



February 16, 2014 – March 15, 2014

# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Members of the Library's Management Team met with fellows from Code for America on February 19 to discuss the project the fellows are engaged in for 2014. Library Director Ramiro Salazar provided an overview on the San Antonio Public Library and discussed current Library technology projects underway.

The second Community Meeting for the New District 2 Branch Library took place on February 20 at Sinclair Elementary School. District 2 City Councilwoman Ivy Taylor attended and delivered remarks during the meeting. Project architects provided an update on the design of the new branch library and received input from community members present.

On February 21, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and members of the Library's Collection Development Team met with Dr. Tomas Ybarra-Frausto about his Latino book collection. Dr. Ellen Riojas Clark connected the Library Foundation's Latino Leadership for the Library Committee (L3) and the San Antonio Public Library with Dr. Tomas Ybarra-Frausto to accept a donation of his Latino book collection. Dr. Ybarra-Frausto previously worked for the Rockefeller Foundation and is the first Hispanic to become a tenured professor at Stanford University. He currently resides back in his hometown of San Antonio. Dr. Ybarra-Frausto has one of the most revered collections of Chicano/Latino literature which he has offered to donate to the San Antonio Public Library to enhance and expand its Library's Latino Resource Center.

On February 24, Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with District 9 City Councilman Joe Krier's Chief of Staff to provide an update on the design of the new District 9 Branch Library.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Library Board Chair Jean Brady, President of the Friends of the Library Linda Arronge, Chair of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Jill Giles, Library Foundation Director of Development Lacey Fischer, and members of the Library's Management Team attended the U.S. State of the City Address on February 25.

On March 6, Library Director Ramiro Salazar joined Library Board Chair Jean Brady and President of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Linda Arronge at City Council to receive recognition for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library. Several members of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library were in attendance.

On March 7, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Library Board Chair Jean Brady, and President of the Friends of the Library Linda Arronge attended the Hispanic Chamber State of the Center City address featuring District 1 City Councilman Diego Bernal.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Thom Barthelmess, Curator of the Butler Children's Literature Center and lecturer at Dominican University (Illinois) visited SAPL on February 19. He presented two writing workshops for the children's librarians designed to invigorate the annotations and book lists created to promote specific titles and specific parts of the juvenile collection. This training was underwritten by the William Morris Endowment.

March 3 marked the official celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday and the annual Read Across America campaign sponsored by the National Education Association. Ten branches hosted Dr. Seuss celebrations. Additionally, a total of ten schools invited SAPL staff to participate in their campus programs. The Marketing Team was particularly helpful in drawing public attention to these Seuss celebrations.

Children's Services participated in two Child Care Resource Fair sponsored by Voices for Children. Held on the Northwest Vista and Palo Alto campuses, the Resource Fairs provide local child care providers with free continuing education credits as required by the Texas Department of Human Services. While

Little Read Wagon staff provided workshops at these events, Viki manned an information table during the lunch break, distributing library information, including Every Child Ready to Read posters and brochures.

The conclusion of the judging for the 2014 Young Pegasus Poetry Competition cleared the way to contact the 52 poets selected for publication in this year's anthology. The volume will include 67 poems. Two of the poets are home schooled; the remaining 50 represent 18 area schools as well as Princeton University. The Princeton poet has been published in Young Pegasus in previous years and reported that since she was still only 18 and her permanent address remains in San Antonio she was thrilled to have one last chance to submit her writing. She further reported that the competition has been a very positive and affirming experience for her.

Plans are well underway for Summer Reading 2014. The children's librarians are making extensive use of Pinterest boards as a means for sharing ideas and inspiring each other – not only about summer activities but for upcoming spring programs as well. Many branches will be hosting Ugly Duckling events in early April in honor of International Children's Book Day and the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen. Throughout April and May, Dinosaur Day Play & Learn sessions are also on the calendar for many locations.

## LITTLE READ WAGON

Play & Learn concluded at the Woodlawn WiFi room on Tuesday, March 11. The series was extended to six events at the request of families who wanted programming during Spring Break. Little Read Wagon participated in two Spring Break events hosted by KLRN at Bonnie Conner and Concepcion parks. Little Read Wagon is preparing for a special Play & Learn at the grand re-opening of Travis Park. Corinne Sanchez attended a meeting on March 6 to review the park layout and event logistics.

