

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

Well, quite a bit, actually. We've been keeping busy with curb service, writing proposals, and getting ready for new programs. The day we can begin offering in-library programming again is slowly approaching. We don't know exactly when, but it is coming.

We are using a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to upgrade our technology for patrons and staff. The grant is paying for new patron computers. If you used our computers in the last year, you know how slow and frustrating they had become. We are replacing all computers with new, faster technology. You won't believe how fast you can get your work completed now.

The grant has also allowed us to purchase a Padcaster Studio to facilitate staff production of online content. Once we learn how to use the Padcaster fully, we hope to help patrons make their own podcasts.

In addition, the grant from IMLS and TSLAC will be used to purchase Chromebooks for patron use. A pending grant from the Tocker Foundation will supply hot spots. Chromebooks and hot spots together will allow patrons to connect to the Internet from home. Alpine Public Library is helping bridge the digital divide in Alpine.

In January we started an international story time with Casa Hogar in Ojinaga, Mexico. Every Thursday they join us virtually for fun and stories.

The library now has a satellite location at the Alpine Farmers'

Market on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteer and board member Jaime Escuder takes a selection of books to the market, and we take requests for the following week. Stop by and check it out.

Finally, our outdoor theater is up and going. On the fourth Saturday of every month at dusk (weather permitting) we'll show our current selection (check the library's Web and Facebook pages for information). The popcorn and movie are free (donations are welcome). You just need to bring a chair and a blanket or jacket, at least until the weather warms.

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



CURBSIDE SERVICE HOURS
Monday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Loreyna Cardoza, Circulation Intern
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Special Donations

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Jerry C. Pahl	Susan M. Mistic
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In Honor of:	From:
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HELP SUPPORT TODDLER STORY TIME!



With the expansion of Story Time to reach the children in Ojinaga, supplying participating kids with craft materials will put a strain on the library's resources. You can help by donating supplies:

- ◆ Glue sticks
- ◆ Hot gun glue sticks
- ◆ Bright-colored card stock
- ◆ White and bright-colored felt, both stiff and soft
- ◆ Crayons
- ◆ Zipper bags, 20-gallon, 1-gallon, and sandwich size
- ◆ Child safety scissors
- ◆ Google eyes
- ◆ Gel pens
- ◆ Poster board in all colors
- ◆ Pom-poms
- ◆ Glitter glue

Monetary donations to buy these supplies are also welcome.



For those of you who miss browsing the shelves in the library, look for APL board member Jaime Escuder at the Alpine Farmers' Market on Saturdays. You'll find books and DVDs for kids and adults. Bring your mask and library card. Take home a treat. Thanks to Gaby Montilva Pilonieta for sharing this picture of two delighted little readers.

Zooming Across the Border

Thursday mornings at 10:30, Mary Beth Garrett, APL's children's librarian, engages a group of toddlers and their caregivers with songs, puppets, and books. The children move, listen, and sing while they learn concepts like shapes and colors. Typically, Mary Beth and devoted volunteers also guide children through craft projects related to the day's concepts or themes.

In the past ten atypical months, the routine of Toddler Story Time has been much the same but with some key differences: instead of meeting the tots in the library, Mary Beth reaches out to them from her living room through Zoom, and the craft projects are completed not in the library but at home using materials picked up curbside at APL. The biggest difference, thanks to Mary Beth's initiative and to technology, is the inclusion of kids from Ojinaga, Mexico, in International Story Time.



The children in Ojinaga live at Albergue Casa Hogar, a home for orphaned, homeless, and abused children. Casa Hogar, a nonprofit center, is a joint effort managed by a board of directors in Ojinaga with financial support from a board of directors in Alpine. Children are placed by the Desarrollo Integral de la Familia, a government agency similar to Child Protective Services in the U.S.

According to Mary Beth, Zoom Toddler Story Time was a "Covid idea. The pandemic has caused everyone to think differently about work, and when I decided to go live online with the toddler program, it was an easy jump to include families from other areas, including Austin, Detroit, Flint (MI)," and even Ojinaga. Kathy Donnell, a member of both the APL board and the Casa Hogar U.S. board, put Mary Beth in touch with the president of the Casa Hogar U.S. board, Petra Tucker, who is familiar with Mary Beth's work through the Alpine Community Center. Petra connected Mary Beth with the caregivers and teachers at Casa Hogar.

