



Friends of the Alpine Public Library NEWSLETTER

Spring 2004

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Martha Floro, VICE-PRESIDENT
Anne Lucas, SECRETARY
Jodye Stone, TREASURER

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Lifetime membership is awarded for exceptional support of the Alpine Public Library.

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Elders & Sisters of the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints

CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's hot and I'm tired. Like all of you, people and things are coming at me from all sides. All I really want to do is sit in my sunny living room with a mystery novel and read about someone else's problems. My ability to get my hands on a mystery (or a romance or a western or a video or an audiobook or a storybook), however, means I have to "pay." It's not fair to help myself to the goodies without pitching in.

We have a wonderful bookstore in Alpine and Marathon, Front Street Books, and I buy lots of things there. But, like you, I'm not rich. My house is small. I have limited space. I have to be discriminating about what I purchase and keep. There are lots of things I want to read, or think I want to read. This is where the library comes in. I can check out a best-seller from the Baker & Taylor shelf near the front door. If I like it and want to own it, I can buy it from Front Street Books. If I don't like it (and in fact wonder why anyone would want to own it), I just give it back to Jodye or Virginia or Chuck or Tomius and I'm not out anything but a ten-minute trip to the library.

The library is like a cocktail party for the mind: a taste here, a sip there. Walk around the "table" trying things, then go back for more of what you like and make a wide berth around anything that doesn't appeal to you. Lots of fun for the party-goers, but someone had to buy the "food," prepare it, replenish it, clean up.

This is where the payment mentioned in the first paragraph comes in. I can't be a guest at the library's party for long or, pretty soon I'll have tasted everything there is to taste, and the party will get mighty dull. Maybe it's better to think of the

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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.

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library as a supper club, where everyone participates in making it a success. Maybe you're a gifted organizer or planner, a great cook, or a good cleaner-upper.

Maybe you're good on the Internet and

There's no such thing as a free lunch! can find recipes. You get

the idea. To make the party interesting and to keep it vital, everyone has to chip in. The library needs your help—physical help, intellectual help, financial help. Call Verna Bonner, the library's director, at 837-2621, and tell her you want to come to the party.

—Kathy Bork

THANKS, JOSH!

Sul Ross student **Josh Nalley** of Big Spring put in over 30 hours of volunteer time at the Library in April and May. He helped with painting, yard work, and other heavy maintenance chores. We appreciate his willingness to give so much of his time while still attending classes.

LIBRARY WEBSITE

Visit us on the world wide web at alpinepubliclibrary.org to see the great work **Ellen and Chris Ruggia** of **Vast Graphics** have done on our website. The Internet is becoming an increasingly important mode of communication in today's world. You'll find library news, information on the Friends activities, and much more. Also, all members of the Friends are now listed on the website. We hope you'll check in often to see what's new. As always, we appreciate Chris' and Ellen's many contributions to the library.

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON



The Alpine Public Library participated in the **Volunteer Big Bend Luncheon** held

on April 19th at Sul Ross State University. The FAPL named two volunteers, **Mary Beth Garrett** and **Tiffany Telesca**, as the Friends' Volunteers of the Year.

For six years, Mary Beth has provided stimulating activities for children ages five and

under and their parents and

caregivers.

She adapts what she's learned from programs her children

participated in and from the current child development literature.



Mary Beth Garrett at the VBB Luncheon. Tiffany Telesca was unable to attend.



Tiffany Telesca

Tiffany has been an FAPL member for several years and served as the Friends secretary during the 2003–2004 year. Tiffany maintained meeting minutes, published the FAPL quarterly newsletter, and provided the institutional memory of our group. Thank you both, Mary Beth and Tiffany!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SOCIAL

The Board of Directors of APL sponsored a Volunteer Appreciation Social on April 22 to honor the staff, volunteers, and supporters of the library. Coordinated by Board Members **Audrey Painter** and **Jane Sager**, the event was blessed with beautiful weather and a good turnout.



From left: Mila Kulagina, Jean Hardy, Anne Lucas, and Barbara Reed.

Jean Hardy, Board President, presented certificates and gifts to honorees. Those receiving recognition included: **Mildred Adamson, Jean Bailey, Preston Bonner, Kathy Bork, Marilyn Brady, David and Becky Brown, Dan Dailey, Chuck Dobbins, Cayetar Flores, Mary Beth Garrett, Jean Gorby, Tom Greenwood, Abby Hart, Tammy Hartke, Mary Holderfield, Mila Kulagina, Mary Lee Mulhern, Josh Nalley, Bene Schaffer, Cookie Stone, and Tomius Strauss.**

In addition, the following persons had their names added to a commemorative plaque designating outstanding service: **Kathy Bork, LDS Elders and Sisters, Mary Lee Mulhern, Jody Stone, and Tomius Strauss.** Congratulations to all the honorees!

