



Belen Public Library Monthly Newsletter

November 2021: 4th Edition



We've been graced with beautiful weather throughout the month of October and now into November. Because of this, our weekly Storytime has been held on the patio and it has been a really fun time, for the kids and for Miss Alyissa! The mornings and evenings are definitely getting colder but perhaps we'll hold on to those sunny afternoons a bit longer!

November is the month when we pause and take a moment to acknowledge those things in our lives that we are grateful for. In this month's newsletter, our

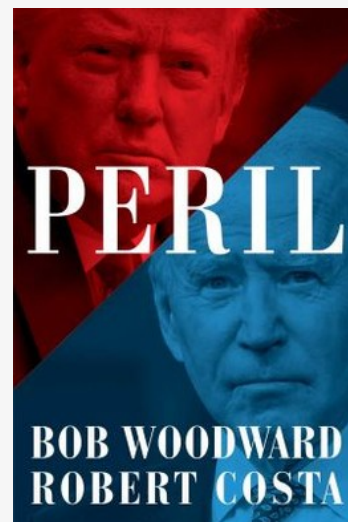
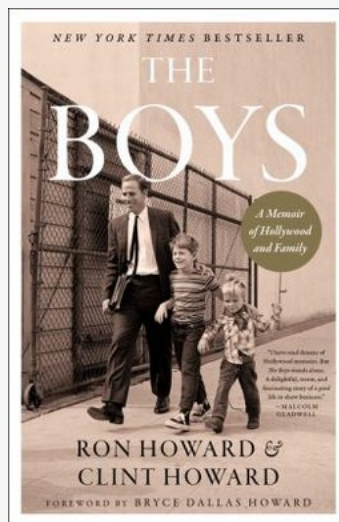
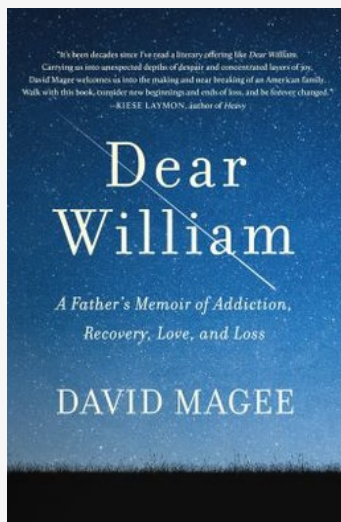
staff will share their own reasons to be thankful. Of course, all of our patrons are very high on the list!

Finally, there are many wonderful events coming up as we dive fully into the holiday season. Please remember that our [Event Calendar on our website](#) is a great place to see what's coming up next!

Thank you very much for reading and please enjoy!

Non-Fiction

New Arrivals



[*Dear William: A Father's Memoir of Addiction, Recovery, Love, and Loss*](#) by David Magee.

In times more uncertain than ever before, *Dear William* answers the call for increased attention to individual and family substance use and mental health. His is a message that students and parents throughout the world need to hear.

As a creator of the national William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing at the University of Mississippi, David Magee is on a mission to find and share solutions to one of America's biggest problems that touches too many high school and college students—self-medication and substance use disorder.

[*The Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood and Family*](#) by Ron Howard.

Happy Days, The Andy Griffith Show, Gentle Ben—these shows captivated millions of TV viewers in the '60s and '70s. Join award-winning filmmaker Ron Howard and audience-favorite actor Clint Howard as they frankly and fondly share their unusual family story of navigating and surviving life as sibling child actors.

"What was it like to grow up on TV?" Ron Howard has been asked this question throughout his adult life. In *The Boys*, he and his younger brother, Clint,

examine their childhoods in detail for the first time. For Ron, playing Opie on The Andy Griffith Show and Richie Cunningham on Happy Days offered fame, joy, and opportunity--but also invited stress and bullying. For Clint, a fast start on such programs as Gentle Ben and Star Trek petered out in adolescence, with some tough consequences and lessons.

By turns confessional, nostalgic, heartwarming, and harrowing, THE BOYS is a dual narrative that lifts the lid on the Howard brothers' closely-held lives. It's the journey of a tight four-person family unit that held fast in an unforgiving business and of two brothers who survived "child-actor syndrome" to become fulfilled adults.

[Peril](#) by Bob Woodward and Robert Costa.

The transition from President Donald J. Trump to President Joseph R. Biden Jr. stands as one of the most dangerous periods in American history. Woodward and Costa take readers deep inside the Trump White House, the Biden White House, the 2020 campaign, and the Pentagon and Congress, with vivid, eyewitness accounts of what really happened.

