

**San Antonio Public Library  
Director's Report  
May 27, 2009**

**Administration**

**Director's Office**

Library Director Ramiro Salazar has been concentrating on budget issues, both mid-year adjustments for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and plans for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. On April 29 he attended the 2010 Budget Forecast presentation to the City Council B Session. On May 13 Ramiro and Library Board Chair Jean Brady attended the Council B Session at which City staff presented their recommendations for mid-year adjustments, and on May 14, Ramiro, Jean and a number of community representatives were present at the Council A session. Several Library stakeholders made presentations during "Citizens to be heard" in support of the Library and in opposition to any new Library funding cuts.

Planning for future budgetary needs, on April 30, Ramiro attended the City Council meeting at which Council considered City participation in the Federal Economic Stimulus Plan. On May 6 he met with Library Foundation Chair Gene Ames to discuss prospective Library Advocacy Committee activities to secure supplemental funding for the Library.

On April 27, Ramiro, Library Foundation President and CEO Kaye Lenox and Library Public Relations Manager Beth Graham attended the Hispano USA celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> episode of "*Estrellas en la Cocina*," where Hispano USA made a donation of \$2,500 to the Library Foundation to purchase children's books in Spanish for the Library collection.

Ramiro was present at the Cody Branch Library celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 25. Assistant Director for Public Services Kendra Trachta and Library Public Relations Manager Beth Graham coordinated the event. District 9 Council Representative Diane Cibrian made the keynote speech.

The Library Advocacy Committee met on May 11 and discussed strategies to explore supplemental funding for the Library. On May 13, the Library Board Planning Committee met to discuss the same issues; they also received updates on a number of Library planning initiatives. On May 20, Ramiro assisted Library Board Chair Jean Brady in making a presentation to the Library Foundation Board of Directors regarding possible options for supplemental funding.

On May 12, Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash and Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez made a presentation to the City Council Quality of Life Committee about the upcoming Summer Reading Program.

Community meetings concerning the new Mission and Stone Oak Branch Libraries were held in May, one on May 19 to update stakeholders on the project, and one on May 20 (hosted by District 3 City Council Representative Jennifer Ramos) to provide an overview of progress on the Mission site development project. At the Stone Oak meeting, Ramiro discussed the project background and funding at the Stone Oak meeting. He made a presentation to the Mission meeting about the naming and dedication process for Library facilities.

Ramiro attended the Buenos Aires (Argentina) Book Fair on April 17 – 20. He joined Collection Development Manager Margo Guzman in the selection of Spanish language materials for the library. There was no expense to the City for this travel.

In support of Library and City staff, on May 13 Ramiro attended the monthly meeting of REFORMA, the national organization to promote library services to the Spanish-speaking population, and May 16 he attended the City Employee Service Awards.

Assistant Director for Support Services Aubrey George represented the Library administration at the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library meeting at the Forest Hills Branch Library on May 17. Assistant Director for Public Services Kendra Trachta represented the administration at the Young Pegasus Poetry Awards Ceremony the same day.

### **Branch Services**

Joel Bangilan continues serving as the chair of the Adult Programming Committee, which has been working to design and plan significant library activities for adults. In April to May, the committee planned six programs featuring three cultures in observance of Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. The committee decided to combine Dance Month with the heritage observation and booked four different dance events in partnership with the San Antonio Dance Umbrella, one for each quadrant of the city.

As the Branch Services Coordinator for the west side branch libraries, Joel made visits to Memorial, Guerra, Igo Johnston, Las Palmas, and Maverick. He participated in the design discussions for the new Stone Oak and Mission Branch Libraries. He was the team leader for the interview panel for the Branch Manager and Library Assistant vacancies and served on the interview panel for the Digital Services Library Assistant position. Joel and Jessica Ramos are creating a collaboration with the West Side Development group to take advantage of the role that libraries play as economic stimulus vehicles. The project is in the preliminary stages, but libraries on the west side of town can distribute information that can help to improve the economic circumstances in the area.

Joel has continued to receive and review more books to fulfill his responsibilities on the Newbery Award Committee of the American Library Association. He has completed his tasks and duties to the Texas Library Association's Programming Committee for the 2009 Conference.

### **Children's Services**

Children's Services celebrated its fourth annual observance of *Día de los niños/Día de los libros* this month with events at thirteen library locations. This year's celebration, *Fiesta de Colores*, featured a puppet show as well as a number of colorful craft activities. Across the system, 563 attended Día events, with the biggest crowds at Central and Cortez.

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Young Pegasus Awards Ceremony was held on Sunday, May 17. Seventy-one young poets were honored at the event for the 86 poems that were included in the 2009 Anthology. Staff were delighted to once again have Board President Jean Brady on hand to present certificates to the winning poets.

Children's Services is currently preparing for another summer of reading fun with the launch of the 2009 Summer Reading Club on June 1. SAPL is using the Texas State Library's theme, *Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas*. Throughout June and July, attendees of the Library's BACKPack (Books, Activities and Crafts for Kids) program will be exploring various areas of the non-fiction collection in order to find out just how many things there are to love at the library. From "monsters and mayhem" (in the 000s) to "bats and bugs" (in the 500s) to "pirates and plunder" (in the 900s), a variety of books and activities are in store for reading club participants.

### **Facilities**

New fire alarm panels were installed in the Central Library and plans are underway to correct deficiencies discovered while testing the new panels and components. Fire system inspections and

testing were also accomplished at all branch library locations and all deficiencies that were discovered during that process have now been corrected.

### **Public Relations**

Library Public Relations Manager Beth Graham was one of the team representing the Library in the Battle of Flowers Parade on April 25. She rode a fire engine, publicizing the 2009 Big Read selection *Fahrenheit 451*. The San Antonio Public Library Book Cart Drill Team also made its public debut in the parade, and received honorable mention in its category!

In support of the "Be One in a Million" Library card campaign, City Manager Sheryl Sculley has directed all City departments to ensure that their employees have Library cards. On May 6, Beth coordinated Library card registration for City Department Directors at a meeting held by Ms. Sculley at the Central Library. Library Outreach Manager Ramona Lucius and Library Assistant Barbara Celitans staffed a table and provided sign-up service.

On May 8, Beth coordinated the Library's media response to the discovery by two SAPL employees of an apparent homicide in the garden behind the Central Library. She and Assistant Director for Public Service Kendra Trachta were both interviewed by television reporters, and Beth released a statement to the media from Library Director Ramiro Salazar.

Beth made a presentation to the Library Board Planning Committee on May 13 to update them on current progress toward finalizing the Library Community Needs Assessment. She met with Amparo Ortiz of KWEX/Univision on May 15 to discuss publicizing the Summer Reading Program and other library programs.

KENS-TV/Channel 5 has submitted an open records request to obtain a listing of all internet websites visited by staff and patrons using the Westfall Branch Library's computers during the week of May 11-15, 2009, between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. each day. Beth is coordinating the response with the Library and City IT Departments.

Temporary Marketing Specialist Melissa Baird has been coordinating the "Be One in a Million" School Library card challenge spearheaded by District 3 Council Representative Jennifer Ramos and District 9 City Council Representative Diane Cibrian. A total of 174 schools throughout Bexar County signed up to participate, and 5,430 students registered for new library cards. School challenge winners were: City Overall (school with the greatest increase in number of card holders), Briscoe Academy, San Antonio ISD; Alamo Heights ISD, Alamo Heights Junior School; East Central ISD, East Central High School; Edgewood ISD, Cenizo Park Elementary; Harlandale ISD, Vestal Elementary; Judson ISD, Salinas Elementary; North East ISD, Montgomery Elementary; Northside ISD, Stinson Middle School; San Antonio ISD, Hawthorne Academy; Somerset ISD, SSG Michael P. Barrera Veterans Elementary; and Southwest ISD, Indian Creek Elementary. Melissa negotiated a promotional arrangement with the IMAX Rivercenter Theater, and all participating schools will receive 100 buy one/get one free tickets in appreciation of their support of the Library.

