



San Antonio Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2013

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On Sunday, January 27, Library Director Ramiro Salazar delivered a presentation on the Library to the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library during their Annual Board Meeting. The presentation focused on the accomplishments of the Library system over the past five years.

On Tuesday, January 29, the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Latino Leadership for the Library (L3) Committee hosted a breakfast for nationally-known political cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz. Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the event as a guest of the Library Foundation.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Capital Improvement Services Director Mike Frisbie met with Councilwoman Elisa Chan (District 9) on Friday, February 1 to discuss the new District 9 Branch Library funded in the 2012 City of San Antonio Bond Program.

On Monday February 5, Ramiro Salazar met with Councilwoman Ivy Taylor (District 2) to provide an update on the new District 2 Branch Library funded in the 2012 City of San Antonio Bond Program and an update on the parking lot renovation at the Carver Branch Library.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with District 6 Councilman Ray Lopez on February 12 to provide an update on the library site funded in the 2012 City of San Antonio Bond Program.

On Friday, February 15, Councilman Diego Bernal (District 1) hosted a State of Downtown Luncheon. Library Board Chair Jean Brady, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Executive Assistant Jessica Ramos attended the luncheon.

On Saturday, February 16, Ramiro Salazar served as the emcee for the dedication ceremony for the South Courtyard of the Mission Branch Library. The South Courtyard was dedicated in memory of Monsignor Balthasar Janacek. The Honorable Leticia Ozuna, Councilwoman for District 3, The Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller, Archbishop of San Antonio; Father David Garcia, Administrator of the San Antonio Missions and Ms. Kay Vajdos, niece of the late Monsignor Janacek delivered remarks during the dedication ceremony.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Working with partners who share SAPL's commitment to the children of San Antonio was the focus of much activity for Children's Coordinator Viki Ash during the last month.

- The San Antonio Children's Museum, which will be opening at its new location in 2015, requested the library's partnership on an IMLS grant submitted in January. If funded, the grant will support the creation of prototype, family literacy exhibits for the museum with testing to be completed, in part, at library locations.
- Viki is also working with Jeanne Russell in the Mayor's Office to coordinate summer reading efforts underway at HEB and Scholastic Book Fairs. A working committee has been formed to identify ways in which the three initiatives can work cooperatively rather than competitively.
- P16 Plus of Greater Bexar County has identified summer learning as one of its four areas of focus. Happily, the staff of P16Plus is aware of the role the library plays in this realm and SAPL has been invited to participate as a Strategic Partner.
- In keeping with the city-wide focus on revitalization of the East Side, the library is working with East Side Promise Neighborhood staff and the principals of Bowden and Washington Elementary schools on two initiatives:
 - Library card sign-up campaigns targeted second grade will kick-off in March
 - Special family day events that partner Bowden with Central Children and Washington with Carver are planned in May.

Partnerships, however, are not the only focus of attention for Children's Services. Several internal initiatives have also been moving forward.

- The Young Pegasus judges are hard at work determining which poems will be included in the 2013 Anthology.
- Early Literacy efforts this month included participation in Councilman Saldana's Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair on February 9. LRW staffer Cori Sanchez presented a training session while Viki distributed Every Child Ready to Read posters and brochures at the library's resource fair. Additionally, library staff participated in the KLRN Family Literacy event at South Park Mall on February 2.

Thanks to Cataloger Katie Enright and Central Children's staff, five Lego Club Kits are now available for use at Kids Time and Tween Time programs. Betsy Dalton, San Pedro, is already reporting a very enthusiastic response from attendees at her first Lego Club gathering

LITTLE READ WAGON

During this reporting period, Little Read Wagon staff was busy with all the usual programs. In addition, Corinne Sanchez and Xelena Gonzalez offered an early writing development workshop for the staff of the Navarro and Fox Tech child development centers. The workshop for the child care staff completed the circle of support for the families served by the child development centers. Both locations also receive monthly youth outreach story time visits. The parents of the children enrolled at these centers are students at Navarro Academy and Fox Tech High School. The parents participate in early literacy workshops presented by Xelena Gonzalez.

On January 22 Little Read Wagon staff, along with Children's Librarians Kate Sandoval and Amy Thorne, met with Jenny Garcia of United Way's Eastside Promise Neighborhood (EPN) initiative. Ms. Garcia shared information about the project goals and the work that has been done. Staff shared with Ms. Garcia about the library's efforts in the area. Ms. Garcia was pleased to know that the library is already offering so much in the EPN.

Yet another "Most Important MARKS: Early writing development" workshop was offered on January 26. However, this workshop was presented entirely in Spanish by Martha Wichy and Liliana Ornelas with support from Julia Lazarin. Participants were excited to have the opportunity to receive all the content of the workshop in Spanish and freely converse with colleagues in their primary language

Cresencia Huff attended the San Antonio and Bexar County Head Start Language and Literacy Conference on January 25. The guest speaker was Dr. Ray Reutzler, who led the group through a discussion of leadership and evidence-based practices in early literacy. Conference participants received a compilation of resources to inform their early literacy practice.

Corinne Sanchez presented an early literacy break-out session to child care providers at the City Council District 4 "A City for Kids" Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair. The event was held at Palo Alto College and the session was full of eager participants.

Very well-attended Play & Learn programs were completed at the Johnston and Tobin branch libraries. Play & Learn programs began at the Woodlawn Community Room and Westfall branch library the week of February 11.

MARKETING

The Marketing Department coordinated the dedication of the Mission Branch Courtyard on February 16. Archbishop Gustavo Siller, Father David Garcia and Councilwoman Leticia Ozuna spoke at the event. Over 75 persons were in attendance, including several members of Monsignor Janacek's family.

Recent project includes the Boom Exhibit which is continuing through February 22. Libro the Lion made two appearances at Tobin Branch and an appearance at the Children's Shelter 5k Run.

Current projects include the SAPL re-brand (contract currently under review and scheduled to be presented to City Council on March 7), Valero van wrap design, monthly Bookmarks redesign, Summer

Reading materials, Holocaust Exhibit promotions, monthly online newsletters, SAPL brochure, promotional material for the Children's Department—Barnyard Buddies, promotional material for Women's History Month events and other projects as necessary.

Regular public and media communications is also taking place.

Social Media:

SAPL hit 4,400 Likes on Facebook in January. The SAPL Twitter feed is also getting regular responses and re-Tweets.

TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Off-Site Service

Teen Services continues to host teen programs at the new Woodlawn Lake Community Center Room. The programs take place every Wednesday from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Full-time Teen Services staff members host their own programs on a rotating basis. Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II) hosts an Anime/Manga program; Brooke Ballard (Librarian I) hosts a Science program; Regina Almanza (Library Assistant) hosts a craft program; J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant) hosts his Eclectic Electric guitar program.

System-Wide Support

J.D. Elizondo continued taking his Eclectic Electric guitar/keyboard program "on the road." He hosted the music program for teens at Thousand Oaks, Mission and Great Northwest in January and at Igo in February. J.D. will continue to bring Eclectic to branches that sign up for the program for their teens.

Partnerships

Kathleen Fordyce continues to coordinate the Inspire U luncheons, in which "Bigs" (library staff) meet with their "Littles" (8th-graders from Twain Middle School) on a monthly basis at the Central Library. In addition, each month Big Brothers Big Sisters provide an educational activity for Bigs and Littles to participate in during the lunch hour.

Professional Development

Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard attended the American Library Association's (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, WA January 24 – 29. As the intern for ALA's Training, Orientation and Leadership Development (TOLD) Committee, she attended TOLD's meeting, presented during TOLD's Intern Training, and met with TOLD members outside of designated meeting times to plan an upcoming webinar for ALA interns. Brooke also attended a number of meetings hosted by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) in order to become more involved in the inner-workings of that ALA division. She networked with a variety of librarians, administrators and consultants from across the country while there as well.

During the Midwinter Meeting, Brooke was also asked to help conduct and plan an upcoming webinar for interns (hosted by TOLD), which will be held on Friday, February 22 at 12 noon CST. During the reporting period, Brooke collaborated—from a distance—with ALA staff and ALA/TOLD members from all over the country, participated in several virtual meetings and conference calls, created original content and materials for the webinar, and met deadlines for submitting materials and an outline of her part of the presentation. A practice of the webinar will be held on Friday, February 15 at 1 p.m. CST.

Teen Services Librarian/Liaison Meeting

Teen Services Librarians and Teen Liaisons met for their monthly meeting at Central on February 13. A representative from Tutor.com provided training for the group on how to use the service and what the service offers for teens and their parents.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Children's Department bid a fond farewell to Clair Larkin who was promoted to Librarian II at Landa Library where she will begin leading children's programming. In her time at Central, Ms. Larkin led Toddler Time programs which were always well attended and also was the fearless leader for the regularly visiting Friday groups from Central Christian and Green Acres Child Care Centers. Ms. Larkin's last week at Central was marked with a staff Potluck where the Children's team enjoyed a plethora of baked goods.

