



San Antonio Public Library

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**JUNE 2013**

# ADMINISTRATION

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On May 14, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash delivered a presentation to the City Council's Education Excellence Committee regarding the new Library service Bookflix and TrueFlix. Dr. Ash provided an overview of the online service. The Council Committee was very interested in this new service.

On May 15, Library Director Ramiro Salazar participated in the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Board Meeting and delivered a report on Library activities and developments.

On Sunday May 19, Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill attended the Young Pegasus Award Reception. During this same time, Assistant Library Director Kathy Donellan attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library's Board Meeting at the Forest Hills Branch Library.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar and San Antonio Public Library Foundation President Tracey Bennett met with Igo Branch Library's namesake, John Igo, to provide an update on Mr. Igo's past donations to the Library Foundation for the Woller Outpost project.

On May 28, the Library kicked off the Mayor's Summer Reading Club with a media event at the Central Library. Mayor Julian Castro, Library Board Chair Jean Brady, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Children Services Coordinator Viki Ash and Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez delivered remarks during the event. A number of media outlets

On June 1, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Executive Assistant Jessica Ramos attended Councilman Rey Saldana's inaugural Books and Bites book sale event. The Friends of the Cortez Branch Library participated in the event and sold books.

The Westfall Branch Library celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 2 with a ceremony and family friendly event. District 1 Councilman Diego Bernal delivered remarks during the anniversary ceremony. Library Board Chair Jean Brady, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin delivered remarks as well.

On June 4, Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with District 6 Councilman Ray Lopez to discuss the District 6 library project funded with the 2012 Bond.

On June 11, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Children Services Coordinator Viki Ash delivered a presentation to the City Council's Education Excellence Committee regarding the Mayor's Summer Reading Club. In anticipation of this presentation, the Library sent each City Council Representative a graphic and link for the Mayor's Summer Reading Club to include in their respective e-newsletters.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Promoting Summer Reading has been the top priority for children's services in the past month. In addition to all the school visits made by the children's librarians, Children's Coordinator Viki Ash introduced summer reading goals and procedures to the staff of COSA Parks and Recreation Department's summer youth program, attendees of the May Excel Beyond the Bell meeting, supervisors of the San Antonio Youth summer program sites and education funders at the San Antonio Area Foundation. Additionally, Viki presented summer reading information to the City Council's Educational Excellence Committee on June 11.

As a result of all this promotion, the participation of many valuable partners and the support of Mayor Castro, Summer Reading 2013 is off to a good start. As of Friday, June 14 registration for the Reading Club stood at just under 12,000. Almost 9,000 of these registrants are independent readers; the remaining 3,000 are enrolled in the listeners club. The goal for 2013 is 27,000 registered in summer reading with a 45% completion rate.

The month has also seen the promotion of Ariel Cummins from Librarian I Central Children's to Librarian II, Children's Services at Tobin. Ariel's promotion along with the earlier promotion of Clair Larken produced two vacancies for Librarians I in the Central Children's Department and opportunities to hire new staffers. Jasmin Salinas joined the group on June 8 and Amy Lewis begins her work at on June 22.

### **LITTLE READ WAGON**

School is out for the summer and like most other library units Little Read Wagon has shifted gears. Play & Learn programs are being offered at the Mission and Las Palmas branch libraries with the help of Children's Librarians Jane Miller and Gina Brudi, plus a great deal of support from the rest of the staff at those locations. The group sizes have been large, as is expected during the summer. In addition, Little Read Wagon staff is offering Story Time programs at the Woodlawn Community Room on Tuesday mornings until mid-July when Play & Learn programming will resume.

Youth outreach story time continues with a few changes in the sites served. Several youth outreach sites close during the summer, so Little Read Wagon staff has temporarily added a few child care centers to the outreach list.

On May 18 Corinne Sanchez and Laura Sanchez presented another Most Important MARKS Early Writing Development workshop. Volunteer Jennifer Golding provided extra support with sign-in, distributing materials and other behind-the-scenes work. This workshop will be presented at least one more time. Meanwhile, Little Read Wagon staff is preparing a new workshop for the coming school year. This workshop will focus on math and science experiences for young children. Early math and science experiences provide excellent opportunities for children to learn new vocabulary and build their general knowledge, which in turn helps them get ready to learn to read.

In addition to the many end-of-year programs for teen parents and at Head Start centers, Little Read Wagon staff had a couple opportunities to network and schedule programs for next school year. On May 24 Corinne Sanchez and Xelena Gonzalez attended the San Antonio Independent School District Teen Summit. They distributed Summer Reading Program information and invitations to Play & Learn. It was a great way to close the school year by making one more contact with the teen parents they had visited over the previous nine months. Also on May 24 Julia Lazarin attended the Northeast Independent School District (NEISD) Family Specialist Community Fair. Julia was able to schedule several early literacy presentations for families at campuses that have Pre-K programs. She also was able to make referrals with tentative dates for Children's and/or Teen Librarians to visit other NEISD campuses.

June 1 was the KLRN Family Fun Day at Rosedale Park. Julia Lazarin and Gina Brudi represented SAPL at this annual event. While there were many families this year, unfortunately there were fewer community organizations than in the past. With a limited number of other activities available, SAPL's supplies were quickly used up and Julia and Gina had to leave before the event was officially over. Families appreciated the opportunity to sign up for Summer Reading and play with the simple colored salt activity.

## MARKETING

The SAPL Marketing department has been busy with its usual monthly projects and on-going special projects including the Mayor's Summer Reading Club launch on May 28 which received excellent media coverage.

Additional programs include all marketing materials and public relations for the Summer Reading Program, Connect at Central, budget proposal marketing brochure, general public relations, LGBT Pride Month promotion and partnerships, July Bookmarks, Staff Recognition materials creative design and development.

Current projects include the SAPL 110<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for June 20 including design, marketing, logistics and other planning. Caitlin and Daniel participated in the Young Pegasus Ceremony in May. Joseph is working with Digital Services on the on-going development of the SAPL space at the Briscoe.

A marketing firm was selected through an interview/scoring process to work with SAPL on its public awareness campaign. The new firm's contract will be submitted to City Council for review.

Social media:

There are currently 1,080 followers of SAPL on Twitter and 5,240 friends on Facebook.

Finally, SAPL received 230 media mentions during the reporting period.

## TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

### Teen Summer Reading

The 2013 Teen Summer Reading Program, *Beneath the Surface!* kicked off with a press conference at Central Library on May 28. Teens can register online at [mysapl.org](http://mysapl.org) and create their own accounts 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

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez and Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce have been planning and collaborating with the 2013 News Know-How media literacy program coordinators. Students in grades 10 through 12 submitted applications to the Library and selections for the program will be made soon. The program, in which teens will engage in an intensive two-week critical evaluation of the news they see every day, spot misinformation and propaganda and distinguish between a reporter's fact and opinions, will run from July 22 to August 2 at the Central Library.

### Off-Site Service

On May 21, Kathleen Fordyce and Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard visited 50 students at Burbank High School to speak to them about Library services and resources for teens – including Teen Summer Reading – and signed the students up for library cards.

On June 11, Brooke Ballard and Teen Services Library Assistant Regina Almanza visited teens at the Boys and Girls Club Teen Center. Brooke and Regina signed the teens up for the Teen Summer Reading Program and for library cards.

### System-Wide Support

Brooke Ballard planned, shopped for supplies and scheduled nearly 25 new "teen program in a box" programs to be shared among all teen liaisons and librarians at all SAPL locations.

### Partnerships

Kathleen Fordyce continues to coordinate the Library's partnership with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Antonio Inspire U program. "Bigs" and "Littles" met for their last lunch of the school year on May 20

and celebrated the Twain Littles' 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation with party refreshments, including cake! The program will continue next year, as the Littles move on into 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Edison High School.

### **Professional Development**

During the reporting period, Kathleen Fordyce completed her participation in the 2013 Supervisor Training Academy, which is part of the City Manager's Leadership Development Program. The course was provided by the WHY Group, in conjunction with the Alamo Community Colleges District.

### **KUDOS**

#### **Collins Garden**

A customer visited the branch recently asked Librarian Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard to say goodbye and thank you to Library Assistant Mary Perez for all the help she provided during her last visit to Collins Garden. This customer does not live in San Antonio, but has a house here and visits the city twice a year.

