



Update

August 2020

Dear Friend:

This summer is one we will long remember. For the Friends, as for others, it has been a time of uncertainty, but also a time to look to the future.

Covid19 & Book Sales

Appointments to purchase books and other media in the book sale room will resume on Tuesday, August 18. **Limited appointments will be available Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.** Those interested should give Coordinator Melissa Carlisle a call at (505) 768-5167 or email her: melissa@friendsofthepubliclibrary.org

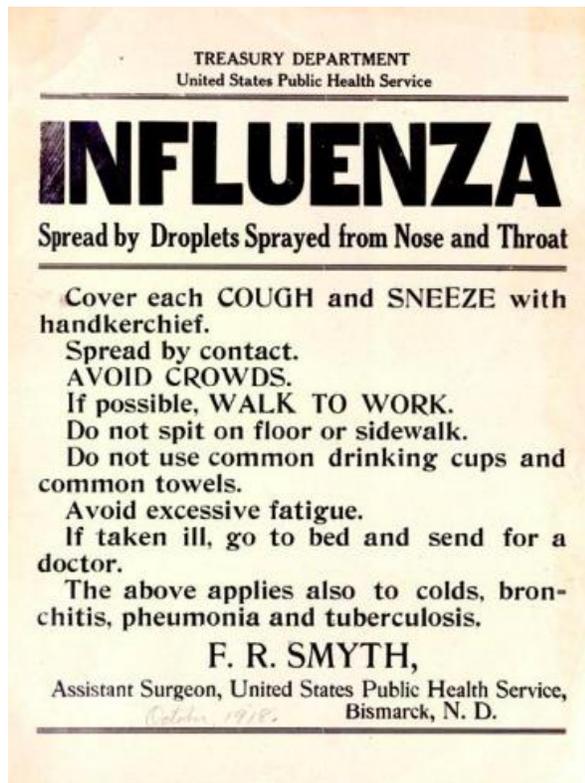
To support these sales-by-appointment and our continuing online efforts, donations are again welcomed. For details on where, what and how to donate, please visit www.friendsofthepubliclibrary.org/donate-books.

Some background: On July 10, we suspended the Friends twice-weekly book sales and bookshop hours in response to the governor's press conference the previous day highlighting what she called the "untenable" state of rising coronavirus infections in New Mexico, especially given our state's limited resources. The board chose this action not because it was required by the City or State, but because we believed it was the right thing to do. The Library, Melissa and the volunteers had done all that was recommended—and more—to reduce the risk of infection. But risk always remains. The challenge we all face these days is to balance risk and benefit.

The current ban on indoor dining extends until August 28. **When the Governor lifts the ban on indoor dining, the Friends will consider that the coronavirus is under sufficient control to reopen the twice-weekly book sales and bookshop.** You will be notified via email.

Historical Postscript: In 1918, my father was living in rural North Dakota, when the state's population was less than Albuquerque's today. During the influenza pandemic, mortality among young adults was especially high; he considered himself lucky to have survived his own bout with the flu. There was a shortage of healthcare workers in North Dakota at that time because the state led the nation with the greatest percentage of

nurses (20 percent) enrolled in military service. In addition, nearly one in three North Dakota physicians also served during World War I. This poster was distributed in October 1918, during the flu's deadly second wave. Thank goodness, some unhygienic habits have declined in a hundred years, but key recommendations remain much the same.



Annual Meeting: June 22, 2020

This year's Annual Meeting was a virtual one. The proposed slate was elected, including officers Treasurer Sara Elliott, First Vice President Angela Mihm, and Second Vice President Alice Haddix. Last year, Susan Hurley and I served by appointment as secretary and president, respectively, and have now been elected to our positions. Bill Noel will continue as an at-large member and newly-elected Jessica Zech is another director-at-large. (To read short board bios, visit www.friendsofthepubliclibrary.org/about.)

Incoming Treasurer Sara Elliott's report on the Friend's financial standing, as of the end of May 2020, was reassuring. Friends revenue had declined by \$85,745, but because of the timing of the coronavirus shutdown, expenses declined by a like amount—\$85,023. Our total assets at the end of May were \$558,743, up 1% since 2019. This leaves the Friends in a good position to deal with the effects of the pandemic on our revenue.



Rendering, International District Library

Library Director Dean Smith reported on the International District Library, which had its groundbreaking in May. Take a look at the video demonstrating how to have a groundbreaking while social distancing, followed by inviting images of the future library <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcfXrju9b6wvideo>.

Main Library Now Local Landmark



**Architect George Pearl.
Opening Day, October, 1975.**

On August 4, Albuquerque's City Council voted to designate the Main Library a local landmark, which is important because design controls are mostly local. The

designation followed the library's listing on the State Register of Cultural Properties and the National Register of Historic Places. At the suggestion of Library Director Dean Smith, I wrote a letter in support of the local designation (see attached). I chose to emphasize the functional aspects of the library's design, although I also admire its siting, its bold geometry, and much more.

Historic buildings are evaluated on the basis of two qualities—significance and historic integrity. One significance criterion is a building's age, which must be at least 50 years old, except for those buildings deemed of "exceptional importance." The National Register of Historic Places judged the 1975 Main Library to be of exceptional importance "...a rare and exceptional example of Brutalism in New Mexico that retains its Brutalist form, but which introduces humanistic elements to the design and established the library as popular refuge for reading and education[al] activities."



Historic integrity is the property's ability to convey its significance —through materials, design, feeling, association, workmanship and setting. Thanks to decades of admirable stewardship, the Main Library retains its historic integrity to a marked degree.

The Albuquerque Library system has many well-designed buildings, by Albuquerque's leading architects. We are all fortunate that good design has been a continuing priority, enhancing the lives and heightening the pleasure that stepping through the doors of a favorite library brings every faithful user.

Stay well,

Tamara Coombs

Tamara Coombs, President
Friends of the Public Library