



Belen Public Library Monthly Newsletter

December 2021: 5th Edition

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" I really think that Christmas carol got it 100% correct, this time of year is amazing, and beautiful. That's especially true if you are lucky enough to live in or around Belen! The gorgeous landscape that we are graced with takes on even more majesty with the somber tones of winter and the City staff and so many community members work so hard to transform the entire town into a real Winter Wonderland, it's magical.

In fact, it's so magical that we now have the state's largest FREE Christmas Light festival! It's this coming Friday and Saturday so make sure you don't miss out on the Becker Avenue Christmas Light Show!

At the Library, we are feeling festive and you'll find lots of holiday themed DVDs and books available. We also would love it if you shared with us your favorite winter family tradition or your favorite thing about this time of year. We will put your answers on our tree!

Letters

To

SANTA

To the North Pole from the
Belen Public Library

It's not too late to get those letters in to the big guy himself! Our drop box is doubling as a mail box straight to the North Pole! Get your letters dropped off by December 22nd and we'll make sure that Santa Claus gets a reply back to you!

Becker Ave. Christmas Light Show



Pictures with Santa
Pictures with Grinch
Street Dance with Black Pearl Band
Marshmellow Roast with Fire Dept.
Fire Works
Dinner With Santa at Rita's



Cops to Tots with Police Dept.
Main Street Partnership Food Drive
Street Dance with Suevecito
Bugg Lights Museum
Last Minute Christmas
Shopping remember to Shop Local

Over 1 Million Lights will be on Display




MUSIC . FOOD . FUN
START AT 5:00PM -8:00PM | DEC 17-18 | ENJOY THE PARTY WITH FAMILIES & FRIENDS
DONT MISS THE MEGA EVENT For more information
Call: (505)966-2700 or visit us at www.explorebelen.com



[To learn more about the Becker Ave Christmas Light Show Click Here](#)

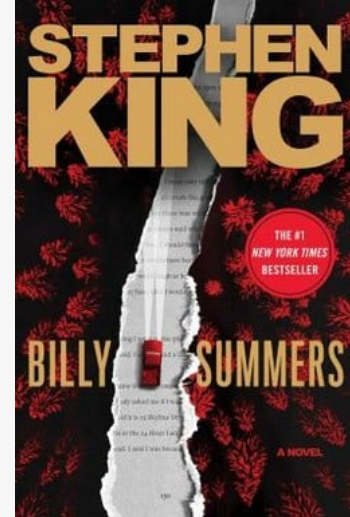
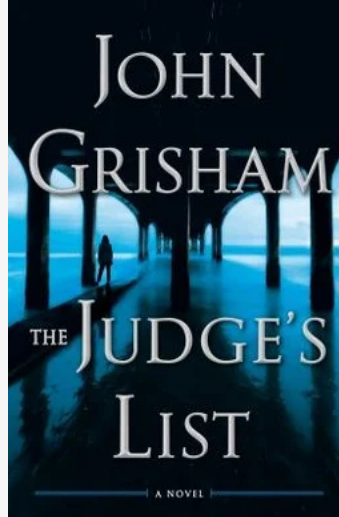
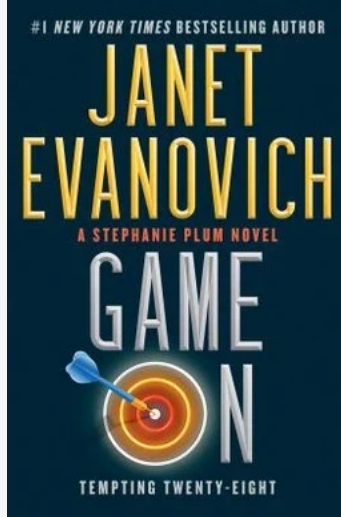
Free Tai Chi Classes at the Belen Public Library

The Belen Public Library plans to offer a weekly, one-hour class in Tai Chi beginning on January 20th at 10:00 am in the library's conference room.

The class, which will be led jointly by Carolyn Fink and Kuan Tikkum, will consist of 15 minutes of gentle stretching exercises, 10-15 minutes of guided meditation, and a half hour of Tai Chi forms and practice.

While good for all ages, Tai Chi is particularly well suited for seniors. Come and check it out. Carol and Kuan will be happy to answer your questions about the practice and will give a demonstration on the 20th.