## **CENTRAL LIBRARY**

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The Children's team at Central was out and about a lot before the summer kicked off officially. Outreach visits were made to several locations including the Circle School, Bonham Academy, Madison Square Child Development Center, The Children's Shelter (St. Mary's), Tynan Kindergarten Academy, Carlos C. Elementary, KIPP, Central Christian Child Development Center and the San Antonio Youth Leadership Council.

Tours were also in full swing on the Children's floor which included a Bilingual Kindergarten class from Howard Early Childhood Center in which all students explored the collection and were registered, just before school let out, for the Summer Reading Club. A bilingual Play & Learn program was developed in advance of the group's visit since each child had a caregiver present with them for the tour. The group enjoyed pretend play with a flower shop, taco truck and lots of homemade puzzles. Books in Spanish and English flew off the displays and the shelves as each child got their first library card and each checked out a book all by their selves, using self-checkouts on the first floor. According to teacher, Mary Reynolds, this was "the first time all of these families have been to the public library, but it won't be the last after this fun visit!" Several other tours were led just before school semesters ended, including students and teachers from Freedom Elementary School, the UTSA Bilingual Education Program and the SAC Education Department.

Mayor Julián Castro visited the third floor on May 28 to officially launch the Mayor's Summer Reading Club. The Central Children's team worked very diligently to ensure the decorations for summer were ready for his visit. The Mayor was greeted by a sand castle fit for the littlest summer readers complete with beach umbrellas, king crabs, and buckets and pails for "digging" summer reading. Another major project done in advance of the Mayor's visit involved relocating the very popular (especially in summer) paperback collection so that it is more easily accessible from the Children's Desk. This involved shifting the entire Juvenile Fiction collection. So far both staff and visitors are very happy with the change as families browsing the Easy book collection are closer in proximity to this very popular paperback collection. And, staff has enjoyed being able to assist more patrons at once due to the better location of this heavily used collection.

Central's Summer Kick-Off for children's programs was held on May 31. All regular Toddler Time, Play& Learn, and Family Fun families were in attendance as well as one of the most regular visiting groups, Green Acres. Children and parents made caterpillar pencil pals, playful porcupines, beach hats with starfish, fish, and even an octopus or two! Everyone collaborated to create a giant "worm farm" made with colorful dot painters. A special feature at Central this year for all activity participants is a large "Art Gallery" in the Story Room. Each week artwork on loan from the young artists Central sees each week will be on display complete with gallery labels fit for a museum!

Family Fun programming began with a bang as Kate Sandoval led Central's first program with children involving Children's Services new iPads. The children in attendance ranged from age 3 up to 12 and all were very engaged doing everything from playing with an interactive world atlas to creating their own animated puppet shows, all with the new devices. Children also delighted in constructing tall towers out of Legos, also brand new kits that Children's Services acquired.

Spikey Mikey, the magician, helped Central kick off the first week of activities after most schools were out for summer. Nearly two-hundred people showed up for hilarious jokes, magic tricks and fun as Spikey Mikey entertained and brought everyone to giggles with a one-hour show. Magic books at Central flew off the displays and all in attendance were registered for the children's reading club, and several teens and adults registered for their own Summer Reading Clubs.

And last, but certainly not least, the Children's Department welcomed Jasmin Salinas to the Children's Department team. She has been actively involved in summer programming and brings lots of experience from her prior work with Floresville Public Library.

## **DIGITAL SERVICES**

On May 29, Sarah Caralon and Rolf Laun implemented some updates to the Library's Online Catalog, most notably linking branch locations names to their respective pages on mysapl.org.

On May 30, Adam Spana and Ignacio Albarracin met with Assistant Director Dale McNeill and Interim Library Services Administrator Dianna Morganti to demonstrate proofs-of-concept for the Briscoe Portal. Collections of digitized Texana department items were shown in Apple iBook form and as online exhibits on the Omeka platform.

On June 4, Adam and Ignacio met with representatives of ITSD and the City Clerk's office to discuss the roles of those departments in providing content and support for the launch of both the Briscoe Portal and the library's online digital collections.

On June 5, Sarah Caralon conducted LibGuide training for 6 staff members.

## **OUTREACH**

On May 22, the bookmobile visited Bexar County Charter School; on May 24, Kindred Elementary; and on June 1, District 4's Books and Bites event. On May 31, after 33 years of service, bookmobile driver David Casares retired. The bookmobile has gone into the repair shop, but the staff continues to provide circulation services at the regular stops.

## **REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS**

To more effectively promote the new Express Collection as well as New Fiction and New Non-fiction titles, it was decided to re-integrate Marketplace Collections back into their subject areas. The Marketplace, which shared prime space on the First Floor with Express and New titles, served as a useful browsing area for three years. The Express Collection now serves that purpose. On May 26, Tricia Masterson and her Reference "crew", including Dan Garcia, Blanca Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Deedee Lu, and Lyle Rosdahl, worked with great diligence and efficiency to remove Marketplace titles, rearrange shelves and re-distribute New and Express titles. Shelving staff, in addition to their regular duties, re-shelved approximately 800 books assigned to Marketplace.

Reference staff is hosting The Summer Movie Series – Cult Classics. Presented every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium in June and July, upcoming cult classics include *Beetlejuice* and *Pulp Fiction*.

## **TEEN SERVICES**

### **Weekly Programs**

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): J.D. continued his Eclectic Electric music programming throughout May and June. On June 10, in keeping with the arts component of Eclectic, J.D. helped the teens make abstract prints using shaving cream and food coloring. The teens enjoyed this foray into art and were surprised that they could produce artwork so easily.

Tuesdays with Brooke Ballard (Librarian I): Teens helped reinstate Teen Science Tuesdays for Summer Reading with Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard. During the reporting period, teens chose experiments to be performed throughout the summer and performed their first experiment, making "Flubber," which explored chemical reactions.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): During the reporting period, teens enjoyed playing video games, as well as board games. Blokus and Pictionary are Central teen favorites. On May 15, Matthew Molpus from the S.A. Food Bank presented his monthly nutrition demo, showing teens how to make healthy snacks. This month the teens made fruit pizzas. For the first Teen Summer Reading Wednesday afternoon program, teens made nachos and played games of their choice, after signing up for the Teen Summer Reading Program.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): During the reporting period, with peer encouragement and interaction, teens engaged in creative projects as well as new techniques. Using a photo inside a plastic photo sleeve, teens traced outlines and colored them in with Sharpies and markers intended for windows to create a see-through image. Teens participated in a teen-requested food craft: pancakes. Using a "pancake pen," teens drew animals and other fun shapes with pancake batter. Some teens even experimented by adding different flavors to the batter. Teens brought some danger (albeit, mild) to craft night by using melted crayon as their medium. Some teens drew on canvas to color in with the melted crayons, while others took a more free-form approach. Another teen-requested food time saw great results when teens learned how to make tortillas. 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 May 17, students from Vale Middle School received a tour of the library and catalog and database instruction from Brooke Ballard and Regina Almanza. On June 5, Regina and J.D. Elizondo provided students from George Gervin Academy with a tour and catalog instruction. The teens signed up for the Teen Summer Reading Program (SRP) as well. On June 12, a large group of students from the After-school All-stars summer enrichment program were provided with a tour of the library and catalog and database instruction from Brooke, Regina and J.D. Afterward, the teens signed up for the Teen SRP and made buttons.

### **TEXANA / GENEALOGY**

During this reporting period the Texana/Genealogy staff continued its series of classes at Cody branch. On May 16 Matt DeWaelche presented a class on how to use Federal census records in genealogical research. On May 23, Frank Faulkner returned to Cody and discussed the uses of vital records with a group interested in family history.

Sylvia Reyna taught a class on Hispanic Genealogy at the monthly meeting at Igo branch on May 21.

The June computer class in the Central Library training room was on the "American Ancestors" database. This database is a product of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and is primarily for individuals with roots in New England and the nearby states.

On Saturday, June 1, Maria Teresa Everett was the guest speaker for Los Bexarenos Genealogical and Historical Society. Her program, held in the Central Library auditorium, was on the Canary Islanders of Louisiana and connections with local Canary Island families. There were over eighty attendees that morning.

During the afternoon of June 11 the Williams Creek Extension Study Group from Bandera County visited Texana/Genealogy. The eleven members who came received a tour of the department and a visual presentation on the history of San Antonio by Faulkner.

