

Between the Lines

The Alpine Public Library works to build community, encourage literacy, and promote lifelong learning. We endeavor to create and maintain a welcoming facility with relevant and enriching resources that connect our diverse and geographically remote area to the world.

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY March 2023

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

The library board is working on a new strategic plan to prepare the library for the next two to five years and beyond. Our current plan includes the upcoming library expansion. The new space will improve resources for chil-



dren, teens, and young adults but will also open up the main library to create a more comfortable, welcoming space for all visitors.

As I think about the future of our library, the writings of R. David Lankes come to mind. Dr. Lankes is the Virginia & Charles Bowden Professor of Librarianship at UT Austin. He writes about New Librarianship, which is about the *why* of libraries and librarianship over the *how*. He defines the mission of librarians as improving “society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.” That is what I hope we do at Alpine Public Library. We welcome all ideas on how we at APL can better serve our community.

Financially, we started 2023 in great shape. Thanks to the tremendously hard work of Linda Bryant and Kathy Donnell, event co-chairs, and all our volunteers, the 2022 Artwalk Silent Auction raised just over \$27,000 for the library’s operating budget. Thanks to community support, we made the \$10,000 match offered by a generous library supporter for the Campaign for Kids. We also received grants from the Stillwater Donor Advised Fund, the Permian Basin Area Foundation, and the King Foundation to start the year with over \$760,000 for the campaign. A further opportunity has come from the Abell-Hanger Foundation: \$1.00 for every \$2.00 we raise, up to \$100,000. As I write this, we are only about \$28,000 short.

The adult education program is going strong. The library is an official Pearson testing station. Now we can offer High School Equivalency (HSE) testing at the library. In March we will start recruiting for the next HSE class, which will begin in April. Do you need HSE or know of someone who does? If so, contact Bianca at biancab@alpinepubliclibrary.org.

We are starting work on the Big Bend Regional Resource Directory, an interactive online catalogue of health and social services. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact me at director@alpinepubliclibrary.org.

—Don Wetterauer, MLS, PhD
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Special Donations

In Memory of:

From:

Don Slocumb

Kathy & Albert Bork

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Lee Smith & Jim Robertson

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Mary Jane Morgan

Jeremy Victor Morgan

Kathy & Albert Bork

Susan Penney

Don Slocumb

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Thomas Leyva



Travel
Talks

2023



March 24*

Cecilia Riley & Mike Gray on birding in Panama

April 28

TT on vacation

May 26

Martha Bumpus on North Korea

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 jpz1100@yahoo.com.

***Travel Talk is on the 4th Friday this month only.**

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

FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT

Saturday
APRIL 1st

6:30–8:30pm

Experimentation Stations:

SIPHON OF SCIENCE

Jabberwacky Jive

Magnetic Madness

Tornado in a Bottle

ILLUSION SPINNER

Bluffing Balloon

SUBLIME SLIME

Tinkercad

CUBELETS

GRADES K–4

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY 805 W. AVE. E 837-0187

**Thank you,
Business
Friends!**

Alpine Framing
Alpine Radio
Aramark TX
Big Bend Coffee Roasters
Big Bend Law
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Desert Heart Jewelry
Front Street Books

GSM Insurors of West Texas
Hog Eye Cattle Company
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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

Romance is in the air ... in Re-Reads!

Way back in 2016, five volunteers decided that we needed to make Re-Reads more like a “real” bookstore by creating an inventory (an online inventory) that would be updated automatically when a book was added to the store or when one was sold. Tish Weterauer, with input from those volunteers, created an inventory program unique to us with a slew of categories into which we could plug the large number of donations from the large number of generous library supporters. We spent months inventorying the current contents of the store and since then have kept up with new donations.

Through the years, as we’ve become more familiar with the types of books you donate and with the types of books you buy, we’ve tweaked those original categories. We no longer have a “holiday” category or a “parents as teachers” category, for example, because they didn’t draw enough sales to justify the

shelf space. We’ve had to add a “graphic novels” space recently and a “foreign language” category. We also have a large Christian fiction section.