This month was full of workshops for teachers! On February 22 Martha Wichy, Cresencia Huff and Liliana Ornelas offered the three-hour Exploring Math, Science and Early Literacy workshop in Spanish to a group of 24 early childhood teachers. The teachers deeply appreciated the opportunity to receive training in the language that they knew best or use most often in their work. Several teachers from area Head Start programs were very excited about the possibility of having Little Read Wagon visit their centers to share library and early literacy information with parents and other teachers. Also on February 22, Julia Lazarin presented two break-out sessions at the District 25 Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair. The event was held at Northeast Lakeview College and included teachers from San Antonio and surrounding areas. On March 1, Martha Wichy presented a break-out session at the City Council District 3 Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair, held at Palo Alto College. Finally, on March 5, Cresencia offered the one-hour Every Child Ready to Read: Fun with Math and Science workshop to the teachers at the Kelly Field Child Development Center. The workshop was offered twice during the children's nap time.

Full-day Every Child Ready to Read mini-conferences were offered at the Cardenas and Carroll Head Start Centers. One-hour visits were also made to Neal, Monroe May, Hatchett and Cotton Elementary schools. Sites in Bexar County included Heritage Head Start and Big Country Elementary. On March 3, Julia attended a staff meeting at Pre-K 4 SA South to tell teachers about the upcoming Every Child Ready to Read parent series at that site. This site requested received four separate visits rather than a full day of workshops.

Cresencia had two phone interviews during this reporting period. A researcher from the University of Texas at Austin called to learn more about Little Read Wagon. The researcher had conducted interviews with several family literacy programs throughout San Antonio and Little Read Wagon was mentioned repeatedly. Donna Celano of La Salle University is working on a national evaluation of the Every Child Ready to Read program and spoke with Cresencia about how Little Read Wagon is using the program.

Teen parent workshops were offered at the Burbank, MacArthur, Stevens, Healy Murphy, South San and Harlandale High School campuses. In addition to these programs, Cori and Lily toured Seaton Home, a shelter for young mothers and their children, to explore possible programming opportunities. Most likely,

Cori and Lily will be working with two resident groups: teen mothers who attend area high schools and young undocumented mothers who are in detention at Seaton Home.

Little Read Wagon had a debut program with the VROOM! van at Carmelite Learning Center. On March 6, the learning center had a literacy night. While several teachers shared activities with the families inside, Little Read Wagon set up a mini Play & Learn with the VROOM! Van outside. The weather and enthusiasm of the participants were ideal!

## TEEN SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

### **Programming**

Teen Tech Week (TTW), the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) annual celebration of digital literacy and technology in libraries, was celebrated at the SAPL with system-wide events from March 9-15. A "menu" of several TTW programs was offered by Central Teen Services, including a "Squishy Circuits" program, facilitated by Teen Services Librarian I Caroline Mossing. Teen librarians and liaisons were able to choose programs from the menu or host programs of their own. Some other programs offered from selection guide included, "Cube Music," composing electronic music using [buttonbass.com](http://buttonbass.com), creating memes, and CodeNerds, learning to code using an Arduino (hosted by Caroline Mossing).

During Teen Tech Week, Best Buy, through a partnership with YALSA, provided a technology workshop using Sketch Up software to teach teens Coding/ 3D printing. The program was presented by Best Buy's Geek Squad at Teen Services at the Central Library on March 14. Best Buy is hosting technology workshops for teens at seven public library locations around the country during Teen Tech Week. The San Antonio Public Library was chosen as one of the seven locations, in addition to Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis, and Seattle. According to Deb Morris, Community Relations for Best Buy, the goal of the program is "to inspire teens through technology and encourage them to consider career and educational opportunities in the technology field."

### **Off-Site Service**

Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce conducted several outreach visits during the reporting period, in which she provided off-site service. On February 21, Kathleen staffed a table at the SAISD Parent Summit at The Norris Conference Center. Kathleen spoke with hundreds of parents about the services and resources the library offers for teens. On March 6, Kathleen and Circulation Attendant Megan Feeley, teen liaison at Mission Library, visited with students at Por Vida Academy. Kathleen and Megan showed the students the teen outreach presentation video that teen volunteers at the Central Library had created. The video shows teens all of the wonderful things the Library offers for them, including downloadables, free activities, homework help, volunteer opportunities and more. The students also received library cards during the visit.

