



San Antonio Public Library

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2013

# ADMINISTRATION

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On September 17, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended *A Conversation with the Constitution* organized by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

On September 18, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Board Meeting and delivered a report regarding the Library. At the conclusion of the meeting, members of the Library Foundation Board toured Connect at Central.

On September 19, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado met with Councilwoman Elisa Chan regarding the new Branch Library planned for District 9.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Community and Public Relations Manager Caitlin Cowart delivered a presentation about the San Antonio Public Library to the Northwest Rotary Club on September 26. Later that evening, Ramiro Salazar attended the Landa Gardens Conservancy's Landa Nights, an annual fundraiser.

On September 28, Library Director Ramiro Salazar joined Councilwoman Ivy Taylor; Tracey Bennett, President of San Antonio Public Library Foundation; members of the Library's Team; and community volunteers from across the city for the KaBOOM! playground build at the Carver Branch Library. The KaBOOM! playground was funded by Foresters and supported by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department and the Library.

On September 30, Library Director Ramiro Salazar delivered remarks during NOWCast's 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration.

The Forest Hills Branch Library celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on October 5 with a community event. The program included remarks by District 7 Councilman Cris Media, District 7 Library Board Trustee Paul Stahl, Library Assistant Director for Public Services Dale McNeill and Branch Manager Mary Naylor.

On October 10, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Assistant Director Dale McNeill and Interim Library Services Administrator Dianna Morganti met with Library Foundation President Tracey Bennett and Director of Development Lacey Fischer regarding the Texana collection.

On October 12, Library Director delivered welcoming remarks during the community meeting for the new District 9 Branch Library. District 9 Councilwoman Chan and City Architect Carol Warkoczewki also delivered remarks regarding the project for the new library.

Developer Sam Schaefer will be donating an additional parcel of land to provide a future access point to the District 2 New Branch Library. This additional land will allow the library to have a second driveway and other pedestrian and bike access on the south side of the site at the time when a street is developed in the adjacent residential area.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]

In accordance with the strategic plan, children's services staff is working to increase both the number and quality of cooperative partnerships the library has across the community. On October 8, one such partnership reaped substantive dividends. SAPL's children's librarians along with their colleagues from the elementary and middle schools of the Northeast Independent School District took part in a professional development day held at the Central Library. This joint mini-conference with its theme of "Tell Us Your Story" featured morning keynotes by poet Naomi Shihab Nye and historian Bill Perryman. Both speakers suggested that engaging the student's emotions is a key component of successful writing and research. The afternoon included breakout sessions on everything from Ancestry.com to Twenty-First Century Learning skills to digital storytelling. Cheryl Sheehan (Branch Coordinator) and Dale McNeil

(Assistant Director) were key players in instituting this professional opportunity. From the school district, Faye Haggerty and DeeDee Davenport assumed responsibility for much of the planning and deserve credit for the success of the day. SAPL's children's librarians responded very favorably to the event with several remarking that in addition to the actual information they received, the day provided an invaluable look into the world of school librarians. While public children's librarians share a clientele with their school library colleagues, the way in which the two groups approach the work is quite different. Hopefully, understanding and appreciating those differences will result in an even stronger relationship and greater opportunities for young learners. (Additional thanks to Andy Gordon and the SAPL facilities staff for transforming the Central Library into a conference venue for the day.)

## **LITTLE READ WAGON**

The entire Little Read Wagon team had the opportunity to obtain some continuing professional development at the annual conference of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC). The three-day conference drew early childhood professionals from all of Texas and surrounding states to learn about various aspects of child development, leadership, math, science, literacy, music and more! Cresencia Huff and Julia Lazarin also had the honor of presenting a session focused on the Play & Learn model as a means of building family engagement and early literacy.

On October 11, the first of five Play & Learn events was held at the YWCA on Castroville Road. A group of four adults and five children gathered to share books and explore activities related to bugs. The group voted on a fall theme for the next event. Several one-time Play & Learn events have been added to the Little Read Wagon schedule. Some of these events are for participants in Northside Independent School District's family literacy program. Due to their rigorous class schedule, these families do not usually have an opportunity to participate in Play & Learn, so Little Read Wagon is going to bring the program to them. Two other Play & Learn events have been scheduled at apartment complexes in different areas of San Antonio. Based on these trial events Little Read Wagon may offer a full series at these sites later in the year.

After months of preparation, on September 21 Little Read Wagon offered the first Exploring Math, Science and Early Literacy workshop for early childhood teachers. Workshop participants especially enjoyed circulating around the auditorium to examine and play with a wide variety of materials that could be used to support math and science experiences. Participants were randomly assigned a pair of math and science outcomes and then challenged to share ways to use the materials at hand to develop specific preschool math and science skills.

## **MARKETING**

The Marketing has been very busy since October 15 with preparations for the WWI poster exhibit, Winds & Words of War, and Hispanic Heritage Month programs. Additional programs have included the Johnston Branch Library open house, Kaboom! Playground build and media communications at Carver Branch Library as well as the first public hearing for the District 2 new library.

The graphic design team has been busy working on the following: Johnston National Night Out/Extreme Library Makeover reopening materials, Guerra Extreme Library Makeover reopening materials, Forest Hills 25th Anniversary invitations, programs, and promotional flyers, new signage for Express Collection, BookCellar sale posters/signage, updating welcome brochures and location map, Remembering JFK materials, November Bookmarks, Affordable Care Act promotions, Rosemary Catacalos promotions, Marie Swartz Art Resource Center materials development, Native American Heritage Month promotions, Connect Grand Opening invitation, Quilt exhibit promotions.

SAPL received 104 media mentions during the reporting period.

Social media: The SAPL Facebook paged reached a major milestone by surpassing 6,000 friends. There are currently 1,581 Twitter followers as well.

## **TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]**

### **Staffing**

Caroline Mossing started at Central Teen Services as a Librarian I on September 30. She will focus on science and technology programming for teens and is a great addition to the Teen Services staff.

### **Off-Site Service**

On September 30, Teen Services Librarian II, Kathleen Fordyce, attended an orientation for incoming students at the Academy of Creative Education (ACE). She spoke to students about the services and resources the library offers for teens, including Live Homework Help and Learning Express Library. Students also received library cards. Kathleen gives presentations at these orientation sessions every few weeks because ACE has rolling enrollment during the year.

On October 3, Kathleen and Caroline visited Jefferson High School and gave 14 presentations to over 1,200 students. Kathleen talked to the teens about the after-school programs offered by their closest neighborhood libraries, and then showed a video made by Teen Services teen volunteers that highlights the services and resources the library offers for teens. Then, Caroline spoke to the teens about the downloadables the library offers.

### **Partnerships**

The Kids Café after-school snack program started up at Central Teen Services in September. Kathleen has supervised the program for several years and continues to do so. Teen Services staff picks up snacks at the S.A. Food Bank and serves them to hungry teens after school from September through May.

