



San Antonio Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2013

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On March 17, Assistant Library Director Kathy Donellan attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Board meeting and delivered a report on the San Antonio Public Library.

On March 21, Library Director Ramiro Salazar delivered welcoming remarks during the media event to announce the author lineup for the Texas Book Festival/San Antonio Edition. Representatives from the San Antonio Public Library Foundation lead the event and local authors spoke as well.

On March 26, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez delivered a presentation to the City Council's Education Excellence Committee regarding the Library's Teen Leadership Council. The Education Council Committee consists of Councilman Ray Lopez (D6), Chair; Councilwoman Ivy Taylor (D2); Councilwoman Leticia Ozuna (D3); Councilman Rey Saldaña (D4); and Councilman Cris Medina (D7). Late that evening, Ramiro Salazar delivered introductory remarks for nationally recognized poet Naomi Shihab Nye's reading at Central Library. This event was part of the Library's Women's History Month celebration and was well attended.

On March 27, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Assistant Directors Kathy Donellan and Dale McNeill joined other members of the Library's Management Team for the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Annual Board Builder Luncheon. This year's luncheon featured Susan Hildreth, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

On April 3, Library Director Ramiro Salazar delivered welcoming remarks to the San Antonio Greater Chamber of Commerce's Leadership San Antonio (LSA) group. LSA spent time at Central Library as well as the Mission Branch Library. Later that afternoon, Ramiro Salazar and Jean Brady attended the City Council Work Session (B Session) for the Economic Development Department's presentation regarding the Café Commerce initiative. Central Library has been identified as the preferred site for the Café Commerce initiative.

City Council took action on April 4 to authorize the acquisition of the preferred site, located at 2515 E. Evans Road, for the new District 9 Branch Library. City Council reconsidered its action on April 11 in light of new information that Councilwoman Chan (D9) owns the property adjacent to the preferred site. During this meeting, City Council took action to recall action taken on April 4 to acquire the preferred site and asked staff to bring the item before City Council on May 2 for consideration. During this time, City Council asked staff to obtain a second appraisal on the preferred site and to provide briefings regarding the preferred site. The evening of April 4, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the annual Staff Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Friends of the Brook Hollow Branch Library.

Mayor Julian Castro invited Library Director Ramiro Salazar to a site visit of the Mazal Holocaust Library on April 5. The Mayor has expressed an interest in bringing the Mazal Library collection to the Central Library and requested that the Library prepare a 'White Paper' on the feasibility of establishing the collection at the Central Library. Library staff is developing the 'White Paper'.

On April 7, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the closing event for The Holocaust: Learn and Remember series. This series kicked-off on March 4 with a media event. There were approximately 75 in attendance.

On April 12, Library Director Ramiro Salazar participated in the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's 30th Anniversary Gala. The event took place at the Briscoe National Western Art Museum. The following morning, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the Texas Book Festival/San Antonio Edition Author's Breakfast hosted by Texas Speaker of the House Joe Strauss and his wife Julie. Congressman Doggett, Mayor Castro, Councilman Bernal and Former Senator Hutchison delivered remarks at the breakfast. Later that morning, Ramiro Salazar attended the Texas Book Festival/San Antonio Edition, held at

Central Library and the Southwest School of Art. The first ever event for San Antonio was very well attended. According to the Library's counters, the Central Library's door count increased 198% (almost tripled), WiFi usage increased by 89%, and Computer Usage increased by 22%. Library Staff worked very hard to prepare for this event and their efforts were evident. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation's vision to bring this festival to San Antonio and Central Library is appreciated.

As part of the FY2013 budget development, the Library Department agreed to collaborate with City's 311/Customer Service Department for a two month program at four library locations to process local birth certificates and immunization records during peak time (July and August) summer 2013. Library staff has been coordinating with the City Clerk's Office (who has assumed the City's lead in Vital Statistics), 311/Customer Service, and the Office of Budget and Management. It is expected the Library will begin issuing local birth certificates and immunization records at four (4) branch libraries (Thousand Oaks, Great Northwest, Cortez, and Mission) during the months of July and August 2013. As plans finalize, additional details will be shared with the Library Board of Trustees.

On April 15, Digital Services Coordinator Ignacio Albarracin and Performance and Innovation Manager David Cooksey attended Bexar County's demonstration of BiblioTech. During the demonstration, Ignacio and David had an opportunity to preview the 3M Cloud System that will be deployed at the BiblioTech site.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Two new electronic resources for children were introduced at SAPL in April. The first of these, BookFlix, is an online literacy resource that pairs classic video storybooks from Weston Woods with related nonfiction books. BookFlix includes over 90 book pairs in English and an additional 25 pairs in Spanish. The service includes a read-along option as well as educational games and author biographies. BookFlix is designed for young children, Pre-K through the primary grades.

TrueFlix was also introduced in April. This online resource is based on Scholastic's award-winning True Book series. This service provides access to 47 True Books, with a read-along option, as well as a high-quality related video, project ideas, suggestions for further exploration and an activity center for each title. With the STARR tests increased emphasis on expository writing/reading and content knowledge, the library anticipates that TrueFlix will be a valuable service to children (and teachers) in the upper elementary grades.

Along with Assistant Director Dale McNeil, Children's Coordinator Viki Ash attended *School Library Journal's Public Library Leadership Think Tank: The Future Starts in the Children's Room* in New York City on Friday, April 5. The purpose of this one-day conference was to enhance innovation and exchange ideas. Administrators and children's librarians from across the country discussed topics such as: rethinking physical space, apps and digital literacy, igniting school/public library relationships, and the common core. The keynote speaker, Pam Sandlian Smith of the Anythink Libraries in Colorado, encouraged attendees to approach their work with a playful and joyous spirit and to seek out co-workers who are creative, optimistic problem-solvers. Her talk included a quotation from John Cotton Dana that speaks particularly to the SAPL's evolving approach to children's services: "The public library is the center of public happiness first, of public education next."

LITTLE READ WAGON

During this reporting period Little Read Wagon has continued with Play & Learn at the Cortez and Brook Hollow libraries. Children's Librarians Connie Hejl and Rachael Barrera were both very actively involved in presenting the programs at their respective locations. Corinne Sanchez and Cresencia Huff have been planning a new twist on Play & Learn to debut at Lockwood Park later this month. The series will emphasize math and science experiences with plenty of opportunities to build pre-reading skills through talking, singing, reading, writing and playing.

On March 23 Xelena Gonzalez and Julia Lazarin presented another "Most Important MARKS: Early writing development" workshop with the assistance of Laura Sanchez. Child care teachers continue to

enter the lottery for a chance to attend. The next workshop will be May 18. In June Liliana Ornelas and Martha Wichy will once again present the workshop in Spanish.

Teen parents at area high schools are still receiving presentations with make-and-take activities. Cori, Laura and Xelena have been visiting campuses in the East Central, Edgewood, Northeast, Northside, Southwest and San Antonio independent school districts. Teen parents have had the opportunity to make finger puppets, song books, and felt books. The teen parent team has been brainstorming ideas for new activities to share next school year.

