



San Antonio Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MARCH 2013

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On February 20, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Committee Meeting. Ramiro Salazar delivered an update on Library activities.

On February 22, Library Director Ramiro Salazar participated in a meeting with Bexar County organized by the City's Intergovernmental Relations Department to continue discussions regarding interlocal agreements.

The United State of the City Address was held on February 26 and Library Board Chair Jean Brady, Library Board Past Chair John Nicholas, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Library Foundation Chair Jill Giles, Friends of the Library President Linda Arronge, and Library Assistant Directors Dale McNeill and Kathy Donellan represented the Library.

On Monday, March 4, Library Director Ramiro Salazar served as emcee for The Holocaust Remembered opening reception. Mayor Julian Castro attended the event and delivered remarks. This month long initiative is in partnership with the Mazal Holocaust Library and includes a photo exhibit at Central Library and discussions and other programming activities throughout the library system.

On Sunday, Mach 17, Assistant Library Director Kathy Donellan attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library's Board Meeting. Kathy delivered a report on library activities.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Barnyard Buddies, a stand alone Play & Learn program, launched successfully on March 4 at the Memorial Branch Library. This program was developed by the children's Early Literacy Committee and will travel to 18 locations during the month. Barnyard Buddies is part of the effort to expand SAPL's early literacy efforts at the branch level.

Funding for this special Play & Learn program comes from the Dollar General Early Literacy grant received in July 2012.

In cooperation with staff from the East Side Promise Neighborhood as well as the principals of Bowden and Washington Elementary Schools, SAPL has kicked off a library card sign-up campaign for second graders. Amy Thorne (Carver) joined Viki at Washington's "Starr Night" on March 6 to promote Live Homework Help and other services to parents and students alike. Library card sign-up was available at the event as well. Additional opportunities for promoting library service and distributing library cards are in the works.

On March 9, Viki presented a session entitled "Diversity is the Spice of Reading Life" at the annual Diversity Conference held at the Jewish Community Center. Aimed at early childhood educators and care providers, the conference included multiple break-out sessions highlighting diversity-related topics. Viki's session was attended by almost 50 early childhood educators and included an extensive bibliography of books held at the library.

Preparation of the *2013 Young Pegasus Anthology* is moving forward. The judges selected 71 poems, from 58 poets, for publication this year. Letters to the selected poets have been mailed with release forms and editorial corrections trickling in. Once all of this paperwork has been received, SAPL graphics will take over the production phase. This year's YP Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 pm. Board members can expect to receive an invitation as the date draws near.

LITTLE READ WAGON

Julia Lazarin and Martha Wichy, with help from Xelena Gonzalez, hosted a workshop for educators on February 16 at the Central Library Auditorium.

Another round of Play & Learn programs was completed at the Woodlawn Community Room and Westfall Branch Library. Attendance at the Woodlawn Community Room boomed one week as a participant from the neighborhood brought several friends and their children. Thankfully, the weather was mild enough for the activities to spill out onto the back porch of the building so that the room was not over-crowded. The programs at Westfall were consistently well-attended with new faces joining the group each week. The Westfall staff, especially Children's Librarian Imelda Merino, was very supportive of the entire series, and their enthusiasm for the program is deeply appreciated.

Several new Head Start locations have been added to the list of scheduled programs. Julia Lazarin has been working very hard to establish relationships with the Head Start programs in the Southwest Independent School District. These programs are administered by the Region 20 Education Service Center. The services of the library and availability of Little Read Wagon programs are now becoming more familiar to these campuses as Julia and other Little Read Wagon team members make presentations at parent meetings and other gatherings.

On February 21 Little Read Wagon had an annual program monitoring review conducted by a contracts monitor from the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services. This review is related to the programming funds for Little Read Wagon administered by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. The monitor audited documentation of program services such as sign-in sheets, questionnaires, and compiled lists of participants. Interviewing some of the program participants was another part of this review process. All required documentation was available and the monitor was very pleased with the outcome of the interviews and audit.

Spring break for most area schools was March 11-15. Although there were no school visits during this time, several staff members were busy with other kinds of programs. Child care centers that were open during the week and typically receive a story time visit during the second week of the month stayed on schedule. Little Read Wagon also participated in three community events hosted by KLRN at Tom Slick Park, Concepción Park, and The Playhouse at San Pedro Park. The community events had a math and science focus, so Little Read Wagon staff brought sensory activities that gave children the opportunity to experience different textures, scents and sounds.

MARKETING

SAPL Marketing planned and coordinated the Mission Branch Library south courtyard dedication that took place on February 16. The dedication ceremony featured the following speakers: Ramiro S. Salazar, Councilwoman Leticia Ozuna, Father David Garcia, administrator of the San Antonio Missions, and Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, who offered a blessing of the courtyard now named for the late Monsignor Balthasar Janacek. More than 50 friends and family of the monsignor were in attendance.

The marketing team coordinated the logistics of the Holocaust: Learn and Remember photo exhibit on display on the second floor of the Central Library through April 7. An opening reception was held on March 4. Speakers included: Ramiro S. Salazar, Mayor Julian Castro, Howie Nestel, program emcee, and Aimee Mazal Skillin, Executive Director of the Mazal Holocaust Library in San Antonio. This program is a partnership between SAPL, SAPLF and the Mazal Holocaust Library. Several media outlets attended the opening reception and attendance at the exhibit has been very high.

The team is currently working with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation as it coordinates the Texas Book Festival – San Antonio Edition, slated to take place on April 13 at the Central Library. Andy Gordon is managing all of the logistics of the program on behalf of the Library. Joseph Marks is working with the L3 committee of the SAPLF and assisting this group with its planning.

New Community and Public Relations Manager, Caitlin Cowart and Public Information Officer, Joseph Marks will be on-site the day of the program to assist with any media needs. Special Events Coordinator, Andy Gordon will be on-site throughout the program to guide/assist with event logistics.

The graphics duo has been busy with the usual monthly projects including:

Completed

Johnston closure signage
Book Cellar closure signage/restroom directional flyers
Cat-a-palooza Flyer Memorial
Retiree Frame-Debra V and Rosemary
Cinema Soledad
Quotes for SRP Children, Adult and YP invites, booklet
Business cards
March *Bookmarks*
Books & Bites Logo/Flyer
Fiesta Retro Logo
Be Cool T-Shirts – Quotes /Flyer
Book Sale Poster

In Progress

Van wrap updates
SRP Rackcard, certificates, reading log and calendar
SRP Signage artwork to Allied Advertising
Young Pegasus layout design Invite, booklet cover, certificate
Book drop signage in production w/American Color Labs
April bookmarks in production w/Thompson Printing
Retiree gift layout design
Fiesta Retro – web banner
Texas Book Festival Artwork for Feather Banners, web banners
Be Cool T-Shirt staff t-shirt design
Social media:
SAPL currently has 4,705 followers on Facebook and 1,289 followers on Twitter.

TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Off-Site Service

Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard organized a system-wide collaborative outreach effort for SAPL's participation and involvement at this year's Mizuumi-Con event at Our Lady of the Lake University. Teen Services liaisons and teen volunteers from the Great Northwest, Mission, Parman and Central libraries will represent SAPL during this all-day event on March 23.

