

# A great library contains the diary of the human race

## Between the Lines

George Mercer Dawson

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY • JUNE 2018

## What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

I suppose the most visible change at the library is the opening of the new parking lot. This addition was made possible with a grant from Energy Transfer Partners. Frenchie Causey and the Brewster County Road and Bridge crew did a terrific job with the surface prep and finishing. Martha Latta, Mike Latta, and Jim Robertson installed the brickwork; Jacob Rodríguez of Rodríguez Masonry put in the curbing; and Larry Crawford of Hammerfest Forge built the sidewalk railing. We have a small section of curbing to finish, but the parking lot is already getting a lot of use. Thanks to all for making it happen.

The 4<sup>th</sup>-Ever Adult Spelling Bee held in early April was a success again this year. We are already planning the 5<sup>th</sup>-Ever Bee for April 6, 2019. Pictures and details of this year's event are inside the newsletter.

Alpine Public Library received a Texas Book Festival Collection Enhancement Grant to add titles to our young adult section. The books are already being shelved, so make sure to come in and check out the new selections. We also received a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for APL's Summer Reading Program—*Libraries Rock!* The Summer Reading group meets on Tuesdays starting June 5 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm and is for grades 1 to 3. Call the library for more information.

We are very excited about a brand-new program this summer, the Summer Science Camp. This is a cooperative effort between the Alpine Public Library and the Alpine Middle School Science Department. Beginning at 10:00 am on Monday, July 9, the camp will meet every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10:00 am to noon through August 8. Lots of exciting activities are planned. Each week provides students with hands-on opportunities to investigate different types of simple machines. Call the library to sign up. Enrollment is limited.

And last but not least, the Read-to-Swim Program will be offered again this summer. In cooperation with the City of Alpine, pool passes are awarded to kids who come to the library and read for a specified period of time.

Be sure to check out the Alpine Public Library's Program Calendar and the library's Website (<https://alpinepubliclibrary.org/youth/>) for up-to-date information on programs or give us a call and we'll fill you in.

—Don Wetterauer, PhD, Executive Director



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## Special Donations

In Memory of: From:

Martha Jane Ross	Kathy & Albert Bork
Donna Young	Kathy & Albert Bork
Bob Litton	Chris & Ellen Ruggia (brick)
W. Mark Armstrong, M.D.	Liz Rogers
Jim & Fran Sage	Roger & Jackie Siglin (brick)
Jan Smith	Friends of the Alpine Public Library (brick)

In Honor of: Given By:

All the dedicated volunteers	Gary & Marilyn Dill (brick)
In recognition of our phenomenal APL Staff	Ken Durham & Patsy Culver
Best little library in Texas	John & Donna Ehrke
APL staff—past, present, future	Kathy & Albert Bork (brick)

## Friends Change Membership Benefits

At a recent Friends meeting, the members in attendance voted to change some of the membership benefits. **Effective June 1, Friends will pay regular price for printing, copying, scanning, and faxing:**

Printing/copying, black and white	\$ .25/page
Printing/copying, color	\$1.00/page
Scanning	\$1.00/page
Faxing	\$1.00/page
The ILL fee of \$1.50 per book will continue to be waived for members.	

The fees for these services help cover the operating costs—the supplies, the equipment maintenance, the fax line, the staff compensation. We voted to pay the full price for these services to allow more of our membership dues to support our nonprofit library.

Thank you for being a Friend of the Alpine Public Library. We appreciate your support.

—Lee Smith, president, Friends of the Alpine Public Library

## Alpine's World-Famous Used-Book Store

Folks here in the Big Bend know what a great bookstore Re-Reads is. What they might not know, though, is just how far its reputation has spread. A quick look through the Re-Reads guest book reveals customers residing in twenty-one states from Alaska to Hawaii, from New Hampshire to Alabama. Visitors from Exeter, England, and Barcelona, Spain, carried books purchased at Re-Reads home in their suitcases, as did customers from British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

Joyce and Larry Nickelson, from Savage, Minnesota, are repeat customers: "We have been coming to South TX, AZ, and NM in our RV for the last 10 winters and enjoy stopping at every library on the way. Each is unique and has some books for sale. Your Re-Reads bookstore is the BEST! We look forward to the huge, well-organized selection and the friendly people at the desk."

If you haven't checked out Alpine's world-famous used-book store in a while, now might be the time to drop by and stock up on books for summer reading.

—Lee Smith



Jim Glendinning, 1937-2018

### Re-Reads Bookstore

Support APL with used book purchases or donations.

Great prices, Great people!

\*All proceeds benefit APL\*

(Volunteer booksellers needed)

Hours:  
Monday 9:30AM-1:00PM  
Tue-Friday 10:00AM-5:00PM  
Saturday 10:00AM-1:30PM





# Mike Latta: Have Tool Belt—Will Volunteer

When Mike Latta was in his early twenties, he went to the MEBA Maritime School in Baltimore and spent a year at sea as a day-working engineer. This experience left him with the habit of reading, an ability to fix just about anything, and a wife who shares his sense of adventure. The day Mike and Martha married, they left Baltimore for Texas, Mike's home state, and eventually found their way to Alpine and Alpine Public Library.

