

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

We started the year off right with Dancing with Alpine's Stars on February 16. We had a great crowd of over 250 APL supporters. The Alpine Civic Center was hopping. We were entertained by nine dancing couples. The dancing was outstanding, and there was a lot of cheering from the audience. Thanks to the dancers for their excellent performances.

We couldn't have made the event happen without a hard-working group of volunteers who provided all the behind-the-scenes labor to pull the event off without a hitch. The Dancing with Alpine's Stars committee is chaired by Lee Smith (she started the whole idea). Committee members are Amelie Urbanczyk, Kathy Bork, Kathy Donnell, Marilyn Dill, and Linda Bryant. Many more volunteers helped the committee. Read more about the event elsewhere in the newsletter.

We are in the process of completing our 2018 annual report to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

The report is part of our state accreditation process. With state accreditation the Alpine Public Library is eligible for state money to help cover some of the costs for the services we provide to our community.

APL is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We are not a taxing entity but we

do have contracts with the City of Alpine and Brewster County to provide library services. We receive about one-third of our annual income from these contracts. Another third of our income comes as contributions from our generous patrons. The final third of our income is from fund-raising, library sales, and grants. On the expense side, 49% goes for payroll, 37% pays for library services and programs, the rest goes to collection development, utilities, insurance, and professional services.

During 2018 we added 228 new Brewster County patrons. Our collection had nearly 24,000 holdings. The library had 45,588 patron visits and 94,907 circulations.

We presented 352 youth and teen programs, 211 adult programs, with a total of 7,315 people attending those programs.

Finally, construction for our two new tutoring rooms is well under way. I expect the project to be completed sometime in March. Our tutors are looking forward to having new, quiet spaces where they can meet with their learners.

—Don Wetterauer, PhD,
Executive Director

Jenny Hatch and Joseph Rosco, overall Dancing with Alpine's Stars winners.

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Kathy Donnell, Vice-President
Amelie Urbanczyk, Secretary
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Friends of the Library

Lee Smith, President
Betty Fitzgerald, Vice-President
Kathy Donnell, Past President
Kathy Bork, Secretary

Library Staff

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Elle Puckett, Circulation Librarian
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Loreyna Cardoza, Circulation Intern
loreyna@alpinepubliclibrary.org
Natalie Guillen, SRSU Student
Henry Segovia, SRSU Student

Special Donations

In Memory of: From:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Elizabeth R. Goettle | Mando & Jerri Garza |
| Elizabeth Goodwin Clark | Amelie Urbanczyk (Brick) |
| Herb Kelleher | Kathy & Billito Donnell |

In Honor of: Given By:

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| Anne Calaway | Kathy Donnell |
| Chachi Hawkins | |
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| Anne Powell | |
| Toni Brookover | Virginia T. Hagerty |
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| Albert & Kathy Bork's 50th Anniversary | |
| Kathy & Billito Donnell | Lori Donnell |

Re-Reads Report

Re-Reads Used-Book Store is undergoing changes. Some were expected and anticipated, and some are surprises.

As a part of the capital growth Campaign for Kids, the workroom area of Re-Reads is currently under construction. About half of the space is being remodeled into two tutoring rooms. This space is more than welcome with our growing tutoring program. The area that will remain Re-Reads workspace has been redesigned for greater efficiency and productivity.

We have been surprised to find that books "migrate" more than expected. As an additional endeavor to increase efficiency, we have thus begun a rotating inventory procedure in an effort to be able to locate the items we have available. We are also requesting that bookstore browsers not return books to the shelves but place them on the red "Please DO NOT Re-shelve Books" cart. Our inventory is listed on the library's Website on the Re-Reads pages.

We are a group of volunteers wishing to provide the best service possible to Alpine's used-book lovers. Your suggestions and requests are welcome. Please leave messages in Re-Reads with your ideas.

—Linda Bryant



5th-Ever Adult Spelling Bee



An Ode to Librarians

Librarians make me want to be a better person.

In my weekly volunteering at Alpine Public Library, I have observed the circulation desk librarians interacting with patrons. The librarians perform routine tasks like checking books in and out, answering questions, and solving technical problems. At the same time, they are working on projects that require concentration. The routine tasks consistently interrupt the work on the projects.

Yet the librarians seem to be always available to chat with a patron, always willing to be engaged, always patient. As I watch them, I suspect that I would not be as patient, as generous with my attention as they are. But they make me want to be, and when called upon to interact with patrons, I try to be.

Watching the librarians makes me think about a word I learned in Botswana: *botho*. The English translation of *botho* is respect, which doesn't adequately convey its meaning. As I understand it, *botho* means recognizing your own humanity in the humanity of others. You deserve respect because you respect others. As a saying in Botswana goes, "I am because you are."

Perhaps librarians are inherently gifted with *botho*. Perhaps people gifted with *botho* gravitate to library work. Or perhaps APL is just extremely lucky in its hires. For whatever reason, the librarians at our library are consistently generous, kind, efficient, professional, and respectful, and they make me want to be a better person.

—Lee Smith

The Small Road Taken

Amelie Urbanczyk enjoys “traveling on small roads.” She’s been traveling on small roads in and around Alpine for much of her life.