Little Read Wagon and Children's Services staff met with Eastside Promise Neighborhood (ESPN) leader Jenny Garcia. Ms. Garcia is the Early Education Associate for ESPN and discussed possible connections between the library and the ESPN community. In this meeting the attendees identified the schools and child care centers in the area needing SAPL Outreach and discussed ways in which they can meet those needs. Both SAPL and ESPN participants were happy to discover SAPL was already serving many of the locations. Research-driven field trips to the Carver and Central Libraries were identified as a new initiative for ESPN schools, with Kate Sandoval (Librarian II) serving as Central Library's contact for this endeavor, and Amy Thorne (Librarian II) serving as Carver's representative.

Ms. Sandoval also visited Briscoe Academy for an Outreach visit which produced a great partnership between the school and the library and an opportunity to share the wealth of materials SAPL has to offer. Ms. Sandoval also was able to "booktalk" several graphic novels, popular chapter books, as well as introduce the concept of audiobooks for reluctant readers, as well as for pleasure reading. Ms. Sandoval did card sign-ups and will also return to Briscoe to promote Summer Reading which may also include a trip to the Central Library.

Ms. Sandoval and Children's Department manager Ruth Chiego led a tour of teachers and their sixth grade students from SA Country Day Montessori School. The students were working on their Model UN Projects. Ms. Chiego prepared a detailed pathfinder for the group to ensure they could easily work on their projects at the Library, at school or at home. Many of SAPL's databases were identified for use, especially *Opposing Viewpoints*. The tour was so successful it warranted a lovely thank you note (below) from former SAPL staff member Cristina Abbenante who is now a librarian with Country Day.

"I have heard nothing but positive comments and excitement from the students about the research field trip you two organized for Country Day Montessori School. I was unable to attend with them, but they have relayed all that they learned and how much they enjoyed the time they spent at Central Library.

We are using the Pathfinder you created to do more database training here at school for the students who will attend the Montessori Model United Nations in April. I do believe you both went above and beyond in planning and executing this library experience. You certainly had an impact on the students and they've obtained knowledge that will serve them for years to come.

*Thank you!
Cristina Abbenante, MLIS
San Antonio Country Day Montessori School"*

The entire Children's Department staff participated in training and welcoming new Librarian I Shannon Seglin. Seglin joined the Department for two days before she went to her home branch, Semmes, to work with Randi Jones (Librarian II). In other training news, Nohemi Lopez-Rosdahl (Librarian II, Collection Development) updated the Department staff on Title Source III. Manager, Ruth Chiego, has begun working on updating the wish lists for system wide juvenile graphic novel holdings with Ms. Lopez-Rosdahl. The training will also help the Department staff with their work in assisting Collection Development with system-wide ordering projects such as item replacements and booklists related to summer reading. Ms. Sandoval also received Central Library Safety training and will be sharing the

information she learned with the Children's Department team at the next staff meeting.

Baby Time began in January at Central Library for a winter session debut. Attendance has been small but spirited. The program, led by Manager Ruth Chiego has also been a training opportunity for Ms. Sandoval who is new to programming for the youngest library visitors. While Baby Time will not continue in the spring, the Children's Department staff is hopeful that Baby Time could become successful with a later, summer debut.

Ariel Cummins (Librarian I) shared her Play & Learn talents with visitors to the Woodlawn Community Center. The dinosaur-themed program was led by Ms. Cummins and Children's Services Coordinator, Viki Ash, who went on an Outreach visit there as part of SAPL's partnership with the new Center. Ms. Cummins has also taken on full leadership of Central Library's thriving Toddler Time group due to the aforementioned promotion of Ms. Larkin. Ms. Cummins has not missed a beat and is already adored by her toddling audience.

The librarians on the Children's Department team received an updated training from Tutor.com along with the rest of the Children's Services staff at February's system wide meeting which was held at Central. In addition to the training, the meeting reconvened in the Story Room at Central where updates were shared including Committee reports from Ms. Chiego who is Chair of the Children's Services Cataloging Issues and Summer Programming Committees.

The Children's Services Cataloging Issues Committee has been revamped for 2013 and is made up of five children's librarians who discuss cataloging problems brought forward system wide in regards to juvenile items. Also on the Committee are Nohemi Lopez-Rosdahl (Librarian II, Collection Development), Beverly Wrigglesworth (Librarian II, Johnston), Arlene Richardson-Gibbs (Librarian II, Guerra), and Leslie Elsasser (Librarian II, Thousand Oaks). The Committee dealt with a list of over 140 items during the January meeting, and now the list is down to less than twenty items. New items are added weekly and reviews of the list are being done continually.

The Summer Reading Programming Committee primarily focuses on Kids Time program offerings for the summer, directly geared at school age children. The group is currently working on program agendas for twelve unique programs to occur in June – July of 2013. The theme of the Summer Reading Club is "Dig into Reading," so topics such as underwater archaeology, root systems, and caves will be explored. The Committee also carefully considers the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) which are determined by the TEA (Texas Education Agency), therefore the team ensures that each topic selected, and program plan proposed, enhances key areas of the TEA's learning tenants and strategies. The work involved is worth it as it often leads the team towards a deeper development and understanding of the themes, making it easier to have more comprehensive understanding of the topics. Committee members this year also include Kate Sandoval, Ariel Cummins, Valerie Shelley (Librarian II, Forest Hills), Troy Lawrence (Librarian II, Pruitt), and Katy Brown (Librarian II, McCreless).

DIGITAL SERVICES

During the last week of January and early February, Digital Services participated in the first round of testing for the Virtual Desktop initiative. Sarah Carolan conducted LibGuide training on Jan 31st for 2 employees. On February 7, Rolf Laun and Sarah Carolan conducted the first series of user testing for changes to the patron hold page in the WebPAC.

OUTREACH

School visits kept the bookmobile on the road this month: Roosevelt Elementary was visited on Jan. 25, Region 20 was visited on February 1, and Stafford Elementary was visited on February 8. The bookmobile also participated in the Iowa Street Renovation Fair, and Ramona Lucius spoke to the PTO at Arnold Elementary on January 23 about the 5 in 5 Adult Reading Challenge, which asks Bexar County adults to read any 5 books between January 1 and March 31. The reading challenge is sponsored by the Friends of San Antonio Public Library and falls under the programming umbrella of the Lifelong Learning Committee.

REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Central Reference is hosting a new type of programming with its volunteer-led Job Club. Attendees form a networking group that shares contacts, information, and skills with each other. In partnership with the Veterans Administration, library staff member Ronee Anderson also presented two programs for veterans during this period. "I always sit with my back to the wall", hosted by author and PTSD psychiatrist Dr. Croft, taught veterans and their families skills for coping with PTSD and combat trauma.

In addition, Central Reference continues to focus on reaching out into the community with its bimonthly sessions at Goodwill Job Readiness Training, monthly New Employee Experience for new City employees, and regular job fairs.

TEEN SERVICES

Weekly Programs

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): On January 27, J.D. hosted his Eclectic Electric music program for teens, followed by a game that introduced the teens to improvising comedy (keeping in line with Eclectic Electric delving further into the arts). On February 4, after the music program the teens made dream journals, possibly to be followed up at a later date with a dream discussion program. On February 11, the teens made gothic valentines after the Eclectic Electric program. J.D. has observed that several teens who participate in the program are developing a strong sense of accomplishment in their music playing. Teens are teaching each other more than ever, as well as trying to accompany each other musically and video-recording themselves playing songs.

Tuesdays with Brooke Ballard (Librarian I): Brooke oversaw regular weekly programs for teens, such as game nights and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math-based activities.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): Wednesdays are gaming nights, and teens choose the video and/or board game they would like to play. On February 13, teens expressed their creativity by making cute paper cubee crafts with a Valentine's theme, such as a "love machine" and a "ninja of love."

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Peer interaction and encouragement, creative expression and friendly competition rank high on Thursday nights. During this reporting period, teens decorated the Teen Services area on January 17 by making decals out of fabric and ironing them to the wall. They also created 'art' using round candies on January 24. Teens learned an oldie but goodie craft, string art on January 31. Since February is National Cherry Month, teens celebrated by making mini-Pop Tarts on February 7. For a teen-suggested Valentine's Day program on February 14, teens made heart-shaped foods out of edible items on hand. After each program, teens requested use of a gaming system where they engaged in quick decision making and testing hand-eye coordination. Pictures from some select Thursday night programs (as well as other fantastic SAPL teen programs around the system) are on Teen Services' Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.

Monthly Anime and Manga Club: Two Teen Services volunteers, Megan and Archie, plan and implement their own monthly anime and manga clubs. They both prepare crafts and create promotional materials to market their programs.

