

BETWEEN THE LINES

Friends of the Alpine Public Library NEWSLETTER

THE LIBRARIAN WHO CRIED WOLF



Fund-raising is such a large part of my job that I'm afraid people will stop listening.

APL is a public library that offers materials and services similar to many other libraries.

But as a nonprofit organization, recognized as a 501(c)(3) charity by the IRS, we are different. We receive limited and uncertain funds from the city and the county. This year, an \$18,000 cut in county support proved that we can't necessarily count on year-to-year funding from local government.

APL relies on fund-raising to make up almost 80% of our budget, and we constantly seek grant support. However, the best way to sustain the work we do, APL's infrastructure, and the flexibility to meet unexpected challenges is *general operating support*. Foundation grants, and many private donors, restrict funds to special projects or programs, such as children's services.

This support is greatly appreciated and helps to maintain our current level of excellence in youth activities, ESL for the Big Bend, and our sustainability efforts (such as our native landscaping and new solar array). However, being grant-rich and cash-poor means that our building begins to decline, we lose key personnel due to low salaries (which happens regularly), or we can't purchase the latest popular fiction.

During 2014 APL faces one of the biggest fund-raising challenges since embarking on our capital campaign for a new building. Our utility and insurance costs are significantly higher than in the old library, and our enhanced programming to meet ever-growing needs has increased our payroll budget tremendously. Staff raises barely exceed the inflation rate. 2015 will be even worse, because our cash reserves will be diminished unless we somehow convince patrons and friends that our need for their support is real.

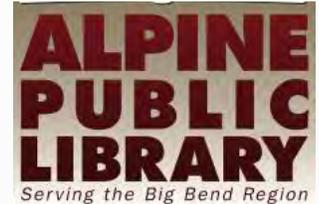
Our professional and experienced staff ensure that every penny is used efficiently and directly toward our mission. Donors can be sure that their investment in APL is turned into value for our community, and is returned in spades.

Please begin to think about APL as a long-term focus of your personal giving. Monthly pledges and bequest gifts are welcome – please contact me for free donation and bequest info. Our beautiful new library was born from your faith in APL's vision! Please join us again.

Thanks for your loyal support.

– Paige Delaney, executive director

APRIL 2014



FAPL OFFICERS

Linda Bryant, president/
RR volunteer coordinator
Kathy Donnell, vice president
Kathy Bork,
secretary/membership/newslette
r

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Lifetime membership is awarded for exceptional service to the library.

Verna Bonner
Kathy Bork
Karen Boyd
Diane Brown
Susan Curry
Antoinette Edmonds
Elders & Sisters, Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints
Mary Beth Garrett
Gayle Lewis
Van Robinson
Chris Ruggia
Ellen Ruggia
Marilyn Terry
Don Wetterauer
Jan Williams
Dick Zimmer
Jean Zimmer

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I've recently had several visitors offer ideas for fund-raisers, or comment that the library should hold more community events.

Let me reassure you – there is no shortage of ideas--only manpower. Our staff is as creative and industrious as I've ever seen it! What keeps us from doing more large activities is a lack of helpers. Our staff members are working as many hours as they can, and there are not enough salary funds to hire additional people.

We need volunteers! If you jump in and join us, and anytime is fine, I promise you a rewarding experience, new friends, and the appreciation of numerous participants.



In 2013, volunteers donated 4,930 hours to APL. **Let's give that number a beating in 2014!**

Here are just a handful of the ideas that are stalled due to lack of volunteers and/or funds:

- ✓ Visiting Authors
- ✓ Family Lego Day
- ✓ Teen Audio Podcasts
- ✓ Sports Tournaments
- ✓ Books In Bloom Luncheon
- ✓ Musical Guests
- ✓ Oral Histories
- ✓ Spanish Conversation Group
- ✓ Spanish Story Time

I hate telling people that we can't do something simply because of lack of volunteers, but it happens often.

Do you have an idea for a great library event? My door is open! Please come and talk with me about how we can make it happen. Talk with your family and friends about how we can make it happen together.

Thanks ahead of time for your support.

– Paige Delaney, executive director

INDIGOGO

INDIGOGO is a website that helps fund nonprofits by encouraging donations from anyone on the web. Please share this link with your friends and family. You never know who might want to help APL!