Brooke took the lead in collaborating with the Academy of Creative Education (ACE – NEISD) for several upcoming events. Brooke visited the campus for a tour and planning session during the reporting period and will visit the campus again for "New Student Orientation" later in March. After that, the entire ACE campus plans to visit SAPL for a tour and resources overview in early April.

Brooke is also working with librarians at the Northwest Vista (NWV) Campus to establish a SAPL presence at the college's "Geek Week" event. In mid-April, Brooke will provide an overview of SAPL resources for NWV students, faculty and staff.

Teen Services continues to host teen programs at the 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 Memorial and Great Northwest in February and at Igo in March. Pictures of

these programs are on Teen Services' Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>. J.D. will continue to bring Eclectic to branches that sign up for the program for their teens.

Partnerships

Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce continues to coordinate the Inspire U luncheons, in which "Biggs" (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. During the reporting period, Bigs and Littles met on February 18 and played board games after lunch.

As part of Teen Services' partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank, Teen Services Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo attended the Food Bank's Golden Apple Awards Banquet on March 7 at TriPoint. Teen Services won an award last year for Nutrition Partner of the Year.

Professional Development

On Friday, February 22 at 12 noon CST, Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard delivered her part of a webinar entitled "Intern Training" for the Training, Orientation and Leadership Development committee of the ALA. Brooke may be heard at the 11:26 through 22:30 mark at the following link: <http://ala.adobeconnect.com/p7eyetpluju>.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Children's Department has been doing extensive work with the collection in an attempt to develop statements describing focus areas for each part of the collection. While the document is growing, so far it has proved invaluable to Nohemi Lopez-Rosdahl (Collection Development, Librarian II) who is working diligently on areas of need in the juvenile nonfiction collection. As part of this project, extensive collection evaluation using CREW guidelines and the newly developed collection statements is underway. The work of Department Library Assistants, Mary Elizabeth Fernandez, Judith Slaughter, and Dawn Guest has been especially important as they have created lists to help in evaluating the collection and have made the process go much more quickly. Librarians Kate Sandoval (Librarian II) and Ariel Cummins (Librarian I) have also been instrumental in making this project a success with their thorough evaluations of the collection as led by Ruth Chiego, Children's Department Manager.

Contributions to system wide projects were made by Ms. Chiego who is currently part of the staffing study. Also, in her role as Chair of the Cataloging Issues Committee for Children's Services, Ms. Chiego has developed and distributed several surveys to the children's librarians who have been weighing in on a variety of collection-related issues in an effort to assist Collection Development and system wide collection distribution and analyze the needs and interests of juvenile audiences at all branches. In addition to this Committee work, as Chair of the Children's Summer Programs Committee, Ms. Chiego also has developed surveys to identify the best distribution of summer-related supplies for the system wide program offerings and summer book incentive distribution due to the ever-changing needs at each location.

While summer has not yet hit Central, Spring Break crowds were non-stop during mid-March with hundreds of participants at several days of Come & Go activities as well as much larger crowds at regular Play & Learn, Toddler Time and Family Fun programs.

Outreach programming was brought to Central Christian, Madison Square and SAC Early Childhood centers, and several other Outreach relationships are being developed in anticipation of a busy summer. It is anticipated that some Tween programming may occur off-site through some key partnerships with Central area summer day care centers.

Ms. Chiego and Ms. Slaughter assisted a large group of SAC Emergent Literacy class members who were researching picture books for children up to age seven. The topics were wide-ranging and included divorce, adoption, racism, and blended families. The group received a collection orientation and one-on-one assistance with catalog searching. They were also given a pathfinder to aid them as they continue with their coursework this semester.

Ms. Cummins, Ms. Slaughter, and Ms. Fernandez all worked diligently on creating new spring décor for the Story Room. On display are whimsical clouds with high flying airplanes, kites and hot air balloons. Outside the Story Room, Ms. Sandoval, Ms. Slaughter and Ms. Chiego created a Lois Ehlert-inspired garden with a *Grandpa Green* twist. The garden features not only an elephant topiary, but toddler-sized flowers.

The coming of spring marks the beginning of a new Bluebonnet season, as Bluebonnet Book nominees were announced. Ms. Slaughter and Ms. Fernandez have been working diligently to ensure that the new nominees are labeled and are easy for those in grades three to five to find!

DIGITAL SERVICES

Adam Spana and Sarah Carolan attended a demonstration of Midwest Books and Tapes' new Hoopla product – a media streaming service for libraries. Rolf Laun and Adam Spana met with Brad Roth and Nicole Mardian from ProQuest to discuss the library's usage and marketing of ProQuest products and acquisitions of new databases. The entire Digital Services team attended ITSD's Website Redesign Phase III Kickoff meeting.

OUTREACH

School visits dominated the bookmobile's schedule this month, with visits to Nelson Elementary, Good Shepherd Pre-School, Linton Elementary, and Ball Elementary. Gamini Haluwana and Barbara Celitans ran an information table at Ingram Mall's Book Bash on March 2, while Ramona Lucius did the same at Langley Elementary's 5K Run. The bookmobile also participated in a job fair for inmates of the Juvenile Justice Department.

REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The Reference Department was pleased to see construction begin on the First Floor Technology Corridor. During construction, the service staff is experimenting with different "roaming reference" service models to help customers while the new full service Reference Desk is being constructed. Customers frequently express curiosity at the changes, and join us in our anticipation of the expanded services that will come.

Staff members Cynthia DeLeon and Pannaga Prasad hosted the third San Antonio Writing Marathon in partnership with the San Antonio Writing Project. Attendees began their 'marathon' at the Central Library, and went on a walking tour of downtown. At various inspirational spots, the group stopped to reflect and write. The day's program ended at Central Library with several attendees reading their writings aloud with the group.

TEEN SERVICES

Weekly Programs

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): On February 18 and 25, J.D. hosted music (Eclectic Electric guitar and keyboard) and gaming programs. On March 4, a new teen patron came specifically for the art, so teens painted in addition to participating in the music program. March 11 consisted of music, gaming and a couple of teens checking out Teen Services' new green screen movie-making equipment.

Tuesdays with Brooke Ballard (Librarian I): Teens continue to participate in Teen Science Tuesdays with Brooke. During the reporting period, teens were invited to explore scientific experiments and concepts related to: nucleation; bacteria and antibiotics; transpiration and water conservation; and convection currents. As an extension of Brooke's regular "Science Tuesday" program, teens at Woodlawn Lake were invited to participate in the nucleation experiment on March 13.

