



November 16, 2013 – January 13, 2014

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On November 17, Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Board Meeting. The meeting took place at the Cody Branch Library and Dale delivered a report on the Library.

On November 18, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Public Works/Transportation and Capital Improvements Director Mike Frisbie met with Councilman Krier (District 9) to discuss the new bond funded branch library that is in development for the District.

On November 25, Ramiro Salazar was interviewed for a Texas Public Radio segment regarding the Library's planned programs in partnership with the week-long Mariachi Vargas Celebration. The San Antonio Public Library partnered with Mariachi Vargas for performances, workshops and other events in branch libraries. The following week, Ramiro Salazar participated in the kick-off press event for Mariachi Vargas at the Igo Branch Library. A brief concert followed the media event.

On December 7, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees' annual Library Champions Award Ceremony. The event, held at Central Library, honored individuals and groups dedicated to the San Antonio Public Library.

The San Antonio Public Library received international visitor Raymond Ho from the Hong Kong Public Libraries on December 8. Branch Services Coordinator Kate Gray toured Mr. Ho to two branch libraries within the San Antonio Public Library. On December 9, Library Director Ramiro Salazar joined in on a breakfast meeting with Mr. Ho and members of the San Antonio Public Library's Management Team. San Antonio was one stop on Mr. Ho's trip to the United States to learn about public libraries in America.

On December 10, the San Antonio Public Library honored thirteen (13) Library employees who celebrated their 20th, 25th, 30th and 35th years of service with the Library. Ramiro Salazar presented these employees with a token of appreciation from the San Antonio Public Library.

On December 11, in anticipation of a December 19 City Council action item, Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with Councilwoman Ivy Taylor (District 2) regarding a new Library initiative focused on the Eastside Promise Neighborhood, located in City Council District 2. That evening, Salazar attended the meet the author event featuring local Ito Romo. The event was held at the Central Library.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Children's Coordinator Viki Ash participated in several Eastside Promise Neighborhood (EPN) meeting during November & December. EPN was seeking community and stakeholder input to help establish measurable outcomes related to early literacy and student achievement. Of particular interest to the library were goals related to parents reading aloud to their children, students having and using library cards, and parents encouraging students to read not only for school assignments but for their own pleasure and enjoyment.

Viki has also been working with the San Antonio Children's Museum (SACM), as a collaborator on their Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) grant. The grant provides funding to create and test two prototypes. The first a computer installation called "Hero's Journey" that allows a child to create an electronic story in which they can include their own photo as the story's main character. If all goes well, SACM would like to test this installation in libraries as well as at the museum. The second prototype involves children recording reviews/recommendations of a fifty book collection. These recordings will be available for other children to listen to using RFID technology. Again, the intent is that both the library and the museum will test this prototype with the possibility of replicating at the library.

The San Antonio Symphony League contacted the library in December, asking Children's Services to create bibliographies to enhance the educational value of their Young People's Concerts series. The first

of these bibliographies is now available on the SAPL website: <http://guides.mysapl.org/sasympphony>. The guide is also linked via the San Antonio Symphony's website in the Teacher Resources section. <http://www.sasympphony.org/2013/11/rusalka-2013-2014-ypc-2-teacher-resources/> Beverly Wrigglesworth, children's librarian at Johnston assembled this first bibliography to accompany Dvořák's *Rusalka*. There are two more Young People's Concerts this school year. Randi Jones (Semmes) is currently developing the next bibliography to accompany the Symphony's February presentation of *The Water Cycle and Paint to Music*.

Viki joined the full time staff of Little Read Wagon in attending Zero to Three's National Training Institute which was held here in San Antonio in December. Zero to Three is a national nonprofit dedicated to providing parents, professionals and policymakers the knowledge and know-how to nurture early development. The Training Institute featured an interesting mix of brain development research, advocacy for paid maternity leave and practical ideas for supporting early childhood development.

Work on the 2014 Summer Reading Club is well underway. This year's theme, Fizz, Boom, Read, provides lots of opportunities to connect the library with science. Arrangements have already been made to host "Mad Science" presentations at all the branches with Dinosaur George and Lucas Miller, the Singing Biologist, each doing fifteen library shows as well. With generous support from both the Friends and the Foundation, all the children's librarians are looking forward to a summer of scientific fun featuring lots of hands-on activities.

LITTLE READ WAGON

On November 15, Little Read Wagon staff held an all-day early literacy mini-conference for parents at the Fenley Head Start Center. The day included workshops on four early literacy topics, each offered in English and Spanish, for a total of eight sessions. This mini-conference format was developed for use at several large Head Start and preschool centers throughout San Antonio. Given the positive response at the Fenley Center, the mini-conference was also offered at the Burleson Head Start Center on December 6 and will be offered at several more large facilities throughout the rest of the year.

Play & Learn programs were offered at two new sites in December: The Park at Sutton Oaks and Park South Village. Both sites are apartment complexes with low-income residents and readily available programming space. As a result of these initial programs, a five-program Play & Learn series was scheduled at The Park at Sutton Oaks, to be offered on Wednesday mornings, January 8 - February 5.

The Zero to Three National Training Institute was held in San Antonio on December 12 - 14. Corinne Sanchez, Julia Lazarin and Cresencia Huff were able to attend the conference and found that the sessions were very intense and packed with content related to many aspects of the development of young children and their families or caregivers. Topics included interventions for children with autism, serving military families, language development, the impact of genetics and the environment, and more!

All of the above was in addition to the usual workshops for teen parents, one-time visits to schools with pre-school programs, and many story time programs at area child care centers. These programs continue to impact participants as they learn how they are the first teachers their children have and that they can do very simple things to help them learn throughout the day. At the conclusion of an Every Child Ready to Read workshop at Monroe May Elementary, one parent commented, "I didn't think I should teach my children, because I don't really know [English] that well. But now I know I should try."

TEEN SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Off-Site Service

Teen Services Librarian I Caroline Mossing represented SAPL Teen Services at Wheatley Middle School's Literacy Night event. Reaching more than 40 middle school students and their families, Caroline assisted participants with library card sign-up, answered questions about library services, and promoted

the library's most useful resources for students with a special emphasis on the Tutor.com online tutoring service.

On November 18, Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce spoke to new students and issued library cards during orientation at her monthly visit to the Academy of Creative Education. On November 19 and 21, Kathleen assisted Semmes Teen Liaison Beth Schorlemer with visits to Madison High School. Kathleen, Beth, Teen Liaison Rhonda Woolhouse (Thousand Oaks), Teen Services Librarian I Marisa DeBow (Parman), and Teen Services Librarian, Caroline Mossing (Central), spoke to 700 students, giving 25 presentations over three days.

Partnerships

Southwest School of Art

Teen Services and the Southwest School of Art (SSA) developed a partnership that will include teens from the SSA exhibiting their artwork in Teen Services, as well as teens from the Central Library having the opportunity to attend classes at the SSA on scholarship. In November, Teen Services Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo took a group of Central Library teens on a field trip to the SSA to introduce them to the school. The teens began attending weekly Saturday classes on January 4, where they will learn pottery techniques, such as wheel throwing, and pinhole photography techniques. On January 13, artwork was installed in Teen Services from the "Bee Nation" teens, a group of teens from the SSA "focused on developing painting, drawing and multi-media skills" that "meets after school to work, converse, and experiment with art-making techniques and concepts."

San Antonio Food Bank

Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce began attending bi-monthly nutrition lessons at the S.A. Food Bank, as part of a Kids Café requirement. The Kids Café after-school snack program continues in Teen Services Monday through Friday at 4:15. Tobin at Oakwell Library began their Kids Café program during the reporting period. Teen Services Librarian I Elizabeth Leitko serves after school snacks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30.

Inspire U

Staff involved in the Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program (part of SA2020), met with their "littles" from Edison High School on November 18 and December 16 at the Central Library. The December meeting was a special one, as "bigs" presented their "littles" with stockings filled with all kinds of goodies. The teens then had fun decorating holiday cards to be sent to the Ronald McDonald House.