On February 22, Kathleen Fordyce assisted Teen Services Librarian Barbara Kwiatkowski (Igo) at Librarypalooza at Brandeis High School. This annual event is attended by thousands of middle and high school students. Several prominent YA authors held sessions in which they spoke to students about their works. Also assisting with the event were PT Library Assistant Audrey McPherson (Igo), Teen Services Librarian Elizabeth Leitko (Tobin @ Oakwell) and Teen Services Librarian Marisa DeBow (Parman). Teens received library cards, information about Igo teen programming, and they had a blast making buttons.

On February 25, Kathleen Fordyce was invited to speak at the Family Service Association (FSA) to let prospective organizations know about the Library's experience with the FSA's annual summer intern program. Kathleen told the group that the Library has partnered with the FSA for several years, and the FSA teen intern program has been a valuable and wonderful experience for the Library and the teens. She also discussed the particulars of the program, including scheduling, tasks, training, etc. For most of the teens, this is their first work experience, and they leave with knowledge of what having a job entails.

On March 11, Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce and Teen Services Library Assistant JD Elizondo brought the V.R.O.O.M van to Lockwood Park in the Eastside Promise Neighborhood for Movie Night in the park. This was one of the first V.R.O.O.M outings, and Kathleen and JD gave out information about the Library to families at the event. Teen Services staff look forward to many more visits to the Eastside Promise Neighborhood, the van's target audience.

### **Partnerships**

#### Artpace

Teen Services Library Assistant JD Elizondo and Teen Services Librarian I Caroline Mossing visited Artpace on March 6 to discuss a Teen Services / Artpace partnership. Teen Services will be bringing the V.R.O.O.M van to the Artpace Family Day on March 22 as part of this new partnership.

#### Alamo Music

On March 13, JD Elizondo visited the Alamo Rock School (ARS) at Alamo Music to discuss a partnership opportunity. Plans are currently in the works for teens from The ARS performing at Teen Services at the Central Library, as well as a later larger event to be held at the Central Library Plaza to promote Teen Services and JD's Eclectic Electric music program, as well as The ARS.

#### San Antonio Food Bank

During the reporting period, Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce attended several nutrition lessons at the Food Bank, as part of the Kids Café after-school snack program. Kathleen attended one lesson that focused on helping to provide kids and teens with more physical activity, since P.E. classes are being cut. Since then, Teen Services has begun to implement "kinetic programming," focusing on movement. Teen Services Library Assistant JD Elizondo hosted the first program, "balloon athletics," in which teens were able to run around, following balloons. Kathleen is looking into purchasing exercise resistance bands to use in teen programming.

### **System-Wide Support**

On February 20, Teen Services Library Assistant JD Elizondo assisted Teen Services Librarian David Gallin Parisi (Cody) with an outreach visit at Clark high school. JD and David talked to the students about the services and resources the library offers for teens and had the teens apply for library cards. Additionally, JD was interviewed during the visit by David's student mentee. She used JD as a primary source for her research on motivating factors for why people read.

### **Advocacy**

JD Elizondo has been performing frontline advocacy for teens during lunches outside the library by informing the staff at local restaurants of what Teen Services has to offer their own teens.

## **MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS**

The marketing department has been busy with event planning, graphic design and campaign development for several new and ongoing projects including: San Antonio Book Festival, Women's History Month, Texas Women of Influence discussion, Summer Reading Program, and Fiesta programs.

The team has worked on a sales and distribution plan for the SAPL Fiesta medal in April. Caitlin and Joseph have worked closely with SAPL's marketing firm to develop the Library's new brand including logo design. A presentation is forthcoming at April committee and Board of Trustee meetings.

Joseph worked with Frank Faulkner from the Texana / Genealogy department to create a trivia piece for the Express-News about the Bexar County Courthouse. He also worked with the marketing firm to develop a new logo and branding strategy. Joseph is currently working with the Digital Services team to re-build the SAPL website.

