



What's happening at Alpine Public Library?



All of us at APL are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague Nicole Cardoza. Nicole and I started working at APL on the same day in February of 2012, soon after the new library opened. Nicole was the new person at the front desk, a position she loved from that very first day. Nicole, it turns out, had been president of the Friends group at the Marathon library before coming to Alpine. She really liked libraries, and we were extremely lucky that she liked working at Alpine Public Library.

One thing I will remember most is that Nicole was always looking for ways to make the library better. I knew there was a library project looming when she would come to the office, with her forefinger tapping her chin, and announce "I've been thinking." The

lights seem a little less bright in the building these days. We all miss her smiling face and cheerful attitude.

A year ago the "before times" ended and APL was essentially closed to the public for nine months. The library is starting to return to normal. We are now open a full 40 hours per week. However, it will be some time before we get back to "normal" regarding in-person programs. In June, Mary Beth will start having weekly outdoor activities on the children's porch. Community groups are starting to use the AEP Foundation Community Room and we are letting people use the small study rooms.

In this newsletter, be sure to read Nan's article about our Padcaster. We are planning to continue producing video content and hope some of our library patrons will rise to the challenge of creating their own content. Lee has an article about the library's community reading and conversation project supported by a grant from the American Library Association.

Finally, I'm excited to report that the library has hotspots for checkout. These pocket-sized devices are easy to use and connect your devices to cellular Internet. The devices are made possible by a grant from austinfree.net, the Tocker Foundation, Central Texas Library System, and the UT Technology & Information Policy Institute. Come in and see what your Alpine Public Library has to offer.

—Don Wetterauer, *MLS, PhD*,
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Special Donations

In Memory of:	From:
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In Honor of:	From:
Sue Zukowski - APL Volunteer	Christine Cavazos (Brick)
Albert Bork's 75th Birthday	Don Wetterauer
Kathy Bork	Louis DeSipio

Re-Reads Bookstore

Alpine Public Library

Open	Monday	10 AM–1 PM
	Tuesday–Friday	10 AM–4 PM
	Saturday	10 AM–1 PM

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Ages 0-5

Get started or keep going to reach the goal of reading 1000 books to your little one before kindergarten. Find details here:

alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org



PORCH STORIES!

Ages 6-12

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Meet on the Children's Porch for weekly readings of *Serafina and the Black Cloak*, by Robert Beatty. Enjoy 20 minutes of reading and 10 minutes of discussion.

Ages 6-12

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Join us for weekly Spanish-language porch stories featuring *Los Brincadores!* by David Cockcroft. This is a charming series about a mischievous rabbit family.

June 2—August 18, 2021

SUMMMER MOVIES

June 19

Thomas and the Magic Railroad

Spanish language with English subtitles

July 10

Lord of the Rings

The Fellowship of the Rings

Rated PG13

August 14

Narnia

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Rated PG

All movies start at dusk, around 8:30 p.m.

Free admission
Free popcorn
Bring lawn chairs



PUPPET SHOWS!

By Fit4Kids
Zoom Shows!

June 14, 11:00 a.m.
Yoga Boot Camp

July 7, 10:30 a.m.
Pirates!

August 12, 11:45 a.m.
Build a Better World

ALL AGES

Zoom link available on the library Web page one week prior to each show

Shows recorded and accessible for seven days after live date

Shop Re-Reads on Amazon.

Amazon Storefront

Nicole embodied the spirit of APL. She was kind to everyone and went above and beyond to help anyone who needed it. Nicole made everyone feel like family. She had such a wonderful personality, always smiling and laughing and never once complained, despite everything she was going through. There were times I knew she had to be in pain but if she was, you'd never know it. Her light and energy have been severely missed in her absence and will always continue to be. Her memory and legacy will certainly live on in this library. We love you and miss you so so much!

—**Casey Costa**

Nicole was a wonderful person who will be greatly missed. She was unfailingly kind, helpful, and always had a smile for everyone. She passed those same traits on to her daughters, Bianca and Loreyna, who are treasured by the library, as well.

—**Kathy Donnell**

Nicole Cardoza was sunshine. —**Kathy Bork**

A few days after arriving in Alpine, I entered the public library a bit frazzled by the move, frustrated by various paperwork obstacles, and basically, a bit cranky. The librarian that assisted me that morning was so warm, welcoming, and beyond helpful, that I left in a cheerful mood and a desire to volunteer at the Alpine Public Library. Thank goodness I followed through! That decision to volunteer allowed me to meet some truly wonderful people, including that lovely librarian that made such a remarkable impression, Nicole Cordoza.