Initially, the 10:30 online story time included kids on both sides of the border. Because Ojinaga is in a different time zone, story time began at 9:30 for

Casa Hogar, too early for the staff to get 30 children fed and settled. Mary Beth now meets with the Ojinaga kids in the afternoon, at 4:00, and children on the U.S. side of the border are welcome as well. Both time slots follow the same program, with Mary Beth switching between English and Spanish throughout.

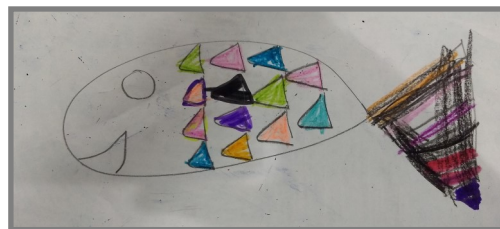
As children and families join the Zoom gathering, Mary Beth admits them and welcomes them with a puppet and a song. Throughout, she alternates quiet activities with lively ones, like aerobics set to music followed by breathing exercises, or a book reading followed by a singing game. She finishes up with an electronic picture book in Spanish from the RAZ-Kids reading program. The children are constantly involved, responding to the readings or activities with hand gestures and body language.

To keep the focus on the program activities, Mary Beth mutes the other participants until the end of the program, when everyone can be heard and can interact. Story Time ends with singing a goodbye song and a few final words from Mary Beth thanking them for attending and acknowledging the difficulty of raising children during a pandemic.

Mary Beth admits that, between the demands of Zoom and the use of both Spanish and English, this new version of story time is challenging. One would think that it would be exhausting. She must respond to people asking to be admitted while entertaining those already online, manage the lighting and camera, translate English-language picture books into Spanish, and give instructions in both languages. But if it is exhausting, participants wouldn't know it. Mary Beth radiates energy and openness as she moves herself and her props in and out of the screen, uses sound effects and music, and switches seamlessly between languages. She welcomes the challenges.

Mary Beth acknowledges that, although "we would prefer in-person story time with activity tables and lots of hugs, virtual story time has its advantages" because it has "the ability to reach a wide scope of people." She has plans to extend the range even wider. She would like "to meet in small groups or individually for dual-language reading with the school-age kids" at Casa Hogar with the help of Sul Ross State University education students. First, she says, "we need to master that first step of trust and friendship. I believe we are well on our way!"

—Lee Smith



LEE SMITH—BOI TO PHD TO FAPL

Lee Smith, the president of the Alpine Public Library Friends of the Library (FAPL) since 2017, took the scenic route to Alpine. Lee is a ninth-generation Texan. She was born on Galveston Island—BOI, born on island—grew up in Texas City; attended two universities in Houston; moved to Portland, Oregon, then to San Diego. She finally landed in Alpine in 2010. Everywhere she's lived, she's been a habitué of every kind of library there is. In Alpine she's become a public library mainstay, a supervolunteer.

Lee stayed in Texas for all of her higher education: a BS in special education from the University of Houston; an MA in English literature focused on Walker Percy from the same institution; and a PhD in English literature from Rice University, with a dissertation on Virginia Woolf and Dorothy Richardson. She taught preschoolers for four years after her undergraduate studies, all the while taking university courses ranging from art to literature to try to figure out what she wanted to do with her life. She knew it wasn't teaching three- and four-year-olds, but it took her ten years to alight on literature.

Ten years after earning her BA, she was awarded an MA from the University of Houston. Ten years after earning the MA, she received a PhD from Rice University. Following her PhD, she worked at the University of Houston until 2001 in a non-tenure track position running the freshman and sophomore English core programs. She “taught a little, did a lot of administrating” during this time. Teaching was a “lot of fun, administrative work considerably less so.”