Best Buy

Best Buy is supporting Teen Tech Week this year through a partnership with YALSA. Best Buy will provide a technology workshop for teens at the Central Library during Teen Tech Week in March. According to Deb Morris, Community Relations for Best Buy, the goal is "to inspire teens through technology and encourage them to consider career and educational opportunities in the technology field." Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez, Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce, and Teen Services Librarian I Caroline Mossing participated in a conference call with Ms. Morris to discuss the planning and details of the workshop.

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 Westfall.

Teen Liaison Meeting

The teen liaisons and librarians met at the Central Library on December 11. Among other things coming up, programming for Teen Tech Week (March 9-15) was discussed.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Caitlin Cowart and the marketing department remained busy during the months of November and December. The team has met twice with its communications partner to review recent focus group and survey results about SAPL services. These will be important to inform any possible changes to the SAPL brand and image.

The team has been involved with several of the department relocation projects that have and will take place at the Central Library by providing as much public awareness assistance as required.

Additionally, Daniel Casillas managed the SAPL booth at the HEB Feast of Sharing event on December 21 with SAPL staff and teen volunteers.

Joseph Marks supported the Meet the Author: Ito Romo event held in December at the Central Library. The event received print media coverage prior to the event date.

He is also busy coordinating 2014 Holocaust Remembrance programs and events with a committee that includes Joel Bangilan, Branch Services Coordinator and members of the SAPLF and Holocaust Museum staffs.

Marcie Hernandez has taken on the role of managing the Library's public relations and writing of press releases as well as media monitoring. She secured media interviews for SAPL leadership and program coordinators.

SAPL appeared in media coverage a total of 246 times. There are currently 6,308 Facebook followers and 1,636 Twitter followers.

Graphic Team

Ana and Giselle worked on several projects that received system-wide attention including the December and January Bookmarks print calendar, Created Equal and African American Heritage Month programs, promotions, and web banners. The team has also worked on promotions for branch events system-wide and on new and updated marketing materials.

KUDOS

Memorial Branch Library:

Visiting first time in this branch, and I was greeted respectfully. Staff is tremendous. Love the great vibe this place has to offer. Clean environment and I can't express how the woman helped me with no hesitation. Thank you for my welcoming and appreciate all that you do to keep this atmosphere vibrant for all ages to enjoy! First impression is everything and might I add that I was impressed. Thanks again to all staff. Happy Holidays! - Mrs. Sabrina Bell, San Diego, CA



CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Children's Department is all decked out for winter with a cozy hearth greeting visitors as they come up the escalator at the Central Library. Authors' portraits are hung on the mantel and the living room scene leads you to the snowy outdoors with penguins and snowflakes aplenty! Many new "Boredom Busters" have been made available for winter visitors to the floor and children are invited to join in scavenger hunts and literature trivia games all hours Central Library is open.

Manager Ruth Chiego and Librarian Kate Sandoval were asked for assistance from the Reference staff at Central in creating something for adults with children to use when visiting Central's *Connect* area. Children under the age of five who visit the space are often seeking something to do, so Ms. Chiego and Ms. Sandoval created a series of organized boxes with read aloud hints as well as a selection of entertaining books to look at while in *Connect*. This is a pilot project and Reference staff will be in touch with the Children's Department if more books are needed or adjustments to the project are needed. It is anticipated to be a help in keeping children engaged while they are in this area with their parents.

The Department has been hard at work on planning the winter and spring program schedules. Many changes will involve providing a variety of programs on the weekends since the Central Library's Children's Department sees most of its visitors Friday – Sunday.

Outreach visits involved most of the Department staff and included visits to Green Acres Childcare Center, Central Christian, St. Phillip's Early Childhood Study students, the Children's Shelter and KIPP Un Mundo.

In-house programs at Central in December were full of wintry fun, including Play & Learn and Family Fun events which involved engaging children and their parents in the joy of the season. Some of the most popular aspects of these programs included a pretend "Hot Drink Shop" which featured hot cocoa, hot apple cider, tea and coffee. Children relished taking drink orders from their friends and parents and adding things like marshmallows (cotton balls), peppermint and cinnamon sticks. Stations like this could also be seen at the Department's big *Jingle Bell Jubilee* celebration where children were able to make their own winter hats, toss snowballs, and hide out and read in an igloo with some exotic Artic animal (puppets).

DIGITAL SERVICES

Digital Services welcomed new members, Sierra Mendez and Veronica Rodriguez, to the department. They will be working at the Library Portal in the Briscoe Museum.

In November, Digital Services staff added 3 new resources to the library's database collection: IndieFlix, a streaming movie service featuring award-winning independent films, and two offerings from Adam Matthew Digital, The American West and American Indian Histories and Cultures.

In December, Adam Spana configured 27 iPads for system-wide distribution to support branch services. The iPads were purchased by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. Also in January, Adam configured 4 iPads for a refresh of the Tech Test Drive area at the Central Library.

Sarah Carolan conducted two one-on-one LibGuide training sessions (one in November and one in December), plus a special session in January for the Children's Librarians.

REFERENCE

Recent weeks have seen Reference efforts to prepare for Café Commerce – Phase II intensify. Although professionals are handling the actual moving of entire Collections (with the exception of the Latino Collection) Reference staff had to build shelving, as well as adjust thousands of individual shelves to accommodate the sizable Fiction Collection on the fifth floor. Volunteered assistance by Margo Guzman and the Collection Development Team and from Facilities staff was greatly appreciated. Concurrently, every Reference Team member participated in the truly massive task of removing the remaining Government Documents Collection for eventual storage. Whether it was building boxes or packing and stacking them, everyone worked very hard to ensure deadlines were met. Tricia Masterson and Jennifer Jennings deserve special acknowledgement for their organizational and logistical input and insight and for finding solutions in suddenly changing situations.

TEEN SERVICES

Weekly Programs

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): J.D. continued his weekly Eclectic Electric music program, in which teens learn to play guitar and/or keyboards. Teens can also teach their peers to play.

Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science and Tech Tuesdays, during which teens created memes using HTML, assembled electrical circuits using conductive dough and LEDs, made crystal ornaments using a supersaturated solution, built LEGO robots, participated in the Hour of Code, and learned and implemented a new photography technique, creating sensational photographs with light painting. Upcoming programs include an exploration of architecture and structural engineering.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): During the reporting period, teens enjoyed playing video and board games, getting creative with crafts and learning about nutrition. On December 4, Teen Services Library Assistant (PT) Victoria Tijerina hosted a craft activity in which teens blew through straws to move paint around in different ways, creating their own paintings. On December 11, Regina Almanza hosted a marshmallow making program. Teens were awed at the process of making marshmallows from scratch. On December 18, Matthew Molpus, a nutritionist at the S.A. Food Bank, hosted the monthly nutrition demo. Teens made "Santa Hats" using strawberries and whipped cream.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): At Teen Services, teens engaged in creative activities, mostly involving food, inspired by the spirit of the holiday season and approaching New Year. They made fried rice using rice, eggs and vegetables. Using graham crackers, frosting and candies, they made "gingerbread" houses, cathedrals and artillery. Using sushi rice, pretzels and nori, they created edible snowmen. Teens also felt supported and encouraged to suggest Thursday night programs. One teen wanted to make everyone's favorite Christmas dish--tamales. Another suggested funnel cakes. After hearing it described, one teen asked if it would be possible to make *chokladboll* (a popular no-bake Swedish cookie) at the library. 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. It's a blast. 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>.

Special Event: In December, Teen Library Leadership Council volunteer Katelyn planned and executed a celebration of all things Whovian in the Central Library's gallery space on December 14. Teen Services Librarian I Caroline Mossing facilitated the event, making sure Katelyn had everything she needed to make the event a success. 27 attendees watched clips from the show, made Doctor Who buttons, built Adipose Babies and snacked on Who-themed delicacies.

Tours and Groups

Teen Services staff at Central provided tours and catalog/database instruction for two school groups during the reporting period. The following schools received tours: the Henry Ford Academy visited on November 18 and 20, and San Antonio Technology Academy Charter School visited on December 17.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY

This reporting period begins with programming and outreach. The last part of November saw two programs. On November 19, Frank Faulkner presented an "Introduction to Military Records" to the genealogy group at Igo to twelve interested participants. The next day Matt DeWaelche visited a Lion's Club to discuss "Preserving Your Family Treasures" to twenty-one.