The first Inspire U workplace mentoring (part of SA2020) meeting of the school year took place on September 30. Library “biggs” met with their “littles” at Edison High School. The littles are now in ninth grade and were very happy to see their mentors after the break during the summer. Kathleen continues to serve as the liaison for the program, administered by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

## **CENTRAL LIBRARY**

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Fall is a busy time for Central Children's staff. Planning for several in-house and system wide programming initiatives is in full swing. The décor on the third floor features many playful elements including a Halloween/Autumn reads area where patrons can visit the “Stuck on a Good Book” spider web display created by Amy Lewis (Librarian I). A battle of the genres is taking place in the Juvenile Fiction section featuring two “Rockem’ Sockem” robots facing off with two new genres weekly. Books have been flying off these new displays and many visitors have mentioned how eye catching and fun they are. Visitors this month included librarians from NEISD who were at Central for a joint mini conference with SAPL children's librarians. Many of these school librarians took pictures of the displays on the Children's floor and ideas for activities, bulletin boards, and displays were all shared. All the Department librarians were in attendance at the conference and were able to participate in several sessions.

Outreach relationships during the new school year are flourishing. New librarians Amy Lewis and Jasmin Salinas learned the ropes and took on their first Outreach visits to Madison Square Child Development Central and Central Christian Child Care Center. Kate Sandoval (Librarian II) and Ruth Chiego (Department Manager) provided both Lewis and Salinas with training and assisted as needed during their first visits. Both Lewis and Salinas are already making plans to visit Pre-K 4 SA sites and are also working with a few local elementary schools.

Ms. Sandoval took the lead in several specialized tours highlighting art at Central as well as the Young Pegasus competition. She and Ms. Salinas, Ms. Lewis, and Library Assistants Mary Elizabeth Fernandez and Judith Slaughter all worked as a team with large groups from St. Luke's Episcopal School. Ruth Chiego (Librarian (III)) led students from SAC and UIW in collection orientation tours which highlighted their areas of study. Ms. Chiego also provided the groups with best practices for collection development for the specific age groups of focus. The student teachers in both groups will be working with students in pre-kinder, elementary, middle and high school grades.

Ms. Sandoval, who was an instrumental member of the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee, was able to work with Ms. Salinas on making the HHM Committee's 2013 program come to life during Family Fun programming. After some exciting tales, children were invited to create their own paper molas, play with Central American animal puppets and get involved in some interactive globes on iPads, all while listening to the music of the region. The Family Fun excitement didn't stop there. Other recent themes have included a lucha libre story time and craft where children (and their grown-ups) could make their own outfit complete with mask and cape. The topic of "seeds" was brought alive when Ms. Sandoval brought a variety of both small and large seeds in for the children to examine with large magnifying glasses. The children also created their own wall garden showing the cross section of seeds sprouting roots, and then blooms.

Ms. Salinas also began preparing for and implementing in-house visits with Central Christian and Green Acres Child Care Centers. Both groups meet with Ms. Salinas a couple of times each month. Ms. Lewis continued Toddler Time activities with lots of new faces and themes of the season including fall, owls and monsters.

Ms. Chiego and Ms. Sandoval continued to partner up on Play & Learn at Central creating everything from a jungle landscape to a shopping mall for young participants and their caregivers to explore.

Ms. Salinas and Ms. Lewis also worked diligently on updating the third floor's end panel signs. This is an ongoing project and both have identified new ways to make locating materials in the Children's area much easier for visitors and for staff.

In her work as Chair of the Cataloging Issues Committee for Children's Services, Ms. Chiego worked with Nohemi Lopez-Rosdahl (Librarian II – Collection Development) to identify corrections needed in the collections across the system. Ms. Chiego has also been working to continue revamping the way summer reading book supplies are stored and inventoried to make supply tracking and distribution easier for years to come. Ms. Sandoval has also been invaluable in helping to develop these processes. Ms. Chiego also has been providing training to staff both in the Children's Department and other Central Departments in working with parents and children, and ensuring good customer service. She has also acted as a consultant for the Safety and Security Work Group which discusses issues on a system-wide basis.

## **DIGITAL SERVICES**

On September 18, Adam Spana attended a webinar to learn about upcoming enhancements to the library's AirWatch mobile device management platform. On September 30, Ignacio Albarracin and Adam Spana met with the library management team and Hugh Miller, Director of ITSD, to discuss the library's participation in Apple's Volume Purchase Program. On September 26, Ignacio Albarracin and Rolf Laun met with ITSD and Fiscal to discuss implementation of the online payment system. On October 1, Digital Services staff completed year-end activities in the Millennium ILS, including the updating of circulation statistics, addition of new loans rules, and the collection of fiscal year patron data. On October 11, Adam participated in a focus group regarding the City of San Antonio's Core Values.

## **OUTREACH**

After more than 80 years of service, the bookmobile is going out of business. October 4 was the last day that patrons could check out items from the vehicle; October 24 will be the last day that patrons can return items to the vehicle. The Outreach office will then close and its staff will go on to new assignments.

On September 27, Outreach's deposit-collection service to assisted-living centers terminated. On September 28, Ramona Lucius ran an information table at a fall festival in Kirby.

## **REFERENCE/GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS**

Reference staff is kept very busy in Connect at Central; assisting patrons at the Computers and checking-out Laptops and Tablets are just a few of the daily activities in this popular area of the Library. In the Connect Training Center, staff holds regular classes on a variety of topics. Every Monday afternoon, a Reference Volunteer provides one-on-one help on job searching in the 'Employment Assistance' class.

On September 24, Jim Laferla provided an informational class on patent searching. On September 28, Pannaga Prasad presented information on the skill building and practice test features available on the 'Learning Express Library' Database; these features support educational and career advancement and enhancement efforts. Another class created for Connect is Adolph Lopez' 'Technology Questions Answered' series. The class is offered every Wednesday as an open forum; Adolph assists people with questions pertaining to basic computing, smart phones and the Internet.

## TEEN SERVICES

### Weekly Programs

**Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant):** J.D. continued Eclectic Electric music programming, with an additional art component throughout the reporting period. The teens learn to play instruments and are able to express themselves creatively by working on art projects afterward. J.D. is facilitating the teens' planning and construction of the second annual Teen Services Haunted House. The teens provide all the creativity and manpower, as well as acting ability for the haunted house (by being "scarers" on the tours). On October 14, J.D. hosted a "Sharknado" edible craft program requested by teens in which they decorated cupcakes with shark gummy candy, blue frosting (for the water) and ice cream cones.

**Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I):** During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science and Tech Tuesdays, during which teens explored principles of flight with paper gliders, examining how small changes in form affected the speed and direction of their gliders, and created simple animations with Scratch, a web-based coding interface from the MIT Media Lab. Caroline (a new librarian in Teen Services!) will be continuing Science Tuesdays, while adding in a Tech component. Future programs will include learning how to code and exploring robotics.

**Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II):** During the reporting period, teens enjoyed playing video games, as well as board games. Teens continued to work on J.D.'s haunted house program on Wednesday nights during the reporting period. On October 9, Matthew Molpus from the S.A. Food Bank did a demonstration for teens of how to make healthy yogurt parfaits.

**Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant):** Teens made tasty snacks to round out their September Thursdays. On September 19, in honor of "Talk Like a Pirate Day," teens made pies. Afterward, they decorated votive candle holders using glue, gems and stained glass paints. The following week, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, teens recreated and modified a Chilean dish, Tomaticán. At Teen Services, all October Thursdays consist of teens engaging in creative activities or enjoying a food craft inspired by most teens' favorite holiday: Halloween. To start things off, teens used a plastic sheet, glue, paints and mylar sheets to create a spooky eye mirror. Teens also made smoothies using leftover items from Matthew's Food Bank demonstration. After each activity, teens requested the use of a video game system. Teens competed against each other in a supportive manner, offering tips to each other when recognizing others might need them. Peer interaction and encouragement, creative expression and friendly competition rank high on Thursday nights. Pictures from select Thursday programs (as well as other fantastic teen programs around the system) are on Teen Services' Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.

For a special Saturday event, teens participated in a teen-suggested program, making waffles (hosted by Regina). Teens made the batter, shared waffle-making duties and paired ingredients to create one-of-a-kind waffles to their liking. As a result, in an encouraging and positive environment, many teens suggested future program ideas they want to happen at their shared space at the Library.

## TEXANA / GENEALOGY

*Hiring a Professional Genealogist* was the subject of September's genealogy class at Igo Branch. Eleven people sought Andrew Crews' advice on what to look for and what to expect if hiring someone else to assist in their research.

On October 1, Matt DeWaelsche gave a program on online archives at Connect at Central. The class discussed locating archival resources and how to use them.

Central Library was the site of workshops for a NEISD librarians' conference in early October. Deborah Countess spoke to a group of eleven on the topic of *Genealogy for Students*.

On October 12, a group of local archivists from UTSA, City Records Facility, and other local institutions joined Matt DeWaelsche to explain to parents, educators, and others the resources available local archives, especially in regard to National History Day.

## BRANCH LIBRARIES

### BAZAN

Librarians Patricia Soderberg and Esperanza Sonnen attended several Affordable Health Care Act workshops, gathering information that will assist staff in guiding community members to website information.

Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen continues her outreach at two local SAISD elementary schools doing Book Clubs to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The students really enjoy her visit. She also visits her Avance group reading stories and taking Board Books for teachers to read to their children. She also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a program called *Destination: Central America*. The kids and adults enjoy hearing stories from Central America with a follow up craft making Molas.

85 participants stepped by the library table at the National Night Out event held at La Trinidad United Methodist Church. Librarians Rebecca Alvarez & Esperanza Sonnen were glad to know that so many members were already library users!

Two guest presenters highlighted Hispanic Heritage Month: Dr. Marco Portales presented an overview of the Mexican Revolution, the topic of this work: *A Mexican Revolution Photo History: Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata, and U.S. Interests*. Mr. Gus Martinez a local historian and re-enactor visited and talked about the Battle of Alazan Creek which took place on the Westside in June 1813 and was part of the Mexican War of Independence.

### BROOK HOLLOW

Brook Hollow Library was pleased to partner with the Department of Public Safety in serving as a mobile station location to offer Election Identification Certificates on October 1 and October 2.

On October 6, the branch hosted *Pretty and Drought Tolerant? Alternative Solutions to Traditional Lawns*, a program in partnership with San Antonio Water System and San Antonio Botanical Gardens.

Brook Hollow Library continues to be a popular meeting place for community home owner associations, who often book the meeting room on evenings the branch is open late.

Teen Time has found new success with a changed day and time slot, on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00pm. Teens have been enjoying planning activities and how to decorate the new teen zone that resulted from the branch's extreme makeover.

Many patrons commented on how pleased they were to attend a book sale hosted by the Brook Hollow Friends of the Library on September 21.

### CARVER

Assistant Branch Manager D.L. Grant made an outreach visit to the District 2 senior center, where he met with dozens of retired persons who wanted to learn more about the services offered by San Antonio Public Library.

In September, the branch celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a writing workshop led by author Antoinette V. Franklin. In the spirit of the occasion, students were encouraged to write stories relating to

Hispanic culture and influence. That event was followed by *Savor*, a Latin-inspired food-tasting and poetry reading sponsored by the branch and the Friends of Carver Library. Staff also gathered a collection of Latino-themed materials that likewise celebrated accomplishments of Hispanic Americans.

After months of planning, Carver's much-anticipated children's playground became a reality. Dozens of volunteers and from the Carver community and across the city descended upon the branch to make it happen. After the foundation was allowed settle, the playground officially opened on October 1. Children flocked to its swings and slides for a good time. The project was sponsored by non-profit organization KaBOOM! and national partner Foresters.

District 2 Councilwoman Ivy Taylor launched her book discussion group at Carver Branch on Saturday, October 12. The group considered *The Pact* by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins and Rameck Hunt.

Carver's Hispanic Heritage children's program was on September 18, during which the children looked at examples of Central American molas, listened to and watched information about the Mayas and made molas of their own from construction paper. On September 28, the play ground was built at Carver. While the adults worked on construction, the kids, with children's librarian Amy Thorne, painted murals on plywood boards, played games and made the paper ring "ribbon" for the ribbon cutting ceremony. The following week, Family Fun was held outside at the new play ground—where after the book was read, kids used solar paper to make their craft. Amy spent National Night Out on October 1 at the Artisan apartment complex, signing up residents for library cards and telling them about the library's offerings. She's also been visiting Miller Child Development Center with books to help support teachers' early literacy efforts.

Carver's teens—some of whom volunteered during the play ground build day - were happy to see that the playground build included two new garden planters in addition to their own container garden. They continue to meet on Thursdays for games, fun, movies and garden activities.

## CODY

Sheila Acosta, Children's Librarian, resumed her visits to the Head Start on Rhapsody on September 19. The new director invited Sheila to continue visiting the five classes each month, bringing books for each class.

Cody children and families celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a family fun program on September 19. After Sheila read a couple of folk tales from Central America, she had the children replicate Panamanian folk art called "molos." The children enjoyed these as much as the parents. Snacks were served at the end.

Lego fans attended Cody's monthly Lego Club meeting on September 24. Children formed teams to work on their "outer space" creations, which was the theme of the day. Each of the teams had their Lego creations displayed in the New Book section for a couple of weeks.

Children who registered for the Rocky Pals art program held on September 26 were also entertained by the Rocky Pals puppet assistant, Charlie. Charlie would ask each of the children about their "rocky pals" or "pets" throughout the workshop, so the children were doubly entertained.

Howsman Elementary Art students from both first and second grades have their art work displayed in the children's area through the middle of October. Sheila contacted Kristy Lee, Howsman Elementary art teacher, who was very interested and eager to bring some of her students' art work to exhibit. Children have brought their family members in to the library to show off their art on display.

Using the "phone booth" app, Tweens shared their fun art work that they created on the children's dept. iPads on September 30. In addition to the iPad art, they also enjoyed creating art with "post-its", which Sheila displayed in the children's area.

Sheila hosted a special “story time” on October 3 to promote “Read for the Record.” She reported reading the book *Otis* – the book selected for this year- to a total of 30 children on that day. Crafts related to the story, and a snack followed the reading.

Sheila addressed over 300 people attending Colonies North Parent Math and Reading Night on October 10. Families heard about the Young Pegasus contest, BookFlix and TrueFlix databases for children, as well as information on events at the Cody Library. The principal invited Sheila to speak to each of the grades as they rotated to various stations.

