A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
RIO RANCHO, NEW MEXICO

Bookfriends

Summer 2008

Meet the New Director

In July, the city hired a new Library Director to replace Toni Beatty who retired earlier in the year. The new Director is Mr. William Cicola. Mr. Cicola is well qualified to take over this important position. He received his Masters of Library Science (MLS) from Palmer Library School in Brookville New York and has served as a Director, Assistant Director and Young Adult Librarian in previous positions in New York State. He retired from the Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library in December of 2006 and moved to Mountainair, New Mexico.

After completing the building of his "dream home" in Mountainair, Mr. Cicola decided it was time to go back to work. He's only been on board for a month now, but his presence is evident in the Rio Rancho Library System.

The Friends of the Library hosted a breakfast for staff and volunteers to welcome Mr. Cicola to our city and our library system. The breakfast was attended by about 60 people

Mr. Cicola is eager to work with the Friends of the Library so that valued services and programs can not only continue, but be expanded and prosper. Please stop by and welcome Mr. Cicola at his office in the Loma Colorado Main Library.

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A Note from Our President — *Mary Roskom*

Annual Membership Meeting and Volunteers Recognition luncheon

We have had an exciting year to date. We received our shelving for Esther Bone Library and began shelving books. It was our intention to only carry paperback books at that site. However, we heard loudly and clearly that many patrons wanted hardback books as well. We began shelving hardbacks and they are selling very well. So far, we believe everyone to be pretty honest in that the money in our drop box is roughly equal to the books removed. It is not ideal, but it is working.

Our Spring membership luncheon to honor our volunteers was well attended. We had a busy agenda but managed to get through it all in the time allotted. First, we announced and introduced the prospective new Board members. They are Ms. Amber Porter, Mrs. Linda Downey, and Mr. Ed Steinfeld. All three were elected handily to the Board. We then honored those persons selected as Volunteer of the Year. They were Karen Reinhold as Volunteer of the Year and Doug and Laurel Thomas as the Volunteer Couple of the Year. All three of these volunteers have spent countless hours working at the library and on behalf of the library. Thanks again!

We then listened as Gillian Michell, then Acting Library Director, announced that Nancy Opuszcenski was selected by the library staff as their Volunteer of the Year. Many of us have seen Nancy around and assumed she was an employee. Many thanks to you Nancy, for all you do.

We were honored to have Ms. Toni Beatty present. Toni retired in January of this year after a long and successful career leading this library system. The Friends of the Library honored her in January and also wanted something permanent at the library to memorialize her excellent leadership. A Purple Autumn Ash tree planted in the outside courtyard and added a piece of sandstone inscribed with her name to dedicate the tree to her. A good time was had by all.

On another note, we have received our shipment of reusable bags to sell for the Books for Babies program. These bags are blue in color, a nice large size with handles and artwork depicting both the Loma Colorado and Esther Bone buildings. A limited number of these will be sold for $2.00 at both libraries.

Hope you all have had a wonderful Spring and safe Summer. MR

Libraries and the upcoming NM GO Bond

On March 3, 2008 Governor Bill Richardson signed the 2008 General Obligation (GO) Bond Act which provides in Bond Issue B $11 million for library acquisitions. The $11 million provides for $3 million for public libraries, $3 million for school libraries, $3 million for academic, and $2 million for tribal libraries. The general obligation bond package will be place on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot. The tax obligation increase on property owners if the GO Bond B passes would be only 77 cents for each $100,000 of assessed value (not market value) per year. This is the lowest statewide GO library bond tax rate ever experienced.

If the 2008 GO Bond passes, the Rio Rancho Public Library will receive about the same funds as it received as the result of the 2006 GO Bond which was $103,897. The Rio Rancho Public Schools received $71,722. In total Sandoval county libraries received $332,094. The funds received through the GO Bond does make a difference by increasing the number of library resources (primarily books) available to all citizens of New Mexico. In 2006 60.3% of the residents in Sandoval County voted "yes" for the GO Library Bond.