Tours and Groups

On January 24, 23 high-school students from Jourdanton High School received a tour of the library from J.D. and a Teen Services Department overview and catalog and database instruction from Kathleen. On January 25, 35 high-school students from Longfellow Middle School received a tour of the library from Regina and a Teen Services Department overview and catalog and database instruction from Kathleen.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY

The San Antonio Regional Archivists met at the University of the Incarnate Word on Friday, 25 January. Texana/Genealogy was represented by Matt DeWaelche and Andrew Crews. At the election of new officers, Mr. Crews was elected vice-president of the group.

Debbie Countess presented our monthly computer class on "Ancestry, Library Edition" in the Training

Room on 5 February. It was a good group with twelve attendees.

On 12 February, this semester's Methods of Historical Research class from Texas A&M University-San Antonio met in Texana/Genealogy. The class of Dr. William Bush, the head of the History Department, is designed to review varying types of primary source documents and write a semester paper based on an historical topic using primary sources. Faulkner brought out examples such as newspapers, photograph albums, maps, government documents, archival collections, and other items. The group was given a tour of the department and then the class reviewed the items, filled out a question sheet on the items, and then discussed what they found and how they could be used in writing a paper. The group will return next week.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

BAZAN

The Express Collection debuted on February 1, with Graphic Novels and Young Adult titles catching the eye of most customers. DVDs were received last week, and those are doing a brisk circulation.

Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen conducted her monthly day care center visits to Avance (Frank Garrett), and met with her book club students at Margil and Crockett elementary schools. She also presented weekly Monday afternoon Family Fun sessions.

The spring semester of the Citizenship classes offered by *Academia America* began on Feb. 4, with 13 students.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program began on January 28. Staff developed a plan for dealing with the crowds, and in coordination with the site director have had no issues. During weekly sessions, volunteers assisted an average of 44 persons; that total jumped to 50 on the weekend. While attendance has begun to taper off, the start of the program saw daily crowds of 80 or more waiting in line, only to be told that the program was full for the day. Customers expressed their displeasure with this, but an explanation (assistance depends on the number of volunteers on hand each day) by the site director usually sufficed.

Due to low enrollment, the CoSA *Lunch and Learn* Spring semester session was cancelled. This program, in partnership with San Antonio College, offers employees the opportunity to work towards an Associates Degree in Business Administration. Classes are held T/Th during the lunch hour.

BROOK HOLLOW

The Brook Hollow staff is pleased to welcome Debye Nicholl, who is now serving as the assistant branch manager.

On Feb 4 and 11 Brook Hollow hosted an African American Heritage Month program presented by Dr. William C. Davis. Dr. Davis is a local scientist, inventor, and professor. Audience members of all ages enjoyed his stories about his life and experiences. In addition to the presentations, Brook Hollow is also showcasing a display of historical memorabilia related to African American heritage.

CARVER

During January, the branch celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a display of materials detailing his efforts to achieve human rights. On Jan.19, San Antonio Express-News columnist Frederick Williams delivered the library's fifth annual MLK Memorial Lecture. The lecture was a joint venture between the Friends of Carver Library and the branch. Carver Friends Treasurer Shirley Davis presented Mr. Williams with a certificate of appreciation. Secretary Shirley Coleman presented the speaker's gift.

In honor of African-American History Month, the Carver Branch featured a collection of postcards featuring African-Americans who made contributions in the arts and sciences as well as civil rights. The

display was complemented by materials that also told the story of African-American achievement.

San Antonio native Laura Kraus, employed by Austin Public Library, demonstrated techniques for making inexpensive, yet tasteful crafts that could be shared as Valentine's Day gifts and keepsakes. The event, held on Feb. 11, attracted 16 children and adults.

DL Grant paid a visit to evening GED students at Sam Houston High School, where he promoted library services. He explained how databases, such as Tutor.com, offer opportunities to brush up on all types of academic subjects and also how the SAPL's Learning Express feature has practice tests geared toward a number of occupations. Public Service Manager Ronnie Delgado also sought to attract users to the library. On Feb. 13, he made an outreach visit to Washington Elementary, where he discussed services for children and their families.

Carver library continues to hold its regular Family Fun activities on Wednesdays. Building with straws and connectors and legos has been a huge hit with the children, having recently inspired quite a tower construction race! The tween regulars continue to enjoy more advanced craftwork on Tuesdays, most recently with beginning quilting. Children's librarian Amy Thorne made a visit on January 25 to the Martin Luther King Academy for the school's career day. Amy spoke with kids ranging from second to seventh grade about library services and what it's like to be a librarian.

Teens at Carver have been enjoying their Thursday nights at the library, sharing their interests—from crafts, art, computers and fandoms—with each other.

CODY

To celebrate the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr., children visiting Cody Library were given materials to create peace wreaths all week long from January 15 - 20. Their wreaths, which promoted peace among nations, were displayed in the children's area.

Students attending Tween Time on January 28 were so excited about the results of their art creations that they asked Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta, for an opportunity to do some more on another day. Their art products were displayed in a special area that Sheila designated "Tween Scene."

Sheila added a new day care facility to her outreach sites this month, the Pineapple School, which she visited on January 29, making that a total of eight centers for her monthly early literacy outreach.

Boone Elementary School Principal Carol Borcharding invited Sheila to visit with the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes on January 31. Sheila was asked to talk about poetry and poetry writing to each of the groups. She said it was a great opportunity to promote the annual Young Pegasus contest with the students.

Tweens indulged in Chocolate Bingo for Tween Time on February 4. Besides thinking of various items with chocolate, tweens also challenged one another to some chocolate anagrams. All participants received – what else?- Chocolate treats!

Snakes of all shapes and sizes were created, colored, papered, and displayed in celebration of the Chinese New Year - the Year of the Snake. Sheila provided several levels of crafts for toddlers to tweens on February 7. Approximately 50 patrons attended this craft event.

Beginner Readers Club members met on February 12, and participated in their first ever Readers' Theatre. After sharing some of their favorite reads from the last month, the young readers wrote titles of their favorite books on hearts that Sheila displayed in the beginning reader section.

Over 60 children and adults attended Cody's Valentine Come and Go crafts on February 13. Heart wreaths, cards, and Valentine butterflies were just a few of the Valentine crafts that children created for their parents and friends.

Cody Teens continued blogging about programs that happened at Cody Library. Teen Services Librarian

David Gallin-Parisi instructed teens on how to make blog posts, and then the teens had at it. They posted short videos about making minty fresh peppermint ice cream and creating salty hearts using coffee filters and kosher salt. This suggests how quick teens are at learning social media technology, and speaking with their voices to showcase happenings at Cody Library.

A popular teen-centric display was about the effects of drinking too much soda. It features polar bears drinking copious amounts of cola. Items on display provided people with information about diabetes and other soda-drinking health issues. The materials checked out with quickness, perhaps to the relevant subject matter and the combination of the polar bears' cuteness and sadness. Teen Services Librarian David Gallin-Parisi is psyched to include input from teen volunteers on upcoming displays.

Once again, Cody is hosting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, which provides free help with filing income tax returns for those people with incomes of \$55,000 or less. With the delayed start of the tax season on January 30, demand for this service has remained very high so far. This year, Cody is hosting VITA five days a week for a total of 29 hours per week.

Reference staff members have noticed a recent increase in the number of questions being asked about downloading ebooks to tablets. Luckily the Overdrive App on the Nook Tablet and other devices has made it easier than ever to download library ebooks. Next month, Cody will begin offering eReader one-to-one help by appointment only to ensure the best possible customer service for patrons seeking help with downloading library ebooks to their devices.

COLLINS GARDEN

The Collins Garden children's area is celebrating the many events that take place in late winter. Branch staff members created displays honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and African-American History Month. Additionally, children's books on Valentine's Day are on display as well as a variety of new books that Collins Garden has recently received. The rodeo is also being celebrated with a display on cowboys, horses, and all matters Western.

Circulation Attendant Jessica F. Salas continues to make use of her creative talents by decorating the glass block across from the circulation desk—lots of hearts for Valentine's Day and a pot of coins and shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day. Her creativity has livened up the visual appeal of the building.

Also, Jessica created a fun craft project for Valentine's Day, which attracted seventeen participants. One little girl told Jessica that this was her first time visiting Collins Garden and she liked the fun craft and the help she needed to make the "Bee Mine" bumblebee.

Staff members at Collins Garden continue to report that they are often offered compensation for the help that they provide customers who are using the computers. The employees thank the customers and, of course, refuse the offer of money, telling them that computer assistance is a free service provided by the Library System.

CORTEZ

Repairs and improvements to Cortez Branch Library began on February 7. The work scheduled to be done includes interior painting, dry wall repair, installation of an electric water heater, and the removal of gas water heater, installation of new ceiling tiles, leveling of the ground to prevent water damage to the building and installation of new kitchen cabinets.

