



Between Friends

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Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

Fall 2005

Albuquerque Reads seeks volunteer tutors to help kindergarten students get off to a good start

Studies show that if a child cannot read at grade level by the third grade, he or she will probably drop out before high school. In 2003, the Albuquerque Reads program was launched as a partnership between the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and Albuquerque Public Schools to reverse

One hour a week

this growing problem. The Albuquerque Reads Program matches volunteer tutors with kindergarteners. Tutors help children learn to read—and learn to love reading. By donating just over one hour a week during the school year, tutors make a major difference in children's lives.

Impressive results: In its first two years, Albuquerque Reads worked with three grade schools. The results are impressive. At the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year, only 3 percent of students enrolled in the program were reading at or above grade level. Just nine months later, with the help of Albuquerque Reads, 72 percent were reading at or above grade level and another 21 percent were reading almost at grade level.

What is involved? Volunteer tutors attend one three-hour training session at a convenient date and time. This session is available for participating companies or interested individuals. Tutors are then matched with specific kindergarten classes at Atrisco Elementary School, 1201 Atrisco SW; Bel Air Elementary School, 4725 Candelaria NE; and Wherry Elementary School, 25000 E. Kirtland Air Force Base.

Individual tutors or teams of two to four tutors visit schools for a little more than an hour a week to help two kindergarten students. Each session consists of one 10-minute meeting with an on-site coordinator and two 30-minute tutoring sessions with two students. Tutoring sessions can include reading, writing or skills development.

Do tutors need special skills? The Albuquerque Reads Program training session provides tutors with all the training and information they need to successfully teach a child to read. It includes an easy-to-follow curriculum with pre-selected books and scheduled activities. All tutors need is a willingness to commit approximately one hour each week for an entire school year and to undergo a current background check.

What if you can't commit to

an hour each week? Companies or organizations can submit teams of two to four individuals for one slot. Tutors or tutor teams are asked to commit to attending each tutoring session so that no students are left out, and every participating child receives the benefit of consistent one-on-one weekly reading practice.

Can you support the Albuquerque Reads Program in other ways? The Albuquerque Reads Program also seeks sponsors to help us provide this important program to more kindergarteners and give a book each month to every child in the program to help them build their "home library" and encourage them to love books.

Whether you become a "title" sponsor or give a few dollars, you can be assured your contribution is going to a program that makes a difference.

How can you get started?

Tutors are needed right away. Call (505) 843-READ (7323) today or e-mail AbqReads@abqchamber.com.



President's message: Making the case for literacy

Consider the facts.

Nearly 50 percent of adults in the U.S. lack the literacy skills to be effective workers, parents or citizens:

- Almost 20 percent cannot find an intersection on a map, or total the entry on a bank deposit slip;
- An additional 30 percent have great difficulty reading lengthy texts or performing two-step math calculations.

Nearly 70 percent of adults who are poor, unemployed or

scores among fourth graders.

So, clearly, there is a link between literacy and success. As computers become more integrated into our everyday personal and professional lives, the ability to read will become increasingly important. As our world becomes a global information-based economy, our future as a country will depend on having a literate, educated, skilled population.

That is where our local libraries play a vital role. Through providing free educational materials, such as newspapers, magazines, books and even computers, libraries allow people of all ages to practice reading, to improve not only their ability, but also their vocabulary, and to expand their horizons in the process.

When you consider that the average children's book costs about \$15, the average hardback book costs about \$24 and the average paperback costs nearly \$8, the ability to purchase reading materials is out of reach for many Americans. The Friends help through selling used books at deeply discounted prices, but there must be a place for people to borrow the materials they need for free. There must be a place where they can ask for assistance without feeling embarrassed, ashamed or intimidated. That place is our local library.

Certainly, we can all do more through supporting literacy programs for children and adults, such as the Albuquerque Reads

program mentioned in this issue of *Between Friends* (see page one). But we must also continue to support our libraries through volunteering, voting on bond funding and through being proud of the important role they play in our country and our society.

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld once said, "A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking."

I would add, "A library is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people still care about thinking."

Support your local library and your local literacy programs. They guarantee we will all have a future.

—Patti Watson

A guarantee of our future

welfare recipients have limited literacy skills. Over 60 percent of individuals who spend five years on welfare have less than a high school education. Over 60 percent of those who have a high school diploma or GED leave welfare within two years.

Studies show that if a child cannot read by third grade, he or she will probably drop out before high school.

In 1997, a study among state prison inmates revealed that only 2.7 percent were college graduates, and only 18.5 percent were high school graduates. In fact, officials predict future prison populations based on reading

Children's Book Sale a huge success—again!

The Fourth Annual Children's Book Sale, held on July 30, was a huge success again this year. It brought in \$9,802 for 18,979 items sold.

Over 80 percent of the books were sold, with the remaining items given away to teachers, non-profits and community service organizations on the following Monday.

Friends Used Bookshop

*Stop in
and visit today*

The Main Library
5th & Copper NW, 768-5123

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



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.

Editor:
Barbara Ruzinsky

Contributors:
Melissa Carlisle
Eileen Longsworth
Rose Ricco
Patti Watson

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

From the Library Director: Separation with Rio Rancho

By the time this article is published, the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library and the Rio Rancho Public Library will have completely separated their catalogs and services. The cooperative catalog, formerly known as the "Rio Grande Valley Library System," will no longer exist.