The main information source about GO Bond B is the web site: www.BondsForLibraries.org. The 2008 Bonds For Libraries Political Action Committee will be developing basic materials for op-ed pieces for local newspapers, press releases, and radio spots. Contributions to the campaign can be sent to: Bonds For Libraries, 1380 Rio Rancho Blvd, SE #172, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

Friends of the Library

Board of Directors

Officers:

President:	**Mary Roskom**
Vice President:	**Barbara Langner**
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Co-Secretaries:	**Cynthia Jacques, Kristal Breeze**

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Book Sale:	**Babs Langner**
Books For Babies:	**Kristal Breeze**
Book Harvesters:	**Jan Marfyak, Charles Smith**
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Distribution:	**Pat Watson**
Membership:	**Mary Roskom**
Newsletter:	**Cynthia Jacques**

Ex-Officio Member: **William Cicola**

Liaisons:

Bookstore Volunteers:	**Gloria Shapiro**
Pricing and Sorting:	**Karen Reinhold**

Bookfriends, the newsletter of the Friends of the Library of Rio Rancho, is published quarterly. Members' comments and contributions are welcome.

Please mail material, including your phone number, to Newsletter Editor, Friends of the Library of Rio Rancho, PO Box 15143, Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Friends' Shop Report

Bookstore Volunteers, aren't you glad that Summer is here? The sun lights up the interior of the Friends of the Library Bookstore. With all the beautiful golden wood, it is positively inspiring to sit behind the desk and sell coveted (albeit cheap) books to customers.

However, there is a dim side. Sometimes, the bookstore is closed when it could be open **if** there was a volunteer to keep it open.

Hey, how about you?

Want to substitute there to see if you would like it? I can train you and you can work when you want to. I am willing to work around your schedule, likes and dislikes. I have around 50 volunteers (including me) that love working in the bookstore. Some are subs, some work every other week, some work every week. No one works more than 2-3 hours at a time. I have met some long-term friends there, maybe you can, too.

My number is 891-1190 and my answering machine is always on. Leave your name and number and I will call to schedule a training day and time. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Gloria Shapiro

Teen Beat

I remember when I got my first library card. Holding it in my hand, I felt powerful - like I was holding something magical. The library is a magical place, especially for kids. Since my introduction to the Rio Rancho Public Library System, I have seen the campaign for funds to build the Loma Colorado branch. I've witnessed the entire building of the new library. And I have to say, it's absolutely magical.

I love the library, both Esther Bone and Loma Colorado, and would do anything to make them even better. That's why I was interested in joining the Friends of the Library Board. Volunteering for youth programs and circulation, I have seen what must happen behind the scenes to make a library work. I intend to bring my experience to my new position on the Board. Hopefully, we can make the library even more magical!

Amber Porter

Loma Colorado Main Library

by Gillian Michell, Assistant Manager, Library & Information Services Department

The library staff choice for volunteer of the year this year was Nancy Opuszenski. Nancy is the renaissance woman of library volunteers, or as Nancy puts it herself, "I do a little bit of everything." Nancy has worked in every department of the library, withdrawing books from the data base and doing repairs in Technical Services, working on the Circulation desk, and giving reference service at the children's, teens', and adult desks. Nancy is comfortable with all these different tasks because she has been with us for years, sometimes on the paid staff, sometimes as a volunteer, and as a result she understands how everything works. She is quick to pick up on any changes in procedures and systems, always good-humoured and reliable, and we don't know what we would do without her. We were unanimous in recommending her for recognition this year. Thanks for all your help, Nancy!

In other library news, Mayor Swisstack visited the library on May 15 as part of his program of familiarizing himself with the current state of all city departments. Then Acting Director Gillian Michell presented an overview of the library, its strengths, and its challenges to the city councilors at a City Council Working Session on May 9.

In library staffing, first, as seen on page one of this issue of Bookfriends, the search for a new library director is over. We warmly welcome Mr. William Cicola to that position.

Other changes in staff faces in 2008:

- Michael Avila has joined the technical services staff as a copy cataloger. Michael was previously with the State Library's bookmobile but is fitting in with us fast: he has already been drafted to cook at a staff barbecue lunch. It is probably not news that we are a staff of serious foodies.
- Daria Labinsky, local history and adult services librarian, left us after seven years to take an extended trip around North America and Europe with her family. Her prodigious work is getting the local history collection started and now housed in the local history room at Loma Colorado has been invaluable, and we will miss her wide range of knowledge, her sharp editorial eye, her work in developing and maintaining the library Web page, and the staggering amount of excellent quality work she produced. We wish her a safe and stimulating trip.
- Joseph McKenzie has joined the adult services staff as a library assistant. He comes to us after a stint at Intel University and many years at the UNM library prior to that. A very welcome addition to our midst, Joseph takes care of all the interlibrary loans, staffs the Quick Answer desk in the afternoon, and provides assistance with adult programs and computer glitches.
- High school graduation this year resulted in a flood of departures of part-time student help: three youth workers and several pages go on to their next adventures with our best wishes.

