



San Antonio Public Library

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

# ADMINISTRATION

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On Friday, October 18, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the Landa Gardens Conservancy annual event, White Nights, at the Landa Branch Library.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library annual Arts and Letters Award Reception on Sunday, October 20. The event took place at the Central Library and honored local artists.

On October 21, Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado and Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with Councilman Cris Medina, via conference call, to discuss Library services in District 7. A follow up meeting took place on November 5 and included a discussion about the Woodlawn Lake Gym Community Room and current library outreach efforts.

The San Antonio Public Library, in partnership with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and the City's Office of Cultural and Creative Development, hosted a reception and reading honoring Rose Catacalos, 2013 Texas Poet Laureate. The event, held on October 22, was a success with over one hundred attendees.

On October 24, the Library held a grand opening event for Connect at Central Library, the new technology space located on the first floor of the Central Library. Mayor Julian Castro and City Manager Sheryl Sculley attended the event and delivered remarks during the program. That evening, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill and Interim Library Services Administrator Dianna Morganti attended a celebration hosted by the Southwest School of Art for obtaining accreditation for the School's Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program.

On October 25, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and several Library staff members attended the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County's annual kick-off luncheon for the Charitable Campaign. Thanks to the support of Library Staff, the Library Department surpassed its participation goal for the 2013 Charitable Campaign. That evening, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the Briscoe Museum's Opening event. That next morning, October 26, Mr. Salazar also attended the ceremonial ribbon cutting event for the Briscoe Museum.

On October 29, the Library hosted an open house at the Guerra Branch Library to unveil recent improvements associated with its Extreme Library Makeover. Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill joined City Councilman Ray Lopez and Library Trustee Lora Eckler in delivering remarks during the event. The Friends of Guerra Branch Library provided refreshments for the reception that followed the program.

SA100, a local group comprised of women community leaders, enjoyed a presentation delivered by Library Director Ramiro Salazar on November 6. Mr. Salazar provided an overview of library services and received positive feedback from the group.

On November 12, Library Director Salazar served as emcee for the grand opening of the Marie Swartz Art Resource Center, located on the second floor of the Central Library. Councilman Diego Bernal and County Judge Nelson Wolff attended the event and delivered remarks. The program also included Paula Owen, President of the Southwest School of Art; Jill Giles, Chair of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Board; and members of the Swartz Family. The Swartz Art Resource Center opened to the public on November 13.

On November 20, the San Antonio Public Library launched Indie Flix, a new streaming video service available to Library patrons. The streaming video service offers award-winning shorts, features, and documentaries from around the world.

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]**

Late October was a busy time as eighteen branches around the city hosted children's Halloween celebrations. With a grand total of 2246 children & their grownups in attendance, staff is considering these highly successful events. (Please note that over 1000 of the attendees were logged by the Parman Branch whose annual Halloween Party and Spooky Walk are becoming the stuff of library legend!)

In November & early December, staffs at 21 locations are hosting "Transportation Station" events. Like Dinosaur Day and Barnyard buddies, Transportation Station invites parents and caregivers to "Play & Learn" with their children. Featuring cars, trucks, buses, planes, trains and boats, these sessions encourage attendees to engage in the five practices that support early literacy development: Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing and Playing. With centers featuring blocks and vehicles, play-dough license plates, ten little race cars, color matching, pattern making, traffic light painting and a pretend car wash, this Play & Learn session has already met with rave reviews at several locations. Preparations of kits supporting this Play & Learn effort were created by the Children's Early Literacy Team: Cresencia Huff (Little Read Wagon), Ariel Cummins (Tobin at Oakwell), Clair Larkin (Landa), Nancy Rodriguez (Igo), Cari Rayley (Great Northwest), Trina Smith (Memorial) and Viki Ash (Central Admin).

## **LITTLE READ WAGON**

October and November have been busy as usual for the Little Read Wagon team. During this reporting period, the Little Read Wagon staff visited numerous high schools to share early literacy information with teen parents. New team member Ronnie Webb began making presentations to teen parents and was very well received. Several elementary schools, Early Head Start and Head Start sites also received services.

A Play & Learn series was offered at the YWCA on Castroville Road. The Transportation Station Play & Learn program was offered at Woodlawn Lake as well as entirely in Spanish to a Northside ISD family literacy class. Northside ISD's Even Start family literacy program has four more classes that will have the opportunity to participate in the Transportation Station Play & Learn program later this fall and in January. Cresencia Huff is working with different community organizations and venues to schedule more Play & Learn programs.

October and November are also busy months for community events. On October 25, Cresencia represented SAPL along with Gina Brudi (Las Palmas) at the Avance Early Head Start October Festival. KLRN invited Little Read Wagon to participate in community events on October 29 and 30 at McAllister Park and the Tynan Early Childhood Center. Julia Lazarin, Martha Wichy, and Cresencia offered a mini-Play & Learn station at both events. Finally, on October 9 Corinne Sanchez represented SAPL at a City Council District 3 event for early childhood teachers.

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

### **Off-Site Service**

During the reporting period, Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce visited high schools and spoke to hundreds of students about the services and resources the Library offers for teens. On October 5, Kathleen gave three presentations to over 150 students at St. Gerard High School. Kathleen spoke to new students during Orientation at her monthly visit to the Academy of Creative Education on October 28. On November 5 and 6, Kathleen gave seven presentations to 400 students at Sam Houston High School.

On November 13, Kathleen visited Burbank High School to speak to teens and their parents at the Families4Education event. Attendees also received library cards.

Teen Services Librarian I Caroline Mossing represented SAPL Teen Services at the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's CORE4STEM Expo at the Freeman Coliseum on November 12 and 13. Reaching more than 100 middle school aged students, Caroline provided information about SAPL's programs and services, with a special emphasis on educational resources and STEM programming at the Central Library. During the session, participants worked together to understand and modify a simple Arduino program.

## Partnerships

Library staff mentors met in the Central Library Auditorium with their “Littles” from Edison High School for their monthly Inspire U lunch on October 28. Mentors and mentees worked on a craft project together during their lunch meeting.

On October 31, Teen Services Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo met with Young Artist Program Director Patricia Morales and Young Art Program Assistant Director Regina Sanders of the Southwest School of Art to discuss collaborating on the art component of J.D.’s Eclectic Electric program. Due to the success of the meeting for both parties, J.D. and Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez had a follow-up meeting with the two on November 1 to discuss a partnership between Teen Services and the Southwest School of Art. Ideas that are on the agenda for this partnership are: an art show, field trips and scholarships.

## Professional Development

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez was invited to serve on the YALSA Administrator Resources taskforce. The taskforce will coordinate the development of new content and research, including case studies that illustrate the value of teen services, aimed at library administrators, and work with library staff nationwide to disseminate the content.

## System-Wide Support

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 and Cody.

## MARKETING

The Marketing team has been as busy as ever with projects that include the public awareness campaign project, all PR and marketing for the Marie Swartz Art Resource Center grand opening, the official opening of Connect at Central, and the Winds of War poster exhibit in the Central Library Gallery, as well as for events and programs system-wide. Monthly projects include SAPL newsletter, Texana newsletter, and social media management.

