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# BETWEEN THE LINES

## Friends of the Alpine Public Library

### SPRING 2009

#### FRONTIERS

Thanks to everyone for welcoming me so kindly to the Alpine Public Library! I've met some really terrific people and made some new friends I hope to keep for a long time.

In August 2008 my husband and I left Alaska, the "Last Frontier," in the middle of a summer downpour with an overloaded U-Haul, a car in tow, a pickup, and a tractor. Two cats howled from the backseat, testing my patience and the air-conditioner. Ten days and 4,500 miles later we arrived in Alpine, the "Home of the Last Frontier," stiff and harried, in the middle of another, albeit much warmer, downpour. My move from one frontier to another was both literal and figurative, and it is clear now that more are in sight.

The frontier on all our minds these days, a new library building just a few blocks away, will embody the organization's commitment to serving our patrons with modern, efficient services and facilities. As



the community grows more sophisticated, we aim to keep up with the demand for fast access to technological information resources while still holding onto our roots of high-quality books and programs for the public. Because of the enormous support of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library and other generous donors, glimpses of this frontier are beginning to come into view.

Some frontiers are little steps, such as our pending move to a Web-based library catalog, Apollo. Thanks to the hard work of the previous director, Anitra Clausen, and the library staff, we will open with the new system operational on

*continued on p. 2*

## Frontiers—cont.

April 7. The change will be virtually invisible at the library, but for patrons surfing at home, it will be a monumental improvement. Patrons can search on line for titles housed at the Alpine library and at the Marathon branch, reserve books, and submit reviews. Users will be in control of their own library account preferences, streamlining their communications with library staff about borrowed materials. We hope the public will find our new catalog as useful and easy to use as we do.

Hard economic times have forced a move into new fund-raising frontiers. Whereas grants and donations used to flow more freely, we are now faced with diminished funding sources and fewer avenues to pursue. Many intense hours of proposal writing and other types of fund-raising by our dedicated and all-volunteer board of directors have allowed us to break ground and build a pad for the new library, but there is still work to be done. We welcome your creative thinking and new fund-raising ideas. Momentum will be key to the continued success of the library's Capital Campaign.

We invite you all to traverse these new frontiers with us, to a destination we can all enjoy together—an even better hometown library.

Keep in touch.

—Paige Delaney, library director



## SPRING

Spring is here, with all its attendant hope. I have many hopes for 2009: the same library director for more than 12 months; less wind; more rain; lower concrete prices; the same high level of backing from local government; an economy that encourages people to again support those things that make their lives fuller.

I hope to see our library services grow even as we must wait to see our library building and staff grow.

My heart is gladdened by our library staff's willingness to work harder to make up for shrinking resources.

I'm encouraged by growing library circulation numbers and kids' program participation.

I feel more positive when I see what a good board of directors we have—volunteers every one, yet willing to support our library with generous commitments of time and money.

Those of you who know me are waiting for the "but." Not gonna be one this time. We have great people, a great "product," and great things in store.

Just you wait.

—Kathy Bork, president, Board of Directors

If we had no  
winter, the  
spring would  
not be so  
pleasant; if  
we did not  
sometimes taste  
of adversity,  
prosperity  
would not be so  
welcome.

—Anne Bradstreet

## APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!

Did you know there are 6,968 poetry e-books available FREE on our NetLibrary database? Read full-text versions from a collection of over 28,000 titles! Fiction, nonfiction, reference, and kids' books are all available in several languages. And for the cowboys and cowgirls out there, the Center for Western and Cowboy Poetry has proclaimed April 19-25 Cowboy Poetry Week.

See a librarian for info.

## HAVE YOU BEEN TO RE-READS?

So many folks come in and tell us that they have been meaning to come by but just hadn't got around to it. They always act pleasantly surprised. Bet you will be, too.

Over the months, as we sort out books to put on the shelves, we set aside books that are a little the worse for wear or are geared for too specific an audience to take up shelf space in the store. We box these books and every once in a while have a Driveway Sale. That's like Re-Reads' bargain basement. We'll be having one in the next couple of months. We haven't set a date but when we do, it will be posted in the window at Re-Reads.

Hope to see you there.

—Marilyn Terry



In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.

—Mark Twain

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of the Alpine Public Library  
Sidewalk Sale  
June 2009 (day TBD)



School Library Media Month  
April 2009



National Library Week  
April 12–18, 2009



National Library Workers Day  
April 15, 2009



National Volunteer Week  
April 27–May 3, 2009



Children's Book Week  
May 11–17, 2009



Library Card Sign-up Month  
September 2009



## KID STUFF

### PJ Story Time

On March 28, 42 kids showed up for PJ Story Time at the library. Most of them looked like this.



Children's librarian Mary Beth Garrett and members of Alpine High School's Anchor Club read stories, put on puppet shows, and helped with arts and crafts projects.

