



San Antonio Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 2013

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Library Director Ramiro Salazar was invited to participate in a review committee for the Request for Proposals for the Café Commerce initiative. As part of the review committee, Ramiro participated in a series of meetings between July 15 and August 7, 2013. As a result of the Committee's work, the City's Economic Development Department will bring forth before City Council a proposed contract with the selected firm.

On July 17, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado met with District 8 Councilman Nirenberg regarding the Councilman's interest in the Library Board's Internet Use Policy as it relates to compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Councilman Nirenberg expressed his support for revisions to the policy to comply with CIPA.

On July 20, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended an event sponsored by the First Edition Society of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation to recognize renowned author Ernest Hemingway. The next day, July 21, Ramiro Salazar attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Board Meeting and delivered a report on the Library.

On July 24, Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill delivered a presentation to the staff of the 2013 – 2015 City Council. Dale provided an overview of the Library system and governance as well as the vast resources available.

On July 25, Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with District 4 Councilman Rey Saldaña regarding the planned temporary closure of the Johnston Branch Library for an Extreme Library Makeover. The Johnston Branch Library closed beginning August 5 and will reopen on September 23, 2013.

On August 5, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant Manager Gloria Hurtado met with District 6 Councilman Ray Lopez regarding the Library outlet funded in the 2012 Budget Program for District 6. Later that week, August 8, Ramiro Salazar and Gloria Hurtado met with District 2 Councilwoman Ivy Taylor regarding a request for council action brought before the City Council during the August 8 City Council meeting to accept a donated site for the new District 2 Branch Library. City Council took action on August 8 to accept the donated site.

On August 12, Library Director Ramiro Salazar joined Directors from the City's Health Department, Department of Human Services and Public Information Office in participating in a meeting organized by Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado with Teresa Nino, Director of the Office of Public Engagement, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Affordable Care Act. The Library will be a resource in the community for information regarding the Affordable Care Act.

On August 16, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and several members of the Library's Management Team participated in the City's Charitable Campaign Kick-Off.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

As mid-August rolls around, the library staff is wrapping up a very busy and successful summer. Summer Reading Club registration stands at 26,933 which is just shy of the 27,000 goal established last spring. The Summer Youth Program administered by COSA Parks and Recreation has been a particularly strong partner again this summer with 6,544 of their participants also enrolled in the Mayor's Summer Reading Club. SummerFest celebrations were held at all library locations between July 27 and August 3 marking the end of summer programming. Saturday, August 31 is the final day for children to submit their reading logs and receive their certificates and select their free books. Final summer reading numbers will be reported to the Board in September.

The children's librarians have already begun planning for the fall programming season. Weekly programming resumes on Monday, August 26 to coincide with the first day of school of most elementary school students. Among the special children's programs on the fall calendar are: Hispanic Heritage celebrations, Read for the Record events, Play & Learn sessions and Halloween parties. Construction challenges, using the Lego bricks and Straws & Connectors, are on tap for tweens at several branches as are programs using the iPads. Promotional pieces have been designed and printed BookFlix, TrueFlix and the 2014 Young Pegasus Competition.

LITTLE READ WAGON

This month Little Read Wagon completed Play & Learn program series at the Pruitt Branch Library and Woodlawn Community Room. The groups were large, as is to be expected during the summer. One especially popular activity was a set-up of two sensory tubs at different heights with a short section of rain gutter secured as a ramp between them. The tubs had water and an assortment of scoops, cups and mills that the children spent long periods of time exploring as they transferred water from one tub to the other and made constant use of the ramp. Participants at both locations expressed their appreciation for the programs and asked about their continuation in the coming months. The Play & Learn schedule for the next year is under development.

Little Read Wagon staff has also been busy representing SAPL at various outreach events:

July 13 – Eastside Promise Neighborhood Summer Learning Festival
August 3 – Education Service Center, Region 20 Migrant Community Fair
August 10 – San Antonio Children's Museum and KLRN Back to School Bash
August 14-15 - Education Service Center, Region 20 Head Start Training Days
August 7-13 – Multiple events at area nutrition and health clinics

July 20 was the last presentation of the Most Important MARKS early writing development workshop for child care teachers. Little Read Wagon staff has been at work for a few months designing the workshop to be offered beginning September 21 and over the course of the next year. This workshop will focus on the relationship between math, science and early literacy.

MARKETING

The Marketing department continues its preparation for the opening of Connect at Central and its open house on August 22 as well as preparations for SAPL's participation in the People en Español Festival.

The team is also busy with its regular monthly projects that include BOOKMARKS creative design and production, branch event flyers, Connect marketing materials, securing press coverage, writing the SAPL blog, working with COSA to promote birth certificate and immunization records at branch libraries, and other projects.

Additionally the following individual projects took place:

Daniel Casillas, the marketing specialist, is busy working with Texana to convert its South Texas Researcher newsletter to a more user-friendly electronic version.

Joseph Marks wrote an editorial ad that appeared in La Prensa promoting back-to-school services. Ana Farr worked with Caitlin Cowart to develop presentations to City Council.

Giselle Weyte and Ana worked with the construction team to re-design the door clings for Central Library. Giselle created projects for the SAPL portal at the Briscoe Western Art Museum.

Both also completed the last of the Young Pegasus 2014 creative design and Hispanic Heritage Month 2013 design.

SAPL received 147 media mentions during the reporting period.
SAPL has 5,690 friends following it on Facebook and 1,488 followers on Twitter.

TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

Programming

The News Know-How program ran from July 22 to August 2 at the Central Library, during which teens engaged in an intensive two-week critical evaluation of the news they see every day, learned how to spot misinformation and propaganda, and learned to distinguish between a reporter's facts and opinions. Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard led a discussion on information literacy during two days of the program. On the last day, three teams that had worked on different topics presented their projects to parents, library staff and News Know-How trainers in the Central Library Auditorium. Each of the teams incorporated media literacy ideas into their projects. A couple of teams created videos for their presentations, and one team created a board game to illustrate their ideas. Afterward, everyone celebrated with refreshments.

With a mix of interest and nostalgia, teens attended a teen-suggested program for a dinosaur party on July 20. Teens made "dino-mite" treats, including some pretzel fossils. They played video games, made buttons and then tested out a volcano made by awesome Family Service Association teen intern Tony. Then teens devoured a fantastic stegosaurus dinosaur cake shaped entirely out of Rice Krispies Treats made by awesome summer youth worker Amberlyn.

On August 7, teens from the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center's Teen Arts Puentes Project performed poetry and visual art projects for the teens in the Central Library's Teen Services Department. Every year teens from the Teen Arts Puentes Project perform at Teen Services during the summer.

Off-Site Service

On August 7, Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce and Teen Services Librarian I Brooke Ballard spoke to students at the Academy of Creative Education (ACE) about the services and resources the library offers for teens.

Teen Summer Reading Program

The Teen Summer Reading Program ended on July 31, with 1,881 teens registered system-wide – this is a big increase from last year. To wrap up summer and usher in the school year, teens celebrated at Gamefest at Central and Igo. Teens played video and board games, made buttons, played guitars, had pizza and enjoyed the annual event. Teen Services staff would like to thank Teen Services Librarian Sarah Weinblatt (Mission), Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez (Great Northwest), Librarian II Beth Schorlemer (Semmes) and Library Assistant Jennifer Martinez (Bazan) for helping out with the event at the Central Library. In addition, Teen Services thanks Teen Services Librarian Barbara Kwiatkowski for hosting a very successful Gamefest at the Igo Library and Teen Services Librarian David Gallin-Parisi (Cody), Librarian Rae Downen (Pruitt) and Library Assistant Kenny Perez (Guerra) for helping out at Igo.