As for several years now the biggest event during June for staff has been the Texas Folklife Festival at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Our Family Names Booth is sponsored by the Friends of Texana/Genealogy. Individuals write down their surnames, volunteers look up its meaning and national origin, and certificates are prepared with this information that can be shared or framed. Preparations were done by Debbie Countess and Sylvia Reyna for this 42<sup>nd</sup> annual event. This year sixty-seven volunteers helped staff the booth during the three days (June 7-9), while 1,174 certificates were issued.

## BRANCH LIBRARIES

### BAZAN

Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen and book club groups at Margil Elementary and at Crockett Elementary (2 groups) closed out the school year with a final discussion and a celebration party. At her 4 outreach visits to the Frank Garrett *Avance* center, Hope presented story time & distributed Summer Reading bookmarks. She spoke to the parents at the Nelson PTA of the importance of keeping children involved in reading, inviting them to Bazan to borrow books and attend activities (Bazan hosted *Spikey Mikey* early in June--he was a huge hit!). She also visited area schools to deliver *Dig into Reading* posters and information.

Bazan welcomed new staff member Library Assistant Jennifer Martinez in June; she presented her first Teen Summer Program on June 6, getting acquainted with teens as they created *Duck Tape* crafts.

Librarian Patricia Soderberg hosted *Eclectic Electric*, with a single teen having JD Elizondo's undivided attention and jammin' out. At the remaining two May programs, games were played and summer reading program ideas were discussed.

Ms. Soderberg did double duty in regards to getting the word out for summer reading. She and CA Rene Leija set up an information table at the entrance to Lanier HS cafeteria; 40 students stopped to chat about *Beneath the Surface*. She also delivered Teen Reading information to the youth program directors at area churches; for the *Groundbreaking Reads* program, she delivered flyers to the Frank Garrett and Guadalupe centers.

### BROOK HOLLOW

#### Children's

After a two week break to prepare for the summer, Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera kicked off Summer Reading. By the end of the first week almost 500 children had signed up for the Mayor's Summer Reading Club; a significant increase over last summer. Many families are attending the toddler, preschool, baby and kid's time story times. Brook Hollow 'tween time voted overwhelmingly to continue programming through the summer and have many activities planned. The Scholastic Literacy Van visited the branch on May 18 and attracted many readers.

#### Teens

Teen Liaison staff member Kimberly King changed Teen Time to Mondays during the summer to allow for more time for Brook Hollow teens to hang out and enjoy themselves. It is still early, but this change is promising.

#### Programming

In celebration of Asian American Heritage Month, Library Assistant DiAnne Schuette planned and presented three programs that were quite successful with the community. On May 20, the program held was **Doing Business with China** with Chinese language, culture and economy expert, Dr. Donald Lien of UTSA, and explored the exciting potential for business ventures with China. A second program on May 22 was **Acquiring Chinese Language** again with Dr. Donald Lien, emphasizing the benefits of acquiring the Chinese language as early as possible to open doors to exciting and well-paid positions. And finally, on June 2, **Meet Your Future in Japan**, with Dr. Makiko Fukuda, on behalf of the UTSA East Asia Institute. Dr. Fukuda showed a PowerPoint presentation on Japan and demonstrated how learning Japanese (elementary grades & up) fosters entry into professions within the world's second largest

economy. Moreover, Japanese language students develop sensitivity to proper social behavior and etiquette, equipping them to embark upon exciting careers and the potential for a prosperous future in the U.S. or Japan. This last program had a very high attendance with all ages attending and excited about the subject.

## CARVER

DL Grant attended Career Day at S.J. Davis Middle School, where he promoted the Summer Reading program and library services and discussed the role of librarians in society. The branch observed the birthday of Malcolm X with a discussion of major events in the slain activist's life.

Children's Librarian Amy Thorne and Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash hosted Washington Elementary families at Carver Branch and talked about the library's summer programs and resources on May 16. Amy also joined Little Read Wagon at Tynan Head Start for its literacy fair on May 29.

Kids have been visiting the library to sign up for summer reading and attend summer programs, and teens have planted their summer garden. In addition, teens have been attending the Thursday night programs and the Tuesday summer programs, where they have worked in the garden, drawn, played games and watched/discussed announcements being made at the E3 (Electronic Entertainment Expo).

## CODY

On May 16, Cody's series of genealogy classes continued with *Census Records* taught by Librarian Matt DeWaelche from the Texana/Genealogy department. Attendees learned how to use Census records to research their family tree. The series concluded on May 23 with the class *Vital Records* taught by Frank Faulkner. Customers appreciated the opportunity to learn from the experts at the Texana/Genealogy department at their local neighborhood branch.

Mead Elementary School invited the Cody children's librarian to speak to parents at the end-of-the-year Parent Coffee on May 22 to discuss the Summer Reading Program. Heidi Novotny addressed parents there to explain the Summer Reading program and weekly scheduled activities at Cody Library.

Sheila Acosta visited with students at five different elementary schools, as well as two Head Start centers and various day care centers during the month of May to promote the city-wide Summer Reading program and weekly activities scheduled for the Cody Library. Sheila was able to inform over 3,800 children about the summer reading program in her monthly outreach.

On June 3, 'tweens were busy painting and creating porcupines and hedgehogs to display for Summer Reading throughout the Cody children's area. Over 30 critters were completed for exhibit and some even made it home.

Approximately 60 people attended Cody's summer reading craft event on June 6 to kick off the summer reading program. Library aides Dylan Rhodes and Eraani Perez assisted children with the crafts while Sheila signed up children in attendance throughout the afternoon.

Father's Day Crafts on June 11 proved to be a popular activity for children just out of school. Sheila provided several crafts for kids of all ages, and over 75 patrons attended this afternoon event.

Spikey Mikey entertained Cody families on June 13 to kick-start the Summer Reading Kids Time scheduled for Thursdays at 2 pm.

Summertime teen programs started rocking and rolling at Cody Library. Teens and tweens created postcards using vintage National Geographic magazines. Then participants randomized their addresses and sent the postcards out. Teens also described making duct tape projects as "getting back to their roots" in a recent blog post. Finally teens helped create signage to designate their program for "Teenz Only". The usual location for programs was used for early voting, so teens effortlessly adapted to another space and room.

Teen volunteers are on the rise at Cody Library. Numerous applications have been submitted and after careful scrutiny, new teen volunteers are learning the ins and outs of the library system. Among this bunch of teens, a few will also become members of the teen leadership group, helping devise teen programs. Other volunteer efforts were recognized during a recent volunteer potluck lunch.

### **COLLINS GARDEN**

Early summer is always a busy time at Collins Garden and 2013 is no exception. Younger readers have requested books on all sorts of subjects, such as sports, art, celebrities and science project information. The branch is also transitioning to summer reading, so displays are being created to celebrate *Dig into Reading*. Families are enjoying the displays and the magician Spikey Mikey also was well received.

Collins Garden Branch was chosen as a site to host Early Voting for the District 5 Run-Off Election. As this is a highly contested race, there were many citizens taking advantage of the early voting hours.

Circulation Attendant Enedina Prater has created an eye-catching YA display supporting the San Antonio Spurs' Drive for Five as well as the teen summer reading program.

The *Come and Go* craft table has proven to be very popular with families and others looking for something to do now that school is out. Kudos to Circulation Attendant Jessica Salas who has been providing some very wonderful craft projects to tempt our juvenile customers to visit the branch regularly.

### **CORTEZ**

Books & Bites was a one-day event held on June 1 that gave the Southside community an opportunity to enjoy books and local authors in a festive outdoor setting. Councilman Rey Saldaña, CentroMed, and SAPL co-sponsored the event. Librarian Stephanie Vazquez, Library Aide Madeline Vasquez -- members of the Cortez Friends Group -- and their spouses participated in the book sale. They setup shop early in the morning across the street outside in the parking-lot of CentroMed and stayed until the end of the event. The friends group raised over two-hundred and fifty-dollars at the book sale.

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed a popular display in support of the Summer Reading Program-Dig into Reading.

The book-media display is in support of the monthly Zombie Meet program hosted by library aide, Madeline Vasquez.

Pamela Longoria, Jerry Madrigal, and Charlotte Espinosa are attending training at Vital Records. Birth certificates and immunization records will be offered for sale at the library during the months of July and August.

