

Between the Lines

Alpine Public Library

August 2017

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

In June Alpine Public Library celebrated 70 years of service to Alpine, Brewster County, and the Big Bend area of West Texas. We've come a long way from a few shelves in the corner of a radio repair shop to an 8,000 square foot building, from a beginning collection of 300 books to a current collection of nearly 25,000 items. We now have 8,730 registered library card holders, and last year we had 45,967 visits. That's a 10% increase over 2015.

No wonder someone commented recently that it seems like the building is shrinking. We have more people and more programs for children and adults. Programs for children include Toddler Time, Arts and Crafts, Build a Better World Summer Reading, Read to Swim, and the AR Program. For teens and young adults check out Teen Digital Club and open lab on Wednesday evenings for a variety of activities. Adult programs include a monthly concert series, a digital photography class, sewing classes, first Wednesday of the month game night, computer classes, ESL tutoring, GED tutoring, and citizenship classes. We even have sewing machines to check out.

All the activity at the library has made it clear that we need more space. In that light, the library board of directors and the strategic planning committee have worked with a professional library planning consultant to develop a plan to add space for a dedicated children's collection and program area and a new teen and young adult area. The library has received a \$150,000 grant from the Rea Charitable Trust and a \$170,000 gift from Trans Pecos Pipeline to go toward our goal of new space. Specifically, the gift from TPP will be used to add a much-needed new parking lot north of the building. Work on the parking lot is expected to begin soon. Construction of the children's and teen areas will come as funds are raised.

Alpine Public Library now has an endowment account at Edward Jones in Alpine. Please consider a tax-free donation or make a contribution to the library as part of estate planning. For more information contact the library.

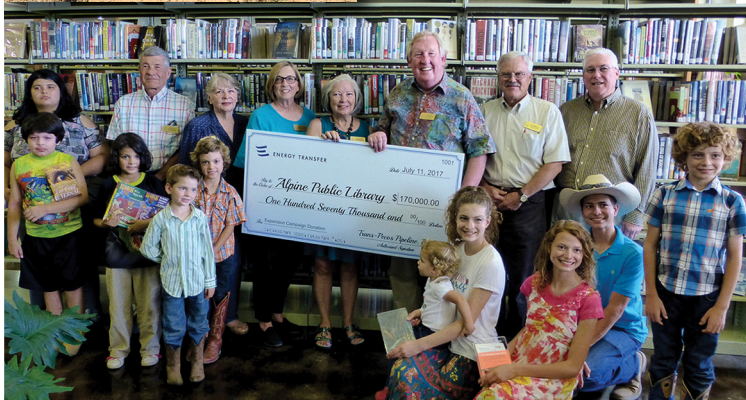
We are already getting ready for the library's annual Silent Auction during Alpine's Artwalk the weekend before Thanksgiving. Soon, we will be calling for donations for auction items and also items for the ever-popular Buy-it-Now table. Please consider a donation to the auction to help the library raise money for operating and program expenses.

I want to extend a special thank you to the Rotary Club

of Alpine for the wonderful concrete bench it donated to the library. The next time you visit the library check it out. The bench is just south of the main entrance.

Thank you all for your continued support in making the Alpine Public Library a gem of our community!

—Don Wetterauer, PhD
Executive Director



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In Memory of: From:

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ATENCIÓN

La Biblioteca Pública de Alpine está ofreciendo clases para estudiar y obtener ciudadanía en los Estados Unidos, las miércles, de 5:30 a 6:30 pm.

A los alumnos se les dará copia de la solicitud de ciudadanía, así como copias de las 100 los puntos importantes de civismo estadounidense que podrían ser preguntados en la entrevista.

Durante las clases, se practicarán preguntas de civismo y las entrevistas para así preparar a los futuros ciudadanos en el proceso de la solicitud.

Para las personas que califiquen para hacer la entrevista en español (si ese es su primer idioma), se podrán hacer arreglos para explicar (en español) lo que se requiere en la solicitud.

Citizenship Classes at the Alpine Public Library

In the past, APL has offered self-directed and "slightly guided" classes in citizenship. Beginning in September 2015, a class was designed to support an individual's study and efforts to become a US citizen with weekly classes during the school year. The plan was to study the civics material applicants must master while offering support and encouragement as they progressed along this path.

