

# Books Are GEMS

Nonprofit Bookstore

Changing Children's Lives, One Book at a Time  
March 2020

Friendly notice: Books are GEMS is closed until further notice.  
Please check our message to see when our bookstore will reopen by calling: (915) 845-5437. Thank you!

## Dr. Seuss's Birthday Celebration Month Kickoff, March 7, 2020

By Mary, Social Media Coordinator

Many thanks to all who made this event (the staff, generous patrons, and the people who went)! Now, for a bit more rhyming narration: To celebrate Seuss, we had a face-painting station. Kids picked wonderful paper treasures for reading, then Rosalie introduced Deanna McSwain with a greeting. She told us of animals, Seussical and rare, as well as the ones we can spot anywhere.



[Above, left: the face (or hand) painting station; Right: Deanna McSwain; Below: Storytime 3/7]



Coloring with crayons was fun for all ages, then we gave away lots of pages and pages of Dr. Seuss books to the tall and the small. There were costumes, snacks, drawings, and more-- with care, our visitors selected stories galore!



(Above, left: Kids color favorite animals; Center: books & snacks booth; Right: a visitor shares a book with The Cat in the Hat; Below, left: Rosalie, Bookstore Manager, & a young visitor; Center: Kids pose as The Cat in the Hat, Right: children pick books).



We took pics with Cat in the Hat, but this is not the end of last Sat. For our visitors, the fun has just begun; now families can read Dr. Seuss, every one! To all parents, families, and kids who are pleading for “just one more story” we say: “Happy reading!”



[Above, left: A young visitor & The Cat in the Hat; Center, left: Louie Gonzalez, Board of Directors President, The Cat in the Hat, and Paul Haupt, Board of Directors Treasurer; Center, right: Paola, Volunteer, and a visitor; Right: Lisa Zamarripa, Board of Directors Vice President, The Cat in the Hat, Sofia Vega, Board of Directors Secretary, and Isela, Volunteer]

### Join Us for Storytime at Books are GEMS!

Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. (MST)

Bring your children to Storytime Saturdays. You and your children will enjoy a fun learning experience!



[Above: Storytime 2/22 with Vista Dental and Toby Tooth]

#### Storytime Schedule:

- March 14: Bookstore closed
- March 21: Jackie Dean, Board of Directors Member
- March 28: Lisa Zamarripa, Board of Directors Vice President
- April 4: Sofia Vega, Board of Directors Secretary
- April 11: Bookstore closed

Are you interested in participating as a Storytime reader?  
Contact Rosalie Marez, Bookstore Manager, (915-845-5437) to schedule. Thank you!

## Connect with Books are GEMS!

Address: 7744 North Loop, 79915 (located beside BBVA Compass Bank on the right-hand side)

Phone: (915) 845-5437



Like us: [Facebook.com/BooksareGEMS](https://www.facebook.com/BooksareGEMS)

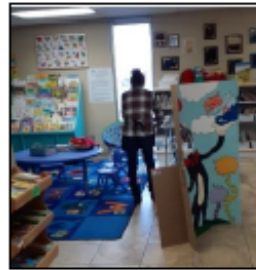


Follow us: [@BooksareGEMS](https://twitter.com/BooksareGEMS)

To learn about upcoming events, local authors, and more, check out our website: [BooksareGEMS.org](https://www.BooksareGEMS.org)

## Our Volunteers are GEMS!

By Mary, Social Media Coordinator



[Above, left: Leonor ("Leo"), Merlyn, and Pete volunteer; Center, left: Leo sorts books; Center, right: Pete stocks the bookstore; Right: Paola, dressed as Thing Two, organizes shelves]

On Monday, March 9, I had the opportunity to interview some of our volunteers: Pete, a Retired Teacher who has been volunteering for six (6) years; Leonor ("Leo"), retired from the Christian Bookstore Industry, was originally a customer at Books are GEMS and has been volunteering for about six (6) months; and Merlyn, who has been with the organization since 2003, when she saw an ad in the newspaper. According to Pete, there is a core of five (5) Retired Teachers who pair up with volunteers-in-training.

When asked about their favorite aspects of volunteering, Pete, Leo, and Merlyn all described the treasure hunt of discovering new stock, sorting books, having a great team, and seeing a child get excited about reading. Merlyn mentioned the joy of discovering old and/or signed books, especially with "gorgeous illustrations." Opening a new box of donations is "like Christmas" to Pete, Leo, and Merlyn because they "never know what is going to come in."

When GEMS receives books, volunteers sort donations into categories (e.g., Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children's, paperbacks, etc.). The copyright pages are checked, ensuring books are new enough to accept. Once the books are sorted, they go to the main store, ready to be discovered.

Finally, Pete, Leo, and Merlyn have advice for potential volunteers: "We love books, and we hope that our [new volunteers] do, too." If volunteers aren't readers, they may have a harder time than people who love books, according to Leo. Many high school, early college, and college students volunteer but don't often stay beyond earning their credit hours. Some of our youngest volunteers are in high school, but the youngest volunteer was twelve (12) years old (anyone under 18 must be accompanied with a parent). Pete, Leo, and Merlyn describe their work at as "a labor of love" because Books are GEMS is filled with "generously donated books and run by volunteers."

Books are GEMS accepts your donations of gently used books, primarily children's books. Friendly note: please do not leave book donations outside of Books are GEMS, as our uncertain weather may ruin your donation. Thank you!