

Friends Update: April 2020

Dear Friends:

As expected, there will be no April Book Sale this Saturday. For those seeking access to more of the Library's extensive electronic offerings, check out the highly useful posting by Lisa Barrow seen on Friends Facebook last month: https://www.facebook.com/lisa.barrow/posts/10216192721310652?hc_location=ufi. And don't miss Angela Mihm's current postings on **Resources**, **Amusements**, and her newest category, **Food for Thought**. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheAlbuquerquePublicLibrary/>

David Schneider will be fulfilling online orders for collectible books, but that will be the Friends only sales activity as long as the Library closure lasts. These are challenging times for most organizations and institutions. I've been participating on the American Library Association list serve for Friends groups across the country. We're exchanging ideas (our Fiction to Go garnered attention) and beginning to explore ways in which we can work together in the future.

You may have noticed on the Library's home page that "good, free WIFI access" is available in the parking lots at Juan Tabo, Westgate, Lomas Tramway, San Pedro, Erna Fergusson and Taylor Ranch. Library Director Dean Smith passed along good news yesterday—the City is installing external WIFI at most branch libraries, including the three unincorporated locations—East Mountain, Rudolph Anaya North Valley and South Valley. It is heartening to hear that. The school and library closures are especially hard on students who lack internet access at home, or indeed, their own Chromebook or its equivalent.

Friends member Katherine Chilton alerted us to resources to share via Friends Facebook and to programs we should all be aware of. She and fellow Read to Me volunteers passed out 12,000 books last month at student meal pick-up sites. Outstanding. Kathy is also active in Libros for Kids, an affiliate of the Imagination Library, a book-gift program founded by Dolly Parton. The Imagination Library has given out over 133 million books to children, newborn to six years of age. High quality books are mailed to each child monthly, so that by the time the child starts school, each has a library of 60 books. Parton created the program as a tribute to her father, a highly intelligent man who was unable to read.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Delores Nebola, a valued Friends' volunteer for 37 years. Delores was an independent woman, with a gaze that was both warm and discerning. She

will be buried this week in Doniphan, Nebraska. At a later date, a memorial service and celebration of her 94 active years will be held in Albuquerque at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We welcome your suggestions on how best to remember Delores and her decades of service. If you would like to send condolences, her niece, Hope Lienemann, lives at 321 N. Church St., Doniphan, NE 68832.

In the midst of these uncertain times, I find myself enjoying the beauties of the season more than ever, helped along by several fragrant lilacs within smelling distance (more than two meters). I keep thinking of a line from Gerard Manley Hopkins' "Spring,"—"What is all this juice and all this joy?"

Stay Well,

Tamara Coombs, President
Friends of the Public Library