Lee moved to Portland, Oregon, from Houston, living there until 2008. She taught and worked in student services at a chiropractic college in Portland, where the biggest perk was free physical therapy whenever she wanted it. She taught the chiropractic students how to write scientific papers and tutored in a literacy program in Portland.

Remaining on the West Coast, she moved in 2008 to San Diego, where she stayed until 2010. She worked in continuing/adult education and taught online grammar courses for students working on a copyediting certification. She continued to tutor in a literacy program in San Diego, which led her to Alpine Public Library in 2010.

Lee contacted APL about possible volunteer opportunities. Almost before she got home from dropping off her volunteer application, she was contacted by then-library director Paige Delaney about working with her to design and implement an English As a Second Language (ESL) program. Lee began to do essentially what

she'd done in Portland and San Diego: train tutors and work directly with ESL students. During the first three years, she helped expand the program to South County, and shortly before she and husband, Jim Robertson, left for the Peace Corps, she helped ensure that other volunteers trained to train tutors so the program would continue without interruption during her absence. “I really liked teaching, especially one on one,” she notes.

Lee and Jim spent 27 months in the Peace Corps, including training, in Botswana. They used their three weeks' annual leave to travel extensively throughout southern Africa. Lee says perhaps the hardest thing about being a Peace Corps volunteer was “not being able to live the life you'd live as a private citizen; you were pretty much always out of your comfort zone.” The language was particularly difficult to pick up as it has no similarities to the languages Lee and Jim had some familiarity with, so there was nothing to relate it to.

On their return to Alpine, Lee started shelf reading and restarted ESL tutoring. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, in-person tutoring ceased for safety reasons, but Lee intends to get involved again once things return to normal. Since 2017,

she has coordinated the APL quarterly newsletter, *Between the Lines*, and in 2019, added the layout of the newsletter to her duties. She has also become one of the volunteers who process donations for sale on Amazon.

Lee likes to read, especially fiction. She says that the works of Jane Austen are a particular favorite, especially when life is particularly stressful. She read the complete works in her early twenties, again when her brother was in hospice, twice while in the Peace Corps, and again in October and November 2020.

Her hobbies aren't completely sedentary, however. She rode a bike for transportation in Botswana but claims that she now feels about bicycling how she feels about peanut butter—she got enough of both in the Peace Corps. She does love to walk and hike. She and Jim have walked two routes of the Camino de Santiago. She has spent time in Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, Germany, France, England, Ireland, the Netherlands, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania/Zanzibar, and Botswana, and would love to visit Egypt and Vietnam. If she couldn't live in Alpine anymore and if money were no object, she'd like to live in New York City, although she's not sure she'd “have the energy anymore.”

When asked why she chose to volunteer for Alpine Public Library rather than another of the very worthy nonprofits in Alpine, she says that she's “always been a library user, a lifelong lover of literacy.” She continues,



"Anyone can come in here [APL] and read. A literate population is the backbone of democracy." The old APL was her first introduction to library services in Alpine, and it reminded her of her "first library in Texas City," where she "spent a lot of hot summer days in the library growing up." She has spent a lot of time in libraries in every place she's ever lived, so APL seemed like a natu-

ral choice. Her focus on teaching and tutoring has always seemed to her to be "partly to prepare people for citizenship," and APL has a long tradition of offering free tutoring in various areas. "APL is a wonderful institution. It could hold its own in any big city. It feels good to be part of something so terrific."

—Kathy Bork



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Call 432-837-2621 or e-mail nan@alpinepubliclibrary.org to schedule a 30-minute appointment on a Saturday between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.



A Silent Auction Like No Other

Alpine Public Library traditionally holds a Silent Auction in conjunction with the annual November Artwalk. This year the auction was . . . *On beyond Silent*, as Dr. Seuss might say. Art Walk was postponed due to the presence of COVID-19. Without the valued instruction and assistance from Amelie Urbanczyk, Betsy Evans, and Kathy Bork, our auction might not have happened.

Kathy Donnell, the co-chair, Don Wetterauer, the library director, and I sought feedback from various Friends of the library and members of the library board. Consideration of tradition, public expectations, and the need to generate income for the library prompted us to decide to have the auction, though it would have to be in a decidedly different manner.

