



San Antonio Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MAY 2013

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On April 16, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and members of the Library's Management Team attended the retirement celebration for Dan Stanford. Dan, Manager of the San Pedro Branch Library, retired from the San Antonio Public Library after 20 years. That afternoon, Ramiro Salazar was interviewed by Robert Rivard for an article in the Rivard Report, an online blog, about the Texas Book Festival/San Antonio Edition.

On April 17, Library Director Ramiro Salazar delivered a Library Update to the Executive Committee of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended a dinner celebrating San Antonio's Poet Lauriat, Carmen Tafolla that evening. This event was organized by a local literary non-profit organization Voices de Luna and the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Latino Leadership for the Library (L3) Committee.

In preparation for the May 3 City Council consideration of the site for the new District 9 Library, Ramiro Salazar and Mike Frisbie, Director of the City's Capital Improvement Management Services Department, met with Councilwoman Ivy Taylor on April 18 to provide a briefing on the site acquisition. Additionally, Mr. Salazar and Mr. Frisbie met with staff in Councilwoman Taylor's (D2) Office on April 22; staff in Councilwoman Ozuna's Office (D3) and Councilman Lopez' (D6) Office on April 23; staff in the Mayor's Office, Councilman Saldana's Office (D4) and Councilwoman Chan (D9) on April 24; and Councilman Lopez (D6) and Councilman Saldana (D4) on April 30. On May 3, City Council voted to acquire the preferred site for the new District 9 Branch Library.

Library Director Salazar attended the Texas Library Association's Annual Conference on April 26 through April 27. He attended several convention sessions on Library leadership and management, emerging trends in digital sphere as it relates to libraries, and met with Library Directors from other cities in Texas.

In continuance of the initiative to bring the issuance of local birth certificates and immunization records to four (4) branch libraries, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill participated in a meeting with the City Clerk's Office and the Office of Management and Budget.

The morning of May 1, Central Library served as the venue for the media event for The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy sponsored by the City of San Antonio's Metropolitan Health District and project WORTH. Library Director Ramiro Salazar joined Mayor Julian Castro, SA 2020 CEO Daryl Byrd; and Metropolitan Health District Director Dr. Thomas Schlenker in delivering remarks.

On May 4, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended Cinco de Derby, an event sponsored by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's First Edition Committee.

The exterior improvements to the Carver Branch Library were unveiled during a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 7. Councilwoman Taylor (D2), District 2 Library Trustee Gloria Malone, City Architect Carol Warkoczewski, and Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill delivered remarks during the ceremony. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place in the new parking lot in the backdrop of the new monument sign. The event was very well attended.

On May 13, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the Women's Leadership Council Celebration honoring City of San Antonio City Manager Sheryl Sculley.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

With June just around the corner, children's services staff across the library system have been hard at work preparing to launch Summer Reading 2013 and invite children to "Dig into Reading." Staff members from both the Marketing Dept. and Digital Services play key roles in these preparations. Essential financial support from summer reading comes from the SAPL Foundation, the Friends of the

Library and this year from the Mayor's office as well. Printed promotional materials are now available at all library locations. Additional promotions are taking place in the schools, through summer enrichment programs and grade-level reading initiatives.

The 2013 Young Pegasus Awards Ceremony is slated for May 19 at 2:00 pm at the Hermann Sons Grand Lodge. This year's anthology includes sixty-nine poems, authored by fifty-six young poets. These poems were selected from over nineteen hundred entries. The selected poets represent seventeen schools, both public and private. Six of the poets are home schooled. The 2013 edition of the *Young Pegasus Anthology* is volume number eighty-seven. Library staffers, especially the teen and children's librarians, take great pride in the longevity and popularity of the Young Pegasus Competition.

Children's Coordinator, Viki Ash, attended the Texas Library Association Conference in Ft. Worth from April 24 through 27. Due to her past experience as chair of the 2012 Newbery Committee, Viki was a featured panelist for a program dedicated to developing the skills necessary to serve on book award committees. This mentoring role is one Viki takes very seriously. According to Viki, "serving on an award committee is certainly an honor and a big responsibility as well – but it is also a tremendous learning experience. I am more than happy to share a little of what I have learned and to encourage others to participate fully in this aspect of our profession."

LITTLE READ WAGON

Little Read Wagon is currently offering Play & Learn programming at two city parks: Woodlawn Community Room and Lockwood Park. With coordination between SAPL administration and the Parks and Recreation Department, Little Read Wagon and other SAPL staff has been offering programs at Woodlawn Lake since fall 2012. The new series at Lockwood Park began on April 25 with a good response from all areas of the city. On May 9 a few new participants from the neighborhood surrounding Lockwood Park joined in after seeing the sidewalk signs designed by SAPL graphic designers.

May 4, Julia Lazarin presented an *Every Child Ready to Read* program for child care teachers at the City Council District 2 Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair at St. Philip's College. The session, like all Little Read Wagon presentations at the series of council district training events, was full and participants arrived early to ensure a seat in the room.

The International Reading Association held its annual convention in San Antonio April 19 - 22. Cresencia Huff attended several sessions on Saturday, April 20. Topics included the use of Spanish - English cognates in children's books to empower second language learners, teaching vocabulary with picture books, and informational text for early childhood. On Sunday, April 21, Xelena Gonzalez was a panelist for a children's literature session entitled "Putting Books to Work." She presented ways to incorporate the work of Suzanne Bloom in early childhood programming. Xelena also attended sessions on Monday, April 22 where she learned more about emergent literacy development, poetry and common core curriculum and multiple intelligences in early reading.

As the school year is coming to a close the calendar is full of final visits to teen parenting groups, Head Start centers, and elementary campuses hoping to squeeze in Little Read Wagon programs before sending their students off for the summer. Along with the end-of-year program requests, some locations are already hoping to schedule for the new school year.

MARKETING

The Marketing Dept. has been busy working with Children's and Teen Services and Outreach in preparation for the 2013 Summer Reading Program including the development of marketing materials, web page design, promotion, and planning for the May 28 media launch with Mayor Castro.

