

# ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Between the Lines

September 2020

## What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

Well, here we go, another quarantine edition of the newsletter. The June 2020 edition of *Between the Lines* was the first under quarantine conditions. At the time, there were questions about when the library would reopen. The possibility of reopening keeps getting pushed back. Few libraries nationwide have returned to "normal." Some libraries have opened only to close again after a short period of time. Alpine Public Library, like most libraries, is sort of open as we continue to deal with COVID-19. We don't plan to reopen for browsing until we can ensure the health and safety of the staff, volunteers, and public.

Unfortunately, this means we are unable to have in-person programming at the library. That was a disappointment early on since we had some interesting kids' programs planned for summer. All that went away. Instead, a new lineup of online programming was developed. The usual summer reading program became BookPoints and was open to kids and adults. Over the summer 86 readers used BookPoints. Adults read 190 books, teens read 46, children read 226, and prereaders listened to 1,350 minutes. Readers earned 323 badges and completed 56 activities. BookPoints is now scheduled to continue this fall but the name will change to "Leaves to Leaves." The goal is for the community to collectively read 700 books between September 8 and November 8. If we reach the goal, True Value will donate a tree to the library. Other popular summer programs like Raz-Kids, Seesaw, and

Toddler Aerobics/Story Time will also continue this fall. Beginning in September we'll have a new program on Zoom called Round Robin Reading Pods. Small groups of kids in grades 1–4 will gather on Zoom for reading exercises.

We do have plans to add adult on-line programming such as music events and Travel Talks and we hope to purchase outdoor theater equipment, as outdoor movie showings are increasing in popularity.

Last year APL had almost 800 programs attended by over 9,000 people. We always had something going on. Now it's too quiet, and the staff are going crazy!

—Don Wetterauer, PhD,  
Executive Director



**What's that they say? When the cat's away . . . Well, at APL when the kids can't play on the patio, Bandit, the cat, comes calling.**

### Board of Directors

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Aylin Pereyra, SRSU Work Study Student

## Special Donations

In Memory of:	From:
Sandra Irish Berry	Lee Smith & Jim Robertson
Wauneta King	Judy Perry
Loyce Ince	Jill & Stan Penna
Anita Baker, beloved	Lee Smith & Jim Robertson
Sarah West	Kathy & Albert Bork
Jess Claiborne	Kathy & Billito Donnell
In Honor of:	From:
Marilyn Terry's Birthday	Doug & Becky Elliot
Bill Elliot's Birthday	Marilyn Terry
	Doug & Becky Elliot
APL Staff	Kenneth Durham & Patsy Culver
Linda Bryant's Birthday	Kathy Bork
Mike Brown for volunteering his time and hard work in taking care of the library	Kathy Bork
Kathy & Billito Donnell's 50th Anniversary	Kathy Bork

Miss shopping at Re-Reads?  
Visit our Amazon Storefront.  
Your purchases benefit your nonprofit library.

[Amazon Storefront](#)

Thanks to those who contributed during Permian Basin Gives. We raised \$1,400 in support of Alpine Public Library!

PERMIAN BASIN  
**GIVES**

Thank you  
business  
Friends!

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

Celebration Liquor  
Cheshire Cat Antiques  
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  
Out West Feed & Supply  
Salon Americana  
Talley-Reed Insurance  
Twin Peaks Liquors  
Wasserman Wranch  
WR Ranch

## Curbside Service Continues

**Check out materials:** To reserve items in the library catalog, call or e-mail [desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org) with a list of items you would like to check out.

**Pick up materials:** Items will be available for pickup ONLY between 9 AM and 1 PM on Monday, between 9:30 AM and 5 PM, Tuesday through Friday, or between 10 AM and 1 PM on Saturday.

**Print, make copies, or send a fax:** Call the library at 432-837-2621 for information.

**Use a computer:** Call the library to make an appointment for limited computer use.

All online electronic resources, databases, e-books, etc., are available 24/7 by logging in to your library account at [alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://alpinepubliclibrary.org), using your card number and phone number.



The first library lunch in 6 months, served up by Alpine Baklava House, was a big success. Look for more curbside lunches in the coming months.