<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/alpine-public-library-leader-in-the-big-bend-of-far-west-texas/x/6788272>

APL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

We have plenty of creative ideas, but not enough staff time or payroll funds to make them happen.

Please consider joining our award-winning team!

Volunteer positions available:

- ✓ Front desk help (multiple opportunities)
- ✓ English tutors
- ✓ English tutoring program coordinator
- ✓ Re-Reads bookstore help
- ✓ Fund-raising event volunteers (many opportunities)
- ✓ **Children's program** prep
- ✓ Teen programs
- ✓ Technical services—book maintenance
- ✓ Audiovisual content director

FRIENDS' NEWS

The Friends of Alpine Public Library (APL) meet the Tuesday before the second Thursday of the month at noon in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room of the library. We invite and encourage everyone to join us.

As Friends, our purpose is to support the Alpine Public Library, and we welcome your input.

Opportunities to learn and contribute abound. The circulation desk publishes a monthly events calendar which is posted on the library's web page. Additionally, coming events are posted on the electronic information board in the circulation area.

Libraries are traditional sources of information, and these are ways APL provides information about what is available through the library.

RARE AND INTERESTING BOOK SALE

Re-Reads is having a Rare and Interesting Book Sale May 2 and 3. The Friday hours are from 3:00 until 6:00. The Saturday hours are from 10:00 until 1:00.

Books for this sale have been searched online, and price sheets for comparable copies of the titles are placed in the books.

Come find a treasure or, perhaps, the book you've been seeking for such a long time.



RE-READS USED BOOK STORE

Changes in genre locations are taking place in Re-Reads. If you come into the store and find the genre you prefer is not where it belongs, ask the Re-Reads volunteer where those books have been moved.

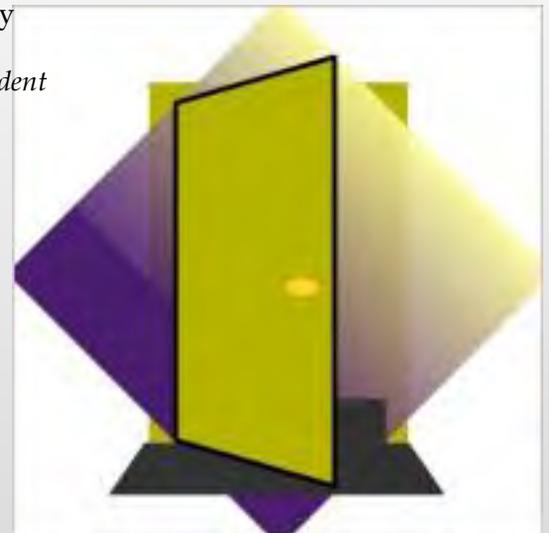
We are striving to make the titles we have more available and easily located.

Recent donations have brought new titles to our inventory. We are posting these titles in our inventory as we place them on the shelves. Each time you are in Re-Reads, we encourage you to check our specially priced sale items.

— Linda Bryant, president

I received the fundamentals of my education in school, but that was not enough. My real education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, I got out of the public library. For an impoverished child whose family could not afford to buy books, the library was the open door to wonder and achievement, and I can never be sufficiently grateful that I had the wit to charge through that door and make the most of it. Now, when I read constantly about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that the door is closing and that American society has found one more way to destroy itself.

— Isaac Asimov



FRIENDS' COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

UNITED THROUGH READING

One of the most difficult things a child can experience is having a parent deployed to a war zone for an indeterminate period. United through Reading's Military Program helps ease the stress of separation for military families by having deployed parents read children's books aloud via DVD for their children to watch at home. This program is available to all deploying military units and at select USO locations.

Gwynne Jamieson, a new Alpinian and a new member of the Friends, has agreed to serve as our liaison with the program. Contact Gwynne at ggjamieson@gmail.com if you're interested in this program.

For more information on the program, check out the Web site: <http://www.unitedthroughreading.org/military-program/>

Homebound Program

Friends volunteers provide an invaluable service to our community by delivering books, magazines, DVDs, recorded books, and other materials to patrons who are unable to come to the library. Four services come under the Homebound Program banner: our flagship Homebound Service for patrons with enduring disabilities; Temporary Homebound Service for those who for a variety of reasons are temporarily unable to come to the library; our Big Bend Regional Medical Center Periodical Service, which keeps the waiting room periodical selection up-to-date; and the Brewster County Jail Library Service, which helps the jail staff maintain their inmate library. Contact the library at 837-2621 for more information.



