

# Between the Lines

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 2019

## What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

Time sure flies. It seems like only a few days ago that the library was full of fun and people during the WonderFall Carnival just before Halloween. Now the 2019 Silent Auction is history. On behalf of all of us at Alpine Public Library, I want to thank the library supporters who donated items for the Auction. It wouldn't have happened without the tireless efforts of the volunteers who hang pictures, set up tables and displays, price items, staff the different areas, and clean up. We especially appreciate the work of Auction co-chairs, Linda Bryant and Kathy Donnell, and our volunteer coordinator, Pat McCall.

On December 14, a winter wonderland comes to Alpine. Included will be a full-sized ice rink on 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Holland Avenue and Avenue E offering FREE ice skating. There will also be food, music, and activities from noon until 8 p.m. Alpine Public Library will present children's games and activities from noon until 4 p.m. inside the Alpine Civic Center. Yarn Arts, sponsored by APL, will contribute mittens, scarves, and hats to keep little skaters warm during the event.

The Tuesday after Thanksgiving, December 3 this year, is an official day of giving. GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world on December 3, 2019, and every day. Approximately 31% of all annual giving occurs in December, and approximately 12% of that occurs in the last three days of December. Twenty-eight percent of nonprofits raise between 26% and 50% of their annual funds from their year-end ask.

Something to think about: on February 14, 2020, we are starting a six-month challenge to raise \$100,000 for our Kids' Capital Campaign.



**Black Friday. Cyber Monday.**

**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

**December 3, 2019**

An anonymous donor will match the \$100,000 if we reach our goal. That will put us over the halfway mark for our expansion project and get us to the point where we can start asking foundations for money. This is an exciting opportunity and really brightens the outlook of Alpine Public Library. Stay tuned—more about the challenge after the first of the year.

—Don Wetterauer, PhD,  
Executive Director

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Gary Dill, President  
Kathy Donnell, Vice-President  
Amelie Urbanczyk, Secretary  
Alejandra Villalobos Meléndez, Treasurer

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Linda Bryant  
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Alexandra Moldovan  
Mike Pallanez  
Jon Roe  
Cynthia Salas  
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## Friends of the Library

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

## Library Staff

Don Wetterauer, Director  
don@alpinepubliclibrary.org  
Mary Beth Garrett, Children's Librarian  
kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org  
Nicole Cardoza, Circulation Librarian  
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Christine Cavazos, Cataloger  
tech@alpinepubliclibrary.org  
Joanna Barnett, Bookkeeper  
bookkeeper@alpinepubliclibrary.org  
Kimberley Luna, SRSU Work Study Student  
Jalin Smith, SRSU Work Study Student

## Special Donations

In Memory of:	From:
Jane Sibley	Patricia Ljungdahl
Houston Harte	Kathy & Billito Donnell
Jim Glendinning	Don Wetterauer
Eddie Tetreault	Don Wetterauer
Shirley Hasson	Lee Smith
Bobby Roper	Kathy & Billito Donnell Kathy & Albert Bork Dianne & Ed Roper Karen Williams Liz Rogers
Charlotte Kowal	Don & Carol Slocumb
Faye Davis	Martha Scott & Gordie Sanborn

In Honor of:	From:
Tom & Carolyn Mangrem	Patsy Culver & Kenneth Durham
Linda Bryant, Awesome Tutor (Brick)	APL Staff
Edy Elfring, Such Beautiful Plants, Thanks (Brick)	APL Staff
Louis DeSipio	Kathy & Albert Bork

The winners are  
Jerri Garza, David Kowal, Amelie Urbanczyk, and Jim Robertson. Look for the winning images on postcards for sale in Re-Reads.

APL Photo  
Contest  
Winners!



Postcards available  
January 2020

#GIVING  
TUESDAY  
#OneAlpinePublicLibrary

**9,567 members.**  
**23,583 materials.**  
**1 Alpine Public Library.**

## Re-Reads Holiday Hours

**December 2 – 21**

**Mondays**

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Tuesdays through Fridays**

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Saturdays**

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**December 23**

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**December 26 – 28**

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**December 30**

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## RE-READS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

