

A well-stocked, well-staffed library is like a gardener who plants books, knowledge, and dreams and grows readers, learners, and do-ers.

Between the lines

Libraries aid us on our hero's journey

Alpine Public Library

September 2019

What's Happening at Alpine Public Library?

I'm happy to say that APL has received official notification that we are accredited and a fully qualified member of the Texas Library System for the 2020 state fiscal year. Every year we file a report of our activities, our income, and our expenses to show we meet minimum state accreditation standards. There are many advantages to being an accredited library in the state. One of the most important is that we are eligible to apply for state grants and to receive state money to help support the library.



Another great advantage is that we are able to participate in the Inter-Library Loan program (ILL). As a small rural library, APL can't possibly acquire all the materials our patrons would like. Through ILL we had brought to Alpine, by the end of July 2019, 390 requested books. That's a value of around \$10,000 if we had to buy those books. That number is up from 327 for the same period in 2018. But we don't only bring books to Alpine; we also send

books to other libraries across Texas and the U.S. There are many rural libraries like Alpine's, and we can act together as one very large library.

Several years ago APL offered e-books. E-books can be expensive. We dropped them when the cost rose to \$1,000/year for the service. In fact, many libraries are finding it difficult to offer e-books. Did you know that first-edition e-books can cost \$80 or more, and after a specified number of checkouts we must repurchase the book? We can buy a lot of print books for that price. Well, coming this fall APL has the opportunity to participate in a free e-book program through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and Amigos Library Services. This is an offer we can't refuse. More details to come.

What would a newsletter be without a plug for money? I'm always surprised by the number of people thinking that Alpine Public Library is funded 100 percent by the City of Alpine and Brewster County. In reality, the city and county combined provide about 35 percent of our annual budget. Do you know where the other 65 percent comes from? Fund-raising, library sales, grants, and mostly contributions from YOU. A colleague of mine suggested marketing the library as "patron-powered." I like the idea because APL really is powered by our generous patrons. We are here to serve the community, and you make that possible. Thank you!

—Don Wetterauer, PhD,
Executive Director

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Special Donations

In Memory of:	From:
Rex Wilson	Marilyn Terry Don & Letitia Wetterauer Kathy & Billito Donnell Kristine Kinucan Richard & Jean Zimmer Cindy & Paul Slocumb Pamela Spooner Linda Bryant & David Kowal
Rick Coleman	Kathy & Billito Donnell
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Charlotte Kowal	Albert & Kathy Bork Kathy & Billito Donnell Karen Williams
Lonn Taylor	Kathy & Billito Donnell
In Honor of:	From:
Martha DeSipio's 100 th Birthday	Albert & Kathy Bork
Don Slocumb's 85 th Birthday	Albert & Kathy Bork Linda Bryant & David Kowal
Kathy Bork's Birthday	Adam Bork Linda Bryant & David Kowal
Albert Bork's Birthday	Adam Bork Linda Bryant & David Kowal

Library Friends

Alpine Public Library has been fortunate to have many friends who have aided with their deeds over the past 70 years. Founded in May of 1949, two years after the women of El Progreso Club established the library, the Friends of the Alpine Public Library have hosted fund-raisers, staffed the circulation desk, shelved books, planted trees, moved furniture, sold books, made posters—in short, supported the library with their deeds. And they've also supported the library with their money and their voices.

The Friends of the Alpine Public Library works with the executive director and Board of Directors to create public support for and awareness of the library and its programs. Because APL receives limited financial support from the county and the city, the Friends group plays a crucial role in making up

FAPL Membership Drive

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you; spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life." —Amy Poehler

We're Friends of the Alpine Public Library!



Join the Friends of the Alpine Library during our membership campaign and get the usual benefits plus more!

Benefits of membership:

- ♥ Up to 10 free Inter-Library Loan requests a month (\$1.50 without Friends membership)
- ♥ Discount tickets at monthly lunches (\$5.00 instead of \$7.00)
- ♥ That wonderful feeling you get when you do something good (priceless)

Benefits of joining between October 1 and October 26:

- ♥ A Friends of the Alpine Public Library sticker
- ♥ A chance to win 1 of 4 prizes
 - ♥ An Alpine Public Library mug
 - ♥ An Alpine Public Library t-shirt
 - ♥ A pound of Big Bend Coffee Roasters Bookworm Blend
 - ♥ A book

Already a member? Renew during our membership campaign and extend your membership another year. You'll get all the new-member benefits.

