



Friends of the Alpine Public Library NEWSLETTER

Fall 2004

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"The nation is still caught in a tide of indifference when it comes to literature. That is the sobering profile of a new survey to be released [on July 8, 2004] by the National Endowment for the Arts, which describes a precipitous downward trend in book consumption by Americans and a particular decline in the reading of fiction, poetry and drama.

The survey, called 'Reading at Risk,' is based on data from 'The Survey of Public Participation in the Arts,' conducted by the Census Bureau in 2002. Among its findings are that fewer than half of Americans over 18 now read novels, short stories, plays or poetry; that the consumer pool for books of all kinds has diminished; and that the pace at which *the nation is losing readers, especially young readers*, is quickening. In addition it finds that the downward trend holds in virtually all demographic areas. The survey also makes a striking correlation between readers of literature and those who are socially engaged, noting that *readers are far more likely than nonreaders to do volunteer and charity work* and go to art museums, performing arts events and ballgames. . . . *Of literary readers, 43 percent perform charity work; only 17 percent of nonreaders do.* That's not a subtle difference" (*New York Times*, July 8, 2004; my emphasis).

I don't know about you, but this quotation blows me away. Fewer than half of us read fiction in any form? The folks who don't must have a simpler life than I have; I need the relief that reading fiction brings.

More disturbing than this statistic, however, is the statement that we're losing young readers at a fast clip. This is not the place to speculate about why, but there are things we can do to perhaps slow the decline. For example, Mary Beth Garrett offers Toddler Time most Tuesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 at the library. She adapts what she's learned from similar programs her children participated in and from the current child development literature. Toddler Time kids play their way through learning centers using felt, sand, water, rice, a lighted magnifying glass, blocks, puzzles, crafts, paint, clay, and Play-Doh. The second hour is usually devoted to songs, stories, games, and finger plays. The kids learn lots of things, among them, to associate [continued on next page]

Our Mission

In appreciation of the role the library plays in the quality of life in the Big Bend area, the Friends of the Alpine Public Library work to provide and strengthen library services and support a varied menu of programs for the citizens of our area, consistent with the goals and objectives of the Alpine Public Library and its Board of Directors.

the library with fun. Anyone is more likely to want to be somewhere that's fun than somewhere that's not. Get kids into the library and you're much more likely to get them to read something than if they're never exposed to the wonders the library offers.

And what about the statistic concerning the correlation between reading and social engagement? The library circulated 38,559 pieces to 36,055 persons in calendar year 2003. Of course, not all of those "pieces" were literature, and the 36,055 includes many people a number of times, but even so, we should be able to count on more than the 20 or so regular volunteers we have. The library offers many "engaging" opportunities in addition to the children's programs. Like to garden? The library has an inviting courtyard that needs your green thumb. Are you a detail person or do you have computer skills—or, even better, both? Adding to those 38,559 pieces mentioned above is right up your alley. Like to keep things neat and tidy? Need to work out aggression? You can patrol the library and knock books into line along the shelves, or you can sort in the bookstore. You have talents; we have needs. Sounds like a match made in heaven.

- *Kathy Bork*



SPoonFOLK

What are those smiling silver faces that greet you at the circulation desk? They are Spoonfolk pins, donated by local artist, **Cheryl Frances**, as a fund-raiser for the Friends of the Library.

Whimsical Spoonfolk creations are individually hand-made of recycled silverplate flatware and found objects, with hand-engraved details. See www.spoonfolk.com for more details.

A donation of \$10, one-hundred-percent of which benefits APL programs, will get you your very own original "I Love to Read" pin. They make great gifts, and are a fun way to support YOUR library!

THANKS, RE-READS VOLUNTEERS!