That plan was not a roaring success. The time from application submission until the completion of the swearing-in ceremony averages more than a year in our El Paso examination district, so the classes have become continuous, and applicants may enter at any time.

As a group working together for the good of all, we practice in English because almost everyone has to do the interview in English. However, for those people allowed to interview in their first language, we occasionally practice with an interpreter.

As with any instructional class, there are plenty of "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not"! Students shall be positive, supportive, and view themselves as future citizens. The idea of "too hard" or "I can't learn this" is not permitted in class. Each person is working as an individual and not in any sense in competition, although we do occasionally have "who can get the most correct answers tonight" with prizes (chocolate seems to work well) as an incentive.

New Citizens from Three Continents

Souleymane Bazie
Souley was a resident of Alpine from Burkina Faso. He was a member of the citizenship class beginning in September 2015 and became the first student to finish the class in Alpine. After graduation (also known as successful completion of the interview) in November 2016, he was sworn as a US citizen in El Paso.



Claudia Domínguez

Claudia is a resident of Alpine from Mexico. She is the second member of our class to be sworn as a US citizen. After successfully completing her study, application, biometrics, and interview, Claudia's swearing-in ceremony was the end of May 2017.



Alexandra Moldovan

Alexandra is a resident of Alpine from Romania. She joined our class in 2016. She has successfully completed her application and interview process. Her final step may be as early as August, when she is invited to her swearing-in ceremony.



As the instructor for this class, I try to attend the swearing-in ceremony for each new citizen! They have worked so hard and accomplished so much.

—Linda Bryant

We are visiting from Georgia, and this lovely library is much nicer than the ones around us near Atlanta! The people were so friendly! Great place to spend rainy days! Love the used bookstore—best one around!

—The Fields Family, Newman, Georgia

Why I Volunteer

I've been thinking about this a lot of late as I (and others) work long hours on a seemingly endless inventory project in Re-Reads. I'm tired, sometimes I'm bored, often I'm frustrated, but I keep going back. Why?

The glib answer would be that it keeps me from watching even more reality TV than I already watch. And there's some truth to that. A girl can watch only so many episodes of "The Property Brothers" before even they lose their charm.

Maybe it's because I've had a lifelong love affair with books and I want to be around them. Also too simple an answer.

I've been called a professional volunteer, and I have characterized myself as such a time or two. The work isn't always stimulating; it often leaves me covered in dust and jumping out of the way of insects that have come in with a book donation that's been in a barn for decades. Serving on the board of directors is time consuming and very revealing of my shortcomings. Watching our exceptional staff work very hard for the little we can pay them is painful.

I keep going back, though, because I get a sense of accomplishment from volunteering that I don't get from *anything* else. I know I'm doing good work for an organization that is doing good work for a community I love. My volunteer hours, and those of the many other volunteers at APL, help make Toddler Time, Teens @ APL, Hump Day Lunch, First Wednesday Game Night, S.T.E.A.M. Family Night, the Homebound and Brewster County Jail Outreach programs, Aquavision, Travel Talks, Teddy Bear Sleep-over, citizenship classes, GED classes, ESL classes, adult computer classes, Chapter Story Book Time, Science Club, Library Lizards, the concert series possible because the paid staff has more time to devote to programming that matters.

Volunteering, for me, is the virtual equivalent of being wrapped in a warm, fuzzy blanket (with air conditioning in the summer). It gives me a place in the world where I'm always appreciated. It teaches me patience. It takes me out of myself for a few hours. Sometimes it gets me free chocolate.

That's why I volunteer.

—Kathy Bork, president, Alpine Public Library Board of Directors and lifetime member of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library

If you're in need of a virtual warm, fuzzy blanket, we have plenty available at the library. Contact Don Wetterauer, executive director, for a volunteer application.

Audrey Painter: Guilt Made Her Do It

Audrey Painter says that guilt drove her to volunteer at Alpine Public Library. As a young mother in the mid-70s, Audrey was not a regular library patron, but she bought a raffle ticket for a Maisie Lee sculpture at the APL booth during the Alpine bicentennial celebration. When she won, she was "guilted into" becoming a library supporter. Now, 40 years later, she's still a library volunteer.