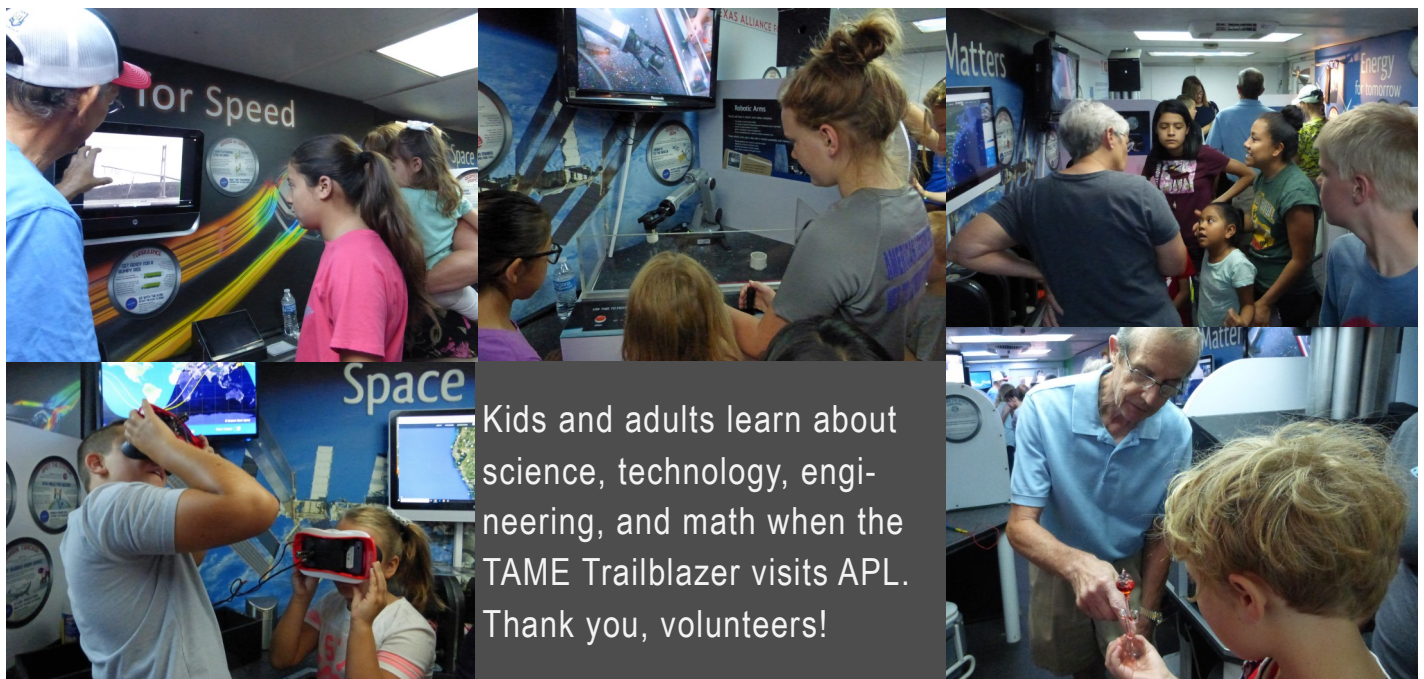
"A friend is one who aids with deeds at a critical time when deeds are called for." —Euripides

the difference. Early efforts included bake sales and teas as well as a raffle for a car. In the late 1990s, the Friends sponsored driveway book sales, which by 2004 grew into Re-Reads, the used-book store.

Re-Reads is still the main fund-raising focus of the Friends group, but other activities support the library to varying degrees, from the top-grossing Silent Auction to regular patio sales. Some activities involve two or three volunteers; others, like the Silent Auction, involve dozens. The members of the Friends group agree that the library is vital to the community and are devoted to supporting the library in its mission.

By the late '90s, membership in the Friends group had grown to around 95. Today, there are twice as many, including about 30 business members. Friends meet at noon on the Tuesday before the second Thursday of each month in the library's AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to attend.

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



What's a Lot Bigger on the Inside Than it Looks from the Outside?

The *TARDIS*, Dr. Who's spaceship, and Alpine Public Library! More books are available to APL patrons than would ever fit in the library building. In fact, we patrons can check out books from thousands of research, academic, public, school, medical, law, corporate, government, special, state, and national libraries from 170 countries. Alpine Public Library in effect has millions of books.

Access to these books is possible through Inter-Library Loan (ILL). Any patron 18 years of age or older can request a book, CD, or DVD by filling out a form at the circulation desk or logging on to the library catalog Web page (alpine.biblionix.com/catalog/). The fee for each book is \$1.50; however, there is no charge to patrons over 65 or to members of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library (one of the perks of membership!).