System-Wide Support

Teen Services Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo continued taking his Eclectic Electric guitar/keyboard program "on the road." During the reporting period he hosted the music program for teens at Thousand Oaks.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Central Children's Department had very busy in-house programming, tour and Outreach schedules that did not let up. Typically visits slow down later in July and in early August as families get ready to head out of town for one last trip before heading back to school. The Children's team was still hard at work with large crowds for Saturday Family Funs featuring caves, rocks and sea turtles, but the biggest crowd by far was for *Dinosaur George* when nearly 200 budding paleontologists, young and old, appeared to hear amazing facts and see and touch large bones and fossils.

Kids Time for school age children was also very well attended and the most popular of that series was by far the Recycling themed program as participants made their own library mascots out of all kinds of

recycled materials. The Library generates a lot of cardboard discards, especially the Technical Processing Department, so each year the Central Children's Department gathers up a huge amount of these recycled items to share with the branches for system wide programming such as *Kids Time*. The creativity both children and adults exhibited when making both small and large scale masterpieces was inspiring. The summer *Play & Learn* session culminated in a big dinosaur themed party featuring a pizza parlor (with homemade play dough), ice cream stand (with pretend cones, sprinkles and creamy treats), and lots of dinosaur digging. A great time was had by all and several new families from summer will be able to join the fall session starting in late August.

Amy Lewis (Librarian I), the newest addition to the team began leading Toddler Time and created many interactive aspects to her stories and songs where children and their caregivers were able to pretend to be at the ocean and to be pirates! Ms. Lewis looks forward to the fall session and busy adding even more interactivity based on ideas she's gained from participating in planning and implementing Play & Learn programs with Librarians Ruth Chiego (Manager) and Kate Sandoval (Librarian II).

Also new to the Children's team, Jasmin Salinas (Librarian I), brought the children's collection into focus during the entire summer round of Come & Go Crafts. She painstakingly tied in book selections for display to help reinforce the crafts of the day including themes such as "time" where children made their own watches and explored stories about keeping time, watches, as well as many selections from the nonfiction collection.

Outreach visits for all the librarians included visits to the Children's Hospital Family Resource Fair, San Antonio Christian Camps, NSA Homeschool Net, Central Christian, and Madison Square. Many familiar groups reappeared this summer, but also some new faces including Lighthouse School for the Blind, Ella Austin Community Center, Girls' Inc., The Pillars, First Presbyterian, and Claude Black Youth Leadership. Trinity University students received an in-depth collection tour from Manager Ruth Chiego who led graduate students from the Education Department through their areas of interest which included hot topics in nonfiction, popular fiction and how to grow their own classroom collections. The students each had very different audiences they hope to work with once they graduate from their program. Following the collection orientation, the group's professor sent the following thank you note:

"Thanks again so much for giving us such an informative tour of the children's collection and for sharing your knowledge about what's hot in children's literature right now! On the drive home, the students were abuzz with the information that you shared with them. I really appreciate you making time for us and making the public library so much more accessible to them." - Patricia Norman, PhD, Associate Professor, Trinity University

SummerFest at Central was filled with creative crafts to tackle and activities to work on both in small groups and independently. Crafts included Egyptian attire, flower pots, and party hats and activities included Lego play and decoding hieroglyphics. Almost 200 attended the festivities including groups such as The Pillars and Green Acres. Many attendees also completed their Summer Reading Club participation with several celebrations throughout the party in "The Finisher's Zone." The latest reports from early August show that the Central Library has awarded over 800 children with their book prizes and certificate signed by the Mayor. Also, over 2,200 children registered at the Central Library. Many more finishers are expected in August.

Ideas from SummerFest percolated into the late summer and fall decorations on the third floor. The Egyptian hieroglyphics created by Amy Lewis (Librarian I) and Judith Slaughter (Library Assistant) were so popular that this activity is now a part of the several "Boredom Busters" for a range of ages available to visitors anytime they visit the Children's Department. More changes to the floor are in store as the end of summer nears. Visitors can expect an explosion of circular fun including polka dots and circles to be seen in many settings.

DIGITAL SERVICES

OUTREACH

The Adult Summer Reading Program (ASRP) is winding down, with most of the branch libraries hosting their closing parties during the third week of August. Nearly 2,700 individuals registered for ASRP and read more than 5,200 books. At five of the closing parties, including Central's on August 14, the band Optic Arrest performed. In addition to managing the ASRP, Ramona Lucius worked with liaisons from the World Science Fiction Convention to arrange "Escape the Earth! Science Fiction@SAPL," a day-long event featuring panel discussions by internationally known authors. The event, which takes place on August 29, will bring novelist Alastair Reynolds to Parman, while writers Elizabeth Bear, Catherine Asaro, Robin Hobb, James Patrick Kelly, Walter Jon Williams, Tanya Huff and Kathleen Goonan speak at Central Library. The event will conclude with a public reception for the new anthology *Rayguns Over Texas*.

On August 2, Outreach delivered deposit collections to five assisted-living centers. On August 3, the bookmobile participated in Region 20's Back-to-School event. On August 6, Gamini Haluwana issued library cards at the Express-News' Job Fair. On August 15, Outreach offered a system-wide training for all those who provide outreach to adults. The presenter was Assistant Director for Public Services Dale McNeill.

REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

In preparation for the opening of Connect at Central and to better assist Library patrons, selected staff attended Office 2010 training at New Horizons Computer Learning Center. Dan Garcia, Tricia Masterson, Adolph Lopez, and Maria Hernandez oversaw hands-on Office 2010 training for fellow staff.

Reference staff continues to reach out to the community by offering relevant programs, resources and assistance. Blanca Hernandez represented the Library at the August 6 Job Fair held in the Norris Conference Center at Wonderland of the Americas. On August 8 Sally Bauer and Jim Laferla attended a program at Trinity University called, "Affordable Care Act: Where Are We Now?" in anticipation of possible patron concerns. Pannaga Prasad and Diana Starrett organized a program called "Starting Your Own Business: What You Need to Know." It was presented on July 20 by the Small Business Institute, Bill Greehey School of Business at St. Mary's University. For eReader U, Dan, Adolph, Tricia, and Blanca continue to provide one-on-one help to patrons accessing our digital collection.

For community enjoyment, Reference staff wrapped a successful Summer Movie Series-Cult Classics. Dan Garcia, not only hosted the final film in that series on July 28, but was interviewed about Cinema Soledad, our Tuesday Film Series, on SA Living's Downtown Tuesday segment.

TEEN SERVICES

Weekly Programs

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): In addition to music programming every Monday, teens engage in craft programs, allowing them to express themselves creatively in different ways. On July 15, J.D. showed the teens how to build "robot knight" puppets, a type of marionette made from string, cups, felt, paint and popsicle sticks. On July 22, J.D. showed the teens how to make catapults out of clothes pins, binder clips, rubber bands and spoons. The teens then fired gumballs and ice cubes outside in the Central Library Plaza in a competition to see who could fling their projectiles the furthest. On July 29, the teens made and viewed objects through pinhole cameras in the Central Library Plaza. The teens drew anime and manga characters on August 5. On August 12, the teens worked together to build forts and other structures made of cardboard boxes and then had fun destroying them. The teens got quite a workout during this program.