There were no programs in December, but January has begun well. Andy Crews discussed "Genealogy Software" with nine in the Connect space. On January 11 there were three programs. The Friends of Texana/Genealogy met in the department that morning, and Patsy Light told everyone about Francisca Alvarez, the Angel of Goliad, during the Texas Revolution. At the same time, Debbie Countess was in the auditorium presenting part one of "Genealogy 101: An Introduction to Genealogy" to twenty-four people. Saturday afternoon, Paul Kahl discussed what he has learned about Hannibal Pianta with sixteen individuals. Pianta created cast concrete building ornamentation from the late 1800s until his death in 1938. Local examples of his work include the Majestic and Aztec theatres, Jefferson High School, Brady's Building, and the chapel at Our Lady of the Lake University.

The Gloria Cadena Hispanic Genealogy Research Collection has finally been completely processed and a finding aid available in Texana/Genealogy and on the Hispanic Genealogy Guide on the Library's website. Gloria Lillia Villa Cadena passionately conducted primary Hispanic research from original records to fulfill the much needed job of recording Hispanic family genealogy, sharing it with fellow researchers. After she passed in 2007, her family donated her research materials (books and research files) to Texana/Genealogy so it might be made available to others as Gloria had wished. The books in the collection were added shortly after being received. Staff member, Sylvia Reyna, reviewed every piece of paper in the collection and created files resulting in 49.5 cubic feet and 1,512 file folders, two file cabinets for Bexar County and two for Mexico. The collection spans from the late 1500's to the early 1900's. The much needed information reflects culture and population in Bexar County, surrounding communities, and several Mexican states. The majority of the collection covers Bexar County and Coahuila, Mexico.



BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN

A voter registration drive was held at Bazan on November 21; fifteen voters signed up. The University of Texas Health Science Center brought its mobile lab to Bazan on December 2 to provide free HIV/AIDS and STD tests. COSA's Lunch and Learn series, which meets twice a week at Bazan, concluded its semester on December 12. Academia America, which meets once a week, also wrapped up its semester on December 16. On December 13, a social media class for seniors drew 7 people and a camera crew from KSAT. On December 18, a Christmas open house, featuring the music of Hymel & Sellers, drew a crowd of 63. A children's Christmas program drew 10.

A new adult program in which a volunteer provides one-on-one computer assistance in Spanish and English was piloted on January 6 and offered again January 11. The students were pleased to have the opportunity to get their computer questions answered. A new program for teens is being developed: Teen Time, organized by Library Assistant Jennifer Martinez, the program offers teens a chance to enjoy books, games, movies, crafts, and snacks every Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Librarian II Patti Soderberg attended a discussion about open-source software, held by the organization 10BitWorks. Bazan is joining the other District 5 libraries in organizing a library fiesta for March 29. Through their work with the Lifelong Learning Committee, Patti Soderberg and Ramona Lucius are developing plans for a revamped Adult Summer Reading Program and a National Poetry Month slate of activities, to include "Poem in Your Pocket Day" and "Poetweet." The former will invite library staff and patrons to carry a poem in their pocket to share with others; the latter will invite the public to tweet an original poem to SAPL for re-tweeting.

BROOK HOLLOW

Brook Hollow Library spent the month of December hosting an Elf on the Library Shelf contest. From December 1-December 22, children were encouraged to find the Elf on the Library Shelf and let us know what he was reading, which entered them in a drawing for their very own plush elf.

Throughout the month of December, children and their families could visit the children's area and play with a giant-sized Mr. Potato head flannel board located on the end of one of the library shelves. Over 100 children enjoyed the activity.

Librarian Tapley Trudell attended the holiday luncheon of the San Pedro Hills Women's Club on December 4. The club meets regularly at Brook Hollow and has a history of generously supporting the branch.

A program on careers in law was presented on December 7 by Senior District Judge Pat Priest. Attendees were able to ask questions about becoming a lawyer and everything that a law career might entail.

In celebration of Art and Architecture month, Brook Hollow hosted a program in partnership with the Office of Historical Preservation on December 14. Representatives from that office gave a presentation on historical architecture in San Antonio.

Brook Hollow children celebrated the Winter Holidays on December 17 at a Jingle Bell Jubilee Play and Learn event. Participants enjoyed many activities including “ice fishing”, a “snowball toss” and a jingle bell “Jingle Along.” Participants also decorated their own holiday cookies. Cookies were purchased with funds provided by the Library Foundation.

On January 11, Brook Hollow hosted the River City Ringers of San Antonio Handbell Choir. The choir gave a presentation about hand bell music as well as performing for the audience. This event had a great turnout with attendees of all ages, including a visit from a San Antonio Express News photographer who took photos for a news article about the event.

Brook Hollow continues to offer a wide variety of book discussion groups. Recent titles discussed include *More Than Meets the Eye* by J.M. Gregson, *The Dream of the Celt* by Mario Vargas Llosa, *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver, and *A Jane Austen Education* by William Deresiewicz. Brook Hollow has recently begun hosting a group from the Independence Hill Retirement Community as part of the monthly Wednesday Evening Book Group.

Brook Hollow now has a Teen Advisory Council comprised of 9 teens and they have named themselves The Brook Hollow Teen Titans. They have chosen several items to decorate the teen area to denote it is a teen space, and have named the area The Teen Tower.

CARVER

Reading Night with Dorie Miller Elementary School was held on Nov 21. A dozen youngsters and their parents took a tour of the branch and learned about children’s services available through San Antonio Public Library.

On Dec. 3, thirty people enjoyed a rousing performance here by Mariachi Vargas.

Carver Branch bid a fond farewell to children’s librarian Amy Thorne. She resigned on January 7 to join her husband, David Menendez, in Argentina.

The Friends of Carver Library treated the branch staff to a Christmas meal on December 14. Branch Manager Ronnie Delgado hosted a special dinner for staff the following day.

The branch held its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. Guest speaker was Dr. Langston Williams Jr., assistant principal at S.J. Davis Middle School. Dr. Williams’s theme centered on King’s legacy of peace and courage.

CODY

Teens at Cody experienced a landslide of activities during November 2013 and into the New Year. At the end of November teens combined two great holidays into one and named it “Hallowsgiving”. Everyone brought food, went around the table and said what they were afraid of, and hung out during the first ever scary Thanksgiving. This event was created by the Cody Teen Leaders, who continue to make and plan numerous events at the library. The next thing the teen leaders put together was a night of watercolor painting and holiday gift making. This happened just before the winter break holidays and was the perfect opportunity for teens to hang out while making painterly gifts for their friends and family. Teen Leaders also held a Hobbit party over break, eating lots of bread while watching the fantasy epic. Next up Teen Leaders are planning a Sherlock event, featuring the BBC Sherlock phenomenon as well as a game in the middle of the episode, seeing if they can predict what will happen.

Another community of teens active at the library are the after school people. The new teen time on Tuesdays after school has been very successful with lots of gaming, dancing, and art making. A new issue of the teen zine came out in November called the "Zedgey Zine Fall 2013". It featured artwork made by teens, music playlists, interviews, and more. Another Tuesday program was the *Cody Drawing Club*, quick art installation of drawings made on the spot. The works were ephemeral because they were hung up quickly and taken down a week or so later.

Teen volunteers continue to assist with library duties and create teen-related things at Cody. One teen volunteer crafted a fabulous John Green inspired display about reading. The prominent thought bubbles from Looking from Alaska "Ok? Ok!" were included. Other teen volunteers have been collecting music tracks and building a massive playlist in preparation for a radio show experiment using the Cody iPad. Aspiring radio show hosts and music lovers will get the chance to articulate their passions in a new format. This project will be as much about the process as about the final product.

On November 23, Cody welcomed members of the San Antonio Cherokee Township who taught a class on creating traditional Cherokee crafts. Attendees learned about the history of the Cherokee Nation and how to make traditional crafts including corn husk dolls and beaded bracelets.

On December 5, Cody held its first ever *Bad Movie Night*. The featured movie *Masters of the Universe* selected by the Cody Teen Leaders, proved to be an excellent example of over-the-top 1980's film-making.