SILENT AUCTION UPDATE

Congrats to Gloria Garcia, winner of the March Silent Auction. Another great



From left: Verna Bonner, Gloria Garcia, and Jodye Stone.

offering has been put together for June. A patriotic jigsaw puzzle, plus a full-size Texas and United States flag, will be auctioned to the highest bidder. The prize will be

awarded in plenty of time to enjoy during the Fourth of July holiday. Don't forget to make your bid!

LIBRARY CLEAN-UP

Library staff, volunteers, and even some hired help have been busy painting, planting, cleaning, and otherwise "fixing-up" the library. In addition, eight persons reported on April 17th for an organized clean-up day. The back yard and patio area are especially attractive now, and we find patrons using the area nearly every day. Our next priority will be getting the front lawn and flower beds in shape. If you're feeling "the need to weed," please stop by and lend a hand as your schedule permits.



Preston Bonner



Audrey Painter and

JULY 3RD BOOK SALE

Once again,
Jodye Stone
will
coordinate a
used book



sale to coincide with the July 4th holiday weekend. Scheduled for Saturday, July 3rd, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the sale will be held on the porch of the ReReads Bookstore. Also, gift certificates will be available for purchase that will be redeemable at the bookstore when it opens. All proceeds from the sale will go toward completion of the interior of the building. Please call Jodye at 837-2621 if you'd like to help out.

KIDS' SUMMER FUN SCHEDULE!



Summer Reading Club
"Color Your World....Read."
June 1 to July 31.
Registration begins May 18.
Ages 5 to 12.

Story and Craft Time
Wednesdays at
10:00 a.m. in June.
Ages 5 to 12.

Bilingual Story and Puppet Time
Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in June.

Toddler Time
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.
Ages 0 to 5.

THANKS, SANDY!

A big thank-you to **Sandy Sandel**, owner of **A Stitch in Time Quilt Shop**, for the donation of two beautiful Laurel Burch fabrics. The fabric will be used as backdrops in our summer puppet shows.

TWIN PEAKS 4-H CLUB PROJECT

The Twin Peaks 4-H Club has planted a garden on the north side of the library. Approximately 12 children have participated in building the above ground planter boxes, planting vegetables, and building a fence.

They hope to continue this project for a long time to come. We hope you'll stop by and check out their work the next time you're at the library. Please contact **Jane Sager** at 837-6207, or **Barbara Reed** at 837-1692, if you're interested in helping with the project.

"WINDOW" TO THE WORLD



"Libraries—Windows to the World"

Noticed anything different as you drive by the library on North 7th? Sul Ross art professor **Carol Fairlie** and her mural art students, **Monica Sáenz-Gonzales**, **Nicole Teague**, **Adriana Sánchez**, **Jonathan Smith**, and **Jason Hennington**, have designed and installed a 25-ft. mural entitled, "Libraries? Windows to the World." Financed by Alpine Main Street, the mural is an impressive addition to our building and the community. It was formally dedicated in April. A big thank-you to Carol and her Sul Ross students!

REVIEW OF THE SOUTHERN SISTERS MYSTERY SERIES

Submitted by *Gayle Lewis*, APL Patron

One merely has to look at the titles and book jackets when selecting a Southern Sisters Mystery by Anne George to conclude she is an Agatha Award-winning author with a delightful sense of humor. She has that rare gift of turning ordinary life and family situations into laugh-out-loud entertainment while taking the reader into the not-so-ordinary world of who-done-it.

The main characters in a Ms. George mystery are a petite, sensible, retired schoolteacher, Patricia Anne, a.k.a. Mouse, and six-foot, 250-pound, wealthy, flamboyant, Mary Alice, a.k.a. Sister. Because Mary Alice has always had a definite preference for older men, she has been a widow three times; each husband left her with one child and a lot of money. Frequently, this affluence or the use thereof, is what leads the sisters into situations resulting in at least one murder.

Despite her determination to heed her husband, Fred's admonishment to "stay out of this Patricia Anne," Mouse inevitably finds herself in the middle of things. And, as the plot thickens, Mary Alice tells her, "This is all your fault, Mouse."

If I had to choose a favorite from the eight Southern Sisters Mysteries that Ms. George wrote, I think it would be *Murder Makes Waves*. Mouse and Sister are joined by Mouse's daughter, Haley, and a friend, Frances, for a short, all-girls vacation at Sister's condo in Florida. While strolling on the beach, the four women stumble onto the body of one of Sister's friends. You can

almost hear the heavy Alabama accents as they quip at one another and try in vain to distance themselves from the situation. Before long Fred joins the girls-only vacation at the condo, being quite certain that Patricia Anne needs to be rescued from yet another dangerous escapade contrived by Mary Alice. Hilarious dialogue throughout! Sadly, Anne George passed away in 2001. There will be no more Southern Sisters Mysteries and, as with the passing of Erma Bombeck, the world of mirth is the loser.