New in Adult Fiction



"Game On" - Janet Evanovich -

Summary: "When Stephanie Plum is woken up in the middle of the night by the sound of footsteps in her apartment, she wishes she didn't keep her gun in the cookie jar in her kitchen.

And when she finds out the intruder is fellow apprehension agent Diesel, six feet of hard muscle and bad attitude who she hasn't seen in more than two years, she still thinks the gun might come in handy.

Turns out Diesel and Stephanie are on the trail of the same fugitive: Oswald Wednesday, an international computer hacker as brilliant as he is ruthless. Unsure if Diesel is her partner or her competition in this case, she'll need to watch her back every step of the way as she sets the stage to draw Wednesday out from behind his computer and into the real world"--

"The Judge's List" - John Grisham -

Summary "As an investigator for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct, Lacy Stoltz sees plenty of corruption among the men and women elected to the bench. In The whistler, she took on a crime syndicate that was paying millions to a crooked judge.

Now, in "The Judge's List", the crimes are even worse. The man hiding behind the black robe is not taking bribes-but he may be taking lives."

"Billy Summers: A Novel" - Stephen King-

Summary: From legendary storyteller Stephen King, whose "restless imagination is a power that cannot be contained" (*The New York Times Book Review*), comes a thrilling new novel about a good guy in a bad job.

Billy Summers is a man in a room with a gun. He's a killer for hire and the best in the business. But he'll do the job only if the target is a truly bad guy. And now Billy wants out. But first there is one last hit. Billy is among the best snipers in the world, a decorated Iraq war vet, a Houdini when it comes to vanishing after the job is done. So what could possibly go wrong?

How about everything.

This spectacular can't-put-it-down novel is part war story, part love letter to small town America and the people who live there, and it features one of the most compelling and surprising duos in King fiction, who set out to avenge the crimes of an extraordinarily evil man. It's about love, luck, fate, and a complex hero with one last shot at redemption.

You won't put this story down, and you won't forget Billy.



Student Art Show @ the Belen Public Library

In another exciting collaboration, the Belen Public Library is happy to host an art show featuring the works of the high school students of Egan Ulbricht.

This show will be opening on Friday, December 17 at 10 am. On Saturday December 18th it will be open to the public from 10am - 8pm coinciding with the Becker Avenue Christmas Light Show.

The students have created some truly masterful art works and we are fortunate to be able to share them with you!

Top Library Patrons of 2021

The Belen Public Library would like to recognize our Top 10 patrons of 2021! The list is created by how much each patron has saved by using the library over the past calendar year. Generally, the more material checkouts you have, the more money you save!

1. Donal Coggins saved \$7,101.68
2. Natasha Josephine Baca saved \$4,827.83
3. Mark Christopher Baca saved \$4,722.88
4. Ann Sullivan saved \$4,428.92
5. Brenda Ramirez saved \$3,204.70
6. Darlene Torres saved \$3,015.37
7. David Otto Schmidt saved \$3,000.97
8. Franchesca Castillo saved \$2,408.00
9. Pamela Doster saved \$2,320.48
10. Kelsi Brown saved \$2,080.35

Each of our Top 10 Patrons will receive a token of our appreciation, a \$20 gift certificate to Books on Becker. Congratulations to each of you and thank you very much for your continued patronage!

Staff Highlight



Summer Ludwig New Children's Librarian

Last month we shared that Alyssa Aragon was leaving the Children's Library to continue her education. This month we are highlighting our new Children's Librarian, Summer Ludwig

Summer has been with the Library since July, part-time, as our Computer Specialist so you may have seen her, spoken with her, or taken a class from her.

When asked why she was interested in moving from an IT-focused position to Children's Librarian Summer was enthusiastic, "Libraries have always been my favorite places, since I was child. A position in a library working with my favorite people (kids) is my dream job!"

Her work experience includes several years working with children in different capacities which she sees as invaluable to informing her work with children presently.

We are still working on the updates to our Children's Library and Summer is busy getting the room together and organized for our Grand Re-Opening.

Staff Highlight Questions:

Q: What is your favorite thing about working at the Library?

A: "There are so many things and I'm frequently accused of having way too many "favorites". It is truly impossible to think of just one but a few would be my coworkers, I enjoy coming to work and seeing them every day. They really care about what they do, the patrons we serve, and our community.