Audrey moved to Alpine 52 years ago. She grew up in Los Gatos, California, spending some of her free time on the beach 20 miles away. After marrying, she and her husband, Bill, moved to the mountainous desert of Coahuila, Mexico, living first in Saltillo and then Torreón. Bill was a preacher and a keen carpenter, welder, and electrician. In Saltillo, he worked in a school for boys that provided training in preaching and the trades; Bill ran the trades program. In Torreón, he built a church.

For her part, Audrey made friends with the local people and learned Spanish because, as she puts it, she likes to talk, and she had to know Spanish to talk to her neighbors. When they decided to move back to the US, they looked for a town that would give them access to Mexico without being on the border. They studied a map and picked Alpine.

The experience of living in Mexico helped shape Audrey's life in Alpine. When she first arrived, she introduced herself to people, told them that she had just moved from Mexico, and spoke to as many of them as possible in Spanish. In 1969, she started volunteering at the Community Center, teaching mostly preschoolers whose first language was Spanish. She earned a Master of Education, with certifications in Bilingual Education, English as a Second Language, and Spanish, in 1986. In the same year, she started teaching prekindergarten at Alpine Elementary School. After her husband died in 1995, Audrey completed the house he had begun to build and continued to teach until she temporarily relocated to California to care for her mother-in-law.

Audrey's fondness for talking seems to factor into her volunteering. In addition to her work with APL, she delivers Meals on Wheels for the Sunshine House and works once a month at the Food Pantry. Until recently, she helped with tasks at the Community Center, using her Spanish to communicate when necessary. Of her work at the library, she says that the opportunity to interact with the staff, patrons, volunteers, and visitors continues to motivate her.

Her first volunteer gig at APL involved reading children's stories on a weekly radio program created by Eleanor Wilson, the library director at the time. In the late 70s, Audrey was elected to the library board and, as president, facilitated the expansion of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library, which at the time had only two members. She also participated in the hiring of several library directors over the years. As a member of the Friends, she helped start Re-Reads. Now, she's a regular Re-Reads volunteer.

Last November, Audrey donated the guilt-inducing Maisie Lee sculpture to the Artwalk Silent Auction, netting the library a hefty sum and freeing her from her guilt but not from her desire to volunteer. She can still be found at monthly Friends' meetings and on Tuesdays at Re-Reads.

—Lee Smith



Audrey Painter chats with visitors and sews mouse ears for the 2018 Library Mouse sale while working the counter in Re-Reads.

Teen Zone @ APL

Libraries by definition organize and provide access to information. In our public library context, we also facilitate access to content, technology, cultural events, and a host of ancillary administrative services. Through all these functions, the library builds community. The proposed expansion of our facility will prioritize a new teen area where young adults may explore, connect, learn, and build community with one another.

What Are the Teens Up To?

Teen Zone @ APL at present is a free-form program (or de-program?) that encourages young adults to make use of our library's resources and facility and, more importantly, to build a stake in the library and its offerings. Teen Zone currently takes place two Wednesday evenings a month, with Saturday dates possible in the fall. Teen Zone @ APL has so far hosted a movie night, several technology open labs, and a tie-dye event. APL is fortunate to have several "tech interns" this summer who have been instrumental in Teen Zone's development.

Following intern Lillian Haas's comparison study of free web-hosting services, a core group is developing a Teen Zone web presence on wix.com to display their digital media creations, tutorials, and reviews. Through the use of APL laptops and Chromebooks (laptop-like web browsers), the group has explored some web-based digital media programs such as Tinkercad, Audio-Sauna, and Lucidpress to create 3-D files, synthesized music files, and digital graphics.

As librarians, our role here is to make the space and technology available to facilitate a hub of exploration. A survey of recent library research suggests that the most successful teen programs are those created by teens themselves, rather

than by librarians (<http://www.slj.com/2014/10/teens-ya/the-trouble-with-teen-programming/>). Staying fluid and keeping an open mind about Teen Zone is key.

What Teen Zone @ APL is to you, as I overheard Haas explain to a peer, is "what you feel in your heart." If you feel it in your heart to help with Teen Zone, please consider making a donation to APL's planned capital campaign when it is launched in late fall. Additionally, a donation of a Chromebook (less than \$200.00) would be welcomed as Teen Zone grows its user base at Alpine Public Library.

