

Winter 2026



Alpine County
Library

WELCOME TO Alpine County Library

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone is off to a fantastic start in 2026!

There's lots going on at the Markleeville & Bear Valley libraries over the next few months: weekly jams & story times, meditation, movie nights, Book Club, painting and crafts... the list goes on. We're excited to share 2026 with you!

Looking for your next great read?
CONSIDER THESE STAFF PICKS!

Wuthering Heights - Emily Brontë
Risk: A Life Saved by the River - Susan Norman
The Little Paris Bookshop - Nina George

Volunteers Needed

Alpine County Library is looking for volunteers for our Markleeville and Bear Valley branches. Volunteer opportunities include working with books, people, technology, outreach, and more!

We especially need help with:

- Saturday Storytimes (Markleeville Library)
- Shelving / Shelf Organizing
- Book Covering
- Front Desk Coverage
- Booksale Organizing



Visit us

<https://www.alpinecountyca.gov/107>

Contact us

(530) 694-2120
Dist-LibraryArchives@alpinecountyca.gov
270 Laramie St. Markleeville, CA 96120

In this newsletter, you will find:

Information about ongoing programs and services, upcoming events, announcements, and collection highlights! Keep Reading!

Announcements



Due to reduced staffing at the library, we are shifting to quarterly newsletters for the foreseeable future. Be sure to keep an eye out for our next newsletter in April 2026!

Holiday closures from January - March:

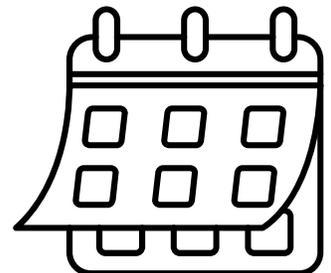
Both our Markleeville and Bear Valley branches will be closed for a few days over the course of the following months to observe national holidays. Please see the dates of these closures below:

MARKLEEVILLE CLOSURES

- **SATURDAY, JANUARY 17** - CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
- **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12** - LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
- **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17** - PRESIDENT'S DAY

BEAR VALLEY CLOSURES

- **SATURDAY, JANUARY 17** - CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
- **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12** - LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
- **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14** - PRESIDENT'S DAY



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Every Story Counts



From **January 25th** through **January 31st**, both our Markleeville and Bear Valley branches will be participating in the California statewide “Every Story Counts” initiative!

What is it?

During the Week of January 25th – 31st, 2026 the CA State Library is requesting that libraries capture the impact of library programs and services on their communities. We encourage patrons to share their library stories by completing a very short survey and/or adding to our interactive Tree Display! Whether you’re bringing your child to story time, using library computers, checking out items from books to sewing machines, attending the Friday jams, asking a question, or many of the other things you can do at the library, we want to hear about it!

Please stop in during the week or if you prefer, you can fill out the survey digitally via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6F627N6>



Paper leaves and hearts are available to express your experiences and share to the tree!

The Friends of the Library will provide light snacks during the week--c'mon down and let your voice be heard!



Save the Dates!



Our annual, Friends of the Library sponsored events, Music in the Park and Wine in the Garden, are locked in for Summer/Fall 2026! See the dates below and mark your calendars!

MUSIC IN THE PARK 2026

- SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026
- SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

*Bands will be announced at a later date

WINE IN THE GARDEN 2026

- SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

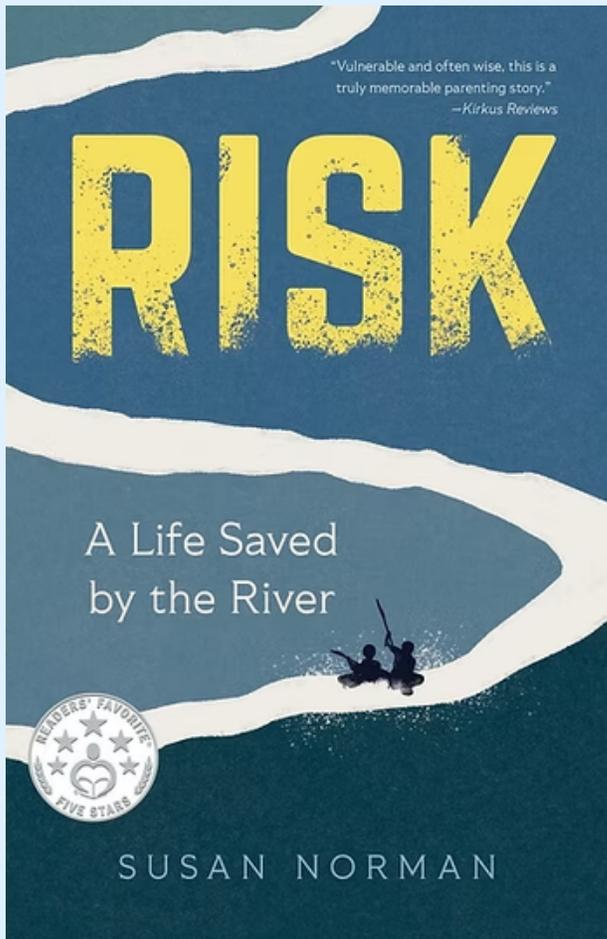
*All events will be held in the Markleeville Library Park, right next to the Markleeville Library