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 the 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, the library is 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**

### **Children's Services**

Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley offered outreach to a number of schools during the month of May. She spoke about the importance of reading during the summer and told the children all about the Mayor's Summer Reading Program at the library this year. She encouraged children to visit the library and sign up for the summer reading club. Ms. Shelley was also requested to attend a career day where she spoke about being a librarian.

Summer Reading opened with a visit from Ronald McDonald on June 1. Children were entertained by his visit and were encouraged to read throughout the summer.

### **Teen Programming**

Library Aide Monica Castillo continues to assist Librarian Valerie Shelley in delivering quality teen programming. The month of May saw an increase in interest from teen patrons. The teens enjoy being able to socialize with their peers while enjoying movies, crafts, and games.

### **Adult Programming**

Regular adult programs, Project Linus, Qigong classes, and The Chic-Chat Club continue to attract a core group of participants. They return for the programs each time. These regularly scheduled programs are enjoyed mainly by the senior population served by the Forest Hills branch, but adult participants of all ages are welcome. The Bexar Area Agency on Aging held two days of focus groups meeting in the meeting room. The organization has been a valuable partner in presenting programs for seniors at Forest Hills.

### **Branch Events**

Images from the Hertzberg Circus Collection are now on exhibit at the Forest Hills Branch. This exhibit was made possible through a partnership with the Witte Museum, which owns the collection. Forest Hills held an exhibit opening on June 5 for the show officially titled *Under the Big Top!* The Jolly Joey clown troupe made a special visit to entertain the patrons. Popcorn was served from an old fashioned popcorn cart. The event was a successful attraction, especially with the toddler crowd and their parents.

The FOSAPL met at Forest Hills on May 19 and had the opportunity to see and admire the extreme make over of the branch.

## **GREAT NORTHWEST**

### **Adults**

Adult Summer Reading has started and many customers are gladly signing up for the program. The Great Northwest Saturday Book Club read and discussed *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque in early June.

### **Children**

The children at Great Northwest Library are digging into books this summer in a very exciting way. The first week included over 500 in attendance across all the programs. With a very big thanks to one of the Library Friends Anna Gafford, the library had all the supplies to the programs all ready to go. The second week has just about doubled in attendance.

### **Events**

Early On/School Readiness program from NISD had been conducting their programs at our library on Fridays for five weeks. Both parents/caregivers and their children have found these to be informative and essential.

Roberto Zapata and Cindy Moreno conducted iPad training at the Alicia Trevino Senior Center in May.

The Friends Book Sale on June 8 was a great success. Currently a Quilt by the Great Northwest Quilters is being displayed behind the Reference area.

#### **Other**

Robert Hernandez, Denise Johansson, Alma Rodriguez, Roberto Zapata and Cindy Moreno are currently undergoing training for Vital Records.

#### **Teens**

Great Northwest Teens have started a Teen Anime Club to share their appreciation for Anime, Manga, and Japanese culture. Teen Summer Reading has started.

#### **GUERRA**

With the support and sponsorship of the Guerra Friends Group, Librarian I Stephen Jackson arranged for a volunteer appreciation and recognition lunch on May 23. Four volunteers were joined by Friends President Delores Huber, Veronica Anderson, Librarian I/Volunteer Services (Central), and branch staff. The Guerra Friends provide significant and otherwise unavailable support for branch programs and services. Most recently, the Group funded the purchase of a large-screen display television which was delivered and installed by SAPL staff during the reporting period. The display will be used to publicize branch programs and activities. On May 25 and 26, the Guerra Friends Group held its semi-annual book sale. Heavy rains and strong winds meant a somewhat smaller turnout on Saturday but the two-day sale did raise several hundred dollars. On June 5, Branch Services Coordinator Kate Gray held her quarterly meeting with Guerra staff. At that meeting, Circulation Attendant David Alvarez received his five year service pin. On June 6, Silvia McCollom, Business Relationship Manager, visited the branch to discuss the support role that she envisions for the IT Office.

On May 30, Dexter Katzman attended Emergency Response Training Provided by SAPD. A share of the content from this training was covered in more detail at the Safety Security Work Group meeting on June 5. He attended COSA Employee Budget Focus Group meetings on June 5 and June 7. On June 6, he attended the branch managers meeting. On June 14, he held a Tech Friday session.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo returned from maternity leave on May 24. On May 28, Monica attended the Meadow Village Neighborhood Association meeting where she represented the library and marketed library programs and activities. Monica created a staff picks display, shelf talkers for popular fiction authors, and an Adult Summer Reading display with Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson and Library Assistant Kenneth Perez. Monica attended the first meeting of Librarian II's with Kate Gray on June 11. On June 13 Monica facilitated a book discussion of *The Four Ms. Bradwells* by Meg Waite Clayton. On June 14 Monica held an activity for seniors using the Wii Bowling game.

On May 19, Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs attended and assisted with proceedings at the Young Pegasus Awards Ceremony. During the reporting period, Arlene ended her regular spring children's programs and shifted her energies and attention to promoting the Mayor's Summer Reading Program. She spoke with librarians, parents, students and teachers about the importance of the Summer Reading Program and promoted upcoming Summer Activities at J. B. Passmore Elementary and Headstart, Cable Elementary, Temple of Praise Early Childhood Center, Westwood Terrace Elementary, Mary Hull Elementary, Meadow Village Elementary and Headstart, Lackland Village Headstart, John Glenn Elementary and Greatest Gifts Daycare. On May 21, she attended the Lackland Terrace Neighborhood Association meeting where she represented the library and marketed programs. On May 31, Arlene delivered stories to 20 children at the Temple of Praise Early Childhood Centre. Arlene Gibbs began Summer Reading programming and presented one Movie time, one Toddler Time and one Story Time. On June 13, Arlene and Dexter provided library tours to 40 elementary school students and seven adult staff with the Communities In Schools Program.

On May 30, Stephen Jackson, Librarian I moderated the Club de Lectura; the group discussed *El gringo viejo* (The Old Gringo) by Carlos Fuentes which was the first Mexican-authored book to become a best-seller in the U. S. He attended COSA Employee Budget Focus Group meetings on June 5 and June 7.

On May 16, Kenneth Perez, Library Assistant, held an event; teens chose and played various video, card, and board games. On May 23, he organized the teens to help set up for the Friends book sale; the group set up tables, books, and readied the Barrera Room for the upcoming two-day sale. The Friends provided pizza and refreshments as a sign of gratitude for their assistance. On May 30, Kenneth held a Game Ra event for the teens. On June 6, he held an open activity to kick off the summer and the Teen Summer Reading Program. The teens played video games and Yu-Gi-Oh! The teens also received credit for attending an activity for the Summer Reading Program. On June 13, he held a gaming event. The teens chose between video games on the PS3, other card game, and board games; those not wanting to play games were able to watch Anime movies on their laptops. At all of his programs, he took time to market the Teen Summer Reading Program and to encourage teens to register and participate.

## IGO

Igo Branch Manager Kathy Claspill announced her retirement effective May 31, 2013. Ms. Claspill was manager of Igo Branch for 3 years. Before that, her 40 year career stretched from Landa Branch to Bookmobile services. Mary Naylor, Branch Manager for the Forest Hills Branch Library will serve as the interim manager for the branch as the search begins to fill position of Igo Branch Manager.

## Children's Services

With the start of the Mayor's Summer Reading Club looming on the horizon, staff got patrons geared up for the summer activities with artwork depicting this year's theme, *Dig Into Reading*. Under the direction of children's librarian, Nancy Rodriguez, talented library aides, Briana Cruz and Valeria Guzman, painted the windows in the children's area and decorated bulletin boards with possums, mice, porcupines, and more, in an effort to inspire young visitors to visit the library for great books and special library programs.

In addition, Ms. Rodriguez dedicated the last two weeks in May to school visits in order to promote the Summer Reading Club to area students. North Side Independent School District schools, Kuentz, Scobee, and Los Reyes Elementary hosted summer reading club preview sessions at their campus. Other events were held at area Christian academies and daycares. Ms. Rodriguez also provided a PowerPoint presentation to school district librarians to highlighting the reading club and special events. The high attendance and excitement shown by library visitors during the first two weeks of programming have proved outreach coupled with enthusiastic collaboration of area educators are keys to a successful summer.