### Graphics

The graphic artists spent the reporting period working on the November and December Bookmarks, Library Champions creative projects, branch fact sheet designs, holiday card design, IndieFlix campaign creative projects, JFK memorial events creative projects, D9 marketing, and more.

### Public Relations

SAPL received 194 media mentions during the reporting period.  
SAPL has 6,158 Facebook friends, and there are 1,610 Twitter followers.

## KUDOS

Kate Sandoval (Librarian II) with Children’s Services at the Central Library received special praise for her visit to Austin Academy’s Book Fair where she promoted SAPL *Live Homework Help* resources and created a bookmark making station for the children while they shopped at the fair. The thank you note from Heidi Head, the school’s librarian, reads:

*“I wanted to thank you again for your support this week at our School Book Fair. You made it an extra special event for the families and they really enjoyed your activity. I look forward to us working together again to build our communities. Please let me know if I can do anything in the future. Thank you, Heidi Head”*

# CENTRAL LIBRARY

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

October and November were full of special events in the Central Children's Department. Three of these events occurred during *Family Fun* on Saturdays. The first was a Halloween Party for young children involving lots of fun crafts and activities. Children were dressed in their costumes, and if they did not, there were plenty of crafting tables filled with great costume starters! All attendants joined the department staff in a parade around the floor, playing tambourines and getting their treat bags. Almost two hundred were in attendance and the Children's staff went all out with their costumes this year. Children could see Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, A Care Bear, A Wicked Witch, The Cat in the Hat, A Feisty Pirate, and even The Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Tree come to life!

The second big event during *Family Fun* celebrated Central Library's LEGO® Day in an effort to promote the nationwide trend in library services to children, involving "play" in programs at libraries. Central's program focused on stories about building and then constructive, creative play with LEGO®s and DUPLO®S. Using some of the latest research regarding the developmental benefits of LEGO® play, Jasmin Salinas (Librarian I), along with Amy Lewis (Librarian I) prepared carefully selected and created book displays, décor, scavenger hunts, crafts, and interactive "Boredom Busters", all relating to LEGO®s. Children were gleefully searching the stacks for clues and building towers in the Story Room. Photographs were taken of all the fun and will be shared at an upcoming *Family Fun*. The program was so successful, much of the LEGO® activities are still available to enjoy on the Children's Floor through the end of November.

Puerto Rican children's book author, Tina Casanova, visited *Family Fun* the following week and led a program entirely in Spanish. The program was a SAPL partnership with the Puerto Rican Heritage Society. After a brief interview with Univisión at the Central Library, Mrs. Casanova performed a dramatic retelling of her book *Al Final Del Arcoiris*. Props were given to the children so that they could participate in the storytelling fun! Families gathered at the end to create a rainbow craft, prepared by Kate Sandoval (Librarian II) and Ms. Salinas (Librarian I), to take home.

A special *Play & Learn* session called "Transportation Station" was led by Ruth Chiego (Manager) and Ms. Sandoval. This was a unique session as it used elements created by SAPL's own Early Literacy Committee. Children enjoyed playing "Car Wash," creating ramps with foam blocks from cardboard for cars to zip up and down. The fun began with transportation tales and children and their parents soon found themselves inspecting a car made out of a cardboard box, making a stop light with dot painters, and playing with different shapes and sizes of cars, all while creating their own roads for traveling. It was a big success with lots of smiling faces!

Several large groups visited the Children's Department for tours. Among those were eight groups from Higgs Carter King Academy and two groups from The Pillars. Green Acres came regularly for specially prepared Story Times with Ms. Salinas. Central Children's staff also visited several locations including KIPP Camino, Austin Academy, Wilson Elementary, Madison Square, and San Antonio College Early Childhood Center.

## REFERENCE

In this review period many in Reference focused on the final stages of preparing and providing materials for the recently opened (November 13) Marie Swartz Art Resource Center. Acknowledgement is due to other individuals and units whose efforts over the past year contributed to this unique endeavor. The development of the Resource Center exemplifies productive partnerships and collaborations at all organizational levels. Members of Reference, Technical Services and the Shelving Unit all had their part in the successful opening of the Center. Every week, for several months, Jose from Technical Services and Nick, a Volunteer unpacked and sorted through hundreds of books and magazines donated by the Southwest School of Art and prepared them for review by Reference Librarian, Martha. The books selected were skillfully cataloged by Barbara and then carefully processed by Omar and Frances. Processed items were boxed in Dewey order by JoAnn and Nick and then stored.

Meanwhile, in Reference, Deedee and the Humanities Team, Dan, Michelle and Lyle sought to identify suitable materials in Central's collection to support a Fine Arts curriculum and then created searchable lists. Once the Resource Center shelving installation was complete, Carla, Sylvia and Sandra organized and led the Shelving Unit in unpacking boxes, pulling and labeling selected items, and finally in shelving several thousand titles in a beautifully balanced arrangement. Maria and the Periodicals Team, Bettina, Theresa, and Sherrie, a Volunteer moved decades of Art Journals to the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor location. Days before the Grand Opening event, Deedee, Michelle and Julia organized and created themed displays to promote the new Resource. The support and advice of Charlotte, Katie and Kathryn was also appreciated.

## **TEEN SERVICES**

### Weekly Programs

**Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant):** In late October, J.D. and a group of teens ("scarers") planned, developed and ran the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Teen Scream" Haunted House. Over several weeks teens worked hard to put up the walls of the haunted house, get into costumes, put on makeup and act during the tours of the haunted house. The program was a great success once again. Over 80 teens and children (and some parents) were brave enough to walk through the haunted house in its three day run. On the weekend of November 2 and 3, J.D. hosted Day of the Dead-themed art activities for the teens, as well as the fun and unique programming opportunity to demolish the Haunted House. Beginning November 4, J.D. resumed the music component of Eclectic Electric.

**Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I):** During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science and Tech Tuesdays, during which teens explored the Bernoulli Principle, created spooky science experiments for the teens' Haunted House, used forensics techniques to solve a murder mystery, and built and raced balloon-powered cars. Teens and staff are excited to explore robotics in the near future with recently acquired Lego Mindstorms.

**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.

**Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant):** 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. Teens decorated ghost and spider cookies. They made Halloween-icon-shaped lollipops. Using Halloween trinkets, teens poured melted soap cubes into molds, added a trinket, dyes and fragrances to create unique soaps. On the big day itself, teens carved a pumpkin and had a low-key celebration. In November, teens participated in teen suggested program ideas: making caramel apples and dreamcatchers. After each activity, teens requested the use of a video game system. Teens competed against 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>.

### Tours and Groups

Teen Services staff at Central provided tours and catalog/database instruction for several school groups during the reporting period. The following schools received tours: KIPP University Prep School, Rainbow Hills Baptist School, The Henry Ford Academy Alameda School for Art + Design, Vale Middle School and Providence High School. Teachers from the Henry Ford Academy brought several classes in during several days over a period of a couple of weeks. Students from all of the schools that visited received library cards.

