

# BETWEEN THE LINES

## Friends of the Alpine Public Library

FALL 2009

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*Lifetime membership is awarded for exceptional support of the library.*

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### INSIDE

President 2	Marathon 8
Grants 3	Photos 10
Rare Books 3	Memorials 11
Homebound 4	Cute Kitty 12
Re-Reads 5	
Thanks 5	
Kid Stuff 6	

### LIBROS EN ESPAÑOL

What a summer! My climb up the library learning curve has been a whirlwind. The staff has patiently taught me many things, from which telephone book is the most effective at killing cockroaches to how often to file an IRS Form 941. I'm very fortunate to be surrounded by so many knowledgeable, competent people.

Another thing I learned early on was that, despite being a tiny rural library, we have a really terrific collection, one that puts some larger libraries to shame. Through the collection-development efforts of previous directors, our nonfiction sections are well rounded and unbiased. Regular weeding has nearly eliminated the problems of duplicate materials and outdated information. Leased books and standing orders allow us to keep newly published books in circulation, particularly popular genre fiction titles. The donations we receive



are carefully considered for addition to the catalog; items that don't go on the shelves still help maintain the library through sales at Re-Reads.

While writing proposals for grants to fund library operations and programs, I delve deeply into community demographics and collection statistics. Nearly half of our Big Bend-area residents live in Spanish-speaking households, while most students are learning English in school. What an impressive number of kids who speak two languages this must represent! However, it is clear that, despite our notable inventory, the number of

*continued on p. 2*

## Libros en Español—cont.

Spanish-language materials in our collection does not tie in with this figure. People with experience and expertise in literacy and education stress to me that, although many folks speak two languages, they may still wish to improve their reading skills in two languages. Parents in English-speaking families commonly want their children to read and write in both Spanish and English to better connect with peers and to improve school and career success.

All this evidence was enough to quickly convince me that we need to expand our Spanish-language collection of books, magazines, and audiovisual materials at both the Alpine main library and its Marathon branch. I have since attended training classes in developing Spanish collections and have made contact with people who can give sound advice in choosing and purchasing from reputable book vendors. Library funds have already been identified to finance this acquisition effort, and space has been set aside on the shelves. In late 2009 and into 2010, look for new sections in the library containing adult and children's Spanish-language fiction and nonfiction, bilingual books, books by Hispanic authors in English, and books with Latin American settings and themes. New periodicals in Spanish have already begun to arrive.

I am excited to begin seeking out these new materials and welcome any suggestions. Titles, subjects, and authors may be recommended through the "Wish Boxes" in both libraries. As space will always be tight, it is important that we keep our circulation numbers up by offering high-quality, relevant materials, and by concentrating on quality over quantity. New Spanish-language materials will allow us to reach and better serve more of our population. Once the materials are in place, we hope to expand our programming with Spanish story times in both Marathon and Alpine. Spanish-speaking volunteers would be greatly appreciated!

Keep in touch!

—Paige Delaney

## VOILÀ!

*Whatever good things we build end up building us.*  
—Jim Rohn

**B**y the time this newsletter is published, we'll have some walls and the hint of a roof on the new Alpine Public Library.

It's been a long journey—and an exhausting one—but I finally believe that we may actually have a new library in Alpine in my lifetime.

I and my fellow board members haven't made this trip alone, however. Way back in 2006 (probably during a rare but powerful rainstorm) we took a hard look at our current buildings and determined that they simply weren't adequate anymore. Books were being ruined as rain poured in through an unrepairable roof. Directors were being soaked as ceiling tiles absorbed water then fell down on their heads. Staff members were literally rubbing elbows with one another in work spaces that constrained their ability to serve the public effectively.

We started looking for a new location, driving around town assessing every vacant lot we saw. Nothing with a for-sale sign on it was appropriate.

Then we received our first in-kind gift, and it was a honey. The City of Alpine donated three-quarters of a city block, the Alpine Independent School District donated the remaining quarter, and, voilà, we had a site.

We started asking you for money to put something on that site, and, voilà, you started sending it in.

We got a plan and began to wonder how we, almost all novices in construction, were going to build the thing. And—yes, voilà again—Brewster County offered to be our construction manager, purchased our current buildings and land for a generous price, and agreed that we could stay in those buildings as long as we needed to.

We were moving so fast and so many people and entities had been so generous that I (ever naïve) thought we'd be moved in by now. New voilàs stopped for a good long while.

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Voilà—cont.