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 27, Matthew Molpus from the S.A. Food Bank presented his monthly nutrition demo, showing teens how to make fruit pizzas. Teens made their own healthy concoctions using whole wheat sandwich rounds, yogurt and various kinds of fruit as toppings for their pizzas.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): During this reporting period, creative expression, peer interaction and encouragement played a key role in teen programming. Teens created a survival bracelet using only cords and knots. Using paint and non-sanded grout, teens made chalkboard paint and painted a variety of items they can use as mini-chalkboards. We had two teen-suggested program nights for the first two March Thursdays. In accordance with the weekly new DVD release of a very popular teen movie, teens had a movie and snack night, making some snacks using leftover food items from previous food craft nights. Teen also wanted to make churros. After each program, teens requested use of a gaming system where they engaged in quick decision making, hand-eye coordination, and friendly competition. 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>.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY

On February 19 Sylvia Reyna presented "Using Online Maps in Genealogical Research" at Igo Branch to fifteen researchers. That evening ten students in the "Methods of Historical Research" class from TAMU-SA visited the department. Each student was given a selection of two or three items from our collections. Each student was to determine the relationship of the items to each other and evaluate how they would use them in a research project.

Frank was at Oasis on February 21 discussing the history of San Antonio from 1865 to 1985 through photographs from the Texana department's collection. The following day he was one of several judges at the San Antonio Regional History Day competition held at Brackenridge High School.

On March 5, Frank taught a class in the Central Library's Training Room on one of the Library's databases, Heritage Quest Online, to nine people. On March 9, he was at Parman presenting a "Beginning Genealogy" class to eight individuals.

On February 25, a group of eight Cub Scouts from Pack 271 toured the department and were especially interested in the maps hanging on the walls.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

BAZAN

VITA was off to a strong start; in February a total of 872 persons were provided free income tax preparation assistance. Also, Bazan participates in the IRS's Tax Forms Outlet Program, providing an outlet for hard copies of a variety of income tax forms and booklets for individual preparers.

Academia America continues weekly citizenship classes with a core group of 15 students.

The pilot program to accept credit card payment for fees and fines has been well-received by library customers; they appreciate this electronic option that allows for quick resolution of account balances.

Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen presented Family Fun Story hours, AVANCE outreach to three groups at the Frank Garrett Center, and met with her book clubs at Crockett and Margil Elementary schools. She represented SAPL at the *Love Run for Children* event at Woodlawn Lake on Feb. 16. Two Spring Break *Come and Go Crafts* were well received.

Hope's presentation of *Barnyard Buddies*, a special *Play & Learn* experience to encourage interaction between children and their caregivers, was attended by 8 children and 4 adults. After listening to stories about farm animals, the group played games, read together, and played with *Barnyard* puppets.

BROOK HOLLOW

On February 28, Brook Hollow staff members Katie Ryan and Raquel Reyes represented SAPL at a literacy education fair put on by the Department of Human Services at the Colonel Victor Ferrari Community Learning Center. They passed out card applications and maps of SAPL locations, and were pleased to report that many of the people they spoke with already had library cards.

CARVER

African American History Month festivities drew to a close with Culture Fest 2013, a partnership between Carver Branch, the Friends of Carver Branch and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. The event, held next door at Second Baptist Church, celebrated the legacy of the nation's Historically-Black Colleges and Universities which began educating newly freed slaves after the Civil War. Keynote speaker for the celebration was San Antonio native and Sam Houston High School graduate Dr. Cynthia A. Warrick. Warrick currently resides in Orangeburg, S.C., where she serves as president of South Carolina State University. The event drew dozens of students attracted to the college fair that was embedded in the program. Others were alumni who actually attended HBCU. Schools represented were Prairie View A&M, Texas Southern University, Grambling State University, Southern University and Huston-Tillotson University, to name a few. An award for the most spirited Greek organization was presented to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. Grambling State University graduates took home the prize for the most spirited alumni organization.

Carver Library and the Friends of Carver Branch marked the 40th anniversary of the building's dedication on Saturday, March 16. According to branch history, which was read at the commemoration ceremony, the building opened on March 4, 1973. The first book that staff circulated was the *The Little Elephant* by Ylla. It was checked out by 9-year-old William Johnson III who occasionally returns to the branch with his own family.

Family Fun and 'Tween Time continues on Wednesdays and Tuesdays, respectively, at Carver. Recently, kids have decorated their own bean shakers, and 'twins have experimented with light sensitive paper. Children's Librarian Amy Thorne visited Candlewood Elementary on February 21 during the school's literacy fair to talk about library services with fair attendees. Amy also visited Washington Elementary with Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash on February 6 to sign up kids and their grown ups for library cards and talk about what Carver can offer their community. Amy also made a trip to the Miller Child Development Center on March 13 for story times with their 2 year old and 3-5 year old classes.

The Carver teens were very excited this week about the arrival of some new furniture for the branch's teen room, courtesy of the Carver Friends. The teens helped decide how to arrange the new table and chairs, and teen visitors during Spring Break have been enjoying the new comfort and atmosphere of the room.

CODY

Many families attended the *Healthy Snacking for You and Your Family* program presented by the San Antonio Food Bank nutritionist Tracy West on February 20. At the end of the program, Tracy demonstrated how to prepare a "healthy" snack, and provided samples to patrons in attendance. The session concluded with a question and answer session and everyone received helpful nutritional handouts and charts.

Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, the Hulk and several other superheroes were at Cody Library for the *Superheroes Special event* on February 21. After a couple of "hero" stories, Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta had the superheroes match their strengths and stamina in a couple of "super" exciting games. Crafts depicting the various superheroes and legends were available for the children to make, and all attendees were treated to "superhero" cake and punch.

African-American Heritage Month was celebrated with arts and crafts on February 26 after school. Sheila highlighted many African-American inventors, and provided books for check out. Both children and adults participated in the various crafts celebrating the heritage.

Approximately 70 people attended the family fun event celebrating Dr. Seuss and his legacy on February 28. Sheila entertained the children with a few of Dr. Seuss' stories, and then introduced several crafts and activities available for the children. Every child also received a Dr. Seuss bookmark, and had an opportunity to vote for their favorite Dr. Seuss character and book.

Sheila hosted a creative arts event on March 7 for children ages 8-12. Rocky Pals, presented by Frank Ramirez, introduced the special animals from rocks creations. The children created sharks from the rocks they selected, after studying several pictures from books on sharks. Every "rocky pal" received a certificate.

Cody's Beginner Readers' Club met on March 12, and both members and parents had an opportunity to learn about some D-I-Y word games that will help boost children's early reading achievement. Every child in attendance shared a book that they read this month. Sheila also provided a "word bingo" for children to take home.

Children who were off for spring break visited Cody Library on March 13 to make a variety of St. Patrick's Day crafts. Sheila provided materials for five different crafts, from Leprechaun hats to homemade jewelry.

Howman Elementary students are currently exhibiting their art pieces in the children's area this month.

The Origami Station has been a popular attraction for 'tweens and teens at Cody. Sheila monitors that books on all kinds of origami, as well as paper, are available for those 'tweens and teens interested in this craft.

Teens worked on the upcoming issue of their teen "zine" at Cody Library, to come out at the end of March 2013. The teen zine - *C-Zine* for short - is an ephemeral magazine filled with various teen-made items including music playlists, collages, and drawings. Part of the zine-making process involves making and collecting playlists from teens. Teen Librarian David Gallin-Parisi did an outreach at Hobby Middle School where he did just that. At the outreach, an iPod was loaded with a music compiled from teens' music playlists. Teens enjoyed the music, felt the vibe of songs they chose, and related to the music they actually picked out to play during the outreach.

