

# Between the Lines

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 2020

## What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

One thing hasn't changed during the last nine months: we haven't been able to return to "normal" operations. We continue to offer curbside services, which include materials checkout, interlibrary loans, printing, faxing, scanning, and notary services. We are allowing limited computer access by appointment or as space permits. Our goal is to keep things as close to normal as possible. I think we are fortunate to be able to offer these services; however, in the interests of staff and patron safety, for the foreseeable future we will not have any in-person programming or allow patrons in to browse the shelves. I'm seeing notices about libraries across the state that are closing again due to increased COVID infection rates in their areas.

There are many resources available by using your card number and logging into your library account. You can reserve materials, request interlibrary loans, and access our suite of databases. You can also call the library or e-mail [desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org) with requests. We'll help you get the materials you need and want. Just let us know how we can help.

Even though we are only partially open, we are still keeping busy. We are adding new materials to the collection every week, and we've received many very nice donations. Check out the library catalog online at [alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://alpinepubliclibrary.org) and look over the new materials.

Earlier this fall we purchased an outdoor theater system. Thanks to generous donations to our fundraising efforts, we raised \$4,350 (we still need \$750 to pay it off). Our first movie was *The Birds* on Halloween, and about 25 souls braved the chilly evening. We are planning another socially distanced outdoor showing on December 12 (bad weather make-up date, December 19) at 6:30 pm. The movie, *Chasing Ice*, is an Emmy-award winning documentary for outstanding nature programming. *Chasing Ice* is the story of one man's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of our changing planet. Bring your own chairs and blankets; we'll provide popcorn. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.



I am happy to announce that we have received a couple of grant awards. The Hancher Library Foundation has given us a grant to replace four patron computers. We have also received a Texas State Library and Archives CARES grant, which will help us make technology upgrades to offer better service to our patrons.

—Don Wetterauer, PhD,  
Executive Director

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Gary Dill, President  
Kathy Donnell, Vice-President  
Amelie Urbanczyk, Secretary

### Directors

Linda Bryant  
Maria Curry  
Bernadette Devine  
Betsy Evans  
Mike Pallanez  
Cynthia Salas  
Lee Smith  
Mary-Elizabeth Thompson

## Friends of the Library

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

## Library Staff

Don Wetterauer, Director  
[don@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:don@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Mary Beth Garrett, Children's Librarian  
[kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Christine Cavazos, Cataloger  
[tech@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:tech@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Joanna Barnett, Bookkeeper  
[bookkeeper@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:bookkeeper@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Nicole Cardoza, Circulation Librarian  
[desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Joseline Cintrón, Circulation Librarian  
[joseline@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:joseline@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Casey Costa, Circulation Librarian  
[casey@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:casey@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Nan Jamieson, Circulation Librarian  
[nan@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:nan@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Loreyna Cardoza, Circulation Intern  
[loreyna@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:loreyna@alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
Aylin Pereyra, SRSU Work Study Student

Special Donations	
In Memory of:	From:
Mary Jane Morgan	Kathy Bork (toward the Outdoor Theater System)
	Kathy & Billito Donnell
	Marilyn Terry
	Anne Strauss Calaway
	Juliette Schwab
	Paige Delaney
Beth Garcia for the Mystery Read Aloud	Martha Waltman
Gwynne Jamieson	Kay & Tim Wilde
In Honor of:	From:
Linda Bryant for the Mystery Read Aloud	Gaylan Corbin
	Carol Slocumb
Jenny Hatch for the Mystery Read Aloud	Gaylan Corbin
	Patsy Culver
Alan Wallace for the Mystery Read Aloud	Carol Slocumb
Don Wetterauer for the Mystery Read Aloud	
Chris Müller for the Mystery Read Aloud	
Jeffrey Meyer for the Mystery Read Aloud	
Lynda Douglas for the Mystery Read Aloud	
Denis Foley for the Mystery Read Aloud	Barbara Curry
Gary Dill for the Mystery Read Aloud	
Linda Bryant for her tremendous work and support of the APL	
Paige Delaney for the Mystery Read Aloud	Allan Delaney
	Mary Huigens
Bob Mittel for the Mystery Read Aloud	Melvin Chaplin
	Diane Dusini
	Deirdre Smith
	Marvin Fletcher
	Donna Ehrke