Head Start campuses visited this reporting period include the Harlandale, San Antonio, Southwest, Alamo Heights independent school districts. Julia, Martha, Lily and Cresencia have been very busy with these presentations which often include a make-and-take activity. Although it requires transporting and setting up more materials, parents seem to genuinely appreciate the opportunity to make an item which can then be used with their children to build early literacy skills. Parents are more engaged in the presentations and with each other as they have a concrete example of something they can do with their children.

On April 13 Cresencia presented at the UTSA Early Childhood Education Institute. Her session on math and science books for early childhood was attended primarily by child care and Head Start teachers who had also participated in other Little Read Wagon workshops. Members of the Little Read Wagon team helped prepare for the institute by sharing book recommendations and suggestions for making the most of the 45-minute session.

MARKETING

The marketing team continues to support all of the activities and programs that SAPL offers at Central and all of its branch libraries.

Additional projects that the marketing coordinated and/or supported include:

- *Holocaust: Learn and Remember* closing program on April 7 including the program logistics and tear-down of the photo exhibit
- *Texas Book Festival – San Antonio Edition* event logistics
- Writing of SAPL newsletter
- All PR
- Award entry submissions
- Media research
- Social media management (Facebook followers: 446, Twitter followers: 1,328)
- Spanish translation
- Public Awareness Campaign RFP revisions (per City Council request)
- Texas Book Festival/San Antonio Edition

The graphic designers worked on the following projects:

- Summer Reading Program
- Young Pegasus program design
- April & May Bookmarks
- Texas Book Festival signage
- Tech Corridor signage

SAPL appeared in media 103 times during the reporting period.

TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Off-Site Service

Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard continues to collaborate with the Academy of Creative Education (ACE – NEISD). During the reporting period, she: visited the campus twice to participate in “New Student Orientation;” provided a personal tour of the Central library for the school’s founder, Dr. Arline Patterson; and organized and participated in the entire campus’ tour of the Central library on April 2. During this visit, nearly 150 students, teachers, administrators, and ACE board members participated in a series of events hosted by Teen Services. After the tour, ACE Principal Christopher Throm wrote to

Brooke via email, "Thank you so much for a wonderful visit to the downtown public library. You and your team surpassed all of our expectations!"

For the second year in a row, Brooke (and Stephanie Vazquez, Teen Librarian – Great Northwest Library) represented SAPL at Northside ISD's Gifted and Talented Volunteer Day at the Northside Activity Center. Over 300 students, teachers and Northside administrators participated in the event.

On Thursday, April 11, Brooke and Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce participated in "Geek Week" at Northwest Vista College, an event focused on Science Fiction in books, board games and beyond. While there, Brooke and Kathleen offered library card sign-up, provided information about services at SAPL locations system-wide, and spoke to 50 students about SAPL's anime, manga, comic and graphic novel collections.

During the reporting period, Brooke made contact with organizers for LoneStarCon3 (The 71st Annual World Science Fiction Convention to be held in San Antonio in August/September 2013) to discuss teen involvement—and Teen Services' involvement—in the event. Convention organizers are interested in recruiting teen volunteers from SAPL Teen Library Leadership Council groups. More details will be provided in the coming months.

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

As part of Teen Services' system-wide support initiatives, Kathleen assisted David Gallin-Parisi (Teen Librarian – Cody Library) with outreach at Health Careers High School on March 19. Kathleen and David provided over 400 teens with information about teen programs at the Cody Library and SAPL services and resources and services for teens over a 2-hour lunch period. Then on March 26, Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard assisted David with outreach at Clark High School. Brooke and David spoke to over 125 teens about the SAPL and Cody teen programs. On April 12, Teen Services Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo assisted Sarah Weinblatt (Teen Librarian – Mission Library) with outreach at Harlandale High School. Sarah and J.D. spoke to 100 students about Tutor.com and other services and resources the Library offers for teens, in addition to informing them about teen programs at the Mission Library.

Teen Services Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo continued taking his Eclectic Electric guitar/keyboard program "on the road." He hosted the music program for teens at Great Northwest in March and at Parman in April. 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

Kathleen 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. During the reporting period, Bigs and Littles met on March 25, and afterward they had fun and got some exercise playing different sports games at Madison Square Park.

Professional Development

During the reporting period, Kathleen was nominated and selected to participate in the 2013 Supervisor Training Academy, which is part of the City Manager's Leadership Development Program. The 8-course program will run through mid-June and is provided by the WHY Group, in conjunction with the Alamo Community Colleges District.

During the reporting period, Brooke accepted an invitation from Shannon Peterson, President-Elect for ALA's YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association), to become a Virtual Member of YALSA's Mentoring Task Force. The charge of this member group is to review applications submitted for the YALSA 2013 - 2014 mentoring program to determine applicants' eligibility. Using information provided in mentor and protégé applications, Brooke will help select and match mentors and protégés from those applicants who are eligible. Her term will begin July 1, 2013 and will conclude June 30, 2014.

Teen Service Librarian/Liaison Meeting

On March 20, Teen Service Librarians and Liaisons met for their regular monthly meeting at Central. Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez provided this training: "Why do we do teen programming at SAPL?" On April 10, the group met for their monthly meeting, and the training portion of the meeting consisted of Teen Service Librarians leading workgroups, with the groups discussing various issues related to Teen Service. The groups rotated every ten minutes for an hour, and the group reports were discussed at the end of the regular business meeting.

KUDOS

Tobin Library owes a special thank you to SAPL Facilities, IT department and Brook Hollow branch for some major improvements at the branch.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Play & Learn sessions at Central led by Kate Sandoval (Librarian II) and Ruth Chiego (Manager) were attended by record crowds in March and April. The highly interactive series of programs for ages 0-5 and their caregivers has also had many visiting observers from graduate education and library science programs from institutions such as SAC, UTSA, Texas Woman's University, Health and Human Services, WIC and Incarnate Word. Heavy emphasis has been placed on inventing activities that involve small motor skills and sensory development which use commonly found household items. One of the most popular sensory activities involved playing with "snow" made out of baking soda and hair conditioner during the "Build" themed Play & Learn. For children who have never had the experience of making their own creations out of real snow, this was a real treat. Recipes for sensory activities such as this are provided for all to take home. Ariel Cummins (Librarian I) also saw a surge in new families at Toddler Time as a result of cross promotion. Children who enjoy programs with lots of movement tend to favor both of these program options, some come to both, and some alternate between the two which has led to many playgroups evolving outside of the Library as well.

The "Summer Preview" portion of the April Children's meeting was led by Central Children's Department Manager, Ruth Chiego. As Chair of the Summer Reading Programming Committee, Chiego led fellow librarians Kate Sandoval (Central), Ariel Cummins (Central), Kathleen Brown (McCreless), Troy Lawrence (Pruitt), and Valerie Shelley (Forest Hills) in their task to create a dozen unique summer programs for school age children that related to the summer theme of "Dig Into Reading." The themes designed for the summer include *Write Like an Egyptian*, *Buried Treasure*, *Sea Turtles*, *Root Vegetables*, *Recycling Garbage*, *Flourishing Flowers*, *Cave Animals*, *Wiggle Worms*, *Ants*, *Dinosaur Dig*, *Stone Age Creations*, and *Rocks, Rock!* These topics will be explored throughout the summer at all locations. The books and activities chosen have been selected to reflect the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) identified by the TEA. The programs are specially designed to reinforce curriculum areas for the elementary grades and librarians may select which stories, craft activities, media supplements, songs and games they would like to include in their programs at each location, making summer programming offerings unique at each branch. Due to the efforts of the Committee and Department Library Assistants Judith Slaughter, Mary Elizabeth Fernandez, and Dawn Guest, there were also plenty of clever crafting examples for system wide children's librarians to view at the Summer Preview and very thorough program agendas to review. These programs will occur at the branches in June and July as part of system wide Kids Time programming.