Tuesdays with Brooke Ballard (Librarian I): Teen Science Tuesdays continued, with a focus on math and technology as well as science. A couple of the experiments conducted include: liquid density, layering several liquids in a water bottle, and adding Mentos to soda bottles to watch the soda explode out of the bottle.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): During the reporting period, teens enjoyed playing video games, as well as board games. Teens asked to have an Xbox 360 Tournament, and they collaborated with each other to implement and facilitate the event.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Teens met with Matthew from the San Antonio Food Bank twice and learned some nutritional facts while preparing tasty and healthy snacks perfect for summertime. On July 18, teens teamed up to use various fruits and herbs to create *aguas frescas*. On August 15, Matthew discussed the importance of hydration and shared a watermelon salad recipe that teens enjoyed. This summer, teens expressed themselves creatively and engaged in programs that highlighted the importance of peer encouragement. Arts and crafts activities that teens participated in included learning cross stitch, making shaped pancakes, making string dolls, doing a soap cloud experiment with Ivory soap, and an introduction to printmaking using recycled Styrofoam trays. 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 Summer Thursday program (as well as other fantastic Teen Summer Reading programs around the system) are on Teen Services' Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.

Tours and Groups

Students from the Claude Black Youth Leadership summer program received library cards and a tour of the library on August 7.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY

This reporting period begins with Andrew Crews attending the meeting of the San Antonio Regional Archivists group at the Medical Museum at Fort Sam Houston. Andy is the vice-president this year. At the conclusion of the business meeting the group received a tour of the museum giving everyone a better idea of how it can assist local institutions as they help their patrons.

On July 25 Fred Martinez of the Bexar County Historical Commission delivered CD and DVD copies of all of the oral histories and historic marker dedications that the Historical Commission has recorded over the years. Mr. Martinez had transferred these from the original cassette and video tapes. Texana/Genealogy houses the files of the Bexar County Historical Commission.

DNA genealogy research was the topic of our summer program. Jeremy Balkin from Family Tree DNA came in from Houston to discuss types of DNA tests and how these can assist in genealogical research. Fifty-two people attended this presentation.

Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society met on August 3 with about sixty people attending. Their speaker was Mark Wulf who discussed the Mission San Saba destruction and massacre.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

BAZAN

While the weekly *Family Fun* and *Kids Time* sessions drew a regular crowd, the creative projects presented by Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen at the *Come and Go* craft sessions drew the largest attendance this summer; *SummerFest* drew an audience of six. The "listeners" at Esperanza's outreach classes at the Frank Garrett *Avance* center have completed their reading list, and will be receiving their certificates and gift books next week.

While attendance at weekly Teen Summer programs has been sporadic, teens are at Bazan, connecting with friends and electronic devices in a "cool" place! Teen Services liaison Jennifer Martinez was on hand at Central to close out and celebrate with teen readers at *Gamefest*.

Manager Rebecca Alvarez was on hand at the August 10 *Back to School* fair presented by the West End Baptist Church. 62 children and 29 parents stopped by the library information table. Many children and

parents had library cards; six new borrowers registered. Congregation members distributed backpacks and supplies to community families.

BROOK HOLLOW

Children

Children's programs at Brook Hollow are going strong and have high attendance for all sessions. Another summer favorite, *Dinosaur George*, visited the library on July 23 to a full house, but slightly less than *Spikey Mikey*. More families are visiting the library this summer and a great many kids have signed up for the Summer Reading Program, most of who are reading more books than they need to!

SummerFest for the end of the summer reading program was held on Tuesday, July 30, and kids are still signing up and coming back to choose their free books.

'Tween Time is still going strong and will be continuing into the fall. Librarian Rachael Barrera also participated in a WIC Outreach program on August 7.

On Friday afternoons, a group of parents and teachers have been using the meeting room to host an all boys book club (ABBC), to interest boys in reading and other related activities. These meetings are well-attended and the boys have fun.

Tween patron Sierra Arteaga taught a *My Little Pony* drawing class to kids ages 6-12 which drew a great many kids. It was Sierra's idea and she did a very professional job as well as obviously sharing something she loves. Attendance was between 20-25 children.

Teens

Librarian Il Debye Nicholl is the new Teen Liaison with Circulation Assistant Kimberly King to help. They are busy planning new activities and events to draw in teens from nearby by middle schools and Churchill High School. Outreach, forming a Teen Advisory Counsel, and changing the meeting time to Wednesdays immediately after Tween Time are hopefully means to draw more teens in. Debye and Kimberly attended the Teen Liaisons Meeting on August 14.

Adults

Adult Summer Reading has proven to be very popular and several attended the Adult End of Summer Reading Party to chat about books and see who won the Kindle, donated by the Library Foundation. Many people say they would love to have this year round.

Programming

On July 13, USDA presented a program on their Child and Adult Food Program which generated interest.

Monthly meetings with local Steampunk groups prove to be popular with an attendance of 13 on July 31. The meetings focus on the basics of Steampunk, such as Steampunk 101, and answer many questions as well as inviting the various groups in town to make presentations.

The San Antonio Storytellers Association presented their monthly presentation at Brook Hollow on August 7, with an attendance of 14, up from last month.

Therapy Dogs Inc came to Brook Hollow every Friday in July and into August to continue pet therapy activities include petting, stroking, brushing, hold, watch them perform simple tricks to entertain. The Therapy Dogs that come to Brook Hollow are part of "Read to a Therapy Dog" day, where children can spend time reading out loud to the dogs without feeling any pressure.

Sales from the on-going books sale cart the Friend of Brook Hollow Library have been hosting have been on the rise.

Friends of Brook Hollow member and volunteer Virginia Lukefar has held a month long art show in the meeting which has proven to be a success. Other patrons have inquired about being able to host their own art show in the meeting room.

CARVER

The Kids Summer Reading Program at Carver finished strong with many children visiting the library on Wednesdays. Dinosaur George visited the branch on July 24 and was a huge hit! SummerFest on July 31 was a wonderful party with crafts, snacks, hula hooping and more! Buster the reading therapy dog was also at the library with his human Judy for a few more summer sessions of reading with kids. Buster's visits were enormous fun children at Carver, many of whom signed up for summer reading after reading a book to the friendly Brussels Griffon.

The Carver teens have continued to see their garden through the summer heat. The plants defied the temperature to produce a few strawberries, yellow pear tomatoes, green beans, fresh basil (that's been taken home by a couple of teens for cooking), rosemary and an eggplant. The teens also enjoyed movie time, crafts and games this summer.

Librarian II D.L. Grant was a delegate to the Eighth National Conference of African American Librarians held at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, KY, August 7-11. The conference theme was Culture Keepers VIII: Challenges of the 21st Century – Empowering People, Changing Lives. Speakers included Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.), MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry, Ph.D, and authors Mary Monroe, Tanner Colby and Judy Juanita.

The branch's Adult Summer Reading Program party attracted a small but lively group who engaged in their favorite activities – sharing snacks and discussing books.

CODY

On July 23 Dr. Nicole Wicha gave a lecture on *Understanding the Bilingual Brain*. Dr. Wicha whose research focuses on the cognitive neuroscience of language, is an Assistant Professor in the UTSA Department of Biology and holds a cross appointment with the University of Texas Health Science Center through the Research Imaging Institute. Many of the attendees enjoyed the opportunity to ask Dr Wicha questions about her research and share stories of their personal experience as bilingual speakers.

Cody's monthly meditation classes, taught by Shantanu Tripathy of the Art of Living Foundation, continue to attract a strong following. The classes are taught every second Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm.

