

# Between the Lines

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY December 2017

## What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

Hard to believe this is the final newsletter of the year. That's probably because it's been busy at Alpine Public Library.

We started 2017 with a review of the library's strategic plan and careful consideration of our space allocation. Our current strategic plan includes creating a dedicated collection/programming area for children. We were encouraged by the interest several area foundations expressed in our proposed expansion. Consequently, we enlisted the help of an experienced library architect to develop a building plan to efficiently use our space, to increase our children's programming area, to add a tween and teen area, and to add three small meeting rooms and classrooms for tutoring.

Why do we need more space? Because the library is busier than ever. Toddler Time, Storytime, Library Lizards, and Family Nights are popular programs for children and adults. For the adults we started a concert series the third Sunday of each month, Travel Talk continues to be popular, the Friday Yarn Arts group is very active, Tai Chi meets every Monday and Wednesday, free karate classes on Saturday and Sunday, and we have had several live musical performances during the year as well as recorded Lincoln Center music programs. More live music is already scheduled for 2018. Watch for dates and times on the library Web page and program calendar. Also, listen to KVLG. Highland Drug generously is sponsoring a library update every weekday morning at about 8:20.

We currently have five active ESL tutors and 10 learners, an English conversation class, a weekly citizenship class, and weekly GED tutoring. We have a basic computer trainer on call for classes. Our tutoring space is in demand. We often have both ESL tutoring sessions and GED tutoring at the same time. Three people from the citizenship class became citizens in 2017. Our AEP Foundation Community Room is also in demand. Nearly every day of the week time is reserved for one group or another.

Finally, I want to thank all the volunteers that keep APL running. Without your help it would be impossible to offer all the services and activities currently available. I want to send a special thank you to Kathy Donnell for her service as Friends president for the past two years, and we welcome incoming Friends president, Lee Smith. Thanks also to Kathy Bork for her service serving as Friends secretary. Thanks, everyone, for all you do to make Alpine Public Library an asset to Alpine and Brewster County.

—Don Wetterauer, PhD, Executive Director



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Michael Daniel	RideSafeBigBend
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The birth of Tyler Grace McClellan	Albert & Kathy Bork
Very technically savvy and creative APL staff	Albert & Kathy Bork
Linda Bryant and Kathy Donnell	Albert & Kathy Bork
Dana Jones	Albert & Kathy Bork

## A Visitor's View

An extended trip this year has taken me from my home in Portland, Oregon, to the woods of Salem, New Hampshire, and then here to enjoy the Alpine desert skies. On the first days with my New England grandsons, it was nearly impossible for me to understand their words. It turns out they were eager to take me to their "lie-berry," to show me all of the wonderful things there! From pillar to post they ran me around: the Lego wall, the buckets of crayons, the scary stuffed lion in the reading-aloud zone, the puzzle stand, the row of iPads loaded with games, the view of ducks outside in the marsh, the magnetic table—and on. Individual books seemed incidental to my tour, until it was time to go home, when each boy triumphantly carried a book or two to the car. So it was all of it together—the collection of materials at the Kelley Library made it a precious place to these small boys.

It seems that what they were sharing with me were their routines, their library rituals, which called to mind my own: standing back in the entrance to view the designs on the grand staircase of the central Multnomah County Library, obtaining a call number map, heading to the exhibit area to see what was new, viewing the travel section display, stopping by the art books to say hello, looking at the D's and M's in fiction to see if new Drabbles or Maughams had been acquired, and finally retrieving my books from the holds shelf.

Because this Big Bend region feels so remote to me, greenhorn that I am, it is amazing to consider that similar access to a large collection and interlibrary loan services, loads of adult and children's programs, and materials galore are available here, in Alpine, at a library primarily funded by generous donors! Hearing about some of the library's plans for the future, it occurs to me that as a private nonprofit organization, the Alpine Public Library is really a model for community-minded service.

Like my grandsons', my library experiences typically end with books to take home. My visits to the Alpine Public Library seem to conclude with souvenirs to take home instead! So while I have toured APL's new building, enjoyed conversations with library staff and volunteers, admired the collection of Big Bend books, sponsored a Read-a-Thon reader, placed bids at the Artwalk Silent Auction, shopped repeatedly at Re-Reads, and stealthily perused the D's and M's shelves in fiction, I have not yet checked out a book. Perhaps when I travel I am busy checking, well, *everything* out?

—Carie Faszholz, Portland, OR



Early Literacy Toddler Classes serve over 1,200 children and parents each year. Activities include creative learning centers, fine motor activities, reading, crafts, musical movement, and parachute play. Can you sponsor this program for 2018? Contact Mary Beth or Don for more information.

## Christmas Shopping in Re-Reads Used Book Store

Re-Reads is offering gift certificates for readers, DVD watchers, and CD fans. The gift certificates are available in five-dollar increments and may be used by the recipient for any item in Re-Reads. Additionally, beginning December 1, we will offer frequent-buyer cards for frequent readers! Any regular-price adult book earns a punch. With ten punches, the cardholder may select a free regular-price book.