After a patron makes a request, either online or at the circulation desk, the ILL system searches for the item, starting with the closest library, until the request is filled, a process that takes from two to six weeks. Books travel to APL via courier or, less commonly, the U.S. Postal Service.

The length of time a patron can keep a book is determined by the lending library and ranges from two weeks to two or three months. Patrons can ask to keep a book longer than the allotted time, and on rare occasions, the lending library will extend the due date. Late fees and fines for lost books can be steep and, again, are determined by the lending library.

According to Nicole and Bianca Cardoza, who process ILL requests for APL, they usually can find books that patrons want. But items are sometimes unavailable because no library carries them. Sometimes books are rare and don't circulate. Or an item



might be unavailable because of its popularity with the library's patrons. Nonetheless, we APL patrons still have access to many more books than would ever fit in our library building.

Additional information on Inter-Library Loan can be found at alpinepubliclibrary.org/resources/inter-library-loan/.

—Lee Smith with Nicole and Bianca Cardoza

PATRON PROFILE: KATIE LAWRENCE

At least once a week, Katie Lawrence enters the library and plops a large tote bag, big enough to hold a baby kangaroo, onto the circulation desk. While Katie goes to the stacks, the librarian removes several books from the bag and checks them in. A short time later, Katie reappears at the desk carrying a pile of books, which the librarian checks out to her and loads into the bag. Saying she'll be back in a few days, Katie hoists her heavy bag and leaves. True to her word, she's soon back to refill her bag.

Katie Lawrence is a keen reader and steadfast library patron. She reads widely and especially enjoys mysteries. Using sources like BookBub, she discovers new authors and books and frequently takes advantage of the library's Inter-Library Loan services. There is almost always a book on the hold shelf with her name on it. To Katie, a library card is essential.

As a teenager, she borrowed books from the library at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville. As a young woman married to a career airman in the Air Force, she moved often, eventually living in seven states. One of the first tasks in any new city was to get a library card so that she could check out books for herself and her children. At home, she read to her kids until they were old enough to want to read books on their own.

Katie's love of reading began with a grave accident that occurred in her childhood. When she was eight years old, a pressure cooker blew up, burning 71 percent of her body. Her recovery kept her at home for nine months. During this time, she was home-schooled using books that a teacher borrowed for her from the library. When asked what role li-

braries have played in her life, she responds that they are responsible for her education and her love of reading.

Forty years ago, Katie visited Alpine with a friend and found the mountains, fresh air, and sunshine to her liking, so she stayed. She took a job with an accounting and income tax service. Of course, she got an Alpine Public Library card and soon after became involved with the library not just as a patron, but also as a volunteer. During the 1980s, she volunteered as the library bookkeeper to give to the community, as she put it. In 1989, she started her own business, Elms Bookkeeping and Tax Service.

Katie has given to her communities in many ways. As an Air Force wife, she chaired the Ways and Means Committee of the NCO Women's Club, raising \$10,000 to buy a van to be used by military widows. Under the name Drucilla Starbuck, she wrote a regular column profiling local people for the *Alpine Avalanche* from 1996 to 1999. She also served a two-year term on the Alpine City Council. Katie gives in less formal ways as well, caring for friends who need help with daily chores.

About that bag and the baby kangaroo: Katie's daughter made a tote bag that Katie used as a substitute pouch for the baby kangaroo at Wassermann Wranch, where she has volunteered. Her current tote bag, also made by her daughter, is large enough to carry a stack of library books the size of a baby kangaroo. Katie knows a lot about kangaroos. Where did she get her information? At the library, of course.

—Lee Smith



Thank you
business
Friends!

Alpine Radio
Alpine Community Credit Union
Alpine Vacation Rentals
Alpine Veterinary Clinic
Aramark TX
Bee Wranch
Big Bend Coffee Roasters
Big Canyon TV
Boot Ranch
Bullshirtz
Carpenter Real Estate

Cathy Wright Learning for Life
Celebration Liquor
Cheshire Cat Antiques
Clausen Janitorial Services
Edward Jones Investments
Eva's Salon
Farmers Insurance
Food Shark
Front Street Books
GSM Insurors of West Texas
Hog Eye Cattle Company

Marathon Basin Wool Mill
Murphy Street Mercado
Out West Feed & Supply
Pretty Bird Salon
Salon Americana
Talley-Reed Insurance
Taste and See Bakery
Twin Peaks Liquors
Wasserman Wranch
WR Ranch

Re-Reads Needs Volunteers!

Re-Reads Used Book Store is an ongoing Friends of the Alpine Public Library endeavor. The bookstore generates about 10 percent of the library's annual budget. Are you aware that—

➡ All books, CDs, and DVDs in the store have been donated by members of the public for sale in Re-Reads. Frequently we receive donations from retirees, people who are moving, those who are “making room” for other books, as well as people who read a book and then want to pass it along for others to read.