Finally, we couldn't offer many of these programs without the Friends' help. We encourage the Friends to reap the benefits of their support by attending our programs as well! 📖

Support the Businesses that Support the Friends

These businesses are active supporters of the Friends of the Library of Rio Rancho.

- Rio Rancho Printing
- Eye Associates of New Mexico
- The Juliette RP Vision Foundation
- Precision Organizing and Records Management, LLC 📖

Esther Bone Memorial Library

by Robert Nankin, Branch Manager

The Esther Bone Memorial Library has now been open for over seven months after a lengthy closure for renovation. The city of Rio Rancho, especially the area around Esther Bone, has welcomed the library back with open arms. When patrons walk in the door they are amazed at all of the changes and pleased with the new bright and open feel to the building.

The Esther Bone Library had been closed for 16 months and many patrons still do not know that the building is reopened. Almost every day the staff hears the words, "When did you open again?" The word is getting out though as more and more people walk through the doors each week and circulation and computer usage continues to grow.

The staff of the library is also happy to be back. Everyone is working very hard to offer the best possible customer service available. Many things have changed at Esther Bone with the biggest change being that this building is now the branch library. The main library is the beautiful Loma Colorado Public Library on Loma Colorado Drive in Rio Rancho.

Because Esther Bone is now the branch library the facility is open fewer hours than it used to be. The hours of operation are Monday and Wednesdays, 9:00 to 5:00, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 8:00 and Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00 to 1:00. This can be a bit confusing to the public but with the current economic climate in the city these hours will not change soon.

One very important change at Esther Bone is the Friends of the Library bookstore. This newly renovated shop is now self-service with beautiful new shelving, comfortable seating, a coffee table and even a flat-screen television mounted on the wall. The bookstore has been quite successful with patrons paying on the honor system.

The Friends of the Library has been very generous in their support of the Esther Bone Memorial Library. They have provided funding for various programs and supplies and even funded the grand opening ceremony in February. Volunteers from the Friend's group always make sure that the shelves are full and kept neat for library patrons to make selections from.

The staff of the Esther Bone Memorial Library would like to encourage its patrons to visit the library. If this is your first visit you will be very happy with the clean, bright, well-stocked facility. If you are a return customer, we are happy you have come back to our beloved home for books, friendly smiles, warm conversation and so much more. 📖

Books For Babies

The Friends' *Books For Babies* Program donated 80 books to the Rio Rancho Women's Infant and Children Center. 65 were in English and 15 were in Spanish. The book bags contained: a board book, a bib with "Books for Babies" on it, pamphlets encouraging parents to read to their babies, and "Baby's First Library Card" to take to the local library to trade in for a real library card. The W.I.C. Center used these as incentives for attending different classes and said the response was very positive. 📖

Donations, the Book Hutch, and *Book Harvesters*

The Friends' Board and Book Sales and Friends' Shop volunteers sincerely thank everyone who so generously donates their books, CDs, video tapes, DVDs, and puzzles. Proceeds from their sale continue to fund quality programs for children and adults at Loma Colorado, Esther Bone, and the Star Heights Learning Center.

Please bring donated items to the Loma Colorado Main Library:

- Drive up to and then place your bagged or boxed donations inside of the Friends' donation hutch on the north side of the Loma Colorado Main Library.
- Then drive around to the main lot by the front door, park, and enter the library.
- Go directly to the Friends' Shop if you would like a receipt for tax purposes.

"Book Harvesters" *(i.e., volunteers)* ***will pick up at the owner's convenience*** contributions that are large or too difficult to bring to the Loma Colorado Library. For these donations, the owner should contact Jan Marfyak at 994-3066 to arrange a pickup date and time.