Kate Sandoval also led a Boy Scout troop through Central Library for their badge work. The scouts attended Family Fun with a magic theme and mystical craft involving a salt resist technique with watercolors. The group was not particularly excited about their visit at first but many were heard saying they did not want to leave, had new library cards in hand, and a stock of great books to read at home. Sandoval also attended Austin Academy's Festival night and got several students and families signed up for library cards while promoting Library programs and the upcoming Summer Reading Club.

Community outreach events hosted by Chiego, Sandoval and Cummins also included locations such as Madison Square Child Care Center, Laurel Heights, The San Antonio Zoo, Howard ECC, and The McNay Art Museum.

DIGITAL SERVICES

On March 21, Digital Services staff hosted their monthly question-and-answer session, using digital tools to foster collaboration and problem-solving among library colleagues. Sarah Carolan trained additional staff on March 25 and March 29 on how to use LibGuides. On March 19, Digital Services staff met with Adolph Lopez (Central - Reference) to plan for a redesign of the databases portal page. On April 10, Sarah Carolan and Rolf Laun updated the My Account page of the online catalog to improve patrons' ability to manage their holds.

OUTREACH

School visits continued to dominate the bookmobile's schedule. On March 20, the vehicle visited Linton Elementary; on March 22, Lowell Middle School; on April 12, Vestal Elementary. At Siclovía, Gamini Haluwana, along with Keri Moczygema, Tracey Knouse, and Jessica Ramos, provided library card registration and promoted the Texas Book Festival. On April 8, Ramona Lucius hosted a book talk with author Joe McKinney; she also arranged for Mr. McKinney to give talks at Igo and Semmes.

REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

In mid-April, Librarian Jim LaFerla attended the 35th Annual Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program Training Seminar. The seminar will be held at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) headquarters in Alexandria, VA. The seminars will emphasize outreach to independent inventors, the new patent classification system, patent search training, and trademark website training. Jim will bring back his knowledge for staff training at the Jobs and Small Business Center at the Central Library.

On Sunday April 14 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm at the Central Library Auditorium Pannaga Prasad hosted a representative from Project Quest to talk about their comprehensive training programs for economically disadvantaged adults interested in careers in healthcare, business services, information technology, manufacturing and other fields.

The Reference Department truly enjoyed serving all the new customers that the Holocaust Exhibit brought to the 2nd floor space at the Central Library, and really enjoyed all the crowds that the Texas Book Festival brought to the spaces throughout the library. It's an exciting time at the Central Library.

TEEN SERVICES

Weekly Programs

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): In March and April, J.D. continued Eclectic Electric programming with an added arts component, in addition to the musical instruments teens regularly learn to play. J.D. noticed one of the regular teens, David, showed marked improvement on the keyboard. J.D. asked David where he practiced, and he said "here" (meaning Teen Services). David has checked out a *Piano for Dummies* book from the Library and has been studying it at home, then coming to Teen Services to apply his musical knowledge during Eclectic Electric. During the reporting period, the teens jammed, did some drawing, did some improv acting, and played video and board games. Teens also participated in crafts, such as making glitter bottles (which they proudly displayed in Teen Services).

Tuesdays with Brooke Ballard (Librarian I): On Tuesday nights teens choose which video game they would like to play, engaging each other in friendly competition.

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 March 20, Matthew Molpus from the S.A. Food Bank presented his monthly nutrition demo, showing teens how to make healthy and delicious tostadas.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): On Thursday nights at Teen Services, teens are invited to participate in programs that allow them to create, express, socialize and interact with their peers. Teens made rockets using straws and balloons, used polymer clay to create mini-figurines, made keychain bead sprites, and used iPads to take photos. To celebrate upcoming Earth Day, teens used flour and water to create plantable seeded flower cards, which they will eventually plant in the department. Also, in honor of National Poetry Month, they made a snack using alphabet pasta. After each program, teens requested the 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>.

Tours and Groups

On April 2, a group of 150 students from the Academy of Creative Education (ACE) visited the Library (Brooke Ballard coordinated the visit). The students were split into groups and rotated in this manner: Brooke provided a presentation to each group on Tutor.com's Live Homework Help; Jennifer Velasquez and Regina Almanza each took separate groups and provided them with a tour of the Library and an overview of the artwork in the building; and Kathleen Fordyce provided each group with an overview of Teen Services and catalog and database instruction. In between rotations, the students were able to make buttons to make the transitions smoother and give them something fun and creative to do. A few days after the visit, a teen from ACE was in the Teen Services Department and told Kathleen how much fun she and her friends had during their visit to the Library. She also mentioned that she had brought a friend with her to show him around the Library.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY

This reporting period began with on March 16 with two classes. The morning class was presented by Debbie Countess discussing "Researching Female Ancestors." During the afternoon Jacqueline Davis, director of the Fort Sam Houston Museum, told of the museum and how it could assist researchers with their needs.

On March 19, Frank visited Igo branch for its monthly genealogy meeting and talked about "Census Substitutes" to a group of ten. On April 13, he was at Parman discussing "organizing Your Research" to a new group of four.

Finally, for this period, Matt DeWaelsche attended the San Antonio Regional Archivists meeting at Southwest Research Institute, representing Texana / Genealogy.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

BAZAN

The volunteers manning the Income Tax Assistance program assisted a total of 696 persons in March. With the April 15 tax deadline looming, site coordinator Ms. Gutierrez expects a large number of last-minute filers.

The weekly Citizenship class presented by Academia America continues to draw a core group of 15 students.

Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen presented weekly Family Fun Story hours in the Children's area. At her four outreach visits to the Frank Garrett Avance center, she delivered three classroom collections. She also met with her book club groups at Margil Elementary and at Crockett Elementary (2 groups).

Bazan is pleased to exhibit photos by Ms. Lauren Pai, Ms. Blair Bodden, and Ms. Desiree Kapler, as part of the *Making HERstory* celebration of Women's History Month. All of the subjects and titles are thought-provoking; Ms. Bodden's use of found objects and miniatures to create the series *Altered Landscapes* is particularly interesting.

BROOK HOLLOW

Brook Hollow reopened to the public on March 16, and has been receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback on the new look of the library. The branch has begun offering some new programs including Tween Time on Wednesdays after school, Little Read Wagon's Play & Learn on Tuesday mornings, and two new adult book groups that focus on historical fiction and the works of Jane Austen.

CARVER

Carver held a Barnyard Buddies Play and Learn on March 30. Children and their adults created barnyards with blocks and toy animals and performed puppet shows to music, among other activities. The egg walk and bean bag toss were also very popular. The 'tweens and Family Fun attendees have been trying out the library's iPads in addition to regular activities. Family Fun kids have created poetry, recorded puppet shows and followed along with book based story apps. The 'tweens have created real origami with the help of an app.

