently used books for sale by the Friends for the Public Library. Staff select the best of the donated materials and make them available for purchase. This might be just the place to find a treasure!

Whatever your interests, our Library has something for you!

—Julia Clarke