

Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities. —R. David Lankes

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

June 2023

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

APL has become an official Dark Sky Friendly location. We collaborated with Stephen Hummel from McDonald Observatory to complete the tasks necessary for certification. The library was mostly there already, but, to become compliant, we replaced some light bulbs and added light filters as needed. NewsWest9 recently had a piece about the Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Friendly locations in Alpine, including APL. Read more about being Dark Sky Friendly and its significance in this newsletter.

APL's first High School Equivalency class started on April 3. Classes for math and science meet on Monday and Tuesday. Social studies meets on Thursday. The first 10-week session ends June 9. Three students are eagerly attending each class. They interact well with each other, and no one has dropped out. The class has significantly improved their learning, and I'm happy to say that they want to continue with another session during the summer.

The students now have 40 hours of class time, so it's time to begin their first progress testing. Progress testing is required as part of our grant. The ultimate

goal of the class is to prepare the students to pass their high school equivalency exam. However, as they progress toward that goal, we need to show there is measurable skills gain (MSG). So far one student has tested in math, and the test showed MSG. That not only shows progress but evaluates the effectiveness of our classes.

APL's *Better Together* summer reading programming starts June 1 and runs through August 11. There is something for everyone, from toddlers to families. Kids United, for ages 6–12, will meet on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. Family Ties all-ages programs will meet on June 3, July 8, and August 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will feature STEM activities. The Tinkercad class for ages 7–adult will meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Cubelets class for ages 7–12 will continue to meet Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. Baby Bonds Toddler Time for ages 0–5 will continue to meet on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Cuentos en español for ages 3–7 will still meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Finally, there will be Beanstack reading challenges. Log on to alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org to get started.

—Don Wetterauer, *MLS, PhD*
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Avril Hubbard, Library Page

The Alpine Public Library Presents:

BETTER TOGETHER

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS FOR ALL OF US!

June 1-Aug.11, 2023

Special Donations

In Memory of:	From:
Don Slocomb	Linda Bryant & David Kowal
	Gaylan & David Corbin
	James & Shannon Martin
	Carol Wallace
	Mary Ellen Lebien
Dale Christophersen	Audrey Painter
	Chris & Ellen Ruggia
Mac MacIntyre Morrow	Jaconina Skinner Alley
Bob Litton	Chris & Ellen Ruggia

In Honor of:	From:
Nancy Davila	Kathy & Albert Bork
Tom Muratori	Ronald Freytag

Re-Reads Gently Used Books

A Project of the Friends of Alpine Public Library

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

Amazon Storefront

aplmembers.org/aplrereads

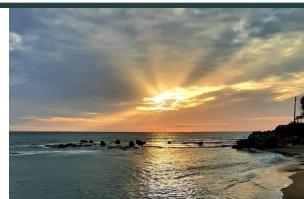


Find out what's happening
this month at APL at
alpinepubliclibrary.org/calendar/



Travel Talks

2023



June 30

John Ehrke on Road Tripping during Covid Times

July 28

Alexandra Moldovan & Dan Bennack on Romania

August 25

Anita & Warren Shaul on Nicaragua

7 PM in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room

If you have an adventure you'd like to share in 2023, contact Lee Smith at leepsmith@yahoo.com or Jim Robertson at [jpez1100@yahoo.com](mailto:jpz1100@yahoo.com).

The Alpine Public Library Presents:

BETTER TOGETHER

SUMMER READING PROGRAMS FOR ALL OF US!

June 1-Aug.11, 2023

ALL AGES

FAMILY TIES

JUNE 3

Family Mathematics Night

JULY 8

Family Physics Night

AUG. 5

Family Circuits Night

6:30-8:30pm

TINKERCAD CLASS

TUESDAYS 10:00am

Ages 7 -adult

CUBELETS CLASS

Wednesdays 2:00pm

Ages 7-12

KIDS UNITED

TUESDAYS, 2:00PM

AGES 6-11

ALSO, find summer
reading friends on
Beanstack HERE:

alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

Teens Together

Find friends on Beanstack!
alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

Ages 12-17

BABY

BONDS

Toddler Time: Thurs. 10am

ALSO:

Play Baby Bingo!