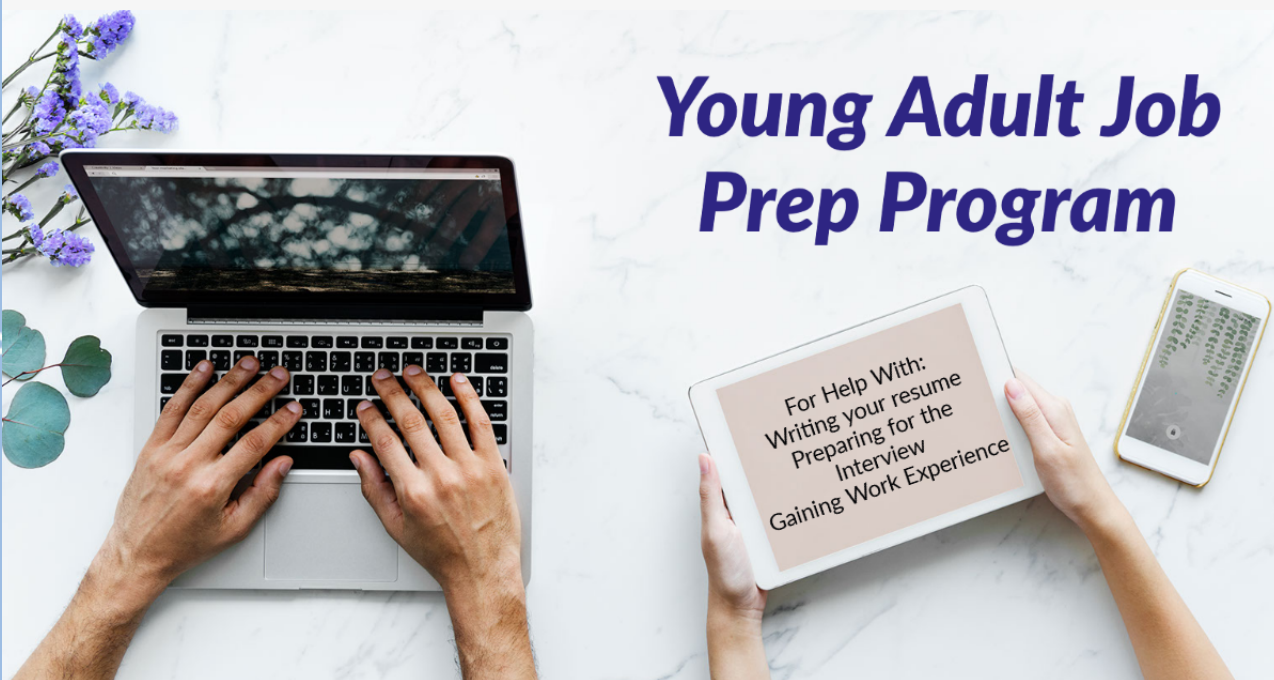
I also so enjoy the patrons, I've only been here a short while but I've met so many awesome people and I love that they love their Library!"

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: "Ok, so my favorite guilty pleasure book that I've read literally dozens of times is The Amityville Horror by Jan Anson. I know it's cheesy and over-the-top but I love it. My favorite book that speaks to my soul though is Wuthering Heights, it was one of the first books my Grandmother gave me to read as a child and I've read it many times.

Q: If you weren't working at the Library and could be doing anything you wanted, what would you be doing?

A: I would probably be volunteering at the Library :). If I had no other responsibilities, I would love to travel and read and maybe finally finish one of the novels I've started a thousand times.



Young Adult Job Prep Program

Introducing Our Young Adult Job Prep Program

This is an amazing program that is geared for young adults, ages 13 - 18. The goal is to prepare these teens for the workforce. The program can assist with resume writing, preparing for interviews, and even gaining work experience.

If this sounds like something you or someone you know would be interested in please come into the Library for more information or you can reach out to Danny Garcia, our Teen Librarian. He can be reached at [505-966-2603](tel:505-966-2603) or by email.