We kept asking you for money and kept asking Brewster County for money and kept asking the City of Alpine for money, and, what do you know? Voilà, we got enough together to pour a slab.

Brewster County kept working with us to find the best prices on construction materials and labor.

We kept asking you for money.

And—yep—voilà, walls and a roof are going up before the end of the year.

Congressman *Ciro Rodríguez* came to town, and some of our board members approached him and his staff about help with our project. And (I never get tired of this) voilà, we are very likely going to get a large appropriation in spring 2010, which we'll use to purchase the best, most energy efficient HVAC system we can find.

We're not done by a long shot, but things are happening again. Brewster County, the City of Alpine, and the Alpine Independent School District started the ball rolling and continue to support us. They deserve more thanks than I can express here.

And you, our wonderful library patrons and lovers of books, continue to astound us with your generosity. I suspect that once the walls are up and the roof is on, you'll come to our aid again.

There are a lot of voilàs left out there.

—*Kathy Bork, president, Board of Directors*



## GRANTS

The Alpine and Marathon libraries have received several grants:

- Tocker Foundation—for computers
- Dollar General—for Toddler Time
- Libri Foundation—for children's books for the Marathon branch
- Texas Book Festival—for large-print and audio books and children's programs

## RARE BOOK COLLECTION

Our rare book collection accumulated over many years from donations and books bequeathed to the library from local residents. As we are a small rural library with an extremely limited operating budget, we had no funds to hire consultants or perform an extensive assessment of our rare books. Valerie Howard, our circulation librarian, funded by the IMLS/Library Leadership Development Institute "Grow Our Own Area Librarians" (GOAL) Program, conducted the background research on her own time as a volunteer. Marilyn Terry, a Friends of the Alpine Public Library volunteer, offered her expertise and experience.

Valerie began the internal rare book evaluation by conducting a bibliographic search on many aspects of collection archiving. She also discussed the project with librarians from the Texas State Library and used relevant reference materials provided by them. Additional online research was conducted to find case studies of rare book evaluation projects and the standards used. Additional documents were available from the Web site of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library Association. Book valuations were obtained online from rare book vendors and resellers to determine fair market value. Library staff had previously searched the Internet to determine values, but these needed to be updated.

Using the standards and conventions learned via her research, Valerie sorted our collection by market value, local interest, rarity, and condition. She and Marilyn determined that nearly 1,400 volumes were not considered rare to our library or in a condition to circulate based on our collection development policy. We were then able to find a buyer for this portion of the collection, earning us funds to purchase new books, making available a large amount of storage space, and allowing us to avoid moving these materials to the new library. We are now left with approximately 200 rare titles.

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## Rare Books—cont.

These old books are currently stored in a locked closet of our library building, a 1940's-era house. For now, the public is unable to view or enjoy these local treasures. The books are wrapped in individual plastic coverings, but are exposed to high humidity, extreme Texas temperatures, and pests. We wish to care responsibly for these materials and provide for their free use by the community. Our plan is to move this collection into a protective bookcase in the main portion of the library. We are currently attempting to secure funding to purchase new glass-front cabinetry for these books.

The books in this collection are primarily local-interest titles related to the Trans-Pecos and Big Bend regions of Texas and northern Mexico. Subjects include county histories, biographies of prominent Texans, natural sciences, genealogy, and cowboy culture. Most are out of print and irreplaceable. These books relate directly to local towns and counties and to the ancestors of local residents. Many were written by prominent locals, and some have been gifted directly by the author to our library.

The Archives of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University (SRSU) house a large number of rare items. We do not intend to duplicate the collection of rare materials housed at the university, nor do we have the space to house such an archive. Many residents of Alpine and Brewster County are not regular patrons of that library, and therefore rely on the Alpine Public Library for books. Many of the books in our small rare books collection are unique titles not held by SRSU or any other regional library.

Moving these books out of the closet will allow them to be viewed by patrons and read in-house by appointment while prolonging book life until our financial situation allows more sophisticated archival measures.

Thanks to Valerie and Marilyn for tackling this collection!

—Paige Delaney

## HOMEBOUND PROGRAM

Before moving to the Alpine area I seldom volunteered for anything. Sure, like many folks I donated a little money to my favorite causes, including some local ones like the Alpine Public Library even though I lived elsewhere.

But volunteering my time was a different story. Now I find myself busy helping out with Gayle Lewis's Homebound Program as well as doing what I can for the library's ArtWalk Silent Auction and other fund-raisers—all the while trying to keep a good balance between my paying job and enjoying living out here on the Last Frontier. After all, I didn't move away from the big city only to find myself overcommitted again.

