



Between Friends

- ◆ In this issue...
- ◆ **Morris:** So much more than books!
- ◆ **Clarke:** Become a Library champion
- ◆ **Van Berkel:** Advocacy efforts

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

Summer 2010

Friends donate 16,250 books to ABEC Drive

The donation by the Friends for the Public Library to the Eighth Annual Children's Book Drive conducted by the Albuquerque Business Education Compact (ABEC) totaled more than 16,250 books.

This year's drive took place from February 15 through March 31. The

A book of their very own

kickoff was held at Cuidando Los Niños where storyteller Liz Mangual entertained children with bilingual tales, and each child in the class got to select his or her own book.

Every year, local organizations collect new and gently used books for children. The books are then sorted into age groups and delivered to local schools and organizations serving children from low-income families. Children can then select a book of their very own to take home and keep.

One of the goals of the program is to get books into the hands of chil-

Keep an eye out for the May 3 opening of the ABQ Coffee Connection at the Main Library



MAMADOU AND WALTER—Malian kamal'ngoni master Mamadou Sidibe (left) and American guitarist Walter Strauss performed in the AMP Library Concert Series at the Main Library on March 30 before an appreciative audience of 147 people. The concerts at Library branches are free to the public and are supported by contributions from the Friends for the Public Library.

dren in our community whose parents may not have the means to supply them with books, making it more difficult for them to read to them. Statistics show that children who are read to at an early age will have an easier time learning to read and will enjoy reading more.

The ABEC Book Drive is organized each year by a group of volunteers from the city of Albuquerque and local businesses. Volunteers from the community spend numerous hours picking up, sorting and packaging the books by age level.

If you would like to learn more about the ABEC Drive, call 767-5849.

Two-Day Book Sale

**Saturday, May 8
10am-4pm**

**Sunday, May 9
12 noon-4pm**

\$3 a bag on Sunday!

**Main Library
Downtown**



Between Friends

Libraries are about so much more than books!

By Brian Morris, President
Friends for the Public Library

A recent op-ed in the Albuquerque Sunday Journal talked about how times have changed with the “Google generation,” but how librarians still play a critical role in teaching young people how to do proper research and separate fact from fiction.

It talked about how today’s kids, when doing a research paper, just

The Google generation

type the subject into Google and see what pops up, but don’t know how to tell what is real vs. fiction because they haven’t spent much time in a library with librarians who teach them *how* to do research.

This piece made me think how fortunate I was to grow up before computers, Google, iPhones, Blackberries, etc. Don’t get me wrong! I love my computer! I can barely take my hands off my iPhone! I sure appreciate being able to sit down at the computer and Google something and get a quick answer. But I guess I had always taken for granted that my elementary school librarian had taught me how to separate what to believe from what not to believe—that a librarian had taught me how to do research, how to evaluate that research and how that research made me delve even more into the subject!

And it also made me think: Are today’s kids just sitting at home on the computer doing all their homework? How unfortunate! The library was such an exciting place for me as a child—the smell of books and walking up and down a variety of aisles, accidentally stumbling on a book I wasn’t even looking for! Or being inspired by those around me doing their own research and peeking over their shoulders to see what they were working on! And, I have to admit, sneaking away from my homework to go and find a really cool book on some totally unrelated topic just because I was interested!

Libraries are about so much more than books! They are community gathering places where we come together with people of all ages, races, financial backgrounds and interests. They are places where we can inspire each other, share ideas and learn from each other. Oh, yeah, and everything is free! It doesn’t cost to download a book. You don’t have to sign up for memberships to various websites just to access information. And I know there’s a dedicated librarian around the corner to help me separate fact from fiction.

In these tough economic times, we must realize that libraries are more important than ever. As our economy changes and the way we do business changes, we must continue to dedicate adequate resources to our libraries to ensure that *everyone* has access to knowledge. That knowledge is critical to make sure we become even stronger as a society.

Free events to mark Dia de los Niños at Library branches

Two weeks of free events will be presented at 15 local libraries beginning on April 17 in connection with the Dia de los Niños, a celebration of children, families and reading held annually on April 30. It emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Dia is an enhancement of Children’s Day, which began in 1925, linking the celebration of childhood to literacy.

Scheduled events include traditional Alaskan tales and Inuit legends with storyteller Brett Dillingham; interactive poetry and rhymes with Danny Solis; stories, songs and finger plays with Ramona King; and an interactive Southwestern weaving program in conjunction with the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology. For details, call your local branch.

Genealogical materials to move

Renovation of the Special Collections Library at Central and Edith will begin in late spring and is expected to last for at least a year.

In order to keep the heavily used genealogical materials available to Library customers, the genealogical resources, microfilm machines, etc., will be moved to the second floor of the Main Library Downtown for the duration of the renovation.

**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: Become a Library champion!

Isn't it fun to share good news? That's why we're hoping that you will join us in spreading the word about our wonderful Library services!

Library staff are energized and focused on word-of-mouth marketing after our annual Staff Training Day held on April 2. We will be telling everyone we know about Library programs, services and activities. We hope you will, too!

Our Staff Training Day was led by Peggy Barber, a life-long professional in library communications. Staff not only learned about word-of-mouth marketing, but provided input that will be used in the finalization of a marketing/communications plan. Our goal is to be more effective in spreading the news about Library services that are fun, useful and free. To do that, we must be expert listeners. So, when we hear family, friends and Library users mention something they enjoy—such as watching films or attending live musical performances—we will be talking to them about opportunities to pursue those interests at the Public Library. (Staff Training Day was funded by the Friends for the Public Library and the Frost Foundation.)