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed a popular Valentine's Day display promoting library programming and books.

African-American Heritage DVDs, adult and juvenile biographies, bookmarks, and a calendar of events were featured in our popular media display for the month of February.

Cortez continued to offer its weekly Teen Time program on Thursdays. Loyal patrons regularly attend this

program, which offers teens a chance to play video games, use the Internet on laptops, participate in craft activities, and socialize with friends. The teenagers especially appreciate the snacks and refreshments provided by the Friends of Cortez Library. On average, around 9-12 teenagers attended this program. Library Assistant, Jo Ann Paredes, designed an eye catching display promoting Young Adult reading.

Cortez also continued to offer its regular slate of programming for adults: Yoga and ESL. The weekly yoga classes remain extremely popular. Attendance for our Saturday ESL classes has steadily increased.

Cortez continued its regular slate of programming for children: Story Time and Tween Time on Wednesdays and Family Fun on Tuesdays. The library also sponsors a monthly family movie screening. Children and their families enjoyed these programs and expressed their appreciation for them. In addition, we are offering two new popular monthly programs for children and teens. Our Children's Librarian Connie Hejl has organized a LEGO club and a Teen Brony/Anime Club.

FOREST HILLS

The Forest Hills Branch has been a popular destination since the branch's remodel in December. Patrons continue to express their appreciation of the improvements and children have begun to actively explore their newly designed area. The second round of furniture arrived in mid January. New computer task chairs have provided patrons with a more comfortable seating option, and new tables and chairs in the Children's area have created more spaces for doing homework or reading.

Adult Services

Forest Hills continues hosting Project Linus, the non-profit organization that makes hand made blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children. On Feb 15, Project Linus will be part of Make a Blanket Day! Forest Hills will welcome "blanketeers" from all over the city for the occasion.

A Star Party was held, but cloudy weather interfered with the ability to use telescopes outside to view the heavens. Instead, the San Antonio Astrological Association made a presentation about amateur astronomy, the SAAA, and their telescopes. Patrons were very interested in the large telescopes that were brought in for display.

Two new regular programs began in February, Qigong for adults and the Singles Book Club for those in the 30 to 50 age range. So far, the Qigong class is attracting enthusiastic patrons, and the Book Club has received attention from interested readers.

The Ladies Book Club and Knitting Circle decided to change the nature of the two groups and combine the audience for a group newly named as the Chit Chat Club. This club will meet every third Thursday of the month to explore different topics and discuss books, movies, recipes, music, travel, family life, and other interesting subjects. Manager Mary Naylor will facilitate this group and provide library materials to connect to the numerous topics of interest.

Forest Hills received a visit from Amy Fulkerson, from the Witte Museum. Ms. Fulkerson has agreed to loan a circus themed exhibition that recently closed at the Witte to Forest Hills starting in late May or early June. The exhibit will be of interest to all ages.

Forest Hills Branch is pleased to have received the generous gift of large scale art reproductions from the Southwest Research Institute. The Institute displays much of the original art work collected by Tom Slick, founder of the Institute. Three paintings by Alan Davie, were reproduced, to scale, in the Institute's own print shop and given to Forest Hills to display against the newly paint walls of the Library. The Southwest Research Institute has been a great friend to the Library and co-sponsored programs, like the *Space for Everyone* event from 2012.

Community Services

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) has been using the branch meeting room since January 28 to provide free income tax preparation services to individuals and families with an income of \$55,000 or less. This is a very popular and valuable service to the surrounding community. Large

numbers of individuals have been patiently waiting in line each morning to sign up to have their taxes prepared.

Children's Services

Story Time has had a variety of new children come during the past month. This month's theme centered on exploring emotions.

Tween Time is a rip-roaring good time with the 9 – 12 year olds. They enjoy the video games, using laptops to finish homework, and creating projects of various types. The tweens made Valentine invitations to come to Tween Time to give to other students at their schools. They also designed quilt squares to donate to the Linus Project. The squares will be sewn into a quilt that will be given to comfort a child who has experienced a traumatic event.

Teen Services

Valerie Shelley is working with Teen Services to provide Teen Time for teenagers in the area. Participation has remained consistent over the past few weeks. Critical thinking games captivate this audience and bring lots of laughter.

Outreach

After a story time, Circle North and Children's Summit Learning Center children were provided with books on the topics on farm animals. Valerie Shelley led the story time for both centers while Mary Naylor, library manager, took an extra set of books to Children's Summit Learning Center at the end of January.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Adult

Patricia Soderberg, Librarian II, assisted with weeding both the adult fiction and the media.

Patti attended the Lifelong Learning Committee Meeting on January 16 to discuss the 5 in 5 program and the Adult Summer Reading Program.

Children

Story Time

Children enjoyed hearing Valentine's Day Stories and making a Valentine's Day Wreath for their family. Children participated in a parade that took them from the Children's department to the Reference area.

Events

The San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees met on January 23. The Friend of the Great Northwest Library funded the refreshments.

Staff

Cindy Moreno, Adult Services Librarian, returned from her maternity leave. Her daughter, Lone Sixta, is three months old.

Teens

Nicole Garza, GNW Library Assistant, and J.D. Elizondo, Central Library Assistant, presented an Eclectic Electric Teen Program to customers at the end of January with great success. Nicole teaches them how to play acoustic guitar and J.D. teaches the teenagers how to play electric guitar.

The Anti-Valentine's Day Party had a group of seven attendees.

Training

Nicole Garza and Cindy Moreno attended the Holdings Editor training with Barbara Lujan and Katie Enright @ Central Library.

GUERRA

VITA provided tax preparation assistance to 362 members of the community during the reporting period.

On January 24, Branch Manager Dexter Katzman attended COLS in the morning and four hours of personnel training in the afternoon. He and Guerra Friends President Delores Huber joined Rich Walker, Cheryl Sheehan, Mark Loiselle, all from Administration, Troy Hoyles, Branch Manager at Thousand Oaks, and Charity Gallardo, Branch Manager at Brook Hollow for a meeting and tour at the Texas Wilson Company on January 16. The Guerra Friends have agreed to fund new chairs and the visit allowed Delores and Dexter to review options. He was the PFIC (pancake flipper in charge) at the Cowboy Breakfast on February 1, dispensing over 120 pancakes. He attended the Safety Security Work Group meeting on February 6.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo planned and presented an eReader training to at the Air Force Village Retirement Community. Monica attended the Meadow Village Neighborhood Association meeting January 22; she noted the availability of VITA services and marketed other Guerra programs to the participants. On February 5, she hosted a presentation by UTSA Senior Lecturer Karen Dodwell and several of her students entitled "Love and Money in the Novels of Jane Austen." On February 12 Monica attended the Live Well, Age Smart meeting at Pan American Branch Library. Later that day, she presented a "Perfect Your Resume and Ace the Interview" session. On February 14 Monica presented the Thursday Evening Book Club; the group discussed *Ladies of the Field: Early Women Archaeologists and Their Search for Adventure* by Amanda Adams.

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs presented thirteen in-house programs: three Toddler Times, three Story Times, one Discovery Time, One Play and Learn, and five Come and Go Crafts. On January 18, she presented Story Times to 44 children at Greatest Gift Daycare Centre. On January 25, she presented Story Times to 76 children at Lackland Village Headstart and to 48 at Temple of Praise Early Childhood Center. On February, Arlene attended a Tutor.com training presented by Susan Del Rosario. On February 15, she presented Story Times to 80 children at Lackland Village Headstart.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson a career-day presentation to five first-grade classes at Mary Hull Elementary on January 25. That afternoon, he spoke about libraries and literacy at Cable Elementary; the even was sponsored by Hispa, a non-profit that supports Hispanic education, educators, and students. He gave fifth graders an overview of the process of becoming a librarian. At the Club de Lectura, moderated by Mr. Jackson, the group discussed *La cabaña* (The Shack) by William P. Young on January 31. On February 3, he set up a display about Valentines Day with books about love and relationships. The following day, he recorded *A qué sabe la luna* (What does the moon taste like?) by Michael Grejniec translated from German by Carmen Barrera for dial-a-story in Spanish. On February 8, he attended the Supervisor Essentials class.

Teen Liaison Kenneth Perez held Game-Ra events on January 17, 24, and February 7. Teens played against one another on the PS3 and Nintendo Wii. They set up tables and played card games. On January 31, Kenneth held a craft activity and a planning session for the next Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament scheduled for February 28. He attended a Tutor.com training session February 13. On February 14, Kenneth held a movie night. The teens were treated to popcorn and refreshments while watching *The Dark Knight Rises*.