Teen Tech Week fell during Spring Break during 2013, so some techy activities happened ahead of time. 'Tweens made animated GIFs using the website 3fram.es, then printed out the GIF images, decorated them, remaking them into something new. David scanned the images back into the digital versions and made GIFs that were both digital and analog. The results were frenetic and hilarious. Older age teens did not pursue making animated GIFs, however they got busy designing Wii characters that subverted the standard profile-making activity into creating unique animals, superheroes and everyday objects. Some of the results were a killer whale, Marvel's Iron Man, and Pac-Man.

On March 5, Library Assistant Kimberly Ammerman and Westfall Teen Services Librarian Sylvia Pachecano made an outreach visit to Jackson Middle School for its annual Community Night. Kimberly reported that she enjoyed seeing familiar faces among the attendees and talking to families about library services.

On March 9, Library Aide Dylan Rhodes and Adult Services Librarian Heidi Novotny attended the Low-Vision Expo at the Colonial Hills United Methodist Church. In addition to promoting SAPL's adaptive services to the low-vision community, they enjoyed learning more about other accessibility programs and services including the Texas State Library's Talking Book Program and Owl Radio. The Talking Book Program loans digital cartridge, Braille, large print and cassette books by mail to Texans with disabilities that prevent them from reading standard print materials. Heidi is currently exploring the possibility of

partnering with the Texas State Library to make Cody Library a demonstration site for the Talking Book Program.

On March 14, Heidi taught a class, *Preparing for the GED with Learning Express Library*. Participants learned how to create a Learning Express login id, find study materials, and download eBook study guides.

COLLINS GARDEN

Spring has arrived at Collins Garden and with it cheery displays featuring books on gardening, spring holidays, and outdoor activities have popped up throughout the library.

Spring break is being celebrated with crafts and activities, a different activity every day. The crafts are easy enough that even small children can do them but older children may embellish their creation by adding extra elements. And of course, library patrons are encouraged to take their crafts home and share with their friends and neighbors.

During the month of February 678 IRS returns were processed by the VITA volunteers.

Adult Services Librarian Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard created a *Blind Date with a Book* display that was quite successful with Collins Garden customers. It had to be replenished regularly with employee favorites.

The health initiative partnership between the library and Metro Health has resulted in new bike racks being installed near the entryway gate, as well as a new sidewalk on south and west side of building. This work is being done to encourage more people to walk and/or ride their bikes around the park and library areas.

CORTEZ

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed a popular Rainbow display promoting library programs and books.

Our popular Women's History Month display featured adult and juvenile books, biographies, bookmarks, and a calendar of events.

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 on Tuesdays Family Fun. 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

Forest Hills Branch continues to experience an influx of patrons as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program settles into the full swing of tax season. Patrons are thankful for the service as well as the provided tax forms.

The branch's new weekend Quigong session is gaining popularity. Exercise and meditation combine to make for a relaxing but energizing afternoon.

Project Linus continues to meet. They celebrated National Make a Blanket day on February 15. Members of the public were invited to help create blankets for children who have been victims of traumatic events.

March is National Women's History Month. As part of Women's History Month, branch hosted a program on March 6 entitled *Magnetic Explosions in Space* presented by Susan Pope, Assistant Director of the Space Science Department of the Southwest Research Institute. A photo exhibition from UTSA featuring female photographers is currently on display through the end of the month. Adult Librarian Sandra Griffin played an instrumental role in facilitating the *Girl in a Coma Speaks!* event held on March at the Central Library.

Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley hosted an early literacy event titled *Barnyard Buddies* on March 9. Children played games, sang songs, and created art projects all involving farm animals. It was a great morning of play for children and their caregivers. Many commented that they would like to see similar programming more often. Children attending story time in March are learning about community helpers. The storytime group learned about emergency workers and created displays of emergency vehicles on March 12.

Outreach is an important service the library offers to the public in order to spread library services beyond the branch. Ms. Shelley is able to reach children and parents that might not otherwise know about the library resources available to them. Second graders from Villarreal Elementary School visited the library and were given a tour by Ms. Shelley on February 25. Ms. Shelley visited the Circle North Headstart on February 25, Powell Elementary School for Smart Night on March 5 and Children's Summit Learning Center on March 6.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Children's

On February 14, Great Northwest had a Valentine's Day party for toddlers with over 100 in attendance. The children enjoyed Valentine stories, crafts and games. They celebrated with a big Valentine's Day parade around the library.

The story time crew celebrated Spring Break with St. Patrick's Day activities and games. Big brothers and sisters were able to share in the fun since they were out of school for the week.

Family Fun has an outer space theme for March and has been received with a large following, almost doubling in size. Spaceships, astronauts and aliens seem to be very popular with the younger crowd this month.

Events

Various groups continued to meet at the branch and these include the Great Northwest Knitters, the Book Club, and the Quilters. The Great Northwest Quilters is preparing to make a quilt to benefit the Friends of the Great Northwest Library.

Other

The Friends of the Great Northwest Library donated a Dell printer to the branch that will soon be networked by library staff. The printer is an all-in-one machine with various capabilities. In addition, the Friends have set aside a sum of money to be used by Teen Services. The continued support of the Friends in various endeavors is much appreciated.

Staff

Great Northwest Branch Library welcomed Stephanie Vazquez as the new Teen Librarian.

Teens

Stephanie Vazquez attended Library Palooza for NISD on Feb 23 it is a free author festival featuring six young adult authors. Stephanie also spoke with teens and 'tweens about the library.

The branch has also hosted the popular teen program, Eclectic Electric. It is a music program that focuses on learning to play the guitar.

GUERRA

VITA provided tax preparation assistance to 596 members of the community during the reporting period.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman screened *To Kill a Mockingbird* on February 19 as part of Black History Month. At the end of the film, he chaired a discussion of the movie, the book on which it was based, and the larger historical context. He attended the fifteenth anniversary of the Cable Westwood Neighborhood Association on February 26. On March 5, he met with Dianna Morganti, Central Library Reference/Government Documents Librarian to work on plans for the Family Health History project and to set a date for a Guerra presentation. On March 6, he attended the monthly meeting of Safety Security Workgroup. Dexter was selected for the COSA Train the Trainer Program and attended the first three (of five) eight-hour sessions on February 25, and March 4 and 11. On March 12, he presented Perfect Your Resume and Ace the Interview to three participants. On March 14, four members of the community participated in the Thursday evening book club, discussing *Mission Road* by San Antonio author Rick Riordan.

