

People can lose their lives in the lines They ought to be warned

Saul Bellow

May 2017

Alpine Public Library

From the Director

The 3rd-Ever Adult Spelling Bee is history. Congratulations to our winners, for the second year in a row, The Spellicans—David Leyva, Suzanne Bailey, Linda Clay, and Chris Muller. Read more about the Bee elsewhere in the newsletter.

New in 2017, APL is partnering with Lincoln Center to offer free Lincoln Center Screenings of high-quality video and sound recorded events. Our first screening was on April 23 from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm and featured a concert by the award-winning Danish String Quartet. We plan to have a different screening every month. If you have particular interests, let us know.

To kick off Alpine Public Library's 70th birthday celebration come see the Swifts on Friday June 2. On June 7 we'll have a special Birthday Hump Day Lunch.

In other news, we have an official endowment fund, the Alpine Public Library Endowment, at Edward Jones of Alpine. Please consider a donation, maybe as a birthday gift to the library, to the endowment fund to help support the library's future. Please contact the library for more information.

Finally, a few words about libraries from Linda Bryant, retired professional librarian and APL volunteer:

Alpine is very fortunate to have great libraries—public, academic, and school. And our libraries work together to complement each other. With a service population of around 8,100 why do we have or need three kinds of libraries? The simple answer is that each library is different in mission and goals. School libraries support the curriculum for the grades taught. Access to the school library is generally limited to the students and staff of the school. The academic library at Sul Ross concentrates on developing a collection that reflects the courses taught as well as the academic and research interests of the faculty. Public libraries are intended to serve the self-selected learning, instructional, and recreational needs of the group defined as the library's public. The collection of the public library is fluid and includes both current publications and classic materials. Public libraries seek to include as much material as possible within budget and space constraints. Public libraries should serve the lifelong, self-directed learning needs of their patrons, so good programming begins with helping young children learn how to identify their individual needs. As patrons age, library programming reflects community-identified needs and offers programs that may develop into a community need. Although there might be a minor intersection in the functions of these library types, on the whole, they serve unique populations and interests.



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My Visit with Snowbirds

My first day volunteering in Re-Reads was fun, full of activity, and very interesting—rearranging shelves so new books could be added, selling fill-a-bags to customers, and learning the cash register and database to name just a few activities. What made my day, though, was that a couple from the Chicago area came in and browsed for at least two hours.

We struck up a conversation, and I found that they were snowbirds who travel all over the southern United States instead of parking their RV in one spot for the winter months. They were touring the Southwest this winter and then slowly making their way home in time for spring flowers up north. For the past ten years, they have made it a point to stop in all the libraries in the small towns they pass through. They had visited all the other libraries in our area and on that day they visited our own Alpine Public Library and loved it!

We talked about the need for libraries to sell books as a means of raising funds. They were interested in where our books come from and were impressed by the fact that a small community like ours is so generous with donations. They said some libraries they visited had small storefronts like ours or just a cart inside the library with books for sale. They were very impressed with our storefront and said it was the best they had ever been in! They have been in hundreds all over the southern United States. They liked how it is organized and how clean and bright it is. How cool is that? I gave credit to the incredible women in the workroom and the volunteers who make the store run so smoothly.

My new snowbird friends bought an armful of books to help support our library, and I went home with a smile on my face.

—Margaret Matthews

All you need in life is truth and beauty and you can find both at the Public Library.

—Studs Terkel

Chocolate, Wine, & Coffee: A Love Story



February 14, 2017

A large group of APL patrons celebrated Valentine's Day and raised funds for the library at a chocolate and wine tasting event sponsored by Donna and John Ehrke, with contributions from Reata Restaurant, Century Bar and Grill, La Trattoria Restaurant, Front Street Books, and Friends of Alpine Public Library.

Florence Elizabeth Brown Foley

A Woman Ahead of Her Time

Elizabeth Foley was a longtime and generous supporter of the Alpine Public Library, Girl Scouts, Sunshine House, and the Big Bend Regional Medical Center Auxiliary. We at the library treasured her presence when she was able to volunteer and missed it terribly after she became too ill to continue.

I spent some time with two of her children, Nina and Denis, and Denis's wife, Rozolen, to learn a little more about this remarkable woman. There were some surprises.

Elizabeth Brown was part of a generation of women born in the early years of the twentieth century. These women more often than not married young, had children, took care of the home; they didn't commonly pursue outside careers. Elizabeth was an exception.

Elizabeth and her brother, the third generation of a ranching family, grew up around Sanderson, Texas. Elizabeth might have been expected to stay on the ranch, but her mother, Lillie Brown, a "powerhouse on education," according to Denis, encouraged her to get an education because she considered educating oneself to be "a personal responsibility." Lillie, in fact, was a graduate of Sam Houston Normal College (1901). With her family's encouragement, Elizabeth completed a Bachelor's degree in business at Baylor University in 1943, just in time to plan the movement of troops and war matériel on the Texas and New Orleans Railroad in San Antonio and El Paso while many of its male employees were fighting in World War II.

