



ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 2023

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

I recently listened to a discussion about artificial intelligence (AI). There seems to be a lot of interest in and hype about AI these days. Applications that can, apparently, write papers for you are becoming popular. Supply a subject and a few parameters, and a paper magically appears. However, you will probably find that parts of your paper are nonsense or wrong. So, you need to do some research on your own to validate the paper. Or better yet, research and write the paper yourself. How do you do that? Visit the library, your local source of independent learning.

I'm excited to write that the library's long-awaited expansion project has officially started. Some preliminary work is complete, and now we are getting ready for the plumbing rough-in. Then things should start moving along fairly quickly. Our projected completion date is June 2024, depending on availability of materials and supplies.

We started our second high school equivalency (HSE) class in mid-September. Two of our first-semester students finished their HSE tests, and we had a graduation



ceremony on October 21 with about 30 friends and family in attendance. Given how difficult the program and tests are, this was a big step forward (and a relief) for our graduates. Soon after the graduation, another student finished her tests. I think that's a testament to the quality and perseverance of our instructors Warren Shaul and Lee Smith. They have done a great job, and we are thankful. The program continues to grow, and in January, we plan to add HSE instruction in Spanish.

Recently, APL took advantage of an opportunity to join a cohort of rural libraries in Texas and Alabama in a research project called Raise Up Radio: Family and Youth Engagement in Library Supported Learning Via Radio (RURL). We will start the project after the holidays when we will recruit families to participate in co-designing and co-creating four to six STEM-focused podcasts/radio episodes. Please, if you are interested or know anyone you think might be, let me know, and we can discuss the project in more detail.

—Don Wetterauer, MLS, PhD
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Special Donations

In Honor of:

From:

Taj Moratori

Margaret Matthews

Kathy & Albert Bork

Linda Mizell & Anna Wood

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ReReads Volunteers

Lee Smith & Jim Robertson

Re-Reads Gently Used Books

A Project of the Friends of Alpine Public Library

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

Amazon Storefront

aplmembers.org/aplrereads

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
805 W. AVE. E
ALPINE TX
ALPINEPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG
837-2621

JAN. 19 4:00-5:30
JAN. 20 11:00-12:00

Teddy Bear Sleep Over

Jan. 19:
Read to your teddy bear
and kiss it goodnight.

Jan. 20:
Come to Teddy Bear
Story Time at 11:00am!

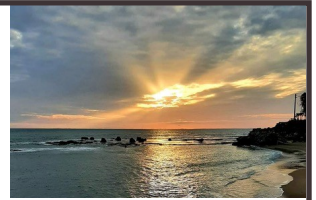
All teddy bears receive a blanket
knitted by APL Yarn Arts!

Find out what's happening
this month at APL at
alpinepubliclibrary.org/calendar/



Travel Talks

2024



January 26

Matt Walter on a trip to Canadian National Parks

February 23

Rozolen Stanford and Denis Foley on traveling
around the US by train

March 29

Teresa Ritter on living and traveling in South Korea

7 PM in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room

If you have an adventure you'd like to share in 2024,
contact Lee Smith at leepsmith@yahoo.com or Jim
Robertson at jpz1100@yahoo.com.

GED & SPANISH GED CLASSES

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

January registration
dates coming soon!



START 2024 OFF RIGHT!
Check "GED" off your
New Year's Resolution
List

2024

GED

✓

✓

WHY CHOOSE APL?

- ✓ Free classes
- ✓ Free study materials
- ✓ Small class sizes
- ✓ On-site testing center
- ✓ Test vouchers available

Contact
Bianca Gutierrez-Barrera
432-837-2621
biancab@alpinepubliclibrary.org



DREAM BIG,
WORK HARD,
MAKE IT
happen.

Thank you,
Business
Friends!

Alpine Framing
Alpine Radio
Big Bend Coffee Roasters
Cheshire Cat Antiques
Desert Heart Jewelry

Front Street Books
Hog Eye Cattle Company
Out West Feed & Supply
Salon Americana
Talley-Reed Insurance

Twin Peaks Liquors
Vast Graphics
Wassermann Wranch
WR Ranch

COOKING UP DREAMS

Leah Struthers, longtime patron and volunteer at APL, won first place for middle school students in the Alpine Lions International Peace poster and essay contest with her essay about her dream of becoming a restaurateur.