A few weeks ago I did a little soul-searching. How did someone like me, a natural-born skeptic and all-around grump, get to the point where taking a few hours a week to help with our Homebound program is something I look forward to? I came up with three things.

First, I love seeing the library, visiting with the Paige and her staff, and especially spending time with Gayle. I know I wouldn't get to the library as much as I do if it weren't for my commitment to the Homebound Program, and spending time with such dedicated, smart folks like Gayle just makes me a better person. What is that they say? "You are known by the company you keep."

*continued on p. 5*



*Gayle Lewis, r., and Homebound Program clients*

## Homebound Patrons—cont.

Second, I found out that I enjoy visiting like-minded “book people” who appreciate Gayle and her team bringing the outside world to them every week. And let me tell you, it is work. The Homebound Program is unlike a bookmobile service where you have to choose from a limited selection. Rather, Gayle works very hard each week to select material that matches each individual’s interests and tastes. Their appreciation of such attention is overwhelming. It’s a nice feeling when you are associated with people doing work that makes a difference.

Last, through my work with the library I learned how vital nonprofit work is in small-town America and, for that matter, the important role that volunteerism has played in building America’s legacy. Unless you are a visitor to this country, it is easy to miss how much philanthropy is part of the fabric of our country, and unless you are involved in volunteer work, it is easy to miss all the services provided by people giving their time and energy to their causes. Tocqueville (1835) said that if a new undertaking were under way in England, it would be led by a man of rank; if it were under way in France, it would be led by the government, but in the USA, it would be led by an association.

Being part of the Homebound Program and helping out on other library undertakings has led me to discover another piece of America inside of me.

So volunteer your time to something that you enjoy doing just for the joy of it. You’ll get much more than you thought you would.

—Anonymous



## RE-READS

It is ideal if you can bring your donations to either the library or to Re-Reads when they are open. We take donations



at both locations. However, if you do leave donations on the porch, please

—be sure the books are contained in tied, plastic grocery bags or closed boxes and place them against the wall. (One donation was ruined by rain.)

—be sure that any boxes you use are no larger than this little old gray-haired lady can lift with reasonable ease.

Helping in this way will really make our job as volunteers much easier.

Another way you can help is by reminding your friends about our terrific little store and the great book buys that we have.

Remember that every penny spent at Re-Reads helps our library. Thanks for your support.

—Marilyn Terry

## BIG THANK-YOUS TO

- Kiwanis Club—for help with children’s programs
- Lions Club—for sponsoring the Opening Day large-print collection
- Don Wetterauer—for being a generally good guy who’s willing to do anything for the library
- Ken Durham and Patsy Culver—for a computer that is being used as the public catalog.
- Our faithful summer volunteers—Don Wetterauer, Karen Boyd, Mary Lee Mulhern, Kathy Bork, Jan Williams, and all the Re-Reads volunteers

## KID STUFF



Mary Beth Garrett (l.) and Vicki Arkell, circulation assistant

### Chapter Book Story Time!

Every Thursday, 4:30–5:00, beginning September 17.

First up: *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl

### Lap-Sit Story Time!

Lap-Sit Story Time will be held every Tuesday morning, 10:30–11:00, beginning October 6, 2009. Parents and children are to meet in the Junior Room. This program is intended for children 3 years of age and under. For more information, call the library at 837-2621.

### Young Adult Book of the Month

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie

Arnold Spirit is a scrawny teenage cartoonist growing up on the impoverished Spokane Indian Reservation. At school and around the neighborhood he is relentlessly teased about his chronic health problems. Looking for relief and hoping to find a better education, Arnold leaves the reservation to attend school in a nearby town where all the students are white and the mascot is an Indian. Arnold must negotiate two worlds—the Indian world and the white world—and he does so with remarkable courage, wit, and wisdom.

### Junior Book of the Month

*The BFG (The Big Friendly Giant)*, by Roald Dahl

Not all giants are mean—especially the BFG. Read this entertaining book and discover how a big friendly giant and a young girl save the children of the world from a terrible fate!

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### "Terry the Torso" Program

"Terry" is a life-sized anatomical model used to introduce basic anatomy. The program describes the location and function of the internal organs and emphasizes healthful habits. Kids also have fun making a model of their own!

The presenter is a registered nurse.

\*Grades 2–4\*

\*Approx. 1 hour\*

### Library Tours

Bring your class to the library!