➡ Coffee, logo-bearing t-shirts, bandanas, and various seasonal items are purchased or donated and sold (at a small profit) in the bookstore. We have had clothing, jewelry, and decorations for sale. We try to maintain a selection of the popular logo t-shirts in various sizes. During the fall, we have pecan halves from the Fabens groves.

➡ The bookstore is entirely a volunteer operation! And volunteers are needed to staff the bookstore.

The posted hours of Re-Reads are Monday, 9:30–12:30, Tuesday through Friday, 10:00–5:00, and Saturday, 10:00–1:30. Monday and Saturday are one-person shifts. Tuesday through Friday the shifts are from 10:00–1:30 and 1:30–5:00. The bookstore can be open the posted hours only if someone is available to work as the cashier.

In addition to completing sales during a shift, volunteers may shelve books ready for sale, dust (an always available chore in Far West Texas), or perform various sorting and presale tasks. Volunteers are also welcome to pursue their own interests—to

study, read, catch up on e-mail—while sitting at the sales desk.

Re-Reads is currently the only used-book store in Alpine and thus provides a low-cost book-buying option to many. Locals and returning visitors seek us and are disappointed when Re-Reads is closed. If you have time and want to support Alpine Public Library, please volunteer to work in the Re-Reads store. Call APL at 432-837-2621 or Re-Reads at 432-837-7123, and leave a message for Linda Bryant, or come into the library and complete a volunteer application form! Of course, volunteering can also be considered a service to Alpine in general, since Re-Reads is the only local used-book store.

—Linda Bryant


Re-Reads Bookstore

Support APL with used book purchases or donations.

Great prices, Great people!

Hours:	
Monday	9:30AM-12:30PM
Tue-Friday	10:00AM-5:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM-1:30PM

All proceeds benefit APL
(Volunteer booksellers needed)



What can you get out of volunteering with Re-Reads? Audrey Painter enjoys her weekly shift because it gives her the chance to connect with visitors from all over the world.



Kids and parents participating in Ride, Read, and Seed at Flowering Life Farms.
Thank you, Dan and Alexandra!

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT APL



APL Goes to Jail

Once a month, three Alpine Public Library volunteers go to jail. No, they're not repeat offenders. They're repeat defenders of the library's mission to encourage literacy and promote life-long learning. Kathy Donnell, Judy Freeman, and Isabel Fornelli-Jones visit the county jail one day a month to maintain the inmate library. They reshelve and arrange books, check for damage and missing category stickers, and add newly donated volumes.

This APL outreach service was started in 2008 by Gayle Lewis, who directed the Homebound Program, and Ken Durham, who came up with the jail-outreach idea. The jail already had a library when Ken and Gayle approached the sheriff, but it was in disarray. At first, the two volunteers cleaned shelves and culled books, replacing about 70 percent of them with books from Re-Reads. For the first three or four months, they visited the jail library every week and then continued their maintenance visits once a month.

The current volunteers use the same system set up by Gayle and Ken, including the color-coded dots on book spines to indicate categories. They even haul their supplies in the same luggage-rack-and-box contraption designed by Gayle. According to Ken, the most popular books during his tenure were westerns and spy novels. The present-day library patrons also favor young adult novels and Spanish-language books, but they can choose from a wide range of other types, including fiction, science fiction, mysteries, inspirational and religious titles, biography, humor, and sports.

Mary Jane Morgan and Kathy Donnell accompanied Ken on the monthly visits and in 2013



took over the library maintenance duties. Kathy has continued the outreach, joined in 2016 by Judy Freeman and about a year and a half later by Isabel Fornelli-Jones. The library appears to be well used, with a regular influx of new titles from Re-Reads. In addition, the jailer, Steven Maldonado, has personally donated Spanish-language books.

Kathy, Judy, and Isabel have similar reasons for volunteering with the APL jail outreach program. They all like the camaraderie of working together. Kathy volunteers because she hopes "that at least one of the users finds something" to read and enjoy. Judy has worked in academic and public libraries in the past and sees the jail program as the "perfect volunteer opportunity" for her. She also hopes that "the inmates take advantage" of the library. Isabel wants to contribute to APL and cares about the residents of the jail, some of whom are clients of the Public Defender's Office, where she works. She especially appreciates the Spanish-language books.

Creators of new programs strive to make them sustainable, to design something that will outlast them and that others can continue and improve. Started by Gayle and Ken in 2008, continued by Mary Jane and Kathy, and today maintained by Kathy, Judy, and Isabel, this outreach program has proven to be sustainable.