# Movie Night at APL

The idea of an outdoor theater system first came to me at the beginning of the pandemic in March. Everything was shut down and there was nothing to do. The library facility was closed to the public, and we were all forced to social distance. I must have tapped into the collective conscience because I soon found out that outdoor theater systems were selling out around the country. It made sense to me to invest in something our entire community could benefit from, not just during these trying times, but in the future. Don Wetterauer, the library director, had been wanting to organize family movie nights for several years, so I thought “Let’s do it!” We have hundreds of movies in our catalogue, we have movie licensing that allows us to show them, and our dark skies are perfect for this. All that was needed was a quality theater system. Found! Perfect for outdoor and indoor use. Movie nights can be scheduled outdoors or indoors, depending on weather and social-distancing protocols.

It was my vision to set up the system at the front entrance of the library, close off the front entrance to the parking lot to vehicles, and have everyone bring their lawn chairs and blankets. It was also my vision to feature quality, family-friendly movies with a focus on award-winning independent and foreign films as well as classics that have stood the test of time. My vision came to fruition on Halloween night, when APL premiered its first outdoor film, Alfred Hitchcock’s *The Birds*. It was a success! Twenty-five people attended, the visual and sound quality was impressive, and the popcorn was pretty darn good, too. It was a perfect night under a full Halloween moon. Don has already been receiving inquiries about our next feature film. Stay tuned!

—Joanna Barnett, Bookkeeper

*With Don’s approval, Jo started the Go Fund Me campaign that made the theater system possible.*



Shop our Amazon Storefront. Your purchases benefit APL.

Amazon Storefront



# My Friend

When I was asked to write something about Mary Jane Morgan's contribution to Alpine Public Library, I started plodding through old newsletters and Board of Directors meeting minutes. I compiled a hefty list of her accomplishments, most notably, her almost singlehanded acquisition of the land for the new library and her major role in securing the largest corporate donation for that same project.

That list, like most lists, was dry and largely uninteresting. It was so inadequate as a tool for describing my friend Mary Jane that I put it aside and started *thinking about my friend*, what she was like, what she taught me, what she did for me and for things that were important to me.

I knew her well for 15 years, worked closely with her on the library's first capital campaign, and followed her lead on other volunteer projects. We were two Type-A personalities who learned to respect one another, to listen to one another, to agree to disagree, to finish what we started, and to love one another. I've been looking back over our decade and a half of friendship and collaboration and have come to realize that our relationship achieved what many of us seem unable to accomplish in these troubled times. We were largely civil toward one another, even when we *really* disagreed, and we learned to rely on each other's strengths and to fill in gaps when one or the other of us was unable or unwilling.

Mary Jane, as her son, Jeremy, noted in her eulogy, lived her life to serve others. Alpine Public Library was a major beneficiary of that creed. I asked her to join the Board of Directors in 2005 as we were embarking on the first capital campaign. She had had very little direct interaction with the library to that point, but, as she always did when asked to

help, she jumped in with both of her beautifully shod feet. (Have I mentioned that she was the best dressed person I have ever known in my life?) She served as a board officer during the entire campaign, chaired the Capital Campaign Committee, and worked on all fundraising activities (and there were a lot). She used her considerable contacts and charm to convince potential donors of land and money and

elbow grease that APL was where their resources should go. (Have I mentioned that she was a force of nature? Awe inspiring and difficult to ignore.) I feel safe in saying that, without Mary Jane's efforts, we might still be in those two conjoined houses that served as the library for so many years.

Mary Jane and her contribution to Alpine Public Library and to Alpine can be described only with the most hyperbolic of adjectives—tireless, relentless, *absolutely* reliable, trustworthy, loyal, generous, ethical. She was a hostess of the Amy Vanderbilt variety but never stuffy. She never balked when asked to perform some less-than-comfortable task (especially asking people for money). She knew everybody and was generous with that knowledge. We lost a lot when she moved to Victoria. We lost even more when she died.