Over 100 Cody patrons attended the Bats! Bats! Bats! Event on October 12. Fran Hutchins from the Bracken Bat Caves gave a multimedia presentation on bats and entertained questions at the end. Sheila hosted a couple of “bat” crafts for the children following the presentation, and Deborah Bender, Library Assistant, handed out door prizes to attendees.

Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw and Debbie Bender attended the *Ta’am Ha’Ona: Celebrate Sukkot* event at the Barshop Jewish Community Center on Sunday, September 22. They spoke about the variety of services that the library offers. They spoke to several families about Overdrive, TruFlix, and BookFlix.

On October 1, Sheila had a story time as part of Cody Library’s National Night Out event for patrons. Patrons of all ages were treated to cake and lemonade. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to meet to meet their neighbors and members of their local branch library staff.

On October 12 Cody celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a classical guitar performance by musician Luis Berrios.

Teens at Cody made history during the month of September and start of October. Teen Leaders put on two different events at the library. The first event was a classic movie night. Teens collaborated on selecting the classic movie to watch and decided to show one film along with the movie trailers from their alternate movie choices. A teen leader introduced the 1959 film *Some Like It Hot*, then teens ate popcorn and watched the flick. After the movie teen leaders held their monthly meeting to plan their next events.

The next event Teen Leaders implemented was a Jam Sesh. The Jam Sesh was an open music jam for teens to bring their musical instruments and play music. A teen leader created a flier and other teens were confident they had enough supplies, amplifiers, and musical instruments to make a rocking event. Nonetheless, teen services session musician J.D. Elizondo brought his Eclectic Electric gear and added to the mix of guitars, drum machines, percussion tools, and a saxophone. The Jam Sesh ultimately was chaotic sounding, with many people playing at the same time, however teens enjoyed creating a program of their own. In teen leader Allison’s words, “We jam hard”.

## **COLLINS GARDEN**

Children’s Librarian Leigh Bedford has increased the range of her outreach programs. She is visiting elementary schools, passing out bookmarks about library services to children and talking to parents and students about Young Pegasus. It is her hope that increased visibility in the school communities will increase public awareness of local library services.

The Collins Garden Branch has also created several displays in hope of increasing public interest in the branch collection. Displays have included poetry, Hispanic Heritage and titles to assist students with homework assignments. Each display includes free bookmarks that mention services such as BookFlix, TrueFlix, and Young Pegasus.

## **CORTEZ**

Children’s Librarian Connie Hejl designed an informative display about events and programs scheduled in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The movie *Girl Fight* was screened on Saturday September 28 and the acoustic group *Optic Arrest* performed on Saturday October 5 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Branch Manager, Pam Longoria, Librarian Jerry Madrigal, and Circulation Attendant, Charlotte Espinosa continued processing birth certificates and immunization records for sale at the library through the month of October. The program will transfer to Las Palmas Branch Library beginning on November 5.

Zombie Meet, hosted by Library Aide Madeline Vasquez, continues to be a popular monthly program.

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 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 including offering two new popular monthly programs for children and teens. Children's librarian Connie Hejl hosted the LEGO club and the Teen Brony/Anime club.

## **FOREST HILLS**

The Forest Hills Branch Library celebrated 25 years of service to the community on October 5. The public was invited to join staff for an afternoon of refreshments and musical entertainment. Assistant Director Dale McNeill, Councilman Cris Medina, Library Board member Paul Stahl, and Branch Manager Mary Naylor kicked off the event with a remarks followed by St. Mary's Code Blue dancers and cheerleaders, music from the St. Mary's Music Department (singers) and the San Antonio College Music Department (a Latin Jazz Combo). Children were entertained with a special visit from Artpace (creating family-friendly art projects) and the Jolly Joeys of Clown Alley (doing temp tattoos and face painting). A photo booth offered attendees the opportunity to don silly props and take photos to commemorate the occasion. Saldaña & Associates and Deborah Dockery, the Architects involved with the design of the building and its subsequent addition, sent dozens of green and purple balloons. Blue Bell Ice Cream donated 120 cups of vanilla ice cream, Starbucks offered coffee and tea service, and the Holmes High School Culinary Dept students created themed cupcakes and sweets. The Friends of the Forest Hills Branch Library provided funds instrumental in the creation of the event. Purple and green were chosen as the color theme in honor of the Forest Hills's unofficial mascot "Forest", a large purple and green dinosaur, which was created by Library Assistant Robert Solis and has sat at the Forest Hills Circulation Desk for many years. The event was a very successful celebration marking the branch's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Adult Programs**

The weekly Qigong class continues to be a popular offering with senior patrons. The attendance has steadily grown to a well predictable number each week. The class meets every Saturday morning in the Forest Hills Branch meeting room.

Sandra Griffin, the Adult Services Librarian, met with partners (UTSA, Alamo Area Agency on Aging, and Morningside Ministries) who participated in the Spanish language *Caring with Respect* program. The group is now planning for another dementia care for seniors program at Forest Hills (in English this time) for February 2014.

### **Children's Services**

Change a day and see them come! The pre-school Storytime was changed from meeting on Tuesdays to meeting on Thursdays. It was a huge shift in what has "always been". The regular group used to meet in the children's seating area, but has grown to such numbers that it was necessary to relocate the program to the branch meeting room. Ms. Shelley led the pre-schoolers in learning about the human body and has included easy Spanish books to incorporate a bilingual aspect into the program.

Second graders from Esparza Elementary School toured the library and learned how to get library cards. The students were eager to learn about the library and checkout books.

The tweens have enjoyed playing games and using the hula hoop during Tween Time on Tuesdays. They made paintings with a tree and ghosts using their arms and hands for the trees and their feet prints for ghosts. They were ghoulishly fun to design.

### **Teen Services**

Teen Time has some faithful participants and the group is expanding. Library Aide Monica Castillo successfully appeals to teens and invites them to participate in the activities every Wednesday evening. They recently made placemats for the Jimenez Thanksgiving dinner.

### **Outreach to the Community**

October proved to be a busy month for outreach activities by Forest Hills. On October 6, Mary Naylor, Branch Manager, attended State Representative Justin Rodriguez's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Health and Resource Fair at Sul Ross Middle School. Mary distributed information on library services and programs. She was delighted to see many familiar faces of regular patrons at the fair. Many individuals asked how they could take care of accounts that had balances, or how to replace lost cards.

Valerie Shelley ventured to Longfellow MS to address an excited a group of 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders for a book review chat and breakfast. She also teamed with LRW on a visit to Oak Hills Terrace Elementary School where parents given information about early literacy and invited to visit the Forest Hills Branch. Parents at the Villarreal ES PTA October meeting were also provided with information about using the library and the many services available to them. Valerie continued working with Villarreal Elementary School as she presented a story time book to the first graders and reviewed the electronic SAPL catalog, TrueFlix, Bookflix, and homework help to third graders. Valerie continued outreach to the Children's Summit Learning Center where children were provided with books on the topics celebrations, me, and fall. Valerie participated in the Read for the Record event with Martin ES, reading to 126 students and 6 teachers. Forest Hills provided a table at the Woodlawn Apartment's National Night Out. Valerie provided activities for the children and materials to give to the adults. The atmosphere was lively and was a great opportunity to spread the word about the library as a community resource.