They also provide a look at Biden's presidency as he faces the challenges of a lifetime: the continuing deadly pandemic and millions of Americans facing soul-crushing economic pain, all the while navigating a bitter and disabling partisan divide, a world rife with threats, and the hovering, dark shadow of the former president. -- adapted from jacket.

Strange Fiction Open to Submissions

October saw the first edition of our new Teen magazine, *Strange Fiction*! Filled with stories by our very own teen authors, the magazine was a smashing success and we know that future editions will be as well.

If you would like your own copy of Strange Fiction, please come into the Library, they are freely available; however, there is a suggested donation of \$2.00/each.

If you would like to see your own story printed in a future edition of Strange Fiction then please reach out to our Teen Programming Librarian, Danny Garcia. You can reach him at [505-966-2603](tel:505-966-2603) or by email.

Email Danny Garcia

Belen Public Library Staff
Highlight

Alyssa Aragon - Children's
Librarian - Moving On



This month our Staff Highlight is a bittersweet one. Our Children's Librarian, Alyissa Aragon, is leaving our Library. While we wish her the best, we will miss her very much here.

Alyissa worked very hard to keep the Children's programming going while the Library was closed to the public during the Covid shutdown. She bravely took her books and trekked out to read to various animals while filming so the kiddos would have a story and something fun to watch.

Alyissa also worked to increase parent involvement in planning Children's programming and was very important in helping us secure the NASA grant that will enable the Library to bring STEAM education to more of our community over the next year.

And now a message from Alyissa.

My name is Alyissa Aragon, I have an associate's degree in liberal arts, a certificate in digital media art, and a license in special education.

I have been working with children for the past 6 years, I've seen so many bright smiles and it's been an amazing journey.

I've been a Belen resident for a large portion of my life, but it wasn't until I began working with the Belen Public Library, that I truly felt like I was a part of the community.

I've met so many incredible people from all walks of life and the library has been like a second home to me.

I'm sad to say goodbye to the families I've worked with, my coworkers, and my boss.

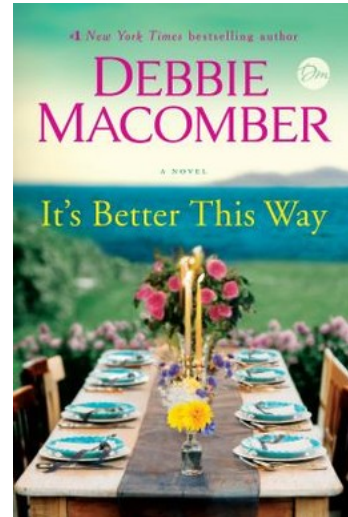
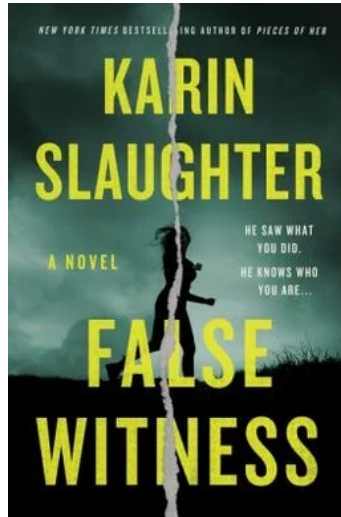
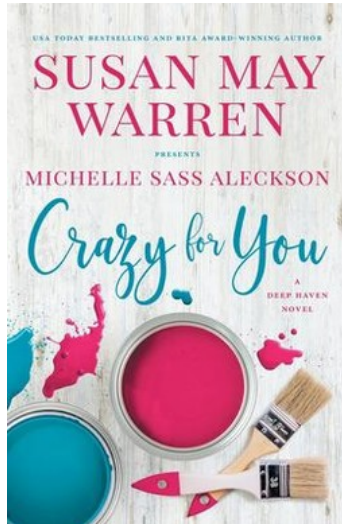
However, I am excited to move on and continue my education.

I'll never forget my time working for the Belen Public Library.

**And we will never forget you, Alyissa!
Good luck on your new journey!**

Fiction

New Arrivals



[Crazy for You – Book 3 – Deep Haven Collection](#) by Michelle Sass Aleckson.

The problem with being related to everyone in town is that there is no one left to date; until now. But will this outsider survive his family? Former soldier Veronica "Ronnie" Morales isn't going to let her kid brother, Tiago, get pulled into the gangs of Minneapolis, so, seeking safety and a fresh start, she heads to sleepy Deep Haven on the north shore of Minnesota. She's hoping to put down roots as the paramedic for the new Crisis Response Team, but it's not easy to be the town outsider.