[Click here to email Danny Garcia for more information.](#)



Happy Holidays

TO YOU AND YOURS

HOLIDAY MOVIE MARATHON
SATURDAY DEC. 18TH
10AM - 6PM

Holiday Movie Marathon at the Belen Public Library

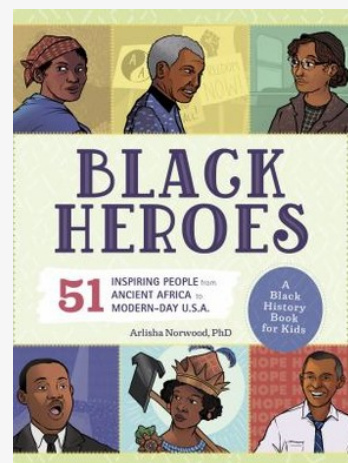
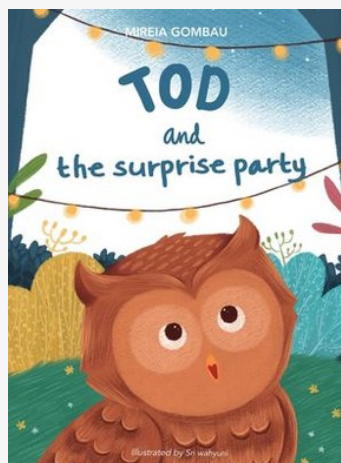
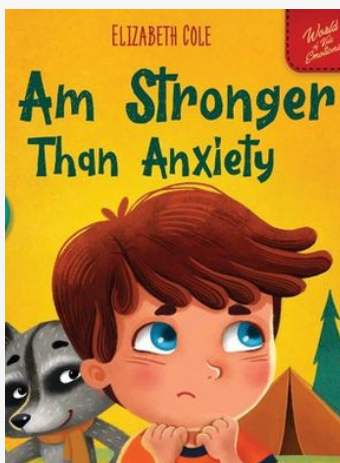
As part of the Becker Avenue Christmas Light Show, our Library will be showing Holiday Movies in the Lecture Hall from 10am - 6pm at no charge. The movies we've selected are:

- The Original Christmas Classics
 - Santa Claus is Coming to Town
 - The Little Drummer Boy
 - Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol
 - Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
 - Frosty the Snowman
 - Frosty Returns
 - Cricket on the Hearth

- A Charlie Brown Christmas
- Mickey's Christmas Carol
- Home Alone
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas (with Jim Carrey)
- Elf
- A Christmas Carol

We would love to see you!

New in the Children's Library



"I am Stronger Than Anxiety" - Elizabeth Cole -

Summary: Often face with kids' anxiety and still have no idea how to deal with children's big emotions and feelings? Try this entertaining picture book and learn how to help children cope with their worry and stress.

All children worry from time to time and it is a normal part of growing up. But, when anxiety becomes overwhelming, it can greatly affect kids' behavior. It may lead to a feeling of stress, exhaustion, isolation and many others. It is very important to be aware of these emotions and to know how to deal with them in a healthy way

"Tod and the Surprise Party" - Mireia Gombau -

Summary: Tod's job was very important. Every night, he stood on his tree and watched over the forest. He made sure all of his friends were safe and could rest. Then one night, they looked up and noticed that Tod wasn't there! Where did Tod go?

"Black Heroes" - Arlisha Norwood -

Summary: Take an exciting journey through Black history with dozens of inspiring biographies for kids. From the queens and pharaohs of ancient Egypt to modern-day scientists, athletes, and journalists, discover the lives of black leaders and role models throughout history.

Black Heroes: a Black History Book for Kids is packed with 51 brief and engaging biographies of inspiring figures from Africa, the United States, and around the world. Learn about how these outstanding individuals followed their passion, created lasting change, and paved the way for generations of future leaders.

Strange Fiction Expands to Adult Authors

STRANGE
FICTION

Strange Fiction Magazine is expanding to be available to writers who are 18 and older. If you are interested in contributing please contact Danny Garcia at [505-966-2603](tel:505-966-2603) or by email.

Strange Fiction Goes Non-Fiction

As part of a Read to Recovery initiative by the Belen Public Library, we would like for you to tell us your story of how COVID affected your life.

In a short story format (1,500 Word Max) or a poem we encourage you to write about how the last two years in the pandemic were for you. The stories will be published in a special edition of Strange Magazine in the hopes that it will help in bringing our community closer together in the new year.

Submissions are to be accepted by email to: danny.garcia@belen-nm.gov or you can bring a printed copy into the Library. Names do not have to be attached to the story. All writing levels are accepted.

[Email Danny Garcia](#)

How the Library Contributes to the Community

\$15,820.73 Amount saved by using the Library in November 2021	\$156,629 Amount saved by using the Library year to date	5,914 The number of active library card holders	13,175 The number of materials checked out year to date
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Thank You!

We hope 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

[Summer Ludwig](#), Children's Librarian

Belen Public Library

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