Graphic Designers Ana Farr and Tiffanie Wilson coordinated final production of Summer Reading materials with the CPS Energy print shop.

The Library received 20 positive media mentions during the past month, including a feature in *American Libraries* on the *House on Mango Street* 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration held at the Central Library in April.

## **Teen Services**

May 2 was Free Comic Day! Heroes and Fantasies, a local comic book store, provided the Library with 100 comics for each branch. Teens were able to come in that Saturday and pick comic books of their choice.

On May 6, Project WORTH held a press conference in the Teen Services Department of the Central Library. They promoted the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and invited teens and their parents to take "The Quiz." The National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Day Quiz presents scenarios to teens and asks them to choose how they would respond in certain situations. Speakers included Dr. Janet Realini, Founder and Director of Project WORTH and Founder of Healthy Futures; members of the City Council; DJ Homie Marco; and San Antonio Public Library Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez.

Forest Hills Department Systems Aide Matthew Deyo provided training on the games Bakugan, Yu-Gi-Oh! and Magic: The Gathering for the teen services liaisons at their monthly meeting on May 13. Thanks to Matthew for a fun, interesting training session!

## **Staff Training**

On May 6 and 7 Joseph Janes, Associate Professor at the Information School of the University of Washington and a frequent speaker in the US and abroad, conducted an all day workshop for 22 IMLS Better Future scholars and lectured to more than 75 staff members on "Rethinking the Library." He discussed the need for the library to change, "...and yet still retain and indeed strengthen its importance and salience in its communities." Dr. Janes was the Founding Director of the Internet Public Library and writes the "Internet Librarian" column for American Libraries magazine.

Julie Dore from Innovative Interfaces, Inc., conducted four days of training (May 19-22) on the Library's Millennium circulation system. The new Digital Services Unit spent two days being trained on the system in preparation for taking over its management and maintenance. In addition, Ms. Dore conducted several training sessions for technical services staff and library committees with Millennium responsibilities.

## **Central Library**

### **Alamo Area Library Systems (AALS)**

AALS is pleased to announce a new web site, located at [www.aalstx.net](http://www.aalstx.net). This site includes a substantial amount of new consulting information for the member libraries; a social networking site through Ning.com; several multimedia sections; the latest in AALS and member libraries news; a collaborative podcast with other library service systems; and daily updates on AALS staff whereabouts, posted through a Twitter feed. Many local photographs from the AALS area are displayed on the site. The new site was built on an open source content management system known as Joomla and is housed on a server located at the Central Texas Library System. Please visit the new site!

### **Children's Services Department**

Central Children's staffers were happy to welcome Jane Miller to the group on May 11. Jane completed her MLS in May 2008 at the University of North Texas. She joins the staff as a Librarian I.

In addition to providing service to customers, young and old, who come to the third floor, the Central Children's staff also plays a key role in summer preparations system-wide. Tasks that fall to the Central staffers range from distributing the summer's printed materials to organizing summer craft supplies to equitably parceling out the summer give-away books. These tasks are vital to the success of Summer Reading and the contribution of the Central staff to the effort is highly appreciated.

## **Digital Services**

Digital Services is working to create Summer Reading 2009 registration pages on the new [www.mysapl.org](http://www.mysapl.org) website. They hope to facilitate desired growth rates for kids' and teens' events by implementing a clean and easy-to-use form, along with summer event listings as part of the information pages.

The team has also added a new section to the front page for library closures. This will quickly alert patrons to holidays and renovation schedules. The old library site on the [sanantonio.gov/library](http://sanantonio.gov/library) domain is officially closed for business. Users going to the old web page are provided friendly information on the new site's changes, and automatically redirected in 30 seconds.

## **Outreach Services**

Libro the Library Lion was in high demand this month. On April 25 the Outreach staff was out in full force, with the Bookmobile, the Literacy Van and Libro assisting the Cody Branch with its anniversary party. Meanwhile, two Outreach staffers told stories, made crafts and registered new cardholders at the King William Fair. The next day, Libro made an appearance at a Día de los Niños event hosted by the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower. Still more Libro performances came at the Walk 'n' Roll event, Brook Hollow's Comic Book Day, KLRN's Paws at the Library event, and the COSA Employees Awards Celebration.

Animal Care Services and the City's Executive Leadership Committee called upon Outreach to attend staff meetings and register employees for library cards. Outreach staff also registered cardholders at the AARP Life Festival and White Middle School's Eagle Fest.

Changes are underway for the Bookmobile, in terms of both scheduling and collection. As with many other large public libraries, San Antonio Public is changing its concept of Bookmobile service, from one in which the Bookmobile is seen as a substitute for a branch library to one in which the Bookmobile is a delivery service. Consequently, starting in July, all the stops will see a reduction in hours, and the number of stops will increase. Two underproductive stops—John Glenn Elementary School and Southside ISD—will be discontinued, and, in their place, stops for Kirby and Elmendorf will be established. A stop at the Casa Helotes Senior Center will be added.

Later in the year, more stops, typically two or three hours in duration, will be added, with a focus on service to southeastern Bexar County and to organizations serving persons with disabilities.

## **Little Read Wagon**

Little Read Wagon celebrated *Día de los niños / Día de los libros* in several ways this month. On April 30, Little Read Wagon offered two one-hour workshops on the use of music and movement in building early literacy skills. These were part of a half-day institute for informal caregivers (also known as Family, Friends and Neighbors). The institute was attended by several dozen caregivers, and each Little Read Wagon workshop was full with fifteen participants. As part of SAPL's *Día de los niños / Día de los libros* celebrations, Little Read Wagon staff assisted at children's events at the Cortez, Westfall and Central Libraries.

School visits continued at a slower pace as campuses looked toward finishing the school year. Little Read Wagon also presented programs for organizations such as Healthy Families and Catholic Charities. Two teacher workshops were scheduled in May, one on May 16 and another on May 30. The May 16 workshop had seventy participants registered. Youth outreach book delivery and storytime also continued at five Head Start, Early Head Start and early childhood development locations.

On May 4 Corinne Sánchez and Cresencia Huff attended a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) workshop presented by the Annie E. Casey Foundation: Making Connections San Antonio. The

workshop introduced the basic principles of RBA and provided opportunities to discuss different kinds of measures and indicators for evaluating program success. Participants ranged from those who had only heard of RBA to those with extensive experience. Little Read Wagon has used RBA to document the success of programs offered via the Early ON! school readiness grant.

On May 5 and 6 Corinne Sánchez, Cresencia Huff and Julia Lazarin attended a Parent Café workshop, also sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation: Making Connections San Antonio. The Parent Café is based on the World Café conversational process. It has been successfully used in Illinois to share family-strengthening ideas and information as well as build social networks that in turn offer concrete support to families. Representatives from several organizations expressed interest in using the format to encourage school readiness, and as a means of partnering with each other.

### **Reference Department**

Twice in May, Librarian I Cole Johnson offered a new computer class to the public, "Introduction to Microsoft Publisher." The classes were well attended and patrons provided positive feedback. As part of our in-house training, Cole also instructed Reference staff on the use of new features on the Baker and Taylor Web site.

### **Technical Services Department**

Central Library, the Bookmobile, and four branches (Brook Hollow, Carver, Guerra, and Igo) received the first shipment of Playaway titles, about 65 titles for each location. Playaways offer a unique audio book experience by loading one audio book title on a small portable device that weighs less than 2 ounces, runs on one AAA battery, and provides one universal jack to use with any type of headset. As the Playaway titles circulate, these locations will develop procedures on handling this new format before Collection Development purchases titles for all locations.

Margo Guzmán, Lucia Silva, and Nohemí Rosdahl conducted additional training on the use of Baker & Taylor's shared carts. Designated staff used the shared carts to add titles needed at each location in the areas of adult fiction and nonfiction and juvenile easy and young adult titles. At the end of each month, Collection Development staff will review the shared carts, make changes as needed, and complete the ordering process.