As a child, Amelie and her family frequently vacationed in the Big Bend area. In 1995, she temporarily moved from Austin to Alpine to do carpentry work on a house her parents had recently bought. She intended to stay for three months, but she liked Alpine so much that she decided to make her move permanent. Over the next few years, she worked at the newly opened Reata restaurant and then as a photographic assistant to James Evans. With a BFA in photography from the University of North Texas, Amelie worked with Evans in the field and in the dark-room and continued to learn the art of photography.

Amelie’s association with Alpine Public Library began with a mistake in a want ad. After applying for a part-time job at the library despite the low pay, Amelie discovered that the amount listed in the ad was an error—a dollar higher than the actual hourly wage for the position. She took the job anyway, and now, twenty years later, she is the newly elected secretary of the library board.

During the time that she worked at APL, Amelie also volunteered at Archives of the Big Bend in the Sul Ross State University library, where she used her expertise to help preserve old photographs and make them available to patrons doing research. Her volunteer work turned into a paying job, which she held until her first child was born. In 2009, Amelie started teaching at the Alpine Montessori School; she currently serves as the administrator of the school. Her work at the school has given her valuable experience running a nonprofit organization and interacting with a governing board.

This nonprofit experience makes Amelie a good fit for the APL Board of Directors. Other aspects of her background also make her position on the board important for the library. In

addition to her work as a staff member, she has been a Friend of the library for many years. As Amelie says, APL is “close to my heart.” She particularly values the children’s programs because they gave her own children an opportunity to interact with other kids and helped her meet other parents, which was difficult as a new mother in her thirties. Being asked to be on the library board was an honor for her, she adds.

Amelie’s background plays a more fundamental role in her involvement with the library. She grew up in a home with books and developed a love of reading. She also learned from the example of her civically engaged parents. Amelie became a lifelong learner and is now an active participant in the Alpine community. Her philosophy, developed over the years, is that we’re here on earth to help each other. She recognizes the importance of the library to the community and notes that it is crucial in providing social outlets for Alpine citizens.

Amelie’s philosophy of people helping each other underpins her volunteer work at APL. She actively contributes to the fulfillment of the library’s mission. She attends regular meetings of the Friends of the Library and volunteers for tasks large and small, including baking cookies for

library functions, working the circulation desk to give the staff a much-needed holiday, and helping organize fund-raising events.

In addition to working at the Montessori school, the busiest job she’s ever had, and volunteering with APL, Amelie enjoys listening to and playing music. She’s well known in the area as a member of the musical group the Swifts. Other interests include camping, hiking, canoeing, cycling, and walking.

Alpine Public Library staff, patrons, volunteers, and board members are fortunate that in her travels on small roads, Amelie frequently stops at the library.

—Lee Smith



Do It Big, Do It Right, and Do It with Style!



**Stars night winners,
Susan and Clay Chisholm**

So said the quintessentially stylish dancer, Fred Astaire. Alpine's dancers took his advice to heart on February 16 at the first Dancing with Alpine's Stars event to benefit the Alpine Public Library.

Buttons, bows, and boots, silks, sparkles, and spangles—the Alpine Civic Center never looked brighter. Nine couples competed for mirror ball trophies, and 250 spectators cheered them on and even danced along at times. Susan and Clay Chisholm; Kendra DeHart and Conley Rasor; Alyson Dial and Nash Traylor; Jenny Hatch and Joseph Rosco; Katie and John Ray; Allyson Santucci and Henry Segovia; Helen Snook and Steve Stratakos; Emmy Holman and Gilbert E. Valenzuela; and Marjie and Bret Scott entertained with dances as varied as the crowd and the competitors themselves.

At the end of the evening the votes were tallied, and Jenny Hatch and Joseph Rosco were declared the overall winners. Susan and Clay Chisholm danced away with the second trophy, for raising the most on the night of the event. Every couple won the crowd's hearts.

Our sponsors helped make the event a night to remember. These sponsors are

Alpine Radio LLC; Alpine Veterinary Clinic; Anne Calaway; Aramark; The Boot Ranch; Carpenter Real Estate; Eva's Salon; Front Street Books; GSM Insurors of West Texas; Johnson Feed and Western Wear; Little Tin Guest House; Liz Rogers, Lawyer; Talley-Reed Insurance Agency; Taste and See Bakery; Wassermann Wrench; and WR Ranch.

Dancing with Alpine's Stars raised about \$13,000 to benefit the Alpine Public Library's operations.

