

## What's Happening at Alpine Public Library?

There's always something happening at Alpine Public Library. Claudia Miranda Fuentes started as Youth Services Librarian several months ago. We found out in late July that her husband was being transferred to New Mexico, so they are moving. Claudia was at the library long enough to complete a successful Summer Reading Program. As it happened, we had some interested candidates apply for the position. After interviews and discussions, Casey Costa, one of our current employees, was selected as the next Youth Services Librarian.

Casey has been at the library, with some time away to have a couple of kids, since February of 2019. She is now developing her own programs. In addition to the regular Toddler Time, she is planning Tinkercad and 3-D printing after-school programs. Plans are being developed for a regular craft program for the under-10 crowd. We still hope to increase library

usage by teens and young adults and will work on developing programs for that age group. All other age groups are well represented at the library. We're always looking for new program ideas. If you have any, let us know.

The adult education program



continues to roll along. We had another graduation in July with four graduates and a nice crowd to help celebrate. We currently have another three students at various stages of completion.

So, another graduation may happen soon. We plan to keep the adult education program going in spite of significant cuts in state and federal funding.

As always, many thanks to our very supportive community of library lovers. Your help goes a long way toward making Alpine Public Library a great resource for the Big Bend area of Far West Texas.

—Don Wetterauer, MLS, PhD  
Executive Director

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# Yoga with Bailey Zumba Yarn Art

## Special Donations

In Memory of:

From:

Marshall McCall

Cathy & JD Lammons

Beth Collins

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## Re-Reads Gently Used Books

A Project of the Alpine Public Library

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

Amazon Storefront

[aplmembers.org/aplireads](http://aplmembers.org/aplireads)

**SALE!**

Cookbooks, in  
September

Holidays, in October

Families & sharing,  
in November Murals

All regular priced books  
& non-print items, in  
December

**Alpine Public Library**

Established June 1947



Travel  
Talks

2025



### September 26

Linda Hedges, Rick Reese, Kathy Bork, and Albert Bork on Australia

### October 31

Bobby Greeson on a photo-trip to Utah

7 PM in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room

*If you have an adventure you'd like to share in 2026, contact Matt Walter at [matt.walter.777@gmail.com](mailto:matt.walter.777@gmail.com).*

## Murals at APL



Many places in Alpine are graced with murals on their outside walls. The new Nicole Cardoza Children's Wing of Alpine Public Library also has two walls for murals. Artist Pauline Hernández is creating both.

The south-facing mural is almost complete, but we need to raise the funds to pay for the west-wall mural. In the fall, the public will have an opportunity to paint clay stars and butterflies, which Pauline will fire and attach to the mural walls. All donations will be used exclusively to fund the murals.

For information on how to become an artist/patron of the library arts, please leave a message for Kay Tscheyka, Board President, at 432-837-2821, or [desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org).

# Senior Coffee & Tea Homebound Program Travel Talk

Thank you,  
Business  
Friends!

Alpine Radio  
Big Bend Coffee Roasters  
Cheshire Cat Antiques  
Desert Heart Jewelry  
Front Street Books

Hog Eye Cattle Company  
Salon Americana  
Talley-Reed Insurance  
Twin Peaks Liquors  
Vast Graphics

Wassermann Wranch  
WR Ranch  
WTX Real Estate Photography



# Adult Education at APL

The active students in our GED program are at different stages of preparation as we start the new academic year: some are just beginning their studies while others are working toward completing the final portion of the four required subjects: reasoning through language arts (RLA); social studies, mathematics, and science. All are being taught and supported by our volunteer tutors: Kathy Donnell and Sally Schaeffer for ESL; Warren Shaul and Ellen Ruggia for GED; and Linda Bryant for ESL and Citizenship.

Our citizenship students are also in various stages of the journey to naturalization. We currently have three active students, one of whom has just submitted the official application, the N-400. Once USCIS has received this application and verified that it is complete, the candidate will be contacted for the official interview in El Paso. A second student is prepared to send the N-400 application as soon as U.S. residency requirements are met. The third is gathering required information from abroad to submit with the application.