We also have a supply of our special Bookworm Blend coffee available in both whole bean and ground. Each bag is \$12.00. Fabens pecan orchard has sent us pecan halves again this year. Each pound bag of this year's crop sells for \$15.00.

All collectible handmade library mouse ornaments not sold at Mountain Country Christmas will be available in Re-Reads for \$15.00 each. This year's mouse is an Alpine Fighting Bucks cheering fan.



# Library Smackdown Results

Congratulations to Jeff Davis County Library, winner of #TriCountyLibraries #GivingTuesday!

## Final score:

Fort Davis: 92% of goal (\$2,220 of \$2,400)  
Alpine: 91% of goal (\$5,510 of \$6,000)  
Marfa: 48% of goal (\$955 of \$2,000)

Not only will Jeff Davis County Library have top honors, it will have our help with shelving its books!

Many thanks to our 40 donors for raising \$5,510, or 91%, of our \$6,000 goal to help fund general operations and programs. Ultimately, the patrons, Friends, volunteers, and staff are the winners as the recipients of the funds raised.

Best wishes to our friendly “rivals” in the #TriCountyLibraries challenge—Jeff Davis County Library and Marfa Public Library.

Thank you for your support!



## A Parent's Perspective

Marel Montemayor has enjoyed watching her son, Mateo, who is 3, grow up at the library and now brings her one-year-old daughter, Fernanda, to the library. Marel really appreciates how Mary Beth Garrett, the children's librarian, works with each child to engage them in activities and how she adapts for each child.

Marel's kids love story time and they love to check out books. The Montemayor family participated in the Read-a-Thon in 2016 and in 2017.

“My husband and I are book lovers, and we hope for our kids to be too,” shares Marel. They have read about 10 books together. Marel observes that Mateo's favorite book is *No, David*, and he loves *Goodnight Moon*.

In addition to the Read-a-Thon, Marel's family is participating in the 1000 books before kindergarten challenge for both kids. Mateo is almost at the 500-book mark. Fernanda is getting started, but she already enjoys reading.

“We try to bring the kids weekly to story time and every two weeks to check out books,” the mom shares. In addition to passing on the importance of literacy to her children, Marel, as a stay-at-home mom, loves to read empowering books.

When Mateo was young he wasn't interested in sitting and listening to a story, but now that he is three he is more interested in the songs and story. “I like to see that change and how he's grown up,” Marel shares and further notes that Mary Beth has always been a positive influence in engaging her son.

“I love seeing my children enjoy something, socialize with other children, have the chance to get to know other moms. It's a nice environment,” said Marel on what she gets out of story time.

Marel shared how she appreciates that parents of all income levels can come and use the resources offered at the library. When asked what there is to do in Alpine, Marel immediately tells moms about story time and that Mary Beth is amazing with children.

She also emphasizes that there is something for the older kids and teens. The fact that it's free is also a good selling point, Marel notes.

Her family is also looking forward to the expansion at the library because they are so thankful for what it will offer for families. To Marel, the expansion means that a designated place will make her children feel more welcome and as if they have a special place just for them.

In a small town there aren't a lot of resources or places for children, and Marel is thankful for what the library does offer and hopes that it can offer more in the future.

“It's the perfect place to come because it's friendly,” says Marel.

—Marcy Stueve

APL has so many activities for kids to do and it also has so much choices of books to pick from.

—Megan Struthers, 4th Grader, Alpine



# APL Wonderfall Event



APL's first Wonderfall Carnival attracted nearly 500 kids and parents.





APL staff having fun handing out treats.

# Toddler Time Trick or Treating



Colorfall committee hard at work

# Colorfall Almost ^ 5K Run



Sul Ross Students threw colored corn starch on runners as they passed by.



# Read-a-Thon Wrap Up

22 days. 10 books. 2,970 pages. One Read-a-Thon participant logged these stats as she reached her personal best in support of Alpine Public Library. She and the other readers totaled over \$3,000 in pledges from their sponsors, topping last year's take. We chalk it up to training, early and regular, and to increasing those pages per week.

We'd like to congratulate all the readers who kept up the pace throughout the Read-a-Thon. We'd also like to thank their generous sponsors who came through with their donations. If you'd like to participate in a future Read-a-Thon, we suggest that you start training now by checking out a few more books each month and gradually increasing your pages per week so that you can go the distance, reach your personal best, and help APL achieve its personal record.



Read-a-Thon participants at the kick-off party

## Artwalk 2017

Thank you to all the generous artists, library patrons, and citizens of Alpine and Brewster County who contributed the items we had in our silent auction. Thanks also to Liz and Hiram Sibley for providing the venue, Galería Sibley.