## **TEXANA / GENEALOGY**

On October 15 local photography historian David Haynes gave a presentation to Igo's genealogy group on "Nineteenth Century Photography: Identification and Conservation." As usual, an interested group of eighteen participated.

Deborah Countess visited Maverick on October 19, giving a presentation to thirteen participants on how to begin their family history research. On November 5, Deborah introduced "FamilySearch.org" to twelve individuals in the Connect Space. Then, on November 14, she gave a "Beginning Genealogy" class to ten SAISD librarians aimed at use in the classroom.

On October 26, Sylvia Reyna hosted Maria Pfeiffer at the Eastside cemeteries as Maria led a tour of some of the cemeteries in the complex. Thirty persons joined the tour as they discussed the history of the area and some of those buried there.

The Bexarenos Genealogical and Historical Society met in the auditorium on November 2. Sergio and Melinda Iruegas spoke on "The Historic La Bahia Road from San Antonio to Goliad" to a full house.

Frank Faulkner discussed "Beginning Genealogy" with a group of fifteen at Northwest Vista College on November 8.

On November 9, Rudy Purificato, former historian at Brooks Air Force Base, talked to fifteen interested people about President Kennedy's visit to Brooks the day before he was shot in Dallas, in the auditorium.

Finally, Texana / Genealogy is hosting a display of five panels illustrating the life of Bernardo de Galvez. Born in Malaga, Spain, Galvez was responsible for supplying George Washington's troops with approximately ten thousand head of cattle for food from ranches from Texas. Galvez also assisted with other forms of support to the American cause during the American Revolution.

## **BRANCH LIBRARIES**

### **BAZAN**

Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen continues her outreach at two local SAISD elementary schools, doing book clubs for 4th and 5th graders. The students really enjoy her visit. She visits her Avance group reading stories and taking Board Books for teachers to read to their children. She also celebrated Halloween with a party. She had a variety of spooky crafts, spooky music and treats for the children. She had thirteen children and eight adults to attend.

To get everyone in the Halloween spirit, "Ghostbusters", the classic 1984 movie, was shown from 5-7pm on October 30. Twelve patrons, adults and children, attended; and, everyone had a good time laughing at the funny movie and nibbling on Halloween treats.

Bazan staff established book displays for El Dia de Muertos, Halloween, Native American Heritage month, National Food Day, and the Affordable Care Act. Tina Serna put together the display case to also commemorate Native American Heritage month with her artifacts. Pat Soderberg contributed items from the Mayan culture of Guatemala. Amanda Coronado and Jonathan Guerra helped Esperanza put together her display sign for the scary/Halloween book display of Juvenile titles.

The Bexar Agency on Aging offered Medicare enrollment assistance on October 26. COSA/SAC's Lunch and Learn series continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Bazan's meeting room; this semester a degree-earning class in Public Administration has been offered. The Academia Citizenship class continues to meet on Monday nights. Plans are underway for a holiday Open House on December 19, with a performance by the musical duo Selmers & Hymel. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will offer tax help six days per week beginning in January.

### **BROOK HOLLOW**

On November 5, Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera hosted a Play & Learn program entitled "Transportation Station: Beep-beep, honk-honk, chugga-chugga choo choo!" Many families attended and the kids had a great time with cars made out of boxes and other transportation-related props.

Therapy dogs have been visiting the branch on Friday afternoons for children to practice their early literacy skills by reading to the dogs and this has proven popular with kids of all ages.

Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera spoke on November 13 at the request of Coker Elementary Family Specialist to a group of primarily Spanish-speaking parents about the services that the public library could provide to them and their school-age children. Rachael focused on *Live Homework Help* and Learning Express Library, demonstrating each service to the parents. Several of the families she presented to visited the library and get library cards the very same day.

Tween Time is proving to be extremely popular and it is hard to keep the tweens to the allotted time. The tweens love playing with Legos and Straws & Connectors to build things.

Teen participation has increased to six teens and they have chosen their Teen Advisory Council, chosen a name for the teen area and posters to decorate the area. They are all very excited at being 'in charge' of programming and appreciate the fact these hours can be counted as volunteer hours.

Librarian Tapley Trudell taught a six-week course on "Fantasy: Exploring A Genre" for the Academy of Learning in Retirement (ALIR); part of the Northeast ISD Continuing Education Department. This is the second time she has been asked to teach a literature class for ALIR and the classes were very well attended and lauded by participants.

Two Native American Heritage Month programs were held this month to quite large audiences. The first on November 2 was a showing of the film *A Thousand Roads* followed by a discussion led by Isaac Cardenas, program director for American Indians of Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions. Chief Ramon Vasquez y Sanchez of the Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation also presented. On November 9, the Cherokee Township of San Antonio led taught participants to make corn husk dolls and bracelets, accompanying the craft tutorials with family stories and history.

## CARVER

Vernon Mullens' gardening classes remained popular with senior citizens who regularly turn out for his bi-monthly demonstrations and discussions. It is common to see student stroll away from the branch with plant samples that they have been encouraged to grow in their own yards.

Another popular feature at Carver is the monthly gathering of the Carver Page Turners Book Club. The October selection was *Freeman* by Leonard Pitts who last year was awarded the prize for best fiction by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. The discussion was led by Gladys Dixon.

The Friends of Carver Library hosted their annual fall book sale. Carver Friends President Antoinette V. Franklin pronounced the event a success. She is looking forward already to the spring book sale.

DL Grant performed children's outreach at the Artisan at Willow Springs Apartments, where he read stories to children and adults.

## CODY

Beginner Readers Club members who met on October 15 for their monthly session were eager to share the recent book each one had read with the other members. After a couple of interactive homonym games, the children worked on their book reviews. Sheila Acosta, children's librarian, posted these reviews in the beginner reader section for others to see.

Ghost and bat mobiles, pumpkin ornaments, scary spiders, and two-dimensional Halloween cards kept the children busy at Cody's Spook-tacular Arts and Crafts event on October 16. Sheila reported that young toddlers to school-aged children were in attendance.

LEGO Club members formed teams on October 22 to compete for the BEST LEGO "scary creatures". First, second, third and fourth places were awarded, and there was one honorable mention. Sheila displayed all of the "scary LEGO creatures" for two weeks in the "new books" section.

Cody's annual Boo! parades for babies, toddlers and preschoolers were held on October 28 and 30 following the story times for each age group. Children had an opportunity to wear their favorite costumes, and parade through the library and children's area, receiving treats at the end. Group pictures were taken at the end of each parade.

Sheila reported that over 120 people attended the Family Fun Halloween Party on October 29. Children won prizes at two of the game stations- tossing the rings over the witch's hat, and throwing the eyeballs in the pumpkin's mouth. Children also enjoyed getting Halloween tattoos, creating Halloween ornaments, and posing with the monster at the photo op station. Candy treats were given to everyone who attended. Chabad Center for Children invited Sheila to visit three classes on October 31 and read books about fall, and the changes in nature, and how animals adapt to the cold. Ms. Sheila invited the children to visit the library for more books they can check out and take home.