Additional marketing projects include:

- The promotion and planning of the Carver Exterior Improvement Unveil on May 7 with Councilwoman Ivy R. Taylor (D2)
- Promotion of Life after Combat series
- Selling of Fiesta medals
- Preparation for promotion of SAPL 110th anniversary
- Planning of June PRIDE event in partnership with the SAPLF
- RFP project preparations
- TrueFlix & BookFlix promotion to Univision viewers
- Ramiro S. Salazar's op-ed in Express-News about National Library Week and SAPL services
- Ongoing PR and marketing of programs

Graphics projects include:

- June Bookmarks (a calendar of events)
- Mayor's Summer Reading Club handout materials
- Young Pegasus materials completed
- Graphics for new a staff recognition program
- Signage for the tech area at Central Library is underway
- 110th San Antonio Public Library anniversary
- Signage plans for new doors at Central

SAPL received 158 media hits during the reporting period.

There are 4,977 fans of the SAPL Facebook page and 1,363 Twitter followers.

TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Teen Summer Reading

The teen service librarians and liaisons around the system are gearing up for the 2013 Teen Summer Reading Program, *Beneath the Surface!* The program will run from June 1 through July 31. Teens can register online at mysapl.org and create their own account so that they can log the books that they read and library activities they attend throughout the summer. Each book or activity they log gives them a chance to win a grand prize in the drawing at GameFest, which will take place at Central and Igo Library on Saturday, August 10.

Programming

The San Antonio Public Library was selected as one of two libraries in the nation – the second being San Jose Public Library – to participate in the 2013 News Know-How media literacy program, sponsored by ALA and supported by the Open Society Foundations. The program is open to students in grades 10 through 12 and will run from July 22 to August 2 at Central Library. The Library is recruiting 15 teens to participate in the special two-week crash course in media literacy. Teens will engage in an intensive critical evaluation of the news they see every day. They will spot misinformation and propaganda and distinguish between a reporter's facts and opinions. In the end, as teams, they will produce their own report, sharing what they learned with the rest of the world. If teens finish the workshop and the final project they will receive a small stipend.

Off-Site Service

During the reporting period, Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard visited Navarro Academy and Highlands High School to provide information about Teen Services to nearly 400 parents, teachers, and students.

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. continued taking his Eclectic Electric guitar/keyboard program “on the road.” During the reporting period he hosted the music program for teens at Great Northwest, Mission and Forest Hills. During Mission Library’s 2nd birthday party, a teen who had never played guitar before said very emphatically upon learning some guitar rudiments, “I feel so happy! I am so proud of myself!” Pictures of these programs are on Teen Services’ Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>. J.D. will continue to bring Eclectic Electric 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 Central Library. In addition, Big Brothers Big Sisters provides an educational activity for Bigs and Littles to participate in during the lunch hour. During the reporting period, Bigs and Littles met on April 29. After lunch Bigs helped Littles fill out forms that had them think about their goals for 9th grade next year.

Professional Development

On April 24, Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard traveled to Fort Worth to participate in the Texas Library Association Conference. Brooke was asked to present on mobile initiatives at the San Antonio Public Library for The University of North Texas Department of Library and Information Sciences and the Texas Woman’s University Department of Library and Information Studies’ Federation Program. This year’s topic was “The Use of Information Technologies: Social Media and Mobile Devices in the Libraries of the Future.” Brooke provided program participants with information about Teen Services’ iPad program in a presentation entitled, “Traditional Touch: Teen iPad Programming at the San Antonio Public Library.”

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Play & Learn sessions at Central Library led by Kate Sandoval (Librarian II) and Ruth Chiego (Manager) were continued to have lots of repeat visitors. The group of regulars has been so steady that a summer session has been added. This special session will be filled through a registration process since it is anticipated to be very popular. Chiego and Sandoval were joined in May by volunteer Jasmin Salinas who brings creative energy to the heavy prep-work involved in making this weekly program successful. Play & Learn involves lots of hands-on activities for the participants who are ages 0-5 and their caregivers. The program continues to have many visiting observers from graduate education and library science programs at SAC, UTSA, Texas Woman’s University, Health and Human Services, and students from as far away as the iSchool at UT Austin. Heavy emphasis has been placed on inventing activities that involve small motor skills and sensory development which use commonly found household items. 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.

Large collection shifting projects are underway before summer begins. Due to the efforts of Kate Sandoval (Librarian II), Ariel Cummins (Librarian I), Library Assistants Judith Slaughter and Mary Elizabeth Fernandez, plus volunteer Jasmin Salinas these projects are well on their way and should be completed before the stacks are filled with lots of children at Central Library for summer fun! This team also worked very hard to ensure that media inventories were completed on time.

Community outreach events and in-house tours hosted by Chiego, Sandoval and Cummins included locations such as Howard ECC, Madison Square, Central Christian, Brackenridge High School, and The School for Inquiry and Creativity, Parents as Partners, and Fiesta events. As summer approaches, the volume of tours increases exponentially and the Children's team has worked very hard to ensure that they are able to meet as much of the demand as possible. Many branches such as Carver, Mission and Semmes have been very cooperative in sharing school visits so that all San Antonio area schools can be included in a great send-off to summer and a great first exposure to what their San Antonio Public Library has to offer.

The transformation of the third floor at Central Library has begun! Summer is on the way and with the very creative "dig" theme; the Children's team has had many fantastic ideas percolating. The Story Room will be transformed into a beach oasis with lots of sand to "dig." There will be many interactive "Boredom Busters," as coined by Librarian Ariel Cummins, to draw in young library visitors featuring activities such as drawing, poetry, origami, crosswords and games (which will also utilize the collection).

DIGITAL SERVICES

OUTREACH

Bookmobile driver David Casares announced his retirement, effective May 31. During his 33 years of service, David has seen tremendous growth in San Antonio and dramatic change in Bookmobile service. Staff and patrons alike will miss him greatly.

School visits kept David on the road with the Bookmobile this month. On April 19, he and Gamini Haluwana visited the Knox Early Childhood Center and explained to pre-school children how libraries and bookmobiles work. On May 3, David and Gamini took the Bookmobile to Perales Elementary's After-School program; on May 10, David and Barbara Celitans took the Bookmobile to Winston Elementary's After-School program.

Library information tables were also in demand this month. Barbara provided a table at the Senior Fiesta on April 25; on April 30, Gamini worked a table at the Express-News Job Fair while Ramona Lucius did the same at Café College's *Destination College*. The latter event continued on May 1. On May 3, Barbara worked a table at the Ferrari Center's international literacy event.

REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Dianna Morganti, the Reference/Government Documents Manager has assumed the duties of Interim Library Services Administrator. Martha Loewen, Librarian II in Reference has agreed to serve as Interim Manager of the Reference/Government Documents Department.