# It's a Dirty Job . . .

But some volunteer has to do it.

Re-Reads exists because of your donations and because of volunteer labor. It's a symbiotic relationship that, like most relationships, is sometimes rocky.

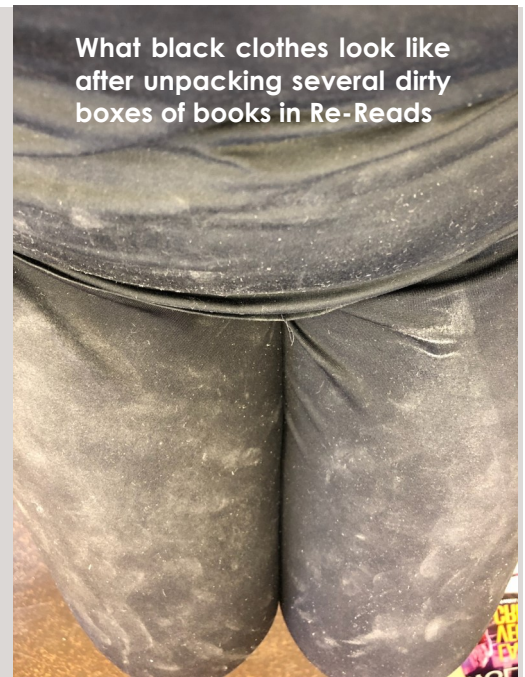
Two of our most faithful volunteers have severe asthma. Another one is just cranky. And all of us are females and of a certain age. When we get a donation that has been sitting in a barn or a garage for months (or years), we open the box with trepidation because we know that it will likely release a cloud of dust or—worse—insect detritus, living and dead. We go through dozens of wipes (purchased by those same volunteers) just to be able to touch the books. If that box weighs 50 pounds or more, as many of them do, we face yet another hurdle.

We want your donations. We need your donations. But we must ask that you follow some guidelines before you bring those donations to us:

1. Clean your books as best you can.
2. Put your donation in clean boxes or bags. Make sure there are no spiders or roaches, or their remains, in the container.
3. Limit the size of the container to something a 70+-year-old woman can lift.
4. Recycle anything that you suspect can't be sold. No cover? Recycle it. Water damage? Recycle it. Mold? Recycle it. Beat-up cover? Recycle it. Marked-up pages? Recycle it.

We'll take donations any way we can get them, but we sometimes have a backlog of 50–75 boxes and bags to process. If you help us on the front end, it gets books on the Re-Reads shelves or into the Amazon inventory and money into the library coffers much faster. We'll love you for it.

—Kathy Bork



What black clothes look like after unpacking several dirty boxes of books in Re-Reads

## ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS THE ANTI-SPELLING-BEE BEE

Have you been pondering ways to find positives during the Pandemic? How about a Spelling Bee that doesn't require you to *spell* anything?

Because we love our spellers and can't think of a way to keep them socially distanced during the Adult Spelling Bee, Alpine Public Library is going to reformat this year. Introducing the ANTI-SPELLING-BEE BEE!



The 2020 Spelling Champs: the Swifts

On September 12, the date the 6<sup>th</sup>-Ever Adult Spelling Bee was to be held, we will hold a virtual Bee modeled on Giving Tuesday. Anti-spellers will have formed teams that will vie during the 24-hour period from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm on September 12 to see which team can raise the most money online for library operations. The team that garners the most donations the day of the Bee will receive four \$25.00 gift coupons to Re-Reads.

For those overachiever Anti-Spellers who can't wait for September 12, we will also accept donations online starting September 7. The team that raises the most money overall will take home the one-of-a-kind Spelling Bee trophy for one year and a \$100.00 cash prize.

We're positive you'll want to enter this one-of-a-kind event, guaranteed to keep you safe from spelling-related cooties, secure in the knowledge that no one but you will know whether you can spell or not, and soundly on the side of the Alpine Public Library angels!

—Kathy Bork

# Kathy Bork: “Can’t Help Myself”

Kathy Bork had been living in Alpine about six months when she glanced through the *Alpine Avalanche* and spotted a notice in Rockslides for a Friends of the Alpine Public Library meeting. She didn’t know many people in her new town and thought that attending the meeting might be a good way to meet some. What she discovered, though, is that only three other people had turned up. Whereas some people would have chosen to leave at this point, Kathy chose to stay.