On November 5, Sheila spoke to about 800 children when she visited Thornton Elementary. Sheila was there to promote the Young Pegasus Poetry Contest and to invite the children from first to fifth grades to enter the contest. After demonstrating how easy it is to enter, Sheila said that many of the children from each grade level appeared excited about it and told her they were going to try it.

Sheila said that pilgrims' hats, and Native American headdresses, as well as bookmarks, and corn magnets attracted many of the children to the Thanksgiving Arts and Crafts program on Nov.13. The Transportation Station Play and Learn event on November 15 was a big success. Over 18 families attended this event and interacted with their young children at the various stations. Sheila reported that this event was very well-received and parents expressed their appreciation for the hard work that went into planning such events.

Teen Leaders did tons of things this month. Two teen-curated listening parties happened at Cody Library. Picture a stacks of music CDs, a boombox, cups of hot chocolate, and people listening to and talking about music. Teen Leader Ariel selected music from the stacks for the first listening party, next other teens added to the mix during the second party. Ariel also made a playlist on the citywide blog, featuring many of her choice grunge selections. Teen Leaders also met twice to plan their next events. These meetings consist of facilitator and Teen Services Librarian David Gallin-Parisi carrying around a calendar of dates and a bunch of teen leaders deciding what will happen next at the library. Events on the calendar include, but are not limited to: Hallows Giving (a scary Thanksgiving), Teen Curated Classic Movie Night (The Outsiders), and a watercolors plus gift making holiday event. Finally Teen Leaders were profiled by the local neighborhood group Vance Jackson Views.

Tuesday's Teen Time switched up the schedule. Now teens can do what they will from 4:00 to 5:30 on Tuesdays. This time is different from the teen leaders' events in a couple of ways. First many teens from nearby schools come and go during the time to hang out and be with friends. Second many of the teens aren't quite old enough to be volunteers. That's not to say some overlapping could happen among the Teen Leaders and Tuesday Teen Time regulars. The Tuesday folks are hard at work on the Fall 2013 issue of the teen zine. The issue features photos, drawings, and music playlists made by teens and documenting teen programs at Cody Library.

Ariel's playlist: <http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/11/08/teen-created-playlist/>  
Vance Jackson Views profile: [http://www.neighborhoodnews.com/CurrentNewsletters/VJ\\_CN.pdf](http://www.neighborhoodnews.com/CurrentNewsletters/VJ_CN.pdf)

The Cody chapter of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL) held its Fall Book Sale the weekend of November 8. The Friends reported record-breaking earnings for the Preview Sale which kicked off the book sale and is open only to FOSAPL members.

### **COLLINS GARDEN**

Halloween was a fun event at Collins Garden. Plenty of crafts and treats were available and both children and their parents had a good time.

Collins Garden is celebrating November with displays on cooking and Native American Heritage. Both adult and children's books are being featured and public interest has been considerable.

Librarian II, Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard reports that a customer she helped with computer job access returned to the branch at a later date to let her know he had gotten a job and that he was very grateful for her assistance in using the computer for his search.

Collins Garden was an early voting site and an election On October 15 local photography historian David Haynes gave a presentation to Igo's genealogy group on "Nineteenth Century Photography: Identification and Conservation." As usual, an interested group of eighteen participated.

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## **CORTEZ**

Volunteers from the Cognosante organization are providing customers with information about the Affordable Care Act and assisting them with their questions about the Marketplace.

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed an informative display about events and programs scheduled in celebration of Thanksgiving.

The book and media display featured Native American Heritage Month and Veterans Day.

Interim Branch Manager, Pamela 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.

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 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 offered a number of relevant services to the community during the reporting period.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) provided services to assist patrons in their annual Medicare enrollment on October 18. This service was offered at a number of SAPL locations as part of a Live Well, Age Smart programming tract. A number of patrons were able to conveniently enroll for benefits at the Forest Hills location. The Forest Hills location was selected specifically for its large base of patrons who exist with Medicare assistance. Deadline for Medicare enrollment is December 7.

Volunteers from Cognosante have been stationed at the branch to provide assistance to patrons seeking help in signing up for healthcare plans through the Affordable Care Act. Interest in this service has gained momentum over the past few weeks. Laptops have been made available to patrons who wish to sign up online.

The SNAP mobile clinic used the Forest Hills parking lot to offer free and reduced-cost spay and neuter services on November 14.

On November 2, Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley hosted a Play and Learn session for children under 5. Toddlers were engaged in activities focused on developmental skills related to literacy including playing, singing, listening, reading, and writing. The Transportation theme was popular with the toddlers as they interacted with different types of vehicles in their activities.

Valerie continues to provide outreach to a number of schools and daycares in the area. Her visits to these locations serve to promote literacy in the community and foster relations with outside agencies. Many children who visit the library recognize her from her recent visit to their school or care center.

In other news, Mary Naylor has been named as chair of the Live Well, Age Smart committee. This committee designs programming specifically for seniors.

The Friends of Forest Hills held a successful book sale on November 16. The Friends have had success in generating revenue through the book sale cart which has allowed for more programming supported by their funds.

## **GREAT NORTHWEST**

### **Adults**

The Great Northwest Thursday Book Group met and 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.

Veronica Ramirez from City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District contacted Cindy Moreno, Adult Services Librarian, to set up a six week workshop for Diabetes Self-Management Program starting in November. The participants will learn how to manage diabetes through healthy living.

### **Children's**

Children's Story Times continue to bring large crowds and Cari Raley, our Children's Librarian, is actively finding activities and stories for the holiday season.

### **Events**

Stephanie Vazquez, our Teen Librarian, attended two outreach events. She spoke to the PTA members of Northwest Crossing Elementary on November 12 and to Driggers Elementary PTA about the benefits of using live homework help.

Roberto Zapata, our Manager, attended an outreach event at NISD Military Family Resource Fair on November 12.

#### **Other**

Cindy Moreno participated in the Webjunction webinar for Grace Under Pressure.

#### **Teens**

Teen Read Week was celebrated with making caramel apples and watching a horror movie. The anime and gaming club met.

#### **GUERRA**

Library patrons, District 6 Council Representative Ray Lopez, Library Friends representatives Delores Huber and Lora Devlon Eckler, and representatives from Library Administration including Dale McNeill, Assistant Director for Public Services, Kate Gray, Branch Services Coordinator, Jessica Ramos, Executive Assistant, Caitlan Cowart, Community and Public Relations Manager, and Marcie Hernandez, Public Information Officer attended an Open House on October 29 showcasing the extreme makeover. Attendees were pleased with the new carpet and furniture and shelving reconfiguration. The Guerra Friends provided refreshments. The branch served as a polling site on November 5. On November 12, Leslie Burchett with the Baptist House System presented a program about breast cancer. Anne Schuette, Library Assistant/Brook Hollow, has been temporarily assigned to Guerra through the end of the calendar year to help fill coverage needs.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman attended COLS on October 24. He provided a tour to ten Cub Scouts and leaders on the evening of the Open House. He attended the Safety Security Work Group meeting on November 6 and hosted the Branch Managers meeting on November 7. On November 9, he joined Ignacio Albarracin, Digital Services Coordinator, for a panel held at Tobin about the Peace Corps. Dexter served in Honduras in the 1970's and Ignacio some 30 years later, also in Honduras. On November 14, he held the Thursday Evening Book Club; five participants discussed *Julia* by Anne Fortier. During the reporting period, he met with Luis Lopez with the Texas Workforce Commission whose office is near the branch to discuss ideas for collaboration.