I miss you, my friend.

—Kathy Bork



The APL Board of Directors has dedicated the tutoring space to Mary Jane Morgan to honor her contribution to the library and her many years of teaching in Alpine High School. A plaque, which hangs outside the tutoring rooms, reads

**Mary Jane Morgan Tutoring Center  
Teacher and Friend of Alpine Public Library**

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

**Thank you  
Business  
Friends!**



## EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ARTWALK EVENT HAS GONE VIRTUAL!

The Alpine Public Library's 2020 Silent Auction will be open from Wednesday, November 4 through Friday, December 4 at 4 PM. Click [HERE](#) to bid on art, clothing, jewelry, books, and more. The silent auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year! You can help the library fulfill its mission by doing your holiday shopping with us.



*The Lynx Trio, Mary-Elizabeth Thompson on flute, Hope Cowan on harp, and Jorge Martínez-Ríos on viola, performed at APL.*



## APL Into the Breach

In meeting its mission “to build community, encourage literacy, and promote lifelong learning,” Alpine Public Library fills the service gaps that inevitably open up in a small town. So it is with APL children’s programming, supplementing programs in local public, private, and home school education. So it is with the English as a Second Language program, providing tutoring not offered elsewhere in the region. And so it is with preparation for the General Educational Development exams and the U.S. citizenship test. The success of the GED and citizenship programs is easily measurable by the number of graduates, those who go on to pass the tests. It’s also measurable by the participants’ reported satisfaction with the program.

### **GED at APL**

GED programs have been offered by various organizations in Alpine for many years. Don Wetterau-

er, now the executive director at APL, tutored GED students with eBigBend in the mid-2000’s. By 2011, Sul Ross State University in cooperation with Odessa College was offering GED preparation courses on the Sul Ross campus. This partnership ended, leaving a gap in instruction, and APL stepped in to offer tutoring in early 2017, when volunteer Pat McCall began working with GED candidates. By the time Linda Bryant took over in 2019, Pat had worked with 16 students. Four individuals are currently enrolled in the program although the pandemic has caused a gap in in-person tutoring. Over the course of the program at APL, five students have successfully passed the exams and earned their diplomas.

APL GED students are typically working adults whose full lives make the gaps in their education more difficult to fill. Like Riley Smith and David Menard, who earned their diplomas while working



full time for the City of Alpine, they value a flexible class schedule and focused tutoring. Both men attribute their success to the tutoring they received. For David, it was especially helpful with the math test because math concepts were “fresh” in his mind when he took it. He also appreciated being able to get “help when something wasn’t clear.” Both men also credit passing the exams for their success on the job. For David, the diploma has meant a promotion. Another offshoot of successfully completing the GED, as Riley points out, is that a father who is older and has been out of school for a time can positively model academic achievement for his children.

### Citizenship Prep

APL initially offered self-directed, minimally guided preparation for the citizenship test. Beginning in September 2015, formal classes were offered that coincided with the school year. The classes were subsequently changed to allow for continuous enrollment, which better met the needs of the applicants. Souleymane Bazie, from Burkina Faso, was a member of the first class in 2015 and the first to become a U.S. citizen in November 2016. Since the start of the program, 17 individuals, from China, Mexico, Burkina Faso, Romania, and Canada, have become U.S. citizens.

Linda Bryant is largely responsible for the success of the citizenship program. The process of studying for citizenship is anxiety producing, but Linda makes it fun, according to the members of past classes. Weekly group meetings allow for camaraderie and oral practice answering the 100 questions on the history, government, and geography of the U.S. Linda provides study materials that, in the words of Alexandra Moldovan, are “easy to grab and use at any time of the day during a small break,” ideal for busy

adult learners. More important, according to Alexandra, is that Linda goes through the application with each candidate to make sure that the questions are understood, which is crucial for people whose first language is not English. Alexandra, who became a U.S. citizen in 2017, also points to the helpfulness of the mock interviews in preparing for the oral test and relieving anxiety. Linda “is a cheerleader for each class member,” says Marilyn Terry. Linda cheers on the applicants all the way to the finish line by attending their naturalization ceremonies, as she did when she attended Marilyn’s ceremony in 2018.