Fire Chief Peter Dahlquist is a peacemaker—he has to be. After all, he's related to both of the Deep Haven dynasties—the Zimmermans and the Dahlquists, Deep Haven's version of the Hatfields and the McCoys. Worse, Peter is the holdout vote for a landmark project, which also makes him the loneliest guy in town when both families demand that he pick sides. The only one who seems to understand his plight is the newcomer in town, his pretty, street-tough paramedic.

When Tiago finds himself caught up in small-town shenanigans and the town blames Ronnie for tragedy, Peter is forced to pick sides. But will his choice cost him the home and the woman he loves?

[False Witness](#) by Karin Slaughter.

Leigh Collier has worked hard to build what looks like a normal life. She's an up-and-coming defense attorney at a prestigious law firm in Atlanta, would do anything for her sixteen-year-old daughter Maddy, and is managing to successfully co-parent through a pandemic after an amicable separation from her husband Walter.

HIDES A DEVASTATING PAST...

But Leigh's ordinary life masks a childhood no one should have to endure ... a childhood tarnished by secrets, broken by betrayal, and ultimately destroyed by a brutal act of violence.

BUT NOW THE PAST IS CATCHING UP...

On a Sunday night at her daughter's school play, she gets a call from one of the firm's partners who wants Leigh to come on board to defend a wealthy man accused of multiple counts of rape. Though wary of the case, it becomes apparent she doesn't have much choice if she wants to keep her job. They're scheduled to go to trial in one week. When she meets the accused face-to-face, she realizes that it's no coincidence that he's specifically asked for her to represent him. She knows him. And he knows her. More to the point, he may know what happened over twenty years ago, and why Leigh has spent two decades avoiding her past.

AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

Suddenly she has a lot more to lose than this case. The only person who can help is her younger, estranged sister Callie--the last person Leigh would ever want to drag into this after all they've been through. But with the life-shattering truth in danger of being revealed, she has no choice...

[*It's Better This Way*](#) by Debbie Macomber.

It's been nearly six years since Julia Jones had her heart broken. After her husband became involved with another woman, she did everything she could to save their marriage, to no avail. The couple's two daughters continue to stand by Julia in the wake of their father's behavior--and they've had a tough time getting along with the other woman who's become their stepmother.

Distraught after selling the family home, Julia moves into a condominium complex that offers the warmth and charm of a fresh start. Now, having settled into her new community and sold her successful interior design business, she's embraced a fulfilling new life, one that doesn't seem to need a man in it. Her beloved father's trusty saying is ringing truer than ever: It's better this way.

But when Julia meets a handsome new resident in the building's exercise room, she can't help but be drawn to him. Heath Johnson is a welcome change from the men she's encountered on the occasional--mostly disastrous--dates her sister has eagerly planned for her over the years. As she and Heath, a divorcee himself, begin to grow close, their friendship blossoms into an unexpected love. However, they soon realize that combining families proves to be a challenge, even though their four children are adults.

When a dramatic revelation threatens the happiness they've found, Julia and Heath must reconcile their love for their children with their love for each other. If they can't, their bright future together may be nothing but a dream.



Connecting Small Businesses With Job Seekers

Libraries are the Ultimate Resource

People associate libraries with books, that makes sense, after all, it is sort of our main thing. However, in today's world, libraries have become resource and service hubs, especially in rural or underserved areas.

Libraries are often one of the only open places for folks to go to access free internet, computers, and even restrooms. Librarians and others who work in libraries saw the great needs that our patrons had and set about to make libraries much more than what they were traditionally used for.

Now, many, if not most libraries, grant their patrons access (usually for free) to vast online resources, classes for digital literacy, job preparation skills, and even high school and college courses.

Libraries also partner closely with local and small businesses, offering the same or similar services depending on need. At the Belen Public Library, we are thinking big for the coming year.

The Municipal election that we just had brought to the forefront the fact that our community has a high unemployment rate; however, many of the available jobs require skills that our job force just doesn't yet have. Our plan is to implement training, workshops, our Makerspace, and outside resources to provide those skills to our job force while also supporting our local and small businesses.

We have been working on building an array of online and in-person resources for this and are excited about the possibilities.

By allowing the business community access to our many resources including

video recording, digital editing software, financial literacy and budgeting tools, social media and online marketing training, and more we are strengthening the backbone of Belen.

When we bring business owners together with people who are working hard to improve their skills, important connections are made. We believe that we can help job seekers find the career that is the right fit for them by assisting in forging these connections by providing the environment for them to take place.