RIDE FOR READING

The Friends of the Library have committed to working with the Alpine Chamber of Commerce on Ride for Reading. The mission of this national organization is to "help children in low-income areas become healthy and literate . . . Through the distribution of books via bicycle! In low-income neighborhoods, the ratio of books per child is 1 age-appropriate book for every 300 children. Reading is an integral part of education, and without books it is hard to build a strong academic base.

About a week before the distribution, 1,000 books will be delivered to the Chamber to be sorted into grade levels.

On May 6, volunteers will walk, bike, or drive to the elementary school prior to distributing the books to every child in the school. Volunteers will meet at the Chamber at 7:45 and proceed to the elementary school. Don't worry if you can't or don't want to walk or bike. Volunteers may drive closer to the school and walk from there.

If you're interested in helping, contact Abby Garza or Patsy McWilliams at the Chamber, 432/837-2326.

BETWEEN THE LINES/APRIL 2014

2014 Business Members



BIG BEND THRIFT STORE

BORK EDITING & TRANSLATION



ExxonMobil



VAST graphics

APL DEDICATES NEW SOLAR ARRAY

The Alpine Public Library can now power its mission with the help of solar thanks to the Green Mountain Energy™ Sun Club™. In a special dedication ceremony on March 20, the *Sun Club* “flipped the switch” on solar panels on the roof of what *Library Journal* and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation named one of the two best small libraries in the nation! This source of renewable energy will enable this nonprofit library to lower its electricity bill and provide new educational opportunities to the Alpine community.



A \$25,000 donation from the *Sun Club* funded the purchase and installation of this solar project to contribute to the library’s commitment to renewable energy. In addition, new onsite educational signs explain the benefits of solar energy to increase the community’s awareness of its value.

After the solar project dedication, the *Sun Club* named a winner in the library’s bookmark competition. Students from around the area submitted bookmark designs for the theme “How Solar Works.”



Solar Bookmark Design Winners (from left): Lilly Hass, Pruitt Urbanczyk, and Daylee Sullivan



The Sun Club™ received a key to the city of Alpine from Mayor Avinash Rangra in honor of Green Mountain Energy’s contributions.



The winning bookmark design by Lilly Hass

APL STAFF MEMBERS ATTEND PLA MEETINGS



In March Paige Delaney (library director) and Cheryl Frances (children's and circulation librarian) attended the biannual conference of the Public Library Association (PLA) in Indianapolis. This travel was part of the Best Small Library in America Finalist award from *Library Journal* and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In addition to attending many very useful and inspiring technical sessions, Paige and Cheryl were treated to a gala reception to celebrate the awards. Attending were directors from the other 2013 and 2014 winning libraries, including RoseAleta Laurel from Portland, Texas, and Pattie Mayfield from Honey Grove, Texas. Also there to support the Texas winners were Beverley Shirley and Thea Blair from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Paige will travel to the Texas Library Association conference in San Antonio during April, paid for by a grant from the Tocker Foundation. She will present APL's experiences with the Texas Group Interlibrary Loan Program over the past three years as part of a TLA panel. She will also meet with the TSLAC Accreditation Taskforce Workgroup, which has prepared recommendations for updates to the state's library accreditation criteria. You can find out more about this initiative at the TLSAC website, tsl.state.tx.gov/ldn/atf



TRAVEL TALKS

APL's Travel Talks has been running since January 2014. The monthly series of travel pictures with commentary is proving popular, with about 30 persons attending each event.



Speakers sometimes bring equipment or artifacts to illustrate their talk, for example, an ice ax or a blowgun.

"We have a load of folks in this area with a variety of travel experiences, some of them extraordinary," says program creator and host Jim Glendinning. He has speakers booked until January 2015, but is always looking for more.

Hiking across the USA; a Peace Corps experience in Belize; a mountaineering adventure in Alaska; stories from Japan, Peru, and Oman; the running of the bulls in Pamplona; and a talk called "Journey into Silence" are still to come.

The program is held on the fourth Friday of each month in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose room at 7 PM. The schedule is posted at the front desk.



KID STUFF

The Trailblazer Is Coming to Town!