Kathy Donnell and I decided we could hold a virtual auction, even faced with the steepest learning curve either of us had encountered in many years. Amelie and Betsy had some experience with virtual auctions and provided a lot of instruction!

Donations were solicited and obtained much as happens during a non-COVID year. And then the differences began. Pictures were taken of every item donated. Each item was then listed in the online auction site along with a first-time-ever "Buy It Immediately" price.

Participation was lower than normal. We had about half the average number of donations and about one-third the average number of bidders.

The virtual auction site was set up so that anyone could browse, but bidders had to register and record a credit card number. Early in November, Heather Yeadon, at the Alpine Visitor Center, and Erik Zimmer, Alpine city manager, offered display space in the Visitor Center. Kathy and I selected and transported items for physical display and prepared a viewing book of photographs with qr-codes of everything in the auction. We extended the time period the



auction was open and learned that even though people had more time to view, bidding was still the heaviest just before closing.

The auction platform allowed us to have a part two of the Silent Auction. We reduced prices and had the auction open for another three weeks. In the end, the library made around \$7,200.00, less than half the amount earned in a normal year, but Kathy and I consider the support of the virtual auction to have been outstanding and a great benefit to Alpine Public Library.

We want to thank the people who so generously provided the diverse and interesting items we had available. We also want to thank Bethany Puvclik and David Kowal for the photography assistance. Food delivery from Billito Donnell was also invaluable and a highlight during the times we were waiting for winning bidders to claim their items.

We did not receive a crystal ball as a donation, but Kathy and I glanced into the future. We think we saw that both Artwalk and the Silent Auction will exist in a more routine, traditional manner in 2021.

—Linda Bryant

INSIDE APL: STAFF MOVIE PICKS

Did you know the library has nearly 2,000 titles on DVD? Come check out up to four titles a day. And believe us, some of our patrons do. We are always available to make recommendations. Call us if you need to renew your DVDs. Or log in to our library catalog to reserve titles or renew those you've checked out.

Here is a selection of staff favorites—some descriptions from our catalog, others written by staffers. Check out the titles that bring us joy.

—Nan Jamieson, Circulation Librarian

Casey Costa, Circulation Librarian

The Heat (2013)

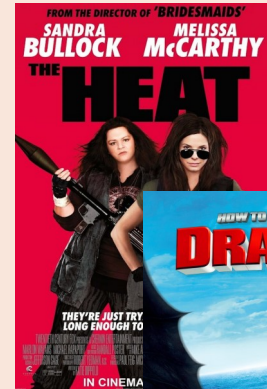
This comedy/action movie stars Sandra Bullock playing an uptight and arrogant FBI agent and Melissa McCarthy playing a loudmouthed and hot-headed Boston police detective who must work together to take down a Boston mobster despite their hatred at first sight for each other. An excellent movie with a little something for everyone, with enough action to keep it exciting, and enough comedy to keep it entertaining!

How to Train Your Dragon (2010)

To call this a children's movie is vastly underselling it. A wonderful film for people of all ages, this is the story of Hiccup, a Viking teenager who aspires to hunt dragons but doesn't exactly fit in with his tribe's long-standing tradition of heroic dragon slayers. His world gets turned upside down when he encounters a dragon that challenges him and his fellow Vikings to see the world from an entirely different point of view. The whole series of these movies is fantastic and each has such a great message for everyone to enjoy.

Dexter (2006–2013)

This is one of the few times I've rooted for the killer! Dexter Morgan is a Miami police forensics expert who moonlights as a serial killer of criminals who he believes have escaped justice. This crime/drama series can be a bit gory but always exciting and leaving you wanting more!



Don Wetterauer, Executive Director

August Rush (2007)

A charismatic young Irish guitarist and a sheltered young cellist have a chance encounter one magical night above New York's Washington Square. They are soon torn apart, leaving in their wake an infant, August Rush, orphaned by circumstance. Now performing on the streets of New York City and cared for by a mysterious stranger, August uses his remarkable musical talent to seek the parents from whom he was separated at birth.