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, we realized we needed a “romance” section separate from the regular fiction shelves. There are a lot of romantics in Alpine who have asked for a section devoted to the works of recognized romance writers, so we’ve done our best to satisfy their desires. Now you can find romance (of the literary type) on the shelves at the end of paperback fiction, just before the Christian fiction. We’ve done our best to pull romance fiction from other

sections of the store and consolidate it in this new section, but we’d love your help identifying other writers you think would fit.

So, come on in and find something that tickles your romantic fancy. It’s easier than ever.

—Kathy Bork



APL IN 2023

This spring, look forward to the return of two popular fundraising events. On March 31 community members can enjoy a fish fry at the American Legion benefiting APL. The following month, Alpine Public Library's annual patio sale brings the chance to snag a deal while supporting the library. More details will be released as it gets closer to the events.

—Michael Haas, Circulation Librarian



Find out what else is happening at APL at alpinepubliclibrary.org/calendar/.

Warren Shaul: A Well-Made Life

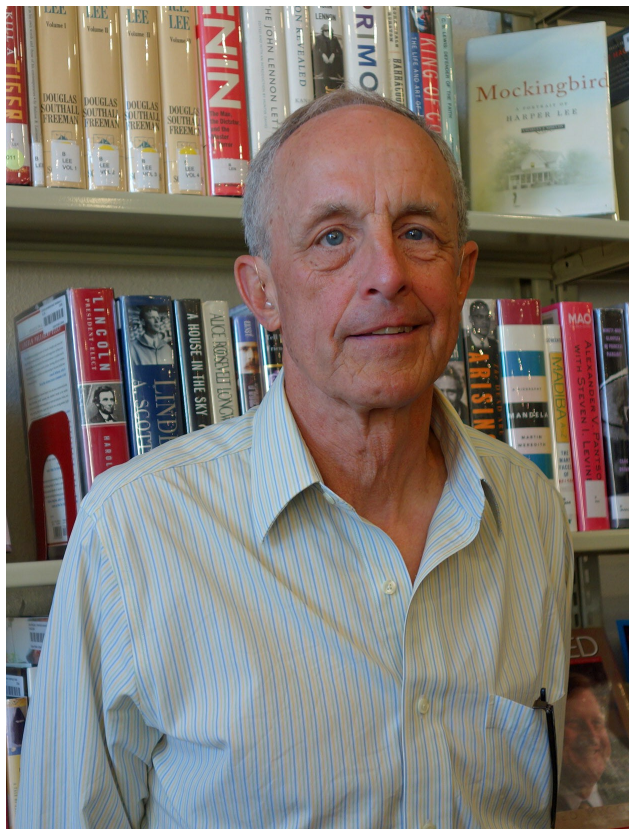
Three threads extend through the length of Warren Shaul's life: his love of science, his affinity for libraries, and his willingness to volunteer. These threads fortuitously converge at Alpine Public Library.

Warren has been focused on science, in particular, on biology, since age 10. This fascination with biology prompted his father to call him the “strangest kid” he’d ever known. By his own estimation, Warren wasn’t a strong reader as a child, but he did read books about science. He earned a BS in biology from Humboldt State University in California and an MS in fisheries from Oregon State University. This background led him to a job as a diver biologist with the Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in the Puget Sound. For seven years, he donned scuba gear and dove down to survey beds of Geoduck clams and to manage the commercial harvest. He then served with the Peace Corps in Jamaica, working with the Division of Fisheries, and proposed a plan for lobster management that was ultimately implemented. For 17 years, he used his knowledge and skills as an environmental consultant.

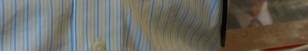
After observing his nephews' indifference to science, Warren became a science teacher, teaching biology and developing a course in environmental science. Since this career shift, he has continued to teach, for almost four years in Nicaragua, first with the Peace Corps and then with a local school, and for a year in Austin at the Goodwill School, a public charter school for adults studying for a high school diploma. He has recently become APL's go-to science teacher for students studying for the high school equivalency in the library's Adult Education Program.