## Teen Programming

In a period between May 14 and June 14, the Igo Teen Leadership Council numbered 18, planned teen activities for the Summer Reading Program. Due to an increase in the number of interested teens an additional program was scheduled for Tuesdays at 2:00 o'clock. Response for the first two weeks was very positive with an average more than 25 teens attending each program. On May 18 Igo TLLC presented 3<sup>rd</sup>, Annual Anime Festival. Igo teens created and implemented 12 panels related to Japanese culture and manga/anime in particular. They also came up with 12 different crafts and games of interest to manga fans. Although attendance this year was down due to a scheduling conflict with the local High School prom, Igo teen programs still served more than 170 members of the community. Igo teens also held 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Art Contest "From Anime to Zen". This year there were 37 entries from 11 different High Schools and home-schooled. The contest was judged by 3 judges – HS head librarian, art reviewer from Japan –MS. Mizuho S. and a local artist. The conducted survey showed very favorable reaction from the public and contestants. During the same period in May, Teen Services librarian at Igo, Barbara Kwiatkowski also conducted SRP outreach. Due to the staff shortage, only one outreach event could be held, but as she was doing in the past, the Teen Leadership Council members were asked to advertise SAPL programs at their schools during the school announcements.

## Adult Programming

On May 21, Michelle Ricondo coordinated a special Igo Genealogy Club workshop for Hispanic Genealogy Research with the Texana Department. Sylvia Reyna from the Central Library facilitated the workshop. Attendees were enthusiastic and left the workshop with valuable information.

Library Assistant Irene Scharf participated in the Live Well, Age Smart Committee's Outreach activity at Northwest Vista College's Academy for Lifelong Learning's Older Americans' Fair. Information about the Elderberries was distributed, and many new contacts for seniors were gathered.

The Elderberries group met for their regular monthly meeting on June 6. This month's topic was "Gentle Exercise and Ice Cream" Kyu Quintanilla, one of the Igo Elderberries, explained and demonstrated Tai Chi, after which the 25 attendees tried their hand at it also. There was sufficient interest in this program to warrant considering Tai Chi as a continuing Elderberries activity.

## **JOHNSTON**

As the school year winds down, Children's Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth made outreach visits to Valley High Head Start along with staff from Little Read Wagon. She also promoted Summer Reading to students and teachers at Sun Valley; Valley Hi; and Fisher Elementary schools. She shared information through twelve presentations, reaching over 1,665 students and teachers! As of Thursday, June 13, Johnston Branch has a total of 457 young readers signed up for the Summer Reading program! The first big program of summer, magician Spikey Mikey, proved to be very popular. The audience of nearly 100 thoroughly enjoyed the show, since laughter could be heard throughout the building. Adult and Teen Summer Reading programs are also popular.

Teen Liaison Christina Martinez has been busy preparing for Summer Reading as well. She set up a table at Miller's Pond Community Center to reach out to neighborhood families. She is getting a good response from teens that come into the library. The branch is seeing many new young people coming in this summer. Ms Martinez has also completed the review of the adult biographies.

Ms. Martinez and Library Aide Vida Leal Salas also completed training for the partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. This year the branch will serve lunch to neighborhood children three days a week.

The branch hosted Guest Librarian and bonsai representative Oscar Gonzalez on Saturday, May 25. In spite of all the rain, five people attended the informative program.

Branch Manager Diane Backhus is again preparing for the renovation project, which is already starting. The building's windows have all been replaced. The security bars have been removed. The building already seems brighter. She and Kate Gray met with staff at Texas Wilson to finalize furniture and fabric selections. The colors are going to be really refreshing! She also will be supervising Summer Youth Worker Maria Puerte, who will be working at the branch this summer. Maria is proving to be a big help already.

## **LANDA**

### **Teen Services**

Landa Teen weekly programs were very successful during this reporting period. The Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) community service project, Tutoring for Young Children, had a dramatic increase in parent requests to register their children for this program. The TLLC members added another project for the summer. It is called Virtual Art and Urban Library Tour (VAULT) and it is being led by Nayeli K., 16 years, and she is qualified, as a member of her school's National Art Honor Society, to lead an effort to bring a virtual presence to Landa library's art and architecture.

In preparation to Teen Summer Reading, Beatrice Canales coordinated and scheduled special speakers from archaeology, earthquake seismology and marine biology to visit during the Cool Teens Club during the month of June. On June 5 the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) archeologists at UTSA spoke and presented hands-on activities on how digging "beneath the surface" can be fun and educational.

The International Teen Club showcased Vietnamese culture on June 9 and hosted, on June 1, the Teen SRP Kick-off party that yielded into teens applying to be a teen volunteer and registering other teens to the SRP program.

### **Media and Awards**

On June 5 the North Central news interviewed Beatrice Canales about the TLLC program at Landa Library. On May 19, Hana K., 16 years, TLLC founding member, was chosen as an author for the Young Pegasus Writing competition. She created a blog post about her experiences afterwards on the Teen Services WordPress site. Here is the link <http://goo.gl/QL3Bs> to her blog post.

### **Adult Services**

This month, Landa was privileged to host the delightful Deborah Coonts, author of the “Lucky” mystery series featuring Las Vegas sleuth Lucky O’Toole. Ms. Coonts enthralled the room with her personal glimpse into the life of a writer and the often hilarious anecdotes about the creation of characters in her books. The library was very fortunate to have this talented writer and entertaining speaker. The Dallas native (now residing in Las Vegas) indicated she would like to return for another visit.

Fellow librarian Oscar Gonzalez presented an informative program on the care of Bonsai plants. The program was done in conjunction with the celebration of Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month.

Landa Adult Services has expanded to include *Silver Screens* on the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm. *Silver Screens* was initiated by the Live Strong, Age Smart committee. The showing of *Casablanca* was so well-received at Landa in April, that Librarian Karen Sebesta has made it a regular monthly event. June’s featured matinee is *It Happened One Night* with Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, a smash hit that won the top five Academy Awards for 1934 (Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress, and Screenplay). Popcorn is part of the afternoon fun.

The Senior Mystery Book Club read and discussed *Milagro Lane* by Jay Brandon. The story is set in San Antonio and is a virtual tour of the city and a peek into the lives of some of its most prominent citizens in the 1990s. Librarian Karen Sebesta leads the book discussion.

Karen also made her monthly visit to the DeMatel Nursing Home at the Village at Incarnate Word. The theme this month was flowers. The residents enjoyed identifying large pictures of flowers, perusing library books about flowers and then doing a flower craft.

Landa staff was busy preparing for the launch of Summer Reading. Children’s Librarian Clair Larkin welcomed visiting groups of Kindergarteners, preschoolers and middle schoolers who are eager to get reading. The summer kick-off was a success and Landa was overrun with pirates searching for treasure with their parrots. Children are eagerly signing up for the Mayor’s Summer Reading Club and looking forward to picking out their prize book. Circulation is rising and staff is shelving as fast as they can. The program attendance is terrific and feedback from parents and children is overwhelmingly positive. Children especially loved creating a thunderstorm using only hands and feet on June 13 in the wake of late afternoon storms. Landa staff is working hard to maintain forward momentum to make this summer a fun and rewarding one for patrons and fellow staff alike.

### **LAS PALMAS**

On Thursday, May 9, Sylvia Pachecano, Teen Services Librarian, made an outreach visit to a Community Fair at the Thompson Place Apartments. There she spoke to about twenty people, issued library cards and promoted the summer reading programs.

On Friday, she visited Holy Cross High School and along with Brooke Ballard from Teen Services, spoke to the entire middle school. Within seven class periods, Sylvia and Brooke spoke to 151 students about Teen Summer Reading, promoted library services and issued library cards.

On Monday, May 20, teens made Duct Tape creations with the program-in-a-box ordered from Teen Services.

On May 31, Sylvia was the special guest at the: I “Heart” Reading Challenge Celebration at Rhodes Middle School. She spoke to the “completers” of the program about library services, promoted the Teen

Summer Program, issued library cards and book talked *Zom B-City* by Darren Shan and *Summer of the Mariposas* by Guadalupe Garcia -McCall.

Sylvia demonstrated teen participation and according to the 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents by the Search Institute, an enthusiastic young man named Seth Treviño developed a positive identity with "personal power, self-esteem, and a sense of purpose and positive view of personal future."

On June 1 the Las Palmas Library held its first book sale through the efforts of Linda Arronge, President of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library. Ms. Arronge is very enthusiastic about starting a local Friends group for this Library. The book sale made \$255.90 with short notice and little publicity.

On Saturday, June 8, Las Palmas held its Summer Reading Kick-Off party. Children and teens signed up for their respective program. They also participated in a craft; 11 teens made mini-buttons.