Of course, customers from both communities will still be able to use both libraries for free. However, there will no longer be a joint catalog, check-out systems or daily delivery services. Both libraries are committed to maintaining a friendly relationship, despite the change in the databases. Both growth in both cities and the need to continuously improve services at every level had led to the need to develop separate computer systems.

In FY 05, Albuquerque checked out over 4.1 million items. This is a 15 percent increase over FY 04. Some of this increase is due to the 6 percent increase in library hours last fall. But the rest is growth in business due to increased reading by customers. Sometimes this growth is a little overwhelming, as when 1,500 people a day visit the Erna Fergusson Library or 3,000+ children and families sign up for the summer reading program at the Taylor Ranch Library. But, most of the time, we are thrilled to see so many readers and customers at our library branches.

Why did growth cause the separation with Rio Rancho? Rio Rancho is also growing very fast, and building a large new library. With only three computer technicians for our 17 libraries, Albuquerque was no longer able to support their need for computer services. As a result, Rio Rancho Library bought a separate library computer system. Maintaining joint computer services would have cost funds that neither library has available at this time. If funds become available, future cooperative ventures are possible.

Meanwhile, Albuquerque's staff are developing ways to work smarter and more effectively to continue to provide outstanding services to both our existing customers and all of the new users visiting us each day. If you have an idea to help us be more effective, please contact me at 768-5134.

—Eileen Longsworth



Between Friends

Profile: Michael Puelle joins the Friends' Board

Michael Puelle, the newest member of the Friends Board of Directors, brings experience in library policy matters to his new appointment. He currently serves as a Board member for the Office of the State Library Commissioner in the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Michael has been close to libraries since very early childhood. He came from “a family of readers” with a mother who worked as a library volunteer for many years. He learned early of the importance of libraries in the community and the value of their resources—not only for the joy of

reading, but also for learning, research, business use and, more recently, availability of music CDs, videos and computers.

He traveled to Japan where he taught business English at a private school, returning three years later to work as a copy writer for a marketing firm in Portland, Maine. He later took on the position of “communication person” for the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine.

At this point, Michael says, his background and broad work experience in public policy enabled him to view it from a full spec-

trum, be it small business, large corporation or government. So, four years ago, he set up his own business in Albuquerque as a communication consultant. His partner in Engaging Communication, LLC, is Albuquerque Councilman Eric Griego, whom he met while attending graduate school at the University of Maryland.

It was this continuing friendship over the years that brought Michael to Albuquerque, and, subsequently, to the Friends.

—Rose Ricco

Public policy specialist

reading, but also for learning, research, business use and, more recently, availability of music CDs, videos and computers.

He strongly believes that every community should be able to provide access to these free services for all its people.

Born in Westfield, Massachusetts, he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public management at the University of Maryland. His work experience has been mostly focused around public policy jobs. For seven years, he worked in Washington, DC, for the Health Care Finance Administration, now a part of the Center for Medicare and Medi-

Main Library to be renovated

A \$1.4 million renovation of the Main Library at Fifth and Copper was announced by Mayor Martin J. Chavez in June.

The restoration will include a new glass entrance structure on the southeast corner, which will create a lobby and retail space. The entry will extend down into the southeast courtyard and provide more space for the Friends Bookshop.

New street trees and planters will be installed. Seating, native plantings, new paving material and a 1% for Art sculpture by William Vielehr will give new life to the street level. In order to make way for the new entry, the student-painted mural on the east

side of the building will be removed and placed in storage. The Downtown Action Team will look for a place to reinstall it.

The eight-month project was designed by Cherry/See Architects and will be built by Longhorn Construction Services. It is funded by City of Albuquerque GO Bonds.

Opened in 1975, the Main Library was designed by local architect George Pearl. It received the New Mexico Arts Commission Award for Excellence in the Field of New Construction, and was called one of Albuquerque's “architectural gems” in the May 1995 issue of Designer/Builder magazine.

Board of Directors for 2005-2006

Officers and directors to serve on the 2005-2006 Friends Board were elected at the annual membership meeting in May. New and continuing members are:

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

Directors at Large:
Beverly Jones
Brian Morris
Marilynn Motteler
Ted Pearson
Mike Puelle
Sandra Richardson
Barbara Ruzinsky

Library Representative: Eileen Longsworth



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

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768-5167

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Joe Sabatini honored by American Library Assn.

Joe Sabatini, manager of the Special Collections Library, was honored as an extraordinary library advocate at the second American Library Association/American Library Trustee Association National Advocacy Honor Roll Banquet in Chicago on June 24.

He was nominated for the award by Richard Akeroyd, New Mexico State Librarian. The Honor Roll is held every five years to celebrate individuals and groups who have actively supported and strengthened library services at the local, state or national levels.

During his 32 years at the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library, Joe has served as chair of the Legislative and Intellectual Freedom Committee of the New Mexico Library Association and as president of NMLA. His contribution to New Mexico libraries was singled out for special

ABQ: Home of good eats

In celebration of Albuquerque Tricentennial Agriculture and Cuisine Month, the Special Collections Library is now presenting "Home of Good Eats: Best Recipes of Albuquerque's Cooks, an exhibit of locally produced cookbooks over the past 60 years, including a sample of recipes. The exhibit will continue at the branch at 423 Central Avenue NE until September 3. Library hours are 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

Cookbooks include works by local authors including Erna Fergusson, Jane Butel and Millie Santillanes, illustrated by artists including Betty Sabo, Kay M. Wiese and Li Browne.

recognition at the Chicago banquet by Carol Brey-Casiano, president of the American Library Association.