New Business Supporters

Precision Organizing and Records Management, LLC, established in 1994, enhances the lives of employees in both private and public sectors by designing custom systems and processes to provide office organizing solutions and productivity. The results: a streamlined work life and more time to spend on tasks that really matter. Precision Organizing and Records Management also specializes in records and information policy creation and administration, policy manual development, and workflow solutions. After taking the first examination in April of 2007, Karen Payne, owner, became one of only four Certified Professional Organizers® (CPO®) in New Mexico, adding this to her Certified Records Manager credential. Karen is also a public speaker and Board member of the Rio Rancho Toastmasters Club, a member of the Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful Board, and an Ambassador for the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce. Karen M. Payne, CRM, CPO® www.precisionorganizing.com karen@precisionorganizing.com

The Juliette RP Vision Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. It provides scholarships for visually impaired children who are destined for college and U.S. Ophthalmology resident physicians who are interested in pursuing research and/or clinical practice in the area of Retinitis Pigmentosa. Our emphasis is on providing scholarships to young ophthalmologist who want to practice in New Mexico. We hope to provide research grants in the future to scientists conducting RP research.

Dr. Robert F. Melendez, an ophthalmologist with Eye Associates of New Mexico, was inspired to pursue a career in helping patients with eye problems in the 8th grade. His mother, Diane Juliette Melendez, was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa when he was a young boy and has been motivated ever since to help find a cure. The Juliette RP Vision Foundation is about finding a cure for RP. The foundation will serve to provide scholarships to visually impaired children destined for college, young ophthalmologists who want to take care of patients with RP, and to provide research funding in the area of Retinitis Pigmentosa.

Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) refers to a group of inherited diseases causing retinal degeneration. RP is typically diagnosed in adolescents and young adults. It is a progressive disorder. Most people with RP are legally blind by age 40. It is a genetic disorder and, therefore, is almost always inherited.

Donations are tax-deductible and can be sent to: The Juliette RP Vision Foundation, PO Box 44515, Rio Rancho, NM 87174

Want to be a Friend of the Library?
Or, is it time for you to renew?

Another chance!

☐ **Yes, I want to be a Friend of the Library of Rio Rancho**

☐ New Member

☐

Name_____

Address_____

_____

Phone_____

E-Mail_____ Date_____

Categories:

☐	Student/Senior (62 & over)	$5
☐	Friend (1 person)	$8
☐	Sponsor (1 person)	$25
☐	Supporter (1 person)	$50
☐	Patron (1 person)	$100

📖 The Friends of the Library is a 501(c)3 organization that raises funds and promotes the Rio Rancho Library. Membership dues and other contributions are tax deductible.

📖 We can be contacted at (505) 891-5013.

📖 Your membership and contributions will help to expand the effectiveness of the Library as an educational and recreational center in Rio Rancho. The Friends of the Library gratefully accepts bequests, memorials, honorariums, and commemorations.

Please make checks payable to: **The Friends of the Library of Rio Rancho, Inc.**
Mail to PO Box 15143, Rio Rancho, NM 87174 or bring your membership form to the Friends' Shop at the Loma Colorado Library.

I would like to help:

—— in the book store

—— with book sorting and pricing

—— by serving on the Board

—— at monthly book sales

Business Friends, for membership information, contact George Oppenheimer at 771-8742 or georgeoppenheimer@yahoo.com.

Get Recognized for New Member Referrals!

Encourage potential new members you refer to the Friends to write "Referred by:" and your name on their new member form. At the end of 2008, we'll tally the referrals (and give a special award to our top referrer). 📖

Friends help Rio Rancho's schools

THANK YOU to our members and volunteers for their donations of General Mills' *Box Tops For Education* and Campbell's (and associated brands') labels with UPCs. Many Rio Rancho schools collect these special tops and/or labels and redeem them for books and other educational supplies. Helping to foster reading and related educational endeavors, the Friends collect, and later distribute, these tops and labels found on selected products. Details on each are available on their websites: www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com The *Box Tops* and *qualifying labels with UPCs* can be left at the Friends' Shop. 📖

Friends of the Library
of Rio Rancho, Inc.
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Rio Rancho, NM 87174

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Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

On the Web at www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us/friendsofthelibrary

FOL Dates to Remember

Saturday Book Sales

The second Saturday of every month
Auditorium of the Loma Colorado Main Library
10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

2008: Oct. 11th, Nov. 8th, Dec. 13th.
2009: 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, ...