Valerie and Mary presented Our Story about renovating the children's area at Forest Hills at a join mini-conference held at the Central Library on October 8. Librarians from the North East Independent School District as well as SAPL Children's librarians came to the breakout session to learn about the ways San Antonio librarians have recharged their library spaces for children.

## **GREAT NORTHWEST**

### **Adults**

Theresa Brader, Library Assistant, attended the National Night Out event at Knowlton Elementary.

Cari Raley, Children's Librarian, attended an outreach event at Home Depot on October 5.

The band Optic Arrest was a hit during the Great Northwest Hispanic Heritage event, September 28. Customers enjoyed music and refreshments.

On October 7, customers filled the meeting room to enjoy the haunted stories, audio and videos played by Sixth Sense Paranormal.

### **Children**

For Kids Time and School Time, Hispanic Heritage was celebrated. More customers have been attending compared to last year.

### **Teens**

Teens have been attending the programs that Teen Librarian, Stephanie Vasquez, has been creating for them. Movie night and food crafts are a big hit with them. Teen anime club had a tea party trying different teas from Japan.

## **GUERRA**

Library patrons expressed pleasure and appreciation for the facilities improvements. The Friends held their semi-annual book sale on October 4 and 5. Staff held a pumpkin carving event on October 13 for 30 members of the community.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman attended COLS on September 26, the Safety Security Work Group meeting on October 2, and the branch managers meeting on October 3.

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs planned and presented four Toddler Times and four Story Times--September 18, 25, and October 2 and 9. With help from Library Assistant Leticia Guerra, she planned and presented four Tween Times, on September 17 and 24 and October 1 and 8. On October 1, she presented a Hispanic Heritage Month program. On September 20, she presented Story Times to 30 at The Greatest Gifts Daycare. On September 24, she attended Rayburn Middle School's Parent Night where she promoted library programs and services. On September 27, she presented Story Times to 92 at Lackland Village Headstart. In celebration of Star Wars Reads Day (October 5), Arlene, Library Assistant Leticia Guerra, and Library Aide Celicia De Los Santos planned and presented a program which included a display and craft activities for families. On October 8, Arlene participated in an NEISD/SAPL Mini Conference at the Central Library; the theme was Telling Your Story. She used this opportunity to learn and network with her SAPL and school library colleagues. She participated in both full group and breakout sessions.

On September 18, Stephen Jackson, Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson attended EPDP training. He held Game-Ra programs on August 23 and October 10. On September 26, he moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish book club). Participants discussed *El príncipe de la niebla (The Prince of Mist)* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón. That evening, he supervised the teen movie World War Z. Mr. Jackson conducted outreach at Cable Elementary School during National Night Out on October 1. On October 3, Mr. Jackson supervised teens who helped the Friends of the Library set up for the book sale. The next day, Mr. Jackson gave a bilingual presentation to parents of elementary children on the importance of reading at home to children sponsored by Comprehension Instructional Sequence (CIS). October 9 Stephen attended a Teen Services meeting. Two new volunteers started at during the reporting period.

On October 12, Corinna Cabeza, Library Aide, hosted guest speaker Larry Johnson, an author and broadcaster. Mr. Johnson spoke about his life traveling to Mexico as a blind person with just a guide dog for support, broadcasting the 1968 Olympics from Mexico City, and covering the Apollo 11 lunar landing. He took questions from attendees following his presentation. Twelve people attended the program.

## **IGO**

### **Children**

The Children's Services Department at the Igo Library continues its highly successful programming efforts, with an average attendance of 45 children at each weekly session.

In addition to regular early literacy programs, the children's service staff offered a special Family Fun event on Friday, September 20, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Participants had the opportunity to hear traditional folktales from the various regions of Latin America and invited to create original folk art *molas*, traditional layered appliqué art based on the book selections.

Discovery Time Science offered preschoolers a closer look at changes in nature brought about by the change of seasons. Three- to five-year-olds and their caregivers explored the rich grounds around the large live oak behind the library, collecting specimens for the magnification exploration station. Creating nature books and leaf rubbings, along with reading wonderful early science fiction and non-fiction, rounded out the session.

Tween Time is finding an audience with 9- to 12-year-old patrons. Tween Time is offered on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month this fall. Activities included book talks, exploring pre-loaded iPad apps, construction using Straws and Connectors, as well as, duct tape crafts and painting. Participation is slowly growing with five to nine Tweens attending the bimonthly program.

### **Teen Services**

Teen Services at Igo offers programming for several teen interest groups. The *Igo Teens DigiLab* is still at work on its inaugural production, which should be completed by the end of November. The *Igo Starbooks Café* (book discussions) and *I..Go Otaku* (anime) are strongly attended, averaging 25 teens per meeting. A newly formed group are the *I..Go Who-vians*, teens with an ongoing interest in the Dr. Who television series. This group recently acquired a Dr. Who "TARDIS" poster to adorn the Digi-Lab door. *I..Go Around the World*, an international club with over 15 members, celebrated its third anniversary last week and is preparing several interviews for recording in the Digi-Lab.

Teens at Igo have also the opportunity to create a new clubs as well. The newest addition is *Igo Quartet*, working on short programs to be recorded in our DigiLab.

Igo Teen Leadership Group is working on two upcoming events. On October 23, the group will hold a book release party celebrating the publishing of Rick Riordan's *House of Hades*. On October 30, the Igo Teens will conduct a Halloween party.

### **Adult Services**

On September 21, Michelle Ricondo kicked off the Igo Creative Writing series for the burgeoning novelists in the community. The first session, titled Getting Started on Your Novel, proved to be popular with 28 attendees all participating.

The Igo Library hosted Dr. Michelle Bushey of Trinity University and Pam Rosser, Conservator of The Alamo, on September 28 for an engrossing presentation of The Chemistry of Art at The Alamo. Dr. Bushey went through the chemical aspects of the art found on the walls of the Alamo and Ms. Rosser explained what steps she and fellow conservationists are taking to preserve the art. All the program attendees asked many questions and stayed behind to discuss the future of the Alamo with Dr. Bushey and Ms. Rosser.

The Igo Elderberries met on Thursday, October 3. Niki Lake, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Ranger, presented the history and resources of the Government Canyon State Natural Area. She illustrated her talk with various Native American and natural artifacts. 24 people attended.

### **JOHNSTON**

The Johnston Branch Library reopened for business on Monday, September 23 after an extensive renovation that included replacing the branch's carpeting and furniture, repainting the building's interior and exterior, installing new automatic front doors, new insulation, and upgrades to its HVAC system. The extreme makeover has prompted rave reviews from Library patrons and staff alike. The branch's open house ceremony took place on October 1 in conjunction with National Night Out with about 100 attendees.

Library Assistant Christina Martinez has been bringing neighborhood teens into the library with programs tailored to their interests, including a paranormal program on October 9 that had 18 in attendance. Movie and game nights using our new television have also proven popular with the library's younger clientele.