In the time that I volunteered and later worked at the library, I got to know Nicole, and we became friends. It is not an exaggeration of superlatives to say that she was one of the most friendly, thoughtful, generous, engaging, positive people I've ever had the privilege of knowing. She was a pillar of patience! Even the grouchiest of patrons couldn't break her. And her beautiful smile, that she shared so readily, lit up a room. The only thing better was her contagious giggle and her commitment to see the best in everyone she met. She was an absolute pleasure to be around!

After I left my position at the library, Nicole and I remained friends. We met for coffee often, though she opted for her beloved iced tea, had lunch in the park, enjoyed game nights, shared silly texts, and lent support to each other when needed. I miss her greatly and can't find the words to truly express how much I admire her strength and character. The world was a better place with Nicole, and those that knew her, are better for it. I'm thankful for the memories, devastated by the loss, and inspired by the spirit of my dear friend, Nicole. —**Sam Krumpe**

Nicole Cardoza

1979–2021

Nicole's gentle spirit lives on through the fond memories of those who loved her. She is beloved. She is pure love. A true friend is never truly gone. I will miss her—my dear friend.

—**Christine Cavazos**

When I entered Alpine Public Library to apply for my library card, Nicole was the first person I met. She was knowledgeable, helpful, friendly, courteous, and kind. She finished the interaction with her beautiful smile. As I began volunteering for APL, I saw Nicole almost daily. Without fail, she brightened every interaction.

—**Linda Bryant**



Nicole was the kind of wonderful person who made you feel right at home and welcome. She exuded kindness and understanding, and her concern and care for others was genuine and lovely. More than anything, her bright smile and gentle spirit defined her, making her a true joy to everyone around her. She was a treasure to work with, and I was so proud to not only call her my coworker, but my friend.

—**Elle Puckett**

Nicole will be forever in my heart. —**Mary Beth Garrett**

Nicole was often the first point of contact at the library. She was always an enthusiastic and cheerful greeter. She brought joy to everyone coming through the doors and they left the library feeling a little better than when they entered.

—**Don Wetterauer**

Being around Nicole always made me strive to be a better person. —**Lee Smith**

Nicole, both in her work at APL and in her daily life, modeled her own unique blend of competence and compassion, humanity and humor. At her core was a deep-rooted devotion to her beloved family and faith. It was my great privilege to work alongside her, and to call her dear friend. Inspired by her presence, we are all diminished by her passing.

—**Cheryl Frances**

I will always remember our contribution to the Dancing with Alpine's Stars event, how excited we were. We were so happy that everybody stood up and danced with us. Your smile captivated the audience as usual. You really are dancing, my sweet friend. With Love —**Joseline Cintrón**

That smile!! Everything beautiful about Nicole radiated from that smile . . . what a gift!

—**Martha Latta**

Announcing: APL Productions!

As with just about everything during the pandemic, libraries have had to adapt and evolve in order to continue to provide value to their communities. A key part of that process involves experimentation, and courage: what works, what doesn't and why. What are the costs of trying something new and failing versus sticking with the status quo? In other words, what's the opportunity cost of doing nothing and safely failing to innovate?

A stint as a business librarian in Austin led me to former Apple "Chief Evangelist," author, and venture capitalist, Guy Kawasaki. Kawasaki's book *The Art of the Start* (2004) hinges on the notion that one doesn't need to get things perfect before spitting out Version 1.0 of whatever endeavor you have in mind. What is important?

Getting going, somewhat fearlessly, and not succumbing to "analysis paralysis," an affliction that we all know squashes so many projects before they can even take shape.

As everyone knows, the effects of COVID-19 and its subsequent lockdowns shrank our "business" significantly. Our library, our oasis, has not yet recovered from the cultural juggernaut of lockdown—where everything from schooling to working to working out—took place at home.

So here we are, pivoting, and continuing to evolve and adapt. Mary Beth Garrett moved children's programs online and grew an international audience; Joseline Cintrón offered Spanish conversation classes over Zoom. Jo Barnett spearheaded our outdoor theatre for movie nights. Our Director had a vision to expand our online content, to make our own unique programming that would extend beyond our walls and, as our Mission Statement notes, "connect our diverse and geographically remote area to the world." We teamed up to write a grant for technology purchases that could ameliorate the effects of COVID-19 on our community. As a part of that effort, we bought a mobile, all-in-one video production studio called the Padcaster.