Re-Reads Bookstore opened its doors for business June 14, 2004. This was a long awaited day for the Alpine Public Library. We want to thank all the volunteers who have given their time—both before and since the store opened: *Jean and Doug Bailey, Verna and Preston Bonner, Lela Bonner, Kathy Bork, Frank Cargo, Katricia and Jim Cochran, Donna Ehrke, Martha Floro, Cheryl Frances, Jean Gorby, Tom Greenwood, Margaret and Albert Hallford, Jean Hardy, Tonia Hill, Anne and Mike Lucas, Audrey Painter, Susan Penney, Suze Quiett, Joan Ripper, Chris Ruggia, Jodye and Cookie Stone, Marilyn Terry, Mac Tucker, Travis Tucker, John Walls, Nancy White, Jan and Ronnie Williams, Mary and Charles Wright and the LDS Elders.*

DONATIONS TO APL IN 2004

HONOREES: *Richart Gullett, Rita Hendryx.*

IN MEMORIAM: *Bud Burling, Glenna Burke, Harry Carpenter, Wanda Foley, Richard Gorby, Dan Kent, Mac McCollister, Terry McPeak, Flop Parsons, James L. Proffitt, Tony Ramos, Mary Burling Smith, Kimberly Young.*

HOMEBOUND PROGRAM UPDATE

For the past two years, **Barbara Reed**, FAPL's 2003 Volunteer of the Year, has single-handedly run our Homebound Program. She has brought the library to those who can't make the trip themselves. Family and work obligations prevent Barbara from continuing her efforts with this program. She will be hard to replace and sorely missed.

We are looking for a person or persons to continue the good work that Barbara began. If you are interested in learning more about this rewarding outreach program, please contact Verna Bonner at the library.

SPOTLIGHT ON APL VOLUNTEERS

What do a couple of teachers do when they no longer are teaching but still have an abundance of organizing energy that needs an outlet?

If their names are **Jan Williams** and **Margaret Hallford**, they volunteer at the Alpine Public Library's **Re-Reads Bookstore**. Not just once or twice, either; Jan and Margaret have worked nearly every Thursday since the store opened in June. And they have no plans to quit.



**Jan Williams and Margaret Hallford
sorting books at Re-Reads**

The women have known each other since 1973 when they began teaching in the same elementary school, and they have been friends for the last 20 years.

Jan and her husband, Ronnie, now retired from the Department of Public Safety, moved to Alpine in 1971 from Dallas. "We were raised in small towns," she said, "and we came here by choice."

Margaret and her husband, Albert, were teaching in Balmorhea when they came to Alpine in 1966, he as a principal and she as a teacher.

Margaret retired in 1998 and Jan three years later. No longer teaching their fourth-graders, the pair's friendship continued. When they would be out and about together, they watched with interest the building of what was to become the Re-Reads Book Store on Ave. E.

Neither were library volunteers, but they talked about volunteering somewhere and decided last spring to approach **Verna Bonner**, library director. She welcomed their interest and advised them to contact **Anne Lucas**, volunteer coordinator for Re-Reads.

Jan and Margaret were at the store when the doors opened. "That's the teacher in us," said Jan. "We can't get away from books."

For a couple of self-proclaimed organizers, the bookstore is a rewarding challenge. Most of the books, received through donations, are being displayed on make-do shelves and tables with improvised signs. When they are not selling, Jan and Margaret spend their time arranging the books into proper categories to make shopping easier for customers.

"We look forward to the day they complete the building," Jan said. Next stage in that process calls for finishing the appearance of the floor, installing insulation and putting up temporary shelves. That will leave paneling and permanent book shelves, for which the library is seeking donations and grant funding.

"It would be nice to have more volunteers," Margaret observed. Volunteers work in 4-hour shifts, or as their schedules permit. Any more retired teachers out there?

- Katricia Cochran

RE-READS BOOKSTORE NEEDS YOU!

Thursdays and Saturdays

Two shifts available:

- 10:00 to 1:45
- 1:45 to 5:30

Looking for an interesting volunteer experience?
Call Anne Lucas at 364-2255 to learn more.

NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM BRINGS STORY & SONG TO ALPINE STUDENTS

The message that was constantly repeated at the 2002 Texas Library Convention was: "Create co-operative ventures with other agencies in your community, especially if you want to apply for grant funding."

This message is one motivation behind the programs that my husband Martin and I do for the PTO in the Alpine Elementary School as representatives of the Alpine Public Library.

The second motivation is that we are happy to help promote the PTO's Box Tops for Education program. Those little box top coupons from General Mills products, which are worth ten cents each, raised over seven hundred dollars for the school during the school year 2003-2004.

But most of all, Martin and I really enjoy sharing our love of stories, reading and music with these enthusiastic young audiences.