### Millennium

Martha Knott and Rolf Laun installed the Millennium 2007 upgrade on May 11. This upgrade features improved printing services, a high-demand hold table, new features for self checkout units, and other improvements.

### **Teen Services Department**

Teen Services staff host programs for teens Monday through Thursday at 5:00.

Mondays with Librarian I Violeta Garza: Teen fans of Guitar Hero competed in the monthly tournament on May 4. Teens showed off their pop culture trivia knowledge during Nerdfighter Jeopardy on May 11. The Get Graphic! Book Club met on May 18 and allowed teens share their enthusiasm for the graphic novel series *Scott Pilgrim*.

Tuesdays with Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce: Tuesdays are Guitar Hero nights for teens. On May 5, 12, 19 and 26, teens had fun playing Guitar Hero III and Guitar Hero World Tour. On May 5, teens also made beaded bracelets.

Wednesdays with Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano: Sylvia placed the PlayStation II NBA 2009 Live game out for the teens to play on April 29. Ms. Pachecano introduced the American Idol Karaoke video game for Wednesday evenings in May. On May 6, 25 teens played the game. On

May 13, 32 teens crammed into the Round Reading Room to play. On May 20, twenty teens played the game, and on May 29, there were 16 teens.

Thursdays with Library Assistant Regina Almanza: On April 30, teens were introduced to a new word to add to their arts and crafts vocabulary: decoupage. Teens used pictures from old magazines, stickers and chalk to turn a plain paper box into a personalized keepsake. They then applied a layer of Mod-Podge to seal it and give the box a nice shine. Without hesitation, teens actively participated in the May 7 sock puppet craft. Made with yarn, googly eyes, markers, felt and buttons, the sock puppets were original and funny. Pictures from this craft night are on the Teen Services Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/210teenlibrary/>. On May 14, teens took a basic idea and added some teen flair to it. Using sand and glue, teens created original works of sand art. At the teens' request, on May 21 a small pirate celebration took place at Teen Services. Teens learned some pirate lingo and made beaded hairpieces à la Captain Jack Sparrow. Time permitted only the showing of one movie from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series, although some teens wanted a *Pirates* movie marathon.

On May 2, Sylvia Pachecano hosted the monthly Anime/Manga Club. To tie in with Free Comic Book Day, eight teens created their own comic book superheroes. One notable character was "Super Weird," created by one of Teen Services' regular teens. Super Weird saves outcast teens from bullies. Other heroes were Strawberia, Jack and a super villain, Vile Blood. All of the characters that were created are posted on the wall in the Teen Services Department.

#### Tours and Groups

On May 5 Library Assistant Regina Almanza provided a tour of the library for students from Taft High School. Art classes from Fox Tech High School reserved the computers in the Central Teen Services Department to do research for school projects on May 7 and 15. Librarian I Violeta Garza provided a tour of the library for students from Jackson Middle School on May 14. Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce gave a presentation on Teen Services and catalog and database instruction to the same students on May 14. On May 22 Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano provided a tour of the library to students from Vale Middle School.

#### **Texana/Genealogy Department**

On April 29, Librarian I Sylvia Reyna and Librarian II Deborah Countess attended a Cemetery Preservation workshop in Kerrville sponsored by the Texas Hill Country Trail Region and the Texas Historical Commission. Several topics were discussed: the process by which a cemetery obtains the designation of Historic Texas Cemetery; the Texas Historical Commission's RIP (Record, Investigate, Protect) cemetery preservation program; basic grave marker conservation techniques; and Texas statutes and court cases impacting cemeteries throughout the state.

Classes for May included "Heritage Quest Online" on May 5, presented by Texana/Genealogy Manager Frank Faulkner to five patrons.

Deborah Countess presented a "Beginning Genealogy" class at the Guerra Branch Library on May 7.

On 8 May a Genogram class of fifteen students used Texana/Genealogy's facilities to further their research.

A Texana/Genealogy sub-page has been added to the Library's website thanks to Digital Services. Additionally, a guide has been produced and added to the "Family History" guide on the American Civil War for those researching ancestors who fought in the Civil War.

As part of the "Big Read" Kate Simpson and Frank Faulkner produced a handout on "Preserving Your Family History." Copies have been printed and are available to patrons.

Vernon G. Zunker, author of *A Dream Come True: Robert Hugman and San Antonio's River Walk*, donated copies of his book for Central and the branches that need copies. He says that his book will not be reprinted.

The *Express-News* purchased Prime Time Newspapers in 2006. In an effort to consolidate costs, Prime Time staff has been moved from their old location and that office was closed. It turns out that the office housed approximately three hundred bound books of their various publications going back to the 1950s. These include the *Daily Commercial Recorder* and various publications based on geographic regions in the San Antonio area. These bound volumes were transferred to Texana/Genealogy on May 7, where staff are in the process of inventorying and housing them. They will be of great value for those researching local history, neighborhood studies, genealogy, urban development, and local military installations (since the papers from Lackland, Fort Sam Houston, and Randolph are included.)

Current displays put together by Deborah Countess and Sylvia Reyna include historic preservation and "Heart of Texas" to co-ordinate with the summer reading program.

Duplication of about 120 oral history tapes from the Menke Collection has been completed with the assistance of Rhett Rushing of the Institute of Texan Cultures, who allowed Library staff to use their high-speed duplicating equipment. Now staff and volunteers will begin the process of transcribing the tapes.

## **Branch Libraries**

### **Bazan**

The Bazan Library celebrated "Día De Los Niños" on April 26, 2009 at the Basilica of the Church of the Little Flower. Branch Manager Raymond Villarreal and Department Systems Aide Chuck Tucker represented the Library by providing information on a variety of services at Bazan and throughout the system. Along with that came a concerted effort to register new Library cardholders. Seventeen individuals actually filled out applications. Chuck and Raymond entertained the children with a simple, seasonally appropriate craft on how to make a butterfly ring.

The Bazan Branch Library has become one of the favorite locations on the near Westside to provide income tax assistance to patrons. This year branch was recognized at the Holiday Inn "El Tropicano" Hotel on May 12 for its high usage of this service. The branch came in second place citywide for number of income tax returns processed (more than 2,000) and received a plaque recognizing this achievement.

### **Brook Hollow**

Brook Hollow hosted database training conducted by Adam Spana of Digital Services. It was well-attended by SAPL staff. A Reader's Advisory Romance Genre class taught by Brook Hollow's Tapley Trudell was also hosted by the branch. The meeting room also experienced heavy usage during early voting, seeing one of the highest numbers of voters in the city. Programs by the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition and U.S. Census workshops and training sessions also continue to be very popular meetings at Brook Hollow.

Libro the Lion made a special appearance at Free Comic Book Day, which was arranged by Brook Hollow's Teen Librarian Mary M. Smith. The branch's celebration of Fiesta de Colores was very popular. Children's Services Librarian Ruth Chiego Turner hosted events with almost 100 children in attendance.

Branch Manager Beth K. Schorlemer and Librarian II Leslie Riebesehl attended the annual San Pedro Hills Women's Club installation luncheon where Beth received a generous donation for the branch. There is also some more very exciting news! The Brook Hollow staff is enjoying a very nice kitchen table and set of chairs, donated by the Brook Hollow Friends. These additions brighten up the kitchen and offer a very nice space for lunches, dinners and other staff get-togethers.

### **Carver**

As April wound to a close, the Cherice Cochrane Mentoring Foundation presented one of its Community Advocacy awards to the Carver Branch Library. Adult Services Librarian D.L. Grant attended a banquet at Randolph AFB, where he accepted a plaque on behalf of the branch. Former teacher Claudette Lewis, founder of CCMF, has partnered with the Carver Library in presenting children's programs and teen events which have been popular in the community. Staff look forward to continuing their partnership with Ms. Lewis and the Foundation.