When Lego Club members met on November 19, Sheila Acosta, Children's Librarian, challenged the teams to create a scene from their favorite book. Five teams competed and their Lego creations were displayed in the library for two weeks. Lego teams also included a brief explanation of their book selection.

Beginning Readers Club members who met on November 20 volunteered to give brief book talks on the books they just finished reading. Sheila shared some of the new titles and series coming in for beginning readers, and the children had time to browse and select some of these books as well as to create Thanksgiving bookmarks to take with them.

Fans of the juvenile fiction series by author Jeff Kinney attended Cody's first ever *Diary of a Wimpy Kid Party* on November 21. Over 20 people were in attendance and enjoyed participating in the "cheese touch" game, Wimpy Kid trivia contest, and the "wimp yourself out" drawing contest. Some children came dressed as characters of the series. Sheila said that all of the school-aged children were "extremely enthusiastic" about all of the activities.

Sheila hosted a Native American arts and crafts event on November 26, and reported that many children who attended enjoyed creating corn magnets, and feathered headdresses and headbands.

Cody families, both children and adults, enjoyed the outstanding performances of the Jumping Dragons, a jump roping team that performs for the San Antonio Spurs and the San Antonio Rampage. Sheila reported that children in the audience had an opportunity to try their jumping skills, and the crowd was so excited that even the adults were asking to try. This first-time program held on December 3 proved to be a favorite with the Cody patrons.

The Scholastic Literacy Van came to visit on December 7. Several families braved the cold temperatures to visit, and the children enjoyed the interactive literacy activities onboard.

Winter arts and crafts, which included snowmen ornaments and three-dimensional holiday cards to countdown calendars, took place on December 12. Children of all ages enjoyed the various crafts.

The annual children's winter celebration, the *Jingle Bell Jubilee* was a huge success on December 17. Over 120 people were in attendance for stories, sing-along, arts and crafts, and, of course, Santa's visit

from the North Pole. Sheila said that there was even a surprise visit from Libro the Lion. Children were excited about the two special guests and posed for pictures with them during the event.

Hobby Middle School art students under the direction of art instructor Jeremy Nemecek will be exhibiting their art work in the juvenile section of the library for the month of January.

The Beginner Readers Club met for their first meeting of the New Year on January 8. Eleven young readers brought books to share and review. Sheila distributed iPads for the readers to use to create scenes from their books, and displayed new beginner reader series for them to check out.

COLLINS GARDEN

The winter season is full of holidays and Collins Garden celebrated all of them with programs, theme story times and displays. Story time participants made turkeys, snowmen, and penguins and explored displays celebrating various winter holidays. As expected, the library had a full house during the school vacation and the children took full advantage of the Early Learning computers and a small selection of coloring pages to pass the time.

Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales started a new tradition in District 5 by putting up a Christmas tree in the park in front of Collins Garden Branch Library, which was lit on December 12. The event was attended by library staff, community members, Councilwoman Gonzales and her staff, as well as Santa Claus who handed out goodies to children.

Branch Manager Pamela J. Longoria attended the December meeting of the Collins Garden Neighborhood Association to thank them for their past support and to refresh their knowledge of the many resources available to them through the San Antonio Public Library's catalog and databases.

CORTEZ

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed colorful and informative displays about events and programs in celebration of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year. The displays included beautiful artwork by Library Aide Madeline Vasquez and by Connie Hejl. Madeline also designed a Gingerbread House display celebrating winter.

Our book and media displays featured Native American Heritage Month, Christmas Holidays, and Martin Luther King Day. On January 8 we began circulating our Express Collection. Library Aide Madeline Vasquez shifted our Adult Large Print, Adult Audio Books, Adult Biographies and 900s to accommodate the new collection.

Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes designed huge eye-catching holiday displays in our foyer and in our library windows celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year. Patrons and staff are anticipating the coming year displays.

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

Through the generous financial support of the Library Foundation we were able to present a holiday program for our patrons. On Saturday December 21 the talented duet Optic Arrest performed holiday music and popular songs. In addition, the Foundation donated an iPad for staff use.

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. However, students and teachers took a few weeks off during the month of December. The classes remain popular. Attendance for our Saturday ESL classes continues to steadily increase. Classes resumed in January.

Cortez continued its regular slate of programming for children including offering two new popular monthly programs for children and teens. Our Children's librarian Connie Hejl hosted the LEGO club and the Anime club.

FOREST HILLS

The holiday season was celebrated at Forest Hills with a number of musical performances. Mariachi Vargas started off the month of music with a performance on December 1. The San Antonio Recorder Society entertained patrons on December 9 with holiday tunes played solely on recorders. The Holmes High School choir performed holiday favorites on December 11, and The Antioch Missionary Baptist Church delivered a moving performance on December 14. Each performance was complimented with cupcakes baked by the Holmes High School culinary department and other refreshments purchased by the Friends of Forest Hills.

The Forest Hills Jingle Bell Jubilee for children was hosted on December 11. Funds from the San Antonio Public Library Foundation as well as the Forest Hills Friends Group were used to celebrate the season with children and their parents. Frosty the Snowman made a personal visit to the branch to take photos with children. Refreshments of cupcakes created by the Holmes High School Culinary Department were served. The children had a fun time creating snowflakes and listening to holiday music.

Valerie Shelley, Children's Librarian is participating on the School Age Committee for SAPL. The committee will strive to provide SAPL Children Librarian's with school age enjoyable library activities that foster reading, learning, and creativity, while encouraging and supporting rewarding relationships between the public library and the schools of San Antonio. These activities will include outreach to schools, in-house activities for school-age children, reading for fun, interaction with school librarians and SAPL. Additional summer programs for school age kids may be developed between schools and libraries.

Story times during the holiday season were focused on the theme of Lights of the Season, including Christmas lights, Menorah lights, and other lights typically seen during the month of December. A special Play and Learn session was hosted by Valerie Shelley on December 21. This Play and Learn allowed preschoolers and their parents to interact with winter themed activities.

Valerie continued outreach to schools and day care centers in the Forest Hills area. She visited Woodlawn Hills Elementary School first and fourth graders to encourage participation in the Young Pegasus Poetry Contest. She also reviewed Live Homework Help with these students and left information with them so they would be able to use the SAPL service. Valerie also met with parents and students at Neff Middle School to sign up students for library cards and introduced the Tween Time and Teen Time programs to them.

Adult patrons continue to enjoy the monthly activities such as Qigong, Ladies Chic-Chat Club, Project Linus, and the Contrarian Book Club. In her role as chairperson of the Live Well, Age Smart programming committee, Branch Manager Mary Naylor has placed programs designed specifically with seniors in mind as a concentration for adult programming at Forest Hills in the coming year. Librarian Sandra Griffin has played an instrumental role in bringing senior focused programming to Forest Hills through communication with AACOG, Wellmed, and the UT Health Science Center. Her design of the Caring with Respect eldercare fair has been so popular that it will be duplicated at other branches in the near future. The next event will be held on February 11 at Forest Hills.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Adult

The Great Northwest Thursday Book Group read and discussed *Heaven is For Real* for December's read and *The Turkish Lover* by Esmeralda Santiago for November.

Childrens

During the month of November, the children enjoyed an historical view of Thanksgiving, reading about the Mayflower and the Pilgrims. Some of the children experienced for the first time, an activity called "shucking corn" and were amazed that corn existed among all those leaves. During the month of December, the library saw many returning young customers because of the school break. The staff provided several movies to watch, holiday crafts and fun stories to hear and games to play.

In December the toddler two's enjoyed the transportation program. Their favorite activity was pretending to be cars and going through the car wash. They were so enthusiastic about this activity, many parents were taking pictures of their child while exploring the carwash. During story time in December the holiday home pretend play area was a hit. After listening to stories and actively participating in holiday action songs the children enjoyed decorating a three foot tree and pretending to make Christmas cookies and other deserts.

In January, a new season of story times have begun. The Family Fun is gallivanting around the world. The destination to China was the first country they stopped at in Asia. They plan to visit 6 more countries in Asia before they celebrate with an Asian Marketplace.