As the First Floor Technology Corridor moves toward completion, Julia Selwyn and the training team are busy creating an exciting curriculum for the new Training area. They are working with other departments to offer a diverse schedule of classes to meet public interests and needs.

TEEN SERVICES

Weekly Programs

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): J.D. continued his Eclectic Electric music programming on Monday nights. During one of the music programs, J.D. asked a teen he had heard singing if she ever thought of learning an instrument to accompany her singing. When she replied that her family could not afford an instrument, J.D. told her she could play instruments for free at Teen Services. The teen was elated and immediately took to the keyboard. On April 22, J.D. hosted a sand art craft, during which teens made different sand patterns in baby jars for display in the Teen Services Department.

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 April 16, Matthew Molpus from the S.A. Food Bank presented his monthly nutrition demo, showing teens how to make healthy s'mores.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Peer interaction and encouragement, creative expression and friendly competition rank high on Thursday nights. During this reporting period, teens got crafty by making scratch-off cards with secret messages and beaded jewelry. In celebration of Fiesta, teens made 3-D cookies, shaped and assembled to look like donkey piñatas. They even included miniature mints to fall out as they broke their cookie. For a Cinco de Mayo fete, teens used red tortillas, white cheese and avocados to create Mexican flag quesadillas, then played *Lotería*. Teens had a "hot and cold" food night and prepared jalapeño poppers and a watermelon lime agua fresca. After each program, teens requested use of a gaming system where they engaged in quick decision making and testing hand-eye coordination.

Pictures from each Thursday night program (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 23, Regina Almanza provided 25 8th graders from Bexar County Academy a tour of the library, and Kathleen Fordyce provided catalog and database instruction for the teens, in addition to giving them an overview of the Teen Services Department.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY

On April 16, Frank went to Igo and participated in a Fiesta roundtable discussion with thirteen others interested in genealogy. Each described some part of their research and told of successes or problems. Other members commented on the topic or made helpful suggestions.

Andy Crews taught a class on "Genealogy Software" to a group of ten in the training room on May 7.

Deborah Countess was at Cody twice in May. On May 9, she gave a "Beginning Genealogy" presentation to six, and on May 11, she returned to discuss "Genealogy Databases." Matt DeWaelche went to Cody on May 16 explaining the importance of the United States census to researchers and how to interpret it in their research.

This spring, Texana/Genealogy had an intern from Texas A&M University - San Antonio. Geanie Huerta spent time inventorying the World War I posters and creating an excellent Library Guide for World War I which can be seen on the Library's webpage. While she spent most of her time on these two projects, she was introduced to other work needed to maintain the department.

Volunteer Bill Cogburn has been spending many hours repairing books in the Hertzberg Collection.

KUDOS

On April 16, 2013, a customer called Collins Garden Branch Library to wish staff members a happy National Library Workers Day.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

BAZAN

The weekly Citizenship class presented by Academia America ended the spring semester in April; registration for the summer classes, to begin on June 10, will be May 19 and 26.

Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen met with her book club groups at Margil Elementary and at Crockett Elementary (2 groups). At her three outreach visits to the Frank Garrett *Avance* Center, Hope presented story time & delivered five classroom collections. She was also invited to represent the library at the *Avance Dia de la Familia* event.

May was the re-start month for Teen Zone events at Bazan! Librarian Patricia Soderberg presented two programs. At the May 1 program, cube craft cubes of characters from *Sonic the Hedgehog*, *Dragon Ball*, *Wolverine Boy*, and other anime/manga/graphic novels were created. At the May 8 program, a Wii game was played.

Circulation Attendant Valentina Serna assisted at two of the May Pre-K 4 SA Enrollment Fairs.

BROOK HOLLOW

Children's

Since re-opening Brook Hollow after the renovation, kids and families continue to return to Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera's story times. The new 'Tween program on Wednesday afternoons continues to be quite successful and the kids enjoy the crafts and activities. Little Read Wagon's Play and Learn program wrapped up its month-long tour of Brook Hollow with a number of families really enjoying the program and wishing it could continue.

Book Groups

Interest continued to increase in all of the branch's book clubs, especially the new Historical Fiction and Jane Austen Book Groups. Long time members continue to support the other groups as well. Librarians Debye Nicholl and Tapley Trudell keep their book groups informed and provide background material for the books to be discussed. Debye and Tapley also attend four webinars focusing on Reader's Advisory. Debye facilitated an author talk with local author and SAPD Officer Joe McKinney discussing his locally based zombie novels. The Steampunk group draws a great deal of attention and grows each time it meets.

Early Voting

In spite of Early Voting at the Branch, running April 29 - May 7, and Election Day on May 11, most of the library's regular programming continued in other parts of the library.

Donations

Tapley attended the yearly luncheon with the San Pedro Hills Women's Club in which it presented the library with a donation for any supplies and materials the library needs. The items to be purchased with the funds have already been chosen. Brook Hollow Library expresses its gratitude to the San Pedro Hills Women's Club for its ongoing support of the branch.

CARVER

Librarian II DL Grant Jr. and Children's Librarian Amy Thorne were among the SAPL delegates who attended the annual conference of the Texas Library Association, held April 24-27, in Fort Worth.

On Saturday, May 4, nature enthusiast Irasema Cavazos presented a discussion on the plight of the monarch butterfly and offered a gardening demonstration featuring planting techniques to attract more butterflies to the area. The monarch butterfly is an endangered species.

Carver Branch Library Exterior Improvement Project was unveiled during a special ceremony on Tuesday, May 7. Visiting dignitaries included District 2 Councilwoman Ivy Taylor, San Antonio Public Library Board member Gloria Malone and Assistant Director of Public Services, Dale McNeill.

CODY

Teens were kept busy this past month with a variety of activities including collages, drawing, vinyl stickers and movies.

The Friends of the Cody Library held another successful book sale. Plans are in the works to purchase a new display fixture, book trucks, and educational manipulatives for children's programming.

On April 30, Hayley Latshaw assisted at the *San Antonio Express-News* Job Fair. She spoke with several job seekers about the Jobs and Small Business Center and the many other resources that the library has to offer for landing that job.

On May 9, Deborah Countess presented *Beginning Genealogy* to seven enthusiastic future genealogists. She gave them valuable advice on how to start their research and how to use valuable resources in tracing one's family history.

Children and their parents were busy in April making Fiesta flowers for the parade, and Earth Day arts and crafts with recycled materials that Librarian Sheila Acosta provided.