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs presented attended the Lackland Terrace Neighborhood Association meeting on February 19 where she promoted library programs. During the reporting period Arlene presented three Toddler Times, three Story Times, two Discovery Times, four Come and Go Crafts, and one Play and Learn. The Play and Learn program celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with early literacy activities surrounding the theme "Hats off to Dr. Seuss". Arlene continued her outreach efforts and presented three Story Times at Greatest Gift Daycare Center and two at Temple of Praise Early Childhood Center. She designed and installed two displays: Hats off to Dr. Seuss and St. Patrick's Day.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, moderator of the Club de Lectura, guided the group as it discussed *Muertos incómodos* (The Uncomfortable Dead) by Paco Ignacio Taibo and *Subcomandante Marcos* on February 28. On March 14, he attended the Adult Services Outreach meeting and participated in the discussion of services to the homeless presented by representatives from Haven with Hope.

Teen Liaison Kenneth Perez held a gaming even on February 21; teens played Yu-Gi-Oh, video games and board games. Kenneth held a planning meeting with some of the more active teens to finalize some of the teens to help finalize the details for the upcoming Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament. On February 28, Kenneth hosted the Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament. With Friends support, he was able to provide prizes to several of the participants. On March 7, Kenneth held a Game Ra event. The teens were able to play against each other on the PS3 and Nintendo Wii.

IGO

Monthly activities at Igo Branch Library during February and March 2013 include something for all ages. On February 19, the Genealogy Club held its monthly meeting, topic for the day Online Maps for Genealogists presented by Texana's Sylvia Reyna. During February and March the UTHSCSA Nursing School presented a series of programs focusing on health topics of interest to seniors. Topics included "Heart, Health, Diet and Exercise, and "Folk Medicine and Home Remedies" both programs were well attended. In keeping with the health series programs the monthly meeting of the Elderberries guest speaker was Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Sylvie Rogers her presentation "Herbs, Folklore, Culinary Uses and Cultivation practices", also well attended. The branch ended the month of adult programming with ballroom dancing with J. P. Davila.

Over 250 teens attended weekly teen programming during February and March. Teen Library Leadership Council has 16 active member the average time served is over two years. The number of members of the various weekly clubs is steadily increasing. The branch's *Yu-Gi-Oh!* Club is preparing for a yearly

Tournament which will be held in May. Anime club started to plan events for Annual Igo Anime Festival (including the art contest). A member of Igo Teens Leadership Council created and is implementing his individual music program "Guitar jamming with Lino". Another member of Igo TLLC started online "Fine Arts Club" where teens can post reviews and discuss the fine arts. This interactive project is reaching out to those who only occasionally come to the library, as well as for promotes the library services to current members (active links to the library materials are included). Since several TLLC members are addressing diverse communities of SA, by creating very popular annual Multicultural Festival. To meet the need throughout the year, they created online interactive blog they share the experience gained from visiting other cultures and through over several years pen pal exchanges. Last month's biggest project was creating the promotional video for Children's Department for Summer Reading Program. Teens were honored and very enthusiastic about this opportunity. Working together as a team was very beneficial, educational, and fun for all involved. This project provided the opportunity to show their creativity and confirms to the intention of the programs initiated by Barbara Kwiatkowski, in which teens are provided with the space and tools and encouraged to create their own projects.

Finally, in partnership with NISD librarians and organizers of their yearly author event "Library Palooza", Ms. Kwiatkowski organized SAPL participation in the event by arranging with several other teen librarians to man the SAPL table promoting library services. 700 adults and children attended the NISD event.

JOHNSTON

Johnston staff has been keeping busy getting ready for its renovation project. In order to make it easier to install the carpet, materials have been shifted up one shelf. This project was completed by Library Aide Daniel Blancas, with help from Library Volunteer Sarina Hackworth. Julie Gil had a great suggestion for clearing out the Friends "Book Nook." All items are now priced @ \$.25! We have seen an increase in traffic and sales! Library Aide Raeshea Faulkner continues to pull duplicate materials through the collections. Materials are checked for status and then sent Central for redistribution. The branch will close on Monday April 1, and reopen on Monday, May 20. The project includes new carpet, new paint, new service desk, and new furniture! While the library is closed, staff will be reassigned to other locations.

Beverly Wrigglesworth has been offering her regularly scheduled programs. She also visited with the children and staff at Valley Hi Head Start. The staff also offered come and go Easter crafts during Spring Break. Folks of all ages created Easter baskets and bunny puppets. The programs were set up by Vida Leal Salas.

During the month of March, Ms. Salas created displays for Easter, St Patrick's Day, and Women's History Month.

Christina Martinez has been very busy this month. To prepare for the renovation project she has examined all the paperback romances, and withdrawn items that are no longer needed. They have been shifted to metal shelving. Ms Martinez has also been offering teen programming. During Spring Break, the teens had the opportunity to use iPads to make their own music video!

Christine has also been preparing for partnership with the Food Bank to offer nutritious meals to neighborhood children during June and July.

LANDA

Landa Teen Services' weekly programs (Teen Library Leadership, Tutoring for Young Children, and Cool Teens Club) continue to welcome new teens and offer specialized programming created by and for teens. On February 24 and March 10 the International Teen Club celebrated Martial Arts and world dances.

Landa's Teen Library Leadership Council met as a unit every week to plan the path of the Tutoring program during the summer months. They also voted on the best way to communicate with the teen tutors in the Toronto Public Library in Toronto, Canada.

To help recruit more members, council member Maddie C. created a Prezi presentation (<http://goo.gl/NqXxU>) for the Tutoring program and Paris N. created a Google account and PowerPoint presentation (<http://goo.gl/wuV45>) for the International Teen Club.

Maddie C. also continued her communication to Cathy Thomson in Toronto and asked if the TLLC would like to communicate by email to the Toronto teen tutors to increase their international "pen pal" exchange of positive peer influences.

On March 3 teen council member, Hana N. asked, as part of her duties on Mayor Castro's Youth Fitness Council, to create Teen Yoga workshops. She enlisted her brother, Nabil N., and coordinated workshop dates on Landa's schedule. Bea Canales is working with Jennifer Velasquez, Teen Services Coordinator, to help secure a yoga instructor who can donate time.

New Children's Services Librarian Clair Larkin is attracting new families and continuing to greet the "old timers" with Baby Time, Toddler Time, Family Fun, and Story Time programs. Imelda Merino, Children's Services Librarian from Westfall Branch, is helping with the Thursday morning program.

Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta has begun an outreach program to the residents of the DeMatel Nursing Home at The Village at Incarnate Word. This month about 26 residents and their caregivers enjoyed a President's Day theme program which included books with paintings and photos of the Presidents, a special patriotic craft and songs selected for the holiday.

The new Mystery Book Club for Seniors read Agatha Christie's *Murder at the Vicarage*, the first Miss Marple book. The group has returning members who enjoy lunch as they discuss that month's selection. Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta leads the discussion.

In programming related to the major Holocaust photo exhibit at Central Library, Landa Library sponsored a program of dramatic readings of selected Holocaust accounts.

The library is the home of the new "Geek Gaming Club" for adults hosted by Connie Hejl of Cortez Library. Our meeting room is also the temporary home for the monthly meeting of the San Antonio Storytellers group while Brook Hollow is being renovated.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Landa showed two films in the "Independent Women, Independent Films" series: *La Boda*, and *Escuela*.

On February 18, guitarist Roy Kamin presented a program of popular and folk music to a full meeting room at Landa.