After successfully completing the interview, the final step to attain citizenship is the Naturalization Ceremony. Two former students were naturalized this spring; a third has completed the interview and is waiting to be informed of the date of the Naturalization Ceremony.

We have around twenty people studying English with us at the library. As with citizenship, we have people at various levels of English acquisition. Some learners work only one-on-one with one of our tutors; others participate in group classes; and some elect to take advantage of both options.

We have Spanish instruction at both beginning and advanced levels. Each level has six to eight people who attend regularly. These classes are taught by Joseline Cintrón, one of our circulation librarians, who is a native Spanish speaker.

We welcome anyone interested in participating in any of our class offerings. All classes are free of charge. Any circulation librarian can provide information or direct you to a source of more information.

—Linda Bryant

## GED: A New Year

A new year, a new chapter, as the saying goes. You're probably wondering why I'm bringing up a new year halfway through 2025. Well, that is because our academic year began in July, and let me tell you, we started it with a bang! Our goal for this academic year is to increase the number of students and GED graduates. This is important to continue receiving funding for our program and to keep Alpine Public Library at the center of community literacy. Two students have already passed at least one of their GED tests.

On July 11, we held GED graduation for our four 2024–2025 graduates. Daphnie Sablan, Kyra Voigtman, Jackson Wilbourn, and Natalie Van Der Giessen were added to our list of APL alumni. The ceremony had a great turnout, with family, friends, and members of the community coming out to support our group's accomplishment. Former GED graduate Sarali López opened our ceremony with a prayer and ended it with encouraging words for our graduates. Sarali was part of our first graduating class in 2023. You may have seen her smiling face at West Texas National Bank. She also came with exciting news of her recent enrollment in Sul Ross State University as a math major. She wants to become a math teacher, noting GED math instructor Warren Shaul as her inspiration. It is undeniable that there



**From left, Don Wetterauer; Warren Shaul; Jackson Wilbourn; Daphnie Sablan; Kyra Voigtman; Linda Bryant. Not pictured, Natalie Van Der Giessen**

are great things happening at APL.

Aside from GED, we also offer ESL and Citizenship classes. For more information, contact me at [biancab@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:biancab@alpinepubliclibrary.org) or 432-837-2621. We hope to have another successful year at APL!

—Bianca Barrera  
Adult Education Coordinator

# Nan Hatty Edwards: Making Connections at APL

Nan Hatty Edwards grew up on a cattle ranch near Colorado City, Texas, that has been in her family for seven generations. It wasn't much of a leap, therefore, for her to find her way to Alpine in the late 1990s, where "old, old ranches and a rich art community rubbed shoulders."

She moved around a lot after high school but always in the Southwest (you can take the girl out of the desert . . . ). She lived mostly in New Mexico until, during Spring Break one year, she visited a sister who was studying equine science at Sul Ross State University. That might have been the defining moment in Nan Hatty's life. She "just loved" Alpine and moved here shortly afterward. She was "attracted by the surprise." She "didn't know there were real mountains in Texas, much less mountains surrounded by desert," and she was hooked. "Being on the edge of things, the people here tend to let each other be. . . they're so kind."