Poetry Month in April was a rousing success at Carver Library. The final installment of a series of open-mike poetry sessions triggered the notion that the branch needed a permanent poetry group. Participants found they enjoyed sharing their work so much that they elected to form the Carver Literary Arts group which meets each first and third Tuesday of the month. Even the most reluctant participants found encouragement in expressing themselves through poetry and have contributed their works shyly but proudly. For many of the writers, the regular expression of their works has led to a kind of self discovery. A wealth of material emerged from personal experiences as participants showed up each night and shared powerful works of poetry and prose. An originally unplanned feature, storytelling, turned out to be particularly popular with the audience.

To celebrate May as Dance Month, staff set up a stunning display of images to promote the occasion. Complementing the display was an assortment of books dealing with dancing from all corners of the world and all types of expression from capoeira to ballroom. Older staff got the idea to feature footprints in the display as a nod to the classic Arthur Murray dance instructional LPs of yesteryear.

On May 8 Branch Manager Ronnie Delgado was invited to the Woodward Community Center to discuss library services and issue library cards to the children attending after-school activities. He signed up nearly 30 new library cardholders.

On May 9 an insightful lecture on mental health drew a hefty crowd eager to learn the latest information on conditions and treatments. The two-hour presentation attracted new users to the branch who remained afterward to ask questions.

Carver also hosted two creative writing programs during May. The first was led by Antoinette Franklin, a teacher, poet and author. The second was led by Fredrick Williams who has taught in the English department at UTSA.

In May America Home Services sponsored a home buying seminar for Spanish-speaking customers.

Carver's spring book sale was a big hit. Staff say eager patrons inquired about the event weeks in advance, then showed up in big numbers to take advantage of the many bargain books, media and serial items.

Library Assistant Deanna Sutton visited Cameron Elementary School to promote the "Be One in a Million" Campaign. She found enthusiastic support among the students and staff.

Children's Services Librarian/Teen Services Liaison Amy Thorne reported continued strong support for the branch's anime club. She was pleased to report that teen regulars have given their enthusiastic approval to the new Playaway audiobooks that arrived in May. She and Adult Services Librarian D.L. Grant have been making visits to schools and child care centers to promote Summer Reading. D.L. visited W.W. White Elementary school, where he addressed the PTA and spoke on library programs and encouraged all to have a share in the summer reading campaign.

Carver Branch Library customers know Department Systems Aide Jesse Aguilar as the man who assists with their computer concerns, but Brook Hollow users saw him in a different role when he volunteered to portray Libro the Lion to promote library awareness at that location.

### **Cody**

Cody started the month of May with being an early voting site for local elections. All regularly scheduled book groups and film clubs met this month. On May 2 Stampin' Up demonstrator Candy Rattray presented a special mother's day card craft using rubber stamps. On May 23 the Ballet Conservatory of South Texas discussed the history and importance of ballet and then performed several ballet pieces.

Ronald McDonald made an appearance for Storytime on Wednesday, April 29. After reading a couple of entertaining stories, he made himself available to anyone who wanted pictures taken with Ronald McDonald.

For Mother's Day, children and teens had an opportunity to create Mother's Day cards during Cody Library's Make 'n' Take Mother's Day Crafts on Thursday, May 7. In addition to creating colorful, glittery cards, children also made sun catchers, and cut out recipe cards to decorate for their moms.

On May 11, Children's Services Librarian Sheila Acosta visited PCI classes, read several stories to each group and announced Summer Reading Fun at the Cody Library.

Sheila was invited to attend Colonies North Elementary School's first-ever Parent Reading Night on May 12. She handed out information on the Summer Reading Program as well as applications for library cards. Colonies North is one of the schools participating in the *Be One in a Million!* library card drive. Borders Books and HEB were also present promoting their summer reading programs.

Sheila also visited all first- and second-grade classes at Larkspur Elementary School on May 13 to promote Summer Reading. Children were eager to know exactly where Cody Library was so they could tell their parents to take them for the summer events. Teachers were accommodating in printing out directions for the young readers.

On May 14, Sheila visited with classes all morning at McDermott Elementary School promoting summer reading sign-up and events such as Thrillin' Thursdays and Family Movie Wednesdays.

During Children's Book Week, May 11-17, Cody displayed new books, both fiction and non-fiction, in the Children's area.

Colorful feather boas, tiaras and sequins adorned all the attendees at the Fancy Nancy Tea Party held on May 16. Sheila Acosta and Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl greeted guests on the red carpet, decked out in their finest fancy attire, served pink lemonade out of teapots and read Fancy Nancy stories.

On May 18, Sheila recorded a promo at Oak Meadow Elementary School, to be played on the school's closed circuit television to publicize summer reading sign-up and programs exclusively at Cody Library.

Sheila also visited with gym classes at Huebner Oaks Elementary School on May 20 to promote the Summer Reading Program, as well as the Happy (half) Hour book discussion group and all the other special Cody Library summer programs.

Free Comic Book Day on May 2. Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl gave away nearly all the comics at the pre-summer reading program. She has planned two visits to area middle schools and one high school to promote the teen Summer Reading Program "A Summer with Character."

### **Collins Garden**

The Collins Garden Branch Library served an early voting and election day site. The election judge was kept busy investigating allegations of infractions of election rules from supporters of various candidates.

A screening of *Cine de Oro*, a Spanish-language film series, was provided to patrons on Friday, May 8. Staff members also screened an anime film, which was well-received by the branch's younger customers.

Adult Services Librarian Elma Nieto-Rodriguez continues to provide outreach to the neighborhood's senior citizens by visiting the Palm Heights Community Center once a week before their lively bingo session starts.

Displays honoring Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and world travel were created to entice customers to explore other parts of the collection with which they might not be familiar.

Teen Services Liaison Carlos Loera reports that Wednesday afternoon gaming activities continue to attract after-school participants. In all there were a total of eighty juveniles at the various sessions.

The Free Comics Book Day was a hit with teen library visitors. Staff members distributed ninety-six comic books by the end of the day.

The Saturday before Mother's Day Collins Garden staff members provided materials to juvenile visitors and encouraged them to make Mother's Day cards, posters and bracelets, which was a creative way to engage their attention and focus their energy in a constructive pursuit. All of the participants had a lot of fun making something to give their mothers for Mother's Day.

Storytimes continue at Collins Garden. Attendance has been uneven with some storytimes having numerous children in attendance, others having none. However, those who do attend really enjoy Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford's entertaining storytelling style and afterwards they have fun making a craft to take home.

Leigh reports that juvenile outreach efforts have been steady, and during her visits, in addition to an entertaining story or two, she has also been promoting participation in the Summer Reading Program.

Every month, Collins Garden decorates the bulletin board in the picture book area with a different theme. For May, the kids picked the theme *Hop to the Library*, which featured books on rabbits and frogs. They decorated the bulletin board all by themselves, using a bright green background to make the details "hop" towards viewers. And since the kids were so proud of their work, they all signed it.

### **Cortez**

An impressive turnout of 90 people celebrated *Día de los niños/Día de los libros* at Cortez Branch on April 28. Library Assistant Amanda Hernández and Early Literacy Trainer Julia Lazarin helped Children's Services Librarian Carol Collins at the event, which included two puppet shows, three crafts, and light snacks. Due to popular demand, the "Book-Loving Monsters" puppet show has been scheduled to repeat.

Eighty-six kindergarten students from nearby Benavides Elementary School toured Cortez and enjoyed the monster puppet show on May 14. Many students applied for library cards in the days leading up to the event, and most students checked out books during their visit.

The Texas Migrant Council of San Antonio presented Amanda and Carol with plaques engraved "For sharing your love of books" after attending their last Tuesday and Thursday morning storytimes at Cortez before the summer break.

Before the school year ends, Carol will distribute posters and several thousand oversized bookmarks with information specific to the children's summer program to the elementary schools in Cortez's service area.