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs planned and presented four Toddler Times and four Story Times--October 16, 23, 30 and November 6. With help from Library Assistant Leticia Guerra, she planned and presented one Tween Time, on October 22. On October 26, she hosted a Family Fun Halloween Party. Children came dressed in Halloween costumes and enjoyed books, crafts, activities, and treats with their parents. On October 18, Arlene delivered books and presented Story Times to 50 at The Greatest Gifts Daycare, and to 90 at Lackland Village Headstart. On October 25, she presented Story Times to 47 at Temple of Praise Early Childhood Development Center. On October 31, Arlene viewed two archived webinars from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission: Hacking, making and creating at the library-technology innovation and customer created content (David Lee King) and Early STEM Learning in Library Programs for young children (Christine E. McNew). Arlene participated in the District 2 Staff input program requirements meeting on November 2. On November 13, Arlene presented a special Play and Learn Program for children and their caregivers--- Transportation Station. Mrs. Richardson-Gibbs installed two displays, one for children and one for adults, both highlighting Native American Heritage month.

On October 19, Stephen Jackson, Adult Services Librarian, volunteered for the graffiti wipeout at Normoyle Park. His contribution helped SAPL place second in terms of the number of departmental volunteers. On October 17 and 31 and November 7 and 14, he coordinated and supervised teen video games (Game-Ra). He screened *Pacific Rim* for the teens on October 24. The following Thursday, he moderated the Spanish-language book club (Club de Lectura). Participants discussed *El bosque de los pigmeos* (*The Forest of the Pigmies*) by Isabel Allende. On November 10, he staffed a booth at the

Sundance Owners Association fall festival. In addition to informing attendees about SAPL, he also gave a story time presentation and a puppet show.

## IGO

### Children's

In addition to regular early literacy programs, the Igo Branch children's librarian, Nancy Rodriguez, hosted the annual Halloween Party for community children and their caregivers. Visitors to the branch on Saturday, October 26, were trick-or-treated by princesses, witches, skeletons, ghouls, goblins, and super heroes at this two-hour program. Party attendees enjoyed not-too-scary Halloween favorites, games, crafts, and treats.

In keeping with San Antonio Public Library's commitment to early learning enrichment, preschoolers were invited to explore Math at Home activities at the November 6, session of Discovery Time. Following a group story time, young guests introduced to the concepts of graphing, measuring, and counting through activities like the Starburst Candy Graph, a Pom-Pom Toss Set Building game, and use nonstandard measurement tools to gain understanding of "how tall I am". The increasing attendance numbers for this offering continue to demonstrate our patrons' enthusiasm for enriching, educational children's programs for at their local branch libraries.

### Teens

Teen Services Librarian, Barbara Kwiatkowski, at Igo presented five programs this month. The highlight was a Rick Riordan book release celebration, presented by the teens themselves for the Igo community. This multigenerational program was attended by 75 Rick Riordan fans.

The Teen Halloween Eve Party brought 48 teens. They enjoyed healthy snacks which they prepared themselves. "Ghost hunting" stories were presented by special guests Sixth Sense Paranormal. The teens will plan a costume showcase for next year's Teen Halloween party.

On November 10, Barbara hosted the live stream interview with the author of *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak, and Brian Percival, the director of the film adaptation. Attendees enjoyed the experience and very lively discussion moderated by the Chairman of the Igo Teen Book Club.

### Adults

On October 15, the Igo Genealogy Club hosted local photo historian David Haynes and his workshop 19th Century Photographs: Identification and Conservation. A lively group of 18 attendees were on hand to solve the mystery of their own family photos.

The Igo Creative Writing Series presented the second workshop in the series on October 19, entitled *Genreflecting: What is Your Genre?* 13 attendees worked in groups to hash out their genres and work further toward their ultimate goal of writing a novel.

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, Igo Library hosted The Cherokee Township of San Antonio on November 2. The group provided an informative cultural program which included discussion of family history and how the Cherokee honor language and culture in contemporary urban society, as well as making tribal crafts of corn husk dolls and friendship bracelets. 28 attendees got experience with making corn husk dolls and friendship bracelets and learned the Cherokee greeting "Osiyo!"

The Igo Elderberries met on November 4, 2013. Deborah Wagner, UTSA Anthropology Professor, gave a slide show presentation on her research on "Roadside Memorials: An Emerging Death-Ritual Complex". A lively discussion followed with the 21 attendees.

## JOHNSTON

The Johnston Branch Library passed its first full month back in operation after having been shuttered for a lengthy renovation. Door count numbers indicate that more people are visiting the branch than before it closed. Patrons, both long-time who have returned as well as those new to the branch, have been very pleased with the library's new look.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo transferred from the Great Northwest Library to Johnston on November 4. Monica is a welcome addition to the Johnston staff, bringing energy and enthusiasm to her job. She attended numerous committee meetings during the reporting period.

Public Services Manager Raymond Villarreal closed out an astounding 43 years with the library system by serving a brief stint as interim manager at Johnston. Branch staff threw a party and luncheon for him on Friday, November 8, his last working day with the system. Raymond's expertise, professionalism, and kindness will be missed by those who knew and worked with him.

Now that the Johnston Library's interior has been made over, the branch's parking lot is next. Extensive renovation of the lot has begun; it will include both a resurfacing of the existing lot as well as adding new spaces along the south side of the building.

## LANDA

Over 700 children participated in Landa programs this month! In addition to the six regular programs per week, there were two special events, one group of nearly 90 preschool visitors and a monthly outreach. Landa hosted a successful Halloween party on October 30 through the combined efforts of the children's librarian, Clair Larkin, teen liaison, Beatrice Canales and her fantastic group of teen volunteers. Just over 100, mostly costumed, attendees participated in making crafts, playing carnival-type games and enjoying some sweet treats. One week later, on November 8, Clair hosted the Transportation Station Play & Learn outside the Log Cabin. There were cars, blocks and play dough to make license plates, graphs to chart our favorite big rig color and a car wash to crawl through, plus books, lots of books. Fifty-five caregivers and children were thrilled with the stations and with being outside. Higgs, Carter, King Charter School's nearly 90 preschoolers visited a short while later and listened to stories in the Log Cabin, toured the library and played on the playground. Clair is also busy continuing her professional development through a series of early literacy webinars, including using STEM in early literacy programs. Staff is now turning their attention to readying displays and gathering books for the rapidly approaching holiday season.