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Upcoming Author Visit



On **March 26th**, local author Susan Norman will visit the Markleeville Library Book Club to talk about her new book, *Risk: A Life Saved by the River*! The talk will start at 11:30 am, and all are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be provided, compliments of the Friends of the Library.

***Risk* is:**

A compelling narrative about a pioneering woman's connection to wild rivers as a whitewater world champion, and how the journey heals past and current childhood trauma.

Visit www.susannormanauthor.com to learn more about the book!

About the author

At age two, I was introduced to whitewater while canoeing in the Ozarks with my family. Thus began a lifelong journey with the river, working, exploring, competing worldwide, and winning National and World Championship titles as a member of the U.S. Slalom Kayak Team and the U.S. Women's Whitewater Rafting Team.

I began writing my memoir soon after retiring from a hydrology career with the US Forest Service in Lake Tahoe and learning how to be a first-time parent after becoming the legal guardian of my four-year-old nephew at age 57.

RISK is not just a memoir, it's a testament to resilience. It's the story of how I used the lessons learned from the river to confront the effects of childhood trauma, both for myself and my nephew.



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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

We are happy to welcome new volunteers who've recently started helping out at the Library! **Leslie Martenson** and **Michelle Harvey** stop by weekly to shelve books, organize files, keep the coffee and tea area clean and stocked, and assist with various projects. **Casey Stratdner**, **Maria Kemmerle**, and **Annie Millar** are helping lead Saturday Storytimes--much to everyone's delight! Additionally, **Amy Broadhurst** with First 5 Alpine has committed to lead one Storytime a month as part of the new Mobile Family Resource Center!

All volunteer efforts help keep library doors open and programs thriving—we truly couldn't do this without you!

We would also like to extend our best wishes to long-time volunteer **Dayoan Rivera** for 14 years of dedicated service to the Bear Valley Library! While she leaves behind a huge gap, she also leaves behind a stronger, better community because of her efforts. Thank you, Dayoan. You will truly be missed!

If any Bear Valley residents are interested in becoming a library volunteer, please contact Thea, who is happy to share how you can join our amazing team of volunteers.

We also want to recognize our established volunteers! For the past 6 years, **Jan Crow** has driven the bookmobile to outlying areas of the County, including Kirkwood Mountain Resort. Look for Jan on roads on Wednesdays and give her a wave! Four years ago, **Bill Young** volunteered to cover the front desk when budget cuts reduced staffing levels--and has been on call ever since! Bill has saved us from needing to close doors on multiple occasions. Two years ago, local high school student **Josie Morehouse** joined us on weekends as a volunteer, reliably helping with shelving, covering and processing books, and cheerfully doing whatever else needed doing.

At this time, we remain under a hiring freeze & are deeply thankful for any and all help our community can provide!



Markleeville Happenings

Meditation Group

Book Club

MARKLEEVILLE MEDITATION GROUP



GRATEFUL

**Tuesdays from
8:45am - 9:45am
at the library**

Everyone is welcome to join this ongoing group offering at the Markleeville library on Tuesday mornings, lead by Aimee Scherbak. Meditation practice varies for each person, for some it is deeply spiritual and for others it is simply a tool for stress reduction, it all takes place in the privacy of each individual's heart.



The benefits are quite significant for emotional and physical well-being, they may include:

- Giving you a new way to look at things that cause stress.
- Building skills to manage your stress.
- Making you more self-aware.
- Focusing on the present.
- Reducing negative feelings.
- Helping you be more creative.
- Helping you be more patient.
- Lowering resting heart rate.
- Lowering resting blood pressure.
- Helping you sleep better.

Here's what to expect on Tuesday mornings:

8:45 - 8:55am | Arrive and find a seat at back of library

8:55 - 9:10am | Guided discourse and meditation on Mindfulness, from variety of sources

Transitioning into long periods, 20 -30 minutes of Silent Meditation

Each person is recommended to bring their own throw pillow, or blanket to pad the chair for comfort.