Víctor Hernández, originally from Mexico, at his naturalization ceremony in 2018

Now Alpine Public Library is facing another breach, one caused by COVID-19. In keeping with health protocols, the citizenship program is in hiatus, and the GED program is moving to Zoom. As always, APL is trying to be flexible in meeting the needs of the community, and until programming can return to normal, the library will find ways to fill the gaps.

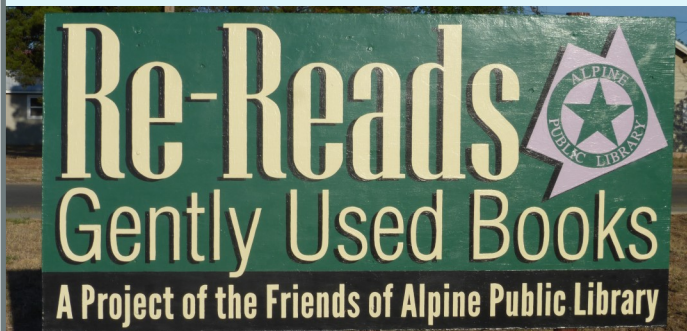
—Lee Smith

### Shop Re-Reads In-store Catalog

It's easy to shop for books in Re-Reads.

1. [Browse books](#) in the Re-Reads catalog. Search by category or use the search box to search by title, author, keyword(s), or ISBN.
2. Make a list of title, author, and SKUs for the books you want.
3. Call us at 432-837-2621 or e-mail [desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org) with your order.

We'll pull the books and let you know when they are ready for pickup. We can also arrange for shipping.



Re-Reads depends on your book donations. But we can't sell books in this condition. The dust and mold make them dangerous for our volunteers to handle, and no one wants to buy them. We appreciate your thinking of Re-Reads with your donations of used books in good condition!

# Fundraising in the Time of COVID

By now, we're all ready for anything that seems normal, however we're defining "normal" in these times. "Normal" for us at APL involves a lot of fundraising to keep the lights on and the circulation desk buzzing.



Speaking of "buzzing," on September 12, we held the first-ever (and, we hope, the last-ever) virtual adult spelling bee, the Anti-Spelling-Bee Bee, modeled on Giving Tuesday. Because we could not keep our spellers socially distanced in the Civic Center, we decided to give everyone a break from the sting of defeat by not making anyone spell this year. All we asked of our teams was a beehive of online fundraising. Most of our past teams opted out (citing how much fun it was to misspell esoteric words in public), but four teams—the Book Club, the Swifts, Ceux-ci ne sont pas des épeleurs, and Front Street Bookies—rose to the challenge. The Book Club was the overall highest fundraiser with \$2,265.75; the Swifts (last year's live and in-person Adult Spelling Bee winner) raised the most on the day of the event, \$1,372.93.

The grand total from all teams was \$4,652.21 for library operations. Not a bad day's work for virtually no work!

As the virtual Spelling Bee was leaving the building, the first-ever Mystery Read Aloud crept in on little cat feet. The event, held during National Friends of Libraries Week, October 19–24, was dedicated to the work of Elizabeth A. Garcia. Beth Garcia wrote a very popular mystery series featuring Deputy Margarita Ricos and set in the Big Bend region. Readers read chapters from the first book in the series, *One Bloody Shirt at a Time*, over five nights on the library's YouTube channel. The event kicked off on Monday night with live readings hosted by Front Street Books. Sul Ross State University president Pete P. Gallego was the first reader, followed by Americana Salon owner, Jenny Hatch. Sheriff Ronny Dodson solved the mystery on the last night. Other mystery- and library-loving readers included Jo Barnett, Alan Wallace, Bob Mittel (all the way from Maine), Kathy Donnell, Linda Bryant, Don Wetterauer, Chris Müller, Betsy Evans, Jeff Meyer, Lynda Douglas, Bernadette Devine, Elaina Sharron, Paige Delaney (former library director, reading from Charlotte, NC), Denis Foley, Gary Dill, Nan Jamieson, and Amelie Urbanczyk.