My dream is to become a restaurateur. My passion is cooking and baking. Almost every weekend I go over to my aunt's kitchen and make a variety of dishes with her. I would love to expand my interest in food, from making meals for my family to making meals for a large city. I dream of people being amazed by my restaurant's food and everyone being happy together. I dream of people chattering as they might celebrate something special.

When I make a savory soup, the aromatic smells fill the house. This is what I dream for my restaurant to smell like. The delicious smells, the stimulating visuals, and the thought-provoking sounds create an environment where people can dream and share dreams. Each week, each month, and each year I continue to grow my skill set. Just yesterday my aunt taught me knife skills. She taught me how all the people cut really fast without looking. For instance on a carrot, you put your knuckle against the knife and that makes it possible



to not cut yourself. Building practical skills is an essential part of my dream journey.

When I do pottery with my grandma that inspires me for decorations in my future restaurant. Last year we made mugs and plates. On the plates, we created floral designs and glazed them with pops of bright and colorful flowers. I used a pastel palette because I think it looks aesthetically pleasing and would love for that to be a theme in my restaurant. My artistic creations would be appealing and charming in my restaurant.

When cooking soup, I have to taste and alter the flavor until it is flawless, just like I will perfect my menu offerings. Restaurants like dreams have different stages, from the initial vision to the grand opening. Dreams evolve and demand attention as well as experimentation. I will work hard and believe in the beauty of dreams to one day make my restaurant a reality.

—Leah Struthers

The Alpine Public Library Presents:

Pajama Story Time

Valentine's Day

Feb. 10th 6:00pm



Friendship Story Time



Follow the Hearts Game



Happy Heart Craft



Peace Train

Ages 4-12

Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E
837-2621
alpinepubliclibrary.org

kids at APL

A poster for 'Family Physics Fun!' featuring a dark blue background with colorful fireworks. The text is in white and yellow. It includes the date January 27, 2024, the location Alpine Public Library, and the time 6:00PM-8:00PM. It also mentions 'AGES 4-12' and the website 'ALPINEPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG'.

FAMILY
PHYSICS FUN!
JANUARY 27 2024
ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
805 W. AVE. E.
837-2621
6:00PM-8:00PM
AGES 4-12
ALPINEPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG

FROM GEOLOGY CAMPER TO APL VOLUNTEER

Marilyn Gruebel's move to Alpine began when she was a geology student at Stephen F. Austin State University. She attended a six-week geology camp held at Sul Ross State University and was taken with the area. Moving to Alpine didn't involve a straight route from geology camp to West Texas, with marriage, graduate education, jobs, and several other moves along the way. But in 2021, during the COVID pandemic, when Marilyn and her husband, Ralph, were contemplating retirement, Marilyn remembered Alpine.

In the years between the geology camp and the move to Alpine, Marilyn earned bachelor's degrees in English and Geology and graduate degrees in geology and political science, with a focus on politics and environmental science. She worked for a geology mapping company, taught at the University of New Mexico, worked on a waste isolation pilot plant program at Sandia Labs, co-owned with Ralph a petroleum exploration consulting company, and worked in New Mexico for the Secretary of State and the State Land Office. Her education and work involved research, and much of this research involved libraries.

Marilyn's connection with libraries started before her years in postsecondary education. As a child in Houston, her neighborhood library was a Carnegie branch of the Houston Public Library. Part of the appeal of libraries, according to Marilyn, is that patrons always know what to expect from them. They are paradoxically "dynamic but static," offering the expected services but changing in response to the needs of the community.

For Marilyn, Alpine Public Library is "integral to the community." One key function of APL, as for all libraries, is teaching literacy, which Marilyn notes is essential for fitting into communities. But unlike big city libraries, APL is the center of town, offering in-house programs and activities that con-

tribute to the health of the community and also reaching out into the community to engage with organizations and individuals in the area.

After moving to Alpine, Marilyn began almost immediately to contribute her time and energy to APL. Her initial involvement was social: she became

a regular at Friday morning Yarn Arts. Soon after, Kathy Bork recruited her as a Re-Reads volunteer. Marilyn is one of the "back room" workers, processing book donations, which she recognizes as important to help the library continue to function. She has a service ethic that leads her to pitch in where needed. And fortunately for APL and the other volunteers, she is game to help with fundraising.