On August 6 Library Assistant Luanne Bloom and Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw attended the Express-News Mega Job Fair held at the Wonderland of the Americas Mall. Both Luanne and Hayley reported that a non-stop stream of people stopped by SAPL's information table to learn about library services for job-seekers and employment opportunities with the City of San Antonio.

Tweens enjoyed Tween Time on July 15 where they created Egyptian jewelry, the jewelry of the ancient pharaohs. Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta, also had iPads available for those tweens who finished their jewelry creations and wanted to try out some of the apps available.

Approximately 130 people were in attendance for the illusionist, Blake, who performed for Kids Time on July 18. Many of the children and their parents stayed behind to ask him questions about some of his magic tricks, and others were asking Sheila where to find some magic books to check out.

Lego Club continued to be a well-attended event on July 19 and July 26 with approximately 40 children, ages 5-12, in attendance. Some parents were inquiring if the Lego Club would continue in the fall.

Dinosaur George visited the Cody Library on July 20. Both children and adults attended this interactive event, and were able to see dinosaur relics up close.

Sheila continued her summer outreach at Kids Campus I and II, Chabad Summer Camp, La Petite Academy and the Pineapple School from July 16 to July 30.

The Non-Toxic Band entertained families for Kids Time on July 25. They sang cultural, lively, kid-friendly tunes, many of them original, and Sheila said that they had the entire group singing along and doing some dance moves.

Robots of all shapes and sizes were created by tweens on July 29, which was the final Tween Time of the summer. Sheila displayed the robots and their nameplates in the library for all patrons to view.

Cody's SummerFest on August 1 had several activities for children. From "cave creations" to "critter jewelry," and "garbage trucks"- the children and their parents enjoyed the final summer reading event by creating a keepsake, and enjoying snacks and refreshments afterwards. Library Aide Eraani Perez assisted Sheila with SummerFest by providing the face painting for the children.

Teen volunteers rocked the house doing library duties and helping during programs. A total of 12 teen volunteers have helped at Cody Library during the busy summer months. Teen volunteers worked on a two-fold of activities. First they helped with regular library duties. These ranged from taking tickets for Thrilling Thursdays children's programs to finding, processing, checking-in, and shelving hefty loads of patrons' hold materials. Teens also enjoyed helping with the popular Lego Club program, helping dole out Legos to ambitious builders. Cody Library is extremely thankful to have volunteer help in various traditional library capacities.

The second part of teens' involvement at the library includes doing slightly less traditional, teen-centric activities. Teens made a music display at the library, wrote terrific blog posts about library programs, and came together to form Cody's Teen Leadership Group. This group had a brilliant and bright light bulb of an idea that they would construct a Rube Goldberg machine as the basis for a teen program. This idea was taken to the extreme by schlepping and dragging supplies to Igo Library as part of Gamefest, a system-wide teen summer reading party. The event was thrilling, full of inclined planes and teens meeting each other from various branches. Cody Library was proud of the teen leaders that travelled to a different branch to carry out a project.

One successful teen program that happened at Cody Library was when guest artist Elissa Vura shared her artworks with teens. Elissa is a library aide at Cody and also an artist, who had been planning on visiting teen time for a while. The stars and vintage National Geographic magazines aligned for people to make creative collage artworks. The experience suggested to teens what it feels like to work in an artist's studio. A teen volunteer wrote the following in a blog post about the program, "Stack of clippings in hand, we proceeded to assemble them on top of manila paper or a magazine clipping while conversing. We didn't have to go a single minute without a delightful dose of Elissa's humor and encouragement".

Source: <http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/07/28/collage-session/>

COLLINS GARDEN

Participation in the Summer Reading Program has been high at Collins Garden Branch Library, with over 700 children joining. Many Parks and Recreation children, who completed their reading log, are stopping by to choose a book and staff members are hopeful that their visit to the branch will encourage more families to become regular library users.

A wish list has been posted on Amazon by Collins Garden staff and already some kind folks have ordered some much needed craft supplies, which have been depleted by our very popular *Come and Go* craft table. Staff members are very grateful for the donations received thus far and are hopeful that more folks will help us out with our wish list so that we are able to continue to offer craft projects through programming and the *Come and Go* craft table. The wish list can be found on Amazon's main page - just type in *Collins Garden* in the box where it says *find a wish list*.

As fall approaches, staff members are taking time to plan for outreach and new activities. Already the Collins Garden Children's Librarian has been invited to various schools and daycares to encourage the children to begin the school year with books, reading, and stories.

Collins Garden staff members were saddened to learn of the passing of a long-time Collins Garden customer, Mary Gallo Campa. Over the years as her health failed she was very conscientiously helped to find reading material by Library Assistant Mary Perez and retired Circulation Attendant Julia Alvarez, whom were mentioned in her obituary. There was also a request to donate to the SAPL Foundation in lieu of sending flowers.

CORTEZ

Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes represented the SAPL during State Senator Carlos Uresti's annual Back-to-School event at Palo Alto College. Connie Hejl represented SAPL during CentroMed's open house on August 7.

Cortez Friends and staff participated in the annual Books & Bites Back-to-School event sponsored by Councilman Rey Saldaña, CentroMed, and the San Antonio Public Library. The Friends conducted a successful book sale during the event.

Guerra and Johnston have a few staff temporarily assigned to Cortez during the renovation of their respective branches. Stephen Jackson from Guerra performed outreach at Rosemont Apartments during their annual Back-to-School event. Mr. Jackson attended the outreach meeting at Central. Dale McNeill spoke about how outreach programming is done at other library systems.

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed two popular displays in support of the Summer Reading Program, *Dig into Reading*.

Branch Manager, Pamela Longoria, Librarian Jerry Madrigal, and Circulation Attendant, Charlotte Espinosa continued processing birth certificates and immunization records for sale at Cortez through the end of August.

Award winning author Joe McKinney was the featured guest for the monthly program *Zombie Meet* hosted by Library Aide Madeline Vasquez.

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 will discontinue the popular Yoga class. The staff will miss instructor Stephanie Alvarado.

Cortez continues offering ESL weekly. The class remains 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 branch is offering two new popular monthly programs for children and teens. Children's Librarian Connie Hejl has organized a LEGO club and a Teen Brony/Anime club.

FOREST HILLS

Community Services

The Library Board met at the Forest Hills location on July 24. Branch Manager Mary S. Naylor delivered a report on the extreme makeover completed in December 2012. The report provided a presentation of before and after images which allowed to board to see the extent of the changes made. Forest Hills Friends provided refreshments for the board.

Adult Services

The Adult Summer Reading Challenge Party was held on August 15. Guests were treated to snacks and chatted about the books they read over the course of the summer. The winner of the Kindle prize was announced. Belinda Martinez was delighted to receive her prize. Mary Naylor took the opportunity to introduce her to the library's digital collection and provide a tutorial on using Overdrive to download digital titles her new Kindle. Ms. Martinez has never used an eReader and was very excited to have access to so many digital titles for free.

The Chic-Chat Club met also on August 15. The ladies discussed new novels on the horizon as well as the implications of budget cuts throughout the city. They were encouraged to express their opinions through the city's Budget Input Box.

Quiong offering for adults has increased in popularity. This meditative exercise class meets every Saturday. The library's meeting room provides a cool, quiet place for participants to practice Quiong.

Participants of all ages have been treated to weekly chess instruction provided by two library volunteers. The teen volunteers are skilled chess players who enjoy sharing their skills with others. They encourage children and adults to practice the game and to not be discouraged when a match is lost. The chess classes will hopefully be continued on a weekly basis during the fall.