On Wednesday, June 12, Las Palmas began its Free Summer Lunch Program in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. Lunches will be distributed to anyone between the ages of 18 months and 18 years. The program will end on Friday, August 2.

On Wednesday, June 12, 12 teens at Las Palmas made home-made ice cream-in-a-bag.

Raymond Villarreal, on June 11, participated in providing sixty seniors with information on health and nutrition at St. Martin de Porres Church which was hosting Project C.E.N.A., Community Engagement Nutrition Action. The gathering was sponsored in part by the Martinez Street Women's Center and other City organizations. Applications for new library cards were provided as well as samples of books on nutrition, cooking and healthy foods which delighted them. The seniors told him how much they enjoy and support the Las Palmas Library being in their neighborhood.

Gina Brudi held the Summer Reading kickoff at Las Palmas on Saturday, June 8 with registration and by presenting a butterfly craft ring project for the 30 children who participated. Gina also hosted the children's magic program on Monday evening featuring Spikey Mikey. The program went very well with eighty children in attendance as well as twenty adults. There were balloons decorating the Library and a lot of laughter and fun as Spikey performed his magic acts to the delight and enthusiastic participation of all of the children. Gina also participated in an outreach event at Rosedale Park where they informed over 300 children about the upcoming Summer Reading Program. Gina also hosted the Wednesday Night Book Club where the book *Devil and the White House* by Erik Larson was discussed by eight attendees. Ms Brudi also went to four neighborhood community centers to read to children and provide books. She attended to 16 adults and 142 children on six days. Ms Brudi also went to Perales Elementary on May 22 and talked to eight teachers and 162 students on their Career Day. Gina went to Las Palmas Elementary on June 4 for their Career Day and spoke with 8 teachers and 162 students.

Mary Elizabeth Area, library assistant, hosted five events for 'tweens with a total attendance of 34. Various games and the Wii were used to entertain these young people.

### **MAVERICK**

Maverick Library was hopping with children, teens, and adults this month. A violin performance by children and teens had 45 attendees on Saturday, May 18. The teen programs have averaged around 17 kids per session. A popular craft that Teen Liaison, Audrey McPherson, initiated was making soap for Mother's Day.

Summer reading is here! This year, Children's Librarian Amy Roberts, visited 6 schools in the Maverick area, talking to 4617 students! Many kids from those schools are visiting Maverick and signing up for the summer reading program. On June 8, 80 children and parents saw 2 "Gerald and Piggie" plays performed by Library Aides Raina Oster, Elizabeth Santos and Sarah Borque. Afterward, 90 people attended the official Summer Reading Kick-Off Party. Kids made creations out of recycled materials and craft materials from Miss Amy's craft closet, ate food, and had fun!

Librarian II, Ben Longoria, will complete his supervisory training on June 12. The staff also received training for the new credit card machine on May 28.

## **MCCRELESS**

McCreless Summer Reading Children's programs got off to a great start with 61 people in attendance at the June 11 Story Time and 115 at the Spikey Mikey event.

In all, three Story Times, a Family Fun and two Kids Times were held from May 14 to June 14. To celebrate the warm weather season, families and children listened to stories about flowers, sunshine and the beach. They planted flower seeds and created flower pot centerpieces, as well as other summertime craft projects.

Children's Librarian Katy Brown promoted summer reading and library services at Hirsch Elementary School, Adams Elementary School and the Southeast Head Start, interacting with a total of 264 people.

David Liserio attended the Hirsch Elementary School Career Fair and spoke to five different classes of students about a career in librarianship. David read a couple of library-related children's books and answered questions from Kindergarten, First and Second Grade students.

McCreless Branch hosted the May meeting of the Jobs & Small Business Committee and David Liserio invited a representative from Workforce Solutions Alamo to speak to committee members about services available to jobseekers.

In this past month of teen programming, there was an inconsistency of attendance due to final examinations and the school year ending. Despite this fact, the few that did show up enjoyed the usual snacks and video games, with a few showing an interest in a pixel art kit that was received from Teen Services.

Branch Manager Cammie Brantley attended the District 3 meeting about the creation of a Senior Center for this service area.

The branch welcomed new Teen Liaison and Library Assistant Sara Harrison on June 10.

## **MEMORIAL**

Summer programming at the Memorial Branch kicked off with one of our favorite performers, Donnabelle the Clown. Over sixty attendees enjoyed the antics of Donnabelle as she charmed both adults and children alike with her unique brand of clown humor.

Prior to the kick-off of summer programming, Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, was out busy promoting the Mayor's Summer Reading Club. She spoke to 286 Pre-K and kindergarten students at the Jose Cardenas Early Childhood Center about the Reading Club during their San Antonio ISD book giveaway program and she promoted the club at Gardendale Elementary School during their Technology Night. She also did outreach to Huppertz Elementary School. Children's programming crafts were also popular during this period. Families enjoyed making paper ice cream cones during our Come and Go program, as well as root vegetable hats during our Kids Time event. Kids enjoyed listening to stories and making crafts from the 2013 Texas 2X2 Book List during Story time. Trina also hosted the Toddler Plus program at the Woodlawn Community Center.

Teen Tuesday programming celebrated the end of the school year with a pizza party courtesy of the Memorial Friends of the Library group and the top three winners of the teen poetry contest, held the prior month, were awarded their prizes.

On May 14, Memorial held a well attended reception for artist, Ms. Alisha Pierce, aka "Ohso Fabulous." Her vibrantly colored acrylic paintings that have women and religious themes as their focus will be on display in the branch through June 25.

On May 25, adult services librarian, Rhonda Davila, visited the Great Northwest and Maverick libraries to conduct the Sassy Stitches program for the Live Well Age Smart Committee. Attendees very much enjoyed the how-to embroidery class, learning a variety of stitches and having their questions addressed.

The City Council run-off elections in District 5 and 8 brought back Early Voting to the Memorial Branch. The branch, additionally, was tapped to serve as an Election Day location.

For the fourth year Memorial served as a host site for the Summer Food Service program of the San Antonio Food Bank. The program offers free nutritious lunches for children 1-18 at various locations throughout the city including several libraries.

## **MISSION**

Mission's summer reading program is off to a great start. The Mission team has already signed up more Listeners and Readers than the number that registered for the entire summer of 2012. The first special summer program, Spiky Mikey, was a big success. There were over 150 attendees and everyone had a great time.

On June 3, 120 Sam Rayburn Elementary School students visited the library. The students toured the facility, received library cards, and signed up for the summer reading program.

Mission Friends of the Library held a book sale on, Saturday, May 18. As part of the fundraiser Poems for the People/Poemas Para La Gente, were offered. Visitors had the opportunity to purchase an original poem created by poet Pancho Mendoza or Eduardo Garza. The original poem would then be illustrated by Terry Ybañez or Deborah Vasquez. Unique works of art were created for each person who participated. The book sale was a success.

Boy Scout Troop 358 also assisted at the event. The troop provided a ceremonial flag burning demonstration as well as a rope making demonstration.

During Asian-Pacific Heritage Month, Librarian Oscar Gonzalez provided bonsai classes at multiple libraries including the Mission Branch. His interest and dedication to the craft was successfully shared with many library visitors.

The team continues vital records training. Birth certificates and immunization records for young students registering for school will be offered at Mission. The service will be available July 1. Another session of citizenships classes began on Wednesday, June 12. The classes will run through the end of August. Mission served as a Pre-K 4 SA enrollment site from May 13 through May 31. COSA held a Senior Services input session on May 21 in Mission's community space. Residents shared their thoughts and ideas regarding a proposed new service center in District 3.

## **PAN AMERICAN**

With the ending of the school year teens were able to create a few crafts to touch up backpacks and school tees. With our trusty button maker, teens cut out pictures from old magazines or drew works of art to make buttons for friends or themselves. The following week a new robotic movie "Reel Steel" was the Teen time movie of the night, complete with popcorn and punch. The final event of the month teens created beads and charms with air dryable clay and natural cord to create bracelets and necklaces. They were able to take them home and paint once completely dry.

A whopping 111 people enjoyed Spiky Mikey's magic show during Pan American's Kids Time June 11. To promote the library's summer program for children, Children's Librarian Carol Collins visited with 3,900 children and adults at nine nearby elementary schools and delivered information to ten daycares in Pan Am's service area.