Library Assistant Leticia Guerra oversaw and completed an inventory of CDs, DVDs, and audio books for the branch. Missing items were deleted from the system, making it easier for patrons and staff to rely on catalog information when search for media items. Completion of the project by the deadline would not have been possible with help from Librarians Monica Bustillo, Arlene Richardson-Gibbs, and Stephen Jackson, Library Assistant Kenneth Perez, Circulation Attendants Aurora Hernandez, David Alvarez, Maria Elena Rodriguez, and Anna Phanphongsa, and Library Aide Corinna Cabeza.

IGO

Igo continues to promote programming for adults, seniors, children, and teens drawing on a captive audience. This month Igo started offering a series of e-Reader Clinics on Saturdays and the attendance

has shown an audience for this type of programs—10 customers attended the eReader Clinic on January 29. Also the Igo Speaker Series which is popular with our customers had an informative program about crop circles presented by Dr. Jonathan De Vierville—10 adults attended this program.

JOHNSTON

Beverly Wrigglesworth partnered with Play and Learn throughout the series, reading stories at each session. She represented the Library at Career Day at Mary Michael Elementary School. She talked to children in two classes about being a librarian. She brought her puppet and demonstrated how she shows parents different rhymes and bounces to do with babies. She also visited the Valley Hi I Head Start. She shared Valentine's stories with four classes.

Teen Liaison Christina Martinez presented a number of programs for teens— they had movie nights and gaming nights; made crafts for Martin Luther King Day (dream catchers); decorated Valentine's Day boxes and made friendship bead bracelets for Valentine's Day.

The branch was one of the first locations to begin accepting payment for fines with credit cards. The process has been fairly smooth. Customers "appreciate" that they can use this new pay method to pay for fines and fees.

Diane Backhus, Christina Martinez, Daniel Blancas, Vida Leal Salas, Margie Esparza all helped with the media inventories that were conducted throughout January. Ms Martinez compiled all the data and reported to Haley Holmes.

The branch also opened the Express Collection on February 1. The most popular items have been the DVD's, teen books and children's books.

The branch is also preparing for an extensive renovation project to start in April. Diane Backhus and staff from Central met with representatives from Texas Wilson to start the design process for new service desks, and other new furniture for the library.

LANDA

Landa Teen Services continues with three weekly teen programs: Landa Teen Library Leadership Council, Tutoring for Young Children, and the Cool Kids Club. During the January 16-February 15 reporting period, Landa Teen Services included a fourth program that meets every two weeks called the Landa International Teen Club (LITC). The LITC is the second program initiated, managed and led by teen participation. The LITC program is an outlet for teens to explore other cultures and languages inside the library. On February 9, the Asian New Year Food Festival, led by the LITC, allowed teens to prepare and cook together as a family unit.

Blogging on the Teen Service's <http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/> has increased at Landa. There are now four teen bloggers that regularly blog at Landa: Maddie C. wrote blogs relating to the Tutoring for Young Children program, Teen Library Leadership Council and book reviews; Rubi G. who wrote blogs about the International Teen Club; and Andy C. and Shelby G. are two teens who created a Landa Teen online music presence as our official music bloggers. The music bloggers use an online music mix program called 8Tracks, Freegal and the library catalog in their posts.

The Landa Library Teen Leadership Council blogs include the "Intellectual Freedoms for Teens" during the ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom Sweater Vest Sunday and "Celebrate Culture!".

On February 2 there were several Landa Teen Library Leadership Council members who volunteered during the Landa Friends book sale. Teen volunteers created a donation jar that was used during the sale and it was highlighted on the Landa Friends Facebook page.

The Children's Programs continue to exhibit robust numbers as more and more families hear about the variety of opportunities at Landa for creative learning experiences for their children. Outgoing Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta had her last Book Club at Rogers Elementary School. She also

conducted a special story time at St. David's Episcopal School in conjunction with their annual book fair.

Clair Larkin arrived in early February to take over the Children's Services duties. Clair gained experience at Central Children's over the last year and a half and has served in various positions at other libraries throughout the country.

The first meeting of the Landa Seniors' Mystery Book Club took place in January. The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month at noon with members discussing the monthly title as they enjoy a sack lunch.

Singer/songwriter Scott Duncan performed a long set of his original songs at Landa on January 28. The selections are from his new CD, *A Bus to Nowhere*.

The Friends of the Landa Library made over \$2000 from their sale in early February. The money will be used to replace the flooring in the newly-refurbished reading room. There are four new "Jenny" club chairs (with swing out table top for laptops), a new bookcase for New Fiction, and a periodical display on order for the room.

LAS PALMAS

The Las Palmas Library has really been entertaining teens lately through the weekly teen programs on Wednesday afternoons such as X-Box Dance Central and other chosen favorite games. Their fun with the X-Box games continues to be a hit with them. Ms. Stephanie Vazquez makes a sincere effort to provide them with the activities that keep them interested.

Stephanie also works closely with the YWCA and participated in performing outreach during the VITA kickoff for Income tax services to the local community on January 30. She took with her a coworker, Lisa Diaz who passed out information on how to get a library card and offered information on other library services.

Stephanie recently partnered with Workforce Solutions to inform young adults about the opportunities available with their organization to prepare them with necessary information on job hunting.

A very attractive window display of hand crafted red hearts arranged in the pattern of a larger heart was created and placed at the front windows of the Las Palmas Library in preparation for and celebration of Valentine's Day.

Ms. Vazquez presented a Romantic Movies interactive display with movie quotes and trivia questions to lure those who love movies into the library. She also has afternoon movies on one Saturday a month.

Stephanie partnered with UT Health Science and a community focus group called Las Mujeres Nobles who are made up of women who live and work in the local community and want to assist younger and older women in becoming empowered by teaching them where they can go for the social assistance they need to resolve their domestic problems.

Ms. Gina Brudi continued to do fairly well in her Family Fun afternoon programming. Children enjoyed her presentations of well chosen stories for story times that were always followed by a craft that the child enjoyed taking home. Ms Brudi also has returned to her circuit of outreach programs and was at the Good Samaritan Center where she had an audience of 14 children and 3 adults.

Mary Elizabeth Area, library assistant, presented "Tween Time" programs for those children who are almost teens. This hour of fun included both Wii Games as well as X-Box games for their hour of lively entertainment. Tweens come expecting her on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 p.m.

Manager Raymond Villarreal and circulation attendant Patricia Perez were both busy training a new part-time employee, Carlos Cabrera, who joined the Las Palmas Team on December 22 last year. He is a part-time circulation attendant who also brought to the Library good news with the birth of his daughter,

Stormy, born in early February this year. Congratulations to him and his wife, Megan!

Manager would like to recognize and thank Ms. Cynthia Blancas and Ms. Josie Garcia, who as Library Aides do a wonderful job in keeping Las Palmas's books and media arranged neatly and correctly. Their tireless effort gives the Library a well arranged appearance. This is the important role they continue to play in making our Library a welcoming place.

MAVERICK

Maverick Library had several programs this month. Librarian Ben Longoria showed two movies for African-American Heritage Month; "Martin Luther King Jr" on January 17 and "A Raisin in the Sun" on February 9. A Long-Term Care program occurred on January 19 and 8 patrons attended a San Antonio Walks Program on February 9. There were 84 attendees at a How to Host an Exchange Student in January. The Ladies Book Club continues to grow with 17 attendees on January 26.

Branch Manager, Jef Martin, attended a Career Day at Boone Elementary on February 8. He spoke to 91 kids and teachers. A couple of the kids were his grandchildren!

MCCRELESS

In February the staff said farewell to Library Assistant Rachel Stone as she leaves SAPL to spend time with her newborn baby Lillian. Library Aide The staff celebrated with a big potluck lunch and a pile of baby shower gifts. Eric Montoya will be filling in as Teen Liaison until the branch can hire a permanent replacement for Rachel.

On February 9 Manager Cammie Brantley hosted her book club in the morning with a discussion of "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison as part of African American Heritage Month. Then in the afternoon she worked with Home Depot to present a birdhouse building event for local families. The Home Depot event was a big success with 28 children and adults hammering away in the meeting room.

As part of African American Heritage Month Adult Services Librarian David Liserio continued his monthly movies with a presentation of "Ray" on the 2nd of February. He also hosted an E-Reader event as well as a resume and job application workshop.

Four Story Times were held from January 16 to February 15. Children learned about horses, penguins and walruses. They also heard stories about road and building construction. They made their own bulldozer, stand-up horse and created a walrus picture and a hang-up penguin.

Our Family Fun Valentine's celebration on February 12 was a big success. Twenty-nine kids and their grownups made valentines to give to family and friends and enjoyed juice and valentine treats

Children's Librarian Katy Brown visited Adams Elementary on January 31 to meet with third graders who are participating in an ongoing book club

MEMORIAL

The Memorial Branch library celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a book display and multimedia presentation created by staff that included several of his most famous speeches, musical tributes and stirring images.

Fossils, which were found near the Sunken Gardens Theater, graced our display case in February. The display, which was on loan from a library customer, was complimented with books on fossils and fossil hunting.