When the men came home and the "Rosie the Riveters" were displaced from traditionally male-dominated jobs, Elizabeth's desire to pursue a profession led her to Cloudcroft, New Mexico, Evergreen, Colorado, and New York City to find opportunities to use that business degree. Rather than marry young, as most of her cohort was doing, she continued to work.

Then she moved to Roswell, New Mexico, where the unexpected happened. She met Edward Foley, an international petroleum geologist working for Standard Oil of New Jersey. He proposed after about 3 weeks, she accepted, and they married in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1954, when Elizabeth was 33. They moved to a "jungle camp" in Jusepín, Venezu-

ela, then to Caracas and Maracaibo, where Nina was born.

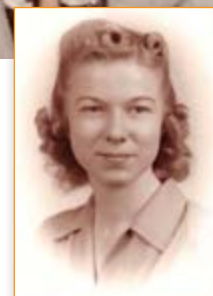
The family moved to Alpine in 1959, because Edward's doctors thought the climate would help him recover from tuberculosis contracted while he was working in the Dominican Republic. Elizabeth's profession shifted from the business world to the domestic and civic. Nina characterizes the shift as "jumping into volunteering." Elizabeth and Edward were active in various service clubs, in party politics, in their churches (Elizabeth in the First Baptist Church and Edward in Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church).

And always they encouraged their children to read and to use the library. One of Denis's strongest childhood memories is of Elizabeth taking the kids to the library, where they'd check out the maximum number of books, read every one of them, then go back for more. Elizabeth's involvement with the library grew out of her membership in the Woman's Club, which grew out of the El Progreso Study Club, the impetus behind the Alpine Public Library. She worked book sales and served as secretary of the Board of Directors for some years. Audrey Painter, who worked with her, describes her as "very efficient and faithful."

During the library's capital campaign, Elizabeth's family made a substantial donation in her name because, as Nina told me, the family has had a long history with the library, and her mother had made a choice to be active in the library.

Although Elizabeth suffered from dementia, Rozolen says she could "spell any word until the end of her life." I'll bet some of the folks who participated in the most recent Adult Spelling Bee would have welcomed her on their team. We loved having her on our team for all those years.

—Kathy Bork



Adult Bee Spells Fun for Alpine

On Saturday, April 8, 18 teams of brave adults gathered at the Alpine Civic Center to test their spelling skills against each other and a word caller who was determined to stump them at every turn. Although most teams were local, there was a team from New Orleans and another from Austin and San Antonio for the 3rd-Ever Adult Spelling Bee.

To create a false sense of security, the word caller started the Bee with the word “bird.” No surprise—every team got it right. But the next word, “aborigine,” stung a couple of teams, who got the opportunity to buy back in. All 18 teams were still in it.

The word caller stank up the joint with the next word, “halitosis,” and several more teams had to buy back in, but no one was out yet.

“Airy,” “banal,” “ruckus,” “warthog,” and “hyacinth” sent a few teams flying to audience members for money to buy back in, and a couple of teams were sent back to the hive.

“Doorjamb” knocked

some of the teams out of the sky. “Chimera” proved to a couple of teams that winning the Bee was . . . well . . . a chimera.

Although not a disease that commonly kills bees, “chilblains” did in many more teams. Down to 8.

No one was fooled by “ambergris,” but “mnemonic” sent speller bees (not to be confused with sweat bees, although they *were* sweating) back to the hive.

The word caller swathed herself in a net of stingingly hard words and flung them at the remaining 6. “Antimacassar”—3 more gone. “Desiccate”—2 gone.

“Hussar” left only 3 teams alive, but “forgo” proved that resistance was futile. Both the Spellicans (the 2016 champs, sponsored by Big Canyon TV) and the Royal Family (runners up in 2016) missed, but the Spellicans won because of fewer misses.

The buzz wasn’t only about the Spellicans and the Royal Family. Audience members voted the Carpenter Bees (sponsored by Carpenter Real Estate) the best-dressed team. The Royal Family won for best team name, and Big Bend Drum Circle was awarded most spellbinding. In an ironic twist, they were also voted the least compatible team. The Book Club was chosen as the most compatible team and as best guessers.

The Adult Spelling Bee is an annual fundraiser the proceeds of which go wholly to support the operations of the Alpine Public Library, a 501(c)(3) association.

—Kathy Bork



Congratulations to the 2017 Champions, The Spellicans, as they bask in the glow of their second victory over the Royal Family. Pictured from left to right are David Leyva, Suzanne Bailey, Linda Clay, and Chris Muller. The winning word: forgo.