Assistant Branch Manager, Amy Miller presented an overview for the Leal Middle School PTA of programs and services available at the library this summer for children and teens. She was joined by

presenters from other area groups serving children including Parks and Recreation, YMCA, Wesley Community Center and others. Pan American Library is happy to be partnering with the San Antonio Food Bank as a host site for free lunches. Amy Miller and Angela Olivarez are working together to plan and coordinate food service and delivery three times per week for children in our community.

## PARMAN

Circulation Attendant Keith Massa planned and built two garden plots for Parman's first community garden. Participants from Discovery Time, Family Time, Tween Time, and Teen Time sprouted seeds and planted the seedlings over a course of a few week's programs. They tend the garden plots and will be responsible for picking the fruits and vegetables which will be used in cooking programs. The garden has been a learning experience for all of the patrons involved as well as the staff.

The Alamo Area Woodcarvers started holding their weekly get togethers at Parman in May. Their woodcarving sessions are open to everyone, and their 16 regular attendees enjoy teaching new carvers. Each week, the members bring examples of their work to display in the library. Customers are amazed at what these men and women have created with just a piece of wood and a few handheld tools.

In preparation for the summer, Parman staff have been busy doing Outreach at a variety of locations. Children's Librarian Carrie Vance visited several elementary schools including Bulverde Creek, Roan Forest, and Vineyard Ranch. Assistant Manager Tim Johnson set up a table at an event at Northwest Vista College. Library Assistant Tyler Lutz hosted a board game night at Amy's Ice Cream in the Quarry.

The second annual juried Teen Art Show was held in May. Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow called for entries from local schools and contacted volunteers in the art community to be judges. The winners' works will be displayed in the Parman Gallery throughout the summer, and the winners were recognized and awarded prizes at the opening reception on May 23.

Branch Manager Haley Holmes organized a special program for the summer Transformation Station projects. Participants (all ages welcome) will be given a Passport explaining each of the 8 projects. Upon completion of each project, the Passport is stamped and a corresponding badge is earned. The Friends of the Parman Library have purchased Parman Library lanyards to be awarded to customers who complete at least 4 of the 8 projects by the end of the summer. The first project was to learn about and to make rainsticks. It rained very hard the first day the project was available since over 200 rainsticks were made!

## PRUITT

On May 18, Pruitt Manager Mariya Rodriguez offered a class on online job searching and the online application process. Although this was Pruitt's final technology-linked offering for the summer, other regular adult programs are continuing. Zumba with Maddie continues to draw 20 to 30 adults each week. Also, Pruitt's TGIF adult book club continues to meet on the fourth Friday of each month. On May 24, the book club met to discuss Sandra Dallas's *The Persian Pickle Club*. This was a unanimous favorite of the group who appreciated the message about women's friendships. Several members of the group liked this selection so much that they checked out other books by this author. This book club, led by Mariya, will meet again on June 28. The June selection is Bill Bryson's memoir about growing up in Iowa in the 1950s called *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*.

The Pruitt Library has an ongoing and very fruitful partnership with the Rackspace Foundation. The spring quarter chess programs culminated with a tournament on May 19 attended by more than one hundred kids, teens, and adults. Rackspace is continuing to sponsor Teen Chess and Family Chess Nights throughout the summer. The summer chess schedule kicked off with about eighty people attending dinner and chess instruction on June 13. Teen Chess and Family Chess Night will continue throughout June and July every Thursday. The summer tournament will be held on July 28.

Pruitt is also excited to welcome back Felt Faith Puppetry who partners each summer to deliver workshops and fantastic reading-themed puppet shows for families. Their first show for the season was

held on May 19, and they returned again on June 9. Another show is scheduled for June 23. They have also committed to once again be the closing piece of the Pruitt Library's SummerFest on August 3.

The Pruitt Library hosted a final meeting for the teens from the Project Connect program. This program intended to curb teen truancy utilized Pruitt's resources and meeting space throughout the year as a way to encourage their students to visit the library regularly. The staffs from Bexar County Juvenile Detention and the Project Connect facilitators were very pleased with this partnership and have expressed interest in continuing it through the next school year.

Teen Times at Pruitt ended the spring theme of "Games and Sports" on May 28. Through the season, teens had a great time playing different kinds of games from Uno Attack to MarioKart Wii and Rock Band. One of the most popular sessions in May was a session of old-school styled games like Ms. Pacman, Mappy, and Galaga. The teens had a great time learning to play the games that the Pruitt librarians played as teens themselves.

The Isshoni Anime Society for Teens continues to gather every Wednesday afternoon for all things anime. Pruitt Library Assistant Rob Lerner has done a great job with this program—one of Pruitt's most successful teen programs ever. The teens were especially excited to hear that this program would continue throughout the summer.

Several outreaches were conducted in May and June. Pruitt librarian Troy Lawrence was featured on the Windcrest Elementary morning announcements on May 28. Later that morning, Troy visited with the first-graders from Camelot Elementary to promote the summer reading program and Pruitt's summer activities for kids. On May 29, Troy returned to visit with more Camelot Elementary students. On June 8, Manager Mariya Rodriguez visited with the staff of Highland Forest Elementary during their teacher workday. As teachers came to their school library to sign-out, Mariya shared with them information about the adult summer reading program and had the opportunity to demo BookFlix and TrueFlix. The teachers were very excited about these two new resources and are planning to integrate them in their classes next year.

On June 10, the Pruitt Library hosted its first meal of the summer in conjunction with the San Antonio Food Bank. This is the third year that Pruitt is participating in this program that offers free meals to children and teens ages 1 – 18 during the summer months. Last year, Pruitt served more than 3,000 meals to young customers. Each Monday through Friday, Pruitt will offer lunch and a snack to children and teens through August 23.

Families have been very excited about various children's offerings throughout May and June. When Family Chess Nights ended, the Pruitt Library hosted some family-friendly sing-along films on Thursdays in May. On May 23, kids crooned along with their favorite songs from *The Lion King*, and on May 30, they came back for *Aladdin*.

On June 3, Manager Mariya Rodriguez kicked off the Dig into Reading theme by reading books about Egyptian pharaohs. The kids had a fun time crafting their own pharaoh headdresses and learning to write like Egyptians. On June 8, the Scholastic Caravan visited Pruitt Library and offered families a van full of fun literacy games and activities. Every young visit was also treated to a free book.

Finally, the Pruitt Library would like to wish farewell and good luck to two staff members who will be leaving to pursue new opportunities. Pruitt Library Assistant Loida Palomo enjoyed her last day on June 6. Although she also worked at the Bannwolf Library at Reagan, Loida came to Pruitt a little more than a year ago. She is leaving to take a new corporate position with Frost Bank. Pruitt Library Manager Mariya Rodriguez will be leaving on June 30. She has accepted a position with East Central ISD. She will be the librarian at Highland Forest Elementary. Although sad to leave Pruitt, Mariya is looking forward to partnering with the McCreless Branch Library to promote public library use by students, staff, and parents. Mariya is extremely grateful to the SAPL Library Board and SAPL staff and administration for being so an incredibly example of excellence of service and leadership to her these past four years.

## **SAN PEDRO**

During this period, Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton visited several schools to promote the summer reading program, including Hawthorne Academy and Monte Vista Montessori.

Ms. 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, and a combined class of 24 at the Center for New Communities Head Start, housed at San Antonio College. Fifteen books are also delivered to each of the 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 (6<sup>th</sup> grade), Monte Vista Montessori (4<sup>th</sup>) and Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th grade) book clubs. The book clubs have 10-12 members. The book clubs meet during the students' lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed. The book clubs will be on hiatus during the summer months when school is not in session.

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.

In June Ms. Dalton added a Toddler Time on Fridays and a special Toddler Time on Wednesdays for Respite Care of San Antonio children.

In June, Ms. Dalton facilitated the 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. After each meeting Betsy posts pictures of the artists and their creations in the children's area.

Monty Holcomb, Librarian I and teen liaison, hosted four informal Tuesday chess events. The chess events draw 15 to 20 players each week. Mr. Holcomb also held four Tuesday teen events in the afternoon using the Wii.

## **SEMMES**

Children's Librarians Randi Jones and Shannon Seglin were busy in May getting ready for the summer reading program. Randi visited Fox Run Elementary to get the kids excited about summer reading. Shannon was able to visit Steubing Ranch Elementary to do some book talks and to share more about the summer reading program.