Branch Manager Rebecca Johnson rearranged shelving and furniture in order to provide more space for the WiFi users and more shelving for reference and circulation staff. This new arrangement of furniture facilitates access for the branch's rapidly increasing number of WiFi users and makes use of wasted library floor space. The branch displays newly returned library materials on book carts near the circulation desk, which has effectively increased circulation and shelving turnaround. The holds have been moved near the self-checkout machines, increasing the use of the machines and improving patron service.

The branch has a new entrance to the parking lot. The patrons, staff, and delivery driver may now enter directly from southbound Highway 16. The new entrance is safer and relieves congestion from the southern entrance to the parking lot.

The Saturday ESL classes continue to be popular. The weekly Wii Sports tournaments for teens have built a steady regular crowd.

### **Forest Hills**

Forest Hills displays for April and May included Cinco de Mayo; Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month; Dragonology; Fiesta; Science Fiction; and Memorial Day. The branch has an art display by artist Elizabeth Goode entitled *Women in Veil Series*. Forest Hills has tagged all materials and is awaiting the installation of the self-service terminals under the RFID program.

The branch celebrated *Día de los niños/Día de los libros* on April 29. Children's Services Librarian Cindy Moreno, Circulation Attendant Denise Johansson and Department Systems Aide Matthew Deyo performed a puppet show for the delighted customers. Although the children enjoyed the *pretty pink princess* and *beautiful blue butterfly* puppets, they also liked coloring their rainbow books and peacock craft.

Little Read Wagon has presented *Para los niños* Workshops on every Wednesday and will continue to do so until the end of May. The turnout has been good and families enjoy participating in the activities.

Children's Services Librarian Cindy Moreno visited the Callaghan Road WIC Clinic along with Little Read Wagon Manager Cresencia Huff to take some books and promote library events. She will also be visiting Villarreal Elementary School the last week of May to publicize Summer Reading.

The Friends of the Forest Hills Branch Library conducted a one-day book sale on May 9. The Bedouin Dancers performed on that day as well. On May 17, the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library met at the branch.

## **Great Northwest**

Librarian II Tracey Knouse has joined the team at Great Northwest as the new Assistant Manager/Adult Services Librarian. She brings a great deal of experience as a floating librarian and in management.

Great Northwest was an early voting site in May. In addition, Library Assistant Christian Reedy planned and organized a Spa Day on May 9. The program was targeted at adult female customers and demonstrated how the library can help in finding economical alternatives to costly services. The program was attended by 18 women and had very positive reviews.

Teen Gaming Nights continue on Thursday evenings. On average, about eight teens attend and play video games with each other using the Wii and Playstation consoles.

Great Northwest Library has 16 school visits planned to advertise library cards and the summer reading program. Some schools have invited the library to present at their PTA meetings so the parents may be informed. Driggers Elementary School asked the library to present the information to their Spanish-speaking families during one of their meetings. The schools have been very appreciative of the visits.

Ronald McDonald visited storytime on May 22. There was great anticipation of this visit, with some of the daycares that Elspeth Blakeman visits regularly making plans to come to the library to attend this event.

Elspeth's daycares have been really looking forward to her visits. Some of the kids at one daycare had asked her what she would be reading the next time she came in. She told them about the wild animal stories she would have for them; and, on the very next visit the children had on "wild elephant masks" that they had made just for the occasion.

The library staff have been working very hard this month getting ready for the summer excitement. Programs have been organized and props are being built. Volunteers have been helping with decorations and handouts for the summer reading club. Great Northwest Library is gearing up for a very exciting summer.

## **Guerra**

The Guerra Branch Library was an early voting site April 27 through May 5, and a regular polling place on May 9.

Adult Services Librarian Sandra Griffin was detailed to Guerra from Memorial from May 11 through May 22. Staff both need and appreciate the extra help.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman joined Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan and Memorial Branch Manager Jimmy Jiménez on April 27 on an interview panel seeking to fill part-time Library Assistant vacancies. The panel interviewed seven candidates and identified three persons who were judged well-qualified for the two vacancies at Memorial and the single vacancy at Guerra. Hire dates have not yet been determined. Dexter also attended a presentation on "Rethinking the Library" by Joseph Janes and a Branch Managers meeting on May 7. Lora Devlon Eckler, Library Board Member and Past President of the Friends of Guerra Branch Library, met with Dexter on May 11 to discuss the upcoming fifth anniversary celebration scheduled for July 18 and raised concerns about the continuing graffiti problem at the branch.

Adult Services Librarian Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard participated in a Genealogy Class presented on May 7 by Debbie Countess.

Children's Services Librarian Yanira Cruz presented 16 storytimes for ages 0-5. She also visited various Northside Independent School District Even Start GED/ESOL classes to provide storytimes for children whose mothers are students in the classes. Yanira also visited a local Parent Child Incorporated daycare center to deliver books for their curriculum. As part of her ongoing outreach efforts Yanira delivered books for Little Read Wagon to the local WIC clinic located on Military and Marbach Roads.

Adult Services Librarian Steve Jackson planned and presented two book clubs. On April 30, he met with the *Club de Lectura* Spanish book club. The book discussed was *La mujer del viajero en el tiempo* by Audrey Niffenegger. Six people enjoyed a discussion in Spanish of this fictional story about the life of a librarian who involuntarily moved through time. On May 4, he recorded a story in Spanish for the Telecuentos/ Dial-a-Story program. On May 5, he prepared and mounted a display on Swine Flu and other diseases to provide general information on this topic. On May 12, he held his Tuesday Evening Book Club, a discussion of *Mexican Days* by Tony Cohan. He continued to work on the Big Read program, adding items to the *Fahrenheit 451* display.

Library Assistant/Teen Services Liaison Tim Johnson conducted a Gamera program on April 22, featuring Guitar Hero World Tour, Super Smash Brothers, Need for Speed, and NFL. There were 24 participants. He began promotion of the Teen Summer Reading Program on May 2 with distribution of free comic books (courtesy of Heroes and Fantasies) to 31 fans. His May 13 program featured DC vs. Mortal Kombat, Tekken 4, Knockout Kings, and Super Smash Brothers; 29 teens participated in this event. He continued his work on his Animangiacs program. On April 30, May 7 and May 21, teens selected and watched Internet anime episodes chosen as favorites by the teens themselves. Tim arranged for the first-ever Guerra Branch Yu-Gi-Oh tournament on May 6, with eighteen participants. He plans to continue this activity on a monthly basis and expects that there will be about 20 teens for each tournament. He continues to work with the Say Sí program, and various creative arts projects were presented on April 25 and May 2, 9, 16 and 23. He held his first Wii Play Saturday program on May 23. Tim attended a presentation by Daniel H. Pink entitled "The Creative Industry's Economic Impact" on May 20.

### **Igo**

April and May were especially busy at Igo due to early voting. There have been a record number of preschoolers and parents at the weekly storytimes, averaging around 70 attendees at each program. The branch celebrated *Día de los niños/Día de los libros* on May 2 with crafts and a puppet show. There were over 50 in attendance. May 3 through May 9 was Pet Week at Igo. The week culminated with a Pet Adoption, Pet First Aid Class, and a family craft at the library. The Igo Friends also held a mini book sale that day at which they premiered the sale of the Igo Library Bag. A family storytime was held on May 23. "Rapunzel's Bad Hair Day" was the title for the storytime which included books and poems about the fairy tale, as well as an original puppet show.

On May 27 Igo Branch Library will host a visit by mystery and true crime author Diane Fanning.

And finally, congratulations to Stinson Middle School, which was one of the winners in the SAPL "Be One in a Million" school challenge. Many thanks to the Igo Branch Library staff, who processed all of the card applications for this project and to Adult Services Librarian Haley Holmes and Library Assistant Rhonda Woolhouse, who made several visits to the seventh-grade reading classes at Stinson promoting library services.