Eleven patrons attended the Sassy Stitches-sewing group for senior's class, some experienced and others new to embroidery. Attendees shared tips, discussed different ways of transferring patterns and shared ideas. Popular embroidery books were available for patrons to check out. Attendees requested more classes in the future. The class also created a greater sense of community for the customers who attended the class.

Memorial Library's story time friends enjoyed listening to stories about peace and unity to celebrate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. They also created a banner titled, *We All Are a Box of Crayons*, which was displayed in the children's area at the branch. The story time friends enjoyed listening to rodeo stories, and making "wearable" boots to celebrate the rodeo season. Memorial also hosted a Texas Bluebonnet Award Voting Party for students to vote on their favorite book from the 2012-2013 Bluebonnet Master List, along with related activities for all to enjoy. Families enjoyed Valentine's Day crafts and candy to celebrate the holiday. Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, attended Family Literary Nights at Gardendale and Madison Elementary Schools. She also presented her monthly story time to Pre-K students at Madison ES, along with Toddler Time Plus story time at the Woodlawn Community room.

MISSION

Mission's community connections continue to strengthen. On February 16 Harlandale ISD held two training sessions for its Administrative Assistants. Manager Elma Nieto-Rodriguez was invited to speak at both sessions to introduce attendees to the facility and briefly discuss library services. After the event, Mission received a note of appreciation from Interim Superintendent Rey Madrigal.

Asst. City Manager Gloria Hurtado and Director Ramiro Salazar toured the facility on January 24.

On January 31 Family and Community Health Systems held a large forum. Over 20 social service organizations were represented. The manager was invited to speak to the group.

Mission Library hosted a District 3 Town Hall Meeting on February 5. Over 70 people attended the event.

The manager was invited to speak to the Mission Trail Rotary Club on February 12. The club donates a book in the speaker's name to the Mission Library after each event. To date, twenty-six titles have been donated to the library.

On February 12 a lighting ceremony was held for the neighboring Mission Marquee. Director Ramiro Salazar and Councilwoman Ozuna spoke at the event. The event drew an appreciative crowd.

Mission's meeting spaces continue to be in high demand. Embroidery and sessions, neighborhood associations, and an e-reader clinic utilized the space. Mission serves as a VITA site and on January 30 a second set of citizenship classes, hosted by Academia America, began. The class has grown to approximately 11 students. Classes are held every Wednesday and Friday morning at 11 a.m.

An Anti-Valentine's Day party for teens was held on February 12. At the event, teens made cards for their friends and family. They tested their creativity by cutting up parts of old romance novel covers to use in their cards. They also came up with new captions and titles for old romance novel covers. The Mission Friends group donated refreshments.

PAN AMERICAN

In January, Pan American teens had the chance to master their skills on the Wii playing Smash Bros Brawl as well as pick up a few dance moves with Just Dance 3. Another game (more old school) was Loteria where teens had an opportunity to improve their Spanish and win cool prizes and snacks. Aside from activities going on at Pan American branch, Teen Liaison, Angela Olivarez, practiced outreach with Teen Librarians from Cody and Parman at the Cornerstone Christian School to a total of 125 teens. They promoted Tutor.com and encouraged students to sign up for library cards.

With an array of holidays in February, teens decided to make Mardi Gras masks with funky templates, glitter and sequins.

Many new families have been participating in PanAm's Story Time and Toddler Time sessions.

On February 8, Children's Librarian, Carol Collins, brought puppets and stories to infants at the Texas Migrant Council. Pan Am completed its inventory of all media.

PARMAN

The Friends of the Parman Library continue to do well with the ongoing book sale in the gallery. They have started selling groups of books on Ebay such as sets by particular authors and romance novel series. Their endeavor has been lucrative so far allowing them to continue to support programs for all ages and staff recognition. In addition, they purchased a magazine rack for the teen area and a fish tank for the circulation desk near the children's area.

A second e-reader class was offered in January for all those customers who received e-reader for Christmas. Library Assistant Christina Hess led the class and was assisted by Library Assistants Sherrie Bossart and Tyler Lutz. The Parman staff continue to add to their knowledge of e-readers by learning from one another and by teaching customers. We are proud to say there is always a staff member on hand to spend as much time as needed with walk in e-reader customers.

Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow spent January 28th at Cornerstone Christian Academy along with Teen Librarian David Gallin-Parisi presenting SAPL services to the students there. She has also been hosting a series of presentations by Kaplan for teens looking to go to college. In February, the session was How to pay for college without breaking the bank, and there were 15 attendees.

The Bexar County Library Association held their quarterly meeting at Parman. After socializing and the business portion of the meeting, Branch Manager Haley Holmes gave a presentation on Parman including the (short) history of the branch, the LEED elements, and a few examples of the services provided along with examples of programs unique to Parman. After the presentation, Ms. Holmes led the group on a tour of the building. The librarians in attendance had many great things to say about the presentation and the branch.

Parman Library continues to be a destination where needs of the mind, soul, and body are being met. Two weekly Basic Yoga classes were recently added and interest is very high. The Wednesday morning Stretching and Toning class is often full so the instructor will soon be adding a weekly evening class.

PRUITT

Adults continue to express a desire for technology assistance at the library. Pruitt staff members consistently have four to six appointments for weekly eReader tutorials. Additionally, library staff members have begun making more one-on-one appointments with customers to help bolster computer skills. These Sunday morning appointments offer patrons the chance to get more extended help than the staff can provide during busier times. One patron is using this time to improve her prowess with various word processing skills in order to qualify for a promotion at her current job.

The Pruitt Library has also been featuring Friday afternoon films for adults during January and February. On January 18, the library showed *King: A Man of Peace in a Time of War*—a documentary on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On February 1, Pruitt did a showing of *The Long Walk Home*, a movie about the Montgomery bus boycott, and the classic Lana Turner film *Imitation of Life* on February 8. February 15 the Pruitt Library showed *Glory Road*—a film based on the life of Hall of Fame college basketball coach Don Haskins who stirred up controversy by building a team with the most talented players he could find. The result was the first all African American starting lineup in history. The TGIF Book Club also read Elizabeth Berg's *We Are All Welcome Here*—about the civil rights movement in Mississippi in the summer of 1964.

Pruitt Librarian Troy Lawrence offered a class on SAPL genealogical resources on January 19. On February 9, Pruitt Librarian Kimberly Wygant taught a class for first time email users—showing them how to utilize the features of Trumba to receive email reminders about upcoming events and how to get courtesy reminders via email as well.

On January 23, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez partnered with Roosevelt High School librarian Cynthia Saenz for a presentation to parents of ESL students. Parents and teachers were impressed with the wide variety of online resources available in both English and Spanish through the public library. Several parents secured library cards for themselves so that they could take advantage of the resume writing

helps and the GED tutorials available through the Learning Express Library.

On February 11, the Pruitt Library hosted a Lifelong Learning event for adults. Austin Public Library's Laura Kraus created a workshop using recycled books. She taught participants how to make beautiful paper roses and heart-shaped garland from the pages of discarded books. As member of Recycled Reads (the Austin Public Library's used bookstore), Laura explained that part of her job was to offer workshops that showcase using books in new ways in order to reduce the amount of materials that end up in the landfill. After her session at Pruitt, she repeated the workshop later that afternoon at the Carver Branch Library. Special thanks to both Laura Kraus and to Carver librarian DL Grant who arranged this fantastic event for Love Your Library Month.

Partners continue to utilize the meeting room space available at the Pruitt Library to draw in and inform the community members about different projects affecting the area. For example, SAWS held an information session on January 16, and the Council of North East Neighborhoods had their regular meeting on February 7.

On January 18, the Pruitt Library held a retirement reception for Librarian Carolyn Bradley. More than seventy-five friends, colleagues, and community members dropped in to tell Carolyn how much her service has meant to them. Several families from Pruitt's Baby Time and Toddler Time crowd dropped in with hand-drawn pictures to wish her well. Carolyn's last day was January 31. Pruitt's new full-time librarian will be joining the team on February 18. Rae Downen was most recently the librarian at Harris Middle School, but she is also a former Roosevelt special education teacher. The Pruitt staff is excited about the various gifts and talents she will be bringing to the team.

The Isshoni Anime Society continues to attract a weekly crowd of 15 to 20 teens. During the hour, the teens enjoy snacks while they watch various anime selections. The teens have really enjoyed having the chance to interact with others who share their love for anime and *manga*. Most recently, the teens enjoyed *Grave of the Fireflies*, an anime feature about the aftermath of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When asked how she liked the film, one teen exclaimed, "This was the best, but saddest, movie ever! Even the guys were crying."