Children's Services

Dinosaur George visited the library on July 23. His voice could be heard throughout the library as he shared his vast knowledge of dinosaurs and displayed the impressive collection of dinosaur bones and teeth. The children were entertained by his lively presentation of dinosaur facts.

The end of the Summer Reading Program for children was marked on July 27 at the annual SummerFest. Jolley Joey clowns Be-Bop and Buttons made an appearance and shared glitter tattoos and balloon animals with the children.

In a valuable partnership with KLRN, the library was treated to a visit by Daniel Tiger, from the Mr. Roger's Neighborhood spin-off cartoon titled *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*. A life-sized trolley car was brought to the branch and Daniel himself was available for pictures. This is the second annual KLRN event.

Teen Services

Weekly teen events provide opportunities for teens to gather and enjoy crafts, movies, and music. This summer the teens have expressed interest in more crafts. Library Aide Monica Castillo plans the weekly craft and leads the teens in their activities. She provides critical support for this program.

Outreach Services

Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley continues to provide outreach to the Children's Summit Learning Center. Outreach to the Circle North HeadStart location was discontinued as the childcare center was closed. Valerie is actively looking for more opportunities to provide outreach service to other locations.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Nicole Garza, Christina Martinez (Johnston), and Stephanie Vazquez moderated the Teen Gaming Festival at Great Northwest. There were 25 participants. SuperSmash Bros Brawl was played on the Wii, as were DC versus Mortal Combat for PS3 and Dance Central for Xbox Connect. Door prizes and a \$25 giftcard were sponsored by the Friends of the Great Northwest Library.

The drawing for the Quilt was distributed this month as well. The Friends held their annual Staff and Volunteer Luncheon on August 5.

During this time, Cari Raley, Children's Librarian is actively preparing for the fall children's programs.

Currently Great Northwest has a handful of employees from both Guerra and Johnston Library. The Great Northwest team is grateful for their help during this busy time.

GUERRA

The branch closed on August 5 for its extreme makeover--new paint and carpet, HVAC and plumbing upgrades, and the reconfiguration of most of the shelving. New furniture is on order. Through August 25, staff was reassigned:

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman presented Tech Friday on July 19 and 26 and August 2. He attended COLS on July 25 and the branch managers meeting on August 1. He was assigned to remain at the branch to deal with returns and answer questions from contractors.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo organized an iPad Open Forum for Job Seekers on July 21. Monica volunteered to serve as branch liaison for the City's Charitable Campaign. Monica attended the Active Shooter Training on August 1. On August 8, she facilitated the Thursday Evening Book Club's discussion of Kate Alcott's *The Dressmaker*.

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs presented ten programs--two Movie Times, three Toddler Times, three Story Times and two Kids Times. On July 31, she hosted SummerFest, a celebration of Summer Readers. On July 16, she promoted library services to the Enlisted Spouses Club at Lackland Air Force Base. On July 19, she visited two San Antonio Parks and Recreation sites: Virginia Gill at Westshire and Meadow Cliff at Pinn Road where she met with summer program coordinators, spoke to the children about the importance of summer reading, and promoted reading programs at the library. She also made regular visits to Greatest Gifts Daycare to deliver books and assist with the Summer Reading Finishers. She also made frequent visits to the Temple of Praise Early Childhood Development Center to assist with Summer Reading registration of their group.

On July 14, Stephen Jackson, Librarian I, attended Active Shooter training. He moderated a book club in Spanish that discussed *La suma de los días* (*The sum of our days*) by Isabel Allende on July 25. Participants discussed her style and events that Isabel Allende narrates to her daughter, Paula, that occurred after Paula's death.

On May 16, Kenneth Perez, Library Assistant, held an event; On July 18, Kenneth held a Game Ra event. The teens played video games on the Nintendo Wii and PS3, and had the opportunity to voice their opinions about the new teen area. On July 25, Kenneth held a Gaming event for the teens. They played video games and set up a mini Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament. There was also a round table discussion on the possible layout of the new teen and young adult areas. On August 1, Kenneth attended the Active Shooter. That evening, he held a free choice activity. The teens had the options of playing video games, playing card and board games, or watching a movie. Thanks to the Guerra Friends, they were treated to pizza and sodas.

IGO

On August 6, Rudy Rodela was assigned as the Branch Manager for the John Igo Branch Library. Rudy completed a Master of Science (Library Science) degree in 2005 at the University of North Texas, specializing in public library management. He brings 11 years of library experience including service at the Carrollton, Fort Worth, and Corpus Christi Public Libraries, and at the Joint Base San Antonio Randolph Library.

Children

This year's Summer Programs at Igo saw superb attendance numbers at all events. Between July 16 and August 14, 369 Igo young readers completed the Summer Reading Program. A program featuring Dinosaur George brought in 165 children and 43 parents, and Jungle Jim's Wild Encounters at Summer Fest brought in 162 children with 48 parents. Both of these programs were funded through the generosity of the Friends of Igo Library. The Non-Toxic Band from Houston had 106 children in attendance with 47 parents. Children's staff has also seen an increase in the number of upper elementary school children attending library events programs due to the addition of 'Tween Time for Kids ages 9 to 12 years.

Attendance at 'Tween programs included 17 children attending the July 23 event to explore arts and crafts with a duct tape craft.

Teen Services

Teen programs at Igo, inspired by Teen Leadership Council, continue to bring in record numbers of enthusiastic participants, doubling last year's total. Just as significant, the 2013 Summer Reading Program had an all-time high participation: 268 readers, with over 90% completing the full program. Game Fest on August 11 was a big success with 75 teens attending the three-hour program. All activities were prepared and presented by the teens. The featured game was a teen-sized recreation of Pac-Man™. Game Fest at Igo provided a venue for those teens from communities outside the Central area. Among participants were kids from Maverick, Cody, Semmes, Parmer and Great Northwest. Valuable assistance provided by Ms. Rea Downen and Mr. David Gallin-Parisi was greatly appreciated.

Adult Services

On Tuesday, July 16, The Igo Afternoon Book Club discussed *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* by Jon Meacham. The Igo Mystery Book Club met on August 6 for a lively discussion of *Maisie Dobbs* by Jaqueline Winspear.

On July 25 the Igo Elderberries presented the first of four Memoir Writing workshops. These were presented by the UTSA San Antonio Writing Project and expanded on the previous "Writing for Your Life" classes. There were 14 attendees at the first meeting, and eight people attended the second workshop on August 8. And on August 1 the Elderberries held their monthly meeting. This month's program was "Game On!" with Trivial Pursuit proving most popular among the nine attendees.

JOHNSTON

The branch celebrated the end of Summer Reading a bit earlier than other locations, since the branch closed for renovation on August 5. Staff put together a combined program for kids, teens, and adults. The afternoon of July 31 was very busy, as close to 300 patrons visited to celebrate! The audience was first entertained by magician Al Sanchez (The Great Al) who wowed the audience with impressive feats of legerdemain. He was followed by a music duo, Optic Arrest, who made musical magic with great guitar and voice. As they performed, the audience enjoyed pizzas and sodas donated by the Johnston Branch Library Friends. Mary Leal, Friends president; volunteer Sarina Hackworth, Summer Youth Worker Maria Puente, and Christina Martinez helped to serve. The drawing for the adult summer reading prize Amazon Kindle also took place. The winner, Frances Cowan, was very happy to learn she'd won. She had wanted a Kindle.