Warren's attraction to libraries started in the small county library in Live Oak, California, run by his aunt in a wing of her house. School libraries and public libraries continued to play an essential part in his life. He says that he "lived" in the library while a

college student, improving his reading skills, increasing his reading speed, and starting to read fiction for fun. In Jefferson County, Washington, Warren's involvement with the local library led him to serve on the board of directors.



Visits to Alpine Public Library influenced Warren and his wife, Anita, to move to Alpine in 2021. Warren thinks that APL functions exactly as a library should. He notes that schools used to act as community centers; he asserts that libraries now fill that role. Not just places to check out books, libraries are spaces for community members to meet. Libraries offer not only information but also locations for community members to share information with each other. Warren has joined this community, volunteering to teach in the Adult Education Program and to help with fundraisers.



Acting as a library board director, joining Peace Corps—twice—these are examples of Warren’s willingness to volunteer. He doesn’t know when he started volunteering, doesn’t remember a time when he didn’t volunteer. He does remember that his parents volunteered, so he grew up in a culture that encouraged volunteerism. He believes that we have a “responsibility to be involved in the community.” Volunteerism, in his view, benefits the volunteer by offering a chance to “learn a different way of looking at the world.” And Warren loves looking at the world.

In addition to volunteering at APL, Warren has trained to be a Master Naturalist and is now the vice president of the Tierra Grande Chapter and in charge of training new members. He also volunteers at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, participating in educational programs among other activities.

Warren is weaving himself into the fabric of Alpine with his abiding interest in science, commitment to libraries, and steadfast volunteerism. Alpine Public Library stands to gain from having a learner and teacher like Warren in its community.

—*Lee Smith*

STUDY, TEST, REPEAT:

TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CLASSES AT APL

Since September 2021, I have been a volunteer instructor at the Alpine Public Library for individuals working to obtain their high school equivalency certificate, or GED (General Educational Development). I have found this to be an educational, rewarding, and sometimes frustrating experience.

It has been over 35 years since I was in high

school and close to 25 since my last college course. Reviewing subjects that I studied so many years ago and attempting to explain them to someone else challenges my memory and my communication skills. So far, I have worked with students on three of the four GED units: social studies, math, and language arts. I am looking forward to the fourth unit, science.

There is a test for each subject, which students may choose to take separately over several months (or years), or they can take all four tests in one day. In the adult education program at the library, students usually test on each subject after studying it with a volunteer teacher for whatever length of time they need.

Success does not always come easily. For adult students it can be difficult to make GED studies a priority in terms of time and focus—this can lead to scheduling frustrations for the teacher. For many students, it has been several years since they have studied anything, much less the standard academic subjects. The path to obtaining their GED is not always as smooth as they might desire or expect, and this can lead to frustration and disappointment on their part.

Getting back into the rhythm of studying and testing requires patience and persistence for both teacher and student. For students, the rewards of earning their GED include a sense of accomplish-

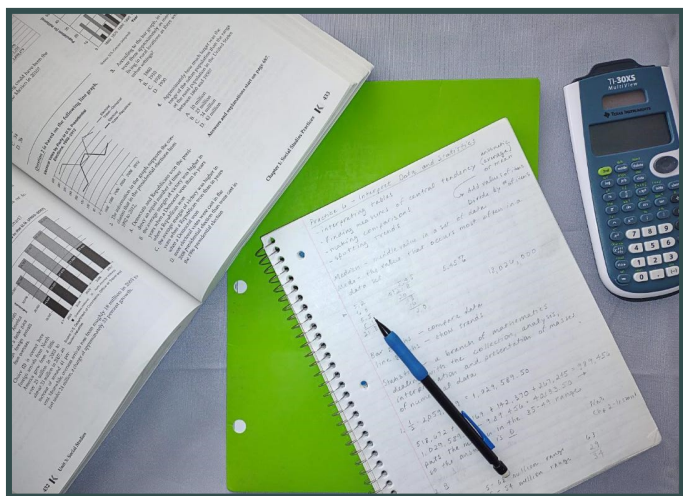
ment, increased basic knowledge and skills, greater employability and earning power, as well as a chance to further their education in college or technical programs. For teachers, it is a joyful experience to watch students work hard, gain more confidence over time, and get closer to their goals.