Second place team, The Royal Family. Pictured from left to right are Jan Moeller, Gwen Jamieson, Don Slocum, and Nan Jamieson



Vicky Ellis: Brainiac

Vicky was born in Houston and moved to Ft. Davis when she was 3. When she was 9, her family moved to Alpine. When Vicky came to Alpine, she was placed in a class with mid-level students. Her teacher quickly realized that she was gifted in mathematics and sought to have her moved into the advanced class. Vicky was so good at math blackboard races that her teacher made her play last so that the other students would have a chance to play. One of her teachers, Mary Jane Morgan, sponsored her for the University Interscholastic League Number Sense competition. Over the years, Vicky garnered a number of mathematics awards. She later graduated from Alpine High School and then attended Sul Ross, where she studied mathematics and music and earned a Bachelor's degree.

After graduation, Vicky taught secondary school mathematics in Dallas. "I was stranded there for 22 years," she said. Vicky missed Alpine terribly and especially longed to be near mountains again. "I would pore through *Texas Highway* magazines looking for any images and stories of West Texas."

Vicky was finally able to return to Alpine 5 years ago. A series of events in Dallas forced her to seek new housing. She quickly discovered that it was going to be very expensive to get a new apartment. On a whim, she decided to see what the situation was like in Alpine. She learned that she could be in a new budget-friendly apartment within just a few weeks. After evaluating her other living expenses in both Dallas and Alpine, "I had no choice but to move to Alpine," she said with a smile. "I was the last one in my family to move away and the first one to come back. So I am the smartest one."

At first, Vicky was uncomfortable thinking of coming into the library. However, she needed to use the Internet.



With time, she became more and more at ease here and now spends a big part of the day at the library. "It's like home now," said Vicky.

She loves learning new things, and her interests are broad. They include roller coasters, hiking, and crafts. Vicky says that one thing she is not interested in is cooking; however, she can drive a Zamboni!!

Vicky loves crafts and has taught 3-D printing at the library. "At first, I didn't even know what a 3-D

printer was," said Vicky. Then she saw some printed items on display in the library and immediately her mind went to work thinking of all the things she could create. "I went from hooked to addicted," she said. Since then, she has created objects ranging from complex Lego-compatible gears and a Dr. Who Tardis to unique dice and buttons. Vicky says that "whenever I walk into a hardware store I see everything as crafts, not tools." Vicky is also a musician, longtime knitter, and a member of the Alpine Public Library Yarn Arts group.

There's a good chance that the next time you are in the library, you'll see Vicky at work creating new and interesting things.

—Letitia Wetterauer

Alpine Pubic Library Inventory

A full inventory of the Alpine Public Library's collection has been under way since the beginning of the new year. This is the first full inventory since the library moved to its new location. Inventory started with the adult biography section, then moved on to nonfiction, Southwest, and adult fiction, which includes science fiction, large print, western fiction, regular fiction, and mystery fiction. In the children's area, the young adult nonfiction, fiction, Spanish fiction, and easy nonfiction have been inventoried. What's left are the graphic novels, junior fiction and nonfiction, and the easy children's sections along with the Spanish area. Last to be inventoried will be media for all ages.

There are several ways of doing an inventory, and this inventory involves checking a printout of books in each section against the items on the shelf. Also on the printout is other information, including whether the book is paperback or hardback, where the book is located, and if it is listed correctly in the database. Many of the books that were moved from the old library have not been updated in the database, so that is the main point in checking for correct information. I then check each book a second time. If the information is wrong, I edit the bibliographic citation for the book. After checking the printout against the items on the shelf within each section, I enter the barcode numbers into the computer and then print out a list of the missing books. I return to the shelf to double-check that the books were not overlooked and are actually missing. I follow this process for each section of the library.

When all sections are inventoried, the database will be up to date. Library personnel will review it and make recommendations to enhance the collection and offer our patrons the best little collection in the region. The inventory runs in the background of the regular circulation and does not affect the daily operations of the amazing women at the front desk!

—Margaret Matthews

Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.

—Laura Bush

Parents and children explore and learn together at Family Science Night, February 23

Thank you to the many volunteers who made our 4th-annual Family Science Night a tremendous success: Alpine High School National Honor Society students who patiently and enthusiastically shared their love of science with excited children; Elder Chambers and Elder Zobel, who created a new “health and human anatomy station”; Marilyn Terry, who warmly greeted and guided everyone (and whose smile we could not live without); Linda Bryant and Don Wetterauer, who kept the front desk open; Vicky Ellis, who ran the 3-D printer; and our very generous anonymous donor, whose sponsorship made it all happen!

More family programming started April 12, with our first STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) Family Night! The purpose of STEAM Family Night is to offer a wholesome and relaxing environment where children—with the help of their families—have an opportunity to strengthen their STEAM skills. Activities will be made available for children ages 1 to 12. Check our Web page for more information.

—Mary Beth Garrett



(Above and below) Family Science Night activities.



(Above) Family Science Night.

(Left) Science club member showing her neuron anatomy project.



Science Club meets monthly at the library for kids in grades 4-6.



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—Lady Bird Johnson

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