Marcie continued to manage and create new public relations opportunities for the Library including booking several appearances for staff on local broadcast programs. She also assisted with the production of the Library's Cover to Cover program for TVSA.

Graphic designers have been busy with the development of the April Bookmarks in English and Spanish as well as managing all graphic requests for the D9 programs, Celebrating Chavez program in D5, Meet the Author programs, and especially, concepting creative for the Latino Collection space at Central Library.

Daniel has worked with both Organizational Health and Texana to develop their monthly newsletters while at the same time preparing the SAPL public newsletter for distribution in March. Additionally, he is currently working with Volunteer Services Coordinator, Veronica Anderson, on the development of a new volunteer handbook. Daniel manages all SAPL translation projects as well.

The team has also been developing a new format for communicating with staff internally. More details to come in April.

### **Social Media**

SAPL currently has 6,523 followers on Facebook and 1,742 on Twitter.

### **Media**

SAPL received great coverage during the reporting period as there were a few appearances on morning programs at FOX San Antonio, WOAI, and KENS.

SAPL appeared in media 145 times during the reporting period.



CENTRAL LIBRARY

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Central Library's Children's Department sees many tours in spring, and this spring is no exception! Ridgeview Elementary students in kindergarten through fifth grade came to the Library to celebrate their big reading accomplishments and were treated to a ceremony tailored to their group in the Story Room. The students received medals and their own library cards for their accomplishments and joined in creating a collaborative space-themed banner (to commemorate their school mascot – the rocket). The students enjoyed a recreational reading focused tour of the Children's collection. A very large group of sixth graders from the School of Technology had an in-depth tour of the third floor. The group worked on research projects after a detailed nonfiction collection orientation. Students from the Department of Early Childhood Studies at San Antonio College were also given a collection orientation by Ruth Chiego (Manager) before working on their emergent literacy class project. Assistant Professor, Terri Sinclair, visits the Central Library twice a year with her class for this project. In addition, students from the group received Scholastic BookFlix/TrueFlix training from Ms. Chiego.

While several groups visited the library, many involved off site visits including Green Acres, Central Christian, KIPP, Madison Square, SAC Early Childhood Center, and others.

Ms. Chiego attended an all-day learning experience at Region 20 with educators and parents for the TAPPEstry (Teachers, Administrators, Parents, and Professionals) Special Needs Conference. The focus of the conference is to weave a network of support at home, at school and in the community. Ms. Chiego's time at the conference was very worthwhile it helped shed some light on opportunities SAPL may seek out when planning future programming for children with special needs. Following the conference Ms. Chiego was asked to present information on electronic resources available through the library for use at home and through the schools. She is currently working on strengthening some of the ties with administrators she met at the conference to identify needs of these students during the summer months so that the public libraries may help.

Weekly programs at Central bring new families together to enjoy a variety of exciting activities. Wednesdays are very busy in the Department due to *Play & Learn* and afternoon *Family Fun* programming. *Play & Learn* themes run the gamut from pond life - when children and their grown-ups were able to play in river rocks and water – to pirates when they all got turns “walking the plank” and making their own pirate hooks and hats. The afternoon *Family Fun* bunch enjoyed the lure of water with a froggy theme complete with wide-eyed frog hat creations. Also, several pint sized pirates dug for buried treasure!

Weekends at Central are a flurry of activity, too. *Family Fun* on Saturdays celebrated Mardi Gras, LEGO®s, and Japanese culture. Sunday special events featured a Dance Party, Board Game challenges and more LEGO® fun!

Central Children's Librarians worked diligently on their assigned Committees. Ms. Chiego worked with Interim Reference Manager, Martha Loewen to identify the mission and upcoming agenda items for the Security and Safety Work Group they serve on together. Ms. Chiego works with Ms. Lewis on the Children's Summer Reading Committee as Chair. This group develops system-wide programs for school age children during the summer with science based themes. Others involved in the Committee are librarians Shannon Seglin (Semmes), Kathleen Brown (McCreless), Cari Raley (Great Northwest), and Carol Collins (Pan American). All are working together to ensure the summer programs are a great success by living up to the exciting theme of ... “FIZZ! BOOM! READ!”