### **LANDA**

Children's Librarian Clair Larkin was busy with regular programming, outreach and attending conferences. The early results of programming changes are beginning to be seen. Tuesday morning Baby Time is very well attended, with upwards of 25 babies plus their caregivers participating. Wednesday afternoon Baby Time is slowly growing and developing a core of five babies in regular attendance, plus more who are not necessarily coming every week. Toddler Time has been broken into two groups, each group sees between 15-20 or more toddlers plus their caregivers. Story Time remains

popular. Come and Go Crafts are a big hit with children and adults, especially the fact that the crafts are available all day on Fridays. Clair went out and spoke to over 150 students in grades K through 5 at Lamar Elementary in SAISD, then spoke to about 300 St. Anthony Catholic High School students in their cafeteria later that same day. On October 4 and 5, Clair was given the opportunity to attend, for free, the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children conference held at the convention center here in San Antonio. For two days, Clair attended such sessions as using sign language in programs, incorporating math into story time, and afterschool programs. Clair was also able to attend a one day joint NEISD/SAPL conference at Central Library centered on story telling on October 8. It was a great opportunity to meet school librarian colleagues and attend sessions on digital story telling, presentation skills, poetry and history.

Landa Teen Services experienced exciting programming by teens. There were 18 programs and 111 teens participating during the reporting period.

The Teen Library Leadership Council continues to encourage teen outreach in the form of advocacy. Teen Council members Maddie C. and Hana K. wrote about their meeting with Councilman Diego Bernal.

<http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/10/09/landa-teen-outreach-a-meeting-with-councilman-diego-bernal-district-1/>

The council members have used their time wisely by creating inventive, teen programming such as a Teen Debate about the current US government's shutdown.

On October 13, Bea Canales, Teen Liaison, strengthened peer-to-peer relationships during the Teen Read Week. The theme "Seek the Unknown" led to a discussion of seeking to understand, with empathy, disabilities in others by leading each other around the library with opaque glasses. Teens remarked that they felt, "laughing at first then scared if this was permanent."

The International Teen Club remains strong in promoting international themes in the form of blogging and peer-to-peer communication to another country. "Ale" has blogged on issues relating to cultural diffusion, international technology and Japanese kimonos. On October 13, Ale interviewed Rubi Jaimes, Landa teen club leader in a student exchange program in Japan, via a Skype session. She was the guest speaker for the club meeting, too.

Adult programming at Landa continues to blossom. Landa Manager Michael Kaminski has established a series that brings in quality musical performers. In September, Sellers and Hymel presented a Saturday afternoon program that attracted an enthusiastic audience of 30 adults. The musicians sang both old favorites and original selections and accompanied themselves on guitar and banjo. These programs are attracting an increasingly larger audience since the series began earlier this year.

This month's members of the Seniors Mystery Book Club read the current thriller *Suspect* by Robert Crais. Silver Screens Classics, a monthly movie matinee for seniors, featured *Singin' in the Rain*, a musical with Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, and Donald O'Connor. Both of these groups continue to attract dedicated, faithful participants.

Manager Michael Kaminski and Adult Services Library Karen Sebesta represented Landa at the annual National Night Out Event. This year's location for the Monte Vista area was at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. Approximately 35 adults and children stopped by the Landa table to find out about library events, do an owl craft, and enjoy a fruit cup.

## **LAS PALMAS**

Gina Brudi, Children's Librarian visited three daycare centers at which she presented several story times and took library books for their leisure reading. 74 children and ten adults enjoyed her presentations. In the Library Gina presented four Family Fun programs which drew a total of nineteen children. Gina also presented three Tween sessions with activities for the nine to twelve year old age group. Six Tweens participated in various theme-based programs.

Sylvia Pachecano, teen librarian, presented four Wednesday evenings of teen activities using various theme based crafts. She had 30 participants in her colorful craft sessions. Sylvia also continued to lead teen volunteers in assisting in the Library with shelving magazines, media and some books keeping the Las Palmas Library looking well organized. Sylvia has also been excelling in attracting new teens to the Las Palmas Library through her efforts of recruitment when she visits schools and other organizations in the community promoting the Library with every visit. Sylvia Pachecano was also the representative from Las Palmas who participated in the National Night Out at Benavides Park on Tuesday, October 1.

Raymond Villarreal, manager, led the Las Palmas Book Club for the month of September in the discussion of the novel *Heading Out to Wonderful* by Robert Goolrick, "an altogether unforgettable story of love gone terribly wrong".

Raymond Villarreal has been working with his supervisor, Joel Bangilan in redesigning the interior of the Las Palmas Library. A floor plan and a timetable for project completion were discussed and affirmed by his supervisor.

The Las Palmas Library is in the process of being established as a Vital Records library. Work is in progress in the remodeling of the circulation desk and in the transfer of documents and equipment. Melissa Perez from the Las Palmas Community Link Center is now with the Las Palmas Library as a staff member who comes to the Library with the needed experience and excellent customer service skills.

## **MAVERICK**

Several events have happened this month at the Maverick Branch Library. The Friends of the Maverick Library held a successful Fall book sale on September 21 and September 22. On September 28, a résumé program presented by a patron, Deb Banks, had great participation with ten adults in attendance. There is great demand for more resume programs in the future. On October 4, for Hispanic Heritage Month, Dr. Marco Portales from Texas A&M shared his knowledge of Pancho Villa to 17 patrons. Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, did a presentation on the Wild West/Pioneer Life for 7 1<sup>st</sup> grade Tiger Cub Scouts and their parents. The Tiger Cubs were attentive and enjoyed the worksheet that Amy created for them. A wonderful acoustic guitar program was the last Hispanic Heritage event at Maverick on October 12 with 40 attendees.

Training has also been an essential part during this time period. Maverick hosted HR and library staff for Open Enrollment Benefits Training on September 24. Amy attended a joint mini-conference with NEISD Librarians and SAPL Children's Librarians at Central Library on October 8.

## **MCCRELESS**

Two Family Fun events were held during this time period. At the end of September, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, families gathered to learn about Central America, Mayans and to make Panamanian molas. In October, parents and children participated in Construction Fun, making structures out of gumdrops, toothpicks, straws, blocks and magnets. Both events were well attended with 27 and 37 participants respectively.

Story Time themes included the jungle, the desert, farm animals and horses. Children danced, sang, created a paper rocking horse and a lizard painting, among other activities.

The branch had to bid farewell to Adult Services Librarian David Liserio as he has returned to service in the San Antonio school system as a Librarian. There was a party on October 9 to send him off in style.

Teen Time at McCreless had record attendance in October. The branch has two new volunteers approved for Teen Time and they are very excited to get involved.

Book displays for this time period included "Healthy Eating" in September and "Fear Factors" for October.

The branch got a new boiler as part of the capital improvements and it is much smaller and more energy efficient than the old one. The work was done with no disruption in service.

The Friends of McCreless met on September 30 and agreed to fund the holiday staff party and additional purchases of shelf holders for the branch. In addition, they set the date for the December book sale.

## MEMORIAL

The Memorial branch hosted a San Antonio Water System affordability program on Saturday, September 21. Patrons had the opportunity to learn about eligibility requirements for discounts on monthly water bills.

In celebration of El Día De Los Muertos / the Day of the Dead, the works of Valerie Chagolla were on display at the Memorial Branch. The works included oil paintings with Día De los Muertos themes as well as popular cultural icons. A reception was held for the artist on Tuesday, October 8. Ms. Chagolla's works will be on display throughout the month of October.