In Story time, the ABC Club celebrated J is for Japan on January 8. They read about the children in Japan, they played some Japanese games, discovered the art of origami and made a giant jellyfish in honor of the huge jellyfish in the Sea of Japan. During our Toddler Times, the children also learned about J. J is for jackets. The children and their families heard about Jack London's book called Froggy Gets Dressed among other stories. Afterward they enjoyed playing dress-up, exploring with play dough or practice dressing paper dolls for the rest of the event. A new year at Great Northwest Library has begun.

Events

Great Northwest Library had a Family Fun Day on December 14. Children and adults participated in coloring a Christmas decoration and making snow crafts.

Other

Theresa Brader, Stephanie Vazquez, Cindy Moreno attended the Holdings Editor training.

Teens

Teens at Great Northwest held their first Cooking Class on November 27 where they made mini chocolate pies and mini cherry cheesecakes. A Hunger Games party was held on November 20 with trivia about the books and prizes. The Teens also met for their monthly Anime and Video Gaming Club.

GUERRA

With support from the Library Foundation, staff provided holiday refreshments to library patrons December 21 through December 23 and from December 26 to December 30. Branch Services Coordinator Kate Gray met with branch staff on December 4. Two groups of community resource persons were at the branch several times during the reporting period; one provided voter registration assistance and the other, information to persons with questions about the Affordable Care Act. Edward Mayberry joined the branch team on January 2. Edward has substantial experience with SAPL and will be the Library Assistant in charge of teen and young adult programs and services.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman provided a library tour to four adults and 22 students on November 27. He joined branch and central staff for a holiday lunch on December 5. On December 18, Dexter attended the monthly meeting of the Safety Security Work Group. He attended the Branch Managers meeting at Pan American on January 2. On January 9, he joined five community members for a discussion of *Faces of America* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs planned and presented five Toddler Times and five Story Times--November 20, 27, December 4 and 11, and January 8. On November 22, Arlene attended Career Day at Cable Elementary School; she spoke to 100 students and their teachers about her career as a Children's Librarian. On December 6, she presented three Story Times at the Greatest Gifts Daycare. She planned and presented a Come and Go Craft on January 10. On December 11, she participated in a Webinar--Fire Up Early Literacy with Award-Winning Books--The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards by Melissa Depper. On December 18, she presented a special holiday program--Jingle Bell Jubilee. Arlene created a permanent Juvenile Non-Fiction book display area in an effort to alert patrons to parts of the collection of which they may not be aware, to help patrons make choices, to strengthened circulation of juvenile nonfiction materials. During the reporting period, she designed and installed the following displays: Nelson Mandela--highlighting his life and accomplishments; Kate DiCamillo--acclaimed children's author named Ambassador for Young People's Literature 2014-2015, and one highlighting the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, also the volunteer coordinator, attended training in the new Volgistics training manager system. He moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish language book club) on November 21 and December 19. The first month the group discussed *La bruja de Portobello (The Witch of Portobello)* by Paulo Coelho. The second month, participants discussed *Las cinco personas que encontrarás en el cielo (The Five People You Meet in Heaven)* by Mitch Albom. As Interim Teen Librarian, he presented teen activities--Game-Ra, video games using Wii and PS3 on November 21, and December 5, 12, 19, and 26. On January 10 he co-presented the teen program with the new Teen Liaison, Edward Mayberry. Steve set up a display about meteorology on January 2.

IGO

Children's Services

The Igo Children's Services staff presented 28 programs in December and January. These programs included four weekly early literacy story times, the monthly Discovery Time program consisting of math and science concepts for preschool children, Tween Time for nine to twelve year olds, as well as, a special career day outreach story time at the Discovery School, a local preschool.

In addition to the regular children's program schedule, children's librarian, Nancy Rodriguez, hosted a special session of Play and Learn on November 22 entitled Transportation Station, and a winter holiday celebration, the Jingle Bell Jubilee.

At the fall session of the Transportation Station Play and Learn program, families were invited to explore cars, planes, trains, and other vehicles through books, rhymes, songs, dramatic play, and hands-on art activities in keeping with the library's commitment to the Every Child Ready to Read initiative.

During the hour and half session, over 130 children and their care givers explored early learning activities and materials created by the Early Literacy Committee at San Antonio Public Library under the direction of Viki Ash, the library's Children's Services Coordinator. The high level of enthusiasm for these interactive and engaging programs will most certainly inspire future activities at the branch.

One of the highlights of holiday season for children and families at the Igo Branch included the 3rd Annual Jingle Bell Jubilee on Tuesday, December 17. This year the children's services department hosted the Brandeis High School Choir for a musical concert under the direction of choral director, Rebecca Dawson. Following the concert, everyone was invited to share cookies, punch, and holiday sweets to celebrate this joyous seasonal event.

Teen Services

In December, the Teen Services Librarian at Igo presented four programs. Several teens completed their Digi-Lab experience, learning how to use software and video equipment provided by Central Teens Services. New members will be added to the group in January.

The highlight of December programming was the 3rd Annual Multicultural Festival and presented customs from 16 different cultures. The program was very well-received by over 200 attendees. Igo Teen Leadership Council did an excellent job with the presentation.

Adult Services

Igo hosted the kick-off presentation for this season's tour of Mariachi Vargas on December 2. The program also featured a presentation by mariachi historian Jonathan Clark on the genre's history and traditions.

On December 17, the Igo Genealogy Club met to plan their workshops for 2014 and to share holiday sweets and treats. The Club is looking forward to another year of interesting and informative programs.

The Igo Book Clubs continued meeting through the holiday season, with 21 attendees at three separate meetings.

JOHNSTON

Johnston Library had a very busy report period. Branch Manager Diane Backhus was absent for several weeks. Raymond Villarreal filled in as branch manager until he retired on November 8. Jef Martin from Maverick also supported the staff in her absence. With the holidays coming, staff decorated the branch in the holiday spirit, with many of the decorations provided by the branch's favorite decorator, Irene Salazar. Christina Martinez and Monica Bustillo created a Christmas tree made out of books from an idea provided by Library Aide Vida Leal Salas. Children's Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth had her Jingle Bell Jubilee on December 17. Twenty-four children and parents had a great time listening to stories, singing songs, and working on four holiday craft projects. Diane Backhus and Beverly Wrigglesworth paid a holiday visit to Southwest ISD's holiday event on December 18. They shared information about the Library with sixty five people. Diane Backhus and Monica Bustillo put together a Holly Jolly Party with the funds provided by the Library Foundation. They used the money to buy supplies and refreshments for guests to enjoy homemade "crockpot" chocolate peanut clusters – an easy to make Christmas gift all ages can do. They also had the opportunity to enjoy making "homemade" Christmas cards, along with other crafts. Staff also said farewell to Adult Services Librarian II Richard Fields, who retired after working for the San Antonio Library System for 20 years! Monica Bustillo has joined the staff as Adult Services Librarian. She is already making herself a valued staff member.

Ms. Bustillo partnered with Beverly Wrigglesworth to organize a "holiday Cards for the Troops" project. They set up a table in the children's area for a week. Patrons were encouraged to write a brief message and decorate a holiday card. Over twenty cards were created. Ms. Bustillo combined the cards with donated books and magazines to send to the troops. Ms. Bustillo also organized and promoted a special program, "Ebay for the Holidays," to demonstrate how to sell and profit from selling items on Ebay.

Teen Liaison Christina Martinez kept her teens busy, too. They did crafts for the holidays. They also shared in the crockpot peanut clusters as a snack for one or their programs.

The Library parking lot expansion and repair project started on January 6. The project will include an additional twenty parking spaces between the library and the fitness playground, as well as repair of the existing lot. The project is scheduled for completion before early voting begins February 18.

LANDA

Teen Services at Landa had everything from awards to new programs for the teen-led groups. Landa Teen Leadership Council offered a new way to look at their weekly tutoring with an *added* monthly program, “Science Experiments for Young Children”.

On November 20, eight Landa Tutors received the 2013 SAPL Library Champions Award. Mr. Ramiro Salazar will present award certificates to the tutors at Landa on January 12, 2014.

On December 7, the Teen Council members received notice that three members’ Vine video and photographs were featured in the ALA/YALSA advocacy video, “Without Libraries”. See link <http://youtu.be/hQhDuShczzc>.