Aimee Scherbak has been a yoga teacher for over 25 years, having had studios in Burlington, VT and Santa Cruz, CA. She is well-versed in a variety of traditions and a long-time devotee of Ram Dass and Maharajji's teachings.

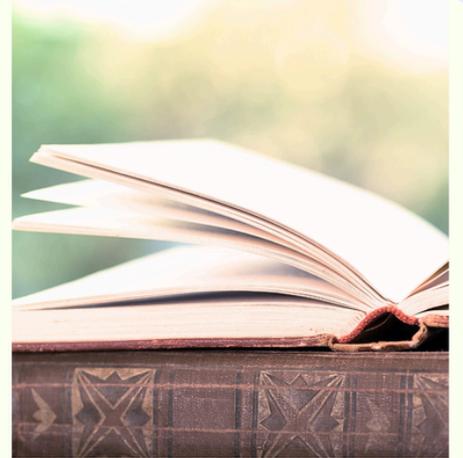
Markleeville Library
270 Laramie St.
Markleeville, CA 96120

Please contact us with any questions:
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library@alpinecountyca.gov

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GOOD BOOKS,
AND GOOD
COMPANY!

JOIN US FOR
REFRESHMENTS
WHILE WE DISCUSS
MONTHLY READS
PROVIDED BY THE
ALPINE COUNTY
LIBRARY. ALL AGES
WELCOME!



MARKLEEVILLE LIBRARY

BOOK CLUB

Last Thursday of
every month • 11:30 AM

Alpine County Library
270 Laramie St.

Call us to join, with
questions, or to ask
about the monthly book!

(530) 694-2120

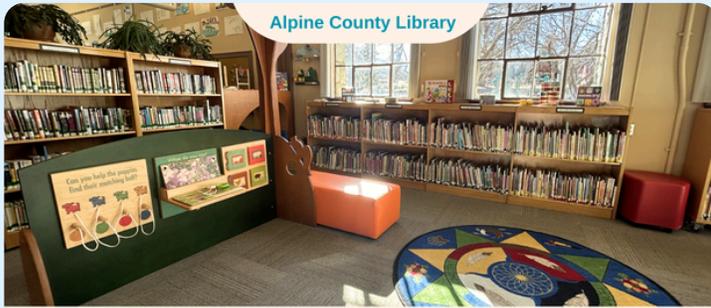
Book Club meets in the Library on the last Thursday of every month at 11:30am. The Friends of the Library provide hot tea & coffee to compliment snacks & goodies shared by club members. All ages are welcome!

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Markleeville Happenings (continued)

Saturday Storytime



Alpine County Library



SATURDAY STORYTIME

- Join us every Saturday at 11am for stories, snacks, and a craft!
- Connect with other families and play in our children's space!
- This program is designed with kids aged 0-6 in mind, but we welcome kids of all ages!

WIGGLE! SING! RHYME!

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Markleeville Library
270 Laramie St. Markleeville Ca, 96120



Our weekly Saturday Storytimes are still going strong! Come join us every Saturday morning from 11am - 12pm for fun stories, yummy snacks, engaging crafts, and the occasional activity! This program is primarily designed for kids aged 0-6, but we welcome children of all ages!

Library Jam

Calling all musicians!

Library Jam

Every Friday | 1pm - 3pm | At the Markleeville Library



Join us for a fun, low-key jam session. All skill levels welcome!

...
Want to join in but don't have an instrument? No problem! The library has a variety of instruments available to check out.

270 Laramie St, Markleeville, CA 96120
(530) 694-2120 library@alpinecountyca.gov

Come join us every Friday from 1pm - 3pm for our weekly Library Jams! Musicians of all skill levels are welcome. The jams are a great way to improve your musicianship, or to just have some good fun. Even if you don't play an instrument or sing, we welcome people to come by and be an audience!

(530)-694-2120

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Markleeville Happenings (continued)

Movie Nights

The Suicide Prevention Network will be sponsoring movies at the library once a month until June! Movie nights will always be from 5:30pm - 7:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

The movies are family friendly, and dinner is provided, in addition to snacks and popcorn!

See below for all upcoming dates:



- JANUARY 13TH, 2026
- FEBRUARY 10TH, 2026
- MARCH 10TH, 2026
- APRIL 14TH, 2026
- MAY 12TH, 2026
- JUNE 9TH, 2026



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Bear Valley Happenings



THE BEAR VALLEY LIBRARY
Watercolor Painting Group

FREE!

Every Friday from 3-5 PM,
enjoy a completely free
watercolor painting session at
the Library. Drop-ins welcome
—bring your own supplies or
borrow ours.