A Star is Born (2018)

Seasoned musician Jackson Maine discovers and falls in love with struggling artist Ally. She has given up on her dream to become a successful singer until she meets Jack, who immediately sees her natural talent. This is the raw and passionate tale of Jack and Ally, two artistic souls coming together, on stage and in life. Theirs is a complex journey through the beauty and the heartbreak of a relationship struggling to survive.

A Man Called Ove (2016)

An irritable elderly busybody (Rolf Lassgård) spends his days making his neighbors miserable with his grouching and demands for order, but his crab-busness hides a deep grief for his deceased wife, whom he hopes to join soon. His clumsy attempts at suicide bring him into contact with the Persian family next door, and his growing friendship with them helps him reconnect with life. Bahar Pars and Tobias Almborg co-star. Based on the best-selling novel by Swedish writer Fredrik Backman.



Loreyna Cardoza, Circulation Intern

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (2010)

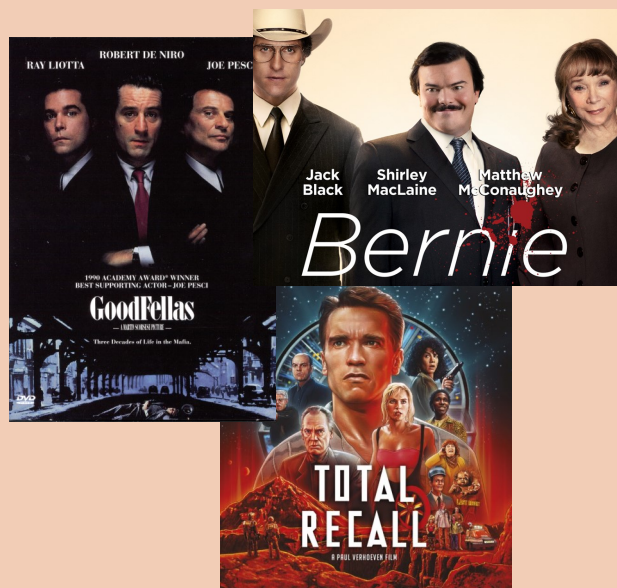
Nic Cage as Merlin's long-lost apprentice takes on the training of the master magician's young successor, an average NYC teenager. Alfred Molina co-stars.

Scooby Doo (2002)

Each member of the gang receives an invitation to Spooky Island. They discover an amusement park that affects visitors in strange ways—and realize that they cannot solve the mystery without each other.

Monster-In-Law (2005)

Jane Fonda stars as the eponymous monster while lovebirds Jennifer Lopez and Michael Vartan work toward making it to the altar.



Nan Jamieson, Circulation Librarian

Goodfellas (1990)

The denouement of Mafia lackey Henry Hill, set to Harry Nilsson's *Jump into the Fire*, makes the film worth watching over and over again. Lorraine Bracco hints at her future role as Tony Soprano's therapist.

Bernie (2011)

A Texas true crime tale features the perfect pair: Jack Black as a mortician opposite rich widow Shirley MacLaine.

Total Recall (1990)

Don't miss the Governator, who appears to be construction worker Douglas Quaid, married to Lori (Sharon Stone) on Earth. After a trip to ReKall, Quaid discovers he is a revolutionary on Mars, and Lori is his handler on Earth.

Christine Cavazos, Cataloger

Chicago (2002)

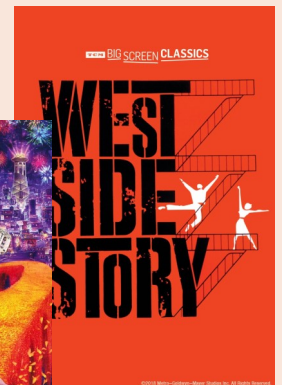
This Broadway musical turns blockbuster with Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones as murderous chanteuses eager to gain the spotlight and the headlines in 1940s Chicago.

West Side Story (1961)

A midcentury Romeo and Juliet take in the form of New York street gangs in this musical.

Coco (2017)

Disney's bilingual animated coming-of-age drama explores the Day of the Dead and its cultural significance to Mexico, along with themes of perseverance, teamwork, and gratitude.



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Alpine Public Library
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