### **Johnston**

The Johnston Children's Department celebrated *Día de los niños/Día de los niños* with a grand puppet show followed by a super craft. The puppet show followed this year's theme *¡Colores!* and featured two bright-colored puppets that had a lively discussion with the librarian over the merits of pink versus blue. Library Manager Diane Backhus took the role of the librarian and Library Aide

Rose Nazir played the roles of Pretty Pink Princess and the Bright Blue Butterfly. Of course the stars of the show were the pink, blue, red and purple books on display that played a prominent part in the story plot. Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash and her team did a marvelous job putting this delightful play together and getting just the right puppets to entertain the children.

On May 2, the Johnston Teen Services Liaisons distributed out comic books in observance of National Free Comic Book Day. The books were generously provided by Heroes and Fantasies. The teen program (and the comic books!) got some extra mileage when we a stack was sent to the Pearsall Park Community Center Health & Resource Fair to be distributed by Circulation Attendant Julie Gil, who represented Johnston at this event.

Johnston teens are thoroughly enjoying the new Wii Sports module. Department Systems Aide Danny Alvarez challenges them to improve their tennis, golf, baseball and boxing skills.

Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta has made visits to nearby schools to promote this year's Summer Reading Program, "Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas." On May 12, she spoke to approximately 800 students at Indian Creek Elementary School. On May 26, she went to Mary Michael Elementary School, where she met with approximately 750 students who rotated by grade through the school library to hear her presentation. As always, she toted along her keyboard as well as some favorite books that are enjoyed by children of all ages. The children sang enthusiastically and responded well to the readings. She visited Big Country Elementary School on May 19 and presented Summer Reading Program information to a group of parents who were gathered for the Scholastic Book Fair. Scobee Middle School invited the branch to participate in their Second Annual Community Fair on May 21. The library table, staffed by Diane Backhus, provided information about the Children's and Teen's Summer Reading Programs and other services that the library offers. Department Systems Aide Danny Alvarez represented the branch at the Sky Harbor Elementary School Carnival on May 22.

On May 16, the Johnston Branch Library celebrated Asian and Pacific-American Heritage month with a visit from Ms. Renee, a first-generation Hawaiian and owner of Aloha Entertainment. She informed a delighted audience about the joys of Hawaiian culture and followed up with a hula class. After the program, children had the opportunity to make Hawaiian leis while both children and adults enjoyed refreshments of fresh fruit (including pineapple!).

The branch enjoyed an entire afternoon of dance that same day with a visit from the Palo Alto College dance department who performed a program in honor of May, Dance Month.

This summer, Johnston is adding a new twist to the Summer Reading Program by inviting "celebrity guest readers" to read at several of the BACK Pack sessions. Thus far the branch has enlisted the reading services of a Southwest Independent School District elementary school librarian and a U.S. Air Force jet pilot.

### **Landa**

In May Landa staff said a sad but also excited farewell to longtime manager Kathy Claspill, who moved to Igo Branch after managing Landa for over 20 years. The Landa staff all wish her the best of luck in her new home with its new challenges.

In the meantime, things at Landa Library have been busy on many fronts. The children have been having a delightful time thanks to former San Antonio Public Library Children's Services Librarian Michelle DiGiacomo. She came to the rescue when Children's Services Librarian Ginger Payne had to take some time off recently, and kept the children singing, dancing and enthralled by stories. Ginger returned to work recently and her guitar is once again echoing in the building. Michelle built up such a relationship with her afternoon group that she has decided to make occasional guest

appearances. The teens are enjoying Tuesday nights with Brooke Ballard, Teen Liaison. A dedicated group of 4-5 comes to play board games and Wii or Guitar Hero. Later this month the Teen Book Group will discuss *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke. At the end of April the Teen Poetry Slam had 3 teens read favorite works by poets such as Naomi Shihab Nye, Dylan Thomas, William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg, Sylvia Plath and others.

The Landa Gardens Conservancy has been having their annual May events. On May 1 the movie *Nanny McPhee* was shown outside on a giant inflatable screen. The following day horticulturist Steve Spalten presented a lecture in the Community Garden about growing vegetables and herbs. On the evening of May 8 the Conservancy held a fabulous Gala called *An Exotic Evening at the Alhambra*. This fancy dress event is their major fundraiser; the grounds of Landa Library were decorated to look like the Arabian Nights and guests were served dinner out under the stars after the staff and patrons were gone. The next day the grounds were back to normal again and The Magik Theatre came and entertained a crowd of children with their version of *School House Rock*.

On May 16 a local patron presented a card-making workshop for Landa Library. This workshop for adults included stamping and allowed each patron to create two cards to take home.

### **Las Palmas**

A representative from the office of Congressman Charles González was on hand at Las Palmas on May 12. Sponsored by the Benavides Community Family Learning and Resource Center, this session allowed citizens to ask one-on-one questions regarding issues with topics such as federal taxes, Medicare, passports, and veterans' affairs.

Kudos to Adult Services Librarian Karen Michaelson! She and her committee did an outstanding job promoting National Library Week! Committee members created bibliographies, challenged staff with puzzles and "fast facts", and judged very creative branch entries. Karen also represented SAPL at the Southwest Crafts Center Fiesta event (400 persons).

Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi teamed with Library Assistant Beatrice Canales to present the library's *Fiesta de Colores* puppet show to an audience of 35, in celebration of *Día de los niños/Día de los libros*.

Gina visited Henry B. Gonzalez Elementary School for Career Day, speaking to five classes of kindergarten through second grade, a total of 100 children. Sixty third-graders from Carvajal Elementary School visited Las Palmas for story hour and a library tour.

Gina visited Mirasol, Avance, Madonna and Good Samaritan day care centers (14 visits, 175 children) for story hours and to drop off classroom collections. An audience of 32 attended two Family Fun story hours.

Recent book displays at Las Palmas have included Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy; Go Spurs Go!; Graphic Novels; Mother's Day; and the book club title *The Lace Reader*.

As part of the "Be One in a Million" campaign, Circulation Attendants Lisa Díaz and Patricia Pérez represented SAPL at the Good Samaritan Center's Senior Fiesta on April 17. They processed library cards, and answered questions about library services for a total of 97 adults.

Library Assistant Liz Area and Outreach Services Librarian Veronica Anderson were on hand at the Port San Antonio *Fiesta de los Niños* event. Two hundred forty-two children stopped by to color a cowboy boot, while more than 300 persons stopped to ask about library services.

Welcome to Library Aide Ms. Guadalupe Pinales, assigned to Las Palmas for the time that Memorial is closed for improvements.

Classes and workshops attended by staff included Collection Management (Adult Services Librarian Heidi Novotny and Library Assistant Beatrice Canales) and Basic Supervision (Adult Service Librarian Karen Michaelson.)

### **Maverick**

Maverick Library started off the month of May as an early voting site. The library was also a polling site on Election Day, May 9.

Computer classes returned to Maverick May 11 through 20. Demand for these classes is always high and every class was full.

For adults, three Latin Dance Classes averaged 30 people throughout May. In addition, a job interviewing and résumé workshop was offered May 7, and a networking for employment workshop will be offered May 28.

Teen Librarian Derika Bailey hosted her teen book club May 19. The teens read/discussed *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* in addition to consuming pizza and soda. The May 30 Movie Matinee offering will be *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*.

Outreach and school visits have kept both the Children's Services Librarians and the Teen Services Liaison busy. Children's Services Librarian Derika Bailey went to Stevenson Middle School May 11 and 12 to promote teen summer reading and the library. She spoke directly to 600 middle school kids on May 11 and pre-registered more than 250 middle-schoolers for the Teen Summer Reading Program! Circulation Attendant J.D. Elizondo went to a senior center on May 12 to promote the "Be One in a Million" Library Card campaign. Children's Services Librarian Amy Roberts spoke to 670 Carson Elementary School students about summer reading and the library on May 1 and attended a Career Day at Boone Elementary School on May 8. In addition, Children's Services Librarians Stacy Bosquez and Amy Roberts went to Nichols Elementary School on May 21, Krueger Elementary School on May 26 and Brauchle and Wanke Elementary Schools on May 27. On May 22, the University United Methodist Church Day School came to Maverick to obtain library cards and have a storytime and tour with Amy Roberts.