Mike and Martha first lived in Houston and then Lubbock before moving to San Marcos for jobs as well as for the location. While living in Lubbock and later in San Marcos, they traveled to West Texas, visiting Big Bend National Park and attending the Alpine Balloon Festival. After Martha sold her plant nursery business in San Marcos, the couple moved to Alpine and rented for a few years while they designed and built a house using sustainable materials like repurposed lumber and high-efficiency concrete blocks.

Mike acquired the skills and knowledge to build a house while growing up in Bellaire, an incorporated city within the Houston metropolitan area. He worked with his father on building projects around their house, including jobs as big as moving a wall. Life on a ship added to these skills. Calling a repair person is not an option when something breaks on a ship at sea, so marine engineers must learn to fix things with whatever is at hand. These skills and the confidence they foster made it possible for Mike to build his own house in Alpine, and they continue to play a role in his volunteering, especially at APL.

Now an avid reader, Mike admits to not reading much as a kid. During his year at sea, he took advantage of the ship's library because reading was just about the only thing to do when radio and television access was limited to short periods of time spent in port. Recently he helped start a local men's book club. He feeds his reading habit by patronizing APL, as he did the San Marcos Public Library.

Not just a patron, Mike is a committed volunteer at APL. He traces his involvement as a volunteer to the preparation for and construction of the new library building. He helped dismantle the school-district buildings on the new library site and bought some of the salvaged wood, which he used to build the kitchen cabinets in his house. He was later hired by the library board to facilitate the completion of the building. He and Martha also participated in capital campaign fund-raising events and activities. Recently, he served as a member of the library board, and he continues to do

maintenance and construction work at APL as a volunteer. In his view, offering his services is worth more than donating his money.

Mike's volunteer philosophy prompts him to do handyman work for other local nonprofits. In the past, he has volunteered with the Food Pantry of Alpine. Currently he offers his services to the Davis Mountains Nature Preserve and the Sunshine House. And he's always willing to offer his maintenance, repair, or construction expertise to individuals in need of help. Mike believes that he owes something in return for what he's been given, that it is his responsibility to pay back and to pay forward.

In addition to his many volunteer gigs, Mike teaches a monthly weekend-long course to riders interested in acquiring a state motorcycle license. For him, teaching the training course is a passion. He's zealous about getting well-trained people out on motorcycles. He is himself an enthusiastic motorcycle rider, and he and Martha have traveled throughout the United States and Mexico on a motorcycle. More recently, they have toured the U.S. in their Casita travel

trailer, staying in state and national parks.

Fortunately for APL, its patrons, staff, and other volunteers, Mike has chosen to give part of his time and expertise to the library.

—Lee Smith



John and George Lilly performing Tuesday, May 22 at APL



# 4<sup>th</sup>-Ever Adult Spelling Bee Is Behind Us

On Saturday, April 7, the Friends of the Alpine Public Library held its 4<sup>th</sup>-ever Adult Spelling Bee. Sixteen teams vied for spelling honors, but it was a team mostly from New Orleans that took home the trophy. Highway to Spell 2.0, comprising Kelli J. Christenson, Shane O'Neal, and Joe Calaway, won on the word "synecdoche" when the second-place team, Las Caballeras—Jane Besco, Jill Goodwin, Ellen Weed, and Karen Williams—finally missed.

Other teams included the Spellicans (defending champions), the Dizzy Spells, the Spellin' G's, the Ballers with Brains, the Desert Dawgs, the Swifts +1 -1, the Book Club, les Orthographistes, the Sul Ross Lo-Bees, the Gud Spelars, the Beelevers, the Diablos, the Carpenter Bees, and the Royal Family.

The Gud Spelars and les Orthographistes tied for best team name. The audience judged the Swifts +1 -1, the Book Club, the Royal Family, and the Spellin' G's to be the most creative spellers. The Book Club, as in past Bees, was chosen by spectators as most compatible team; Desert Dawgs, the Royal Family, and the Beelevers were named the least compatible teams. The Royal Family took away the best dressed award, making up somewhat for its choice as one of the least compatible teams. Finally, les Orthographistes were tagged as the best guessers.

All proceeds from the event directly benefit the operations of the Alpine Public Library, a private 501(c)(3) organization.

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



Highway to Spell, from left— Kelli J. Christenson, Shane O'Neal, and Joe Calaway



Las Caballeras, from left— Jane Besco, Jill Goodwin, Ellen Weed, and Karen Williams



Photos by Barbara Richerson



# During Story Time, kids read to Spur, the Wassermann Ranch miniature horse



Above: Ella and Spur look at an interesting picture.



Right: Spur listens as Nature explains a complex plot development.