Landa Teen Leaders volunteered for SAPL outreach duties on December 21 2013 for the HEB Feast of Sharing event and created, at Landa, the San Antonio Humane Society’s winter donation drive.

Landa Cool Teens Club members added another program, Landa Cool Teens Talk Radio. This is an audio/video *pilot* program, mentored by Chris Eudaily, Texas Public Radio’s web editor. These teens started with interview recordings, cast roles (director, news anchors, reporters, photographers, script writers, editors), and uploaded “shows” to the Teen Services Soundcloud platform. If the teens keep producing more material, Texas Public Radio will make a commitment to host Landa Teen Talk Radio and other SAPL libraries on their website.

Landa International Teen Club members and Bea Canales reached out to Martha Henry, City of San Antonio International Relations Specialist, to setup a time for her to present a plan for a Sister Cities’ Library Exchange program.

In December 2013 Bea Canales, Teen Services Liaison, was approved to be a Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) *Badges for Learning* Site Tester.

The Landa Senior’s Mystery Book Club changed its meeting time to accommodate Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays but the faithful members came to share their ideas, opinions and comments on Sara Paretsky’s *Fire Sale* (November) and Anne Perry’s *The Christmas Secret* (December).

The Silver Screens Classics featured Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire in *Holiday Inn* which featured great singing and dancing. Irving Berlin wrote the unforgettable tunes in the movie including *White Christmas* and *Happy Holidays*. This event has a faithful following of movie buffs who love to share trivia about the production and stars.

Jim and Maggie Fox entertained a room full of guests for a musical “Celtic Christmas.” Jim is an ethnomusicologist and shared his great wealth of knowledge to a rapt audience.

There were holiday displays and decorations aplenty in the children’s sections at Landa throughout November and December. Children and grownups alike enjoyed December’s Jingle Bell Jubilee. There were five crafts to choose from, bells to jingle and red or green sparkly play dough for the youngest to enjoy. Cookies, candy canes and apple cider were on hand all day to celebrate the year. A special thanks to the SAPL Foundation for funding to expand the offerings at this event and provide refreshments to patrons all day. The first week of 2014 programs are underway with many eager returning faces at our six weekly programs.

LAS PALMAS

Many thanks to the SAPL Foundation, whose generous holiday funding made two Las Palmas programs extra merry! At the Jingle Bell Jubilee, parents and children created keepsake ornaments, using glitter paint to decorate the interior of clear globes. At its December 6 Holiday Concert, the choir and musicians of San Juan de Los Lagos Catholic Church sang a variety of Christmas carols and songs; they joined audience members in enjoying light refreshments.

The day of the concert, a book sale was held by the Friends of the Las Palmas Branch; Friends members added to the festive mood by providing supplies for a children's' snowflake and ornament *Come and Go Craft*. The event generated a total of \$350, with several new members joining. Thanks to the Friends and volunteer students from OLLU, for their hard work in organizing the materials and conducting the sale.

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi adjusted her visits to Good Samaritan, Avance, Mirasol and Madonna so as to present her story times and leave class room collections between the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks; her first visits for the New Year have already begun. The Play & Learn *Transportation Station* was enjoyed by children and their caregivers; children and tweens visited the library for programs, activities, computer time, and materials to borrow during their school break.

Ms. Brudi hosted Cub Scout pack 1006 for a December Family Fun session; 18 children and 10 adults toured Las Palmas, registered for library cards, listened to stories, and created Christmas ornaments.

Beginning in January, Administrative Assistant Melissa Perez will take charge of traveling to the four Vital Records sites to collect paperwork for delivery to the Central Santa Rosa St. office.

After reading author Deborah Blum's *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*, book club members had a greater appreciation for those who fought an uphill battle to prove the importance of science in determining guilt and innocence.

Library staff mourns the passing of Librarian I Ms. Sylvia Pachecano, who died unexpectedly on Dec. 22. As a library assistant at McCreless she served as the teen liaison, a commitment she continued as a librarian at Central and then at Las Palmas. Ms. Pachecano received her MLS in 2011, as a recipient of the Library/ Foundation *Mejor Futuro / Better Future* scholarship program. Her loss is keenly felt.

MAVERICK

Maverick Library had a plethora of programs for all ages during this time period. For adult programming, on November 16, 14 attendees came to a science lecture by a professor. On November 23, the Ladies Choice Book Club had 13 participants and on December 16, they had 16 participants. Finally, on December 4, a SAFFE Officer came to talk about Senior Safety.

There were also many programs for families to enjoy. Three music programs occurred in the main area of the library. This included a flute choir on November 16 and an acoustic guitar program on December 14. In addition, a violin recital on December 14 had 84 attendees! Last, but not least, Library Assistant, Audrey McPherson came up with an idea for a Family Christmas Craft on December 12. People of all ages decorated small clear glass ornaments using glitter and fancy stickers. The staff helped 78 people make ornaments and some hung them on Maverick's Christmas tree!

McCRELESS

Six Story Times and two Family Fun events were held at McCreless during this time period.

Preschoolers learned about winter weather and animal behavior in winter. They also enjoyed traditional holiday stories and songs and created seasonal decorations and ornaments. Blocks, books, magnifiers and magnets added to the fun.

McCreless patrons had the opportunity to attend two Family Fun events. The Jingle Bell jubilee was the biggest hit with 41 people enjoying hot dogs and chips, festive cookies, candy and juice. Party-goers made jingle sticks, holiday ornaments and participated in their own Jingle Bell Jubilee concert.

Children's Librarian Kathleen Brown attended a Parent Meeting at Ball Elementary School to let parents and staff know about library services and resources, especially those most helpful for families with school age children.

The Teens had a great Christmas party with a Hot Chocolate Bar, cookie decorating and a gift exchange.

The Friends of McCreless held their semi-annual book sale on December 7 and 8. The Friends were able to fund the staff Christmas party and present the staff with gift cards in appreciation of their service.

Branch Manager Cammie Brantley was honored by the Library Foundation and Administrative Team for 20 years of service at a reception on December 11.

MEMORIAL

On December 12, Memorial Branch Library held a winter holiday concert featuring the Lighthouse for the Blind. The group, which consists of Lighthouse employees, sang uplifting songs to welcome the holiday season as well as other pop songs such as the Beatles' *Eight Days a Week*. After the performance, the group was treated to refreshments provided by the Memorial Amigos Friends group.

The *Con Estas Manos* quilt exhibit by renowned quilter, Alicia Avila, closed in December. The popular exhibit attracted many new visitors to the library who expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to view the vibrant and colorful quilts.

Memorial Branch Library partnered with the Alamo Area Council of Governments to provide Affordable Care Act assistance. Navigator, Magdalena Alvarado, offered bilingual assistance to those wanting to enroll in the program. The flow of patrons was steady as enrollees rushed to meet the deadline.

Children at Memorial were introduced to a new ongoing passive program which included creating a craft, a writing activity and the option to check out books to celebrate monthly holidays and festivals such as Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Chinese New Year, and the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. The monthly program will be posted in a new Memorial Children's newsletter titled, *Memorial Children's Corner*, which will highlight children's activities and programs at the branch.

During the Thanksgiving break families enjoyed an evening of interactive jump roping presented by the Jumping Dragons of San Antonio and approximately fifteen families visited the Scholastic van to do crafts and receive a free book. Memorial's story time friends enjoyed listening to stories about trucks, mud, dance, celebrating Christmas and New Year's Day, along with making take home crafts.

Outreach efforts by Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, included visits to the Headstart students at Jose Cardenas Early Childhood Center who enjoyed listening to stories in English and Spanish. Ms. Smith also visited with the Poetry Slammers Club at Roy Cisneros Elementary School. Thirty poems from the group were submitted to the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition. Hopes are high that a few of them will be selected for publication in the annual anthology. Trina Smith also promoted the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition to the students of Huppertz Elementary. Parent Liaison, Debra Thames, of Stafford Elementary School invited Ms. Smith to speak to parents about our library services and resources. The parents were impressed by all that the library has to offer. Trina Smith was also invited to serve as a judge for the Spelling Bee at Roosevelt Elementary School.

MISSION

Citizenship classes continue to be held at Mission. Neighborhood associations, organizations, city departments, and a school all utilized Mission's meetings spaces.

The Scholastic Literacy van visited the library on November 18.