The program works this way. Every six weeks, the class that has brought in the most Box Tops for Education gets an ice cream party, and Martin and I are the entertainment! Martin, as "Mr. Martin the Music Man," accompanies the singing of a simple or well known song on his guitar. I tell one or two stories. Often we tie into a seasonal theme. For Black History Month, we tell a story and teach "Follow the Drinking Gourd" which is a song from the Underground Railroad days. March is a good time to think of leprechauns from Ireland – and to sing "Sweet Molly Malone."

We encourage the children to come to the library where there are books full of wonderful stories and information. We also encourage them to read and tell stories to anyone who will listen.

We are proud to be part of the cadre of volunteers who support the wonderful contribution that the Alpine Public Library makes to this community.

- Marilyn Terry

BOOK REVIEW: DEATH OF THE RIVER MASTER BY ALLANA MARTIN

For anyone who loves west Texas or a good mystery, this book is sure to delight. Allana Martin brings to life the colorful and fulfilling life that is part of west Texas history. Her vivid portrayals of the fronterizos, people living on both sides of the Rio Grande, make them your friends.

She paints poetic pictures of the flora and fauna of west Texas without becoming maudlin, teaching you to see the beauty of the stark Chihuahuan Desert and the authentic Tex-Mex culture of Presidio and surrounding counties. Texana Jones, proprietor of the Texana's Trading Post, in Polvo, Texas, becomes involved in mysteries accidentally, but her strength of character and persistence always win.

Martin weaves the backgrounds of her characters from the real lives of those living in the area, including Marfa, Alpine, Presidio and Ojinaga. Her characters live hard lives in the harsh reality of the barren land, but common sense, dry humor, and strong community spirit hold them all together, as they share both the good and bad times. In *Death of a River Master*, Martin weaves the story of a murder into the history of water rights, and the current Mexican justice system. Both educating and entertaining the reader, the pace is fast and informative.

On an innocent outing for dinner with friends to Ojinaga, on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, Texana's husband, the local vet for both sides of the river, is unjustly accused of murder. In order to get him released, Texana must find out who is responsible, fighting not only the corrupt justice system, but the evil behind it. Her friends rally around giving support, typical of the west Texas frontier ethic.

This Allana Martin's sixth Texana Jones mystery and it won't disappoint her loyal fans.

- submitted by an APL Patron

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Fall Programs: APL currently is sponsoring three programs for the public. Toddler Time continues each Tuesday and is popular and successful. The two new programs—Day Habilitation, and Story and Music Time at AISD Elementary School, went well in their initial presentations. A big thank you to volunteers Mary Beth Garrett, and Marilyn and Martin Terry, whose work with these programs continues APL's outreach to the community.

Re-Reads Bookstore: The Re-Reads Bookstore enjoyed good sales on September 4 due to extended sales hours. I believe that extended hours on two days might prove to be successful. However, locating volunteers for staffing might be difficult. This was discussed with volunteers and members of the Friends of the Library at their September meeting. The decision was made to change days and time of operation for the store. Beginning in October, Re-Reads will be open only two days—Thursdays and Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Marathon Library: I regret to report that **Jackie Malone** has resigned from the Marathon Library. There were a number of contributing factors, one of which is her need to assist family members affected by the recent hurricanes in Florida. Jackie and Eula Mae have done a great job in improving the quality of library services in Marathon. I have been informed by Judge Beard that very soon the Marathon Library will be repainted by the County. A volunteer will provide the labor and the County will provide the paint. This is good news!

Funding: Good news! Good news! The City of Alpine has adopted their 2004-2005 budget. I am pleased to report the city will be providing \$40,000 in support of APL for the new fiscal year. This is the same amount funded last year. I have also received word that Brewster County has increased our financial support by \$2,000 for the new year. That means that they will be funding us for \$32,000. We are very grateful for the support provided by both governmental entities.

Loan Star Grant: The Texas State Library has informed APL that we will be receiving \$1,923 from the Loan Star Grant Program for the new

year. In past years, these funds have been dedicated to helping with payroll expenses. I recommend that we continue this designation.

Future Grants: **Anita Wright** is now on board writing grants for us. The first grant written will be to provide a new server and the software needed to ensure that APL will have a dependable server for the next 7-10 years. I am very excited about other prospects for grants.