For More Details Visit

alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

Ages 0-5

ADULTS UNDIVIDED

Read and share on Beanstack
alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

Cuentos en español

Wednesdays 10:00am

Ages 3-7

Thank you,
Business
Friends!

Alpine Framing
Alpine Radio
Big Bend Coffee Roasters
Big Bend Law
Cheshire Cat Antiques
Desert Heart Jewelry
Front Street Books
GSM Insurors of West Texas

Hog Eye Cattle Company
Liz Rogers, Lawyer
O'Neal Law
Out West Feed & Supply
Porter's
Prescription Shop
Salon Americana
Sibley Anderson Lewis Attorneys

Talley-Reed Insurance
Twin Peaks Liquors
Vast Graphics
Wassermann Wranch
WesTex Community Credit Union
WR Ranch

Friend of the Night Sky

Alpine Public Library has been recognized as a Night Sky Friendly organization by the McDonald Observatory. As part of its efforts to promote lighting that protects the dark sky of the Big Bend, the Observatory offers information and educational activities to area residents and acknowledges those businesses and organizations that follow good lighting guidelines through the Night Sky Friendly Lighting Recognition Program.

APL Children's Librarian Mary Beth Garrett attended one of the Observatory training sessions, where she learned about the program. After making some changes to the outdoor lighting, she nominated the library to receive recognition. Stephen Hummel, Dark Skies Initiative Coordinator at the Observatory, made a site visit to assess the lighting and approved the library for recognition.

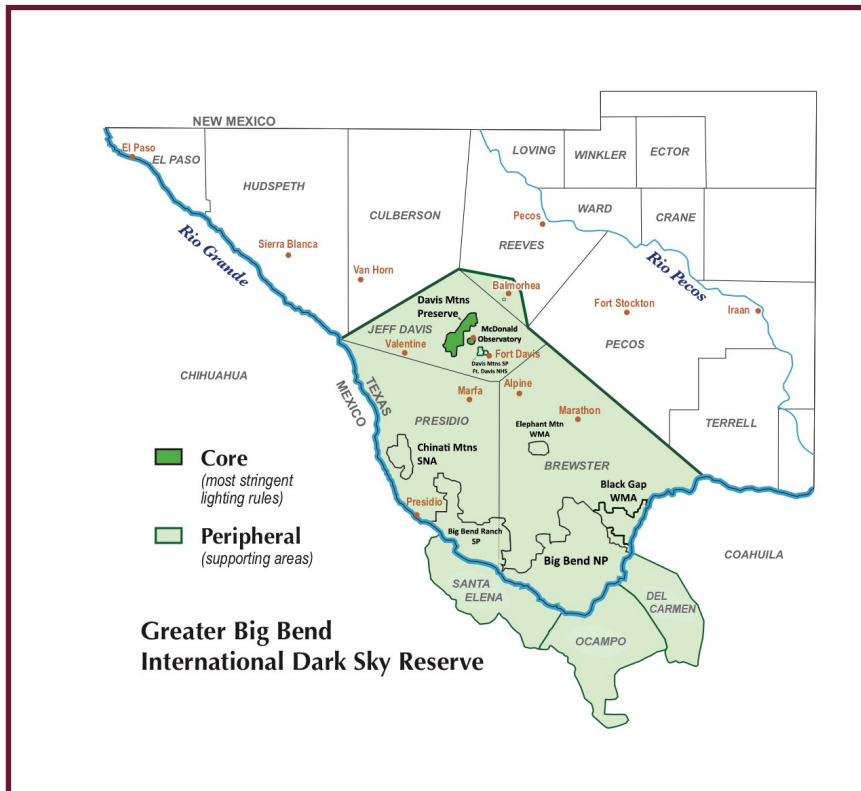
According to the Observatory website, "Night Sky Friendly outdoor lighting keeps light on the ground and out of the sky, helping to preserve the exceptional night skies Far West Texas is famous for. It's also better for business: night sky friendly lighting designs improve visibility and safety, and can be more cost effective than traditional designs."

As a Night Sky Friendly organization, APL has been recognized on the Observatory website and in local media. Patrons visiting the library can see a poster and window sticker acknowledging its contribution to the preservation of the Big Bend's dark skies.