Kathy Donnell and I have been co-chairing this event for a few years now and are continuing to learn as we proceed. Pat McCall has scheduled the volunteers who help with setup, staffing during open hours, and cleanup. I feel we did well this year. The volunteers were great, the weather was good, and most high bidders were able to pick up Saturday night or Sunday morning.

From the community we had donations ranging from the practical (a clothing steamer, suitcases, and tote bags) to things that appeal to leisure pursuits (golf clubs and

model trains) to a large collection of art (for the home and the human body)—in all, something to appeal to most people!

As the co-chair and on behalf of Kathy also, I would like to give a resounding thanks to everyone involved. The silent auction earned approximately \$15,000, which all goes to support the ongoing operations of Alpine Public Library. We look forward to another year of great programs and services.

—Linda Bryant, vice-president,  
Alpine Public Library Board of Directors

Alpine Public Library means a lot to me. Whether it's looking for the latest book or needing some quiet time, this is the place to be for a book lover like me, where I can genuinely reflect on the various intricacies of life!

—Deb Bloomer, Alpine

# Why I Volunteer

When I was a child, my home didn't include many books. It wasn't that my parents didn't value reading; they just couldn't afford to own books. So the public library was *my* library. During many long summer afternoons, I read curled up on a window seat on the second floor of the old house that had become our town's library. I developed an addiction to reading, a love of libraries, and a desire to live in a house with a window seat. I've yet to live in a house with a window seat, but reading and libraries have remained integral parts of my life.

High up on my moving to-do list has always been to get a card for the public library in my new city. Only with my move to Alpine, though, did I come to understand just how important libraries are to communities, how important Alpine Public Library is to this community, and that's when I started volunteering. I shelf read, making sure that each book is in the right place. From my position in the stacks, I'm aware of the other patrons perusing newspapers and magazines, looking for books or movies, working at their own computers or the library's, reading to their children or themselves. As it was for me, this library is theirs—their living room, *their* office, *their* library—and in some small way, I'm helping make it so.

I also volunteer as an ESL tutor, helping people improve their English-language skills. I feel confident that I'm doing something good for the people I tutor and for our community. I'm just as confident that I gain as much from tutoring as I give, probably more. I get out of my world and enter someone else's. I learn about new customs. I travel, vicariously.

Similarly, I get as much out of shelf reading as I give. For a brief period each week, I'm in complete control. I arrange books in the correct order, flush with the front of the shelf, in neat rows. However chaotic and messy the rest of life is, I've imposed order in one small space. Shelf reading is therapeutic.

On occasion, I help with special projects and events, like the quarterly newsletter and Artwalk, which all come with their own rewards. Although all of these activities require work, sometimes hard work, they're also interesting and entertaining. I learn new things and meet new people; I grow. The best rewards involve working with the terrific APL staff, always generous with smiles and thank-yous.

I guess I should admit that my reasons for volunteering are selfish. I like to say that I volunteer to keep Alpine Public Library public. But I do it for myself. It's my therapy, my social life, my door to the world.

—Lee Smith

## *Dazed and Confused*

Artwalk 2017 is over. It appears to me that it was a good one in terms of folks, stuff, and weather. As has happened for seven years now, the Alpine Public Library held a silent auction to benefit library operations. As has happened every year, the community stepped up with donations and purchases of those donations. As a non-profit, private library, we rely very heavily on this auction.

Which brings me to the dazed and confused part. The auction proceeds are always used exclusively for day-to-day operations: collection purchases, salaries, building upkeep, utilities, and so on. Throughout the year we ask you to help with this by joining the Friends of the Library, by dropping your spare change in the "tip" jars in Re-Reads and at the circulation desk, by buying the best priced books and audio/video materials on the planet from the store. We asked you to pony up on #Giving Tuesday, November 28, to match a \$6,000 anonymous donation, also to be used solely for operations.

This isn't so confusing so far; you're used to hearing from us, cap in hand. But there's a wrinkle coming in January. We are kicking off a 40-month Campaign for Kids to nearly double the size of the space in the library dedicated to children's, tweens, and teens' programming and adding three private rooms for tutoring, ESL, GED, citizenship classes (to take some of the pressure off the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room). We're even adding a bigger parking lot on the north side of the building (that construction has already begun).

That's right. *Right after* asking you to give and buy stuff in mid-November, *right after* asking you to match our anonymous donation in late November, we're going to ask you to pledge to help us with this capital campaign. And we're going to have to *continue* to ask you to help with money for operations, for why enlarge the library if we can't afford to keep it open? We're going to leave you reeling—and we know it.

But we can't help it. Major funders want to see most of the money come from individuals to prove that the community has bought in.

So think about it as taking a little out of your right-hand pocket for the Campaign for Kids, a little out of your left-hand pocket for day-to-day operations. We'll try to make it clear what we're asking for when we ask, but if you're confused, just ask. We love to talk about this place and our plans for it.

—Kathy Bork, president, Alpine Public Library Board of Directors



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The best library I have ever seen! I spend more time at APL than I do at home!

—Vicky Ellis, Alpine

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