—Kathy Bork



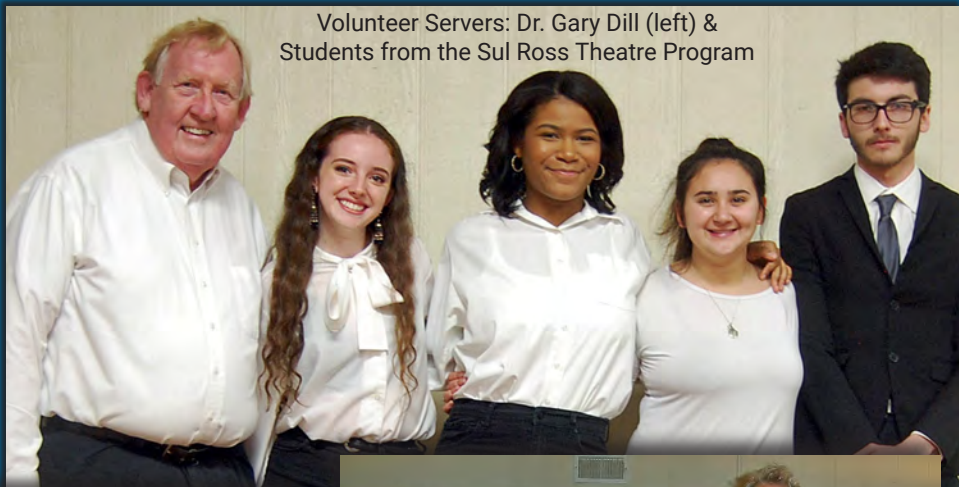
Allyson Santucci & Henry Segovia



Dr. Katie Ray & Dr. John Ray



Volunteer Servers: Dr. Gary Dill (left) & Students from the Sul Ross Theatre Program



Marjie Scott & Bret Scott



Nash Traylor & Alyson Dial



Helen Snook & Steve Stratakos



Allyson Santucci & Henry Segovia



Emmy Holman, Judge Gilbert & Karen Valenzuela



Kendra DeHart & Conley Rasor



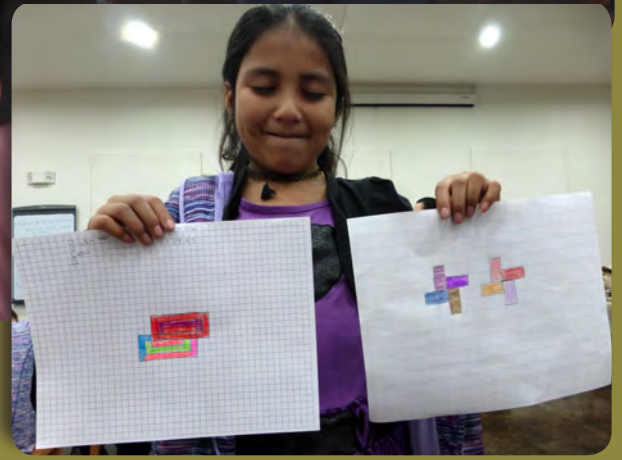
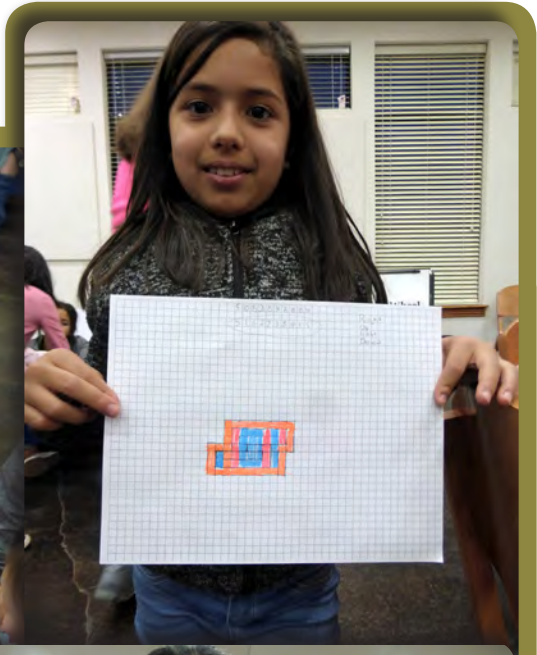
Dancing with Alpine's Stars Voting

Alpine Public Library Kids' Programs

STEAM Family Night: Spirolaterals



Aviana (top right) and Melanie (right) are very proud of their work. At first, they didn't believe that they could make spirolaterals, but they ended up taking home graphing paper to draw more.



KIDS COMIC-CON

ATTENTION ALL SUPERHEROES! Join us in the Community Room on March 9, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Design your own superhero cape and mask, create your own comic strip, watch inspiring superhero DVDs, and discover all our new comics, graphic novels, anime, and manga. Ages 4-12.

All Things
STEAM
FAMILY NIGHT
AT THE ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
6:30-7:30 pm

Families with children ages 5-12

March 27: Ozobots!

April 24: Stomp Rockets

STEAM Family Night: Slime, Magnetic Putty, Kinetic Sand, and Magic Sand



Over 100 parents and kids attended the STEAM Family night to make and play with slime: glitter slime, highlighter slime, glow-in-the-dark slime, neon slime, zombie booger slime, and mummy mucus slime. Kids love slime!

Lego Family Day



The Animal Garden by
Etta Ray.
Lego creations were
displayed in the children's
area of the library.





Alpine Public Library
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www.alpinepubliclibrary.org

Join the Friends of the Alpine Public Library!

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. Your personal information will not be shared with any other organization.

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Please Select Payment Type: ☐ Check ☐ Credit/Debit Card
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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.

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