—Lee Smith



Stephen Hummel
McDonald Observatory



Find more information at McDonaldObservatory.org

How YOU Can Help

Reclaim wasted light on your property and reduce your energy cost. **Install dark sky friendly lighting fixtures** that are designed to direct light where it is needed and keep the stars at night big and bright!

Quick Tips for Being Dark Skies Friendly

- ✓ Install fully shielded light fixtures
- ✓ Aim lights down to keep all light on your property
- ✓ Have lights on only when they need to be
- ✓ Use lower wattage LEDs with "warm" or "amber" color temperatures that are less than or equal to 3000 degrees Kelvin
- ✓ Enjoy the stars!

Stars up!



Lights down!

Anita Shaul

Peripatetic Patron and Volunteer

When Anita and Warren Shaul were considering a move to Alpine, Anita told Don Wetterauer that she wanted to volunteer for the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Alpine Public Library. Given her commitment to volunteerism and her belief in the importance of libraries to their communities, it's not surprising that she would commit to volunteering at APL before she committed to moving to Alpine. The many library programs offered by APL drew her to the library and the community.

According to Anita, she volunteers because she has been fortunate in life, and she points specifically to her relationship with her maternal grandparents and their support of girls and women. She wants, in turn, to support others as she has been supported. Volunteering, in her view, makes it possible to promote changes that improve people's lives. She notes, though, that helping others likewise benefits the volunteer, whose perspective is enlarged by seeing how other people live, so volunteering, she contends, changes the volunteer through relationships with others.

Anita's interest in helping language learners likely springs from her own lifelong study of languages. At her elementary school in the Northwest, Anita took classes in Spanish starting at age 9. In addition to Spanish, she speaks French and German and knows American Sign Language. She used her linguistic skills while living in Switzerland, where she sang, in French, with a choir, and in Central America, where she taught English and math and acted as a translator and interpreter. She has also trained to administer the Test of English as a Foreign Language and to instruct students preparing to take it.

Another influence on Anita's volunteerism is her interest and education in science, specifically, biology and ecology. As a biologist, she worked for the Department of Fisheries in Washington state, focusing on clams and oysters, and in Nevada, concentrating on species in peril, specifically, amphibians and fish. While living in Nevada, she volunteered with a con-

servation group. As a Peace Corps volunteer, she served in Nicaragua, where she taught and also trained teachers to teach ecology and gardening.

Anita is currently involved with the Biodiversity Group, a nonprofit conservation organization, as a citizen scientist. She contributes to the iNaturalist program by taking photographs and recording her observations, then submitting them to the program website, where they are shared with scientists. She also helps with Biodiversity PEEK, a science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics program, by processing supporting documents.

Among Anita's other volunteer efforts is her work in Guatemala with the nonprofit Miracles in Action, which included teaching translating, and interpreting as well as building schools in rural areas. She also participated in medical missions in Central America, assisting health-care professionals as a receptionist, translator, and interpreter. While living in Austin, she worked first as a volunteer for, then as an employee of the Family Resource Center as a High School Equivalency math and language arts tutor.

Here in Alpine, Anita maintains a pollinator garden with flowers to attract bees and butterflies. She volunteers with CDRI and for APL fundraising events. She keeps her Spanish skills sharp by taking librarian Joseline Cintrón's advanced Spanish-language class. And she's a reader, frequently checking books out of the library.

When Anita and Warren visited Alpine in 2021, they were on a road trip from Austin to the West Coast to look for a new home. Alpine was not new to Anita because she had been to a fisheries conference here, but it was not high on their list of possible new homes. Ultimately, though, the couple chose Alpine. True to her word, Anita now volunteers in the ESL program at APL, so the Alpine community and the library, like the other places she's lived and worked, are the beneficiaries of her commitment to volunteerism.