A library visit includes

- A tour of the building.
- An overview of our catalog system.
- Practice finding a book.
- Story time and craft project.

\*Approx. 1 hour\*

### Library Lady Visits

The Library Lady can come to you!

This 20–30-minute visit includes an introduction to the library and story time.

Visit our news blog at  
[www.alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org)

to learn about featured books, new materials, and additional programming.

—Mary Beth Garrett



*David Martin, professor of mathematics at Sul Ross State University, showing Summer Reading participants a juggling trick he invented called the “Library Loop”!*

**New Groundskeeper**

The Alpine Public Library has a new groundskeeper, Silvia Richards, who is apparently impervious to heat, sun, dust, rain, and plagues of grasshoppers. Stop by the library to see what wonders she’s wrought.



*The Reading Fairy bestows reading wishes upon the heads of all the children at the Summer Reading celebration*



*Valerie Howard née Richard at a bridal shower given by her coworkers. Valerie is our very capable circulation and information librarian..*



*Nathan Terry, circulation student assistant, and the new APL T-shirt*

**T-SHIRTS**

T-shirts! We have a new design by Chris Ruggia of Vast Graphics and cosponsored by BullShirtz. The proceeds from the sale of these shirts go directly to general library operations. The shirts are \$20.00 and are

available at the circulation desk in Alpine.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Re-Reads needs volunteers. The bookstore is open Wednesday–Saturday. If you can help, please contact Karen Boyd, volunteer coordinator, 837-0838.

We are always looking for volunteers to help at the Marathon branch, especially for children’s programs (story time and Spanish story time).

Spanish-speaking volunteers are needed at both libraries.

## MARATHON



The Friends of the Marathon Public Library held their Summer Reading Program party on Saturday, July 25, from 10 am to 12 pm to celebrate the participants' hard work and enthusiasm this summer! Seventeen children and 10 adults attended the fiesta-themed party. We had a wonderful time swimming at Jackie and Don Boyd's and wish to send a special thanks to them for opening their home to us. The children had a great time with a boot piñata filled with small prizes. All the children received certificates signed by Governor Perry and gift bags. If you missed the party, please come by the library to pick up your certificates.

We send a special thank-you to Sheriff Ronny Dodson and Dr. Mary Dodson, D.V.M., for donating six bicycles for our prize drawing this year. The children were required to read at least 10 books to enter the drawing. Giana Gonzales, Isaiah Briones, Loreyna Cardoza, Bianca Cardoza, Isaac Briones, and Cameden Luján won bikes.

The Summer Reading Poster Contest winners are

- 1st place—Julie Ramirez
- 2nd place—Loreyna Cardoza
- 3rd place—Alyssandra Cardoza
- 4th place—Bianca Cardoza
- 5th place—Norman Martin

The entries were so good that it was especially hard to pick the winners!

Great community participation helped the Summer Program run smoothly. The 44 registered children read 671 books in seven weeks! Volunteers Carol Henthorne, Nancy Newsom, Jackie Boyd, Arlene Griffis, Steve Griffis, Zach Gonzales, and Big Bend Rangers Molly McCormic and Jane Digman led the programs. A very special thanks to all of them.

We also wish to thank Shirley's Burnt Biscuit and Don Boyd for providing the food for the party, Ernesto Aguilar's Chevron Station for donating ice, and all the residents and businesses in Marathon and Alpine for their donations to our program.

We also wish a warm thank-you to Jim Street for supporting our library in the *Terrell County News Leader*.

Please visit the library year-round as there are new materials and programs planned for the near future.

The Marathon branch has received a grant of \$2,400.00 from the Texas Book Festival for large-print and audio books.

—Carol Townsend, branch manager



Arlene Griffis and Carol Townsend receive the Texas Book Festival Grant.