The Memorial Branch library played host to a National Night Out gathering October 1. Three neighborhood associations came together with community members and City officials to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The St. Mary's University Code Blue Dance team and Cheer group performed. The event was sponsored by the Memorial Amigos and the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library.

For its meeting on October 1, the Teen Tuesday group volunteered at the National Night Out gathering. Their help was greatly appreciated by all. Program attendance has remained strong as the group continues to enjoy a variety of activities including gaming and movies.

Families at the Memorial Library enjoyed creating marvelous masterpieces using Lego building blocks. Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, was invited to attend Open House at Roy Cisneros Elementary School to share information about the library's services and resources. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Flamenco/Folklorico dancer, Karlene Bernal, presented traditional Mexican dances to all who attended. One of Memorial's favorite entertainers, Donnabelle the Clown, introduced the art of creating balloon sculptures to kids of all ages.

## MISSION

Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated with several programs at Mission. Patrons had the opportunity to meet the author Frank "Pancho" Mendoza. Immigration policy was discussed with Academia America's Mario Compean. The October 6 program *Immigration Reform and Citizenship: Reality or Illusion* was well attended. Visitors were invited to screen *The Longoria Affair*, a film related to the civil rights movement in the Hispanic Community. Advertsing assistance came from Harlandale High Spanish Club students who distributed program flyers to the surrounding area.

The classic movie club continued its run with a screening of *Attack of the Fifty Foot Woman*.

Mission partnered with the YMCA to host Diabetes Prevention Programs.

The teens are taking more ownership of teen programs each week. They planned programming for the entire month of October including the teen Halloween party. With Teen Librarian Sarah Weinblatt's encouragement they have been much more involved and vocal about the types of programs they would like to see during Teen Time.

As a response to interest expressed by several home school families, a home school support group has begun meeting at Mission once a week. So far, after just two meetings, the group has four families with 8 children. The group plans on meeting to discuss what they have been doing with their children, sharing ideas and offering support. At least once a month, the children's librarian, Jane Miller, plans to address the group on various library related topics such as homework help through tutor.com, and how to use the catalog and library resources.

Baby Time continues to be a good introduction to the importance of reading to children. Several new parents and their babies have joined in September; most of them first time parents. It is definitely an opportunity for them to relate to their children through shared books, song and rhyme, and learn early literacy activities they can continue at home.

Toddler Time continues to be well attended. Many new families have joined in the fun. To many, Toddler Time is their first experience with a library activity.

Discovery Time is a popular program. Children and their parents work together to reinforce math and science concepts. September programs focused on shapes, building, making predictions and graphing results.

### **PAN AMERICAN**

Children's Librarian Carol Collins is now serving five daycares with a monthly story time and delivery of library books for a month's use. Carol delivered new Every Child Ready to Read posters to eight elementary schools and two additional daycares. Carol also delivered to our area elementary and middle schools Young Pegasus posters and information on Pan American's four-week poetry writing series.

Many families enjoyed the visit by Scholastic Literacy Caravan to Pan American on October 5.

Teen time Mondays with Angela Olivarez has grown in the past few months and now has a group of regular attendees who look forward to movies and fun activities each week. To kick off the school year, teens watched an animated showing of *Wreck It Ralph*. The following week, they learned how to create their own guitar pick jewelry. While incorporating recycling into this nifty craft, teens punched picks out of used plastic gift cards and created their own artsy bracelets, earrings, and necklaces. As the next week approached, teens were informed they would be flashed back to the 80's and what better way to do so than with a showing of the hit comedy *The Goonies*. Teens were encouraged to dress up in 80's fashion but said they had no idea how people dressed in the 80's. Gnarly! As October kicked in, teens used their crafty skills and created D-I-Y Journals. Cardstock, glitter, sequins, markers, stamps, and lots of glue allowed them to explore their creative side and capture their favorite memories of this fall season.

### **PARMAN**

Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow spent an evening at Johnson High School's Greenback night where she talked to potential patrons and gave out Parman lanyards to cardholders. Later that week she spent the day at Johnson High with AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) classes, telling them all about SAPL and Parman.

Circulation Attendant Sharleen Daube has taken over facilitating the Jane Austen Book Club. For her first meeting, she planned a tea party for the participants. The group will read books by Austen as well as titles inspired by or about Jane Austen and the time period.

Parman Staff stayed late one Friday night to prepare another Teddy Bear Sleepover program. Over 60 stuffed animals were dropped off before closing on Friday. The animals had a great time ordering pizza, dressing up as pirates, having a sack race, and various other antics. The following morning, 90 people showed up to have breakfast and to see the slideshow highlighting their animal's adventures. Local restaurant Order Up supplied cinnamon rolls. The program was a huge success and is now a semi annual tradition.

September 19 was International Talk like a Pirate Day. Parman Staff dressed up for the occasion. The two regularly scheduled Thursday programs, Family Fun and Tween Time, each had a pirate theme for the day. Assistant Manager Tim Johnson read pirate stories and participants made pirate hats. Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow hosted Tween Time and planned crafts including feathered parrots and jolly roger flags. Staff gave out jolly rancher candies to any patron who would give them an Aaarr!

Parman hosted its own National Night Out Block Party. The School of Rock performed in the amphitheater for the second year in a row. Yard games were played out front including volleyball,

croquet, bean bag toss, and Frisbee golf. The Friends of the Parman Library served hotdogs and popcorn.

For the monthly staff book club, Parman Staff shared favorite Ted Talks. Some videos were shared in advance and staff watched a few together. All staff present the morning of the discussion are encouraged to participate. Several had not heard of Ted Talks before and were excited to learn of the free lectures online.

## **PRUITT**

Children Services Librarian Cynthia Saenz conducted a fun Read for the Record event on October 3. The children listened to this year's title *Otis* by Loren Long. They created an interactive barn scene as the craft. Pruitt children also participated in the Hispanic Heritage children's Kids' Time entitled Destination: Central America. Participants listened to Central American folk tales and created Latin American folk art pieces called molas.

Teen Services Librarian Rae Downen has undertaken the organization of the teen volunteers for Pruitt. Many of the students at Roosevelt need community service hours for graduation. Rae has conducted an orientation for teen volunteers. She has also organized a Teen Leadership Committee. This committee will conduct a needs assessment for programming. This group will lead the programming decisions for the upcoming school year and beyond.

A Beginning Sewing class is underway. There are three initial students in the class. Patron Emily Baur volunteered her time and efforts in organizing the six week class. The last class is going to be held October 16. Plans to offer this class at a different time to make it convenient for a new group of students is in the works. Discussion is underway to offer an advanced beginner class soon. The TGIF Book Club is reading *Room: A Novel* by Emma Donoghue for the October 25 meeting.

## **SAN PEDRO**

Everybody loves a fire truck. Members of the San Antonio Fire Department brought a truck to San Pedro Branch Library in early October and 20 children and 18 adults explored the truck and talked with firefighters.

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton worked with two classes at Bonham Elementary School as they participated in Read for the Record. Betsy also presented story time to 18 children at Educare. She also attended the Northeast Independent School District-SAPL joint training session "Telling Your Story."