There was also some "microscoping" going on . . .

### Toddler Time

**Every Tuesday 10:00–11:00 AM**  
**June 2–mid August**

Learning centers and story time for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergartners.

This is a hands-on program and often messy! Please wear play clothes.

### Summer Reading Club

**Every Thursday, 10:00–11:00 AM**  
**June 4–mid August**

**Ages 6–10**

Story time, reading activities, math games, science activities, and craft projects. Register your child at the front desk and pick up a watermelon reading log and summer science book. Registration begins in May. All programs are free.

### SRSU Education Students!

Become a part of the children's summer reading program held at the Alpine Public Library. Gain experience working with kids and have fun at the same time!

The summer reading program is for elementary-age children and meets once a week for an hour. It consists of a theme-based story time, reading activities, math games, science activities, and craft projects. Your expertise is highly valued.

For more information, contact Mary Beth Garrett at 837-2621, or [aplkids@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aplkids@sbcglobal.net).



### New Snake Books Are Here!



Are you afraid of snakes? Do you really understand them? In a series of twelve books, readers learn all about these mysterious reptiles. Find out which snakes are dangerous to humans, and how to identify them. Slither on down to the library and check out a snake book!

### Young Adult Books

Grant money has allowed us to add fifty-three new titles to the Young Adult collection.

### Wish List

Glue sticks (small) (not hot glue sticks)  
Poster board of any color  
Flour  
Salt  
Spices such as ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg,  
allspice, dry mustard  
Washable markers  
Food coloring  
Plaster of Paris



## Book Review

*Penny from Heaven*, by Jennifer L. Holm; audio book read by Amber Sealy

I think *Penny from Heaven* is an amazing story of excitement. Eleven-year-old Penny is growing up in the 1950s. She must live without a father in a family that doesn't get along. In the beginning, she believes her life couldn't get worse, but then one disaster after another happens, and Penny doesn't know what to do. Living in New Jersey, Penny lives a life full of surprises. I advise anyone with a sense of curiosity to read this.

*Hannah Machado, 5th grade,  
Alpine Middle School*

Hiking information now available! Volunteer Sylvia Richards has compiled area hiking trail information and maps in a binder for library patrons to use.

Copy maps, surf Web sites, or view



trail info for the Brewster County / Alpine / Big Bend area.



Don't see the periodical you want? Sponsor a magazine! For \$15 a year, you can help the library provide a robust selection of monthly mags. See Paige for info.



Splash into springtime by washing the library's windows!



## HOMEBOUND PATRONS



The Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, and United Methodist Women have heard presentations about the new directions the Homebound Patrons Program is taking.

Brewster County Jail inmates are making use of the library there and are beginning to reach out to us—something they have never done before. They have even begun to ask for specific titles. More materials are needed, especially in Spanish and in the areas of science fiction, westerns, sports, adventure, and inspirational. No bodice rippers, please!

Books and magazines continue to be placed in the Big Bend Regional Medical Center.

Because the program is growing, helpers are needed. If you're interested, leave a message for Gayle Lewis at the library, 837-2621.

—Gayle Lewis & Ken Durham

## HOW ARE WE DOING? JUST FINE!

I just wanted to let you know that I have been in Alpine since Jan. 6th and have thoroughly enjoyed your library and I see progress is moving along (moving dirt around) for the new library.

Both Vicki and Valerie have been most enjoyable, helpful and a real joy to visit with and both are an asset to your library.

I did use your computers almost every day and made a donation each time in order to "help out" your cause.

Also, your re-sale store is really very nice too.

I will be missing you folks but will be back in town in four or five months.

*Much success,*

*Beth Collins*

*[Received via e-mail]*

## ACQUISITIONS

The Alpine Public Library and its Marathon Branch have placed a substantial number of large-print books into circulation since January. This was much needed, since the libraries were able to acquire only 10 new large-print books in 2008.

We have also received a large donation of music CDs. Thirty CDs have been placed into circulation at the APL, with more to follow. The CDs are mostly 80's pop, jazz, and classical music.

Unfortunately, volunteering has long been a little like daily exercise—an excellent idea that many people don't act on. Rates of volunteering among Americans 16 or older rose from 20.4 percent

in 1989 to 28.8 percent in 2003, but slipped to 26.2 percent by 2007, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service. And many volunteers drift away: more than a third of the 61.2 million who volunteered in 2006 didn't donate any time the next year, according to an analysis of data by the corporation.



*[New York Times, February 1, 2009]*



## MARATHON



April is going to be a busy month at the Marathon branch.

The branch library will receive a new batch of 28 unabridged audio books on CD in April. These include adult fiction, young adult books, and books for kids.

Marathon will also receive a new patron computer in April to replace an older one.

The Friends of the Marathon Public Library will provide the labor for a mini-makeover of the library's restroom.