TTPLS Newsletter: In the September issue of the Texas Trans-Pecos Roundup (Newsletter for the Texas Trans-Pecos Library System) the Alpine Public Library is the featured library. The funding and support APL receives from TTPLS is critical to our development, growth, and training. In the next few years, there are a number of changes expected in the organizational arrangement and funding of these systems. It is unknown at this time just how these changes will affect our library.

TTPLS Development Allocation for 2004/2005: We received more good news from TTPLS this week regarding the funding for APL for Collection Development. These funds are spent directly for purchase of materials. We will have \$3,418.80 to purchase books, \$1,462.20 for video and DVD purchases, and \$823.00 for purchase of large print books. The funds are issued through purchase orders and we order from the specific publisher selected by TTPLS.

Volunteers: The Alpine Public Library is blessed with many volunteers who assist us at the bookstore and circulation desk, and with shelving and cleaning, cataloging, special projects and lawn work. For this year, a total of 2,205 hours of volunteer time has been donated. Thank you, volunteers!

Conclusion: I look forward to a year of continuing positive accomplishments and activities at Alpine Public Library and the Marathon Public Library.

-Verna Bonner

FRIENDS OF THE ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fact Sheet

Who We Are

- ★ We are a nonprofit group of citizens who believe that any community is a better place in which to live if that community has a first-rate library.

What We Do

- ★ We act in cooperation with the Alpine Public Library's director and Board of Directors and serve as liaison between the community and the library.
- ★ We create public support for and awareness of the Alpine Public Library by supporting children's programs, homebound patrons services, video series, workshops, staff training, equipment purchases, building repairs and renovations, landscaping, and special purchases.

When We Meet

- ★ Noon on the second Tuesday of each month in the Norman and Ruth Beard Multipurpose Meeting Room behind the library.

What the Library Can Do for You

- ★ Give you an outlet where you can use your special skills and talents
- ★ Provide public-access computers
- ★ Make your long drives in West Texas less boring
- ★ Teach your children that libraries and all they contain are fun
- ★ Help you with genealogical research
- ★ Make the local newspapers available
- ★ Sell you inexpensive fiction and nonfiction
- ★ Make Alpine, your town, a better place to live

What You Can Do for the Library

- ★ Shelve/catalog
- ★ Weed the collection
- ★ Help create programming for youths and adults
- ★ Staff the bookstore
- ★ Help with public relations for the library
- ★ Help maintain and renovate the library buildings and grounds
- ★ ***JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY!***

Contact us at: **FRIENDS OF THE ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY**
1008 E. Nations ★ 837-2882 ★ borkedit@overland.net

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PLEASE JOIN THE FRIENDS!

Your membership in the Friends of the Alpine Public Library is vital to the support of many special projects for the library. Membership dues, proceeds from monthly silent auctions, and revenue from book sales allow us to provide innovative programs, staff training, and landscape maintenance, and to make special purchases.

Please complete the following information and return it with your tax-deductible gift to the address below. **Your support is much needed and greatly appreciated!**

Name

Mailing Address

Phone

E-Mail (Saves postage!)

Select your membership category:

- () \$5 Senior Citizen (65+)
- () \$10 Single or Student
- () \$15 Family (any number of members)
- () \$25 Business

Please check your areas of volunteer interest:

- _____ assisting staff in the library;
- _____ decorating the library for special events;
- _____ reading to nursing home residents;
- _____ participating in FAPL meetings;
- _____ helping at Re-Reads Bookstore;
- _____ other interests? List:

Send to:

**Kathy Bork, President
Friends of the Alpine Public Library
1008 E. Nations
Alpine, TX 79830**



Summer 2004

Alpine Public Library's Summer 2004 programs were a huge success - enjoyed by children and adults alike! Total participation was 649. Thanks to all who made this possible.



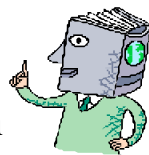
Re-Reads Bookstore

New Fall Hours!

Now Open
10:00 to 5:30

ON

Thursday and Saturday



You will find this newsletter and other information about the Alpine Public Library on the web at www.alpinepubliclibrary.org.

Mailing Label