Children's Librarian Beverly Wigglesworth had good attendance at Baby Times, Story Times, Tween Times, and Kids Times during these last weeks. The branch benefited from the Library's partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department. Mrs. Wigglesworth visited Miller's Pond Community Center where she read dragon stories to 60 children, and then handed out Summer Reading Certificates to those who had completed the program. Beverly suggested that the Branch combine the end of summer program into one event – and it was a celebration for all of the branch patrons. Thanks also to Children's Services for providing additional snacks.

Christina Martinez also had good attendance for her teen events. Twenty teens enjoyed Wii and X-Box gaming. The following week, teens were able to create their own scrapbooks using pictures from old magazines. They were invited to attend SummerFest, and enjoyed the magic show, the great music, and pizza. They closed out the summer with a water balloon toss outside at the fitness area. Christina also managed the partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank, which ended July 31. Over the month, she helped to deliver 648 lunches to neighborhood children!

The Extreme Makeover began on August 5. Most of the staff has been redeployed to temporary locations. The first week involved the removal of the old acoustic ceiling, and installing new foam insulation and a new ceiling. Diane Backhus remains on site to let the workers in, and inform patrons that they need to come back in September. So far, at least fifty customers have been turned away.

LANDA

The Adult Program at Landa Library welcomed performer and songwriter Jack Pledge for a program on July 15. The meeting room rocked with both new and familiar tunes. Jack played guitar and was joined by a fiddle and mandolin player.

This month's Silver Screens movie event for Seniors was the classic Vertigo with James Stewart and Kim Novak in a thrilling murder mystery that held a hint of the supernatural. Silver Screens has a faithful following of movie buffs who always come prepared with trivia and little-known tales about the movie for the month.

Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta made her monthly outreach visit to Incarnate Word Nursing Home. This month's program was about ice cream and featured cookbooks, fun facts and a simple ice cream cone craft. The residents also participated in some singing and Karen played piano while they enjoyed their afternoon snack.

Landa Teen Services had a busy month that range from teen volunteer recognitions to Summer Reading Program updates. Youth Service America's (YSA) highlighted Maddie Carrola, Landa Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) member, as an Everyday Young Hero. "For providing educational support and access to free weekly tutoring to young children in San Antonio, we honor Maddie Carrola as an Everyday Young Hero". She was nominated by Teen Liaison, Bea Canales. TLLC members collaborated to apply for the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) Teens' Top Ten Book Giveaway. This allowed teens experience in filling out real-world grants and to work together as a team. The International Teen Club council members voted and implemented their own programming. They chose to enjoy the culture of Finland and celebrate America. The council has a new International Teen blogger, "Ale", that only blogs about International issues, cultures and ideas. Her latest blog is on teacher reform in other countries <http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/08/16/international-teen-blogger-teacher-reform/>.

Landa Teen Summer Reading registration was 135 and is the 6th highest library registration in the city.

The weekly programs Tutoring for Young Children and Cool Teens Club continues to enjoy healthy and active teen participation. In response to the potential budget cuts, Texas Public Radio received a call from one of the council members' parents advocating for the library and, specifically, Bea Canales and the Teen Program at Landa.

Summer programming ended with a bang at Landa Branch. Over a period of two weeks, children created a group garden mural that hangs in the meeting room. It is a fabulous marketing tool, generating many positive comments and questions from children and adults. The mural is filled with worms, root vegetables, flowers and bugs, all the things one finds upon digging in the earth. Kids Time programming ended on July 29 with SummerFest where the group visited Egypt to talk more about digging, archeology this time. Over 70 attendees decorated sarcophagi, make a mummy, wrote their names in hieroglyphs, and made a pyramid from paper and with cloud dough. While it did make a huge mess, the cloud dough was the hit of the party; children loved manipulating the dough into pyramid shapes. Outreach continues despite the programming break. Children's Librarian Clair Larkin attended District 1 Councilmember Diego Bernal's Back to School Wellness Fair at Edison High School on Saturday, August Third. Over 700 backpacks were distributed and over 250 children made a simple craft at the SAPL table. Preparations are underway for the Fall programming session as Clair is increasing the number of programs offered. Happily, high attendance numbers are driving these changes!

The Seniors Mystery Club is continuing to attract new members. Discussion leader Karen is selecting books to represent various sub-genres of mystery from classic to contemporary and from cozy to hard-boiled detective reads.

Landa welcomed Celicia (Lila) De Los Santos as a temporary library aide on loan from Guerra which is closed for remodeling. Lila will be missed when she returns "home"!

LAS PALMAS

The Las Palmas Branch Library Teen Services overseen by Sylvia Pachecano had a productive and eventful summer. Over two hundred teens registered for the Teen Summer Reading Program and almost 100 participated in teen summer events. Fifteen volunteers donated 306.5 hours over June and July. The Las Palmas Branch Library distributed over 1,300 lunches to children and teens in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. Wednesdays were teen activity day where they worked on various crafts. They also played on iPads, where teens were able to learn new skills on the various ways they could interact with other media. Thursdays, the YWCA Day Campers would visit the library where they had a choice of watching a movie, playing on the Wii, play board games and/or make a craft. Sylvia also met with the summer volunteers, who are now known as the Teen Library Leadership, to brainstorm programming for the fall and winter. The Las Palmas Library hosted two interns, one from Joven and the other from Family Services Association. Even though their time was fulfilled, both expressed a desire to return and volunteer in the fall.

Mary Area, librarian assistant at Las Palmas, had a total audience of 26 'tweens who participated in various food crafts where they learned from where the foods they prepared and ate originated. They also played various games of skill to heighten their ability develop simple but effective strategies in problem solving.

Gina Brudi, children's librarian, visited four different children's outreach locations, read books and prepared crafts with 204 children. She took bundles of books of interest as well to leave with them for their personal reading.

MAVERICK

Summer Reading dominated most of the staff's time during this reporting period. Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, reports that as of August 13, 931 children signed up to "Dig into Reading" and 350 have completed the program to date.

Special programs for children and families occurred during July and August. Ms. Roberts assisted Library Aides Raina Oster, Elizabeth Santos, and Sarah Borque with a puppet show and craft on August 10. Despite being tax-free weekend, the show garnered 40 participants. Dinosaur George visited Maverick for the 2:00 Kids Time on July 20 and had 186 enthusiastic members in his audience! Amy reserved a Lego Kit for the 4:00 Kids Time and had 29 attendees. SummerFest occurred on July 31 with 154 people attending. The kids had a blast eating treats from Whataburger and creating and eating ice cream sundaes. Amy would also like to thank The Friends of the Maverick Library for funding a balloon artist from Balloonamation; once the families realized that this was free service for them, a huge line formed!

Teen liaison, Audrey McPherson had 22 teens participate in a 9-clue library scavenger hunt that had several purposes. It assisted in teaching the youth how to use and read the card catalog; took them to new areas of the library that they had not visited before (search for the non-fiction toy section and find what does not belong there {toys}), music, over-sized atlas's, met library staff, etc. The young people had to work as a team and collaborate on the solution to the clues.

The teens really enjoyed this event and all said they wanted to do it again. She also had two adults come into the meeting room and ask what was happening. They were delighted to hear that these young people were learning to use the library in such a fun manner.

Staff welcomed Lupe Claypole, Library Aide, and Kenny Perez, Library Assistant FT, from Guerra on August 5. They will be at the branch until Guerra's remodeling is complete. The Adult Summer Reading party on August 13 was very well received.

MCCRELESS

McCreless Library Summer Reading children's programs were very well attended. Kids had fun creating their own pop-up prairie dogs and cave animals, among other activities. Three Story Times and two Kids Times were held during this time period, as well as a Special Story Time for St. James Day Camp. McCreless branch also had a great turn out for SummerFest - eighty family members joined the

celebration, with participants playing games, making crafts and munching on hot dogs, cookies, chips and candy.