Join Nathan Granado, our Bear Valley Program Specialist, on **most Thursdays at 4pm for Crafting and most Fridays at 5pm for Game Night.** These fun community events take place at the library.

The Community Watercolor Painting Group meets on **Fridays from 3-5 at the library.** We encourage you to bring your painting supplies and join our easy-going group of painters. We are happy to lend you our supplies if you need them.

Bear Valley Book Club will meet **Thursday, January 29th at 5pm** to discuss *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn. We will meet later in **February** to discuss *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. Thanks to the generosity of the Alpine County Friends of the Library and the North Net Library System's Book Club in Box, we can borrow copies of our group reads to our book club readers-- free of charge. These reads are then shared with the Markleeville Library Book Club or returned to the Book Club in a Box service.

Library staff can be reached at 209-753-6219 or at bvlibrary@alpinecountyca.gov



 Bear Valley Library

BOOK CLUB

Read Think Learn

ONCE A MONTH AT 5PM

CALL US TO JOIN, FOR OUR NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING DATE, OR FOR THE BOOK WE ARE READING!

(209) 753-6219
367 CREEKSIDE DRIVE
BEAR VALLEY, CA 95223

(209) 753-6219

367 CREEKSIDE DRIVE BEAR VALLEY, CA 95223
<https://www.alpinecountyca.gov/249/Bear-Valley-Branch-Library>

Zip Books Are On!

ZIP BOOKS AT ALPINE COUNTY LIBRARY

1. Can't find a book in our library catalog?
2. Request we purchase your book through Amazon by completing our digital form found here:
3. Read your book and enjoy!
4. After two months please return the book to the library for us to add to our collection.



Program at a glance:

- Items delivered directly to your home
- Limit of \$50 per book; \$75 per audiobook or Playaway
- No cost to you!
Funded by California State Library

Books may be kept for up to 2 months before being returned to the Library to be considered for our collection.

*Only library patrons in good standing (no overdue items, etc.) are eligible.

Need a library card? You may apply on our website, or at the library.

It's been an interesting year for the Zip Books program. Not only did we receive our funding in September (which is much later than normal)-- our funding was sliced in half. Luckily the Friends of the Library were able to supplement the program this year, allowing us to continue operating.

In an attempt to stretch our Zip Books budget, cardholders can request one item per month (as opposed to two per month), until further notice. However, if you return your item to the library within the same month that it was ordered, you may request a 2nd item for that month.

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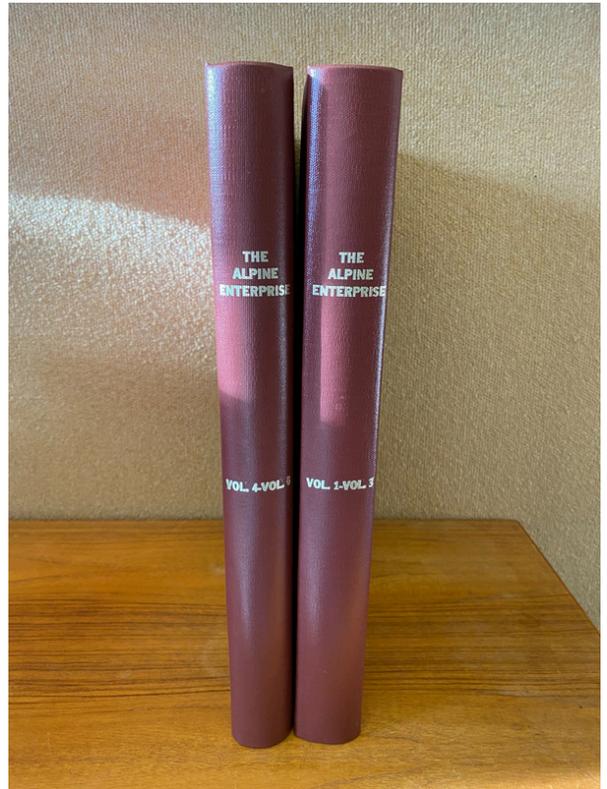
Collection Highlights

Interested in local history? If so, we have some fascinating "new" items for you to peruse!

The family of Greg Hayes kindly donated **Volumes 1-6 of the Alpine Enterprise** in two beautifully bound books!

The Alpine Enterprise was a local newspaper spanning the years from 1979 - 2000. These volumes contain articles written between approximately 1979 - 1984.

These are rare materials and cannot leave the library.



To view these volumes, please ask Library staff and we'll get them from our non-circulating collection.

We invite you to page through some entertaining Alpine history and enjoy our beautiful library setting!

Facebook: Bear Valley Library
Facebook: Alpine County Library-Markleeville