Since becoming Alpine residents, Marilyn and Ralph have volunteered for many APL projects. In fact, they, along with their teammate, Jimmy Case, were the top vote winners at the 2023 Dancing with Big Bend's Stars. The Gruebels now serve on the APL Board of Directors. Perhaps Marilyn's largest single contribution so far has been to coordinate the library's biggest, most important fundraiser of any year: the 2023 Artwalk Silent Auction.

Marilyn is a perennial volunteer. In Houston and Albuquerque, she volunteered with literacy programs, as an English as a Second Language teacher and trainer of teachers. In Alpine, she is a Kiwanis Club member, helping with events and picking up trash in the Adopt-a-Highway program. In her time not volunteering, she knits, plays piano, and gardens. Because her gardening has been so successful, she's added another hobby—cooking.

Luckily for APL and its volunteers, Marilyn got a taste for Alpine during her geology camp, retired here, understands systems, has a service ethic, and is willing to pitch in with fundraising. Marilyn Gruebel is now "integral" to the APL community.

—Lee Smith



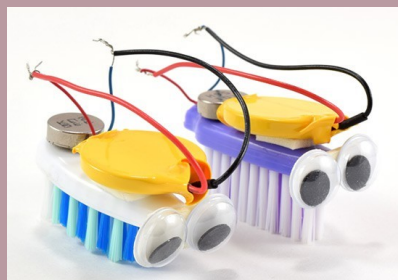
kids at APL



Young readers from the Alpine Public Library's Summer Reading Program visited the Sul Ross State University Horse Unit and had the opportunity to get to know the SRSU Animal Science horses, feed them, ride them, and learn about them—like why a horse hoof has a part called a "frog"! To end this amazing experience, each child picked a favorite horse-themed book and read it to one of the ANS horses.



Beanstack Happy-Hallow-Read challenge completer Alia Tackett-Schafer and family enjoying her free ticket to the Kishmish Haunted House



Casa Hogar Kids with their Bristle Bots

ARTWALK 2023: APL SILENT AUCTION



FROM SETUP
TO CLEANUP



SILENT AUCTION 2023:

REPORT FROM BEHIND THE SCENES

Great weather, enthusiastic volunteers, generous donors, and bidders. We couldn't have imagined a better experience for the 2023 APL Silent Auction. As a first-time coordinator for the event, I was constantly amazed at how seamlessly the library volunteers put together all the pieces involved in this undertaking, which is the biggest library fundraiser of the year.

We owe a big thank you to Carolyn and Tommy Mangrem for donating the Auction location this year. On the Artwalk map, we were Location #1, across from the Holland Hotel and just west of the food trucks in the AmTrak parking lot. We also thank Benjamin Garcia for tables and Big Bend Telephone for providing a means to run our credit card machine (which got a lot of use).

This Silent Auction truly had something for everyone, and our bidders were certainly aware of the quality by running the bidding up on many entries. We appreciate the artists, library patrons, and local citizens who contributed the items we had in the Auction. The donations crossed a wide range, from stunning wall art to decorative table toppers, boots to beaded vests, handcrafted jewelry to pearl necklaces. A keyboard, drum set, and French horn gave bidders the ability to form their own (somewhat peculiar) band. Artwalk featured artist Tom Curry donated

two items that were quickly snatched up at their Walk-Away prices. The 4' tall metal sculpture mosquito donated by Silent Auction featured artist Harry Weekley commanded a high bid price. And let's not forget the generosity of local businesses who donated numerous gift certificates!

This year, our Buy-It-Now section had its own room. A special thanks to Cathy Lammons, who coordinated this garage-sale buying opportunity, where Christmas decorations, replacement coffee mugs and glasses, silk flowers, toys, and other must-have home decor and serving needs could be acquired for small monetary donations to the library. We always promote Buy-It-Now as a place for youngsters to find presents to give to family members and friends.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the several dozen volunteers who gave many personal hours taking care of all the details involved in making this event a success for the library. From start (location planning and setup, donation tracking, and volunteer scheduling) to execution (donation caretaking, greeting, cashiering, bid sorting and recording, and sold-item picking and packing) to finish (location breakdown and cleanup and formal donor thank-yous), this event could not happen without these great volunteers.

—Marilyn Gruebel





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 (Annual)

☐ Individual/Family \$35 ☐ 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.