Teens at McCreless have been perfecting their Guitar Hero and hot dog eating skills! This group is excited to start school and start planning some great activities together. Teen Liaison Sara Harrison has started a bulletin board for sharing ideas and comments from teens.

Branch Manager Cammie Brantley attended the monthly meeting of the Highland Hills Neighborhood Association on August 5 to find out about the plans for the renovation of Highland High School and to enrich community connections.

On August 7 the McCreless staff was rewarded for its participation in the Task Study Analysis with a party funded by the Organizational Health Unit.

Participation in the Adult Summer Reading program was better than expected. The final party is scheduled for Saturday August 17 after the book club meeting.

The branch received 60 more shelf-back units to help keep the DVDs in order. This purchase was funded by the McCreless Friends who are planning their 20-year anniversary in October.

MEMORIAL

The Adult Summer Reading program, in its inaugural year, was very well received by customers at the Memorial branch. Participants in the program who completed the program gathered for a celebration on August 12 where they enjoyed refreshments and awaited the announcement of the Kindle e-reader winner.

A very successful book sale was held on July 3 and 4 by the Memorial Amigos—Friends of the Memorial branch. A new banner announcing the sale attracted many customers who eagerly searched and found great bargain priced books to add to their own collections.

Memorial branch staff and summer volunteers helped serve over 1,200 lunches to children this summer. For the fourth time, the branch participated in the San Antonio Food Bank's summer food service program which provides a healthy and nutritious lunch to children ages 1-18.

The Memorial branch hosted SNAP's mobile clinic for pet spay and neuter services on August 6. The mobile clinic's very popular program provided low cost and free services to qualified clients.

The children of Memorial Library enjoyed creating masterpieces with Lego building blocks during the Come and Go program. The professional jump roping team, The Jumping Dragons, dazzled the crowd with dynamic single and double jump roping tricks, as well as teaching a few moves to participants from the audience. Kids enjoyed listening to and "digging" up stories, rhymes, and crafts during story time. Movie Time was very popular by families who enjoyed watching movies all while enjoying healthy snacks. Families had a blast making crafts, and listening to music, along with getting their faces painted by artist, Alma Vasquez (*AlmaPaints*). Alma also created amazing balloon sculptures for kids to take home. Teen programming continued to be successful in July and August with an average of 12 teens gathering to enjoy games, movies and crafts.

MISSION

Mission Library continues to host citizenship classes, Tween Time programming, a videogame club, Teen Anime, and classic movie screenings.

On July 27, Dinosaur George entertained over 100 visitors at the Mission Library. The event was well received. Two days later an end of the summer party kicked off for our young visitors. Crafts, games, music, snacks, and a crawl-through tunnel called the "bear cave" entertained the crowd. The team is proud to have surpassed last year's Summer Reading sign ups. Over 1,300 children participated in this year's summer reading program at Mission.

The Mission Team participated in three outreach events. Children's Librarian Jane Miller provided service information at a nearby WIC clinic. Branch Manager, Elma Nieto-Rodriguez participated in District 3's backpack giveaway at Rogers Middle School as well as the 10th anniversary of the Friends of Mancha Family Back to School Event at Adams Elementary. Both events provided 500 backpacks to students. The library continues to promote itself as a viable and friendly community partner through these events. Resource information was provided related to homework help.

On July 13, Branch Managers Elma Nieto-Rodriguez, Cammie Brantley, and Wilson Plunkett attended the District 3 ribbon-cutting ceremony for newly-elected councilwoman, Rebecca Viagran.

Community partner Familias en Acción, an organization dedicated to preparing south side students for a college education, gathered at Mission on Aug 15 and 16. The meeting drew a large number of new families to the facility.

Mission experienced a surge in birth certificate and immunization record sales as school registrations neared. The service will continue through the end of August.

Mission has been designated as a pick-up/drop-off site for the city's PreK4SA initiative. Preparations are currently being made to accommodate the service.

PAN AMERICAN

Pan American has been quite active this summer with the variety of activities provided for all ages. During Monday evening Teen Times, teens played games, watched movies, made crafts and socialized. Teen Liasion, Angela Olivarez's impromptu Library Scavenger Hunt was especially popular with a group of Pan American's teen boys. They closed out summer reading with a pizza and movie-watching party on August 12.

Tuesdays were alive with energy as Children's Librarian Carol Collins kept young customers engaged with a full day of programs. There was something for everyone from toddlers to tweens. Because of SAPL's partnership with Parks and Rec, many children who participated in the Parks program have visited Pan Am with their families to claim their prize books and get library cards.

Pan American staff and teen volunteers have served over 2,500 lunches to children this summer through our partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. Staff is happy to be able to provide this much needed service to children in our community.

Healthy living programs for adults remain popular at Pan American with Yoga classes on Mondays and Tai Chi/Wellness classes on Fridays.

PARMAN

The summer has been busy with visits from local daycare groups. Each week Children's Librarian Carrie Vance and Assistant Manager Tim Johnson prepared a storytime for three groups including children from Country Home, Children's Lighthouse, and North Central Christian Learning Center. These groups also enjoyed participating in the Transformation Station Experience.

Library Assistant Tyler Lutz has conducted monthly outreaches at Amy's Ice Cream this summer to promote Parman's Board Games night. He and Assistant Manager Tim Johnson host the weekly event. They have been introducing patrons to a variety of new games including Dominion, Forbidden Island, and Arkham Horror. The Friends of the Parman Library recently bought four more board games for the branch.

The Transformation Station Experience wrapped up at the beginning of August. The last three projects included Navigation, Library Amazing Race, and Recycling. Branch Manager Haley Holmes prepared the Navigation program which included a map of the library and trail area leading to a hidden treasure. Participants were instructed to bring a star sticker back from the treasure box to prove they had

completed the quest. The Library Amazing Race was planned by Library Aide Meredith Black. Patrons had to choose five projects out of ten to complete in order to earn the week's badge. Each 100 of the Dewey Decimal system had an activity such as solving a logic puzzle for the 100s and matching religions and their symbols for the 200s. Library Assistant Sherrie Sholes had participants create animals out of egg cartons as an example of reusing household waste. Her display included lots of information on recycling and a button toss game.

Tim Johnson partnered with a patron to start a Jane Austen Book Club at Parman. The first discussion was about Emma and was held in July. He has also started a book club at the Laurels Retirement Community in August. Eleven people participated in the first meeting.

SummerFest took place on August 1 and librarians Carrie Vance, Tim Johnson, and Marisa DeBow planned many activities for the combined children/tween party. Patrons were invited to make cave paintings, create hardhats, climb through caves, listen to stories, and enjoy snacks. The event brought in 150 children. Optic Arrest played in the library for the Adult Summer Reading party on August 13. The event was held in the stacks so everyone in the library could enjoy the music.

Teen Librarian and Parman volunteer coordinator Marisa DeBow held an appreciation party for the volunteers of Parman. They enjoyed pizza and played games together. Parman has 30 active volunteers currently. Marisa also planned the writing workshop held at the end of July. Writer Sasha Summers talked to participants about making settings immersive and dimensional.

PRUITT

The Molly Pruitt Library has enjoyed a good number of readers, young and old, finishing and/or participating in the Summer Reading Program. The children's SummerFest had over 80 participants. Attendees enjoyed a puppet workshop and puppet show presented by Felt Faith Puppet Ministries. This is the fourth year they have delighted the audience with a great show geared to encourage reading. Other events available were Wii gaming, four art and craft stations, and a face painter. Even the staff got to enjoy the face painter's artistic abilities.

