

BETWEEN THE LINES

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

September 2022

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

Our mission statement reads: *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.* An important function of a library is to help create a literate public. Encouraging literacy and lifelong learning is a major undertaking at Alpine Public Library.

Much time and effort go toward our offerings for early childhood development. We now have the support to offer much-needed adult education. In the last newsletter I mentioned that the library received a grant through the Far West Adult Education Consortium and the Ysleta Independent School District from the Texas Workforce Commission. The grant provides funding to help build the capacity of the Alpine Public Library as a Workforce Commission Adult Education and Literacy provider for the tri-county area.

We are in full swing now, and the library has a new staff member, Bianca Barrera, to work as our Adult Education Coordinator. Bianca joined the library staff in August. Most grants require plen-

ty of record keeping and reporting to satisfy the grant guidelines. Bianca is going through hours of training to learn the online reporting system and data input requirements.

Paige Delaney started APL's adult education program with ESL for the Big Bend 10 years ago when she was the library Executive Director. Today, in addition to ESL, our instruction includes high school equivalency, citizenship, Spanish, adult basic education, and a new option, tutoring for the Test of English



as a Foreign Language (commonly known as TOEFL).

Alpine Public Library has been approved by the Texas Education Agency to become a testing center. We plan to offer high school equivalency testing. Additionally, through the grant, we are able to pay for the high school equivalency tests for anyone completing the program at the library.

By the way, we not only are looking for students, but we also need instructors. If you are interested, please contact Bianca at the library.

Finally, we have a new bookkeeper, Sonia Pilonieta. Welcome to both Sonia and Bianca.

—Don Wetterauer, *MLS, PhD*,
Executive Director

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Bianca Barrera, Adult Education Coordinator
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Special Donations

In Memory of:

From:

Phyllis Holochwost

Richard Holochwost

In Honor of:

From:

Karl Schmitt

Kathy & Albert Bork

In celebration of Marilyn
Terry's and Bill Elliot's
birthdays

Doug & Becky Elliot

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

TRAVEL TALKS AT APL



September 30

Sharon McClandahan on Turkey

October 28

Matt Walter on Alpine, Texas

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.

beanstack at APL

The APL Summer Reading Program more than doubled in participation this year! Ninety-two participants read for 17,513 minutes, earning 417 badges.

Beanstack is a continuous online reading program where kids log their reading and complete activities to earn electronic badges and prizes. The summer challenge ends August 31. The fall program Hallow-Read runs from October 1 to November 1. Kids can pre-register in September.

Join for free at alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org.



Makerspace opened on
July 27 with 17 kids using
it the first day!



Toddler Time

Reading
Finger plays
Singing
Dancing
Sensory tables

Tuesdays at 10
AM
Ages 0-5

PAJAMA STORY TIME!



October 21st, 2022, 6:30 pm
Alpine Public Library
805 W. Ave. E, Alpine Tx

STORIES
PROJECTS
FAMILY FUN
SINGING
DANCING
FINGER PLAYS

Thank you, Business Friends!

Alpine Framing
Alpine Radio
Aramark TX
Big Bend Coffee Roasters
Big Bend Law
Bullshirtz
Cheshire Cat Antiques
Desert Heart Jewelry
Edward Jones Investments

Front Street Books
GMS 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

LINDA BRYANT RECEIVES LITERACY TEXAS 2022 VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR EXCELLENCE AWARD



Linda was nominated for this award by Donald Wetterauer, the director of Alpine Public Library, where Linda has been a volunteer instructor for 9 years.

In that time, she has helped 17 students achieve their US citizenship, and two of her former HSE [High School Equivalency] students are now in college. She has given countless hours to her students and is dedicated to both excellence as an instructor and to student success.

Linda keeps her classes student-centered, helping them to focus on their personal goals and to see their learning through that lens. She follows up with students even after classes end and stays in touch to continue her support and encouragement. Alpine Public Library is pleased to honor a dedicated volunteer instructor!

www.literacytexas.org/what-we-do/annual-awards/

“Literacy Texas is the statewide literacy coalition, connecting and equipping adult and family literacy programs through resources, training, networking and advocacy.”

APL Adult Education Program Expansion

The Alpine Public Library has very exciting news for the tri-county area. We are working on expanding the Adult Education Program. This is all thanks to a grant with the Texas Workforce Commission and Ysleta ISD. This grant allows us to be a service provider for Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Brewster Counties as part of the Far West Adult Education Consortium. Becoming a service center will further allow us to prepare adults in our community for the workforce by encouraging postsecondary education, providing training for occupational certifications, and enhancing our STEAM program. This grant will also allow us to pay for teaching materials such as books, calculators, and Chromebooks.