On Saturday morning, eight kid readers read chapters from an age-appropriate mystery, *October Ogre*.

The event was haunted by a villainous hacker who deleted some chapters, overrode others, and just in general caused a lot of mayhem. But we all love a good mystery, so our talented staff sleuths figured it out and fixed it as the week progressed. The final tally? Right at \$2,000! If you missed it, go to the library's YouTube channels (one for adults and one for kids) and listen at your leisure. Just don't do it alone . . .

—Kathy Bork

VOTE FOR US!



2020  
**Community  
Rewards**



*City Bank*

Vote for Alpine Public Library in the "Community Contribution & Leadership" category hourly (once an hour per email address!) at [www.city.bank/communityrewards/perman-basin](http://www.city.bank/communityrewards/perman-basin)

City Bank is giving away cash awards to area charities that receive the most votes by December 13. Anyone over 18 can vote once hourly per e-mail address. Click [HERE](#) to vote for APL.



# INSIDE APL



The library may be closed to patrons, but the staff is keeping up appearances with book displays and holiday decorations.



Returned books and DVDs wait in quarantine.



## Plot Your Way to a Raspberry Pi!

A Program for Tri-County Youth in Grades 5–7 from the Alpine Public Library

How can a plot diagram lead to a Raspberry Pi? What on earth is a Raspberry Pi? Or a plot diagram for that matter? Read on.

This past summer, the Alpine Public Library was awarded a grant from the Texas Book Festival to enhance the junior fiction and young adult collections. Included in this grant is an opportunity for tri-county students in grades 5–7 to earn a Raspberry Pi by making a model plot diagram. Here is how the program works:

Students select a book from the new collection and analyze it using the plot diagramming method. A plot diagram is a visual representation of a story. It is a tool used to organize a story into its segments in order to analyze the content and to practice concepts such as text structure and claim-based reasoning. This process greatly improves student comprehension and makes a story more meaningful and enjoyable. Creating a plot diagram is an important step in becoming a skilled reader, writer, and thinker. And it's fun to do!

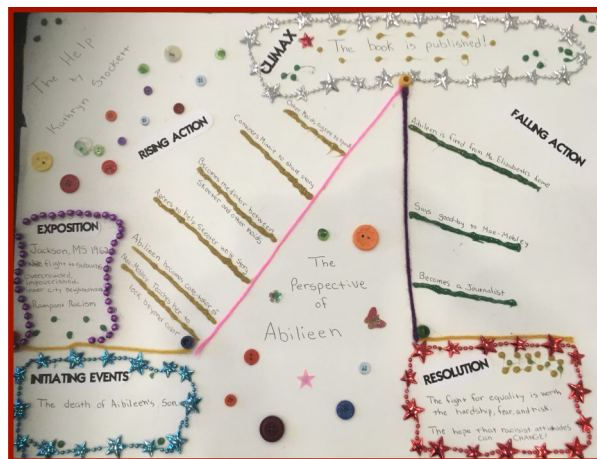
A Raspberry Pi is a fully functional, single-board computer with high portability and low cost (about \$35.00). It can be attached to a computer monitor or

TV, uses a keyboard and mouse, and connects with a Gigabit Ethernet port, onboard wireless, or Bluetooth. A Raspberry Pi gives easy access to computing and science education and teaches coding with interactive forums such as CoderDojo, Astro Pi, and Raspberry Jams.

So how do you get started? Visit the Alpine Public Library YouTube page and watch the video entitled “Plot

Your Way to a Raspberry Pi!” All the details are here, including how to access the books, how to make a plot diagram, and how to pick up materials for your project. Good luck! Your Raspberry Pi awaits you.

—Mary Beth Garrett,  
Children's Librarian



[alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://alpinepubliclibrary.org)  
[youtube.com/channel/UCp9USqgKs\\_rYCN1rzVhioIw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCp9USqgKs_rYCN1rzVhioIw)



Alpine Public Library  
805 West Avenue E  
Alpine, TX 79830

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