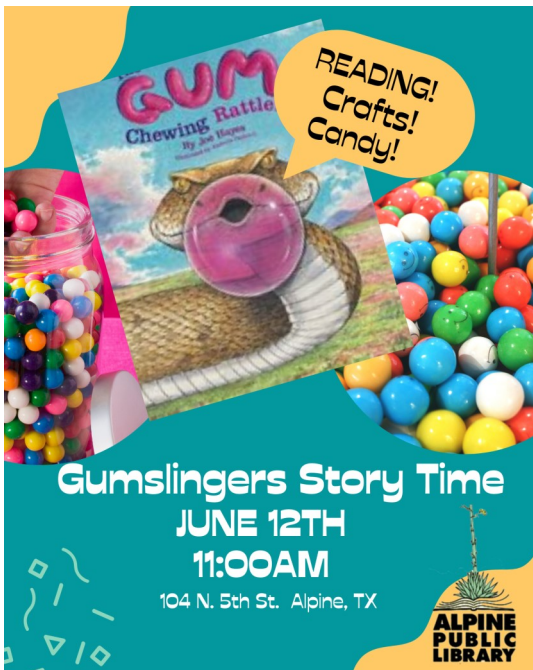
—Lee Smith



TODDLER TIME AT APL



Every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. Children's Librarian Mary Beth Garrett leads kids ages 0 to 5 through reading activities, finger-plays, singing, dancing, and sensory table exercises. Recently, the toddlers got a special sensory experience. Heidi Wassermann of Wassermann Wranch very generously and patiently presented Spurr, a miniature horse to the group. The following week, the Toddler Time children received a visit from Alpine Human Society staff members Jeanine Bishop and Mary Ann Vega, who brought two puppies. In June, the Humane Society will be back with kittens.



kids at APL



kids at APL

Feet Feeling Twitchy? Forget the podiatrist!

Alpine Public Library's Dancing with Alpine's Stars fundraiser has been reborn as Dancing with Big Bend's Stars and will hit the boards of the Granada Theatre on Saturday, July 8. Doors open at 6:00, dancing begins at 6:30. As in the past, while votes are being counted, the dance floor will be open to spectators who are more comfortable strutting their stuff outside of the spotlight.

Dancers from throughout the Tricounty Area are being sought for this expanded fundraising event. Ticking along in Terlingua? Traipse up to Alpine and show us what you've got. Flourishing in Ft. Davis? Sign up and show us your fancy footwork. Moored in Marfa? Break free in the wide-open spaces of the Granada Theatre. Alive and well in Alpine? You've been here before and know what to do.

Details about how to sign up will be available from the library or from the event coordinator, Nash Traylor. Call the library circulation desk at 432-837-2621 or contact Nash at nashtraylor@gmail.com, 432-426-3724.

—Kathy Bork



**2019 Winners Susan & Clay Chisholm
Most Votes on Event Night**



**2020 Winners
Adrian, Susan &
Colt Billings
Most Votes on
Event Night**

**2019 & 2020 Winners
Jenny Hatch &
Joseph Rosco
Most Votes Overall**





Come out and support your library, your community, and your local celebrities, including stars from the City of Alpine, high kickers from the Kiwanis Club, renowned Rick Ruiz, and icons from the County Courthouse.

READING AND COMMUNITY IN PORTUGAL

Levar, Doar, Ler, Devolver. Take, Donate, Read, Return. This is the concept of the Cabines de Leitura or, in English, Reading Booths. Modeled on a minilibrary housed in a phone booth in a village in England, the first Portuguese booth opened in Praça de Londres in Lisbon in 2014. These repurposed phone booths, supported by a coalition of local governments, foundations, businesses, and citizens, now number almost 50 and are in cities and towns throughout Portugal.

In 2016, Vila Nova de Milfontes, the town where I stayed in the spring, established the fourth booth in Portugal, located next to the tourist center. Although it was officially closed for three years, likely because of the COVID pandemic, individuals continued to pick up and drop off books there. In May of this year, the booth reopened and now includes children's and adult books in Portuguese with a few in English and German.

The processes involved in borrowing books vary from booth to booth. In order to take a book, the borrower must leave a book. Books are typically returned to the shelves, but donations are placed in a box or left at the municipal library. Borrowers sometimes record the titles of books and their contact information in a log, but deadlines and fees are never imposed.

The principles behind the Reading Booths are always the same: to encourage reading, to build community, and to promote social responsibility. And the Cabines de Leitura themselves are always recognizable: traditional red telephone booths filled with books.

—Lee Smith



Cabine de Leitura in Portimão



Cabine de Leitura in Vila Nova de Milfontes



Cabine de Leitura in Porto Covo



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.