The following titles by Anne George are available at the Alpine Public Library:

Murder on a Bad Hair Day
Murder Makes Waves
Murder Runs in the Family
Murder Carries a Torch

WISH LIST

- ✓ We need new carpet in the circulation and reference room. Estimated replacement cost is \$3,200 for commercial-grade carpet. All donations appreciated.
- ✓ Another wish is to purchase all of the 44 "Hank the Cowdog" audio tapes for our collection. The cost of these is about \$650. Children and adults alike enjoy these stories.
- ✓ DVD movies and CD audio books are very popular. If you own DVDs or CDs and no longer have need of them, please consider donating them to the library.
- ✓ We're still in need of a cash register for the ReReads Bookstore. Please consider helping us fill this need.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I'm happy to announce that our Summer Reading Program returns in June. Entitled "Color Your World ...Read," the program promotes summer reading by youngsters ages five to ten. **Sister Jensen** and **Sister Fowler** will offer fun activities each week featuring crafts and storytelling. A summer's-end party will reward all participants for their reading efforts. Of special interest to parents, the program helps youngsters retain reading skills over the summer months.

The Marathon Branch welcomed **Jackie Malone** on board as Library Assistant on April 1. She and **Eula Mae Colmenero**, who is our Senior Texas Employment Program trainee, have been busy serving patrons.



Eula Mae Colmenero
And Jackie Malone

Drop by and meet them the next time you're in Marathon.

The library has received two significant donations in recent weeks. **Joy Parsons** has donated the National Geographic collection belonging to her husband, **Al "Flop" Parsons**, to the Alpine Public Library. Also, trustees of the **Bob Sandlin Estate** donated 247 history books and three book-cases to the Library. We are very grateful to Joy Parsons and to **Ralph Meriwether** for his efforts with the Bob Sandlin gift.

Long time library supporters **Norman and Ruth Beard** were honored by the Board of Directors recently when the library meeting room was renamed "The Norman and Ruth Beard Multipurpose Room." The room was formally dedicated at the Volunteer Appreciation Social on April 22.

Construction on the ReReads Bookstore is looking good! **Ron Ridgeway** of **Texana Homes** and his crew have been getting a lot work done in spite of the recent rains. Very soon, project manager **David Brown** will have the building "dried in" when the roof, windows, and door are installed. This will allow us to use the large porch area for book sales. APL is very appreciative of the library volunteers who worked many hours on this building before Texana Homes came on board. **Anne Lucas** has agreed to coordinate the volunteer program to staff the store. We're fortunate to have volunteers helping with this project.

I'm very pleased to report that library use has increased by 30 percent since November 2003. The most-utilized services continue to be the computers, videos, and audio books on tape or CD. We must be doing something right!

Finally, I would like to thank all past and present supporters and volunteers of the Alpine Public Library for making the library what is it today. Without you, we wouldn't be able to offer the quality or quantity of service that we do.

- *Verna Bonner*

THANK YOU, BUSINESS MEMBERS!

ALCO
AMERICANA SALON
ASHBY & ALLISON
BAEZA'S
MIKE BARCLAY
BARMORE PLUMBING
KATHY & ALBERT BORK
DR. ALAN BYRD
CARPENTER REAL ESTATE
JOANNA & LEE COWELL
ROBIN & JOHN DAVIS
THE DESERT-MOUNTAIN TIMES
EVA'S SALON
DR. JAY FIELDER
FLOROLAND DAIRY
GEESLIN FUNERAL HOME
GERSON ARTWORKS
THOMAS GREENWOOD ARCHITECT, PLLC
HAVINS JEWELRY
J. DAVIS STUDIO
JAN & STEVE JACOBS
LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE
THE LOST ALASKAN RV PARK
MARGARET & ROBERT MATTHEWS
MILE HIGH KENNELS/RAINBOW ADOBE
MITCHELL'S CARPETS PLUS
MORRISON'S TRUE VALUE
OCOTILLO ENTERPRISES
CAROL & LEO OFENSTEIN
ORIENTAL EXPRESS
PARSONS REAL ESTATE
PECAN GROVE RV PARK
PERKINS CONSTRUCTION
THE PRESCRIPTION SHOP
QUALITY SERVICE
QUETZAL IMPORTS
RINCONADA
JANE & NELSON SAGER
STEPHANIE & BUD SHELTON
STATE FARM INSURANCE
SUBWAY #12702
TWIN PEAKS LIQUOR
VAST GRAPHICS
WEST TEXAS NATIONAL BANK

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 the new bookstore;

_____ other interests? List: _____

Send to:

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