This quarter, the Pruitt Library has focused teen times around the theme of "Fun and Games". Pruitt staff members host weekly opportunities for teens to play Wii, explore new hobbies, and play classic and new board games. On Tuesday, February 12, for example, teens had a great time with the theme of "Fun is in the Cards". Sixty-two teens joined in various card games—everything from Slap Jack to Uno Attack. They had a great time. Plans for warmer days in the spring will bring opportunities to play extreme Frisbee and to participate in "Minute to Win It" physical challenges.

Regular Baby Time and Toddler Times continue to draw a consistent community of parents and children. Since moving Toddler Time to Saturday morning, the attendance of whole families has been a nice bonus. Dads and moms are enjoying the time singing, dancing, and reading together.

Pruitt Librarians also continue to reach out to local daycares and private schools. On January 17, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez provided a story time outreach to Cherished Child Daycare, while librarian Troy Lawrence visited St. Thomas More Catholic School's PK4 and 3-year-old classes on February 11. Additionally, the library staff provided tours to Walker Intermediate School of Excellence on January 23 and to a Boy Scout troop on February 2.

SAN PEDRO

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presents monthly story times to children at the VIA Child Development Center (two classes), Educare Child Care Center (two classes), Monte Vista Montessori (two classes), and a kindergarten class at Bonham Academy. Ms. Dalton also presents monthly story time to two classes at the Ferrari Learning Center, a Head Start Facility. Fifteen books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month.

During this period, Ms. Dalton facilitated monthly books discussions at the Twain Middle School (6th

grade), Montevista Montessori (4th) and Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th grade) book clubs. The book clubs have 10-12 members. The book clubs meet during the students' lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed.

The Children's Librarian presents a weekly Kids Time for Kindergarten aged children and older.

In January, Betsy started a monthly LEGO club at San Pedro Library. Six children came to the first meeting. Items built by the children included a person with flowers growing out of the head perched on a house, a limo, a pyramid, a pizza delivery truck, a house complete with table and chairs and oven, and a war machine for the continental army during the revolutionary war!

Betsy serves on ALSC's Library Services to Special Population Children and their Caregivers. As part of her responsibility to the ALSC committee, Betsy attended the midwinter ALA conference in January, where she helped to select the winner of the Light the Way Grant, a grant dedicated to outreach to special population children.

Branch Manager Dan Stanford is in the process of shifting all of the San Pedro fiction collection to better utilize the limited space. He also hosted the film *The Express* as part of Black History Month.

SEMMES

Children's programming at Semmes gained a new Librarian in January. Shannon Seglin is the new Librarian I at the branch. She will be adding a new Tuesday Preschool story time and will be taking over the Wednesday Baby Time and Tween Time. Staff is excited to have Shannon join the Semmes team!

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held a book sale on Saturday, February 9. The sale was very successful and made over \$1400 for the branch. Staff is grateful to have such an outstanding Friends group.

The Anime/Manga group met on Saturday, February 9. Library Aide, Gimoy Louie, lead the group in a discussing of *Cosplay*. The group is also preparing for their April Anime/Manga Mini-Con.

THOUSAND OAKS

Storytime

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser presented a Valentine's Day themed Story Time on February 14. In addition to the usual songs and finger plays, the children enjoyed Valentine storybooks and a fun Valentine craft.

Teen Time

On January 16, Thousand Oaks teens had a special guest visit from "Eclectic Electric. J. D. Elizondo of Central's Teen Services brought two electric guitars, two acoustic guitars, and two amplifiers. The teens got to make some noise in the library and said it was "the best teen time ever."

On February 6 the teens got to play Dr. Frankenstein and disembowel a big pile of Teeny Beanie Babies. The teens then reconstructed them and made crazy combinations, such as a swan with a monkey head; a lobster/platypus hybrid; and a monkey with a penguin head and lobster claws. It was a fun, inexpensive, and messy craft, since the plastic beans stuffing tended to roll all over the tables and on the floor, much to the chagrin of our maintenance staff.

On February 13, the teens enjoyed a screening of the science fiction action blockbuster movie *Men in Black 3*, starring the wisecracking Will Smith and the stoic Tommy Lee Jones. The teens especially liked the wild alien creations and the mind-bending time travel plot.

Adult Programming

Book Groups/Author Visit

On January 17, the Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group welcomed local author David Liss as a special

guest to their monthly book discussion. Mr. Liss fielded questions about the group's monthly selection, his historical novel *The Coffee Trader*, his upcoming novel, and about the writing process. They enjoyed some delicious coffee (of course!) and accompanying snacks, and Mr. Liss told some amusing anecdotes about being a writer.

On February 11, the Thousand Oaks Monday Evening Book Group discussed the fantasy novel *Anansi Boys* by Neil Gaiman. The group members enjoyed the book and particularly liked how the author interwove the traditional folklore of Anansi into the plot.

Knitters

On February 7 Library Assistant Karen Sagun began the first of four weekly knitting classes for Beginning Knitters. Students learned how to cast on and create the basic knit stitch. They also learned about knitting gauge, different styles of knitting, and different types of knitting needles. The second class was held on February 14 and the students learned to purl, bind off stitches, and how to pick up dropped stitches.

E-Reader Training

Librarian Jorge Chavez and the entire reference staff continue to assist patrons with their eReader devices, usually in one-on-one sessions, due to the continued usage of the meeting room by VITA tax volunteers.

Outreach

On January 8, Library Assistant Karen Sagun gave four presentations to freshmen students at Madison High School about library resources. She gave them a virtual tour of the SAPL website, and showed them all the homework help resources, free downloadables, and how to find online sources for research papers. She also showed them how to search the library catalog online, place books on hold, and check their library account records online through the SAPL page. Ms. Sagun also assisted with Teen Outreach on January 29 at Cornerstone Christian Academy.

On February 12, Librarian II Jorge Chavez visited the Northeast Senior Multi-Service Center. Together with the Tobin Library at Oakwell staff, Jorge challenged the seniors with some tough (and some not-so-tough) trivia questions with a Valentine's Day theme, including lots of questions about chocolate, love songs, and romantic movies.

VITA

After a slight delay due to the branch being closed for renovations, VITA service was provided beginning Monday, February 4. The lines for the service so far have been extensive, as this service is hugely popular. VITA will be at Thousand Oaks through the close of tax season, and the service is provided five days a week, including Saturdays and Sundays, for a total of 30 hours per week.

Renovations

After two weeks of closure, the Thousand Oaks branch reopened with fresh paint, upgraded restrooms, a newly remodeled break room for staff, and a beautiful new foyer/entrance on Monday, February 4. The branch is still awaiting arrival of new furniture, new countertops in the staff break room and public restrooms, and new blinds. Reaction from patrons and staff has been extremely positive, as the new paint has created a lighter, more inviting space. Staff who stayed at the branch during renovations also completed a shift of the entire adult non-fiction and audio-visual collections, plus various other clean-up projects to help tidy the branch up.

TOBIN

Tobin Library welcomed intern, Melissa Carroll, on February 9 as she completes hours for her Masters in Library Science from Texas Women's University.

Librarian Keri Moczygemba has been coordinating e-reader individual tutoring on Wednesday's. These sessions are quite popular and many times are booked a week or more in advance. Ms. Moczygemba continues overseeing the major weeding and shifting of the adult collection and was the lead librarian for

the media inventory in January.

Little Read Wagon collaborated with Children's Librarian, Kimbra Cook, for once a week Play and Learn programming from January 18 through February 8. These events were so well attended portions had to be moved outside to accommodate the large crowds. Ms. Cook has seen significant growth on Wednesday mornings as she has incorporated similar play and learn activities in Toddler Time.

Parents and kids enjoyed the great weather for Family Fitness Fun on January 26 while attempting to climb the 32 foot rock wall generously provided by Mark Bloyd of Climb LLC.

Library aide, Carlos Martinez, creatively put together a second Trivia Time Wheel for outreach events. Library Assistant, Elvia Ramos and Thousand Oaks Assistant, Lorren Cruz compiled questions on library services, books, movies and chance trivia for school outreach. Kimbra Cook and aide, Jesus Jimenez, as Libro, let kids and parents alike spin the trivia wheel to answer questions to win a bookmark or prize at Oak Grove Elementary Family Literacy night on February 5. The same night, Librarian, Tracey Knouse, and aide, Rebekah Corley, attended Garner Middle School's parents' night with the new second trivia wheel to an enthusiastic crowd. As a result of the Garner outreach, six new kids came to Tween time on February 7. The trivia wheels have become quite popular with varying categories as Library Assistants, Terry Verner and Elvia Ramos, with Thousand Oaks Librarian, Jorge Chavez, played the game with Valentine's Day trivia on February 12 to a lively group at the Northeast Senior Center.