—Nan Jamieson



Web Design



Gaming

Homework Help



On Your Mark! Get Set! Read!

Start stretching those page-turning fingers, flexing those book-supporting arms, and exercising those reading eyes. Start piling up those books and lining up those pledges. It's time for the Alpine Public Library Read-a-Thon!

For 21 days, you'll have an excuse to spend all your free time reading, and you'll help earn money to support your library. The Read-a-Thon works like any fundraising walk-a-thon or marathon (except that you're not likely to get injured). You contact your library-loving, reading friends and relatives from Alpine and from around the country and ask them to pledge a certain amount of money per page or book.

To recruit sponsors, describe the wonderful programs and comprehensive collection offered by the library and explain that as a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) institution, the library receives most of its funding from grants and generous donors, people like your sponsors.

The Read-a-Thon begins on August 30 with a kick-off party and ends on September 20 with a close-out party. Readers of all ages can participate and compete for prizes. Participants may count books read to them as well as books they read to others, and all books count, including audio books and e-books. Last year's Read-a-Thon raised \$2,650 and drew readers and sponsors from Alpine as well as from as far away as California and Oregon. To enjoy three exciting weeks of reading while supporting your library, start by getting registration information from the library circulation desk or the website. Then you just retire to your favorite spot and read!

—Lee Smith



Family Night

Science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, (S.T.E.A.M. skills) are the focus of our monthly Family Nights. Dr. Jeff Meyer and daughter Lennox share a project together.

The purpose of Family Night is to strengthen S.T.E.A.M. skills with the power of family learning. Many parents who attend this program report feeling more positive and confident in their efforts to support their child's intellectual growth at home. Most of all, it is a fun evening! Activities and literary tie-ins are available for toddlers through sixth graders, and a nutritious snack is served.

Can you sponsor this monthly program? For more information, contact Mary Beth at 837-2621 ext. 103.

Weeding

"Next to emptying the outdoor bookdrop on cold and snowy days, weeding is the most undesirable job in the library. It is also one of the most important."

—Will Manley, "The Manley Arts,"
Booklist (March 1, 1996)

Do you have difficulty throwing anything away? Librarians certainly do. Most library personnel will agree that it is sometimes necessary to remove items from a collection, but that does not make the task any easier. Weeding is an essential but often overlooked aspect of collection development. Every library has a limited amount of space that can be used to house its resources. Library collections should always be evolving to reflect changes in the information needs and the demographics of its patrons and changes in the information itself. The staff at Alpine Public Library has the professional responsibility to provide our patrons with the best collection possible of current-interest resources.

Weeding can be one of the most controversial aspects of collection development yet is an integral part of collection development. Decisions on whether to keep or remove an item must be made on an individual basis. There is no easy-to-follow rule or set of rules to use in making each decision. Library staff applying professional judgment and a thorough knowledge of patrons is extremely important when weeding the collection.

Having a collection-development policy is also vital to successful weeding. Libraries should have a collection-development plan that addresses their collection needs and includes such specific steps as determining community demographics, developing policy, selection, acquisition, weeding, and evaluation. With the emergence of the Internet, collection development has radically changed. Resources that can be found beyond the physical walls of a library are available to our patrons in several formats. Interlibrary loan and state databases, to name two, are resources we have available to our patrons. Access now has a much broader scope than ever before.

Items that do not include the most up-to-date information are of little value to our patrons. As collections grow and new items become interspersed with older ones, the ability of users to locate the best information becomes increasingly compromised. Many patrons do not have the patience to wade through inaccurate or outdated items to locate the one valuable resource they need. Removal of obsolete items makes it easier and quicker for our patrons to locate what they need. This is what weeding is all about—helping improve access to a library's resources.

The library is one of the best places in Alpine. It is fun and you can read as many books as you want!