Dia de los Niños / Dia de los Libros was celebrated on April 30, with the writing boxes that Sheila set up in the children's area. The theme "Many Families, Many Favorites" was the initial inspiration for writing about their family "favorites." When the children completed their writing and drawings, Sheila exhibited their creations.

Tweens were busy this month creating their puppet shows and incorporating their voices and images using the Children's Dept. iPads.

Mother's Day Crafts on May 8 was well attended by many families, who stopped by to create original cards and creative jewelry and gifts for their mothers.

Beginner Readers' Club members brought their favorite books to share with others, and Sheila also demonstrated SAPL's new TrueFLIX and BookFLIX links for them and their parents.

Sheila was invited to attend a Parent Coffee at Boone Elementary School on May 10 to talk to parents about the upcoming Summer Reading Program.

COLLINS GARDEN

Collins Garden's younger patrons have been having great fun with the various board games the branch has on hand. They have been learning card tricks, practicing *Scrabble*, and building tall skyscrapers using plastic connectors. Branch employees usually bring these games out when the meeting room is closed due to events such as early voting. Fortunately, the kids don't mind, they just settle down with their favorite games and have fun.

Collins Garden Branch Library was once again selected as an Early Voting and Election Day site. There was a steady stream of early voters, which probably accounts for the low turnout on Election Day.

Library Assistant Mary Perez, who is always very friendly and helpful, received a small framed picture of a smile with a short paragraph about the importance of a smile superimposed upon it. She is leaving it on the shelving behind the reference desks as a reminder to us all to smile more.

The VITA workers wrapped up another busy tax season. From January through April they prepared a total of 1,661 tax returns at Collin Garden Branch Library.

CORTEZ

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed a popular display in support of a new adult monthly program Zombie Meet. The new program is the brain-child of library aide Madeline Vasquez. The monthly program will begin as an informal and fun discussion of all things Zombie. Madeline hopes to later in the year begin to expand the program to include all things horror and fantasy. The book-media display is also in support of the Zombie Meet program.

Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes designed and displayed beautiful decorations celebrating Fiesta and Easter.

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 teens especially appreciate the snacks and refreshments provided by the Friends of Cortez Library. On average, about 9-12 teens 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.

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

Spring has arrived at the Forest Hills Branch Library. The months of April and May were full of activity as students used the library to study for end of year exams, tax filing came to an end, and people sought refuge from rainy weather. The Friends of the Forest Hills Branch Library held their annual Spring Book Sale on May 4. The funds generated from this sale will go to support the numerous programs we have planned throughout the year.

Adult Programs

SNAP, the mobile pet clinic made a visit to Forest Hills at the end of April. The mobile clinic offered free spays and neuter services and reached capacity almost immediately after opening its doors. This costly procedure is often out of reach for the members of this community. Providing opportunities for residents to have the procedure done at no cost is a quality service the Forest Hills Branch strives to provide on a regular basis.

A large crowd turned out for the science programs for adults' series, *What's the Big Idea?* The presenter, Mr. Suhail Arastu, is a trustee of the Mind Science Foundation. His topic was *What Makes Us Conscious?* Fifty patrons turned up to hear this fascinating presentation. At one point, Mr. Arastu pulled out a human brain from a bucket as a visual aid! The audience took this in stride and had lots of questions for the speaker.

Children's Services

The Children's programs at Forest Hills this past month were busy with new props made by Valerie Shelley for Community Helpers. The children guessed under which community helper hat the little cat was hidden. They also made fiesta flowers to celebrate Fiesta and *Cinco de Mayo*. We have been reading about Community Helpers and emotions during Story Time.

'Tweens gather on Tuesday afternoons for 'Tween Time. Papel picado pieces and tissue paper flowers were made for Fiesta decorations. They moved on to transforming old t-shirts into new works of art to wear and making pillows using their names as patterns. Several high school teens volunteer to help with the 'tweens each week.

Outreach

Outreach continues at Circle North and Children's Summit Learning Center where children were provided with books on the topics and Story Time. An additional class of 3-4 year olds was added to the classes served at Children's Summit Learning Center.

Glen Oaks Elementary School invited Miss Shelley to speak at its Career Day event. She enlightened the students and staff on what it takes to become a librarian and the services the library provides. They enjoyed her opening book, *There's a Duck in my Closet* by John Trent.

Plans for the summer program are under way and schools are booking preview dates with Valerie to tell the students about *Dig into Reading*.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Adults

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

Children's

Cari Raley, Children's Librarian, is gearing up for summer. She has volunteers creating an artistic display for the Summer Reading program. Adults and children are looking forward to the summer months at the library.

Events

The Great Northwest Thursday Book Group met on Thursday, to discuss the book *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy. The group had a lively discussion.

Other

Staff was trained by Stephanie Vazquez on using the iPad. Since customers come in daily asking how to use iPads, a session was created to have staff trained on using Overdrive.

Teens

Stephanie Vazquez, Teen Librarian, went to the Destination College Summit at Palo Alto College. It was the final day in the Destination College Week that is part of the Mayor's SA2020 initiative. Stephanie was there signing up high school students for library cards and informing them about library resources that can help prepare them for college, including the library's Tutor.com website.

The Great Northwest Teen Leadership has created an Anime Club. They meet once a week to share their appreciation for Anime and Manga.

GUERRA

Guerra served as an early voting site from April 29 through May 7 and as a regular Election Day voting site on May 11. On April 18, Heidi Novotny, Librarian II/Cody, provided on-site training to nine staff; she described the benefits of and showed staff how to use the San Jose method of sorting and shelving. Since the training, staff members have found the streamlined approach better than the previous method. On April 20, the Storybook Theater presented "The New Little Red Riding Hood" and "Two Pigs and a Wolf" and the Cuento Theater presented "Legends Alive!" and "Cuentos Mexicanos." Both programs were sponsored by the office of District 6 Council Representative Ray Lopez and the Office of Cultural and Creative Development. On April 23, Tanya Alvarez, Accountant I /Fiscal, trained staff in the use of the credit/debit card terminal; staff began using it that day.

On May 9, Dexter Katzman moderated the Thursday Evening Book Club; the group discussed *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman.

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs programmed and marketed early literacy during the reporting period with Toddler Time, Story Time, Play and Learn Discovery Time and Come and Go Crafts, presenting thirteen programs. On April 16, she attended the Lackland Terrace Neighborhood Association meeting where she represented the library and marketed programs. Arlene continued her outreach efforts to Greatest Gift Daycare and with Lackland Village Head Start. She designed and installed a display promoting the Mayor's 2013 Summer Reading Club.