In addition to all the exciting things already happening with the Adult Education Program, we are also in the process of becoming a certified testing center for students who are pursuing their High School Equivalency Certificate. Currently, students have to commute to neighboring cities for this exam,

which can create quite a financial burden. This test will come at no cost to our adult students as we will use funding from the grant to pay for their tests. We hope that by offering our services as a testing center, we will encourage more students to enroll and continue with their studies.

Currently we offer the following classes: High School Equivalency, English as a Second Language, Spanish, Adult Basic Education, and Citizenship. We are hoping to expand on this list by adding Computer Literacy classes and TOEFL.

We are looking for students and volunteer instructors to join our program. If you are interested

in becoming a volunteer instructor or a student, you may call, e-mail, or just stop by the library. The Alpine Public Library is here to support learners of all ages, and is enthused to support you on your educational journey.

—Bianca Barrera, Adult Education Coordinator
432- 837-2621

biancab@alpinepubliclibrary.org



NASA@MyLibrary: See More Stars



Greeter Zeyrep Basibuyuk welcoming the 92 attendees



1st image
James Webb
Telescope
Carina Nebula



Leah & Meghan
Struthers
managing the
phases of the
moon



Sul Ross football
team helping out
with kids'
activities



Azra Gunes, AHS senior, gave a professional talk on the first images of the James Webb Telescope. Azra plans to major in Astrophysics in college.



ESCAPE ROOM: The Heist



Escape room used during the event

As a part of our efforts to renew our teen programming, Alpine Public Library held an escape room event for ages 12 to 18 this past July. An Escape Room is a kind of game in which players must break out of a room or otherwise achieve a goal by solving puzzles. The format appeals to people who are looking for a cooperative adventure or just enjoy a good mental workout.

Players were tasked with solving a series of puzzles to break into the bank account of the fictional business man Bentley Q. Banks. Working in teams of four, 12 participants had 25 minutes to figure out codes, passwords, and challenges in order to reach the prize and make their getaway. Although no teams managed to get out under the time limit, fun (and snacks) were had by all.

More teen programs are in the works, with another escape room event slated for near Halloween.

—Michael Haas, Circulation Librarian

From B(oomer) to Alpha

I used to think that a public library was solely a repository for books, audiobooks, and DVDs—all true—but most public libraries are far more than that these days. They are meeting places, clearing-houses, information centers.

Our library is no exception. We have thousands of books, hundreds of DVDs and CDs, jigsaw puzzles, board games, cake pans (!), sewing machines, personal hotspots, tax forms, a used-book store, a community meeting room, and really, really great people who want to reach as much of the population as we can. Alpine's remote location has required APL to morph from a traditional public library into an outreach center to help bridge the gaps geography has caused. After 75 years, APL has had to retool from Baby Boomer to something we might call "Gen Z/Alpha." As an institution APL has had to learn to incorporate technological advances, more diverse family dynamics, higher racial diversity, and greater economic inequality into its programming and book and nonbook resources. No more white gloves and hats; now it's e-books, 3-D printers, maker spaces, education, and cross-border cooperation. And all of it is offered free of charge.

Let's start with the Baby Boomer stuff—books. In 2022, APL has donated books to Alpine Elementary and Middle Schools, the Food Pantry of Alpine, local Little Free Libraries, Preventative Care Health Services, Bella Dental, the Public Health Department, the Family Crisis Center, and Casa Hogar in Ojinaga, and has left books for anyone to pick up at local laundromats and at Kokernot and Baines Parks. A volunteer regularly leaves books at the Amtrak station for travelers

who might have forgotten something to read on the long rides to anywhere from here. Another volunteer monitors book donations at the Alpine Visitors' Center. Still another volunteer takes books and other materials to homebound patrons. Once a month, volunteers refresh a small library at the Brewster County Jail. An effort to create a library in Terlingua is benefitting from regular donations from Re-Reads. The library collection has been weeded and refreshed and is available to anyone with a (free) library card, of course.

Because APL serves a bilingual population from all income levels, we offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, English conversation classes, Spanish grammar and conversation classes, high school equivalency classes, citizenship classes, Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes, and Spanish-language story time at the library and via Zoom to Casa Hogar.

Because Alpine has few meeting spaces available to the general public, APL's AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room is used for monthly Travel Talks, monthly movie showings, monthly yoga, weekly Zumba classes, weekly martial arts classes, weekly yarn arts, meetings of community groups, meet-the-candidates gatherings, and public lectures.

And if this is making you tired, there's always free Friday coffee and tea for seniors, compliments of APL and the Woman's Club of Alpine. Come in, sit down, and survey what's available while you sip APL's private Bookworm Blend coffee from Big

Bend Coffee Roasters. We want to make sure there's something here for everyone and that you know about it.