—Brianna Johnson, 4th Grader, Alpine

These are some (but not all) of the questions that librarians ask themselves when they are considering items for weeding:

- 📖 Is the item's content outdated or largely outdated?
- 📖 How many times has the item circulated? Has it circulated within the last five years?
- 📖 Is the item relevant to our patrons?
- 📖 Has the item been superseded by something else? Has a subsequent edition been added? Is there a better item on the topic that should be obtained instead?
- 📖 Is the item physically damaged and beyond repair?
- 📖 Is the book cover old and outdated (especially in children's items)?
- 📖 Can selected items be obtained easily and quickly through interlibrary loan?
- 📖 Is the item requested by other libraries via interlibrary loan?
- 📖 Is the item considered a "classic" contribution to the field (and therefore should be retained)? The classics have a place especially in children's collections. Unless a newer, more attractive edition is available, those titles should be kept.
- 📖 Is the item a second copy? Are there good reasons to retain multiple copies of an item?
- 📖 Is the material of interest to anyone in the community? Some materials are of special interest to an individual library. These may include titles about local or state history or items pertinent to individuals or groups in the community. These titles should be kept.
- 📖 When was the item published? When was it added to the collection?
- 📖 Is the author still read or likely to be read in the future? Is the book a lesser work of the author's?
- 📖 Was the book self-published or published by an "instant" press that might not have taken care in editing, proof-reading, and printing?
- 📖 Are the materials on "hot topics" that were popular more than five years ago?
- 📖 Are there more books on the shelf than are needed on any single subject?

When an item is removed from library shelves, it is not thrown away. In our case, weeded items are passed on to Re-Reads Book Store. If the volunteers determine that the item won't sell in the bookstore or that it is a duplicate, it is offered to the public at a very reduced price or it is sold to Better World Books for distribution to other locations.

What, then, are the benefits of weeding at APL? It makes the collection more appealing; it enhances the library's reputation because of the quality of the collection we keep; it helps us keep up with collection needs; and it encourages constant feedback on the collection's strengths and weaknesses from our patrons.

—Margaret Matthews

A very great deal: learning, entertainment, community involvement and fun. We are so lucky!

—Jim Glendinning, Alpine



Left: Austin Girls' Choir singers tour annually in June. The tours are structured to give the girls an opportunity to widen their repertoire both musically and culturally.

Bottom: Austin Girls' Choir artistic director, Sara Burden-McClure, leads a touring group of girls age 8 to 18 in a wide range of music during a concert at the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room on June 25.



Re-Reads Gift Coupon—A Monthly Opportunity

Each month Re-Reads gives a coupon worth \$10.00 to the library patron who has saved the most money through borrowing materials from Alpine Public Library rather than buying.

Patrons are encouraged to place the charge slip in the bucket at the circulation desk. The slips are collected and a gift coupon given to the person who has “saved the most” so far in the calendar year. The coupon is placed at the circulation desk with a note in the patron’s record so the staff can give the coupon to the winner.

What’s New in Re-Reads

Re-Reads opened in its current location when the library opened in February of 2012. Materials are provided through generous donations from the public. We prep the materials and offer them for sale very inexpensively.

After five years we are weeding the materials available and “re-homing” the materials that have not piqued the interest of our clients. Some shifting and reorganization is taking place in order to make items more appealing and accessible.

We now have the inventory available electronically. When visiting the library website—AlpinePublicLibrary.org—check the Re-Reads page to find the current inventory. If you would like something held, please call the Re-Reads direct line, 837-7123.

Re-Reads is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 until 5:00 and Saturday from 10:00 until 1:30. Come shop with us and watch our changes take place.

—Linda Bryant



May we quote you? Place your comments in the box, and we'll quote you in the newsletter. Look for this display near the periodicals.

Re-Reads Gift Coupon—A September Opportunity

As noted in the “What’s New in Re-Reads” article, we are making lots of changes. Take the opportunity to enter our September “What’s new/different in Re-Reads” contest. Contest rules and entry forms will be available in Re-Reads during the month of September. Ten winners will be announced October 3. Each winner will receive a \$10.00 gift coupon from Re-Reads.



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www.alpinepubliclibrary.org

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The APL is important to me because it has so many books you can read. But most of all it's quiet!

—Andrea Johnson,
4th Grader, Alpine

I agree to pay above total amount according to card issuer agreement and I acknowledge all charges to be final unless duplicate payment is made.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send this form to: Membership FAPL
805 W. Ave E
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You may also pay with PayPal at www.alpinepubliclibrary.org.