On April 19, Stephen Jackson, Librarian I gave a bilingual presentation about Guerra's summer reading programs to students and faculty at Westwood Terrace Elementary School. On April 25, Stephen moderated the Club de Lectura; the group discussed *El reino de este mundo (The Kingdom of This World)* by Alejo Carpentier, a Cuban of French ancestry. The discussion covered both the historical basis for this surrealistic account set in Haiti and touched on aspects of voodoo.

On April 18, Kenneth held a Game Ra event for teens. During the event, he engaged the teens in a discussion about their preferences for future programs. On April 25, Kenneth held a scavenger hunt for teens. The teens paired up and went searching for answers to a list of questions about SAPL and pop culture. On May 2, he held a gaming event; some teens played video games on the PlayStation 3 while the rest played with their Yu-Gi-Oh! cards. The teens were also treated to some light refreshments, thanks to the Guerra Friends group. On May 9, Kenneth held a Game Ra event. The teens played video games on the PlayStation 3. He shared information with the teens about the upcoming summer reading program.

IGO

On May 2, 2013 at the regular monthly meeting of the Elderberries, the topic for the meeting "Cruise into summer". Travel Industry Representative David Reimherr shared with seniors in attendance information on various travel sources available for seniors, travel tips when planning a cruise and other resources such as travel books available at your local library.

To promote more circulation at Igo, branch manager Kathy Claspill is working on creating more attractive book displays using slat boards around the circulation desk. The displays have been up for about two weeks, and the children's books on the display slat boards seem to be very popular. The idea is not to display all new materials, but display materials that are popular with our customers but may be overlooked when customers browse the shelves.

Igo Library hosted the Bonsai for Beginners program celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month on 5/11/2013. Oscar Gonzalez, Librarian II at Mission, presented a class for bonsai enthusiasts and had 14 vocal and engaged participants. He raffled off two of his bonsai creations at the end of the class to members of the appreciative audience.

From April 16 – May 13, Igo Teens held several programs serving over 140 teens. Teens engaged in several different activities while members of TLLC were working together with Yu –Gi- Oh! Club and Igo Anime Club on planning and organizing upcoming events - Fourth Annual Igo Anime Festival and Summer Reading Program. Igo also has started a pilot music program run by the Igo Teen Library Leadership members which is a great success. A group of teens gather once a week for guitar jam sessions – prepared and led by Leno. Igo Teens also held its First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. The beautiful certificates from Volunteer Services at Central Library were given to members of Igo Teen Library Leadership Council members to recognize the importance of their services and inspire others. Recognizing and honoring volunteers also sets a standard for service. Recognized and honored TLLC members and non–members loved the idea and would love to make it an annual event. At the event they were treated with a guitar and harp concert performed by two Igo TLLC members.

JOHNSTON

This month was quite busy at Johnston with more preparations for the renovation project coming up soon. In preparation for new windows being installed, the burglar bars were removed throughout the building. Staff and customers have noticed that the building seems a lot brighter with the bars off. The new windows will be installed over several weeks. Each step of the project is a great improvement!

Library Aide Vida Leal Salas supported a great outreach event at the SWISD Second Annual Olympic Fiesta on April 20. The program was a Special Olympics event sponsored by the Special Education Department of Southwest Independent School District. She partnered with Julia Lazarin from Little Read Wagon. She and Julia reached out to approximately 70 visitors.

Branch staff supported the early voting effort from April 29 - May 7. Over 500 voters cast their ballots at the branch.

Children's librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth has been busy scheduling outreach opportunities for May to share information about summer reading with a number of the local schools. She also had an able assistant for story time when Branch Manager Diane Backhus presented Baby time, Story time and Craft time. A small, but very enthusiastic group participated in the branch's first ever Fiesta parade, complete with floats!

Teen Liaison Christina Martinez had some great teen programming! They had the opportunity to make papel picado. Their program for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was to make their own fried rice. They worked off their meal by spending some quality workout time at the fitness park. They also made bead bracelets for Mother's Day. Christina also attended Café College's *Destination College* – an outreach event at Palo Alto College. She also supported phase two of the media inventory. She attended training for the inventory training, along with Margie Esparza. The first part of the project was to inventory the DVDs. Thanks to the assistance of Maverick Library, which lent us its DLA, this part was much easier to manage.

LANDA

Adult Services

This month the Landa Adult Services Program expanded to include the Silver Screen Classic movies for senior citizens, an event spearheaded by the Live Well, Age Smart committee. Those in attendance munched on popcorn as they viewed the 1940s favorite, *Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. The response to the event was so positive that Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta has decided to make Silver Screens Classics a monthly program.

Landa also observed Asian Pacific Heritage Month with a scheduled discussion of Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, detailing the lives of three generations of women.

In celebration of May as Older Americans Month, Karen selected books and media - both fiction and informational - for a special display. An eye-catching flyer with some surprising statistics about older Americans (e.g., one in every eight Americans is 65+) and a variety of selections from SAPL's excellent collection has caused these materials to fly off the display shelf.

The seniors' Mystery Book Club read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* for its April selection. One member of the group brought items of interest including his personal copies of first editions of the book; another member told of staying in an inn in Switzerland nearby the setting of one of Doyle's books. These personal contributions added much to the discussion and appreciation of the author and his works.

Karen visited the Village at the Incarnate Word DeMatel Nursing Home with a program about Fiesta. She selected facts from Jack Maguire's *A Century of Fiesta in San Antonio* and passed the book around to participants. She concluded with a craft where attendees made their own Fiesta medals to hang around their necks.

Teens

Maddie C., Landa Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) member, used Survey Monkey for a Teen Council-only, online voting process. Since many of the teens on the council could not make the May 5 meeting due to finals and testing, Maddie C. decided to email the council members a survey link so they can use their decision-making skills by voting on Mother's Day and summer tutoring line items.

Landa Teen International Club had a special guest who introduced the teens to Indian language and culture. The guest speaker was arranged by one of the TLLC members and Teen International Club founder, Rubi J.

Two new volunteers will continue with another short-term project tentative called Landa Library Online Virtual Art Tour.

On April 17 as part of YALSA's Celebrate Teen Literature Day, two teens from the Cool Teens Club video blogged on the Teen Services' WordPress site about why they belonged to the library and how adults can support teen literature. Here is their blog post <http://bit.ly/13RCfLU>.