The election of officers happened to be on the agenda that day, and with only four people in attendance, just enough to cover the number of officers, Kathy was offered a position—as president. Again, some people, probably most people, would have found a way to excuse themselves, but not Kathy. Instead, she declined the presidency and volunteered to be secretary.

By her own admission, Kathy is driven by a “compulsion to volunteer,” which is a boon for nonprofit organizations. Since that first election in 2002, Kathy has served in every office of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library, except treasurer, and every office of the library board, except treasurer. As a library volunteer, she has sold used books in driveway sales, washed windows, emceed the Adult Spelling Bee, processed books for the library’s collection, organized countless fundraisers, babysat for the children of adult learning program participants, edited the library newsletter, edited and proofread innumerable library documents, written grant applications, processed books for Re-Reads Amazon sales. In short, if it has something to do with the library, Kathy is involved in it.

It makes sense that Kathy is a library volunteer because she has been engrossed in books and words most of her life. Despite the doubts of a librarian who couldn’t imagine a child reading so many books, Kathy routinely checked out ten at a time and read them all. She says that she has always been “a ravenous reader.” She grew up in a family of readers for whom the public library was their source of books. A library, in Kathy’s view, is a “democratic institution,” a place where anyone, rich or poor, can find “recreation or information.” She contends that without access to libraries, she would have had far fewer

opportunities.

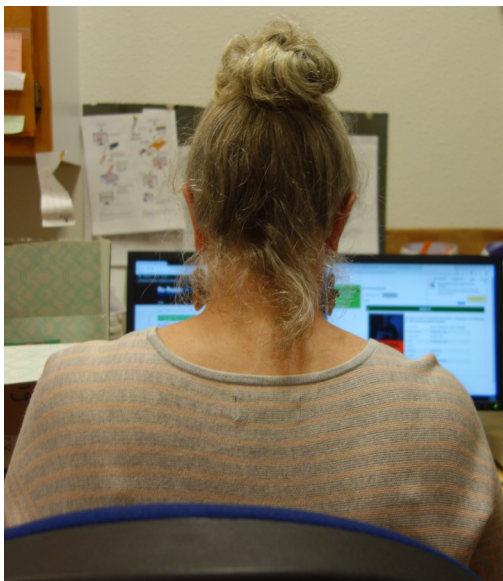
When Kathy was in the seventh grade, she moved with her family to Austin and later attended the University of Texas. According to Kathy, she met her husband, Albert, because UT didn’t have an Italian language program. She majored in Portuguese instead and met Albert, also studying Portuguese, on a study-abroad trip. After she graduated, she and Albert married and moved first to Iowa City and then to Lincoln, Nebraska, where she studied Spanish in graduate school.

The Borks moved back to Austin, and in 1978, Kathy took a job in the Latin American Studies program at UT, moving two years later into the role of copy editor for the program. In 1998, she became a technical writer for the Texas Legislative Budget Board. While working in Austin, Kathy earned a Master of Library and Information Sciences from the University of Texas.

She also volunteered with Reading Is Fundamental, promoting reading by getting books into children’s homes, to the benefit of both the children and their parents, who themselves sometimes had minimal reading skills. She wrote grant proposals for the organization and served as president and secretary of the board of the Austin chapter.

In 2001, Albert was hired as the federal court interpreter for the Western District of Texas; Kathy retired from her job with the state and moved to Alpine the following year. She worked as a freelance copy editor until 2016, when Albert retired. With more free time, the couple started traveling for extended periods, exploring Europe, Central and South America, and North America. The Borks’ most recent trip, to Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, was cut short by the coronavirus pandemic.