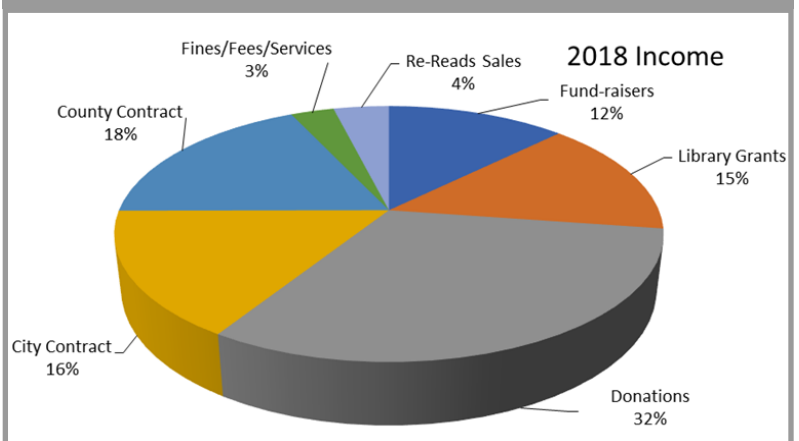
Re-Reads Bookstore currently has a wide variety of fiction, mystery, science fiction, and fantasy, as well as a variety of nonfiction titles available for your reading pleasure. Consider using Re-Reads as a center for your Christmas shopping.

Perhaps while you're browsing our used-book store, you will find titles just right for giving. Our supply of Fabens pecan halves will arrive in December. We always have Big Bend Coffee Roasters' Bookworm Blend in whole bean and ground. This coffee is especially enjoyable in an APL coffee mug. We also have Alpine Public Library T-shirts in yellow and red in a variety of sizes. We have the red T-shirts in children's sizes. It is also possible to buy Re-Reads gift certificates in any five-dollar increment. The cash register keeps a record of the amount remaining on the certificate.

—Linda Bryant

## Patron Powered!

You thought Alpine Public Library was totally taxpayer funded, didn't you? It's not. Only 34% of its funding comes from the city and county. Over 50% comes from patrons like you who donate and attend fund-raisers. APL depends on patrons like you.





# HOW DO YOU SPELL “RELIEF”?



That’s what the teams in the Alpine Public Library’s 5<sup>th</sup>-Ever Adult Spelling Bee were thinking as the field dwindled from eleven to one on September 7. Tensions ran high, as did high jinks, proving that even spelling can be fun for the right cause. Brewster County Sheriff sergeant Chris Roach kept an eye on the competitors to make sure they didn’t injure the word caller. Martin Benevich, owner of Big Canyon TV and KVLF Radio; Ward 5 Council member Rick Stephens; Gail Yovanovich, *Alpine Avalanche* editor; and former Alpine Public Library director Dick Zimmer sat in judgment. David Kowal kept a photographic record, and Linda Bryant wielded the timekeeper’s gong. Our generous sponsors and donors included (in alphabetical order) Alpine Community Credit Union, Bee Wranch, Big Canyon TV/KVLF, Carpenter Real Estate, Celebration Liquors, Edward Jones Investments, Farmers Insurance, Front Street Books, Hog Eye Cattle Company, Marathon Basin Wool Mill LLC, Porter’s on 2nd, Pretty Bird Salon, Rainbow Ranch, Ruben Gonzales, Talley-Reed Insurance, and Twin Peaks Liquors.



This year’s setting was again the Alpine Civic Center, where spectators gathered to test their spelling prowess against that of the brave souls who *actually entered* the Bee. We had returning teams—Carpenter Bees, sponsored by Carpenter Real Estate; the Pfuneticks (last year’s Orthographistes); the Royal Family; the Spellicans, sponsored by Big Canyon TV/KVLF; and the Swifts, who lobbied hard (but not hard enough) for the Most Compatible award. We had new teams—the Dewey Decimators, cosponsored by Front Street Books and Connie and Jon Roe; Front Street Bookies; Knit One Spell Too, also cosponsored by Front Street Books and Connie and Jon Roe; Big Bend Trails Alliance Spelloton; Under Our Spell; and Word Nerds. Taking home the one-of-a-kind Cheryl Frances–designed trophy were the Swifts (Tony Curry, Eden Hinshaw, Chris Ruggia, and Amelie Urbanczyk), who won when Knit One Spell Two (Vicky Ellis, Madelyn Farmer, Robert Flanders, and Martha Latta) missed “liquefaction.”

The pressure was on not only to spell but also to walk away with the coveted (and completely unremunerated) audience-choice awards: Best-dressed team—Under Our Spell; Best guessers—Under Our Spell; Most compatible team—Spellicans; Most creative spellers—Front Street Bookies; Least compatible team—Royal Family; and Best team name—Dewey Decimators.