LAS PALMAS

Spring break has been a busy time at Las Palmas. Children of all ages are in the library using computers, reading books and magazines, completing special assignments from school, attending several of the scheduled programs and enjoying the library to the fullest.

Las Palmas has already accepted a new employee to be Teen Liaison. Sylvia Pachecano, currently liaison at the Westfall Branch Library, will begin on March 25.

Gina Brudi, Children's Librarian visited seven classrooms at LBJ Elementary on March 22. 143 children from grades pre-school to first grade enjoyed stories and learned about the library. The participatory book, *Old Black Fly*, was a big hit.

During the month of March, Las Palmas is hosting a photo exhibit celebrating Women's History Month. The title of the show is "Making Herstory." The show will remain in place until April 30. It is a very attractive collection of artwork and a fine example of innovative photography on canvas.

Mary Elizabeth Area, Library Assistant at Las Palmas has been doing very well with her 'Tween afternoon program on Wednesdays. She has been working hard to invite them weekly to participate in the various upcoming activities for tweens. Popular lately has been the LegoClub Programs where the 'tweens design their own projects during the hour. Ms. Area has photographed them and their work and placed their accomplishments in the Las Palmas Flickr account.

MAVERICK

Maverick continued to have a few programs to celebrate African-American Heritage Month. On February 23, patrons attended an Afro-San Quimas music program. Later that day, guests attended a program by Our Lady of the Lake University that centered on the "Yearning for Freedom" speech.

Librarian II, Ben Longoria, hosted a science program on March 9. Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, had 52 enthusiastic preschoolers and older siblings make leprechaun hats during Spring Break on March 11. Many of the kids wore their hats in the library.

MCCRELESS

Four Story Times were held from February 16 to March 16. Children learned about nursery rhymes, friends and neighbors, and eggs and chickens. They made stick puppets, a paper-house neighborhood, a hatching paper chicken and a *Hickory, Dickory, Dock* clock. Story Time during Spring Break week was a huge success with 51 attending.

McCreless families learned about birds during a Family Fun and 'Tweens had a chance to relax during 'Tween Time.

Barnyard Buddies, a Play and Learn event, was a hit with 20 children reading books, singing songs and playing games – all on the McCreless "farm."

Children's Librarian Katy Brown also attended a WIC nutrition fair, talking with 37 children and adults about library materials and services.

Branch Manager Cammie Brantley led her monthly book club in a discussion of *In the Woods* by Tana French.

Book displays included Spay and Neuter Month in February and Women's History Month in March. In the teen area the display for February was Love Stories and Time Travel in March.

MEMORIAL

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Memorial Branch, along with other branches, hosted a photography exhibition coordinated through the Women's History Month committee and the photography program at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The Memorial branch exhibit featured the terrific work of Hannah Cooper, whose photograph entitled, *The Hiding Place*, won first place in the show.

A Medicare savings program was held on March 6. The program, presented by the WellMed group, provided valuable one-one-one bilingual assistance for seniors wishing to understand the Medicare enrollment process.

The Sassy Stitches embroidery group for adults met on March 20 and March 28. The group provides a time for novice and experienced sewers to learn from one another and share ideas and their love for this handicraft.

Adult Services outreach activities by Adult Services librarian, Rhonda Davila, included visits to St. Mary's University, Woodlawn Community Center, and local restaurants and churches to promote library services and programs.

Displays for this period included ones promoting Black History Month and a display of books on cat pet care promoting an upcoming program.

Young friends of Memorial Library enjoyed stories, music, and crafts to celebrate African American Heritage Month. Families enjoyed the early literacy program, Barnyard Buddies that consisted of play stations where parents and caregivers could interact with children to help develop pre-reading skills.

The Headstart students of Madison Elementary School enjoyed listening to stories about man-made buildings and how to be creative.

Families enjoyed a cool Spring Break by creating St. Patrick's Day and Easter crafts, and watching family movies.

MISSION

On February 16, a naming ceremony was held in the library's south courtyard. The courtyard which has a fountain and faces Mission San Jose was named in honor of Monsignor Balthasar Janacek. Father "Balty", as he was known, was dedicated to insuring the preservation and maintenance of the San Antonio Missions. A plaque in his honor now sits in the space. Friends, family, city officials, and colleagues all gathered for the event.

On March 7 Holocaust survivor Rose Williams shared her life experiences with over 120 library visitors; many were students and educators from Harlandale ISD. Ms. Williams' moving account of her life during the war brought many questions from the audience and for a few, the discussion was very emotional. Ms. Williams had a large following after the event with students continuing to ask questions after the program's conclusion.

Children's Librarian Jane Miller provided Spring Break crafts to visiting families. Visitors decorated paper umbrellas, made tissue flowers and participated in other activities over the holiday break. Teens enjoyed creating handmade toys to donate to Animal Care Services.

The meeting space continues to host VITA, neighborhood associations, Children's, Teen, and Tween programming, an embroidery group, little league associations, and also citizenship classes.

PAN AMERICAN

Librarian Carol Collins did programs every Thursday for babies, toddlers, tweens and families. Angela Olivarez did weekly programs for the teens.

PARMAN

The Wilderness Oak Alliance hosted an open house at Parman to share the Panther Springs Park plans. Councilwoman Elisa Chan gave a short presentation regarding the bond project. The park will be adjacent to the library property and a trail will connect to the library parking lot. Several posters were on display showing the park layout and possible amenities.

Three film nights were presented as part of the African American History Month and Women's History Month celebrations. Several customers enjoyed the opportunity to see these films in the Parman meeting rooms. As part of the Women's History Month committee, Library Assistant Tyler Lutz arranged several women in science lectures for various branches.

Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow partnered with Kaplan to offer a practice SAT test to teens. More than 75 students took the test. The test administrator said this was the most participants they had ever seen at one of the libraries.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance organized and presented the branch's third Teddy Bear Sleepover in March. Ten members of the Parman Staff stayed after hours on Friday to pose the stuffed animals and to take pictures. A slideshow was presented to the children and their parents the following morning after breakfast provided by local restaurant OrderUp. This time, the animals were very creative and

participated in activities such as a magic show, Fiesta dress up including cascarones, a dance party with disco ball, and building a swing in the new staff doorway. Again, this was a favorite program and staff plans to offer the event 2 times a year.

The fish tank purchased by the Friends of the Parman Library has been installed on the circulation desk near the children's area and is already a big hit. Staff even saw a small boy hugging the bowl. Once the fish are established, a fish naming contest will be held.

Parman staff recently created their own Harlem Shake video to use as advertising for the Parman Dance Fiesta taking place in April. The video plays on a loop in the lobby and many families have been caught dancing along. Dance Fiesta events include: Parent's Night Out on April 5 (including a concurrent children's program), Senior Prom on April 11 for our patrons over 55, Toddler Dance Party on April 12, Kids Disco Party on April 18, and Teen Dance-Off on April 19.

Assistant Manager Tim Johnson has been selected to attend the City's Leadership Development program and has enjoyed the first two sessions. Parman staff has held their first book club meeting to discuss *Linchpin* by Seth Godin. Staff will be reading a book each month and will meet to discuss the ideas presented in the context of the library.