STEM in Family Fun and free play in Story Time- After listening to *The Three Little Pigs* by Paul Galdone, children (and their grownups) constructed houses out of straw (drinking straws), sticks (Popsicle sticks) and bricks (Duplo blocks). First they huffed and puffed to see if they could blow the house down, then Children's Librarian Clair Larkin turned on the hair dryer. Everyone enjoyed the results! Families also enjoyed extra playtime at the end of Story Time on May 9, when Clair demonstrated building roads with colored masking tape and sentence strips. Once the children grabbed a few cars (that were borrowed from the Children's Librarian at Parman), they constructed an entire highway system, complete with bridges and hills. Grownups said that they would definitely recreate this at home.

LAS PALMAS

Gina Brudi, presented five weekly in-house Family Fun programs. She also completed 15 story time visits to area outreach day care centers: Good Samaritan, Madonna, *Avance* Castroville and *Avance* Mirasol. On March 20, Gina led the discussion of *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern for the Wednesday Night Book Club. 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.

Sylvia Pachecano presented five teen programs at Las Palmas. Sylvia also was assigned to maintain the Meeting Room Contracts and to place bookings in the Las Palmas Online Calendar which she started in Mid April. All bookings and audience numbers appear on the Calendar.

Raymond Villarreal, manager, and the president of the Library Friends, Linda Arronge, established a magazine swap at the Las Palmas Library. Library customers bring their own magazines and pick up what the Friends bring to Las Palmas. This is promoting the continued use of free reading material for anyone interested.

Linda Arronge is currently working with Raymond to establish a Friends group for Las Palmas. They met in April to discuss various possibilities and are both working together to see a group develop.

MAVERICK

Maverick Library was quite busy this month with Early Voting and Election Day. Thank you to the staff who came in early to open the branch and who stayed late to close the branch after voting was completed for the day.

Staff is still involved in many activities. Librarian, Pat King, is helping the ILL team with processing requests from customers. Librarian Ben Longoria continues to participate in the leadership and management academy for supervisors. Librarian Amy Roberts assisted with Kids Day in the Park at San Pedro Park on Saturday, April 20. Surprisingly, many families from Maverick were there! Amy also was elected to be the Councilor for the Children's Round Table of the Texas Library Association. This position involves voting on issues that affect the members of TLA and presenting proposals that represent the interests of CRT. She attended the TLA conference in Ft. Worth April 23 - April 27.

The Friends of Maverick Library had a successful book sale on April 6 - 7. They are ready to help fund programs for summer and will be assisting the children's librarian at the Kick-off party on June 8.

MCCRELESS

The branch hosted voting during this reporting period so there were not as many events as usual. Branch Manager Cammie Brantley met with her book club and had a lively discussion about "The Marriage Bureau for Rich People" as part of Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Four Story Times were held during this time period. Children learned about dogs and heard stories about fishing and boats. They created their own origami spotted dog, a scaly fish and a wooden sailboat. They also learned about animal mothers and made Mother's Day cards for their mothers and grandmothers.

Forty-six kindergarteners visited the library for a field trip story time during which they learned about the life cycle and food chain of frogs. They also formed a frog chorus singing many different frog songs and created frog habitat pictures. They ended their visit with a library tour.

McCreless families celebrated National Poetry Month and the birthday of Mo Willem's *Pigeon (Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!)* with two events in April. Children wrote and decorated their own poems and made pigeon finger puppets.

Children's Librarian Katy Brown had two meetings of a book club with third graders at Adams Elementary during this time.

MEMORIAL

On April 25, Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Davila attended the Senior Fiesta at the Wonderland of the Americas mall where she shared information about library services with over 75 attendees and issued seven library cards. Seniors were especially eager to learn more about the library's homebound services and computer classes.

Rhonda also volunteered for the City's Sustainability Fiesta Recycling initiative at the Battle of Flowers parade where she distributed recycled trash bags to parade goers along the parade route. She reported that recipients of the bags were very appreciative of the City's goal to recycle and to keep the parade areas clean and free from debris.

Teen Tuesday programming this period included a poetry contest in celebration of National Poetry Month and a scavenger hunt. The top three selected poets from the contest were awarded an MP3 player courtesy of the Friends group. Teens also gave back to the library when several of them volunteered for a Friend's fundraising event.

Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, provided Toddler Time Plus on Tuesday mornings at the Woodlawn Lake community room. Story time themes about frogs, balloons, kites, and pigs were enjoyed by the kids of Memorial, who also made wonderful crafts with each theme. Families had a blast in celebration of National Library Week by creating paddles and blowing up balloons to play Balloon Ping-Pong. Fiesta festivities were enjoyed by all by creating beautiful flowers out of tissue paper and head wreaths. Children celebrated Dia de Los Niños / Day of the Children by writing creative family stories using a writing box that contained markers, crayons, colored pencils for decoration. The Head Start students of Madison Elementary School enjoyed listening to stories that collaborated with their weekly unit on Insects and Bugs. The families of Memorial created beautiful cards and flowers in observance of Mother's Day.

Branch Manager, Jim Jimenez, visited with parents at the Woodlawn Hills elementary parents' meeting on April 22 where library services and Summer Reading Programs were discussed.

MISSION

April 30 marked Mission's 2nd anniversary. The library celebrated with a performance from the Harlandale Middle School Jazz Band. Face painting and crafts were offered to Mission's young visitors. Frost Bank provided refreshments and giveaways. The Friends Group provided a birthday cake. Over 100 visitors participated in the event.

Early voting was hosted in the library's meeting space. Over 1,000 voters cast their ballots at Mission.

May 4 marked the grand opening for the Mission Marquee. The evening event, sponsored by District 3 Councilwoman Ozuna, was celebrated with a double feature on an inflatable screen. Families brought lawn chairs and coolers to enjoy the outdoor venue. The opening drew approximately 500 visitors.

Mission began hosting Pre-K for SA enrollment sessions on May 13.

Participation in children's events keeps increasing. On May 8 there were 52 children and parents attending. They are excited about SRP, especially about Spikey Mikey and Dinosaur George. Both book clubs at Gilbert Elementary finished for the year. All the 4th graders have asked to participate again next year. The 5th graders are sad it is over. Last week several of the book club kids from Gilbert attended 'Tween Time for the first time.

Teen Librarian Sarah Weinblatt participated in Harlandale School District's What's Next Symposium. She and Library Aide Deanna Garcia visited with over 100 students and parents. Ms. Weinblatt also visited the Tejada Academy. She visited with 105 students at that event.