Since her move to Alpine, Kathy has not just been volunteering at APL. She was on the founding board of the Food Pantry of Alpine and continues to write thank you letters to donors. With Donna Ehrke, Kathy coedited the Big Bend area Sierra Club newsletter. She was a member of the Alpine Pilot Club, serving in every office except treasurer. She also served as a director of the Pilot Club at the state level. For nine years, she was a Court-Appointed Special Advocate, working to support and represent abused and neglected children. She is a graduate of Leader-





Kathy's compulsion does allow her to pursue other interests besides volunteering. She rides her electric bike for transportation and exercise. She also does QuickFit, a version of CrossFit, at Alpine Fitness. She's still an avid reader and participates in a book club, functioning as the unofficial secretary of the group. She also works crossword and sudoku puzzles and plays mahjong, although the pandemic has put a hold on the regular games with a group of friends.

teering for APL. During the shelter-in-place period, she worked at home sorting through documents for the Friends of the Alpine Public Library to compile an archive of volunteerism at APL. After the stay-at-home order was lifted, she returned to the task of processing books for sale at the Re-Reads Amazon Storefront and to conceiving fundraisers compatible with social-distancing requirements.

Despite growing up without a culture of volunteering, Kathy got the bug. As she admits, she “can’t help” herself. She must volunteer. As she puts it, “I get a sense of accomplishment from volunteering that I don’t get from *anything* else.” Fortunately for the APL community, the library feels to her like a natural place to volunteer.

**Greetings from the APL staff—masked at work, unmasked in their private spaces!**



# Fall APL Programs for All Ages

Welcome to: Round Robin Reading Pods!



1st Grade Pod  
Tuesdays 4:30 - 5:00

2nd Grade Pod  
Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:00

3rd Grade Pod  
Thursdays 4:30 - 5:00

4th Grade Pod  
Fridays 4:30 - 5:00

Join your friends & make some new ones with this after school reading program! Contact [kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org) to receive a zoom link from Mrs. Garrett

**Round Robin Reading Pods:** Kids gather in Zoom groups after school for reading, listening, and discussion.

**Literacy Packets** will continue for ages toddler through 7th grade.

**Seesaw and RAZ-Kids** distance-learning platforms will continue. There is space in both programs.

**Leaves to Leaves** is a community reading challenge using BookPoints. The goal is for the community to read 700 books between September 8 and November 8, at which time a tree will be donated to the library by Morrison True Value Hardware.

The Texas Book Festival program **Story Quest** will begin in late September and run for the school year. Kids in grades 5 through 7 will select a book from our newly enhanced Junior and Young Adult collections and build a model of a plot diagram using supplies provided by the library. A video describing the program will be available on the APL YouTube Channel in a few weeks. Kids will receive a **Raspberry Pi** as an incentive.

**Toddler Aerobics/Story Time** continues on Thursday mornings at 10:30. Plans are in the making to Zoom this program into Alpine Elementary School PreK and Kinder classrooms.

**Story Time** on demand and **Science Spot** will continue on the YouTube Channel.

## APL Mystery Read Aloud

During the week of October 19, National Friends of the Library Week, volunteer readers will read chapters from Elizabeth A. Garcia's *One Bloody Shirt at a Time* on the library's YouTube channel. We chose this book because Ms. Garcia was a longtime library supporter and a part-time local. Her mystery series is very popular among Tricounty residents, and we thought this would be a fitting tribute to her from the community that loved her.

This is a new fundraiser and format necessitated by the virus. We will kick off on Monday, October 19, with a live reading by SRSU President Pete Gallego from Front Street Books at 7:00 p.m. He will read the front matter and chapters 1 and 2. Tuesday through Friday, we will play recorded readings on the library's YouTube channel from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Ronny Dodson will read the final chapter on Friday. On Saturday morning, we will have a children's "hour"

with children reading from an age-appropriate mystery.

We need volunteer readers to fill out the week. If you are interested in being a reader, contact Kathy Bork, [borkedit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:borkedit@sbcglobal.net) or 432-386-3551. Volunteer readers may choose their chapters—first come, first served—and either read live from the library during their time slot or send us a recorded reading, which we will play at the appointed time.



By agreeing to be a reader, you are also agreeing to contact friends and family and ask them to donate to the fundraiser during your reading slot (or anytime else!). Your reading will be available on our YouTube channel after your slot for your donors' convenience.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kathy Bork. It's a new deal—and world—for all of us, so we expect some bumps.

