

Mrs. Riordan Founds the Friends

Over fifty years ago, on September 29, 1968, an announcement appeared in the Sunday Albuquerque Journal inviting all those interested to the founding meeting of the Friends of the Public Library. The meeting was organized by Mrs. Frank Riordan, wife of the owner of Riedling Music Company. (We don't know for sure, but it's likely the Friends made 1969 the official founding year because of the time it took to complete the legalities.)

Who was Mrs. Frank Riordan?

The name, **Mrs. Frank Riordan**, appeared in the pages of the Albuquerque Journal 50 times in her lifetime. Her first name was mentioned only twice: when she married Frank Riordan in 1946 and when she died in 1986. Her name was Martha. Martha Gilfillan Riordan, also known as Marti. She met her husband while both were attending UNM. She finished her BFA in Art three years after their marriage. She raised five children, and served the community. In addition to organizing the Friends and serving as president, she was on the City Library Board for seven years, President of the Uptown Garden Club, a member of the Junior League, and a Girl Scout and Brownie Leader. Her husband was Catholic, but Martha was Unitarian. She donated her body to the UNM Medical School. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to the Library.

Our society has changed. There are few volunteers of her sort anymore—women in their 40s and 50s who don't work (for money) outside the home and volunteer time, talents and energy to non-profit organizations. They are greatly missed.

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Library Friends To Meet Monday

The Albuquerque Public Library — sometimes neglected when donations are made — will get a boost from the community with the formation Monday night of a Friends of the Albuquerque Public Library group.

The organization will be formed at a 7:30 p.m. meeting in the hospitality room of the new American Furniture Co., Menaul and Carlisle NE. Anyone interested is invited.