Landa Teens continue to chart new territories for each other and the community. The Landa Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) is moving forward with its Teen Advocacy efforts. On November 10 most of the teens entered a Vine video, Animoto video and pictures depicting a life "Without Libraries" for the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Teen Advocacy campaign. The International Teen blogger, Ale, created a blog post for this program at this link:

<http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/11/12/yalsa-details-and-teen-advocacy/>.

On October 23 the Cool Teens Club hosted a "Pretty in Pink" Breast Cancer Awareness event that included a survivor story from Lucie Arteaga. The idea for the program originated with Kaleigh, a Teen Council member. She created a blog post <http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/10/29/pretty-in-pink-breast-cancer-awareness-event-at-landa-library-cool-teens-club/> that included a reply from Lucie who said: "Having done several speaking engagements in October, this one by far was my favorite--a truly respectful and amazing group of people."

On October 20 The International Teen Club had a special Skype talk and interview with a teen council member, Rubi, in Japan. Teen blogger, Ale, had this blog post interview <http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/2013/10/27/interview-with-rubi-from-japan/> on the SAPL Facebook page.

The Teen Tutoring for Young Children project will debut science experiment demonstrations in the next few weeks. During this reporting period, the teens chose what experiments to do and the calendar of events. On October 19 Bea Canales, library assistant, participated in the worldwide, virtual conference, Library 2.013 Conference. She "attended" the "Ideas for Internationalizing Your Library" session. Bea was recently selected as one of SAPL's recognized employees for her outstanding service to the community.

The Adult Programs at Landa are thriving. The Seniors Mystery Book Club read Susan Wittig Albert's *Spanish Dagger*, a who-dun-it set in Central Texas, home of the author. The monthly Silver Screens Classic Movies featured *All Quiet on the Western Front*, based on the novel by Erich Maria Remarque. This Academy Award Winner (Best Picture, Best Director in 1930) tells the viewpoint of a German soldier during the waning months of World War I. It was selected to coincide with the Winds and Words of War currently on display at Central Library and in conjunction with Armistice Day, November 18, now observed as Veteran's Day.

Adult Librarian Karen Sebesta continues to provide programming at the DeMatel Nursing Home at the Village of the Incarnate Word. She has now opened a relationship with the Chandler Campus of the Morningside Ministries to have a monthly program at their residence facility. The first program was a book talk in early November.

### **LAS PALMAS**

Las Palmas staff members spent the month of October training to process Birth Certificate and Vital Records applications, in anticipation of inaugurating this important community service on November 4. As of November 15, staff have issued a total of 46 Birth Certificates and 21 Immunization Records. We are fortunate to have on staff Ms. Melissa Perez, former Las Palmas Link Center staff member, whose expertise has assisted staff at all Vital Records libraries.

Librarian III Rebecca Alvarez was on hand on November 16 as District 5 Councilwoman Ms. Shirley Gonzales held an Open House for her community, welcoming them to her district office in the Las Palmas Shopping Center. Becky is also presenting the Adult Book Club; the title for November is *The Hypnotist's Love Story*, by Liane Moriarty.

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi continues her outreach to Madonna, Mirasol, and Burleson day care centers to present story times and leave book collections. This month, in addition to her classroom visits, she met with parents at the Burleson center and with Winston Elementary School parents, speaking to the importance of early literacy. Her Family Fun Time and Tween Time programs continue to draw a small but loyal group.

The three most attended events presented for Teens by Teen Services Librarian I Sylvia Pachecano were the *Mutual UFO Network* program for Teen Read Week, and the two programs (to create decorations and then construct an altar) for *Día de Los Muertos*.

### **MAVERICK**

During this time period, Maverick was once again both an early voting and Election Day site. Early voting was from October 21 to November 1 and Election Day was on November 5. Thank you to all the staff who came in early and stayed late.

Training was a priority this month for many at Maverick. Branch Manager, Jef Martin attended Holdings Editor training. Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, took two webinars via the Texas State Library dealing with Early Literacy. A large number of Maverick staff attended training on Microsoft Office 2010 on October 8. Tricia Masterson, Andrea Silva, and Jennifer Jennings, colleagues from Central Library conducted the training. Also, Librarian II Ben Longoria attended training for volunteer coordinators on November 13.

Programming this month included programs for many ages. On October 17, Ms. Roberts conducted a tour and storytime for 8 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Cub Scouts and their parents. Frank Faulkner, from Texana at Central, conducted a genealogy program for 3 patrons on October 19. Teen liaison, Audrey McPherson, conducted a pumpkin painting program on October 22. Finally, another Gerald and Piggie puppet show took place on Saturday November 9. Twenty-one lively children and adults enjoyed a craft, story, and then the show itself. Thanks to Library Aides Raina Oster, Elizabeth Santos, and Sarah Borque for creating and doing the program.

## **MCCRELESS**

Five Story Times, two Play & Learn and two Family Fun events were held at McCreless during this time period.

Preschoolers learned about animal behaviors, tree cycles, and fall harvests during Story Time. They made autumn pictures and paper bag puppets with a variety of materials and enjoyed playing with blocks, letters and other educational toys.

Children and Caregivers also had the opportunity to attend two Play & Learn events. In conjunction with Little Red Wagon, McCreless library presented a Hats and Tools Play & Learn session. Kids and adults had a great time role-playing and finding out about different jobs. At the "Transportation Station," children built a transportation system, created a traffic light, and practiced counting, sorting and graphing, among other activities.

Due to the use of the meeting room for elections the Teens were bumped out into the public areas and had a great time with board games instead of electronic games this month. They were so enthusiastic about the experience they have asked for board games even when the meeting room is available. The attendance was consistently high through this reporting period.

## **MEMORIAL**

The families of the Memorial branch library were pleasantly entertained by Donnabelle the Clown who presented magic tricks and emphasized the importance of reading. Three HeadStart classes of Cardenas Early Childhood Education Center listened to a bilingual story about the Day of the Dead, and books in English by Eric Carle, author of The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

The children's Halloween celebration was enjoyed by many in costumes with not-too-scary tricks, treats and crafts. A big thank you to the Memorial Amigos, Friends of the Memorial Branch, for their contribution to purchase additional treats for our wonderful and grateful attendees. Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, was invited to attend the HeadStart Fair at Cardenas Early Childhood Center where over 200 families enjoyed games, refreshments, face-painting, and received information about library services, resources, and programs.

The Pre-K students of Madison Elementary School listened to fiction and non-fiction stories for their weekly unit about man-made giants such as the Statue of Liberty, skyscrapers, and other wonders of the world. Families and caretakers of children five years old and younger enjoyed a special Play and Learn program titled, Transportation Station, by listening to stories, playing games and interacting with hands-on activities about cars, buses, planes, trains, and boats. Story time attendees enjoyed listening to stories, singing songs, and making a craft about dance, mud, and pigs.

An exhibit featuring popular quilts by nationally recognized quilter, Alicia Avila, was on display in October and November. Along with other quilters, her works were part of a traveling exhibit in China and have also been featured on the cover of popular quilting magazines. The original designs have vibrant colors, highlight Hispanic themes, and are skillfully crafted. The highlight of the exhibit was a quilt dedicated to a young Marine veteran who tragically died shortly after returning home from his tour in Afghanistan. The exhibit will run through December.