PAN AMERICAN

Outreach has remained a big part of what Pan American does. Carol Collins continues to do a series of weekly programs for children and adults. Carol did 15 programs last month and had a total audience of 57. Angela Olivarez has done the same for teen customers.

The table set up by the Book Cellar is doing well. Staff had to put out another box of books after two days.

A program on Asperger's Syndrome and autism drew several to the audience. Two of them wrote complementary notes on the evaluations they did. The audience was very enthusiastic, asking many questions. The presenter was Jennifer Allen, mother of a son with Asperger's Syndrome who left her job to devote her time to the cause of those with Asperger's Syndrome or autism.

PARMAN

Parman Dance Month concluded with a Kids Disco Party on April 17 and a Teen Dance-off on April 18. Over 70 people attended the Kids Dance, and many asked that we offer the program again. The children, ages 6 to 12, enjoyed dancing, playing with balloons, the photo op, and refreshments. Parents were invited next door for refreshments but most enjoyed being entertained on the dance floor by their children. Parman staff led the kids in some popular dances such as *Gangnam Style* and *YMCA*. The Teen Dance-off was a great success with a Dance Central Competition held after library hours. Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow secured prizes from the creators of Dance Central, and Assistant Manager Tim Johnson handled the scoring system. Thanks to the Friends of the Parman Library for supporting all five of the dances in April by providing decorations, a disco ball, refreshments, and flower making supplies. Parman staff had a small dance party of its own before taking down the decorations to celebrate the success of dance month. Staff plans to hold more dances for the community in the future.

Library Assistant Tyler Lutz put together another great Poetry Program for National Poetry Month. Close to 30 attendees enjoyed poetry readings by local published poets and an open mic session. Mr. Lutz has brought many popular programs to Parman in the year he has been with the library.

Paws for Hearts has added another afternoon and a new Read to a Dog program at Parman. Murphy, a cocker spaniel, is available every other Thursday in the Parman quiet room for children to read to.

Children's Librarian, Carrie Vance has already started promoting Summer Reading by visiting the North Central Christian Learning Center and Bulverde Creek Elementary. Many schools have been calling to set up outreach before the summer starts. In addition, Carrie and Tim have set up weekly summer visits

to the library for three daycares. Ms. DeBow represented the library at a Destination College event held at Palo Alto College.

Three Circulation Attendants from Parman, Megan Gilsdorf, Sharleen Daube, and Megan Stanley volunteered to help with Pre-K for SA application processing.

Members of the Parman team got together over Mother's Day weekend for camping and a cookout at Guadalupe River State Park. The park is only 18 miles from Parman which made it possible for staff to attend the function after a day at work.

PRUITT

The *Council of North East Neighborhoods* (CONEN) leadership board met at the Pruitt Library on April 17. They expressed gratitude for the support the library has shown in providing them meeting space and doing a brief orientation of new library services.

Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez met with her TGIF Book Club on Friday, April 19. The members had a great time discussing *No One is Here Except for All of Us* by Ramona Ausubel. Members commented how this book was unlike any that they had previously read, and they really enjoyed thinking about the idea of how storytelling creates reality.

On April 20, Manager Mariya Rodriguez created a hands-on demonstration class using the Adult Programming iPads. The iPad Petting Zoo was a chance for patrons to test drive tablet technology in a fun way. Patrons really enjoyed learning how to take pictures, notes, and even surf the web with their fingers. They expressed an interest in more classes like this. The Pruitt Library does continue to have its weekly Tuesday Tech Tutorials as part of eReader U. Each Tuesday, customers take advantage of scheduling an appointment for one-on-one assistance with their eReaders and the downloadable content from SAPL. This has made the technology less intimidating, and as a result, more of our seniors are investing in eReaders that allow them to adjust the text size of their favorite books. As one patron commented, "I like the ebooks because now every book can be a large print one." Special recognition goes to Pruitt Library Assistant Rob Lerner who coordinates these appointments and assists patrons with eReaders and other technology needs.

On April 25, Pruitt Manager Mariya met with Graham and Elizabeth Weston (Chairman of Rackspace and his wife), Annie Vu (Rackspace Foundation Community Affairs), and Alex Weinberg (USCF Chess Master) to discuss the proposition of a city-wide chess tournament on the Rackspace campus. The group toured the new meeting space available to host a large scale tournament and discussed trying to plan an October tournament at Rackspace.

On April 25, Pruitt also hosted a double feature of family films. Parents, teens, and kids all enjoyed *Hotel Transylvania* and *Frankenweenie*. Based on the success of these events, Pruitt is planning more family-friendly film nights. In May, Pruitt will host a *Lion King* Sing-a-Long where the audience will be encouraged to sing along with their favorite songs from the movie.

On May 4 and 5, Pruitt Library partnered with the Cherice Chochrane Foundation for Youth Mentoring for Pruitt's third annual Fit for a Princess Workshops. More than thirty girls age 4 to 8 had the opportunity to learn about self expression, poise, health and nutrition, fitness, and safety in a workshop held on Saturday, May 4. Teen members of the Cherice Chochrane Foundation led the various learning stations for the young girls, and Miss Teen San Antonio 2013 Presley Price taught the princesses-in-training about the importance of standing up for your beliefs. Presley shared her platform about anti-bullying with the girls and encouraged them to speak up when they witnessed bullying.

On May 5, the Pruitt Princesses were crowned in a wonderful ceremony complete with tiaras and sashes. More than one hundred people attended this ceremony celebrating these beautiful young girls. After the ceremony, everyone was treated to cupcakes and punch. The Pruitt Library is still receiving thank you notes and emails from the parents and grandparents who attended.

On May 7, the Pruitt Library hosted a teacher appreciation event. Every educator who visited the library that day received a cupcake and a special bookmark. Because part of the public library's strategic plan specifically addresses the importance of educational connections with local schools, the Pruitt Library decided to express their appreciation for the teachers who give so much of themselves. As a result, Pruitt was able to book some additional class visits from teachers interested in bringing their classes to learn more about public library offerings.

On May 9, Pruitt librarian and teen liaison Rachel "Rae" Downen visited her former campus, Harris Middle School. During the lunch periods, she was able to sign up 95 teens for public library cards.

On May 11, Pruitt librarian Kimberly Wygant taught a class on résumé writing. She used the public library's database, Career Transitions, to demonstrate to participants how to use the résumé builder feature to not only format their résumés but to strengthen the word choice and content of their documents.