The Padcaster is essentially a pretty nice iPad housed in a rugged case and affixed to a rolling tri-

pod. With professional lenses and studio microphones, the unit has a lot of potential for creating professional video. After I put it together and drafted a user manual, I immediately set my sights on what I could film to test it out. Fortunately, Yarn Arts (on Fridays, 9:30–12:00) is a program that opened back up to in-person gathering a few weeks ago. This is a group I have enjoyed, as I'm a knitter myself, and there are a few Yarn Arts regulars I call friends. Linda Bryant, the leader of the group and our Board President, gave me the OK to solicit members for short videos talking about how they create with fiber/yarn. We decided to title the series *Knit Chat* and create five to seven videos, each under seven minutes long. I did a little research on viewership and found that most people who watch instructional videos prefer them rather short, ideally between three and six minutes.

Since then, we've made five videos on different topics. Surprisingly, one of the repeat topics is how



Don Slocumb and Nan Jamieson enjoying Yarn Arts.



Video still of *Knit Chat*, Episode 1. Don Slocumb holds his custom knitting needle case; a project created with twigs in the foreground.

these artists create or customize their very own knitting needles. Sticks or twigs? Guess what, they're knitting needles. Need a longer double-pointed? Adapt a needle yourself. 3D print a knitting needle? We can do that at Alpine Public Library.

While *Knit Chat* is a Version 1.0 project, and far from professional-looking, experimenting with the Padcaster and spending time with our community members has brought me a lot of satisfaction thus far. And I think the featured artists enjoy sharing their knowledge. Ultimately, my personal goal is not to become an expert filmmaker, but rather to learn the process in order to teach others how they can create content too. To that end, we are looking into developing our film studio further by adding a 27" Apple iMac loaded with Final Cut Pro software to our technology library. This would make a suite of professional-level film production tools available to the public.

Next up for APL Productions, we plan to broadcast an upcoming Travel Talk. Jo Barnett, a film stu-

dent herself, has agreed to collaborate on another video series where we would like to showcase some other talented and unique members of our community. Topics could range from food production in the desert to musicians of Big Bend to home-built solar arrays to native medicinal plants to weather predicting to art and artists to making papercrete to garden or studio tours. If you have specialized knowledge to share and would like to contribute to our growing compendium of virtual library content, please send

me an e-mail at nan@alpinepubliclibrary.org.

The Padcaster is available to the public for in-library use only at this time. Please let us know if you want to try your hand at it.

—Nan Jamieson

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Texas State Library and Archives Commission. (Grant # LS-246561-OLS-20). (2021)

Community Conversations: Health Care Resources in the Big Bend

Our community is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area by the U.S. government because of the high number of patients per health care provider. Moreover, the closest comprehensive trauma centers are 155 miles away. But what does this mean for us living in the area, for residents seeking health care and health care providers? Alpine Public Library is offering an opportunity to share our personal experiences in community conversations about health care in the Big Bend.

APL has been selected as one of 300 libraries to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that helps library workers better serve their small and rural communities. The competitive award comes with a \$3,000 grant that will help the library provide forums for area residents, including health care providers and recipients, to discuss their experiences with health care resources.

A fuller understanding of local medical resources, unmet health care needs, and inequities in access to resources will benefit area residents, health care providers, and government agencies as they make decisions related to health care. The library will also gain a clearer picture of its role in disseminating information and assisting patrons with accessing health care resources.

The community conversations will take place from August through October of 2021. In August and September, area residents are invited to read and discuss Lawrence Wright's novel *The End of October*. This timely novel about a devastating pandemic was written before the COVID-19 outbreak and published

in April of 2020. The novel is informed by extensive research and given our current health crisis, will resonate for readers. We are hoping that area book clubs will choose it for discussion; the library will host discussions for readers not in clubs. We will also provide a few discussion prompts to encourage a focus on the local effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and speculation on the effects of a more destructive disease. The capstone of the community reading will be Lawrence

Wright's virtual appearance at APL to discuss his book and answer readers' questions.

Building on the book discussions, the library will host one or more forums, in October, in which residents can share experiences with providing and accessing health care. Health care professionals recognize the challenges that they face in providing appropriate care; others in the community recognize the challenges that they face in accessing care. The conversations will allow all individuals to see the issues from

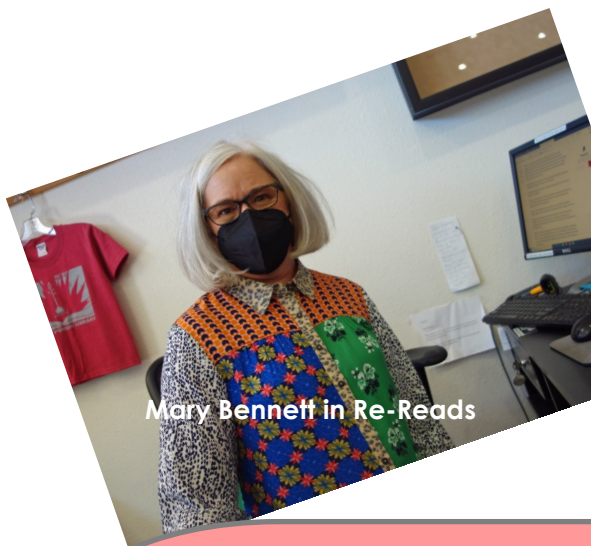
multiple viewpoints.