The teens at Carver continue to gather on Thursdays, when they have enjoyed various crafts, movies, Dr Who and thinking about what plants to grow now that the weather is warm.

Librarian II DL Grant conducted an outreach visit at The Children's Shelter, where he discussed library services with parents and staff.

CODY

Children enjoyed a variety of crafts and activities for Cody's Springtime Arts and Crafts day on March 21. Easter egg wreaths, dragonfly rings, white bag bunny baskets, and baby chicks kept the kids of all ages busy in the afternoon.

Cub Scouts enjoyed their first tour of the library on March 21. After Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta read a story to them, she gave them a tour of the various areas in the library, showed them where and how to locate a book they wanted, and issued library card applications. All of the scouts were very excited to browse and check out their own books before they left.

Cody's third annual Easter Egg Coloring contest was held the week of March 25 through March 28. Approximately 50 entries covering three age categories were submitted. Sheila displayed all of the entries in the children's area and Cody's Friends' member Linette Poss judged the entries on March 29. She placed blue ribbons on the winning coloring sheets, and the three winners were notified on March 30.

Another Rocky Pals creative arts event was held on March 26 for school-aged children. Artist Frank Ramirez demonstrated and worked with the children to create bears. Children studied images of all kinds of bears and created their bear of choice out of rocks provided by Ramirez. Sheila had each recipient name their "rocky" bear so they could receive certificates.

Tweens enjoyed their first ping-pong tournament on April 1 for Tween Time. Sheila awarded prizes to the top two players. The tweens enjoyed this so much, they asked for a repeat the following week. While ping-pong was going on, other tweens became very creative with the iPads and the photo booth app. Sheila asked them to save their work and projected their images at the end for everyone to view.

Beginner Readers' Club members met on April 9 to discuss their latest books. Sheila asked them to create their favorite characters from their books using the iPads and the "Felt Board App." After reviewing some new books, the young readers selected more books to take home.

Cody patrons had an opportunity to make Fiesta flowers on April 10 in the children's area. Sheila demonstrated to children and their parents how to create the colorful flowers out of tissue paper.

Sheila introduced “zentangles” to the tweens for Tween Time on April 15. She provided each tween with templates and ink pens to design their own zentangles. These were then displayed in the juvenile area.

March madness swept through Cody Library. New teens started visiting the library, and other teens became more involved with programs. Teens Services Librarian David Gallin-Parisi enjoyed meeting new teen visitors and invited them to contribute a music playlist to *C Zine*, the Cody teen zine. *C Zine* is a self-published magazine featuring content, including original artwork and lists of favorite songs, submitted by teens in the community.

In addition to the zine, teens also enjoyed creating artwork on the walls of the meeting room using colored sticky notes. On April 2 teens selected the movie *Abduction* starring Taylor Lautner of *Twilight* fame to watch. Cody teens put left over Easter candy to good use on April 9 by creating sculptures made from Peeps marshmallow candy and toothpicks.

During two busy outreach events at schools, David brought speakers and played an entirely teen-selected mega music playlist. The teen-approved playlist helped break the ice with students and provided a fun way to let teens know about library services.

Cody celebrated Women’s History Month with a display created by Library Aide Julie Pantusa and a screening of a film *Tea and Justice* on March 28. The documentary *Tea and Justice* tells the story the first generation of Asian-American female police officers.

COLLINS GARDEN

On April 10, Collins Garden participated in **Go Blue Day**, which is a day created to raise awareness about the plight of abused and neglected children. Collins Garden put up a display and offered information and handouts on preventing child abuse. The display proved quite popular and several patrons took advantage of the materials offered.

The Collins Garden plush rabbit has been quite busy this reporting period. He was spotted reading books, using the public computers and enhancing the Easter displays. The staff managed to get some snapshots of the rabbit and he can be seen on the Collins Garden Flickr page. There are other plush animals at Collins Garden on display---a wildebeest, a buffalo and a bald eagle. The rabbit is often spotted in the children’s area; however, the others seem to prefer adult nonfiction.

Spring is one of the busiest times of the year for the publishing industry and Collins Garden has received an exceptional number of new children’s books. Books on science, good biographies, and plenty of picture books are now available for the patrons to enjoy.

The VITA volunteers prepared 498 returns in March, which is the slow period between those who are getting a refund and those who have to pay or are procrastinating. The week before the April 15 deadline has seen quite an increase in the number of citizens wanting VITA to prepare their return.

CA Jessica Salas, who is a very creative and talented craft person, continues to receive compliments on the variety and creativity of the craft projects that she is providing for *Family Fun Time*, for which staff have modified the hours. Jessica puts all of the materials out in the afternoon so that families are able to stop by the library after school is out and work on the craft together. She has been complimented on the types of projects offered, her instructions for making the craft, and her interactions with participants.

CA Enedina Prater was told she was *awesome* by a college student who was having problems printing material from her flash drive. The compliment was due to the fact that Dina was able to figure out what the young woman needed to do to print her document successfully.

Responding to continued customer demand, staff members pulled all of the adult biographies and shelved them together at the end of the 900’s. People are pleased with this arrangement since it makes it easier to locate desired material without having to know in which subject area the book would be shelved.

CORTEZ

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

Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes designed and displayed beautiful decorations celebrating spring. Patrons have commented favorably on the quality of her decorations.

The book display theme this month is diabetes management through diet and exercise.

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 continues to steadily increase.

The Little Read Wagon paid a visit to the library. They offered the youngest patrons and their caregivers a series of Play and Learn programs. 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, the branch is offering two new popular monthly programs for children and teens. Children's librarian Connie Hejl has organized a LEGO club and a Teen Brony/Anime club.

FOREST HILLS

The Forest Hills Branch has been host to art from the series of photographic series titled Telling Ghosts by Beth Devillier. The exhibit is on display for the month of March in honor of Women's History Month. Beth Devillier is a photography student at UTSA. Patrons have enjoyed the pieces as they are featured on the main wall of the branch which was recently repainted and fixed with art hanging equipment.

Adult patrons of the branch continue to enjoy the Quiong classes offered every Sunday. The classes will be moved to Saturdays beginning in late April.

The Chic-Chat Club discovered different uses of essential oils and shared household cleaning tips. The ladies shared their recent reads and discussed plans for upcoming programs.

Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley presented weekly story times all revolving around the theme Community Helpers. Children learned about the different types of community helpers, the vehicles they drive, and the uniforms they wear.

Families enjoyed coloring cascarones at the monthly Come and Go Craft on March 29. Ms. Shelley donated enough empty egg shells that each family was able to take an entire dozen home to share over the weekend.

Forest Hills began accepting credit card payments for fines on April 1. Patrons have found this to be a convenient addition to services.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. On April 10, staff all wore blue in order to raise awareness of child abuse. A display was also created with information on child abuse and how to seek help if they witness or experience child abuse.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Adults

Roberto Zapata and Cindy Moreno conducted an iPad training outreach in April to the Alicia Senior Trevino Center. The session focused on iPad basics such as using apps, connecting to Wi-Fi, and downloadable media. The customers asked the Librarians to return to the center for more training sessions.

Children

Lots of giggles and happy laughter was heard throughout the Great Northwest Library when a children's program was taking place. The children and their families enjoy the connection of books and pretend play. They explored with Easter egg hunts in the library, playing in the woodland forest with forest animal puppets, exploring dinosaurs and blasting through space in a rocket ship. Barnyard Buddies, a play and learn program, was presented three times. The children enjoyed farm animal puppets, animal barn pretend play, Playdough and even mud painting.