On May 13, Pruitt Manager Mariya did an outreach at St. Thomas More Catholic School. She visited Ms. Arreaga's PK4 class and Ms. Kitty's PK3 class. The kids had great times learning about porcupines that burrow, as they talked about different kinds of homes. Mariya shared with them information about signing up for the San Antonio Public Library Summer Reading Program on June 1. Pruitt librarian Rae Downen went with Mariya to observe a story time-styled outreach. Because Pruitt runs a cross-training team similar to the San Jose model, all the Pruitt librarians participate in all levels of programming. This training will help Rae to know how to plan for and deliver high quality children's programming off-site.

Thus far, Rae has been doing an outstanding job with all levels of programming. Of special note are her teen programs which have been really fun and challenging for the teens. She created an opportunity for teens to design superheroes using the Marvel Comics online site. After creating their characters, the teens were challenged to write their characters' back stories. On May 7, Rae's teen time involved a survival challenge where the teens ranked various items in order of importance in the survival scenario given. The teen with the highest point total was awarded an "Exam Survival Kit" complete with highlighters, Post-Its, and snacks.

SAN PEDRO

SEMMES

The Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum hosted an Artist Lecture at the branch on Saturday, April 20. Blue Star Mosaic students' art is currently being displayed in the library and several of the student artists were on hand to have an intimate discussion about art and their works.

The Semmes Library hosted Early Voting for the May 11 elections.

Local author and creator of his own zombie world, Joe McKinney, visited the branch on Saturday, May 11 to discuss his works. Semmes staff thanks Brook Hollow Librarian II, Debye Nicholl for facilitating this event.

THOUSAND OAKS

Children's Services

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser displayed an uncommon talent for influencing the weather this past month; it rained or threatened rain three out of her four scheduled story time days, postponing the annual kite-flying activity indefinitely. Instead, the young patrons of Thousand Oaks library enjoyed a variety of story time themes and crafts, including Butterflies on April 18; Zoo Animals on April 25; Crocodiles and Alligators on May 2, and Ducks on May 9.

Leslie attended Kids' Day in the Park at San Pedro Park on April 20. It was incredibly busy and children made fun crafts and received cute SAPL bookmarks. On April 24, Thousand Oaks Library also hosted a Come-and-Go Craft for *Día de Los Niños/Libros*. Leslie also visited The Oaks Daycare Center and performed four story times and distributed books to each class.

Teen Services

On April 17 teens stretched their mental muscles and came up with some SAT-worthy vocabulary words while playing Bananagrams. They also experimented with smoothie recipes. The favorite combination was strawberry, peanut butter, and banana, which library staff found repulsive but teens declared delicious.

On May 8, teens were able to utilize the teen services iPad fleet to play around with their favorite apps. The teens especially enjoyed a new app called *Cartoonatic* which allows users to change images with cartoon, sketch and art filters.

Adult Programming

On April 22, Librarian Carol Crawford presented a program about caring for an elderly or disabled dog. She explained products and techniques useful in caring for an elderly or disabled dog with special focus on mobility and incontinence issues.

Book Group

On April 18, the Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group discussed *The Marriage Plot* by Jeffrey Eugenides. The group found the story of a man struggling with mental illness compelling and the characters realistically drawn, if mostly unlikeable.

E-Reader U

The Thousand Oaks staff members continue to illuminate patrons on the intricacies of *Overdrive* and digital downloads to their eReader devices. Library patrons are traveling far and wide to attend scheduled and even some unscheduled tutorials at Thousand Oaks.

Voting

The Thousand Oaks Library Branch also hosted voting and early voting for the local elections, including the Mayoral race and City Council races.

New Credit Card Machine

The Thousand Oaks Branch recently began accepting credit card payments for all library-related fees exceeding \$5. Cash-less patrons are eternally grateful, and the staff is pleased to be offering this service.

TOBIN

Tobin staff said goodbye to Children's Librarian, Kimbra Cook, as she moved back to Oregon at the end of April. Thankfully, Librarians Shannon Seglin from Semmes and Clair Larkin from Landa, filled in for Toddler Times to conclude the spring children's programming at Tobin. Intern Melissa Carroll completed her Texas Women's University internship for her Master's in Library Science. Melissa was a huge help during 'Tween time, aiding customers and weeding the Young Adult collection.

Early voting from April 29 – May 7, saw solid turn-out with 1425 voters. Election Day saw modest turnout. A small enthusiastic group participated in Asian Pacific Heritage Month by learning kirigami, the delicate Japanese art of paper cutting and folding. Tomoe Kumashiro, the Japan Outreach Coordinator at UTSA, taught the session on May 4.

On April 27, enthusiastic families created tissue paper flowers and paper plate tambourines for Family Fun Fiesta. Teen Librarian, Betsey Leitko, continues to see high attendance at her innovative teen and 'tween programs each Tuesday and Thursday. Teens assembled Book Spine Poetry for Poetry Month, made blue pinwheels to decorate the library's Child Abuse Prevention Month display and built kid-sized bubble walls outside. Ms. Leitko and Melissa Carroll went to MacArthur High School's International Club Festival on April 17. They shared information on summer reading and programs to 57 teens. Librarian Keri Moczygamba and Library Assistant, Elvia Ramos spoke to nearly 200 parents and kids at Wilshire Elementary's Literacy Night on May 7. All families enjoyed learning about Summer Reading and special programs coming up at Tobin. Lots of children had their picture taken with Libro the Lion, and they spun the Trivia Wheel to learn about the library and other fun facts.

Margo Guzman and Nohemi Lopez Rosdahl of Collection Development completed an extensive weeding of Tobin's Spanish collection on May 2. The genre will be replenished with future orders based on their analysis of Tobin's collection. Displays this period encompassed "Get Graphic" in the Teen area by Betsey Leitko and Older American Month and Countdown to Summer Reading compiled by Keri Moczygemba.

WESTFALL

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino talked about Summer Reading Program to more than 200 when she visited Glen Oaks Elementary, Woodlawn Elementary, and a health fair at Maverick Elementary. Twice a month, children from the Discovery School visit the library to check out books and hear Miss Imelda read a story. There are usually 14 to 16 pre-schoolers in this group.

Westfall hosted a Beginning Bonsai class in celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. The class was taught by Oscar Gonzalez, the Librarian II at Mission Branch Library.

The Third Thursday Book Group welcomed a couple of new members lately. The group read and discussed *The Book Thief* during April. Granados Adult and Senior Center continued its partnership with Westfall Branch Library with its monthly morning movie.