On May 31, the Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum held a reception for Karen Sosa in the Semmes' meeting room. Ms. Sosa's art is currently being displayed throughout the branch.

The Summer Reading kick-off party was held on June 1 and 98 people came to enjoy some good stories, yummy snacks, fun games, bubbles and the very popular temporary tattoos.

Spikey Mikey was the star of the Friday Kids Time on June 14. Spikey Mikey is always a popular event and all attendees thoroughly enjoyed the show.

## **THOUSAND OAKS**

### **Children's Activities**

#### **Story Time**

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser continues to draw large crowds for her ever-popular weekly Toddler Time and Story Time presentations. Children made fun crafts, sang songs, and listened to stories. Weekly themes this month included sharks and dragons.

#### **Lego Time**

On June 11, young Thousand Oaks patrons enjoyed the first-ever Lego Time! Librarian Leslie Elsasser began a new program and the children got to create fun and colorful buildings, shapes and robots with colorful interlocking bricks.

#### Summer Reading Kickoff Party

On June 1, the Thousand Oaks branch hosted a Summer Reading Kickoff Party. Young patrons enjoyed ice cream and a fun craft project, an ant made out of plastic spoons, pipe cleaners, and wiggly eyes. Scores of children signed up for Summer Reading in hopes of getting free books. Currently, Thousand Oaks has registered more than 500 children signed up, as all branch staff members are doing their best.

#### Kid's Time

The first day was June 5 and children learned about how flowers grow from the ground and made a cute flowery paper craft. On June 12, the kids got to play with bubble wrap, using it as a painting tool to create a textured look to a turtle cutout.

#### Teen Time

On May 15 the teens enjoyed a screening of the dystopian fantasy film *In Time* starring Justin Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried. They found the plot ridiculous and declared that Mr. Timberlake should stick to singing pop songs instead of chewing scenery; the movie was so bad they didn't even finish it and instead played board games. Teens discovered a new game in the cupboard, *Pictureeka*, which has become a new favorite.

On May 22, teens tried making a new snack, banana boats. They stuffed bananas with chocolate chips, marshmallows, and bananas, then wrapped in foil and baked in the toaster oven for 15 minutes. This was universally loved and teens agreed that they'd love to make this recipe again soon. The banana snack was followed, appropriately, by a game of *Bananagrams*.

On May 29, teens honored Asian-Pacific Heritage month by trying Japanese katakana writing. Teens learned about the Japanese system of writing "borrowed" (i.e., foreign) words with the katakana alphabet. They used paintbrushes and watercolor paint to practice writing their own names in Japanese.

On June 5, teens tried cooking again. This time they tried making their own vanilla ice cream. They first mixed half and half, sugar, and vanilla in a zip-top plastic bag, then placed it in a larger zip-top bag with ice and rock salt. After shaking the whole thing for about five minutes, they had homemade ice cream. Teens compared their homemade creation with some store-bought ice cream and all of them agreed that the home made was much better. Teens continued with a highly competitive game of *Monopoly*, during which Teen Liaison Karen Sagun suffered an embarrassing defeat.

On June 12, a crowd of teens voted on for the Teen Choice Movie. The clear winner was *Warm Bodies*, a dystopian-zombie-comedy-romance loosely based on *Romeo and Juliet*. Teens agreed it was funny without being too gross and scary, and they enjoyed the voiceover narration by the zombie protagonist.

#### Adult Programming

##### Book Groups

On April 16, the Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group met to discuss the historical novel *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See, which was chosen in honor of Asian-Pacific Heritage Month. Overall the group's members really enjoyed the book. They found the historical details of life as a Chinese immigrant in the 1940s and 1950s very interesting, though the racism of the period was disturbing. They also liked themes about sisters and sibling rivalry. Most of the group members agreed that they would read the book's sequel and other books by the author as well.

On May 3, the Thousand Oaks Monday Evening Book Group discussed the best-selling novel *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter. Though favorably received, some of the group members found the author's style of jumping back and forth between time periods, locations and points of view rather disjointed. They found some of the characters superfluous, and felt that some of the intertwining storylines were undeveloped. However, there was plenty for the group to discuss, so overall it was a successful selection.

### E-Reader Training

Thousand Oaks staff members continue to train patrons in the intricacies of the eReader and digital downloadables. Library patrons travel from far and wide for our superior eReader training, and we continue to assist over a dozen patrons a week with numerous eReader issues.

### Other Events

#### Pre-K 4 SA

Circulation Attendant Phyllis Davis appeared on the KENS-5 news broadcast on May 21, demonstrating the Pre-K 4 SA registration and her awesome customer service skills. The Thousand Oaks employees feel honored to have a celebrity on staff.

#### Book Sale

The Thousand Oaks Friends of the Library had an incredibly successful book sale on June 1. Patrons were lined up outside the door to peruse the selection of books and gift items available. The Friends of the Library raised an estimated \$1100 that will be used to supplement the Thousand Oaks budget.

#### Teen Intern

On June 10, Thousand Oaks welcomed summer intern Matthew Williams from the Workforce Solutions Summer Youth Program. Matthew has already been a great help by assisting with Teen Time and Children's Programming as well as many other library tasks.

### TOBIN

Tobin Library welcomed Children's Librarian, Ariel Cummins, on June 11. Ariel comes to Tobin from Central Children's with prior experience at Cody Branch and Austin Public Library system. Ms. Cummins jumped right in with her first Toddler Time on June 12 with over 40 tots and parents joining her in fun activities.

The Adult 5 in 5 Reading Challenge's reception was held at Tobin on May 31. This event was organized by Librarian, Keri Moczygamba, as part of the Life Long Learning committee for the system wide recognition for adult readers. The Interesting Book Club's selection for June is Paula McLain's, *The Paris Wife* and The Suspense group is Rick Riordan's, *Mission Road*. Popular displays this period are "I know what you read last summer..." in the Teen area by Betsey Leitko and Beach Reads and New Spanish items by Keri Moczygamba.

Tobin Friends held a very successful book sale on May 17 and 18. Proceeds from Friends' book cart and sales have helped generously fund the special programs being held for all ages at Tobin Library.

On May 22, Librarians, Tracey Knouse and Keri Moczygamba, did a live performance digging into books with hard hats and shovels for the "Dig into Reading" summer theme at Oak Grove Elementary. Principal Massey helped promote the library and Summer Reading with the live broadcast of his morning announcements to every classroom. Librarian Betsey Leitko and Library Aide, Alex Garcia, talked with over 135 teens at MacArthur High School on May 22. Teens played the trivia wheel and got information on upcoming events at Tobin Library. Ms. Leitko also talked with Garner Middle School's 6<sup>th</sup> graders on May 20 and 8<sup>th</sup> graders on May 23. As a result of the outreach, the Teen Pizza Party was very well attended on May 28 and the End of School Dance for both teens and tweens with a live DJ had lots of kids sign up for Summer Reading on May 30.

Tobin held a Summer Reading kick-off for all ages on June 1 with Moxie Girls' face painting and balloon art. Over 330 folks came for the two hour event that included visiting the Scholastic Van and painting rocks and creating a porcupine craft.

### WESTFALL

On June 2, Westfall Branch Library celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. District 1 Councilman Diego Bernal, SAPL Board of Trustees President Jean Brady, Director Ramiro Salazar and Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin spoke at a reception to celebrate the milestone. Throughout the afternoon visitors were able to

view a slide show featuring old family photographs of the neighborhood, tour a 15-foot long model of the Edwards Aquifer, play with adoptable dogs from Animal Care Services, get a balloon creation and nibble on cupcakes and punch. A display of bestsellers from June 2, 1963, remains on display throughout the end of June. An article on the celebration was on Page 2 of the June 3 edition of the *San Antonio Express-News* and *MySA.com*.

Manager Hardin was invited to participate in a Supervisory Focus Group for the City of San Antonio. The city is working to replace 12 Danger Zones training with a Supervisors' Boot Camp, which will be required of all new and current managers.

Westfall also welcomed summer youth worker Brianna Gonzales to the team. Brianna will be working at Westfall through mid-August. One of her primary duties is working with the Free Summer Lunch Program, which started June 10 and runs through Aug. 2.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino worked with a group of Cub Scouts who were earning their library badge. Ms. Merino also spoke to a group of children at St. Gregory's about the Summer Reading Program. She also hosted a party to kickoff SRP.