—Kathy Bork



# INSIDE APL

## Librarians Recommend

Casey Costa, Circulation Librarian

**Wonder** by R. J. Palacio

To call this modern classic a children's book would be a disservice. Auggie Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has kept him home-schooled. Starting 5th grade in a private school, all Auggie wants is to be accepted by his classmates, who really struggle to get past his face. Everyone needs to read this fantastic exploration into choosing kindness and having compassion, acceptance, and empathy for others.



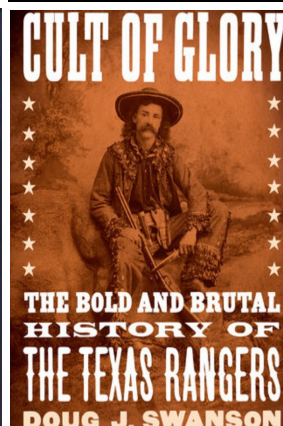
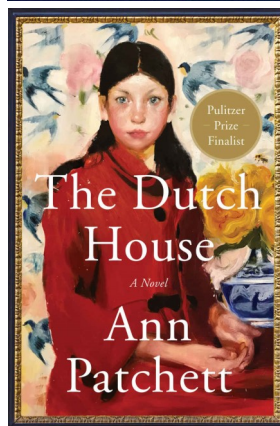
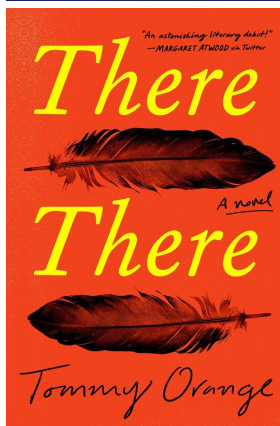
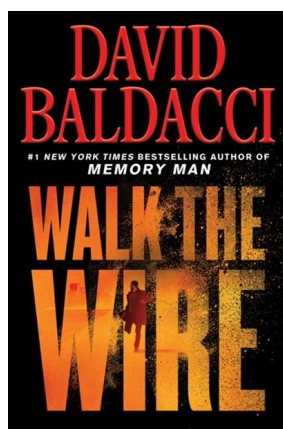
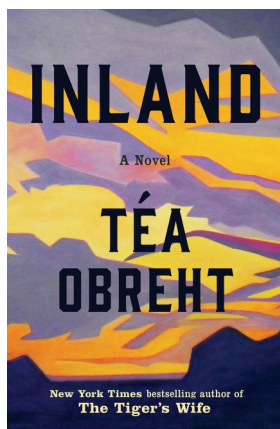
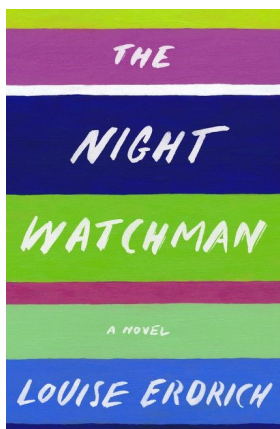
**The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared** by Jonas Jonasson

Such a fun read. Meet Allan Karlsson, the 100-year-old man who has decided life at the nursing home is not for him. Join him on his outlandish adventures as he escapes his nursing home, angers some nasty criminals, befriends an elephant named Sonya, and more. This is just another day for Allan, as his life is full of wild adventures, including accidentally saving General Franco during the Spanish Civil War. If you're looking for an entertaining, light-hearted, amusing read, this is it!

Mary Beth Garrett, Children's Librarian

My new favorite author is Kwame Alexander, who writes poetry and children's literature. I LOOOVE the way he combines the two, making both very accessible to people of all ages. His verse novel, *The Crossover*, won the Newbery Medal in 2015. Through his new imprint, Versify (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing), one can find uniquely curated lists of books that engage all readers to imagine and create a better world. He has a great motto: "Changing the World, One Word at a Time."

## New Books



## New DVDs



To find more new titles, take a look at APL's online catalogs.

General collection:

<https://alpine.biblionix.com/catalog/>

Kids' collection:

<https://alpine.biblionix.com/catalog/?kids=1>

We can't browse the shelves now. But APL librarians can help find something to read or watch. Fill out a request form to give them an idea of what you're looking for!

[Request Form](#)



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 (Annual)

- ☐ 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).