



## President's Letter 2021-2022

Dear ALFA members,

Unfortunately, I'm beginning this report with the same opening as last year. What a strange year it has been! Covid 19, Delta and Omicron have affected all our lives. Our library and Bookstore have been closed and then reopened with very limited hours and no programs until very recently. However, books have been a source of comfort and sanity to many of us.

During the closure we reviewed the library and Bookstore needs and we have made several major purchases so that, when we are able to resume normal hours and programs, we will be able to offer improved services to all our patrons.

We have purchased some new chairs for the children's area where the original charming little stuffed ones had become worn out (by heavy use from enthusiastic toddlers and small kids). These are sturdier and will serve the small kid sized tables.

In addition, we have bought an AWE computer set-up which provides personalized bilingual programs for ages 3 to 9, although other libraries have experienced wider age use. We believe that this will be a valuable tool for all kids to become comfortable with the use of technology, both for education and enjoyment.

We have donated over \$9,000 to the County matching program to purchase additional copies of Best Sellers, children's books, non-fiction books and enrichment of the regular collection. Purchases from 2020 were paused when the library was closed, but new titles have been coming in and you will see more selections as County Staff return to work. We also purchased more down-loadable e-books which have been in great demand this past year. When the pandemic is over we will resume donations for periodicals.

Each year we budget \$9,000 for programs and materials which the library staff use to enrich the experiences we enjoy, and we hope to see a return to music, art, enrichment, and many more activities in 2022.

In the Bookstore you will soon see a new wooden display unit of children's larger books which will make it easier for kids and parents to view our many lovely picture and "Read to me" books.

Some of these items have been made possible by generous bequests from several long time ALFA supporters. It has reminded me that making provisions for bequests can be a lasting legacy, and I hope you might think of the Alpine Library as you plan for the future. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Christine Connell, ALFA President