### **McCreless**

The Friends of McCreless Branch Library purchased an external floppy drive and a CD/DVD disc cleaner for the branch this month. The portable drive has already been a big help for our users who do not have flash drives and are assigned to a PC that does not have floppy access. The cleaner allows the branch to continue to circulate items that might otherwise have to be deleted from the collection.

Patron Ruth Farris donated a collection of "Teenie Beanie Babies" to the Branch. They are currently on display but will be given away by drawing names at the end of Summer Reading Program. This is a charming and generous gift to the children who visit the McCreless Branch Library.

This month Children's Services Librarian Beverly Bixler has already visited four schools and talked to more than 700 students about the Summer Reading Program and has more visits scheduled.

Book displays for the month included gardening, B-B-Q, and, on a more somber note, genocide.

The branch hosted a Dance Month event on May 16 and a Spanish-language home-buying program on May 23.

## **Memorial**

On April 25 the Memorial Branch celebrated *Día de los niños/Día de los libros*. More than 200 children and adults worked on a butterfly craft presented by members of REFORMA San Antonio, played Lotería, visited with HEBuddy, and enjoyed refreshments. On April 28, a second Día celebration was held that welcomed Ronald McDonald, who read stories in Spanish and had his picture taken with children in attendance. Coupons were handed out for a free ice cream cone. A puppet show, *Pretty Pink Princess and Big Blue Butterfly*, was presented by librarians Maria Stroligo, Susan Francis-Maldonado, and Trina Smith.

A Cinco de Mayo Celebration saw more than 80 guests enjoy a performance by Ballet Folklórico del Cielo. Children's Services Librarian Trina Smith presented a storytime. The evening's festivities were wrapped up with cascarones and the traditional smashing of the piñata. Several donations from local businesses made the event possible.

On April 27 Children's Services Librarian Trina Smith was invited to The Neighborhood Place to provide a Spanish storytime for families of the Family Services Association.

The Memorial Branch Library closed from May 11 through May 25 to install new shelving. The installation, in the amount of \$77,000, was funded by the 2007 City Bond initiative. The work added much needed shelf space, replaced narrow outdated shelving, and included natural birch wood slatwall end panels.

The Memorial Heights Neighborhood Association held its monthly gathering on May 6 in the meeting room. The group, led by Association president Richard García, provides valuable information to local residents as well as providing an opportunity for the library to inform residents of library news and events.

## **Pan American**

On April 19, representatives from VIA Metropolitan Transit presented a workshop to promote the use of mass transit.

Little Read wagon continued to hold workshops for parents and small children at the branch on Tuesday evenings.

On May 9, Library Assistant Blanca-Silvia Hernández presented the movie *Bolt* to an audience of 12 customers. The ABC Club had their graduation on May 13. Treats and festivities were featured.

Library Assistant Melissa Carroll continued to host Teen Night every Thursday.

Children's Services Librarian Raissa Marking is planning for Summer Reading. Adult Services Librarian Jim La Ferla continues to work with the SAPL Pride Month Committee.

Raissa visited Adams Elementary School and Stonewall/Flanders Elementary School.

## **Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library**

Children's Services Librarian Marva Allen celebrated Cinco de Mayo with elementary-school-age customers on May 5. Everyone attending made a colorful door wreath to take home. The children created many festive door decorations. Marva has also prepared an exciting bulletin board for National Children's Book Week and a bulletin board depicting award books for children.

Adult Services Librarian Hugues Caby planned a four-week art workshop with a local artist. Graham Toms is an ex-Disney instructor, and beginning May 12 he held a series of workshops dedicated to Western Art and Horses.

Young Adult Services Librarian Heidi Hoecker has been busy during May planning many activities for all age groups. Ms. Hoecker organized a colorful display on comic books. On May 2, teens received a free comic book while visiting the library.

On May 7, Candy Rattray from Stampin' Up! Offered instruction and supplies for children, teens and adults to make their own hand-stamped Mother's Day cards. Children made a basic card and teens and adults created a more challenging card. The 51 customers participating enjoyed this creative event.

On May 14, Citibank provided helpful information on managing money to teens planning to attend college. Juniors and seniors in high school learned valuable information about budgeting money while living on their own.

On May 21, all ages viewed a demonstration on capoeira. This extremely acrobatic martial art was enjoyed by many customers.

The Bannwolf Library has purchased a new display case for CDs. This new case makes it easier for customers to search for their desired music. All the media has now been label and arranged in a logical order.

### **San Pedro Community**

A top priority for this period was the "Be One in a Million" campaign. Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton and the hard-working school librarian at Hawthorne Academy worked together to register 248 new library card holders! As a result, Hawthorne Academy was the SAISD winner of the Challenge! Betsy and Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz also registered 200 new card holders at the KLRN-sponsored Kids Day at the Park held at San Pedro Park on Saturday April 18. Finally, Ms. Dalton registered 18 new cardholders at Cotton Elementary School.

On May 7, Ms Dalton spoke at the San Antonio Independent School District Summer Camp for Parents, promoting the Summer Reading Club and other fun things about the library. About 75 people were in attendance and Ms. Dalton registered 4 for new library cards.

### **Outreach**

The ongoing book clubs met during this time period. Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton facilitated three off-site books clubs, two at elementary schools and one at a middle school. Each book club has 15 members who enthusiastically discuss the book chosen for the month and then vie to check out the next month's book along with other books (approximately 12-15 extra books) brought and "book talked" by the Children's Services Librarian. The book clubs have proved to be very popular at the three schools: Hawthorne Academy, Cotton Elementary School, and the Young Women's Leadership Academy, all in SAISD.

Additionally, Betsy presented storytimes to 150 children at several different child care facilities, including the VIA Child Development Center (which added another class to receive storytime), the Kenwood PCI facility, Educare Childcare, and the SAC Child Development Center. Twenty books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month.

### Tours

On May 7, 29 students from Higgs, Carter, King Charter School came to San Pedro for a tour of the library given by Department Systems Aide Hondo Aguilar and former Floated Librarian Tracey Knouse. The students worked on various research projects, using, among other resources, the animal encyclopedias, general encyclopedias, animal books, and Encarta Kids on the AWE computer to get material for their assignments. Hondo and Tracey assisted the students in locating and using the materials.

On May 15 Branch Manager Michael Kaminski and Library Assistant Lisa Hernández gave library tours and read a story to four classes of Beacon Hill Elementary School second-graders. Michael also promoted the Summer Reading Club to the kids. Prior to their visit, the Children's Services Librarian and the branch circulation staff issued 64 library cards to our newest patrons.

Two schools bring classes to the library on a weekly basis. These schools are Monte Vista Montessori and Kriterion Montessori. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades 2 through 8. When the classes come to the library, Betsy Dalton spends approximately thirty minutes with the students, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials. The two schools bring approximately sixty-five students per week to the San Pedro Library.

### Programs

Many programs were also presented at San Pedro during this period. On April 25, Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton presented the *Día de los niños/Día de los libros* Program. A delightful time was had by the 41 attendees, and the children especially enjoyed the funny puppet show put on by budding actors Department Systems Aide Hondo Aguilar and Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz, and enjoyed making peacock hats and other crafts. On May 9, Betsy presented a "We Love Our Pets" Family Fun Program to approximately 40 patrons. The kids and their families brought pictures of their pets to display on a poster board and created a graph to see which type pet was the most popular. Betsy also read books about pets, of course! The children enjoyed making pasta pets, creating a kitty mask, and making other crafts.