Finally, MPL and APL catalogs will both be linked on line by the new Apollo system.

### Summer Reading

The Marathon branch has already received \$800 in donations for its Summer Reading Program. The theme will be Cinco de Mayo and Fiesta parties.

Contact branch librarian Carol Townsend for details or to donate.



## COMMENTARY

### Libraries more important than ever, new research shows Texas voters support more funding for public, school libraries

**L**ibraries are very valuable to Texans—even more so in challenging economic times—and more than eight in 10 voters across the state support increasing funding for school and public libraries, according to a new statewide survey released today by the Texas Library Association (TLA). . . . The telephone survey of 1,201 registered voters in Texas found that an overwhelming majority believes their public library is very important (79%, with 13% saying fairly important) to their community. Nine in 10 agree that, during economic hard times, public libraries provide important resources to families and job seekers, and 83% believe public libraries support the economy through job skills training, career and job information, and resources for local businesses.

When it comes to school libraries, the vast majority of Texans believe that they are almost as important as classroom education. Nearly all respondents (99% including 84% who strongly agree) believe school libraries are essential to education and are willing to vote in support of them. More than nine in 10 (94%) believe that school librarians are critical to student achievement. . . . Strong majorities across every demographic, geographic, and political spectrum support increasing public funding for both public (81%) and school (82%) libraries, according to survey results. Texas voters agree that public libraries are a good value for tax dollars (94% including 70% who strongly agree) and deserve more funding (87%, including 62% who strongly agree). . . . Texas voters believe nearly unanimously—97% agree (including



78% who strongly agree)—that libraries provide important programs and services for children and young people. Ninety-five percent believe that public libraries improve the quality of life in their communities.

Texans say many library services are very important to the community: 83% say reading programs and organized activities for children and young people is very important, and 80% say free access to diverse and current books and other information is very important.

The vast majority of respondents (93%) would support legislation that would require public schools to provide students with a school library and librarian that meets statewide standards. More than eight in 10 voters across every demographic segment and geographic region support the legislation, including 88% of Republicans, 95% of Democrats, and 96% of Independents. . . .

#### Other key findings from the survey:

Public and school libraries enjoy strong and intense voter support regardless of where respondents live or whether they have school-age children.

Texas voters say school libraries are as important as classroom education and nearly eight in 10 believe that school libraries make a major contribution to children's education.

School libraries are viewed as essential because they provide opportunities for children to develop reading and research skills and voters see a link between academic success and strong libraries.

Not only are Texas voters supportive of funding increases, but the vast majority are opposed to funding cuts for public and school libraries.

For detailed survey results and more information, go to <http://www.txla.org/html/pr/survey.html>.



## Fiction Reading Increases for Adults

After years of bemoaning the decline of a literary culture in the United States, the National Endowment for the Arts says in a report that it now believes a quarter-century of precipitous decline in fiction reading has reversed.

The report, "Reading on the Rise: A New Chapter in American Literacy," . . . is based on data from "The Survey of Public Participation in the Arts" conducted by the United States Census Bureau in 2008. Among its chief findings is that for the first time since 1982 . . . the proportion of adults 18 and older who said they had read at least one novel, short story, poem or play in the previous 12 months has risen. . . . The proportion of adults reading some kind of so-called literary work—just over half—is still not as high as it was in 1982 or 1992, and the proportion of adults reading poetry and drama continued to decline. Nevertheless the proportion of overall literary reading increased among virtually all age groups, ethnic and demographic categories since 2002. It increased most dramatically among 18-to-24-year-olds, who had previously shown the most significant declines. . . . In each survey since 1982 the data did not differentiate between those who read several books a month and those who read only one poem. Nor did the surveys distinguish between those who read the complete works of Proust or Dickens and those who read one Nora Roberts novel or a single piece of fan fiction on the Internet. . . . [The head of the endowment] attributed the increase in literary reading to community-based programs like the "Big Read," Oprah Winfrey's book club, the huge popularity of book series like "Harry Potter" and Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight," as well as the individual efforts of teachers, librarians, parents and civic leaders to create "a buzz around literature that's getting people to read more in whatever medium."



This apparent reversal came a little more than a year after the endowment released an overwhelmingly pessimistic report in 2007 that linked a decline in reading-test scores to a fall in reading for fun among adolescents. That report also collected data showing that the proportion of adults who read regularly for pleasure had declined. . . . Among ethnic groups the latest report found that the proportion of literary reading increased most for what the study classifies as Hispanic Americans, rising to 31.9 percent in 2008 for adults 18 and over, from 26.5 percent in 2002. The highest percentage of literary reading was among whites, at 55.7 percent, up from 51.4 percent in 2002. The rate of literary reading among men 18 and older increased to 41.9 percent in 2008, from 37.6 percent in 2002. The proportion also increased among women, to 58 percent in 2008, from 55.1 percent in 2002.

