

Interview with Kit Kopec, Friends of the Public Library APLF BOOKISH - August 6, 2025

First, a little bit about the Friends-

The Friends of the Public Library, founded in 1969, is a 501c3 nonprofit that supports the library system in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County by funding educational and literacy programs, such as the Summer Reading Program, library staff development, and community outreach. We raise funds primarily through our monthly book sales, held the second Saturday of every month in the lower level of the Main Library.

Our annual Sci-Fi sale is set for Saturday, August 9th from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Main Library. We also have a Bookshop in the Main Library, open Monday through Saturday from 10:30 AM to 2 PM, and Fiction-to-Go available at most library branches. **Everything we sell comes from donations!**

What is the most pressing issue the Friends are facing right now?

Like many organizations, keeping up with increasing costs is an ongoing challenge. Our strategy to combat this has been advertising to a wider audience to encourage new customers to check out our sales.

We want people to know that we have more than just cheap books—we have **DVDs, CDs, vinyl, puzzles, art prints, maps, greeting cards, and more.** Our dedicated volunteers go to great lengths to ensure the quality of the materials we sell, even cleaning and testing every DVD and CD we sell.

We're also trying out pop-up sales at different library branches around the city so we can reach those who are unable to travel to the Main Library. Our next one will be Saturday, August 16th from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Tony Hillerman branch!

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How can community members support the Friends and become more involved? What kind of talent are you looking for in potential board members or volunteers?

Check out our next book sales! Our annual Sci-Fi sale is set for Saturday, August 9th from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Main Library. We'll have hundreds of recently published as well as classic sci-fi, fantasy, and horror books and movies for all ages starting at just 25 cents.

You can also join our mailing list at <http://friendsofthepubliclibrary.org> or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheAlbuquerquePublicLibrary/> to stay in the loop about our sales and special events.

We're always looking for volunteers to help with our monthly sales or to sort and price donations at the Main Library. We especially need help with setting up and taking down sales (it's a great workout!), but we happily welcome volunteers of all abilities, skills, and ages.

If you'd like to lend a hand with a specialized skillset in library science, law, business, marketing, or finance, consider applying for board membership. Email info@friendsofthepubliclibrary.org to inquire about any volunteer positions.