Adult Services Librarian I Monty Holcomb facilitates a chess group every week, with an average of about 10 participants.

## **SEMMES**

In honor of National Gospel Music Heritage Month, the Childress Memorial Church choir performed at the Semmes Branch Library on Saturday, September 21, 2013. The group sang Gospel songs and answered questions from the audience about the tradition of Gospel music. Special thanks to DiAnne Schutte from Brook Hollow for organizing this program for the Semmes patrons.

For the third year in a row, the Semmes Branch Library co-hosted National Night Out with the Friends of Comanche Lookout Park on Tuesday, October 1, 2013. The Comanche Lookout Friends toasted marshmallows on the patio and gave away a lot of white elephant goodies. It was a very successful event.

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held a book sale on Saturday, October 5, 2013. The sale was very successful and the Friends made about \$1,400 for the branch. Staff is already planning on how to best use these funds. Staff is grateful to have such a terrific group of Friends!

## **THOUSAND OAKS**

### **Personnel**

Two changes at Thousand Oaks in regards to personnel. Rhonda Woolhouse, formerly of Igo, joined the Thousand Oaks staff as the new Librarian 1 on September 21. Karen Sagun, the branch's full-time Library Assistant, received a promotion to Librarian 1 at the Westfall Branch. Her final day at Thousand Oaks was on September 20.

## **Children**

### *Story Time and Toddler Time*

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser did the following: had a camping and campfire activity, with real marshmallows over a campfire (well, not a real campfire). Fall story time came next, with a painted tree craft. A favorite animal was next on the agenda for both story and toddler time: squirrels. All the young ones in attendance enjoyed the stories and songs picked by Ms. Elsasser for these programs. Ms. Elsasser concluded this period with a reptile-themed story and toddler time, which featured an extremely popular craft: lizard doorknobs. Attendance remains consistent and high for both programs, and parents continue to express their immense satisfaction with the topics selected and with Ms. Elsasser's "wonderful programs."

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser attended the NEISD-SAPL joint in-service day on October 8. It was a good opportunity for her to meet the school librarians of NEISD, and attend breakout sessions on topics such as genre-fying your collection, digital story times in iPads, and blogging.

## **Teen Time**

On September 25, special guest J. D. Elizondo visited from Central Teen Services, bringing both electric and acoustic guitars and amplifiers. The kids got to hone their musical chops on several songs. As always when J.D. visits, the teens had a great time. The evening also marked the first time the teens met their new teen leader, Rhonda Woolhouse.

On October 2, Ms. Woolhouse conducted her initial teen time at Thousand Oaks, with a boisterous crowd of teens who were excited to have her. It was a fun craft night, with the teens creating all kinds of interesting things with aluminum foil.

On October 11 the teens enjoyed a screening of the comedy/fantasy classic *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, directed by Tim Burton. It came down to that or *Ghostbusters*, and while staff was rooting for the latter, the teens went with the former; *Ghostbusters* just seemed "too old" for them.

## **Adult Programming**

### *Book Groups*

On September 19, Library Assistant Karen Sagun led her final Thursday Afternoon Book Group, as the group discussed the modern classic *The House of Spirits* by Isabel Allende. As always, a lively debate was had, with half the group loving the title, and the other half voicing their dislike of the selection. The presence of yummy treats made the discussion mostly civil.

On October 7, the Thousand Oaks Monday Evening Book Group met to discuss the novel *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Kate Morton. The discussion was led by Circulation Attendant Brenda Ramos, as she filled in to head the discussion. In a rare book group phenomenon, everyone enjoyed the selection!

### *eReader Training*

Thousand Oaks staff members continue to train patrons in the intricacies of the e-reader and digital downloadables. Library patrons travel from far and wide for our superior e-reader training. With the new Overdrive interface, we have seen folks coming in for refresher courses. Once they see the new features, and how easy they are to use, they leave much happier.

### *Foro Abierto de Tecnología*

Adult Services Librarian Jorge Chavez conducted an Open Forum seminar in Spanish on October 5. Attendance was not as high as desired or expected, but the patrons who attended were so thrilled that the branch was having this forum. Mr. Chavez will continue to host the forums, with the intention of expanding them in the future.

## **Outreach**

Branch Manager Troy Hoyles represented SAPL on National Night Out at Springfield Manor. Over 50 people visited the table to obtain information about the library system, including information on how to get a library card, children's programming, upcoming events, and what resources are available to assist students. Overall, a good outreach event for the library, as a lot of folks walked away with a lot of good information and a desire to get a library card.

## **TOBIN**

Library Assistant, Elvia Ramos and Librarian, Keri Moczygamba helped coordinate a performance by Ballet Del Folklorico in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month on September 28. Elvia also assisted at Central's Palabras con Poder event on September 15 as an active member of the Celebrate Diversity Committee.

Ariel Cummins, Children's Librarian established a new popular Lego Club that meets once a month where creations are made and then displayed in the library. Ariel and Teen Librarian Betsey Leitko designed an Art Box that teens and tweens check out with rotating activities like 3D Art, drawing and Origami.

Betsey started a teen Anime Club in September as well as MacTeach Tutoring launched with students from MacArthur High School. Students tutor two nights a week at Tobin for Kindergarten - 12th grade and GED students. In addition, Betsey promoted library services to a crowd of teens at MacArthur on Brahma Night.

Ariel now attends monthly outreach at Northwood Presbyterian Day School and completes four story times with eight classes. Ariel also participated with Little Red Wagon's early literacy program at Regency Place Elementary. For National Night Out, Ariel helped at Northwood Elementary for Greenback Night while Keri Moczygamba and Aide, Jesus Jimenez attended Forest Oaks and MacArthur Park's neighborhood gathering. Several new families have visited the branch for Toddler and Toddler Too programming as a result of these outreach events.

Director Ramiro Salazar visited Tobin to present Maria Taylor recognition and special thanks for her 25 years of service with the library and City of San Antonio on September 27.

## **WESTFALL**

Karen Sagun joined the Westfall Branch Library staff as Adult Services Librarian I, replacing Teen Services Librarian Caroline Mossing, who transferred to Central Library. Karen is planning a number of programs to expand services to adults. Karen comes to Westfall from Thousand Oaks where she worked as a Library Assistant for about 18 months.

Westfall hosted Larry Johnson as part of Celebrate Diversity's observance of Disabilities Awareness Month. Mr. Johnson has authored several books and worked for many years as a disc jockey in Mexico. Mr. Johnson has been blind since infancy.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino spoke to about 150 adults and 20 children at a parents meeting at Maverick Elementary School. Mrs. Merino also visited a class at Woodlawn Elementary School. On Friday mornings, Mrs. Merino presents story time at Career Point Institute Day Care. Baby Time at Westfall kicked off in October. Many young mothers in the service area have requested the program. Imelda also attended the Northeast Independent School District-SAPL joint training session "Telling Your Story."

A program exploring the library's Jobs and Career Accelerator, a resource for people seeking jobs, writing resumes and learning basic computer skills, was presented in September. Library Assistant Francisca Clark discussed how the resource is beneficial to those in the job market.

Westfall also has played host to the City Manager's Office Focus Groups.