Events

The Great Northwest Thursday Book Group met on Thursday, March 21 to discuss the book *The Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri. The group was pleased with the new book group and will meet to discuss *The Road* in April.

Other

Roberto Zapata and Jennifer Wright attended an outreach session at the Northwest Hills Christian School on Friday, April 12. The event was a mini-Fiesta for parents, children and teachers to enjoy. A library card sign-up and informational table was offered as well as an appearance from Libro the Lion.

Teens

Stephanie Vazquez conducted outreach on March 22 at the NISD Gifted and Talented Fair. She spoke to students about volunteer opportunities at the library. Stephanie also attended the Mizuumi-Con Anime convention on March 23. She continues to draw a crowd of teens at her teen program on Wednesday evenings. The Friends of the Library generously approved and purchased equipment for use by the Teens. New equipment includes a new Playstation 3 gaming system, games, additional controllers, a television with storage and roll away cart, and bean bags for the Teens to enjoy.

GUERRA

VITA provided tax preparation assistance to over 500 members of the community during the reporting period, concluding its activities on April 15. Staff spent several hours in the first part of April discussing work process improvements that could be achieved by reconfiguring the large staff work area. The result is a more efficient use of space and less wasted time and motion sorting and shelving returns.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman presented a Perfect Your Resume/Ace the Interview program on March 26; one participant returned later in the week for further review of her resume and answers to questions about interviewing. He completed his COSA Train the Trainer program on March 29. Dexter attended the Safety Security Work Group meeting on April 3 and the Branch Managers meeting on April 4. He moderated the Thursday Evening Book Club on April 11; the group discussed *The Family Corleone* by Ed Falco.

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs presented fifteen in-house programs: three Toddler Times, three Story Times, three Discovery Times, two Play and Learns, and four Come and Go Crafts. On March 22 she presented three story times to 46 children at Greatest Gift Daycare and three story times to 75 children at Lackland Village Headstart. On April 4, she attended the Castleridge Community Fair where she represented the library and promoted library programs and services. On April 9, Arlene attended the Meadow Village Family Night where she promoted Homework Help and the 2013 Mayor's Summer Reading Program. On April 12, she presented three story times to 50 children at Greatest Gift Daycare. Arlene designed and installed displays highlighting Child Abuse Prevention, National Poetry Month, and Fiesta.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, recorded *Atrapados (Stuck)* by Oliver Jeffers for Dial-a-Story in Spanish on March 27. On March 28, he moderated the Spanish-language Club de Lectura; the group discussed the classic Agatha Christie mystery *Asesinato en el Orient Express* (Murder on the Orient Express). On April 15, Collection Development Staff--Margo Guzman, Librarian III, and Nohemi Lopez Rosdahl, Librarian II--met with Steve to review the Spanish collection. A number of items were selected for replacement or weeding. Margo and Nohemi concluded that the collection was in very good shape. Teen Liaison Kenneth Perez held gaming events on March 14, 21 and 28, choosing Game Ra and the PS3. Some of them even started their own mini-tournament. On April 4 and 11, Kenneth held Free Choice activities. Most of the teens played video or card games; the more creative took advantage of Kenny's craft skills to design and produce wire bead bracelets. Thanks to the Friends, they were also treated to pizza rolls, chips, and refreshments.

Library Aide Corinna Cabeza designed and installed a National Autism Month display during the first week of April.

IGO

Friend of the Igo Branch Library on April 6 & 7 had their annual spring book sale which was a huge success. This year the friends contacted Allied Advertising and purchased a banner that was displayed at the corner of 1604 and Hausman Rd. advertising the book sales which contribute to the amount of business they had both days at the book sale since many customers commented they were not familiar with the Igo Branch Library. The book sale also generated walk in business for the library. Also at this book sale, the friends had purchased a credit card plan from Square and this generated over \$600.00 in credit card sales.

Between March 16 and April 15 Igo Teens held 4 programs serving over 120 teens. Teens engaged in several different activities while several were working on upcoming events. Teens completed and submitted two videos to promote the SRP for children and teens. Feedback so far, has been very positive. Teens enjoyed the experience and hope to be able to create further videos as part of Igo Teens and SAPL programs.

The Igo Elderberries also had a busy month; on April 4, 2013 at their monthly meeting the program was "Game On" a fun day of board games (chess, Scrabble, Yahtzee, as well as trivia and horseshoe contests 16 seniors attended. The Elderberries also ended their bi-monthly series of ballroom dancing presented by J. P. Davila which had been enjoyed by those who had participated in the series of dances offered.

JOHNSTON

Johnston Branch staff continues to ready the branch for renovation. The project has been rescheduled with a start date in August. The staff and customers don't mind the delay at all! The extra time helps with making the most of outreach opportunities for children's Librarian Beverly Wigglesworth. She has been busy scheduling visits for the end of the school year. She also continues her visit to the Valley Hi Head Start.

Christina Martinez continues to offer a great variety of teen programs. For Easter, they painted designs on plastic Easter eggs. They enjoyed the "program in the box" – Bead Sprites. They celebrated National Poetry Month by reading poetry from the Young Pegasus Poetry Books, and a bilingual book, *Iguanas in the snow*. She also continues to do de-selection in the non-fiction; and pulling more duplicates. She and Library Assistant Elsy Jackson are also reviewing the biographies, to bring that collection more in focus with branch needs. The ultimate goal is to shift all of the non-fiction books, and free up an entire shelving range! This will give the branch more space for the Friends of the Library to set up their successful ongoing book sale.

Diane Backhus invited Collection Development staff Margo Guzman and Nohemi Lopez Rosdahl to come and de-select the Español collection. They completed their review in about two and one-half hours. They plan to send the branch a large number of new titles, which will certainly be appreciated by customers.

The branch's Express Collection continues to be popular with customers as well. Over 900 items circulated in March! The most popular materials are DVD's; children's books and Young Adult. Mrs. Backhus will be making some adjustments to the number of fiction and non-fiction titles in the collection.

LANDA

Here are some highlights of the Landa Teen programs: Landa's Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) voted on questions to give to the Toronto Public Library teen tutors. The voting process is a team-building exercise that empowers teens. Maddie Carrola, TLLC member, will be posting the council's questions and the answers received from the teens in Canada. The council's community service project, "Tutoring for Young Children," has served approximately 20 children. Many are children that attend their sessions on a weekly basis. The tutors have made two promotional videos for this program and will post it on the Teen Services' *210TeenLibrary* YouTube site.

Landa's Teen International Club has featured two teens from India who video blogged about their heritage. This is on the Teen Services' Wordpress site:

<http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/03/17/teen-international-celebrate-india/>

The Teen Yoga program has featured Russ Tovar, Certified Yoga Instructor, as a guest instructor for teens participating in this program. One of the teens on the TLLC and the Mayor's Youth Fitness Council, Hana N., created this program and it is growing with more teens participating.

The Cool Teens Club has featured teens using creative programming such as a unique three-day tea party, called, "Alice in Zombieland". The teen music bloggers also used their creative online skills to appeal to other teens during the STARR testing cycles. Here is one of their blog posts, <http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/03/20/help-i-need-somebody-help/>.