PRUITT

The Pruitt Library finished of its commemorative celebration of African American Heritage Month by hosting a live music event featuring works by Robert Johnson—a Blues legend who recorded at San Antonio's Gunter Hotel in 1936. Thanks to Kerry Kassel, professional musician and former producer, for providing this wonderful program. On February 22, Pruitt also hosted a popular screening of *Remember the Titans*.

On February 18, Pruitt welcomed its newest librarian on staff. Rachel "Rae" Downen joined the Pruitt team as a public service librarian. She was most recently the librarian at Harris Middle School. Although she is still finding her way, she is excited about serving the community in this new capacity and is already learning to greet several of our regular visitors by name.

Pruitt's TGIF Adult Book Club met to February 22 to discuss *A Land More Kind than Home*, a first novel by Wiley Cash. Members unanimously loved this book and look forward to reading more of Cash's work in the future. This book club meets again on March 22 to discuss Randy Susan Myers', *The Murderer's Daughters*. This book with its exploration of the relationship between mothers and daughters and sisters is a perfect choice for Women's History Month.

On February 23, Pruitt Librarian Troy Lawrence taught a class to introduce Pinterest to first-time users. The members had a great time picking out favorite books they have read to pin to their boards. In addition to these special feature classes, Pruitt continues to offer eReader U every Tuesday and more extensive one-on-one technology assistance by appointment as staff allows.

On March 2, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez staffed an information table at the Spring Hill Housing Complex Resident Resource Fair. She had a great time promoting SAPL resources to this community and her visit has already resulted in several new customers visiting the Pruitt Library from this outreach event. Pruitt Librarians Troy Lawrence and Rae Downen provided outreach at the Walzem WIC office on March 6. Rae had a great time learning how to promote resources and answer questions about programming and early literacy with the WIC customers. Special thanks to Troy for providing excellent outreach training.

The Pruitt Library hosted a showing of two films for Women's History Month on March 7: *Escuela and La cueca sola*. On March 21, Pruitt will also show two other films: *The Women's Kingdom* and *La boda*. These films are being done in cooperation with SAPL's Celebrate Diversity Adult Programming committee.

On March 7, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez provided outreach to Cherished Child Daycare. Students had great time learning about beneficial insects like ladybugs. Together, they made ladybug hats and pledged to be beneficial to other people as often as possible. The next day, Mariya attended Park Village Elementary School's Career Day to talk about working in a joint public library-school library setting.

Librarian Troy Lawrence hosted a Play-n-Learn style-event called Barnyard Buddies on Saturday, March 9. More than 20 toddlers and their parents had a great time moving through various early literacy stations all centered around different animals found on the farm.

Zumba on Tuesdays with Maddie continues to be a well-attended program. More than 20 people join in weekly to participate in this fun and lively Latin-dance inspired workout. Maddie, the certified Zumba instructor, makes the workout very fun by giving the workout space a disco feel complete with spinning lights and a disco ball.

Events for teens are also a regular draw at the Pruitt Library. Teens have had a great time this semester with a focus on sports and games. As the weather warms up, Pruitt librarians are planning to take advantage of the courtyard to do some large-scale programming for events like extreme Frisbee. The goal is to encourage teens who are not regular library users to take advantage of the great resources available to them via the SAPL location on their campus.

The Pruitt Library continues to host a weekly anime event. Many teens have found a place of belonging through this regular Wednesday Isshoni Anime Society gathering. Pruitt Library assistant Rob Lerner has really helped to increase the attendance and cohesion of this group by helping the teens select the weekly anime titles for viewing. Additionally, teens are also enjoying regular space for Magik and Yu-Gi-Oh dueling. It is not unusual for groups of fifteen to twenty players to come to the library both during their lunches and for hours after school to play these strategic card games.

Pruitt also continues to host its Sunday scrapbooking events. Each Sunday, more students are joining in learning scrapbooking techniques to apply to their school projects to make these presentations stand out.

The chess events at the Pruitt Library continue to be some of the biggest events each week. On Thursday, teens get a special lesson from Chess Master Alex Weinberg along with pizza donated by Domino's. On Thursday evening, families join together for a catered meal followed by open play for novices and an advanced strategy session for those looking to better their game. The Pruitt Library is indebted to the Rackspace Foundation for its support of this program. Additionally, all the Pruitt Library staff is heavily involved in serving meals and teaching the novice classes. Special thanks goes to Pruitt Library assistant Rob Lerner who facilitates the weekly teen sessions, and to Pruitt volunteers Greg Bradley, Carolyn Bradley, and Lisa Ortiz who help to serve between 75 and 100 meals each week.

On February 16, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez met with Reverend Dr. Laura Holck and other members of the Sherwood Community Garden planning committee. The garden is located on property donated by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, and the group desires to increase the impact of the garden on the community. Mariya is helping to plan a community event to showcase the garden. Talks are also in the works to do regular Story Time in the Garden events with a focus on gardening and nutrition for the neighborhood children. Pruitt is also looking to partner with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and the Walzem YMCA to do summer outreach at weekly soccer programs hosted by the YMCA who will be utilizing the soccer fields that will be within walking distance of the Pruitt Library.

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. She also made a special appearance at the Bonham kindergarten class on March 1 to celebrate the birthday of Dr Seuss. She wore her Dr. Seuss hat and read several Dr Seuss books to the delight of the students. She also presents monthly story time to two classes at the Ferrari Learning Center, a Head Start Facility. Fifteen books were also delivered to each of the nine classes she visits during the month.

During this period, Ms. Dalton facilitated a total of four monthly books discussions. These book clubs are at the Twain Middle School (6th grade), Monte Vista 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.

Monte Vista Montessori brings approximately 32 students weekly to the library. These students range in age from eight to ten, grades 2 through 5. When the class comes to the library, the Children's Librarian 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 Children's Librarian presents a weekly Kids Time for Kindergarten-aged children and older.

In March, Betsy facilitated the second meeting of the LEGO LEGO LEGO club at San Pedro Library. There was almost a 100 percent increase in the number of children who attended over the number attending in January. The children were creative in their structures – they built modes of transportation without wheels! After each meeting Betsy posts pictures of the artists and their creations in the children's area.

SEMMES

In celebration of African American Heritage Month (AAHM), the Semmes Cinema presented *The Color Purple* on February 21. Staff also created a book display to highlight relevant book titles. Children's Librarian, Randi Jones, contributed to the AAHM bibliography pamphlet that was distributed to all SAPL locations.

For Women's History Month (WHM) in March, Semmes hosted a "What's the Big Idea?" science program on March 2. Melanie Stine from Texas State University gave a talk on tree rings and all of the information that can be derived from this study. To further commemorate WHM, the branch is also hosting one of the UTSA photo exhibitions.

THOUSAND OAKS

Children's Programming

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser continues to draw in crowds of toddlers and small children for her popular Toddler Time and Story Time events. On February 20, the children celebrated the annual Stock Show and Rodeo with themed books and activities, and on February 28 they listened to stories about Outer Space. The March story times were also themed, with Birds on March 7 and St. Patrick's Day on March 14.