Camp Lego was also a great hit. This program was designed for children between the ages of 3 and 12. It was held for a one week span of time between July 15 and July 19. For one hour each day children grouped up and used their imaginations to create things they would find on summer vacation, transportation vehicles, people, and something out of this world. An average of 50 children per day visited this highly imaginative and creative fun time. The Pruitt Library will offer this type of program again.

The summer meals program offered by the San Antonio Food Bank has been a success again this year at the Pruitt Branch. Each week day a nutritious lunch and snack are provided to the children between the ages of 1 and 18. Average attendance is 20 people per day Monday through Friday.

Pruitt Library welcomed new staff members Sheri Watkins, formerly of Igo, and Mary Jane McClendon. They will bring new, innovative ideas to the community the library serves. Sheri is one of the full time librarian assistants. Mary Jane is the new school librarian. Teens had better watch out for all the fun that is in store for them this school year.

Upcoming programming for the adults in the area includes a beginner's sewing class. This six week program will build on skills needed to sew simple garments. This is perfect for someone just beginning or someone needing to brush up on their skills. Registration will be required and the class will be limited to 10 students.

SAN PEDRO

Monty Holcomb, Librarian I and teen liaison, hosted five informal Tuesday chess events, as well as five Tuesday teen events in the afternoon using the Wii. Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton conducted outreach events to Respite Care of San Antonio, where she presented a toddler time and to Monte Vista Montessori, EDUCare and the Center for New Communities Family Learning Center at San Antonio College.

SEMMEs

Dinosaur George was a big hit on July 26. 75 children and adults enjoyed learning about dinosaurs and fossils. The dinosaur books are flying off the shelves!

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held its quarterly meeting on August 7. The last book sale made about \$1,400. The group set the date for the next sale. The sale will be held on October 5 with a preview sale on October 4. Linda Nairn was the guest speaker. She spoke to the group about the upcoming budget and how the Friends could advocate for the Library.

Semmes hosted the August meeting of the Children's Librarians. It is always nice to see co-workers from other branches.

Staff was excited to learn that a Semmes teen was the grand prize winner of the iPad for the Teen Summer Reading Program. Our teen is home-schooled and did not have an iPad, so she was really excited to win the drawing.

THOUSAND OAKS

Children

Dinosaur George visited Thousand Oaks on July 26 and it was a roaring success. Over 200 participants were in attendance to enjoy the event, and patrons of all ages told staff how much they enjoyed the program and how wonderful it was.

SummerFest

The Thousand Oaks annual SummerFest drew a record crowd on August 3. Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser planned a wonderful variety of activities to celebrate the end of the summer reading program, and approximately 131 adults and children attended the party and enjoyed games, snacks, three different children's crafts, face painting, and some delightful balloon creations. The entire staff pitched in to make the event a huge success.

Teen Time

July 17 – Eclectic Electric with special guest J. D. Elizondo from Teen Services: J. D. and the teens were making great noise in the library.

Teen Time Craft: Frankentoys - best craft ever! Teens ate up all the library snacks and demanded more while viciously amputating body parts from helpless Beanie Babies. They then reattached random body parts with the tailoring skills of a mad scientist.

Adult Programming

Book Group

On July 18, the Thousand Oaks Thursday Afternoon Book Group met to discuss the noir classic *Mildred Pierce* by James M. Cain. The group's members enjoyed discussing the dysfunctional relationship between Mildred and her toxic daughter, Veda. They enjoyed Cain's excellent character development, though it was agreed that the ending was a bit rushed and unrealistic (many members preferred the ending of the classic film adaptation starring Joan Crawford). It was universally agreed that *Mildred Pierce* was an excellent choice for a book discussion.

On August 5, the Monday Evening Book Group discussed *The Journal of Best Practices: A Memoir of Marriage, Asperger Syndrome, and One Man's Quest to Be a Better Husband* by David Finch. The group members agreed that if any of them were married to David Finch, she would be a widow on trial for manslaughter (though they doubted that any jury would have convicted her).

Vital Records

It was a busy period for Vital Records in July and August at Thousand Oaks. Branch staff continued to process numerous requests for both birth certificates and immunization records, as many patrons lined up to get the records they needed for children for numerous reasons, but especially school registration.

Patrons who have come in for this service have been quite pleased that the branch is offering it to the community, and are often amazed at how quickly they can attain the documents.

TOBIN

Summer programming wrapped up on July 27 with The Fire on The Mountain Cloggers performing. Several crafts were enjoyed by all attending as well. Tobin Library had one of the top adult registrations for summer reading with 379 adults and ended with very solid numbers in all age groups with 1,290 participants. Most impressively, Teen Librarian Betsey Leitko increased teen sign up by over 500% from last year with 138 teens. Teen programming continued with marshmallow and connector building and creating bubble magnets during July.

Kids Time was very well attended with Spikey Mikey on July 11 and Dinosaur George on July 18. Librarian Keri Moczygemba partnered with The San Antonio Botanical Garden and SAWS for a Family Fun on July 20 where attendees learned about water saving tips and planted seedlings. Storyteller Jack Pledge, told some entertaining tales to a small crowd on August 3. Tobin's Writers Group has started back up and is growing.

Children's Librarian Ariel Cummins started weeding the Juvenile non-fiction collection with the ultimate goal to move the Juvenile Biographies to the end. This move will enable expansion of Tobin's Juvenile Fiction and Graphic Novel genres. Keri Moczygemba downsized Tobin's Express collection to the top circulating titles and newest additions for better browsing potential. Popular displays this period are Road Trip Audio Books, Perseus Meteor Shower and Stargazing and Fun with your Family by K. Moczygemba. National Ice Cream Month related materials were featured with a display. Thanks to SAPL's Organizational Unit, all employees got to enjoy sundaes and floats on National Ice Cream day July 21.

Ms. Cummins, along with Library Aide, Jesus Jimenez as Libro the Lion, promoted library services at Sutton Oaks Apartment Complex' family night on July 26. A. Cummins initiated outreach to St. Pius Summer School Program with a story time to 28 kids on July 31. Betsey talked with over 70 incoming freshmen at MacArthur High School's calf scramble on August 15 to share teen program and services info. She and Library Assistant Terry Verner played Trivia Time with 50 enthusiastic seniors at the NE Service Center on August 13.

WESTFALL

Westfall welcomed new Teen Librarian Caroline Mossing. Caroline is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan School of Information. She worked at Ann Arbor District Library while attending graduate school. Prior to that, she was a children's services intern at Freedom Public Library in Freedom, N.H., and worked for the University of Michigan's cooperative access services. Before attending graduate school, Caroline taught English for the Jackson, Mississippi, Public Schools.

Staff handed out 377 free lunches to youngsters ages birth to 18 as part of the San Antonio Food Bank's Lunch Program.

The library also formed a new partnership with Las Comadres and Friends Latina Book Group – a small, yet growing discussion group. The Third Thursday Book Group, moderated by Assistant Manager Jernell Williams, has added a few members recently. This group has been meeting at Westfall for several years.

Members from Granados Adult and Senior Center continue their Morning Movie sessions once a month.

The ever-popular Dinosaur George drew a large crowd as part of the Summer Reading Program. Children's Librarian Imelda Merino held SummerFest to wind up 2013's activities. Imelda also presented a couple of storytime events to children in daycare at CareerPoint College.

A party to celebrate the end of the adult Summer Reading Program featured the band Optic Arrest and lots of yummy snacks.