On October 17, Memorial hosted the Sixth Sense Paranormal ghost investigators who presented real life stories about local ghost phenomenon in San Antonio. At the close of the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to share their own experiences with ghostly apparitions. The group is a regular visitor at the branch during the Halloween season.

A Day of the Dead embroidery class and beginner embroidery class was held on October 22. The designs for this event featured Day of Dead icons, such as dancing skeletons, candles and related Hispanic themes.

Also in celebration of The Day of the Dead, an altar was erected by Abril Lynn Garcia and her family. The traditional altar honored and celebrated family members who had passed. The community was encouraged to add their own pictures and remembrances of their loved ones.

The "Things to Know before You Go" program held on October 24 featured a non-profit organization, the Funeral Alliance of San Antonio, who presented practical information on the details of planning the last passage of life. While the topic may be taboo, it offered valuable information that patrons need when faced with a death in the family or of a loved one.

## **MISSION**

English as a Second Language classes, Citizenship classes, early voting, Open Mic Night, and a weekly Embroidery & Craft Group met at the library this month. On October 15 SAWS offered patrons tips for getting discounts on their water bills.

District 3 Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran hosted a meeting for young leaders at Mission. Approximately 25 area students were invited to meet and participate in a workshop to gain leadership skills. The councilwoman provided opening remarks before the half day seminar.

Mission celebrated Native American Heritage Month by inviting local Native-American community members to share their stories. The interviews provide a powerful look at the lives and personal histories of those who live in the area. The recorded pieces will be archived at the Mission Library and in the near future will be offered to the public. The library hopes to offer more opportunities for community members to share their stories.

Several outreach opportunities presented themselves this month. On October 23 Librarian Oscar Gonzalez provided outreach during Red Ribbon Week with the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department.

On Friday, November 1, TWU library student, Cindy Cruz, and Teen Librarian Sarah Weinblatt spoke to 75 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Mission Academy regarding library services. The students were also given the opportunity to sign up for library cards. Ms. Cruz and Ms. Weinblatt also provided outreach at Career Fair at the Frank Tejada Academy. There they spoke with approximately 100 students and faculty. Their efforts resulted in 50 new library card sign ups.

One of the highlights of the month for Mission Children's Services was the Halloween Party on October 31st. The weather was beautiful and Mission's lovely patio area was the perfect setting for games, crafts and snacks. Many enthusiastic families enjoyed the indoor and outdoor festivities. The children's programs are thriving, with families who are "regulars" and many new families this fall.

Installation of the Mission Library Donor Tree was completed on November 14. The tree features leaves, bells, movie reels and birds engraved with the names of Mission's generous sponsors.

## **PAN AMERICAN**

Things are going well at the branch. The number of visitors has increased even though children and teens are back to school.

## **PARMAN**

Much of October was spent in preparation of Parman's annual Spooky Walk and Halloween Party. This year more than 1,000 people took the Spooky Walk (an outdoor haunted house) which featured Dracula, a Jane Austen zombie tearoom, and Arkham's Asylum (including the Joker, Catwoman, Poison Ivy, Harley Quinn, the Scarecrow, and the Penguin). The Friends of Parman provided much of the decorations, and Mr. Parman donated some of the building material and generators for the evening. A DJ played music for the Halloween Party which included stories, crafts, snacks, and games. Several SAPL staff from other branches helped at the event including Rebekah Corley (Tobin), Robin Alcorta (Igo),

Barbara Kwiatkowski (Igo), and Luanne Bloom (Cody). The entire staff helped plan the event and worked tirelessly to make sure every detail was perfect.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance and Library Assistant Christina Hess represented Parman at the Paint the Parkway Pink race in Stone Oak. They hosted several story times and made numerous new cards. Assistant Manager Tim Johnson and Library Assistant Tyler Lutz represented SAPL at the ZombieCon Convention held in San Antonio.

Parman Library partnered with the McNay Museum for their family fun day on November 18<sup>th</sup>, a free event where families could enjoy the new exhibit of movie costumes, play dress up, make crafts, and play games. Shuttle service was provided to and from the museum by the McNay. To advertise the event, Branch Manager Haley Holmes created a book and dvd display on costumes including a life size replica of a pirate costume drawing attention to the Johnny Depp Pirates of the Caribbean costume currently at the museum.

The Friends of the Parman Library held their annual book sale in November. The Alamo Area Woodcarvers donated several pieces to aid in raising money for the branch. The Friends group has provided the branch with funds to hold all of the major events during the year as well as materials for weekly programs.

Assistant Manager Tim Johnson hosted a Risk Tournament in honor of International Games Day. Eleven participants battled for a trophy inscribed "Supreme Overlord of the Parman Library."

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance has been asked to join the Campus Improvement Committee at Stone Oak Elementary and attended her first meeting in October.

## **PRUITT**

October events at the Molly Pruitt Library were fun filled. The library was host to the Human Rights Campaign's First Annual Trunk or Treat on October 26. 150 attendees played games, ate heartily, and enjoyed socializing. Children's librarian Cynthia Saenz planned a Book or Treat event. Children listened to stories, made crafts and enjoyed a treat on Halloween.

Teen librarian Rae Downen enlisted the help of teens to plan craft activities such as glitter disco balls, Gatsby style headbands, and zombie felt creatures. Outreach was conducted at East Terrell Hills Elementary and Ed White Middle School.

Chess master Alex Weinberg continues to conduct lessons during the Thursday Family Chess Nights. Teens from the Team Chess have participated in Rackspace's first Chess Tournament held at Rackspace on October 26.

## **SAN PEDRO**

San Pedro Branch Library's Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presented monthly story times to children at the VIA Child Development Center, Educare Child Care Center, Monte Vista Montessori and a kindergarten class at Bonham Academy. Fifteen books are also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month.

During this period, Betsy facilitated monthly book discussions for fourth-graders at Montevista Montessori and for fourth- and fifth-graders at Hawthorne Academy. The book clubs have 12 members each. The book clubs meet during the students' lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed.

Monte Vista Montessori brings 25 students on a biweekly basis to the library. These students range in age from 8 to 13, grades 2 through 8. When the classes come to the library, the Children's Librarian spends approximately 30 minutes with the students, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials.

The Children's Librarian presents a weekly Kids Time for Kindergarten through third grade students.

On October 19, Betsy staffed a table at a Community Health Fair held at Wonderland of America. She spoke with more than 200 people and handed out various library materials.

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

## **SEMMEES**

The Semmes Branch Library hosted Early Voting from October 21 through November 1. Voter turnout was fairly light for this election, but Semmes was one of the top five voting sites.

Because Early Voting was taking place in the meeting room, all story times and other library programming took place out in the main part of the library. This was good advertising for story times, since some patrons did not realize the library offered these weekly programs. Other patrons enjoyed hearing the children singing and participating in the programs.