Robotic Arm!

Tornado Tube!

Shocking Van De Graaff!

The Trailblazer is a traveling science exhibit filled with hands-on activities centered on energy, aerodynamics, space science, weather, and biotechnology. The Trailblazer is suitable for all ages but targets 3rd–8th graders. The Trailblazer engages students with interactive projects and experiments related to math and science, creates awareness of careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and provides opportunities to interact with professionals in the community. This event will be held on June 12, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, in the library parking lot.

Volunteers are needed to help inside the Trailblazer. No experience is necessary and a good time is guaranteed. Call Mary Beth at the library to sign up – 837-2621.

— Mary Beth Garrett, children’s librarian



Meet Chiquito, el ratoncito tranquilo – Lea Struthers’s new friend on the children’s porch.



Alpine High School Anchor Club readers/puppeteers



Pajama Story Time

BETWEEN THE LINES/APRIL 2014

SPRING HAS SPRUNG, **AND IT'S TIME FOR** THE BEAR TO GO OVER THE MOUNTAIN!



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6 ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR STORIES, SONGS, CRAFTS, AND MORE AT FAMILY STORY TIME, TUESDAYS, 4:00–4:45, AEP FOUNDATION MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

KIDS' BOOK CLUB



THE KIDS' BOOK CLUB IS A LITERACY PROGRAM FOR KIDS IN GRADES 3–5. IT MEETS ON THE THURSDAYS LISTED BELOW. READ ANY BOOK AND SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS! CREEPY SCIENCE ACTIVITIES FOLLOW THE BOOK DISCUSSION, AND A NUTRITIOUS SNACK IS PROVIDED.

- ✓ MAY 22
- ✓ JUNE 26
- ✓ JULY 17
- ✓ AUGUST 28

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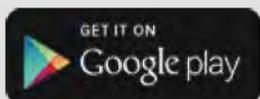


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- or -



SPECIAL DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF

Stephen Matteson

Deborah Allison & Wayne Cline

Elizabeth Winter

Kathy & Albert Bork

Ben Tanksley

Kay and Robert Stovell

Mary Jo Vick

Betty Tanksley

Walter Parks Goodwin

Elizabeth Clark

Karen & Robert Urbanczyk

Counts Family

T. D. Matthews

Betty Tanksley

Helen Stone

Kris, Bill & Lucy Harper

Robbie Neelley

Mildred, Wes & Dan Roach &
Families



IN HONOR OF

Shirley Biellier

Kiwanis Club of Alpine

Ronny Dodson

Kiwanis Club of Alpine

Bennett Jones

Ken Durham & Patsy Culver

NEW DONOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM— LANDSCAPING BRICKS

Now, with a donation of \$100 or more, your name or message can be engraved on a landscaping brick at the library.

APL will have the 4"x8" bricks made and will install them on the library grounds.

Imagine a winding path through our native plant landscape, offering not only different views of the library you helped to build, but a list of names of library supporters.

Donations in honor or in memory of someone you love are also welcome.

To ensure your place on our new path to the future, please complete an information form (available at the APL front desk) with your donation.

Thank you!



FRIENDS OF THE ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
805 WEST AVENUE E
ALPINE TX 79830

WE NEED STUFF (AND PEOPLE)!

- ✓ ESL tutors
- ✓ Spanish books and magazines for Brewster County Jail outreach
- ✓ Bookcases for Re-Reads workroom
(size and aesthetics don't matter much)

AND WE HAVE STUFF FOR YOU!

- ✓ Rare and Interesting Book Sale May 2-3,
AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room.
- ✓ **Travel Evenings**, fourth Friday, to encourage people to travel and to introduce books relevant to the destination, 7:00 P.M.
- ✓ Bookworm Blend coffee from Big Bend Coffee Roasters for \$12/pound and whole pecans from Surratt Pecan Farm for \$12/pound.
- ✓ Free coffee for seniors, Fridays, 9:30-noon. Enjoy Bookworm Blend and read the newspapers.

APL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers, 2014-2015

Margaret Matthews, president
Tom Mangrem, vice president
Carol Ofenstein, treasurer
Perla Bermúdez, secretary

Directors

Linda Bryant
Jim Glendinning
Carol Ofenstein
Jon Roe
Ginger Turner
Filemón Zamora