Please join us in spreading the word about your favorite Library services. Become a Library champion and help us to succeed in our goal to offer Library services for all Albuquerque/Bernalillo County residents.

—Julia Clarke

New two-week checkout period in effect

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County libraries are making borrowing materials easier for customers. All library materials—books, movies, music CDs, audio books and magazines—are now circulating for two weeks, meaning that any item you place on hold will now reach you much faster. The Library chose the new lending period to more quickly get its limited materials to customers. All items are now loaned for the same amount of

time. Customers can renew movies for one additional week, and all other materials can be renewed three more times, up to eight weeks total. As we anticipate even further budget reductions in the new fiscal year, the two-week lending period will help balance dwindling resources with increased customer demand. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this new policy, please contact the Customer Service Office at 768-5170 or email ncasteel@cabq.gov.



Between Friends

Profile: Brandon Felix can't get away from the Library!

Brandon Felix has just completed his online program for a master's degree in Library and Information Science from Drexel University in Philadelphia. He has been working in the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System since 2006, first at Main and now at Erna Fergusson. And, since January, he has been volunteering at the Friends Used Bookshop on Mondays. He just can't seem to stay away!

Now it's 43 hours a week!



ZELDA

Why did he choose to add volunteer time to his Library work hours?

"I really believe in the work that Friends do. The Friends fund our Summer Reading Program and much of the other programming that we are able to bring to our patrons. With the economy in such dire straits, the Friends' support is more important than ever. The bottom line is that without the Friends working to bring in the financial support of the people of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, our Library System would be a much less robust community resource.

"The Bookshop and book sales also provide such a valuable service for our citizens; it's a great place to shop, and I get to help people with that experience. It's a very similar feeling to why I love working in the Library!"

Brandon has received three Friends scholarships for a total of \$4,250 to help him fund his master's studies. He earned a bachelor of arts in classics with a minor in French from UNM in 1996. As an undergraduate, he worked at UNM's Zimmerman Library and at Clark Field Archive and Library in the Anthropology Department. He was accepted into the Drexel program and hired by the Library System at about the same time.

Brandon was born in California, but grew up primarily in Idaho and Colorado. He moved to Albuquerque in 1989 to attend UNM. "I have really enjoyed seeing Albuquerque grow and develop over the past 21 years. I am proud to call Albuquerque home and to work for the people of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. The ABCLS is an amazing organization with an outstanding workforce. The economy has taken its toll on our budget like everywhere else, but the people I work with have shown exceptional dedication and perseverance to meet and exceed the needs of our patrons. I don't want to soapbox too much, but it's something that I am really proud and excited to be part of."

When he is not at the Library, he loves hiking in the Bosque or Sandias with Zelda (see left), reading with a great cup of coffee, watching TV and movies, working on his mixed media art, traveling and spending time with friends, riding his bike, going to art shows or watching a live classical music performance.

Libraries celebrate Poetry Month

In celebration of National Poetry Month, many of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County libraries are hosting poetry readings, talks and classes throughout the month of April. All programs are free and open to the public.

Events for children and teens include:

- Interactive Poetry, Taylor Ranch Library, Thursday, April 22, 11am.
- "Where I'm From" Poetry Writing Class, South Valley Library, Friday, April 23, 10am.
- Interactive Poetry, Cherry Hills Library, Sunday, April 24, 1pm.

Events for adults include:

- Poetry Readings on the Hour, San Pedro Library, Friday, April 23, 11am-4pm.
- Three American Poets, Los Griegos Library, Saturday, April 24, 11am.

For details of these and other events, call your local branch.



BRENT DILLINGHAM, storyteller, is one of the participants in the Dia de los Niños celebrations at Library branches. He specializes in traditional Alaskan tales and Inuit legends. See story on page 2.



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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Library Advisory Board steps up advocacy efforts

**By Ceil van Berkel, Chair
Library Advisory Board**

Library advocacy activities are center stage for the Advisory Board at this time of year. As part of our normal activities, in December and January we contacted state senators and representatives to encourage them to maintain the level of funding for public libraries in the State General Obligation Bonds. There were ups and downs during the special legislative session, but the Governor signed the 2010 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act on March 19. This bill places Bond B on the November 2 New Mexico General Election ballot, providing \$2 million for public libraries in the state.

In April and May we are focusing on the County Capital Improvements Program and the city budget hearings. We are urging the County Commission to include a \$2 million library bond in the county bond proposal. We will also be attending City Council public meetings to urge sufficient funding for Library operations in the 2010-2011 city budget.

With funding provided by the Friends, we have purchased yellow "Support Libraries!" buttons which we are asking supporters to wear when they attend meetings. Advisory Board members will be at the door distributing buttons to those who actively support the priority of Library funding during these difficult economic times.

The Advisory Board's advocacy program for this year includes four special projects, thanks to the funding provided by the Friends. They are:

- Creation of a timeline identifying the various budget and bond cycles for the city, county and state
- Creation of a set of bookmarks describing the funding sources of the Library System and quantifying Library use
- Researching, setting up and maintaining a mechanism to easily communicate advocacy messages to all those in the community who wish to be informed. Among other things, we will be buying the rights to a suitable domain name, signing a contract with a website hosting company and creating a Library Advisory Board advocacy website.
- Beginning in-person meetings with commissioners, councilors and legislators early in the funding process, before public input meetings are scheduled.

As public budgets get tighter, the fundraising efforts of the Friends and the Advisory Board's efforts to mobilize support for public funding will help maintain necessary Library System services for our community.

We are making progress, and we thank you again for providing a budget for this important activity!