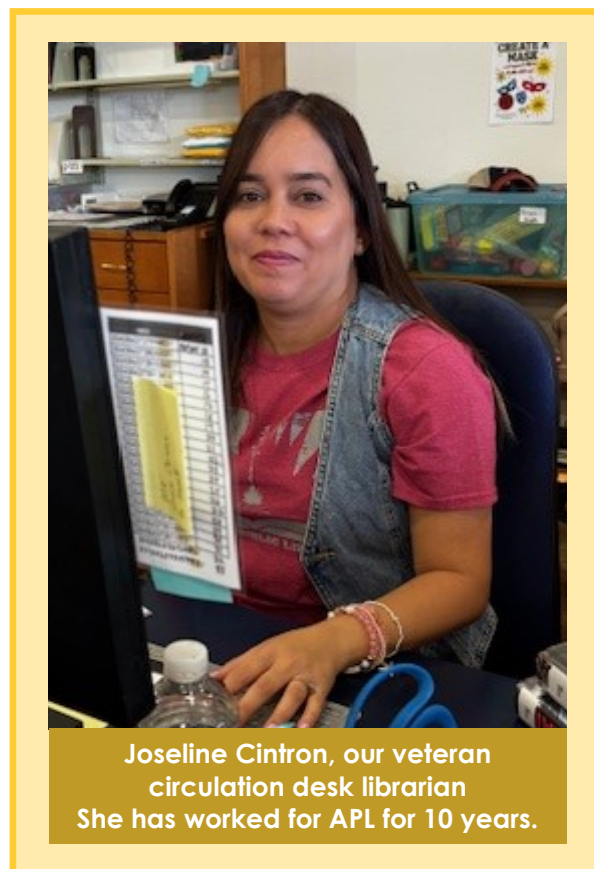
She enrolled at Sul Ross and started taking mostly art, ceramics, and design classes. She decamped to Silver City, New Mexico, briefly, where she took more art classes, but eventually she came back to Alpine. She credits the "frontier spirit of the people out here and the diversity of the population" with her decision to settle here and raise her sons, Everett (16) and Davis (13). Not so coincidentally, the boys won the first-ever APL talent show, Alpine's Talented Stars, in 2022 in spectacular fashion, playing the guitar and accordion and singing to take top honors by bringing home 3 trophies, in the kids' division, as top pre-event and night-of-the-event vote getters, and for securing the most votes overall.

Nan Hatty has always loved libraries and has patronized the library everywhere she has lived (she's a compulsive cookbook reader [and a great cook] but has no favorite genre). She believes public libraries "reflect the community and are a great way to get to know your community." It's no surprise, then, that she has joined APL's circulation desk staff. It was a natural move from her many years at Alpine Montessori School, a way to continue "fostering education and helping people connect with what they're looking for, whether for pleasure or help of some other kind."



So, although Nan Hatty is living "on the edge of things" in Far West Texas, she has found a way to satisfy her need for both solitude and community interaction in the public library.

—Kathy Bork



Joseline Cintron, our veteran circulation desk librarian  
She has worked for APL for 10 years.

Find out what's happening this month  
at APL at [alpinepubliclibrary.org/calendar/](http://alpinepubliclibrary.org/calendar/)



# Casey Costa: Lifetime Librarian

Casey Costa, once an Alpine Public Library circulation librarian and now the Youth Services librarian, is no stranger to library work. She worked in her hometown library in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, for 8 years, cataloguing, doing technical services work, and some reference work. Her circulation desk work at APL was similar, but there was also time for her to tap into her creative side. She was key in designing social media posts and displays (including those giant posters that cover the upper windows on the east side of the building), and collaborated with the Youth Services librarian to make the books in the Nicole Cardoza Wing more appealing and accessible to the library's youngest patrons. After the departure of the Youth Services librarian, Casey was appointed to fill the position.

Casey and her husband, Alex, moved to Alpine in 2018, when Alex was posted here for the Border Patrol. She thought she'd enjoy being unemployed, but after 3 weeks she got bored and applied at APL. She has worked at APL on and off since, taking time off only to have her two sons, Zachary (3½) and Nicholas (2). She has been able to work part-time since becoming a mom because her parents moved here to live with the family and because APL is a child-friendly workplace and allows her to bring her boys to work. Zachary has even been known to ask patrons what his mother can do for them!

Casey's educational and work background might not seem to be the most direct route to library work. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth on a full ride with a major in economics

and a minor in Spanish. At age 14 she started to work for Destination Imagination, a national program that “inspire[s] young people to imagine and innovate today so they become the creative and collaborative leaders of tomorrow.” Although she claims to have lost most of her Spanish, and “economics”

these days consists mostly of making change for copies, what she learned about releasing her creative and innovative energy within the confines of a very restricted budget serves her—and APL—well.