At the end of the evening, everyone agreed on one thing: how to spell “fun” (“pfun”?).

—Kathy Bork





# NEW FAPL MEETING SCHEDULE

Starting in January 2020, the Friends of the Alpine Public Library will meet quarterly rather than monthly. Instead of attending monthly meetings, each Friends member will receive an e-mailed report with important information about fund-raisers and outreach activities as well as an update from the library director.

Friends members will have additional ways to become involved by joining committees and task forces and contributing their voices and hands to support the library. Standing committees include Membership, Re-Reads Bookstore, Fund-raising Events, and Outreach. For more information on joining a committee or task force contact [friends@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:friends@alpinepubliclibrary.org).

The next Friends meeting is January 7, 2020. All FAPL members and anyone interested in learning about the Friends are welcome to attend.

## And the Winners Are


Congratulations to the winners of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library membership drive drawing!

- ◆ James & Susan Barnes: APL logo t-shirt
- ◆ Mike & Martha Latta: Big Bend Coffee Roasters Bookworm Blend coffee
- ◆ Steve Stratakos & Helen Snook: APL logo mug
- ◆ Megan Wilde: *How Come It's Called That? Place Names in the Big Bend Country*

Thanks to all of you Friends who joined or renewed during our membership drive!



Anne Calaway, owner of Front Street Books, was awarded lifetime membership in the Friends of the Alpine Public Library for long-standing and generous support of the library's mission.



## HOLIDAY HOURS

**12/23 \* \* \* \* \* 9 - 1**

**12/24 - 12/25 \* \* \* \* \* CLOSED**


**12/26, 12/27, 12/28 \* \* 1 - 5**

**12/30 \* \* \* \* \* 1 - 5**

**12/31 - 1/1 \* \* \* \* \* CLOSED**

**1/2 \* \* \* \* \* REGULAR HOURS RESUME**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOURS,  
AND BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!**



Alpine Radio  
Alpine Community Credit Union  
Alpine Vacation Rentals  
Alpine Veterinary Clinic  
Aramark TX  
Bee Wrench  
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  
Desert Heart Jewelry  
Edward Jones Investments  
Eva's Salon  
Farmers Insurance  
Food Shark  
Front Street Books  
GSM Insurors of West Texas  
Hog Eye Cattle Company  
Liz Rogers Criminal Defense

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

**Thank you  
business  
Friends!**



# Fall Fun at API



Big Bend Ranch State Park Rangers hold programs for adults and kids.



Zumba!

Shout it Out!  
Kids' Dance  
Program



Dancing for  
Fun & Fitness



WonderFall Carnival





# CHRIS RUGGIA: COMMUNITY PATRON

Chris Ruggia likes the notion of “reading a communal book,” a paper book handled and perused by a community of readers. So it’s not surprising that he loves libraries. “Always a big reader,” as he puts it, Chris grew up in the libraries of North Texas where his parents, both ministers, worked. After he and his wife, Ellen, moved to Alpine, they became involved in the library, initially volunteering as shelf readers and eventually taking on leadership roles. For more than twenty years, Chris has been a patron of and volunteer with Alpine Public Library.

Chris and Ellen met when they were students in the art program at the University of Texas at Austin. After earning Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees, they moved to Corpus Christi and then, in 1994, to Alpine, where Ellen enrolled in biology and botany courses at Sul Ross State University. Chris worked at the *Alpine Avalanche* as a photographer, at a local print shop, and at the Reata restaurant and other venues as a musician. At the same time, he taught himself Web design, which paved the way for a brief job in San Antonio, freelance work, and, in 1997, Vast Graphics, the design company that he and Ellen still operate.

At Ellen’s suggestion, the Ruggias started volunteering at APL in 1998 as a way of contributing to the community. In short order, they were tapped to lead the Friends of the Alpine Public Library, with Chris becoming president of the Friends group in 1999. Together, they organized frequent driveway book sales, which eventually grew into Re-Reads Bookstore. They also led a library video program that offered film screenings followed by moderated discussions on the Sul Ross campus.