Kate Sandoval (Assistant Manager) serves two Central Library initiative committees. The *Central is for Everyone* work group is focused on identifying opportunities for the Central Library to make the facility more accessible to all visitors whether it's through programming or changes to how spaces are arranged in the building. She also completed her work contributing an elementary and middle grade level art themed book list for the Southwest School of Art LibGuide which was a collaboration between the Reference, Teen's and Children's Departments. In addition, Ms. Sandoval serves on the Children's Celebrations Committee with Ms. Salinas and they are integral in developing system wide programming for African American Heritage month, Día De Los Niños, and St. Patrick's Day.

Visitors enjoyed some changes to the décor on the third floor including a space theme where children can pretend to command their own voyage through the universe while seeing familiar characters such as Curious George and Winnie the Pooh floating through the atmosphere in space helmets. Updates to the *Boredom Buster* activities provide more fun for our repeat customers who expect new challenges every time they visit - whether it's through scavenger hunts or “I Spy” activities, there is always something fun happening in the Children's Department.

## DIGITAL SERVICES

Sierra Mendez and Veronica Rodriguez created 2 new slideshow exhibits - San Antonio Then and Now and San Antonio Women of Influence. Ms. Rodriguez and Ms. Mendez have also started collecting oral histories and are collaborating with the Texana/Genealogy department to include oral histories already in their collection. Ms. Mendez and Ms. Rodriguez have also completed a LibGuide for the Briscoe Portal and will be continuing to add related topics to the site. In preparation of the new web site redesign, Rolf

Laun, Sarah Carolan and Adam Spana attended an excellent webinar entitled “Designing Multi-Device Experiences.”

## REFERENCE

The Central Library, along with several Branches has been hosting information sessions on the Affordable Care Act. With sign-up deadlines fast approaching, Jim Laferla has facilitated informational presentations by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services at Central Library on February 23 and March 13. Presenters have addressed both English and Spanish speakers. A Navigator from AACOG (Alamo Area council of Governments) was available during the March 13 session to assist customers in signing up for the program.

On February 25, Sally Bauer hosted local author, Carl Coppock, as he read from and discussed his book – “Lose the Diet-Lose the Weight”. Mr. Coppock described how making a simple but fundamental change in eating style can help people achieve the body image they choose.

On March 11 Gamini Haluwana assisted Cristine Mitchamore with Database Training for the students of Wayland Baptist University. These classes are presented several times during the school year and are always well-received and appreciated by WBU professors and students.

San Antonio Public Library is a PTRC (Patent and Trademark Resource Center) Library. On March 12, Mr. Laferla presented the first in an ongoing series of ‘Patent Search Training’ classes.

## TEEN SERVICES

Mondays with JD Elizondo (Library Assistant): JD 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. Additionally, teens sometimes participate in craft activities and gaming after the Eclectic program ends.

Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science and Tech Tuesdays. Teens used iPads to navigate a rolling robot through an obstacle course of their own making and to draw original robot routes. Using a supersaturated sugar solution, teens grew their own rock candy. During Teen Tech Week, participants created a temperature gauge using Arduino and its sensors to measure body heat and learned how programmed robots work. Upcoming programs include seed germination and making bouncing balls.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): During the reporting period, teens enjoyed playing video and board games and getting creative with crafts. To celebrate Teen Tech Week, teens learned how programmed robots work. Caroline Mossing facilitated the event, and teen volunteer Ozzy assisted. Ozzy had previously built a robot using Lego Mindstorms, and teens got the chance to use it during the TTW program, along with a robot ball owned by Teen Services, Sphero.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): At Teen Services, teens engaged in creative activities, mostly involving food, inspired by culture and health. Teens felt supported and encouraged to suggest Thursday night programs. One teen wanted to make a cultural dish that he’d heard about, but hadn’t tried—Indian Fry Bread. Using simple ingredients and technique, teens learned how and ate a sample with some melted cheese. After viewing a YouTube video, teens figured out how to supreme an orange, cutting out the segments of the orange without the peel. It proved a fine skill to enhance hand-eye coordination. In typical San Antonio fashion, the teens asked for some chili powder to sprinkle on their fruit. With the Internet as their guide, teens learned how easy it was to make banana ice cream. Teens created a healthy and vegan creation (well, until they added some chocolate chips) that required nothing but frozen bananas, a blender and five minutes. Afterwards, teens created ink blots using wax paper and acrylic paints to stamp on canvas, art paper and construction paper. The prints are displayed in the Teen Services department. 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. 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>.