When asked what she likes best about Alpine, Casey emphasizes that the library's kid-friendly policy is at the top of her list. She has also had a lot more personal interaction with library patrons of all ages at APL than she was able to have in her much larger hometown library. Casey also loves that Alpine “has parades for everything,” something her kids (and she and Alex) can't get enough of. The whole family attends the Alpine Cowboys baseball games, and both Zachary and Nicholas have no trouble sitting through whole

games. She wishes Alpine were closer to a larger city, but she really likes the “small towniness” of it. Now that her parents live with them, she doesn't even have much homesickness for Massachusetts.

Casey and her family found a new home in Alpine, and Casey is helping keep Alpine Public Library a family- and kid-friendly place. If you find yourself in the Cardoza wing, be sure to ask Zachary what his mother can do to help you.

—Kathy Bork



**APL's Mission:** 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.

# Biblioteca Municipal

## José Saramago de Odemira

Everywhere I've lived, since I was in elementary school, I've obtained a library card. From Moore Memorial Library in Texas City, Texas, to Jefferson Market Library in Greenwich Village, I've been a grateful library patron. So, I was pleased to discover that obtaining borrowing privileges at the library serving my town here in Portugal is as easy as it is at Alpine Public Library.



Biblioteca Municipal José Saramago de Odemira, like Alpine Public Library, is the cultural hub of its community. Perched on a hill overlooking the Mira River and the valley beyond, the library serves the Odemira municipality, or county, of approximately 26,000 residents living in 13 parishes. Vila Nova de Milfontes, one of these parishes, is my home.

The Municipal Library is named for José Saramago, the Portuguese Nobel Prize-winning novelist, and is one of seven libraries in a network affiliated with the foundation dedicated to the writer. This affiliation gives the library access to programs, resources, and exhibits developed by the José Saramago Foundation or by other libraries in the network and to public and private funding opportunities. Registered patrons of the libraries in the network enjoy free admission to Casa dos Bicos, the headquarters of the foundation, located in Lisbon.

The library was built on the site of a castle constructed over 2,000 years ago. From its location, thirty-one kilometers upriver from the Atlantic Ocean, the castle provided protection for the interior countryside until the 16th century. In 1997, construction of the library began within the surviving walls of the castle. The walls incorporated into the library building are visible from the street below, along the riverbank. The library is four stories tall and contains an auditorium, a cafeteria, and sections for children and adults.



Biblioteca Municipal José Saramago offers access to 40,000 items for home and library use as well as e-books and books for children and teens. Children's programs include story time and support for area schools. The collection contains Portuguese- and foreign-language books, some in translation, some in the language of the original publication, including English.

My new library in Odemira reminds me, in many ways, of my old library in Alpine. Both libraries are in attractive spaces made specifically for them. Both are staffed by friendly professionals. And both play a vital role in promoting literacy and community. I miss Alpine Public Library and don't think that Biblioteca Municipal José Saramago will replace it for me, but I'm pleased to have the chance to be a library patron again.

—Lee Smith



The library from  
the riverside



Castle wall



# Mask Competition

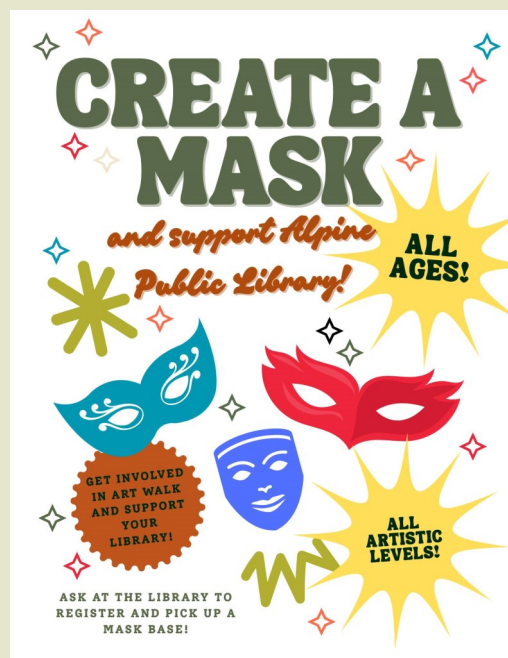
APL, after losing much-needed funding, is looking for new ways to raise critical operating funds. We have borrowed a long-time fundraiser from the Ft. Collins Museum of Art in which plain paper masks can be “adopted” by local artists and library supporters and decorated. Masks may be decorated in any way the artist chooses, but they must be rated “G”!