Terry Verner and Rebekah Corley began participating on the Cultural Diversity Committee to help plan and coordinate both system wide and Tobin Library events. Librarian K. Moczygemba continues aiding the Lifelong Learning group as she is working on the 5 in 5 Reading Challenge reception. Librarian, Tracey Knouse, chairs the Live Well Age Smart adult programming committee. Ms. Knouse oversees committee members who are lining up programs with a variety of partners and presenters for customers age 50 and above for the next six months.

WESTFALL

WE Teens, Westfall's teen group, have been busy. Recently they made "Stuff on a Stick," created candy sushi, made Story Cubes and watched a couple of movies. In early February Teen Services Library Sylvia Pachecano started a Teen Library Leadership Council. The group will blog about teen activities at Westfall; decorate for holidays; help set up for special events, and do what is needed to promote the library.

Tweens at the library have also been active. In January they made mini-pizzas using English muffins, pizza sauce and a variety of toppings, all while listening to the music of "Il Volo," an Italian group. In February, with the rodeo in mind, they decorated horse and cowboy cutouts and learned a little about roping skills by watching a video of Will Rogers. Children's Librarian Imelda Merino works with tweens and also has started a weekly group for kids.

Westfall is participating in the 5 in 5 adult reading program. Several reading logs have gone out and recently some have started coming back in.

The Third Thursday Book Group, facilitated by Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin, read *The Life of Pi* in January and is reading *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* in February.

CONSTRUCTION

Carver Branch Parking Lot Expansion

Description: Parking lot expansion

Funds: \$155,692 reprogrammed HUD 108; \$425,000 reprogrammed HUD 108

Location/District: 3350 E. Commerce St. / District 2

City Architect: Stacy Gonzales

Project Architect: Beaty Palmer Architects

Design Enhancement: None

Construction Contract: PSE Contracting

Estimated Completion Date: February 2013

Project Scope: Demolition of existing building, Master Plan for redevelopment of property, parking lot expansion, and addition of a playground.

Current Status: An ordinance transferring the property to the Library Dept. passed the City Council on April 21, 2011. The existing building has been demolished, and Beaty Palmer Architects have developed a Master Plan for the site. Their recommendation was approved by the Facilities Committee on August 17th and the Board of Trustees on August 24th. Beaty/Palmer has completed construction documents for parking lot expansion as approved by the Library Board.

Additional funding in the amount of \$425,000 has been provided towards the parking lot expansion. The playground portion of the project is being pursued through "KABOOM!" grant program.

Project bid opening was May 29. Low bid was submitted by PSE Contracting for \$333,000. Construction contract was approved by City Council on June 21st. Pre-construction meeting was held at the branch on July 10. Contractor was given Notice to Proceed on July 30, and construction began August 1st. Weekly progress meetings are being held. Phase 1 of project was completed in November, and traffic has been diverted to Honey Blvd. entrance. Original parking lot has been removed, and contractor is currently installing new curbs, sidewalks and irrigation system. Phase 2 of project, which includes a new driveway on E. Commerce St., will be completed in February 2013. Project will also include re-routing the overhead power supply to underground. Final design is complete for a new monument sign that was approved by Library Board of Trustees in Dec. 2012. Contractor has been given notice to proceed with manufacture and installation of sign, which is scheduled to be complete by mid-March.

The Mission Marquee Plaza and Loop Road Project

Description: Site improvements to 26 acre site around Mission Branch Library

Funds: \$883,000(Amphitheater); \$238,000(Marquee); \$1,070,000(Site development); \$520,000(319 Grant)

Location/District: 3100 Roosevelt Ave. / District 3

City Architect: Randy Matyear

Project Architect: Kell Muñoz Architects

Construction Contract: PSE Contracting

Estimated Completion Date: Winter 2012-13

Project Scope: Renovation of existing marquee sign and construction of Loop Road to connect to VFW Boulevard. Also includes landscape improvements to marquee plaza area.

Current Status: Marquee has been completed; Phase 1 of the Loop Road construction has been completed. Phase 2 will be incorporated with construction of the Plaza area. Marquee Plaza Area construction documents have been completed and bids have been finalized. City Council approved a contract with PSE Contracting on February 16th. A pre-construction meeting was held on Feb. 27th. Construction is in progress, with completion anticipated for winter 2013.

As part of the federal [Clean Water Act](#) in 1987, Section 319 Grant program was established to provide funding for efforts to reduce storm water runoff pollution, and the Mission Marquee and Library site was identified as a location to administer this program. Funds may be used to demonstrate innovative best management practices (BMPs), support education and outreach programs, establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) for a watershed, restore impaired streams or other water resources, or conduct storm water runoff assessment or applied research. Bender, Clark, Wells will act as the primary design team, in collaboration with Kell Munoz Architects.

Installation of a lighted mural on the front of Mission Marquee has been completed.

2013 Facilities Assessment Study

Description: Repairs and improvements to 15 Branch Libraries

Funds: \$1,400,000 FAS Estimated Cost

District: All Districts

Project Architect: Debra J. Dockery Architect, PC.

Design Enhancement: None

Construction Contract: BES / Job Order Contractor system (CIMS) / Vendor Contracts

Original Target Completion Date: September 30, 2013

Project Scope: Make branch repairs and improvements, based in part on the April, 2009 Facilities Assessment Study conducted by Debra J. Dockery Architect, PC. Some additional repair items identified since the 2009 FAS study have also been included in this work. Primary focus will be on roof replacements (5 branches), carpet replacement (3 branches), interior and exterior painting (4 branches), rest room renovations (4 branches) and other building improvements.

Current Status:

1st quarter projects: (Cody, Forest Hills, Pan Am) have been completed. Forest Hills interior and exterior renovations were completed on time, and the branch re-opened on Dec. 17. An open house was held Jan. 4, 2013 to rave reviews from all who attended.

2nd quarter projects: (Brook Hollow, Carver, Cortez, Guerra, Maverick, and Thousand Oaks) Work is currently underway at all 6 branches. Thousand Oaks interior and exterior renovations were completed on time, and the branch re-opened Feb. 4. An open house will be scheduled for early April, after the arrival of new public reading tables and chairs. Brook Hollow will be closed from Feb. 25 – March 15 for interior and exterior work. All 2nd quarter work to be complete by March 30, 2013.

3rd quarter projects: (Collins Garden, Johnston, San Pedro, and Tobin). All work to be complete by June 30, 2013

4th quarter projects: (McCreless and Memorial). All work to be complete by September 30, 2013

Broadband Technologies and Opportunities Program (BTOP)

Description: This program will enhance and improve broadband internet access for patron use at 13 branch libraries and Central.

Funds: \$1,486,760 (Texas State Library and Archives Commission Grant)

Districts: 1 (Central, Westfall), 2 (Carver), 3 (McCreless), 4 (Cortez, Johnston, Pan Am), 5 (Bazan, Collins Garden, Las Palmas, Memorial), 6 (Great Northwest), 7 (Forest Hills), 10, (Thousand Oaks)

Design Enhancement: None

Construction Contract: ITSD / CIMS / Vendor Services

Estimated Completion Date: Summer 2013

Project Scope: There are 2 major deliverables of the TSLAC/BTOP Grant:

Enhance Broadband Connection – this includes procuring, installing and configuring updated and improved equipment at 13 branch library locations and Central Library

Facility Construction – Construction activities include consolidating public access areas and training facilities on the first floor of the Central Library and acquiring new furniture and fixtures for 13 branch library locations.

Current Status: All work associated with enhancing broadband connections have been completed at all 13 branch libraries and Central Library.

Installation and acquisition of furniture and fixtures has been completed at all 13 branch libraries. RVK Architects have completed design work for re-configuring space at Central, and a Job Order Contractor proposal will be presented to City Council Feb. 14th for approval. Construction will begin within 30 days of council approval. Completion for work at Central is scheduled for June 2013.

2012-17 Bond Program

Description: 4 projects scheduled to be completed during the 2012-17 bond period.

District 2 - \$6,000,000

Development of a branch library in Council District 2. There is a commitment for the donation of land for this project, as such funding does not include resources for the acquisition of land

District 6 - \$1,400,000

Development of a branch library site in Council District 6

District 9 - 7,000,000

Development of a branch library in Council District 9. This project will require the purchase of land. Funding includes acquisition of the land

Central Library - \$4,000,000

Renovations, repairs, upgrades and space reconfiguration to the Central Library facility

Funds: \$18.4 Million (2012-17 Bond Program)

Districts: 1, 2, 6, 9

Design Enhancement: TBD

Construction Contract: TBD

Estimated Completion Date: TBD

Project Scope: Refer to official bond language above.

Current Status:

District 2 - Work continues to move forward on facilitating the transfer of the donated site for the new D-2 Library

District 6 - Library staff met with Councilman Lopez to provide an update on the project, solicit his feedback regarding the target area and to obtain feedback regarding service model options

Central Library - Preliminary meeting with the selected Architectural firm (Marmon Mok) has been held to finalize the project scope

District 9 - Due diligence has commenced on the preferred site