Mission continued the Native American Heritage recording project, with the last recording on November 26, Staff member Oscar Gonzalez then archived the material. On December 7 the library had a reception for participants and the public. A USB drive with a copy of their recording was given to each individual. Mission Library will offer more opportunities for community members to share their stories.

On November 19, Project Sing Harlandale, presented their annual concert to a large and enthusiastic group of supporters and interested library patrons.

An exhibit featuring historic photos of John F. Kennedy's visit was available for viewing from November 23, 2013 through January 3, 2014. The exhibit was kicked off by noted Air Force historian, Rudolph Purificato. Mr. Purificato spoke about Kennedy's time in San Antonio on November 21, 1963. He also showed portions of his documentary to a very receptive audience. The event and exhibit were well received.

On December 9, a large group of Elderhostel "Road" Scholars visited Mission for lunch. A library tour and history lecture was given by Librarian Jane Miller. They were very impressed by the beauty of the building, interior and exterior, and astounded by the number of unique services offered to patrons.

Children's programming for December focused on winter and holiday time. Two highlights were the Jingle Bell Jubilee for the young children and a tween holiday party. The tweens participated in planning their event by choosing the snack menu and games. Thirty very enthusiastic tweens attended and had a great time. Two parents thanked the staff and commented that they and their children were very grateful and surprised by the programs provided. Our Mission Friends of the Library were very generous in providing funds to purchase the tweens snack requests.

On December 15 Debbie Barcenez and her group Los Pastores Performed the Pastorela play to a lively group in the Mission Library courtyard, were hot chocolate and pastries were provided to attendees and participants.

The teens met four times during the month of December. At the meeting of the Anime Club on December 3 and the regular teen meeting on December 10 the teens did crafts and used the laptops. On December 17, the teens were taught how to play table tennis by staff on the table tennis table recently purchased by the Friends of Mission Library. The teens and tweens enjoyed the video game club which met on December 28. On November 15 Teen Librarian Sarah Weinblatt provided outreach at the Frank Tejada Academy. She provided library information and gave the teens an opportunity to create their own buttons. The button maker was a big hit.

In this period Mission Library played two classic movies; one on December 6 and on January 10.

On November 15 Librarian III Elma Nieto-Rodriguez provided a tour to Brooks Development Authority Executives.

PAN AMERICAN

Children's Services Librarian Carol Collins continued to offer five weekly programs for children. At extra programs on December 30, Carol and Adult Services Librarian Amy Miller took turns helping 15 children make party hats for New Years. Children dropped by throughout the afternoon to decorate hats for themselves and their friends and talked about their plans for celebrating 2014.

In November and December Carol delivered a total of about 150 books to five daycares in the Pan Am service area.

In November, Pan American teens made duct tape phone covers and anime buttons to embellish school backpacks. Towards Thanksgiving, Teen Liaison, Angela Olivarez discussed *The Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* with teens and described the wacky dinner prepared by Snoopy. As a surprise, teens were served a unique "turkey dinner" consisting of jelly beans, popcorn, buttered toast, pretzels and ice cream! After the feast, they watched *Elf* for movie night. As December blew in, teens had a chance to win prizes by rustling up answers to a scavenger hunt all based on library services. To close out 2013, teens got crafty with candy cane Christmas ornaments.

Health and wellness programs offered at Pan American seem to be catching on in the community. The popular Tai Chi class, which meets on Friday mornings, welcomed several visitors from the neighborhood rehabilitation clinic down the street.

On January 10, Pan American began offering its Express Collection. Customers have responded positively and most all of the items were checked out by the end of the second day!

PARMAN

Parman Branch Library partnered with the McNay Art Museum for McNay's Family Day. A shuttle took families from Parman to the McNay so they could enjoy a free day of festivities highlighting the museum's newest exhibit featuring costumes from many period movies. To advertise the shuttle service and exhibit, Branch Manager Haley Holmes created a book/dvd display with a pirate costume reminiscent of Johnny Depp's costume from *Pirates of the Caribbean* currently on display at the McNay.

Staff worked very hard in November preparing for Parman's first Winter Walk which took place during the month of December. Circulation Attendant Keith Massa cut out wooden characters including snowmen, penguins, gingerbread people and house, and the Grinch. The staff and volunteers including members of Parman's Friends, painted the cutouts. The trail behind the library was decorated with lights, the characters, snowflakes, and sparkly balls and was illuminated each night until 8pm. The walk was sponsored by Dan Parman and the Friends of Parman Library. The walk was a huge success with families enjoying the cold weather and winter scenes each night. The Library Foundation sponsored hot chocolate and cookies for patrons two nights in December.

All of the Parman book clubs continue to be popular. Branch Manager Haley Holmes screen-printed t-shirts for the Parman's Picks Book Club members. Many of the participants have been meeting since the branch opened. Library Assistant Christina Hess took over the Escape the Earth Book Club since staff member Tyler Lutz left for a position with Rackspace. The Jane Austen Book Club continues to gain popularity, and leader Circulation Attendant Sharleen Daube will be cosponsoring a big Jane Austen meet up with Brook Hollow library in February.

Library Assistants Sherrie Sholes and Christina Hess spoke with 260 people at the Stone Oak Winter Celebration. They received many compliments about the library and specifically about Parman Library.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance participated in the Stone Oak Elementary "Read Around the School" where she read *Little Polar Bear, Take Me Home* by Hans de Beer jointly with the music teacher to 3 groups.

The annual Jingle Bell Jubilee brought 308 people to the library. Children decorated miniature gingerbread houses, played with peppermint cloud snow, decorated Christmas trees, made ornaments, enjoyed refreshments, and had the chance to talk to Santa played by Assistant Manager Tim Johnson. The Friends of the Parman Library provided a DJ who played holiday music. In addition, Ms. Gnecco's

flute students gave a concert in the meeting room and then performed another set in the library. At the end of the party, Santa took families on the Winter Walk.

This year Parman staff had an elf on a library shelf contest. Each day the elf moved to a different spot in the library and could be seen reading a different book. Children had to find the elf and write down the title of the book for an entry to win prizes. The prizes were provided by the Friends of the Parman Library and the Library Foundation. One parent told staff she made a deal with her son that they could come to the library to look for the elf every day if he read each night. Staff saw them at the library every day of the contest!

PRUITT

Molly Pruitt Branch children had a wonderful, fun-filled holiday season. Children's librarian Cynthia Saenz coordinated several events. Children were involved in two Come N' Go craft sessions. They made holiday inspired stick puppets, gingerbread houses, and Christmas trees. Santa was a special guest at the annual Santa Fest. The Cherice Cocharane Mentoring Foundation coordinated the events that presented Christmas around the World stories and crafts to represent each country's holiday symbol. Families were involved in the Elf on the Library Shelf sponsored by the San Antonio Library Foundation. Families visited the library in search of the location of the elf on the shelf each day from December 10 through December 23. The winner took home an Elf on the Shelf kit for their own holiday tradition. The New Year Pajama Party held on January 4 culminated the holiday fun with movies, hot chocolate, and popcorn.

Teens at the Pruitt Library were treated to fun activities as well. Librarian Rae Downen and her band of Teen Library Leadership elves planned many fun events. They noshed on a Thanksgiving feast inspired by Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the Peanut's gang. Christmas activities involved making candy sushi, gingerbread houses, and watching current Anime series. The teens are gearing up for a new semester of fun.

Chess enthusiasts battled for the chance to claim first place trophies in the Rackspace Community Chess Tournament. Held three times a year and sponsored by the Rackspace Foundation, this chess event encourages problem solving through a friendly game of chess. 32 participants ranging in age from 3 to 60 played each other in three divisions, Children, Teen, and Adult. The spring tournament will be held in May.

New book clubs are on the horizon. Branch Manager, Troy Lawrence met with residents of the Springhill Apartments to begin a book club. The first book for discussion is Jodi Piccolt's My Sister's Keeper. The residents have chosen the fourth Thursday of the month as the regular meeting time. Rae Downen, teen librarian, is beginning a book club called The Book Was Better. Books chosen for this book club will be those that have been made into a movie. This book club will meet the first Wednesday of the month.