On November 6, the Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held their quarterly meeting. The Friends decided on the days they will set up and take down the December holiday decorations. They also approved buying staff appreciation gift cards for the holidays. The group also voted to buy a new microwave oven and microphone for the PA system at the branch.

Dr. Jennifer Mathews from Trinity University gave a presentation at the branch on Thursday, November 7. Her topic was "In the Wild, Wild West of Mexico: Chicle, Rum and Sugar." Eight people attended the presentation.

## **THOUSAND OAKS**

### **Book Groups**

On October 17, the Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group had an interesting discussion about their latest read, *Headhunters* by Norwegian crime author Jo Nesbo. Though reactions to the book were mixed, the group appreciated the detailed sense of place in the novel, and the intricate plotting.

On November 4, the Monday Evening Book Group discussed *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Overall the group members enjoyed this classic of English children's literature, as it presented a change of pace from past selections. The members especially enjoyed the way the struggle between common sense and the accepted wisdom of the times was handled, and were in agreement with the notion that this is a true classic of literature.

### **Teen Time**

A busy month for Teen Time, as new Teen Time leader Rhonda Woolhouse continues to wow the teens with exciting programs and fun activities. The always popular Eclectic Electric program was held on November 13, with Teen Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo teaching teens how to play the guitar. The showing of the feature film *The Hunger Games* was also a hit with the teens, as they all get geared up for *Catching Fire* when it opens on November 22.

### **Special Events**

#### **Halloween Party**

With over 150 participants in attendance, Thousand Oaks once again had an incredibly successful and immensely popular Halloween Party on October 31. The staff had loads to offer the kids: two face painting stations (a huge thanks to Circulation Attendant Brenda Ramos, whose daughter and a friend made this possible), three spooky crafts, a bean bag toss game, a haunted meeting room, and multiple trick or treat stations with yummy candy available for the kids. Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser completed a massive amount of work to make the party a reality, as did Librarian II Jorge Chavez, who created the haunted room. Overall, it was a good event for the branch and the Thousand Oaks community.

### Voting

Thousand Oaks was an official site for General Election on November 5. The branch was open from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm, with a steady number of individuals performing their civic duty and voting at the branch. Like all ancillary activities the branch hosts, staff members provided assistance and information for all who visited, and encouraged folks to stay and check out the services the library provides.

### Outreach/Programs

Branch Manager Troy Hoyles, along with staff members from the Tobin @ Oakwell branch, hosted a Thanksgiving-themed Trivia Time at the NE Senior Center on November 12. With over 30 people participants joining in, it was a good time for all, and everyone received a chocolate prize afterwards no matter how many questions their team got right or wrong.

The branch was host to a Medicare Annual Enrollment assistance program on November 9, which drew in a fair number of individuals seeking help with Medicare. Part of a larger system-wide effort, the branch was pleased to be able to offer this program to the members of the Thousand Oaks area.

### Training

On November 13, Troy Hoyles attended an Advanced Overdrive Training, which qualifies him to teach E-Reader U clinics. It was a nice refresher session, and allowed Troy to continue to learn about the latest aspects of Overdrive and eReaders.

### Displays

A *Doctor Who* display for an upcoming *Doctor Who* 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration later in November was created by Librarian I Rhonda Woolhouse at the beginning of the month. Featuring a miniature, but extremely accurate, TARDIS time machine, and everything *Doctor Who* the library has to offer, library users are getting ready for the celebration. The branch also continues to feature Express titles front and center, as the extended check-out period for books continues to introduce the special popular collection to patrons looking for titles that normally feature long hold lists.

### TOBIN

Tobin Library hosted Early Voting October 21 through November 1, in addition to Election Day on November 5. On October 26, The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez presented a Revolutionary War Reenactment, in full costume with music. The local group talked about their impressive display of Colonial coins, toys and artifacts as well.

Librarian Keri Mozygemba has led the Lifelong Learning Committee's coordination of John F. Kennedy Memorial events system wide for SAPL. Keri compiled a discussion group of returning Peace Corp members to talk at Tobin about their experience with the humanitarian group that JFK established.

Ariel Cummins, Children's Librarian continues with original toddler and family programming with themes of space, monsters and spooky science this period. The Come and Go crafts on Saturdays are gaining popularity with kids and families as well. Teen Librarian, Betsey Leitko was able to accommodate the teens' request for a Halloween fall dance by holding it early on October 17 before voting. Over 50 kids enjoyed lively music with a local teen DJ. In addition, nearly a dozen teen volunteers showed up after school on November 17 to help the Tobin Friends set up for the upcoming book sale. The Tobin Friends' President remarked this was one of the best and easiest set ups.

Keri has diligently trained the library aides and utilized the re-vamped Digital Library Assistant to scan half the adult non-fiction collection for accuracy and problem items. Recent displays include Vegetarian Month, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Get in the Spooky Spirit by Keri. B. Leitko featured "Tales of Fright" in the Young Adult area and Library Assistant, Elvia Ramos, highlighted Spanish materials for American Diabetes Month. The latest book club selections are *Every Last One* by Anna Quindlen and Greg Andrew Hurwitz's *You're Next* as these groups continue with steady interest.

Ariel initiated monthly outreach at YMCA's Preschool Children's Greenhouse where she presents a story time to three classes. Ariel continues regular monthly outreach at three other schools and day cares as

well. Keri and Library Assistant, Terry Verner, held a successful outreach at the Northeast Senior Center by playing Trivia Time with various categories to 42 seniors. On October 17, Keri and Library Assistant, E. Ramos, helped market library services to 85 seniors at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church's senior fair and luncheon. Library Aide, Rebekah Corley, dressed up and helped with Parman Library's Spooky Walk for Halloween.

## WESTFALL

Westfall Branch Library participated in National Food Day by putting up a decorative poster designed by Library Aide Ashley Cortinez and by handing out bookmarks. Food Day is a nationwide celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food. Bookmarks of public domain recipes were given out.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino hosted five Story Times and five Kids Times that explored the world of night animals and celebrated Halloween. Mrs. Merino also enjoyed sharing stories with the always lively and appreciative Career Point Institute Daycare children on two Fridays. The total number in attendance for this group was 30. The children's librarian also visited Woodlawn Elementary November 4 to share stories about Landforms and Make-Believe with one of the PreK classes. The Discovery School first-graders also visited Westfall to hear stories about birds and to check out books.

On October 23, teens, led by Librarian I Karen Sagun had fun making delicious Dirt Cake from instant pudding, Oreo cookie crumbs, and gummy worms. On October 30, they watched a screening of the supernatural comedy *Ghostbusters*, and also tried making some "Horrorgami" -- Halloween-themed origami, including bats and ghosts. Teens had so much fun with the origami they decided to keep practicing their paper-folding skills. On November 6, they practiced making a Sonobe cube, a six-part modular origami creation. They also tried out some more complex origami animals, including ducks, cranes, and other birds. On November 13, it was time for more cooking. Teens made their own individual crisp rice cereal treats in the microwave and were able to customize them by experimenting with different cereals and mix-ins.