During this reporting period, teens used their decision-making skills to create their own programming and used their commitment to learn more about themselves and their peers.

The Landa Children's Department extends its thanks to Imelda Merino and Viki Ash who assisted with Thursday morning Story Time and Tuesday Family Fun, respectively, during the absence of Children's Services Librarian Clair Larkin. Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta covered Tuesday morning Baby and Toddler Times. Landa staff and patrons welcomed Clair back after her extended leave.

The Seniors' Mystery Book Club welcomed four new members to the March 28 meeting. The book they discussed was *Mr. Churchill's Secretary* by Susan MacNeal, a murder-spy thriller set in World War II England. Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta is the discussion moderator.

Karen also conducts a monthly program at The Village at Incarnate Word for the DeMatel Nursing Home. This past month residents celebrated St. Patrick's Day by learning facts about the annual event taken from library resources. They also created a craft modeled on the Irish flag and sang several favorite Irish tunes.

On March 26, the Early Music Makers from the San Antonio College music department presented a program at Landa. This ten-member ensemble is led by Professor Madelyn Blanchette. They play on authentic reproductions of Medieval and Renaissance instruments and perform in costume.

The Bibliophile Book Group (that usually meets over in Westfall's territory) met here at Landa and had a luncheon/meeting on March 27. Manager Michael Kaminski assisted with their PowerPoint presentation on the month's book selection (*Gone With the Wind*) and gave a short talk about the history of Landa Library.

On Friday, April 12, Michael manned a table at Austin Academy with library applications, cards and library information for its Spring Festival.

Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta ran in the Sixteenth Annual San Antonio Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure through downtown San Antonio on Saturday, April 6. The following week she ran in the Second Annual Youth Orchestra of San Antonio fundraiser.

LAS PALMAS

Mary Elizabeth Area held four Tween programs between March 20 and April 10. On March 20 and 27 she had LEGO craft building programs with an audience of 6 tweens. On April 3 and 10 she had tweens play on the Wii that included 10 participants.

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi presented 5 weekly in-house Family Fun programs. She also completed 15 story time visits to area outreach daycare centers: Good Samaritan, Madonna, Avance Castroville and Avance Mirasol. On April 6, Bazan Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen joined Las Palmas Children's Librarian Gina Brudi for the Avance event *Dia de la Familia* at Rosedale Park. Adults learned about services the library offers and over 100 children created their own butterfly rings. On March 20, Ms. Brudi led the discussion of *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern for the Wednesday Night Book Club for adults, in which 8 patrons attended.

Raymond Villarreal had a display of a poster and relevant books about the Holocaust in conjunction with the exhibit that was held at the Central Library and other branch libraries. The books served as titles ready for those students currently studying the subject.

Sylvia Pachecano, formerly teen liaison at the Westfall Branch Library, arrived at Las Palmas on March 23. She presented for the following: She held a Gaming Night on March 25. Games were checked out from Teen Services. On April 1 Ms. Pachecano screened the movie "Ghost Rider 2", starring Nicolas Cage. This is a program-in-a-box ordered from Teen Services. Box included the DVD movie, microwave popcorn and drink mix. On April 8, Ms. Pachecano picked up the Purple Fleet of I-Pads from Teen Services. Eight I-pads were available for teens to use. Teens were excited to use the I-pads and asked for them to be ordered in the future. Ms. Pachecano returned the I-pads back to Teen Services. On April 15 Ms. Pachecano screened the movie, "Real Steel" starring Hugh Jackson. This was also a Teen Services' program-in-a box. The Box contained the DVD, microwave popcorn and drink mix.

MAVERICK

During this time period, Maverick Librarians have been active on committees. Librarian Ben Longoria has been on the Jobs and Business Committee. Librarian Pat King has been active on the ILL Committee. In addition, librarians have been involved in professional activities. Ben attended a Reforma meeting on April 5 and Amy has been elected as Councilor on the Children's Round Table Executive Board of the Texas Library Association, a 3 year commitment.

Programs during this period included a "Barnyard Buddies" early literacy program promoting play. Amy had 22 attendees on March 16. Ben organized a resume program with five attendees.

The Maverick Library Friends conducted their spring book sale on April 6 and April 7. Funds from the book sale benefit the library whether it's for programs, supplies for the branch and other special events.

McCRELESS

Children learned about spring animals - pigs, lambs, rabbits and frogs - in the four Story Times that were held from March 16 to April 15. The kids made paper bag puppets, a rabbit ear hat, a fluffy lamb and a frog landscape.

McCreless families made colorful spring chickens and spring greeting cards during Family Fun on March 26 and celebrated National Poetry Month on April 9.

Children's Librarian Katy Brown also had a monthly book club meeting with third graders at Adams Elementary on March 21.

The branch bulletin board celebrated St. Patrick's Day, then Easter, and now Fiesta as Circulation Attendant Gracie Rendon led the team to keep the library colorful and fun.

Adult Service's Librarian David Liserio attended Onboarding Supervisor Training on March 28 and New Employee Experience Part II on April 2.

Since March 6 Eric Montoya, Library Aide, has been in charge of teen programming at McCreless library until the branch hires someone permanently. There are a few note-worthy changes that have been made, first of which would be the added use of Wordpress and getting some the teens to blog about their experience at the branch. It hasn't been a tremendous success yet, but some teens do show signs of warming up to it in the future. In addition, the teen patronage has grown significantly since Eric started. Eric embraces the idea that if the teens are responsible for what they end up doing during Teen Time, there will never be zero teens in attendance. So, what takes place has been left largely up to them, with favorable outcomes to say the least. With the incorporation of hot dogs to stave off after school hunger, the teens have redesigned program flyers, posters, and content almost entirely. There have been video game competitions, card playing tournaments, and tandem dance marathons.

MEMORIAL

Cat-A-Palooza, an event that featured local non-profit groups that promote responsible pet care, was held on March 16. Pet adoptions were made available through Pets Alive and the Feral Cat Coalition presented a workshop on how to reduce the stray cat population. A book display that helped promote the program and included unique origami pieces by staff member Adam Capelo, featured the latest books on cat care.

Life after Combat: Soldier and Family Transitions, a free series from the San Antonio Coalition for Veterans and the San Antonio Public Library, held a two-part program for military veterans and their families on April 13. The program focused on relationship enrichment for military couples and discussed the effects of combat experience on veterans returning to civilian life.

Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, presented Play and Learn to toddlers and preschoolers at the Woodlawn Community Room to promote early literacy. Memorial's story time pals enjoyed listening to stories, singing songs, and making crafts to celebrate the Easter holiday. The preschool and bilingual students of Madison Elementary School enjoyed listening to and discussing stories about different forms of transportation.

Teen Tuesdays continues to be popular. Along with weekly activities, a poetry contest for teens was held in April. The top three poems were awarded a prize

MISSION

There was overwhelming response to the Pre-K for SA information session held on March 28. Rebecca Flores, Education Administrator for COSA and her colleague spoke with numerous groups. Information tables offering benefits information were also made available. 328 people attended the event.