The Alpine Public Library currently has a grant through Ysleta ISD and Texas Workforce Solutions to pay for tests, books, and calculators for people over 18 seeking to get their high school equivalency certificate. New students are required to take a placement evaluation, which helps us recommend a course of action—whether it be focusing their studies in a certain area, testing them immediately, or strengthening their basic education skills before proceeding to GED studies.

Right now, there are seven volunteer teachers available to teach high school equivalency studies. We do our best to work around students' schedules. Starting in April, there will be a class given three nights a week, two hours per lesson, for multiple students. Registration for this class will begin in March. Individual tutoring will still be available for those people who can't make the classes or who need to focus on other areas.

For anyone interested in becoming a student or a volunteer instructor, stop by the library or contact the library's Adult Education Coordinator, Bianca Barrerra, at biancab@alpinepubliclibrary.org or 432-837-2621

—Ellen Ruggia



ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

at the Alpine Public Library

We Offer

- High School Equivalency
- English as a Second Language
- Spanish
- Adult Basic Education
- Computer Literacy
- Citizenship
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

In-person and virtual classes available

We are looking for students and volunteer instructors

Remembering Bonnie Newell

APL's First Librarian

Bon, as she insisted her grandchildren call her, ran a “tight ship,” according to her grandson Jim Pattillo. That tight ship was Alpine Public Library. Bon was Bonnie Boone Newell, APL’s first librarian, who steered the library through 23 years, from its start on the shelves of Walter Henderson’s radio shop in 1947 to the three linked houses on North 7th Street in 1972.

During Bonnie Newell’s time at the helm, APL established itself as essential to the community, as a space of refuge, as a “comfortable place” for all, as a “treasure trove,” as Jim described it. Everyone was welcome. In the early years, most institutions in Alpine were segregated, with the exception of the library. Bonnie Newell made sure of that. At her insistence, all families were free to use the facility; all children could participate in programs and check out books, with no restrictions based on race, ethnicity, or financial situation.

Bonnie Newell’s philosophy of inclusiveness extended to her dealings with children, both those related to her and those not. Just because he was a rel-

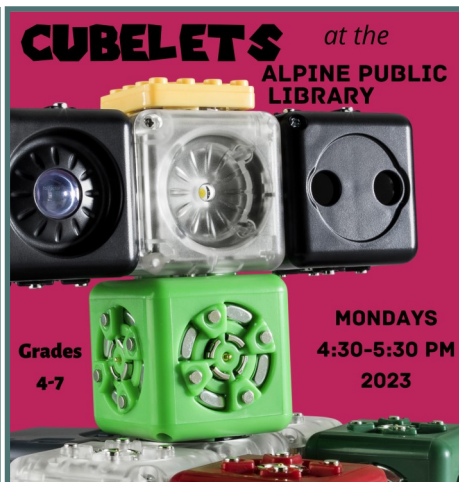


ative, Jim didn’t get special treatment. His experience with the library matched those of his age-mates. His grandmother “assigned” books, didn’t tolerate improper speech, and encouraged vocabulary improvement. Jim notes that he and the other kids were “cautious” and followed rules because they wanted to be able to enjoy the library, their place of refuge.

As Jim Pattillo remembers her, Bonnie Newell embodied the ideals of the El Progreso Club and the early Friends of the Library group. Virginia Newell, another APL founder, contended in a 1975 Alpine Avalanche article that “it was the American tradition of education (impossible without books), and education at all ages and economic levels (impossible without a library), that had set us apart and ahead of the world.”