*New Libri Foundation books*

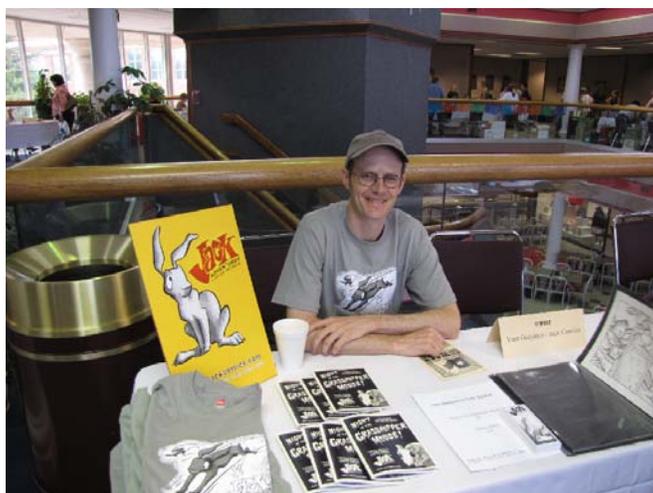




*Cong. Ciro Rodríguez held a press conference at the APL on August 22 to announce a probable appropriation for the Capital Campaign. From left: Paige Delaney, Kathy Bork, Pete Peterson, Cong. Rodríguez, Chris Ruggia, Ken Durham, and Juliette Schwab.*



*Valerie Howard (l.) and Cindy Lockwood staff the APL table at the 2nd Annual Way Out West Book Festival in July.*



*Chris Ruggia, APL Board treasurer, writer of graphic novels, and T-shirt designer extraordinaire, moonlights at the Vast Graphics table at the Way Out West Book Festival.*

The Alpine Public Library has received the following donations in memory and in honor of friends and family.

### IN MEMORIAM

JESSE BOYD  
from Kathy & Albert Bork  
Tex & Tom Harrison  
LBB Class of 2009  
Jodye & Cookie Stone  
Jan & Ronnie Williams

JAKE BRISBIN JR.  
from Cookie Brisbin

GEORGE DESIPIO  
from Kathy & Albert Bork

MARTHA FLORO  
from Friends of the Alpine Public Library

PAUL FORCHHEIMER  
from Juliette & Greg Schwab

ALICE VIRGINIA FRY  
from Jodye & Cookie Stone

HEIDI  
from PePaw and Akie

ELIZABETH MCBRIDE  
from Marilyn & Martin Terry

OPAL PARSONS  
from Robbie & Dale Burns  
Helen Stone  
Barbara & Ronny Stooksberry

MOZELLA RICHARDS  
from Kate McKenna & Pete Szilagyi  
Mary Jane & Vic Morgan

DR. JAMES SEAMAN  
from Kathy Bork

BRIAN TATE WILSON  
from Eleanor & Rex Wilson

DR. JOHN YOUNG  
from Jodye & Cookie Stone

### IN HONOR OF

KATHY BORK'S BIRTHDAY  
from Mary Jane Morgan

MARY JANE MORGAN'S BIRTHDAY  
from Kathy & Albert Bork  
Anne & Malcolm Calaway

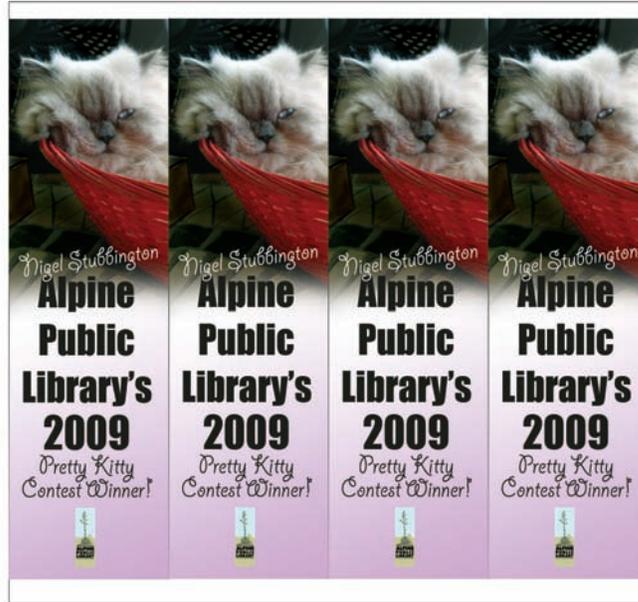
KAY GREEN  
from Anonymous

TEEBY FORCHHEIMER  
from Juliette & Greg Schwab



**N**igel Stubbington is the winner of the Cute Kitty contest. His proud owner is Cindy Lockwood. Thanks to everyone who voted. It seems that we love our kitties in Alpine, as the contest brought in \$260.00.

Doggies got equal time on October 4, when the library and the Alpine Humane Society cosponsored the Dog Walk-a-Thon from the new library site to Re-Reads. MilkBones were enjoyed by all (canines).



*Nigel Stubbington on the bookmark designed by Valerie Howard to commemorate his victory as the Cutest Kitty in Alpine.*

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It saves us postage.*

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