Currently, we offer the following services/programs:

- Computer Classes
- [College Level Courses through Gale](#)
- [Career Online High School](#)
- Language Classes [through Gale](#) or [Transparent Language](#)
- Job Preparation/Resume Writing assistance
- Video recording tools including lighting and a green screen
- Video editing software
- Digital editing software

We are actively working on implementing:

- Makerspace with a variety of STEAM tools for both small/local businesses as well as job seekers to make use of.
- Small business resource fair
- Additional online resources for job training
- Financial Literacy training/resources
- Budgeting software training
- Regular networking opportunities

If you are interested in learning more about any of the programs that we are currently offering or will be offering for small businesses or for job seekers, please contact Summer Ludwig at [505-966-2600](tel:505-966-2600) or by email.

Email Summer Ludwig

A to Z

As the winter gets closer you may think about escaping to some wonderful tropical destination. If that's not in the cards, why not go there virtually?



A to Z World Food

This website lets you explore the



A to Z World Culture

This is the most complete guide to

recipes and the food cultures of countries all around the world!

World Cultures country-by-country you can find.



A to Z Maps Online

A to Z Maps Online is an amazing collection of almost any map you could ask for.

A to Z the USA

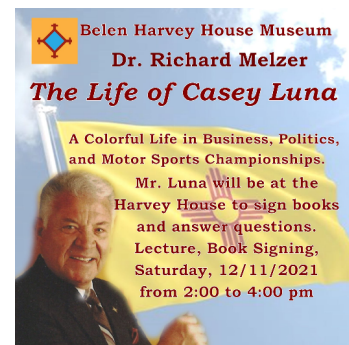
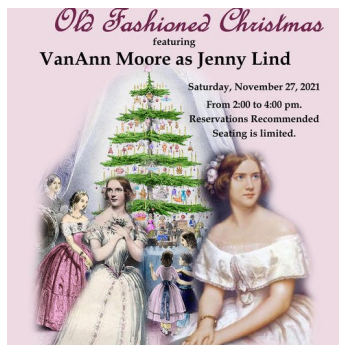
If you want to know more about the United States, this is the place for you. This site covers all 50 states in detail.

Harvey House Museum Events

The Belen Harvey House Museum has some wonderful events coming up. On Saturday November 27th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm they are having an Old Fashioned Christmas, reservations are encouraged as seating is limited.

On December 4th from 11:00am – 4:00pm there will be a Doll and Toy show and there will be appraisers on-site for their own version of the Roadshow!

On December 11th there is a book signing for The Life of Casey Luna from 2:00pm – 4:00pm.



City of Belen Holiday Events

It's that time of the year! The City of Belen has already had its staff working hard to get the Christmas decorations up and they are beautiful! You can see the enormous United States flag over Becker Ave at Main street. They also have the star shining once again on the water tower and that's a beautiful sight to behold.

The Miracle on Mainstreet parade will be on Saturday, November 27th starting at 6 pm. It will start on South Main street at Al's Mini Mart and go North to Circle

K and Aragon.

December 17th and 18th is a 2-day mega event to celebrate the Christmas season.

Becker Avenue will be transformed into a winter wonderland. There will be over one million lights on display!

There will be lots of fun activities, a chance to meet some of the City's fine safety personnel, a food drive, last-minute Christmas shopping, and it's the perfect time to let your heart be merry and bright while sharing the holiday spirit with your neighbors and friends.

Hitch up your horse and take a ride in your sleigh down to Becker Ave for:

- Pictures with Santa
- Pictures with the Grinch
- Street dance with the Black Pearl Band
- Marshmallow roast with the Belen Fire Department
- Fireworks!
- Dinner with Santa at Rita's
- Cops to Tots with the Belen Police Department
- Main Street Partnership Food Drive
- Street dance with Suavecito
- Bugg Lights Museum
- Last-minute Christmas shopping. Remember, shop local!

Don't miss two nights of music, food, fun, and Christmas cheer on December 17th and 18th on Becker Avenue.

For more information, you can call 505-966-2700 or visit www.explorebelen.com.



November 27th at 6PM

**Miracle on Mainstreet
Parade**



December 17th & 18th 5pm-8PM

**Becker Ave Christmas Light
Show**

How the Library Contributes to the Community

\$18,690.89 Amount saved by using the Library in Oct. 2021	\$139,951.00 Amount saved by using the Library YTD	5,582 The number of active Library card holders	11,949 The number of materials checked out YTD
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Thank you!

We hoped that you enjoyed our newsletter! Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you in-person at the Library or assisting you with our online offerings and curbside pickup.

~ The staff of the Belen Public Library

[Kathleen Pickering](#), Director

[Stephanie Wallace](#), Assistant Director

[Connie Ridley](#), Circulation Manager

[Danny Garcia](#), Teen Librarian

[Alyssa Aragon](#), Children's Librarian

[Summer Ludwig](#), Computer Specialist

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