—Kathy Bork



Alpine Visitors' Center



Brewster County Jail

Friends of the Alpine Public Library volunteers provide an invaluable service to our community by delivering books, magazines, DVDs, audiobooks, and other materials to patrons who are unable to come to the library themselves. These services include:

1. **Homebound Service** for patrons with enduring disabilities
2. **Temporary Homebound Service** for those temporarily unable to come to the library
3. **Big Bend Regional Medical Center Periodical Service** refreshing the waiting room periodical selection
4. **Brewster County Jail Library Service** maintaining the inmate library

Contact the library at 432-837-2621 for more information on these services.

APL Celebrates

75

Years

At a well-attended party
in the AEP Foundation
Multipurpose Room



Cake by
Nan Hatty Edwards



Photo of patrons at
early fundraiser tea



Music by
Calamity Creek



At Kokernot Park for Triple
Diamond Jubilee with Alpine
Cowboys & KVLF — Mary Beth
Garrett & Martin Benevich
throwing out the first balls

4th of July



Parade

From Vision to



It all began with a tea sponsored by the El Progreso Club of Alpine in 1947. Three hundred guests brought three hundred books. There was no money, no librarian, no place to put the books.

—Virginia Newell, Alpine Avalanche, August 7, 1975

From its inception 75 years ago, Alpine Public Library has always faced challenges, though none quite as daunting as the one described in Virginia Newell's last sentence. In this case, the vision that prompted the tea became bookshelves on the wall of Walter Henderson's radio shop, a volunteer librarian in the person of Bonnie Newell, fundraisers organized by a group of determined volunteers, and financial help from the county and like-minded area residents. Since 1947, Alpine Public Library has continued to meet its challenges and thrive through the agility of its staff and the support of the community.

A crucial challenge has always been finding funds to provide a "place to put the books," to maintain this place, and to pay people to run it. In the early days, APL was housed in spaces and buildings repurposed to accommodate a library. Many current patrons will remember the charm of the library on North 7th Street, a building cobbled together from three houses with uneven floors and several small rooms. By the mid-1970's, this charming space desperately needed repair. The roof leaked. The plumbing, heating, and lighting were inadequate. The shelves sagged. Air conditioning needed to be upgraded.

When Eleanor Wilson became library director in 1976, this was the situation she faced. According to Eleanor, the biggest challenges to the library during her tenure involved regaining the attention of the community. At the time, the library received little funding from the county and city and was generally neglected.

The library met these challenges with increased community support including volunteer help with repairs; additional funding from the county and some financial support from the city; and a revival of the Friends of the Alpine Public Library, which brought in revenue from book sales. APL also joined the Texas State Library System. Membership benefits made it possible to restart the children's programs. In sum, by the time that Eleanor left APL in 1981, the staff and volunteers had gotten the library back in shape and gotten the attention of the community.

In 2009, when Paige Delaney became director,

the library was still occupying the three houses, APL's home since 1970. It was time for a move. Not surprisingly, Paige identifies raising money for construction and building the new library as the biggest challenges of her tenure. Many foundations, government agencies, businesses, and individuals contributed to make the new building possible, as the display in the foyer of the library illustrates. Shelves of wooden books, each with a name of a donor on the spine, cover one wall—97 in all.

Paige points to the building itself and the generous support of the community as proof that the venture was worth the huge effort needed to complete the project. She also cites the award from the *Library Journal* and the Gates Foundation naming Alpine Public Library as runner up for the Best Small Library in America in 2013 as "extra validation that we had done things right."

Don Wetterauer, who followed Paige as director in 2015, was involved in the efforts to build the new library, which welcomed patrons in February of 2012. Like the directors before him, Don has faced the challenge of keeping the library financially sound. Operating funds are still largely gained through fundraising and donations along with sales in Re-Reads, the library's used-books store.

"Keeping the library relevant to the community" is another challenge that Don identifies. One sign that the library is succeeding in meeting this challenge is the expansion of "the library's adult education program from ESL," started in 2011, "to include citizenship, high school equivalency, and Spanish classes." Equally successful are the children's programs, which routinely bring in crowds of kids of all ages throughout the week.

These successes present their own challenges: finding enough space to accommodate increased demand, hence the library drive to amass funds to convert the two partially enclosed patios into dedicated spaces for children's and teen's programs. As Don points out, the library is making progress toward meeting this challenge too.

—Lee Smith



Alpine Public Library
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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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Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
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Membership Type (Annual)

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Please Select Payment Type: ☐ Check ☐ Credit/Debit Card
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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.