On March 13, children enjoying Spring Break had a Play and Learn activity at Thousand Oaks. The theme was Barnyard Buddies, and the children had various activities to explore at different stations, including an appearance by some real barnyard friends. Courtesy of Circulation Attendant Brenda Ramos, the children were treated to a visit from guest ducklings Daffy and Alexandra.

Librarian Leslie Elsasser also set up a table for Come and Go Crafts. During the week of March 11 through 15, children had a variety of crafts to make during the Spring Break holiday.

Teen Time

Thousand Oaks teens had a lot of fun in February and March. On February 20, the teens tried cooking brownies on a waffle iron. They also played board games, and began an intensely competitive game of Monopoly. The game continued on February 27 and ended after one teen bankrupted all the other players and had more money than the bank.

The teens took a break from games on March 6 and enjoyed crafting Bead Sprites, fusible tiny plastic beads that they made into characters from video games and popular movies. On March 13, they enjoyed a screening of the popular movie *Pitch Perfect*.

Adult Programming

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Thousand Oaks branch exhibited photographs in a display entitled *Making Herstory*. Coordinated by the UTSA Photography Program, the display features photographs submitted by female students from regional universities. Numerous patrons have committed on the display and how pleased they were that the branch is a hosting site.

Thousand Oaks patrons celebrated diversity with two different film series in February and March. In conjunction with African American Heritage Months events system-wide, patrons enjoyed a viewing of the popular comedy film *Barbershop*, starring Cedric the Entertainer, Eve, and Ice Cube on February 18.

On March 11, Thousand Oaks celebrated Women's History Month with a selection from the film series Independent Women, Independent Films. The film *La Boda (The Wedding)* is an intimate portrait of migrant life along the U.S.-Mexican border. The film explored the challenges faced by a community striving to maintain their roots in Mexico, while pursuing the American Dream across the border.

On February 25, Librarian Carol Crawford presented a class on phpBB message boards. Students learned the basic knowledge to start their own boards, including how to install, run, modify, and upgrade a phpBB message board. phpBB is a flat-forum bulletin board software solution that can be used to stay in touch with a group of people.

On March 7, Assistant Manager Jorge Chavez hosted the Better Business Bureau, which offered a seminar on Scam and Identity Theft. Patrons learned how to avoid becoming a victim of common scams, as well as investment scams, and some of the common ploys used in identity theft, which could potentially result in a loss of money and a ruined credit rating. Patrons were also given helpful contact information in case they are a victim of a scam or identity theft.

In February, Library Assistant Karen Sagun continued the Beginning Knitting class at Thousand Oaks. On February 21, students learned how to correct mistakes in their knitting, and how to make increase and decrease stitches. The class concluded on February 28, when the students learned how to pick up stitches, knit in the round, and how to decipher knitting patterns.

On March 7, Miss Sagun began a second knitting class with a record number of students. Nine knitters learned the basics on casting on and the knit stitch. On March 14, the new knitters also learned how to purl and bind off their knitting so that it wouldn't unravel when their projects were completed.

Book Groups

On February 21, the Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group discussed *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larsen. The group was impressed by the author's attention to detail and found the book well-written; however, they agreed that the account of the rise of the Nazis in 1933 to be incredibly disturbing.

On March 4, the Monday Evening Book Group discussed *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. The book group members were riveted by the amazing story of Louis Zamperini's survival, but horrified by the atrocities he endured in the Japanese POW camp. They agreed that it was a fascinating work of non-fiction work that read like fiction.

Thousand Oaks library staff members continue to train patrons from all over San Antonio on the basics of digital downloads to their e-readers. Though formal E-reader University seminars have been postponed due to Volunteer Tax Assistance, staff members have still provided one-on-one training to patrons in need of e-reader assistance.

VITA

Thousand Oaks continues to host the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program five days a week. It has been incredibly busy this tax season, and the service has been doing a great job handling the large number of people wanting tax assistance.

Outreach

Northeast Senior Center St. Patrick's Day Trivia Game. Branch manager Troy Hoyles got into the Irish spirit and wore a seasonal leprechaun hat whilst quizzing the spunky seniors about Irish and St. Patrick's Day trivia in a *Jeopardy* - style format.

TOBIN

Teen Librarian, Elizabeth (Betsey) Leitko joined the Tobin team on February 11. Betsey has gotten lots of ideas from both the teens and 'tweens for programming including cooking no-bake fudge, duct tape crafts and board games.

Assistant Manager-Librarian, Keri Moczygemba lined up *Fit to a T* class for seniors on March 9 through the Live Well Age Smart committee. On March 12, Library Assistants, Elvia Ramos and Terry Verner assisted Thousand Oaks Manager, Troy Hoyles, with seniors playing "feeling lucky" trivia for St. Patrick's Day at the NE Center.

Children's Librarian, Kimbra Cook, continues to see more toddlers each Wednesday morning. A good crowd came to the special Play and Learn session – Barnyard Buddies on March 5. Ms. Cook participated in creating the early literacy program that rotates throughout branches for creative play development. Similarly, Ms. Cook saw very good attendance during spring break for come and go crafts for kids and families making paper bag dog and cat puppets.

Many thanks go to the Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell for funding the purchase of interior seating throughout the building. The branch received 2 new chairs, 4 benches, reupholstered 3 existing chairs and a bench to provide and enhance some much needed seating.

Clever displays this period were Blind Date with a Book and "Red" any good books lately for February. Librarian Keri Moczygemba displayed all red cover books of all genres and books wrapped in paper that customers checked out without knowing the title but got to unwrap for their date with a book. Thanks go to branch services coordinator, Joel Bangilan, for providing the blind date display idea. Ms. Ramos highlighted Dr. Seuss' birthday and the Holocaust in the relocated cube display at Tobin. Tobin Library participated in the Women's History Month with a photography exhibit from UTSA by women students.

The fitness center at Tobin is nearly complete with a bench installed for seating and recycle and trash cans provided by the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation department. Several people utilize the equipment regularly during the early morning hours.

WESTFALL

Westfall Branch Library's librarians have been busy with outreach. Children's Librarian Imelda visited Woodlawn and Colonial Hills elementary schools and met with 38 people. Discovery School brought 16 people to the library, where they met with Mrs. Merino and heard a story. Teen Services Librarian Sylvia Pachecano met with 400 people at Jackson Middle School and the Young Women's Leadership Academy Health Fair. Approximately 40 people visited the Scholastic van when it stopped by Westfall one Saturday afternoon.

More than 62 children and adults participated in several Kids' Time, Family Fun and Tween Time events. Little Read Wagon hosted five highly popular and well attended Play and Learn sessions.

Teens at Westfall heard cryptzoologist Ken Gerhard talk about werewolves and learned a bit about sumo wrestling from members of the Lone Star Sumo Club. Members of the Teen Library Leadership Council met to discuss plans for the spring and summer.

Third Thursday Book Discussion Group talked about *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* in February.