For more than 75 years, Alpine Public Library has taken the right tack, following the course set by its founders to serve “all ages, races, economic levels,” as Virginia Newell put it. Bonnie Boone Newell was there to launch APL on its course.

—Lee Smith



kids at alpine public library

APL AT CASA HOGAR

Mary Beth Garrett, APL's Children's Librarian, has been engaging in virtual outreach with Casa Hogar, the children's home in Ojinaga Mexico. Mary Beth's sessions begin with her reading a book to them in Spanish and English using the RAZ-Kids online reading platform, after which they participate in a short discussion related to the reading, mostly in Spanish but incorporating some English. Then they play an interactive vocabulary or grammar game on an online platform called Boom Cards. Next, individual kids read to Mary Beth. The children select their own books from the RAZ-Kids system.

Sometimes the kids go on virtual "field trips" around the area. So far, they have visited the Museum of the Big Bend, the SRSU Gym and weight room, the SRSU Biology Department to view fossils, Big Bend Coffee Roasters, the sports car store Stable Performance, Blue Water grocery, the Big Bend Radio station, and various private homes with interesting pets or livestock, such as, ducks, goats, horses, guinea pigs, snakes, and turtles. Mary Beth plans to meet up with a motorcycle group at the Old Gringo and to visit the candy shop. All of these field trips are designed to help kids learn English in context.

In January, Mary Beth traveled to Ojinaga to visit Casa Hogar where she was given a celebrity's welcome by the children, who had only seen her online.



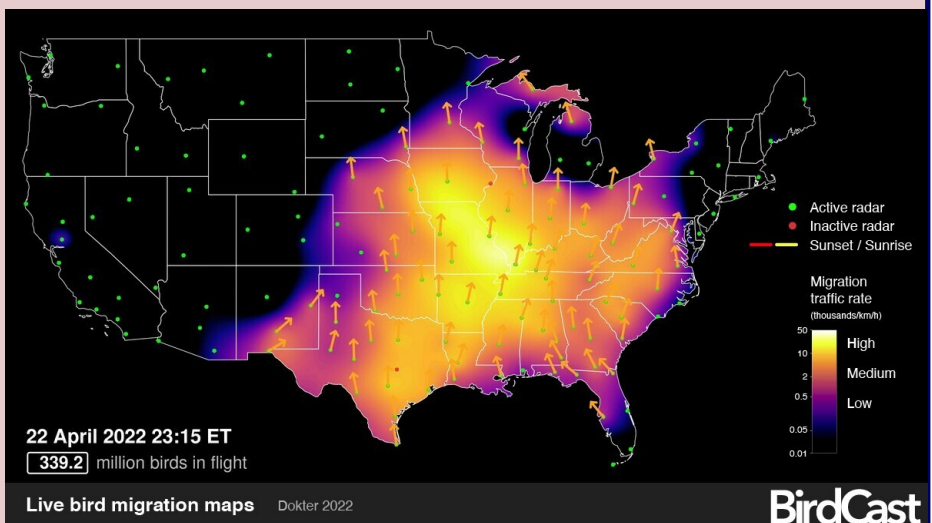
In costume for La Pastorela



Mary Beth Garrett reading to girls at Casa Hogar.

SEEING IN THE DARK: WATCHING INVISIBLE BIRD MIGRATIONS

Dr. Maureen Frank, James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation Endowed Professor and Associate Professor of Conservation Biology with the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University, will discuss the curious patterns of bird migration in the U.S. and the ramifications of light pollution. This presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. and is followed by nighttime viewing hosted by Stephen Hummel from the McDonald Observatory. Children's activities begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Kids are also welcome to join the nighttime viewing starting about 8:30 p.m.



APRIL 22 AT 7:30 PM



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.

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☐ Individual/Family \$35 ☐ Best Friend \$100+
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☐ Ongoing Monthly Donations \$ _____/Month beginning _____, ending _____

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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.

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You may also pay with PayPal at www.alpinepubliclibrary.org.