At the same time the survey found that the proportion of adults who said they had read any kind of a book, fiction or nonfiction, that was not required for work or school actually declined slightly since 2002, to 54.3 percent from 56.6 percent. . . . Patricia Schroeder, president of the Association of American Publishers, suggested that some people might not count the reading they do online or even on electronic readers like the Kindle as "book" reading.

Jim Rettig, president of the American Library Association and university librarian at the University of Richmond, said that the 2008 data would not reflect a recent uptick in circulation at libraries. As the economy has soured, Mr. Rettig said, "people are discovering that you don't have to spend anything to read a book if you have a library card."

*[Motoko Rich, New York Times, January 12, 2009]*

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

### IN MEMORIAM

AARON ANDERSON  
from Anne & Malcolm Calaway

MARY & HAL FLANDERS  
from Marty Hansen

ELIZABETH R. GOETTLE  
from Jerri & Mando Garza

DAVID JIMÉNEZ  
from Val & Tom Beard  
Kenneth DeHart  
Jan & Steve Jacobs  
Margaret & Rob Matthews  
W. T. Meriwether

EDITH KINUCAN  
from SRSU RAS Faculty & Staff

DAVID S. LEVINE  
from Elinor P. Levine

MARY KATHARINE MERIWETHER  
from Kay & Don Green

TRUDY & GERHARD MÖLLER  
from B. T. Davenport

LUCILE MORGAN  
from Kathy & Albert Bork



### IN HONOR OF

KATHY BORK  
from Debbie Allison &  
Wayne Cline

DIANE BROWN  
from Pollyanne Melton

ANNE CALAWAY  
from Kathy & Albert Bork

COL. & MRS. ROY T. CLARK  
from Val & Tom Beard

MR. & MRS. SANTA CLAUS  
(Marilu & Wayne Sheehan)  
from the Molsbee Family

ANITRA & JEREMY CLAUSEN  
from Library Staff

MARY & TOM DUNCAN  
from Val & Tom Beard

WAUNETA KING  
from Edwin Smith

CORNELIA & KIM LANGRIDGE  
from Pollyanne Melton

MARY JANE MORGAN  
from Kathy & Albert Bork

Lora Sheldon  
from Library Staff

ELEANOR & REX WILSON  
from Shelly & Mike Bell  
Betsy & Frank Simpson

BETTY GADDIS YNDO  
from Juliette & Greg Schwab

## FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES



**ALPINE  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**  
serving the Big Bend Region

**Help Support The APL Building Campaign With 100% Wind-Generated Green Mountain Energy**



 Green Mountain Energy, The Nations Largest Provider Of 100% Pollution-Free Energy Has Teamed Up With The APL To Help Raise Funds For The Building Campaign.

 Just Sign Up For Clean, Competitive Wind-Generated Green Mountain Energy And A Donation In Your Name Will Be Made Each & Every Month That You Use Its Electric Service! There's No cost To Switch, Nothing Else To Do!

 Use The Terminal Here In The Library or Visit Our Web Site From Your Home Computer at [www.aplinepl.qmrep.com](http://www.aplinepl.qmrep.com) Together We Can Change The Way Electricity Is Made One Customer At A Time!

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*Thanks for your support.*

*Bookmark designed by Valerie Richard*

As always, we urge you to buy locally and support those businesses that support the Alpine Public Library. If you cannot find what you need in Alpine, however, please consider shopping through iGive.com or GoodSearch.com and choose the Friends of the Alpine Public Library as the beneficiary of your donations.



## WAY OUT WEST TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL



The  
Second  
Annual  
Way Out  
W e s t  
T e x a s  
B o o k  
Festival  
will be

held July 31–August 1 on the Sul Ross State University campus. This event brings noted authors and their enthusiastic readers to Alpine and the Big Bend.

The Book Festival is a nonprofit event sponsored

by the Alpine Rotary Club. Worldwide, Rotary is committed to literacy, and the Alpine club will once again donate all proceeds to the Alpine Public Library and its Marathon branch. Last year's Festival raised \$10,000 for APL's Capital Campaign.

There are four sponsorship levels—Festival Benefactor—\$1,000; Author Sponsor—\$500; Author Cosponsor—\$250; and Festival Partner—\$100—but no contribution will be refused.

We ask that you be as generous as possible, so that we may be able to attract the

best possible authors and speakers to this outstanding cultural event, an occasion that fills our hotels, RV Parks, and restaurants, sends new shoppers into our retail businesses, and attracts visitors to our churches and other institutions.

Checks may be made out to the Alpine Rotary Club or WoW Texas Book Festival and mailed to WoW Book Festival, 121 E. Holland Ave., Alpine TX 79830. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information, see the Festival's Web site: [www.wowtxbookfestival.com](http://www.wowtxbookfestival.com).

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