Betsy presented eight storytimes and four B.A.C.K.Pack (Books, Activities and Crafts for Kids) programs. Storytime is presented twice weekly, once in the morning and once in the evening in order to make the service available to children with working parents. The teens met four times during this period. They play Guitar Hero or Wii on the first meeting of the month. This program is held out-of-doors, weather permitting! Teen Liaison Betsy Dalton also facilitates other weekly teen programs, where crafts, activities, and games are presented.

The Chess Club continues to meet on Thursday evenings. Department Systems Aide Hondo Aguilar facilitates these events and sets up a display of chess-related books, periodicals, and media items.

Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz arranged for the Seguir Adelante Community Center to come to San Pedro Library on April 29 to provide various information brochures on job training and upcoming workshops for the patrons and to present an Interviewing Skills Workshop at San Pedro Library on May 23.

Cynthia also arranged for the Cadence Cloggers Dance Troupe to perform at the Park Gazebo on May 16, as part of the celebration of Dance Month.

The Women's Literature Group will meet on May 19 to discuss *Suite Francaise*. The group is facilitated by patron Nicole Provencher.

### Training

Recognizing that ongoing training is essential to serving our patrons, staff members took advantage of various training opportunities. On May 7 Branch Manager Michael Kaminski and Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton attended a presentation given by Dr. Joseph Janes from the University of Washington Information School on *Rethinking the Library*.

### Committees

San Pedro staffers continue to serve on various library committees. Branch Manager Michael Kaminski heads up the Floating Collections Committee and serves on the Library Design and Construction Committee; Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton serves on the Children's Cataloging Committee, Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz serves on the Adult Programming and "Be One in a Million" Committees; Library Assistant Sherrie Bossert serves on the Idea Team; and Branch Department Systems Aide Alejandro Aguilar serves on the Staff Development Day Committee.

### **Semmes**

The Semmes Library hosted Early Voting for the May 9 Municipal Election. Turnout was steady, though not as busy as the November Presidential Election. Because of early voting, all regularly scheduled programs were moved out of the meeting room and into the branch. Both Semmes' staff and patrons adjusted well to the move, but all are glad to have the use of the meeting room again. Election Day was fairly slow at the branch, although the Reference desk did a brisk business in providing information for patrons on where to vote.

Two new displays are up in the branch, thanks to Children's Services Librarian Carrie Vance. One display is devoted to gardening and features some beautiful sunflowers. The other display is for "Get Caught Reading!" This display features pictures of staff reading their favorite books. Librarian I Oscar González assisted with this display by taking all of the pictures.

The Semmes Friends hosted a book sale on May 16. The Friends group worked really hard beforehand to pull off a successful sale. Recently, the Friends purchased a new paperback rack spinner for the Young Adult paperbacks. This will free up some room for the branch's growing Teen manga collection. The Friends also purchased some new Wii games for the Teen Game Nights at the branch. To say thank you for all that the Semmes Friends do, library staff hosted a potluck luncheon for the Friends on May 11. Five members of the Friends were group were able to attend, and everyone enjoyed the time together eating and chatting.

The Semmes branch continued to host five book groups in the month of May. Anyone interested in Classics, Jane Austen, Science Fiction/Fantasy, True Crime or Literary Fiction/Non-Fiction is welcome to come out and join one of the clubs. The Yu-Gi-Oh club also meets bi-monthly and is well attended by neighborhood teens.

### **Thousand Oaks**

The air conditioning has been replaced and the staff is very happy about this since the hot summer months are coming up quickly. Staff members received training about how to use the new system.

Computer classes ended on May 2. The computer classes were very popular at Thousand Oaks, and many people arrived early for each class to make sure they were able to get a laptop. Patrons are already asking when Thousand Oaks will offer classes again.

Thousand Oaks celebrated Free Comic Book Day May 2 by giving away comic books to teens. Everyone who received a comic book was very excited! The comic books were donated by the store Heroes and Fantasies.

Thousand Oaks celebrated *Día de los niños/Día de los libros* on April 29. Children's Services Librarian Leslie Elsasser and Library Assistant Debra Lindenburg-Morrow performed a puppet show. After that, the children made peacock hats and colorful wreaths to celebrate the theme, *Fiesta de Colores*. Each child also received a bag of Skittles. About 40 people attended the event.

Leslie and Library Assistant Guillermo García participated in a Literacy Night at Serna Elementary School May 5. They talked to 97 people about the Summer Reading Program, and registered 26 people for new library cards!

Thousand Oaks was a polling location for the local elections May 9, and the library was open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the voters excited about San Antonio's future.

Librarian Jorge Chávez hosted the monthly book club on May 15. After years of having the book club on Tuesday evenings, Jorge changed the date to Thursday afternoons. The day and time change might attract more people to the group. This month they read *Eye Contact* by Cammie McGovern.

On May 24, the dance groups Sasparillas and Coming Attractions performed fiesta-themed dances for the public, in celebration of Dance Month.

### **The Tobin Library at Oakwell**

The Tobin Library at Oakwell welcomed early voters for the general election for the Mayor and all ten City Council Offices. Special thanks go to the Tobin staff for working flexible hours to accommodate the voting officials during early voting and on Election Day.

The U.S. Census Bureau has reserved the Tobin Library meeting room for another round of testing. The Census Bureau is recruiting supervisors for the 2010 Census.

Adult Services Librarian Monty Holcomb hosted a chess tournament for ages 18 and younger from May 11 through May 15. Participants registered for the tournament and played a series of games throughout the days. The participant with the most victories was awarded a chess clock as a prize. Many thanks go to the Friends of the Tobin Library for their generosity in providing prizes and chess sets for the tournaments.

On May 13 the Tobin Library bid farewell to part-time Library Assistant Allison St. Denis, who resigned to return to Maryland.

Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell held a very successful book sale on May 16. Book Sale Chair Pat DePasquale has organized several previously successful book sales. At the conclusion of the May 16 book sale, Ms. DePasquale stepped down as Book Sale Chair. The Tobin Library welcomes incoming Book Sale Chairperson Janet Goddard.

The branch hosted computer classes in cooperation with the Department of Community Initiatives during the month of May. The classes offered included Meet the Computer, Windows Desktop, Web Basics, Search the Web, Email I & II, Word I & II, and Excel I & II. As usual the public was very interested in these classes and the attendance was high.

### **Westfall**

Westfall was very pleased to host the monthly Board Meeting in May.

The Friends of Westfall Branch Library catered a wonderful Staff Appreciation lunch to recognize all the hard work of the staff. Employees wrote notes of appreciation to each other for weeks beforehand and the letters were given out during the luncheon. It was nice for everyone to hear just how much they are valued.

For the second year, more than 25 people attended a kite-making workshop, and afterward, many of them took their creations outside and flew them. Many thanks to the windy weather for cooperating! Robert García presented a workshop for seniors on reverse mortgages, and several people took part in the Hepburn Festival watching and discussing some of Audrey Hepburn's all-time best movies. In conjunction with Asian-Pacific Month, two separate yoga workshops were held, and were very well received. Plans to continue these classes are underway. Children and families enjoyed a visit from the Scholastic Literacy Van where they heard stories and created several different art projects. A special Mother's Day craft brought many a smile to the moms and grandmas who attended the program. It was a colorful day indeed for children as they celebrated *Día de los niños/Día de los libros*.

Both Children's Services Librarian Imelda Merino and Teen Services Liaison (and Branch Manager) Cheryl Sheehan are gearing up for Summer Reading by visiting schools to promote the programs. For the first year, Westfall will have a reading club for adults as well, and plans for the "Feast on Books" are being solidified.

Imelda was invited to be the keynote speaker at a Parent-Child Incorporated graduation, and has also been attending several other school nights, such as awards ceremonies and parent organization meetings. Cheryl visited with the school librarian at Jefferson High School to begin a partnership with the school as well as to stir up excitement for next year's Big Read.

Plans for the renovation project at the branch have begun in earnest with staff being able to select carpet choices and furniture. Everyone is very excited about the new look that will be accomplished at the branch in the very near future!