

Between Friends

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Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

Summer 2005

Early-Bird English program initiated by Library

Thirteen families have already completed the Early-Bird English program sponsored by the Friends and offered through the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System.

Sessions were offered at the South Valley and Main libraries. A new group got under way at the Main Library on April 23.

Language richness

Early-Bird English is a language richness and family ESL program that uses the Blue Wolf & Friends learning resources. It is designed to improve English language skills for the entire family, while retaining its Spanish language skills. A group of six or more families attends four weeks of classes at different branches.

Parents are taught how to create an environment at home that fosters language development. They receive the Blue Wolf learning resources, which they keep, and are given a home study plan to follow.

Feedback from participating parents has been very positive. All of those responding to a survey said they would recommend the program to other families.



Thacher Hurd (right) signs books for visitors to "From Goodnight Moon to Art Dog: The World of Clement, Edith and Thacher Hurd," at the opening of the exhibit at the Albuquerque Museum in March. The Friends was the Presenting Sponsor for the event, which ran through April 24. The exhibit included more than 60 original illustrations ranging from early sketches to final art work.

Two-day book sale in May

Saturday, May 14, 10^{am}-4^{pm}
Admission \$1, members and children free
Everyone free after 1 pm
Thousands of records for 25 cents each
Boxed sets 50 cents to \$1

Sunday, May 15, Noon-4^{pm}
Semi-annual clearance
\$2 per bag including all unsold records!
Admission free

Main Library
501 Copper NW



Between Friends

President's message: We are finally on the Internet!

Friends for the Library is finally on the Internet! Thanks to the tireless efforts of our very talented webmaster, Linda Kennedy (who is also the branch manager at the Juan Tabo Library) and the valuable contributions of Melissa Carlisle, our administrative coordinator, you can now visit us on-line at www.friendsforthelibrary.org.

Our new web site features information on current events or exhibits which we are sponsoring, dates for our upcoming book sales, information on volunteer

Visit us in cyberspace

opportunities and even a membership application you can download and print.

We hope you'll take a moment to visit us in cyberspace and let us know if there is information we can add to our web site to make it even more useful to members and visitors. And please join us in thanking Linda and Melissa for the many hours they donated to this very important project.

On another note, it seems hard to realize that I am now mid-way in my second term as president of this very fine organization. I can honestly tell you that I have en-

joyed working with every volunteer, every Library staff member and every member of our Board of Directors that I have been privileged to come in contact with during my three years (so far) as president.

If you are looking for a rewarding volunteer position that is fun and that allows you to be around people who READ, think about running for the Board of Directors or volunteering for a committee. I promise you'll meet some people you'll be proud to call your friends in no time at all.

As the city celebrates its 300th anniversary, the Friends are proud to have sponsored one exhibit to kick off the Tricentennial Celebration. On Saturday, April

23, the Friends sponsored "Albuquerque's Own Ehecatl," an afternoon lecture and dance highlighting our area's Meso American, Aztec and Mexika connections. This breathtaking, interactive celebration has been seen from Europe to Canada, the Philippines to Mexico and the Smithsonian Institute to the Heard Museum.

Watch for more news on special Library and Friends Tricentennial celebrations at www.cabq.gov and www.friendsforthelibrary.org.

And enjoy the birthday! Three hundred years is quite an accomplishment, especially considering that Friends for the Public Library is only 35 years old!

—Patti Watson

In memoriam: Helen McIntyre

Helen McIntyre, 95, who was instrumental in helping establish the Friends Used Book Sale, passed away in March.

While a librarian with the University of New Mexico, she teamed up with another UNM librarian, Theresa Gillett, to help start the sale and also to price and sort books donated for the sale. She was also a lifetime member of the Albuquerque Chapter of the American Association of University Women, contributed to the building of Manzano del Sol and was among the first group of residents to move into the community 25 years ago.

We offer our condolences to Helen's family and thank Helen and the other committed volunteers who helped make the Friends the organization it is today.

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



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

From the Library Director: Reading is a lifelong journey

When a child learns to read, and to love reading, his or her world is forever changed. When a parent and child read together, they reinforce a habit that can become a lifelong journey into new experiences and new learning. And when a child gets a library card and takes books out of the library, that child's life is enriched by the joy of selecting favorite books and finding new favorites at each library visit. It is a great pleasure to watch children select library books and check them out. Their excitement is catching to everyone around them.

Libraries today are all about reading, for both adult and children. Book displays encourage reading, and discovery. Reading lists and on-line services such as *NoveList*, help customers select reading adventures. But is this all wasting our time and resources? According to an NEA study, "Reading at Risk," published in 2004, "Literary reading is in dramatic decline...." The study reports drops in all groups studied, with the steepest rate of decline—28 percent—occurring in the youngest age groups. This is a troubling study with profound implications for all of us who love reading.

How should libraries respond to this cultural change? Clearly, Albuquerque's libraries are working harder to ensure that we have materials that people want to read. This may be hundreds of copies of the latest Harry Potter book, or a few copies of more esoteric titles. But having books on the shelves is just one aspect of what is needed to promote reading. Each week, children all over the area attend Storytimes at libraries. Thousands participate in the Summer Reading Program, sponsored by the Friends. And everyday, librarians recommend "great reads" to our customers. Audio books add another way to experience reading for customers. Soon, we hope to add digital books to our web page.

As we keep up our efforts to promote more reading for adults and children, we appreciate the support of the Friends. We encourage Friends to support reading by participating in Library programs, book clubs and other activities that encourage reading. But, most of all, we hope that Friends will read for pleasure and find the same enjoyment in reading that children find with their first books. That would be the true joy of reading!

—Eileen Longsworth

Friends for the Public Library

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Library branches to display postcard images of city

A huge exhibit of postcard images of Albuquerque scenes over the past 100 years will be on display at Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System branches, rotating on a monthly basis during the Albuquerque Tricentennial celebration.

Seven hundred images mounted on 30 individual panels are organized by themes such as Route 66, Old Town, the University of New Mexico, the Alvarado Hotel, etc. The exhibit has been prepared by the New Mexico Postcard Club, with support from the Friends for the Public Library.

The New Mexico Postcard Club assembled this exhibit from collections of individual club members and from the Special Collections Library, the Albuquerque Museum, UNM's Center for Southwest Research and New Mexico State University's Library Archives and Special Collections Department. For more information, call Joe Sabatini at 848-1376.



Watch for your invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, Wednesday, May 25, at South Broadway Cultural Center.

Summer Reading Club gets under way on May 21

The kickoff for the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System's Read Albuquerque! Lee Albuquerque! Summer Reading Club 2005 is Saturday, May 21.

All Friends for the Public Library are invited to join us at 10 am at the North Valley Library, 7704 Second Street NW. This event will feature the Watermelon Jug Band, craft tables and plenty of other outside entertainment.