—Lee Smith

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT



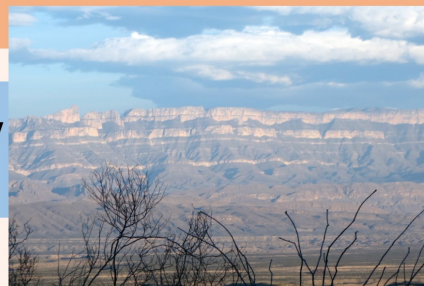
S.T.E.A.M. Camp Spirolaterals

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ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTO CONTEST

October 1 to 26

Send us your best image of the Big Bend area, and you may see your photo on a postcard.



- ⇒ Capture what you love about Alpine and the Big Bend in a digital photo.
- ⇒ Send your photo to desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org.
- ⇒ The top 5 photos will be featured on APL postcards for sale in Re-Reads.



Proceeds from postcard sales support the operations of Alpine Public Library.

FUN IS WHERE YOU FIND IT—OR FUND IT

Dunning one's friends and acquaintances for funding ain't fun, no matter how good the cause.

The Alpine Public Library is a good cause in just about anybody's book, and the numbers prove it: over 5,000 volunteer hours each year; around 7,500 attendees at library programs each year; 5.72 visits per capita each year, well above the state average; and materials circulation of 8.66 pieces per capita per year, almost twice the state average. That's a lot of people using our little library.

Somebody has to pay for that.

Both the City of Alpine and Brewster County are longtime supporters with both monetary and in-kind donations, and our library users have always been generous. It's just not enough, though. We have to ask and ask and ask just to keep the doors open—but we don't have to ask in a boring way.

Take, for instance, your next opportunity to be both entertained by and generous toward your Alpine Public Library: the 5th-ever Adult Spelling Bee, on September 7 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Alpine Civic Center. We'll take you back to the 5th grade and that spelling bee during which you might (or might not) have shone. You can be part of a 4-person team and spell or you can be a heckler/spectator. Something for everyone! Sign-up sheets are available at the circulation desk or we can e-mail one.

We don't want to deprive the kids of fun, so on October 28, we'll have the third WonderFall Carnival at the library—haunted house, stories, parades, face painting both real and virtual—you name it, we'll have it. Although this is not, strictly speaking, a fund-raiser, we hope to raise awareness of our challenging and entertaining children's programming in a carnival atmosphere.



November brings the Silent Auction, part of Artwalk, and our major fund-raiser. On November 22 and 23, the library will again offer hundreds of donated items, from Allen wrenches to art. The Galería Sibley will sparkle as brightly as the Christmas lights along Holland Avenue, and hundreds of you will have an opportunity to outfox your neighbors in the Battle of the Bid.

On February 29, 2020, Leap Year Saturday, we'll present the second Dancing with Alpine's Stars event. Those of you who attended or participated in the first one will remember what a stunner it was. The next one promises to be even better. Mark your calendars, polish your dancing shoes, and get those toes tapping!

—Kathy Bork



September 17
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**In the AEP Foundation
Multipurpose Room**

**Red Beans & Rice
Dessert & Drinks**

\$7.00

\$5.00 for Friends of APL

Donate to the Children's Collection through AmazonSmile Charity Lists!

Your donation will help fill the gap between materials APL wants to add to the children's collection and those the library can't afford. For example, Mary Beth Garrett would like to add every "starred review" from *Kirkus* each month but cannot. So, she purchases what she can and puts the remainder on the AmazonSmile wish list. She also adds patron requests that the library can't currently buy to the wish list.

So far, the library has received about a dozen children's, junior, and young adult books from the list in about two months' time. According to Mary Beth, "it's going well!"

If you'd like to purchase a book from the wish list, go to AmazonSmile Charity Lists:

https://smile.amazon.com/.../2TO67Y9JA.../ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl



Alpine Public Library
805 West Avenue E
Alpine, TX 79830

Phone: 432-837-2621
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.

Business Name: _____
Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____
Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail (saves postage): _____

Membership Type (One Calendar Year)

☐ Individual/Family \$30 ☐ Best Friend \$100+
☐ Business \$100
☐ Ongoing Monthly Donations \$ _____/Month beginning _____, ending _____

Payment Options

Please Select Payment Type: ☐ Check ☐ Credit/Debit Card
Credit/Debit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____
Name of Cardholder (Exactly as it appears on card): _____
Cardholder Billing Address: _____

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
Alpine, Texas 79830

You may also pay with PayPal at www.alpinepubliclibrary.org.