## TEXANA / GENEALOGY

Classes for this period began with a trip to Igo Branch on February 18 and Debbie Countess discussing Familysearch.org, the website of the Church of Latter Days Saints devoted to genealogy. There were ten attendees. On March 4, Matt DeWaelsche taught a group of five the ins and outs of Heritage Quest Online, one of the State funded databases the Library has access to.

On March 1, Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society met in the auditorium. The speaker was Thelma Garcia Celestino who talked about her new book, *Are We Almost There? Stories of Ten Migrant Siblings*. Mrs. Celestino is a retired teacher and administrator with the San Antonio ISD and currently teaches at the University of the Incarnate Word.

On March 9, David McDonnell spoke on his new book *Clan Donnell: A Storied History of Ireland*. He was visiting from Michigan and hopes to return in the fall to give an Irish genealogy program for Texana/Genealogy.

Ms. Countess and Frank Faulkner attended a webinar on "Starting a Digitization Project." The next day Ms. Countess took part in one on "Copyright and Fair Use."



## BRANCH LOCATIONS

## BAZAN

Some re-organization of the collection has brought the DVD collection, the most popular medium at Bazan, into a more prominent view.

VITA, COSA's Lunch and Learn series, Academia America's citizenship classes and a Selrico job fair kept Bazan's meeting room occupied every day. Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen continued her outreach at Crockett and Margil elementary schools, as well as Blessed Sacrament Learning Center and Avance. Teen Time is being held every Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the meeting room. Library Assistant/Teen Liaison Jennifer Martinez offered four days of teen activities during Spring Break to promote Teen Tech Week. Teens used iPads and branch laptops at each event. Library Aide Jonathan Guerra was on hand to offer his technology expertise. Teen Volunteer Leslie Medina continues to draw patrons in on Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons to gain one-on-one computer assistance.

## BROOK HOLLOW

Brook Hollow served as a very popular early voting location from February 18 – 28.

On March 9 Brook Hollow hosted a beginning sign language class taught by honor students at MacArthur High School. This class was the first in a series of sign language classes that will be offered on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm through May 25 and was well attended.

Brook Hollow Library celebrated Doctor Seuss's Birthday on March 3 with a Come and Go Craft. Kids and their parents made a "Seuss-scape" a landscape that celebrates that wackiness and creativity that Dr. Seuss is known for.

Play and Learn at Brook Hollow for March featured a "Pizza Restaurant" complete with a dining room and a pizza oven! Over thirty children and their parents participated and made an important step in early literacy.

## CARVER

The Local Arrangements Committee of the Texas Library Association in February gathered at Carver Branch to discuss plans for the upcoming conference which was scheduled for April 8-11 at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. Co-chairs Librarian II DL Grant and Northeast Lakeview College Dean of Learning Resources Tracey Mendoza conducted.

African-American History Month drew to a close at Carver Branch with visits from authors Mary B. Morrison, Rhonda Lawson, kYmberly Keeton (actual spelling), Mateen Diop and Christopher Pittard who participated in the Black Writers Literary Weekend. The event was a partnership between Prosperity Publications, the Friends of Carver Branch and the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

March got underway at Carver Branch with nods to Women's History Month and the late labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez. Books, artifacts and photographs called attention to the life of Chavez and the accomplishments of women.

## CODY

February proved to be an exciting month at Cody Library. In addition to offering a variety of programs for audiences of all ages, Cody provided essential services to the community including serving as an early voting site for the March primary elections.

Once again this year Cody Library is a site for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Demand for tax preparation assistance remained high throughout February and into March. Staff members report that the site continues to fill to capacity shortly after opening.

On March 1, Cody Library Assistant Andy Stahlman accompanied Westfall Branch Manager Sherrie Langston Hardin to the Low-Vision Expo outreach event at the Colonial Hills United Methodist Church.