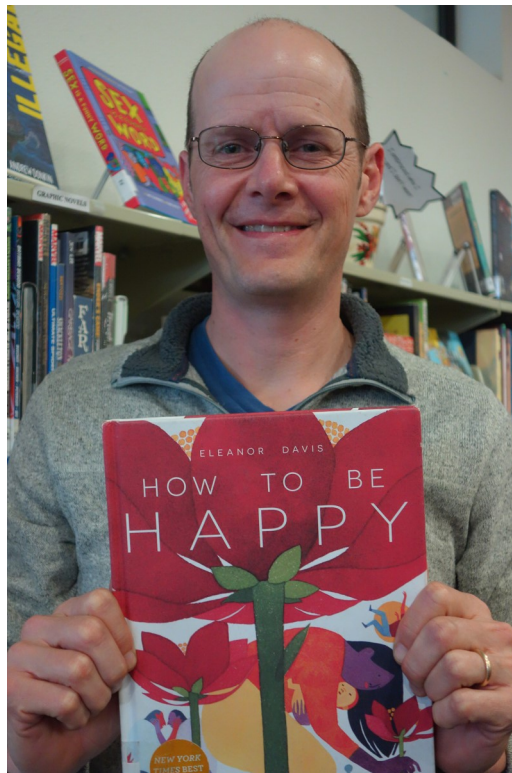
As president of FAPL, Chris was the Friends representative on the library board. In 2005, he returned to the board as a director and then as the board president. He also served a term as treasurer and a second term as president from 2011 to 2012. Chris’s tenure on the board coincided with an eventful time for the library, encompassing the start of a five-year plan to build a new building, the capital campaign to fund it, and the completion of the building. During this time, staff, volunteers, and board members were refining the library’s identity.

Chris and Ellen have used their technical and artistic skills to help shape this identity. They created the library logo, and Chris developed the library website, which he continues to maintain. For all his high-tech involvement with the library, what he appreciates about it is distinctly low tech. He prefers reading a book to an e-book, and he values the library as the “repository of paper books.” Not a collector, Chris uses library services, especially Interlibrary Loan, to access hard-to-find items, like comic books or graphic novels.

This availability of resources, most of them free, is important to Chris. He points out that libraries provide resources and services to those who can’t afford to pay for them. His own education serves to make his point. As a student at the University of Texas, he examined hundreds of books in the fine arts library to expand his knowledge. A library gave him entry into an aspect of our culture, perhaps contributing to his perception of libraries as the “cultural heart” of our society.

Chris is a busy man, working as the director of tourism for the city of Alpine, playing guitar with the Swifts, and designing websites and print pieces for businesses and nonprofits. He also draws and paints. For him, the library is “a node,” the calm center of the community. We live in a “fractured world,” he says, and libraries provide a place “for people to come together.” For the past twenty years, Chris has helped make Alpine Public Library the center of our community for all of us.

—Lee Smith





**Terrific Tuesday  
Toucan Lunch  
New Time!**

**DECEMBER 17 11:30 AM – 1 PM**

# ARTWALK'S SILENT AUCTION AGAIN AT GALERÍA SIBLEY

in advance of the Silent Auction. Some donations have been enjoyed by the owners for some time but are now available for someone else to enjoy. Other donations are given to APL specifically for the Silent Auction. Donations range from the practical (such as socket wrenches) to the purely aesthetic (such as figurines and sculpture) to gift certificates to items of local or regional interest.

The Silent Auction happens during an incredibly busy time of year for many people. However, numerous people give much of their time to the library in support of the Silent Auction. Without volunteers helping with set-up, working during open hours, and then cleaning up, this event could not happen. The Silent Auction is the major fund-raiser for the library, so these volunteers are critical in helping the library raise the necessary funds for some of the outstanding programming the library provides.

—Linda Bryant



*Chairs painted by local artists*



## YARN ARTS HELPS WITH WINTER WONDERLAND

APL hosts and sponsors the Yarn Arts group that meets each Friday in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room of the library. This group is open to everyone in the community and has members of varying skill levels in fiber arts, such as knitting, crocheting, tatting, spinning, and weaving. Though no formal instruction is given, members are very willing to mentor anyone interested in learning any of the fiber arts.

This year, Big Bend Regional Medical Center, the City of Alpine, and Alpine Public Library are hosting the Winter Wonderland event on December 14 at the Civic Center—both indoors and outdoors. The Yarn Arts group was asked to make hats, scarves, and mittens for those needing a little extra protection while participating in the outdoor events. Participants will take the items home. Any extra items will be donated to local agencies like the Family Crisis Center.

—Linda Bryant







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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## 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](http://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](http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org).