SAN PEDRO

Monty Holcomb, Librarian I and teen liaison, hosted six informal Tuesday chess events. Monty Holcomb also held six Tuesday teen events in the afternoon using the Wii. Mr. Holcomb also arranged for a musician to play for the San Pedro Library's Holiday Party in December and Mr. Holcomb joined the interview panel responsible for hiring the part-time Circulation staff.

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presents monthly story times to children at the VIA Child Development Center (two classes), Educare Child Care Center (two classes), and Monte Vista Montessori (two classes). Fifteen books are also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month.

During this period, Ms. Betsy facilitated monthly books discussions at Monte Vista Montessori (fourth) and Hawthorne Academy (fourth and fifth grade) book clubs. 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 takes 25 students on a bi-weekly basis to the library. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades two through eight. 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.

Ms. Betsy presents a weekly Kids Time for Kindergarten through third grade students.

On December 14, Ms. Betsy and Ms. Sherrie hosted the Family Holiday Party sponsored by the Library Foundation.

SEMMEES

Children's Librarian, Randi Jones, presented four outreach story times in the latter part of November. 109 children and adults were treated to one of her story times. Ms. Jones visits the Rolling Oaks Mall for a special story time at least twice each month. This outreach opportunity is proving to be an excellent way to reach out to members of the community that might not be visiting a library branch on a regular basis.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Library Foundation, the Semmes Branch Library hosted a fun contest during the first few weeks of December. Children were invited to find "The Elf on a Library Book Shelf". Each day, staff members would hide the elf in a different area of the library. Children who located the elf were entered into a drawing to win their very own elf. There were 40 entries and the young man that won the drawing was very excited. Staff plan on holding this contest each year.

Several of the Semmes Library Aides, including Indarani Philip, Margaret Timm and Sasha Gonzalez, have been making sure that all of the branch displays are changed regularly and that they are always stocked with library materials. The displays have received a great many compliments from library patrons. Their hard work is appreciated.

THOUSAND OAKS

Book Groups

A number of book groups met and discussed all things literary in the past few months at Thousand Oaks. A particularly popular title for the Monday Evening Book Club was *The Girls of Atomic City*, which was discussed on January 6. The book focuses on the history of women who helped the nation and the war cause during World War II. The book was well received by all who attended, and the discussion was particularly vibrant and lively on this occasion.

Teen Time

Over the last few months Thousand Oaks has had a variety of teen programs. These include game days, movie showings, crafts, and lessons. The most popular activities were Eclectic Electric and the screening of the Hunger Games. The teens also helped plan and present a *Doctor Who* 50th Anniversary Party on November 20. Sixty two patrons and one Dalek attended.

Special Events

Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Party

With over 60 participants in attendance, Thousand Oaks hosted an incredibly successful and immensely popular *Doctor Who* 50th Anniversary Party on November 20. Librarian I Rhonda Woolhouse completed an enormous amount of work to make the party a reality, with the Meeting Room transformed into a shrine for Doctor Who. The party featured a Doctor Who trivia competition, a wildly popular costume contest, and Doctor Who related treats and crafts. It goes without saying that the folks who participated were very enthusiastic about Doctor Who, and had a grand time celebrating. Overall, it was a highly successful event for the branch and the Thousand Oaks community.

Friends Book Sale

The Friends of Thousand Oaks held the second of their bi-annual book sales on December 7. The sale was held from 10:00 am until after 3:30pm, the sale was success, and is a great source of income for the branch. The Friends always work hard to put these sales on, and their dedication to the branch allows the branch and staff do numerous activities with the funds they secure.

Outreach/Programs

Librarian II Jorge Chavez, along with staff members from the Tobin at Oakwell branch, hosted a Christmas-themed Trivia Time at the Northeast Senior Center on December 10. With over 40 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.

Jingle Bell Jubilee

For the first time, Thousand Oaks hosted a Jingle Bell Jubilee for children and their parents on December 16. With over 70 participants in attendance, the event was a smashing success. Spearheaded by Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser, the event featured numerous activities and arts and crafts for the kids, including a wildly popular snow activity, which allowed our younger patrons to play in some artificial, but very realistic-looking snow. Refreshments included hot chocolate and holiday treats and goodies, made possible by a very generous grant from the Library Foundation.

Downton Abbey Tea

It was afternoon tea at the Thousand Oaks branch on January 5, as Ms. Woolhouse celebrated the return of *Downton Abbey* with a most formal event. Tea, cucumber sandwiches, scones and other delicious treats were offered up, as over 70 well-dressed participants gathered to discuss all things Downton Abbey. Period dress was encouraged, and that encouragement was taken to heart as the vast majority of the folks were dressed to the nines. It goes without saying that Thousand Oaks has never seen so many patrons with fancy hats and gloves before, and maybe never will again. Well, maybe until the library hosts a season five party next year. An immense amount of credit goes to Ms. Woolhouse who made this event a reality, as she did a huge amount of work to make this event such a roaring success.

TOBIN

E-reader tutoring has been faithfully attended each week with one-on-one instructions for customers with new devices and apps. These are mainly conducted by Librarians, Keri Moczygemba, Ariel Cummins and Betsey Leitko. A voter registration drive was held during Toddler times on December 4 with positive results. Recent Interesting book club selections include Jess Walter's, *Beautiful Ruins* and Amor Towles', *Rules of Civility*, while the Suspense Club starts back up in January with Kathy Reich's, *Deja Dead*.

Children's Librarian, Ariel Cummins has transitioned the popular Toddler Too program on Wednesday to Story Time as these tots are growing older. In addition, the Come and Go Craft has expanded to all day on Saturday to reach out to more families and kids that attend Tobin at varying hours. The monthly Lego Club is attracting kids and adults of all ages and has grown to over 35 attendees for the once a month activity with Ms. Cummins. A large crowd thoroughly enjoyed Holiday Sounds with the Garner Middle School choir on December 19. All shared refreshments and snacks afterward that were provided by The San Antonio Library Foundation.

Teen Librarian, Betsey Leitko began twice a week after school snacks for kids in a partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank on November 17. Ms. Leitko continues coordinating MAC- TEACH tutoring with MacArthur High School teens to all ages twice a week as well.

Ms. Moczygemba built a Christmas tree with donated books that staff featured on the branch holiday photo. Some of the recent displays include Fall into a Good Book, Suspense and Culinary Mystery titles, a teen winter, and "What change do you want to make?" for the New Year. Thanks to the generous Tobin Friends, employees enjoyed a holiday luncheon on December 17 with recognition gift cards.

Ms. Cummins continues very productive outreach to three area pre-schools and one elementary school. She was recognized with drawings with thank you notes from all the first graders at Northwood Elementary recently. Seniors at the Northeast Service Center were excited with the new Trivia Wheel, purchased by the Tobin Friends. All enjoyed special holiday questions with Library Assistant Terry Verner and Thousand Oaks Librarian, Jorge Chavez.

WESTFALL

Librarian I Karen Sagun opened the New Year by launching a new book discussion group. Nine people attended the inaugural meeting of Stranger than Fiction, a group that will focus on reading non-fiction. The first title was *Isaac's Storm* about the massive hurricane that decimated Galveston in 1900. Stranger than Fiction joins the Third Thursday Book Group, which has been meeting at Westfall for many, many years, and is still going strong. Librarian II Jernell Williams facilitates the Third Thursday Book Group.

There was a lot of music around the library during the holiday season. Westfall hosted a trio from Mariachis Vargas Extravaganza and, thanks to funding from the Foundation, the musical group Optic Express performed for patrons.

Westfall continues its partnership with Granados Senior and Adult Center. Once a month the library hosts the Granados Film Club and has been doing so for a few years.

The library forged a new partnership with Metro Health, which offered an 11-week diabetes education course. Participants learned about managing the disease as well as tips on prevention. They also sampled diabetic-friendly recipes.

Westfall also played host to a senior safety program, which provided older adults information about identity theft, personal and home safety from an officer from the San Antonio Police Department's SAFFE office. SAFFE stands for San Antonio Fear Free Environment.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino was honored at a reception hosted by the Foundation for SAPL employees who have been with the library 20 years or more. Mrs. Merino has worked with the library system for 30 years and 20 of those years have been at Westfall.