This year's Patio Sale fundraiser was a great success. Thank you to everyone who donated their items and time.



# Alpine's First Vodka Tasting

What do huckleberries, lemons, potatoes, river water, white birch sap, bison grass, cilantro, and green chiles have in common? Vodka, of course!

On Sunday, April 8, Taste and See Bakery was the site of Alpine's first vodka tasting, sponsored by Donna and John Ehrke and benefiting the operations of the Alpine Public Library, a private 501(c)(3) organization.

Around 40 people sampled 5 vodkas donated by the Ehrkes and Robert Mittel. First up was 44 Degrees North Huckleberry Vodka brought from the Tetons and made with locally sourced Idaho potatoes, Snake River water, and mountain huckleberries.

This was followed by a vodka judged to be excellent for martinis: Cold Spring Lemon Vodka from Bozeman, Montana. It is made with pure Rocky Mountain water, taking it from mountaintop to bar top.

The most exotic and luxurious vodka of the tasting was Belaya Berezka White Birch Vodka, hand-carried by the Ehrkes from Rostov-on-Don, Russia. Made from grain alcohol, this vodka is "pure Russian soul." Its soft, velvety taste is achieved by adding birch sap and birch leaf extract to the spirits.

Poland produced the fourth vodka in the tasting: Zubrowka Bison Grass Vodka from northeastern Poland. This deeply aromatic rye vodka is flavored with tincture of the bison grass grown in one of the last primeval forests in the world, where Polish bison still roam. Since the 1300's, every bottle of this vodka has contained a blade of bison grass.

To wake everyone up, the final vodka was St. George Green Chile Vodka from Alameda, California. Distilled in an airplane hangar on a former Naval Air Station, it is

infused with jalapeño, habanero, serrano, and bell peppers, along with lime peel and cilantro, resulting in a sweet, savory heat—great for bloody Marys.

It was a spirited event by all accounts and raised nearly \$1,000 for the library.

—Donna Ehrke





# Adult Programs at APL for Libraries of the Twenty-first Century

Libraries are best when they are vibrant, interacting, evolving institutions. Alpine Public Library works hard toward that goal. We have a number of outstanding ongoing programs for toddlers through teens. As school ends for the year, summer reading programs and incentives are beginning for the 2018 summer break.

APL also has adult programs for a wide variety of interests and needs, among them, citizenship, English as a Second Language (ESL), and General Education Degree (GED) programs. All of these programs are taught by volunteer instructors and funded by grants and other sources. The library also offers opportunities as diverse as basic sewing instruction, karate, and individualized computer instruction. The hope is that these programs will improve the job and income opportunities for participants and maybe their leisure time.

The citizenship class began in its current format in 2015. Several people in the class have completed the long, involved, expensive process. On Wednesday, May 9, three more people who worked and studied with the citizenship class were sworn with 1,185 other people at the naturalization ceremony in El Paso. I am pleased and proud that APL contributed to the citizenship of Carlos Dávalos, Víctor Hernández, and our dedicated library volunteer Marilyn Terry. They must now learn and remember to answer “Yes” to the question “Are you a U.S. Citizen?” when crossing a border checkpoint!

ESL is mostly conducted using a one-to-one tutoring format. Foreign-language speakers are evaluated in terms of English-language skills and then assigned

a tutor who works with the student at the appropriate level. There is also a conversation group that meets weekly to practice speaking English. All levels of English speakers are invited to this group.

The GED program has recently been restructured. The class meets Saturdays from 1:30 to 3:00. Individual guidance is offered in addition to the instruction during class. The instructor provides her cell number and will work with students who send texts or voice messages.

—Linda Bryant



Uncle Sam is a regular attendee at the naturalization ceremonies in El Paso. Marilyn Terry (right) and Linda Bryant (left) were able to have their pictures taken with him.



Víctor Hernández and Linda Bryant posing with Uncle Sam.



## Summer Science Camp: Machines

Explore physics concepts by building simple machines

For kids grades 4-6

Levers:	July 9-11
Gears:	July 16-18
Pulleys:	July 23-25
Wheels:	July 30-August 1
Planes:	August 6-8

Time 10:00 AM to noon

Call the library front desk to register  
Space is limited



Alpine Public Library  
805 West Avenue E  
Alpine, TX 79830

Phone: 432-837-2621  
[www.alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org)

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Your tax-deductible dues may be paid with check or money order (payable to Friends of the Alpine Public Library), credit/debit card or PayPal. Dues directly support the ongoing operations and programs of the library. You may choose to make an ongoing monthly donation to the Friends on the library's web page at [www.alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org). Your personal information will not be shared with any other organization.

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### Membership Type (One Calendar Year)

- ☐ Individual/Family \$25 ☐ Best Friend \$100+  
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☐ Ongoing Monthly Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_/Month beginning \_\_\_\_\_, ending \_\_\_\_\_

My library is an  
archive of longings.

—Susan Sontag

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