Masks are available at the library’s circulation desk. Decorated masks must be returned no later than November 1.

Masks will be on display at the library’s Silent Auction during Art Walk, November 21 and 22, at the former Morrison’s Lawn and Garden Center location. They will be judged and awarded ribbons and will be up for bids in the Silent Auction.

Please contact Cathy Lammons with questions, 432-386-0640 or 432-364-2816.

Don’t hide your support of our public library under a bushel—or a mask, in this case! Pick up a mask today and get decorating!



Patty Manning at work



Introducing The

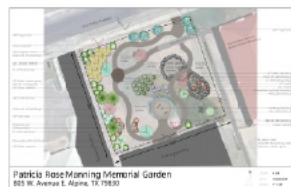


## Patty Manning Pollinator Garden

The Patty Manning Pollinator Garden is being developed to honor Patricia Manning, longtime grower of native plants in the Big Bend, a field botanist, Native Plant Society of Texas member, and co-founder of the plant nursery Twin Sisters Natives in Alpine. The garden is a coordinated effort between many groups as well as local volunteers that have worked with Patty over the years. All involved recognize that Patty contributed significantly to our community and wish to create the garden to honor her memory.

The garden is located at the Alpine Public Library and will contain the native plants that Patty so dearly loved. A plaque documenting Patty's contribution to the area will be placed strategically, and a walking path will allow visitors to stroll through the garden. Benches are planned to provide comfortable seating for those that wish to linger, and a pergola in the garden will allow visitors to partake of the beauty in the shade. Butterfly, Pollinator and Cactus beds, a native grass area, as well as a water feature are included. Boulders will be placed throughout to provide a rugged West Texas look. A drip irrigation system has been installed to ensure plants are well cared for and to minimize water use and maintenance.

Finally, a fence has been erected around the plot to keep plants safe from deer and other wildlife. The target completion date is Fall of 2025. This project will not only honor a deserving member of our community, but will also provide some attractive landscaping for the Alpine Public Library.



**Please Help Us Bring Patty's Garden To Life!**

**Donate:**

<https://square.link/u/6W4keS3e>

OR

Make check payable to NPSOT  
P.O. Box 1265  
Alpine, Texas 79831



## GRAB A BITE AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

APL will be contacting and partnering with restaurants and coffee shops around town to donate a portion of their proceeds to the library on certain days. Watch social media and listen for details on the radio. This is an easy—and delicious—way to support the library, support a local business, and feed both your mind and your body!

**Save the Date**

**Reata**  
October 6  
Lunch and Dinner



Alpine Public Library  
805 West Avenue E  
Alpine, TX 79830

Phone: 432-837-2621  
[www.alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org)

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## We invite you to be a Friend of the Alpine Public Library!

Your tax-deductible donation may be paid with

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check (payable to Alpine Public Library)
- ☐ Money order (payable to Alpine Public Library)
- ☐ Credit or debit card (by phone or in person)
- ☐ PayPal: [www.alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org) (use the Donate button)
- ☐ Ongoing monthly donation

You can mail your donation or deliver this form to

Alpine Public Library  
805 W. Avenue E  
Alpine, TX 79830

Friendship levels (12 months from date of donation)

- ☐ Individual/family – \$35/year
- ☐ Business – \$100/year
- ☐ Best Friend – \$100+/year
- ☐ Ongoing monthly donation – \$\_\_\_\_\_/month, beginning \_\_\_\_\_, ending \_\_\_\_\_

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