If you are interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversations, please contact me at leepsmith@yahoo.com or visit alpinepubliclibrary.org for more information. And if you want to get a jump on reading, the library has several copies of *The End of October* for patrons to check out.

—Lee Smith

"Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)."





Mary Bennett in Re-Reads



Albert Bork
recycling



Kathy Donnell in Re-Reads

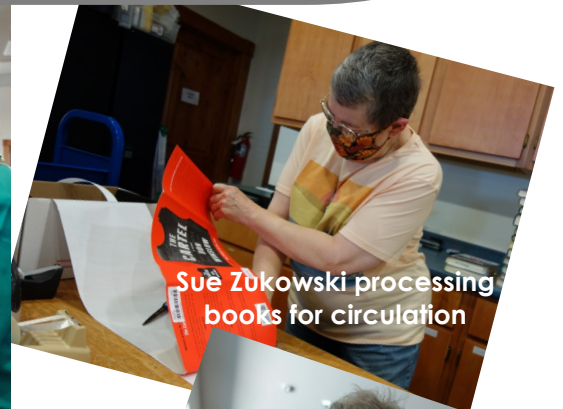
*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart. —Elizabeth Andrew*



Emmy Holman in
Re-Reads



Linda Bryant
at the circulation desk



Sue Zbkowski processing
books for circulation



Mike Latta, Martha Latta, & Cathy Wright
Watering crew



David Kowal
recycling



Edy Elfridge
tending APL plants

Not pictured but also volunteering during the pandemic are Dallas Baxter, Marilyn Dill, Amelie Urbanczyk, Betsy Evans, Penny Hardaway, Marilyn Terry, Pat McCall, and Lee Smith.

*Thank you
Volunteers!*

Other pandemic volunteers are Kathy Bork, Jaime Escuder, Chris Muller, Cindy Sotelo, Margaret Mannchen, Alan Wallace, Mike Brown, Beverly O'Shaughnessy, and Betty Fitzgerald.

Volunteers Extraordinaire

When most of us were at home binge-watching *Anne With an E* and *Better Call Saul* or cleaning the baseboards and garage, Kathy Bork, Linda Bryant, and Kathy Donnell, masked and socially distanced, were doing what they would do if we weren't in the middle of a pandemic: volunteering at Alpine Public Library. The library has a wealth of terrific volunteers, but these three stand out for their efforts to keep the library going during the difficult times of the past year.

As soon as the statewide stay-at-home order was lifted last spring, they went to work in the closed library building to inventory and refresh the stock in Re-Reads Bookstore, a significant source of operating funds for the library. In addition, Kathy D. created and implemented a plan to sell grab bags of books at curbside while Kathy B. and Linda processed books to be sold online through the library's Amazon Storefront. As a nonprofit, the library relies on Re-Reads to help pay expenses, and thanks to the resourcefulness and labor of these three volunteers, the bookstore continues to contribute.

But Re-Reads hasn't been their only focus. In the past year, they have also organized online fundraisers, like the Virtual Silent Auction and the Un-



Masked Un-Ball, which, while not bringing in as much money as the Artwalk Silent Auction and Dancing with Alpine's Stars, added much-needed funds to the library's coffers. They also have worked regular shifts at the circulation desk since February, all on a volunteer's salary.

Even in a pandemic, they have found ways to give their time and energy to keep the library functioning as the wonderful community resource it is.

—Lee Smith

Raz-Kids Reading!

Ages 5-12

Looking for individual reading support for your child over the summer? Join the Raz-Kids Program for weekly enrichment sessions with the children's librarian. For more details, contact Mrs. Garrett at

kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org

10 TO TRY

Ages 13-18

Read your way to a Raspberry Pi!
Try 10 books from selected topics
and make a video of your discoveries.

Find the details at
alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org



RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Ages 6-12

Challenge yourself to read for 20 minutes every day this summer and earn badges, daily swim passes, and treasure chest prizes along the way! Start here to sign up: alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

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Big Canyon TV

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Bullshirtz

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Cheshire Cat Antiques

Desert Heart Jewelry

Edward Jones Investments

Eva's Salon

Farmers Insurance

Front Street Books

GSM Insurors of West Texas

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