On April 3 the meeting space was opened up to accommodate Leadership San Antonio. Approximately 80 individuals attended the luncheon. Branch Manager Elma Nieto-Rodriguez was invited to say a few words. Evan Smith, Editor in Chief of the Texas Tribune, provided words of inspiration. Representatives Lamar S. Smith and Joaquin Castro also spoke at the event.

Over 140 individuals comprised of Morrill Elementary families visited Mission on April 6. Library staff in partnership with P16+ Council of Greater Bexar County spent several months planning the event. Activities for primarily Spanish-speaking students and parents were developed. Students received library cards, checked out materials, and told that upon returning their items to the library they would receive a coupon from their school for a free book. The event was a success.

The San Jose Neighborhood Association held a candidate forum in the library's North Courtyard on April 9. District 3 candidates were given the opportunity to address questions from the community. Artist Terry Ybañez officiated. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

On April 11 the Alamo City Democrats held a candidate forum. Representatives and candidates from Dist. 3 and 5 were in attendance. Judge David Canales served as moderator. Councilwoman Leticia Ozuna, Rebecca Viagran and Gabriel Quintero Velasquez were among those who participated. Over sixty

individuals heard the candidates speak. Attendees were given the opportunity to meet the candidates personally.

Teen Services Librarian Sarah Weinblatt participated in Mizuumi Con at Our Lady of the Lake University. She also attended an outreach event at Harlandale High School.

PAN AMERICAN

Carol Collins did a series of weekly programs for children and adults. She presented fifteen events reaching 42 children and 27 adults. Angela Olivarez has done the same for teen customers, with an average attendance of six teens.

Major shifting in all genres is providing more space for the collection

PARMAN

The Friends of the Parman Library hosted the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library meeting on March 17, providing refreshments. Branch Manager Haley Holmes attended the meeting, and Assistant Director for Support Services, Kathy Donellan, gave the group an update on upcoming bond projects.

As part of Holocaust Remembrance month, Parman patrons were honored to attend a talk by Holocaust survivor Rose Williams. Over 120 people attended the event.

Parman staff hosted 3 dances for patrons as part of the Parman Library Dance Fiesta. On April 5, DJ Ruben D played dance hits for the adult dance attendees. The night started with a line dance lesson by Library Assistants Christina Hess and Sherrie Bossart. Ms. Hess created props for a photo op, and Manager Haley Holmes took pictures and printed the pictures for pick up at the end of the evening. Many members of the Parman staff worked diligently to create paper flowers for decoration, the photo background, and corsages and boutonnieres for all dances. The Friends of the Parman Library financed decorations and food for all of the dance events. The second dance hosted was the Senior Prom which was for patrons who graduated high school before 1976. San Pedro Library Branch Manager Dan Stanford was the DJ for the evening. The Toddler Dance Party was held the next morning on April 12. Over 50 families attended. Children's Librarian Carrie Vance provided instruments, balloons, and ribbons for the toddlers to play with. Ms. Holmes took over 40 family photos. Parman has 2 more dances coming up, Kids Disco Party and the Teen Dance-Off.

Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow attended an outreach event at Our Lady of the Lake University. Mizuumi-con is an annual family friendly anime/manga conference. Ms. DeBow worked with other SAPL representatives to create library cards and talk to attendees about library services.

Carrie Vance and Christina Hess attended an outreach event at Las Lomas Elementary. They created about 25 new library accounts and spoke with numerous families about Parman and SAPL services.

The Parks and Recreation Department has started holding a regular exercise event, Learn and Burn, at Parman as part of their Fitness in the Park Program.

PRUITT

Beginning the last week of March, the Pruitt Library began to partner with the Project Connect and the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Truancy Prevention Program to host regular meetings for teens at-risk for truancy and/or dropping out of high school. Teen participants meet once a week, during their lunch periods, and once after school to talk with advisors about study skills, academic progress, and developing habits for success.

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Pruitt Library hosted a showing of *The Women's Kingdom* and *La Boda*. Other adult learning events this month included Pruitt's Tuesday eReader U sessions. Each week, a handful of patrons drop by for one-on-one assistance with downloading digital content. Library Assistant Robert Lerner has been the lead trainer for these sessions. On April 3, Rob attended

Advanced Overdrive Training at Thousand Oaks Branch so that Pruitt could expand its digital class offerings.

On March 18, Pruitt Librarian Troy Lawrence provided a story time outreach to St. Thomas More Catholic School. He met with both the PreK-4 class and the PreK-3 class to share stories and songs related to spring. The children had a great time making ladybugs hats.

On March 27, Pruitt Library's competitive teen chess team traveled to John Jay High School for the All-City Scholastic Chess Tournament. Pruitt's team, Rack & File, took home the first place trophy for Division 2. The team is funded by supported with Pruitt's generous community partnership with the Rackspace Foundation which funds weekly teen chess and family chess nights, as well as private instruction for team members. The team is made up of high school students, students from charter schools, and student who are home-schooled. Because the Pruitt team is a community-based team, teens who would not have a chance to participate otherwise, have found great satisfaction in being able to play against the best teen players in San Antonio.

On March 28, the Pruitt Library offered a showing of the movie *Hop* about a bunny who no longer wants to be the Easter Bunny. Several families attended and enjoyed the movie. Pruitt also showed *The Hobbit: The Unexpected Journey* on April 11. Attendees enjoyed getting to see this film on the large screen versus watching it at home on average-sized TV screens. They also enjoyed getting to watch with their friends and share their own favorite scenes. Because of this success with new releases, Pruitt will continue to host new release screenings.

On March 30, the board and judges for the Cherice Cochrane Foundation met to host scholarship interviews for Outstanding Miss Teen and Outstanding Mr. Teen. Several teens and their parents attended to learn about the expectations of the committee which was looking for teens who exhibited pride in themselves, leadership in their church/school, and contribution to their communities. The teens chosen will help crown the Pruitt Library Princesses at the coronation on May 5.

Finally, the Pruitt Library staff have begun to offer regular Saturday classes focusing on digital content and other technology resources available through the library. On April 6, Pruitt Librarian Kimberly Wygant walked patrons through all the various features of the library's catalog. She demonstrated how to place holds, freeze and unfreeze holds, and how to create reading histories and wish lists. Patrons really enjoyed the features available to help them manage their reader experience. On April 13, Pruitt Librarian Troy Lawrence offered a class in digital scrapbooking where he showed patrons how to map out a page using photos from the online photo libraries available via the SAPL resources. On April 20, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez will offer an opportunity for patrons to get hands-on experience with tablet computing with an event called an "iPad Petting Zoo". Pruitt librarians continue to offer more one-on-one technology help on Sunday mornings via appointment. These sessions have been greatly appreciated by patrons who need help with software applications in ways not covered by the city's computer literacy courses.

On March 22, the Pruitt Library's TGIF Book Club met to discuss *The Murderer's Daughters* by Randy Susan Myers. The members had a great time discussing the impact that the bonds women make with one another in helping them to survive and thrive in the midst of tragedy. This book club will meet again on April 19 to discuss *No One is Here Except for All of Us* by Ramona Ausubel.

On April 1, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez met with NEISD Director of Library Services Faye Hagerty and Roosevelt High School Librarian Cynthia Saenz to interview for the open library assistant position. The interviews were very productive. Catrina Grivitch was selected to join the Pruitt Library team. Her first day was April 12.

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 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.

On March 16 Betsy hosted a Barn Yard Buddies play and learn event for the preschool parents and their families. This was an early literacy event in which parents were given a booklet of rhymes to read to their children.

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

In April, Betsy facilitated the third meeting of the LEGO LEGO LEGO club at San Pedro Library. Each meeting has been attended by more children than the meeting held in the prior month. The children were creative in their structures – building robots, some humanoid, some boxlike. After each meeting Betsy posts pictures of the artists and their creations in the children's area.

In connection with the Floating Collections Committee 2, Betsy prepared a Collection Management spreadsheet for all Branches to use to fine tune what collection HG or Millennium might indicate any particular branch may need. In this way, branches will only receive overflow items in areas of actual need, rather than perceived need.

Betsy serves on the Committee of Thinkers subcommittee and the iPad subcommittee of children's librarians. She also serves on the Floating Collections Committee 2. She also serves as on ALSC's Library Services to Special Population Children and their Caregivers.

Monty Holcomb, Librarian I and teen liaison, hosted four informal Tuesday chess events. Mr. Holcomb also held four Tuesday teen events in the afternoon using the Wii.

SEMMES

On March 23, Children's Librarian Randi Jones hosted the special Barnyard Buddies play and learn event. 35 parents and children came out and enjoyed the talking, singing, reading, writing and playing.

The Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum set up a new satellite art show at the branch in April. The art work was created by students in the MOSAIC program at Blue Star. A reception for the artists was held on April 6.

Steubing Ranch Elementary had its Kindergarten Roundup on April 11 and Children's Librarian Shannon Seglin was present to talk to families about the library and sign up new card holders.

THOUSAND OAKS

Children's Programming

On March 20, Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser presented a flower-themed Toddler Time and a mud-themed story time.

On March 27, they celebrated Easter with a fun bunny ear craft, making construction paper headbands with floppy ears.

On April 4, the children enjoyed a train-themed story time with a fun train craft afterward.

Teen Time

Teens celebrated the upcoming Easter holidays on March 20 with some traditional Peep candy marshmallow sweets. These were transformed into candy sushi with *Rice Krispie* treats (for the sushi rice) and fruit leather in place of seaweed. When they were good and sugared up, they started another cutthroat game of Monopoly.

On March 27, teens played a variety of games, including Story Cubes on loan from Teen Services, Boggle, and Bananagrams. Bananagrams was the favorite.

On April 3, teens enjoyed a viewing of the supernatural fairy tale thriller *Red Riding Hood* starring Amanda Seyfried. They enjoyed the Twilight-esque love triangle and the supernatural elements.

April 11, teens had fun making their own bubble magnets with flat glass marbles and their favorite pop culture images found in books and magazines. They also continued the Monopoly tournament and played another round of Bananagrams until the management kicked them out of the meeting room.

Book Groups

On March 21, The Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group discussed the beloved coming-of-age story *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. Various aspects of the novel were discussed, including whether it could be considered a classic (definitely, for its enduring popularity) and literature (possibly, because it included metaphors). The group agreed that it was full of memorable characters and that Francie Nolan's story was compelling.

On April 1, the Thousand Oaks Monday Evening Book Group met to discuss the historical novel *The Observations* by Jane Harris. Members found the main character to be both poignant and hilarious, though some members found the narrative unresolved. Overall, it was a successful selection.

Adult Programming

On March 25, Thousand Oaks patrons enjoyed a viewing of the documentary film *Tea & Justice: NYPD's 1st Asian Women Officers* in honor of Women's History Month. The powerful film chronicles the experiences of three women who broke stereotypes and became the first Asian women in a police force that was largely white and predominantly male.

On March 21, Library Assistant Karen Sagun continued teaching Beginning Knitting to a second group of students. The new knitters learned increasing and decreasing stitches, how to bind off their knitting to keep it from unraveling; and how to fix mistakes, including the dreaded dropped stitches.

During the final class on March 28, knitters learned how to decipher knitting patterns and worked on individual projects. They all expressed interest in more advanced knitting classes and other crafting events.

Thousand Oaks staff members continue to educate patrons from all over the city in the intricacies of e-readers and free downloadable books, music and video from the Overdrive database.

Outreach

On April 9, Librarian Jorge Chavez visited the Northeast Senior Center for the monthly library outreach. Seniors enjoyed some witty repartee and amusing trivia questions, and were already looking forward to next month's visit.

Special Events

Thousand Oaks staff members continue to field numerous phone calls and questions about tax forms, tax returns, and the hours for VITA tax assistance. Staff is counting the minutes until April 15 and the end of tax season, but is happy that they can provide this valuable service to the entire community.

TOBIN

Kids enjoyed making Come and Go Crafts every day during Spring Break week at Tobin. Spring Green Cleaning was well attended for Family Fun on March 23 as well. Teen Librarian Betsey Leitko averages 17 teens on Tuesday's with a usual crowd of 28 tweens on Thursdays. Intern Melissa Carroll, has been a huge help for Betsey with the tweens and various activities. In March, teens selected colors and then splatter painted two tables outside for the teen area in Jackson Pollock style. The abstract painting was expanded to some of the teen book ends and Betsey's book cart because of the popular unconventional method. This project would not have happened without the Tobin Friends' generous purchase of the paint.

The Interesting Book Club continues with very good attendance. The group gathered and discussed Rebecca Skloot's, *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lasks*, for April's selection. The Suspense Club read S. J. Watson's, *Before I Go To Sleep*, for its choice where Library Assistant, Terry Verner facilitated the meeting on April 9. Teen Librarian, Betsey Leitko, highlighted gardening, cooking and spring selections for a popular "Reading Helps Your Mind Bloom" display. To kick-off Tobin Library's Express Collection, Librarian, Keri Moczygemba, featured the 7 day check-out items in several arrangements throughout the branch.

Librarians, Tracey Knouse and Betsey Leitko, took a smaller Trivia Wheel for kid friendly questions at Regency Place Elementary School's Kinder Round up on April 10. Nearly 100 kids, parents and grandparents spun the wheel to answer questions and win a bookmark. The Trivia Wheel was featured with Fiesta Questions to a group of seniors playing on April 9. Library Assistants, Terry Verner and Elvia Ramos paired with Thousand Oaks Librarian, Jorge Chavez, for outreach at the City's NE Service Center. On Sunday, April 7, Keri Moczygemba and Tracey Knouse, volunteered and assisted Outreach Librarian, Gamini Haluwana at Siclovía – YMCA's Family Adventure of playing in the street on Broadway. Information on library services was shared along with issuing some new library cards.

WESTFALL

To help kick off SAPL's National Library Week activities, Westfall Branch hosted Baptist Health Center's mobile van and hosted programs on graffiti abatement and feral cats. This year's National Library Week theme is Communities Matter @ Your Library.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino has been doing double duty as she's been hosting Landa Library's story times for the past few weeks.

Two pharmacy students from University of the Incarnate Word's Feik School of Pharmacy talked with patrons about heartburn and medication disposals. This is the second year pharmacy students have made presentations at Westfall Branch.

Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin spoke with Board of Trustees about Holocaust survivors Rose Williams and Anna Rado and their roles in branch programming to support The Holocaust: Learn and Remember. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Rado spoke at three branches and at Central Library about their experiences in concentration camps.