Cody's regularly scheduled monthly programs including the Mind and Meditation Class and various book clubs continue to attract a strong following. Currently, Cody offers four book clubs and one film club for adults each month.

For Cody Tween Time on February 17, tweens enjoyed some patriotic rock painting. Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta, provided the materials, and the tweens displayed their patriotic rocks for Presidents' Day.

Cody's Tween Book Club kicked off its first tween book discussion on February 19. Eleven tweens attended and jumped right in to discussing their views on the club's first title. As a follow-up activity, Sheila, moderator of the new club, invited the tweens to use a set of iPads to create an item or character they remembered as being significant in the book. The tweens then shared their drawings with each other.

Hobby Middle School art instructor Jeremy Nemeč brought more student art to exhibit at the invitation of Sheila. More than 30 pieces of student art were on exhibit in the juvenile section of the library for the month of February.

Five early literacy sites, Kids Campus I, Kids Campus II, Head Start, the Pineapple School, and Chabad, received their monthly story times and books. Sheila stated that all of the sites are always eager to promote early literacy and programs at the public library.

*I Can Read with My Eyes Shut*, and *Ten Apples Up on Top* were just a couple of the Dr. Seuss books that Sheila read to Rhodes Elementary School students on February 28 when she visited several classes that day in celebration of Dr. Seuss and *Read Across America* day. Sheila also shared the iPad story app *If I Ran the Zoo* with several first graders.

Sheila's Dr. Seuss story time on March 3 was a popular event that attracted about 100 people. After children listened to some Dr. Seuss favorites, children had an opportunity to make hats like Cat in the Hat.

To help celebrate *Read Across America* Day, Sheila provided come and go crafts for the afternoon on March 3. Children stopped by to make *Lorax* mustaches, truffalo trees, *Horton's* ears and Seuss hats. Spring crafts and St. Patrick's Day crafts were created by children who visited Cody Library on March 6. Some of the children's favorite crafts included dragonfly rings, rainbow/shamrock mobiles, and leprechaun magic wands.

To kick off Spring Break, Sheila showed the movie *Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters* on March 10. Tweens and their families were invited to attend.

The Beginner Readers Club members met for their monthly meeting on March 12. Even though it was spring break, not all of the regulars could attend, but, Sheila said, two brand new members were able to join them and told her that they would be coming back for the next meeting. Beginner Readers Club members shared their Dr. Seuss books they read for the month, and then did a word scramble of the various Seuss characters. Young readers also had an opportunity to use the children's iPads focusing on the apps that enhance their reading skills.

Artwork from Howsman Elementary School students is on exhibit in the children's area for the month of March. Sheila said the students, under the direction of art teacher Kristy Lee, used different mediums to create spring flowers.

Teen services swung into action during February. Teen Services staff David Gallin-Parisi and JD Elizondo trekked to Clark High School to do outreach with gifted and talented classes of various grade levels. They shared info about homework help, volunteering opportunities for teens, previous library programs, and upcoming events. The outreach was an informative learning experience for the students and for library staff. Teens are tapped into various technologies; however they do not always know all their options for using those tools at the library.

Many ways to use technology-related tools at the library were work shopped, shared, and enjoyed during teen tech week. Cody Library kicked off the week with a program called Code Nerds, using MIT's Scratch website. Teens laughed their heads off at their ability to code a cat into meowing all afternoon. Another teen tech week program was Vinylism and Cassette Culture, featuring turntables, a mixer, a boom box, many vinyl records, and assorted cassette tapes. Most of these items are being produced now and teens learned how people are still manufacturing and listening to new music on vinyl and tape.

Finally Teen Services Librarian David Gallin-Parisi appeared live on television, promoting Teen Tech Week on Great Day SA. The appearance helped generate excitement for library programs throughout the San Antonio Public Library system.

## COLLINS GARDEN

Collins Garden has expanded and updated its juvenile collection by hundreds of titles. This was achieved with the cooperation with other branches that identified duplicates and overflow and then sent those titles

to Collins Gardens' collection. As a result, the collection of juvenile titles is now larger and contains many new titles the branch not previously owned by Collins Garden. In addition to being able to offer a more comprehensive collection, the branch can expand its displays, hopefully resulting in increased circulation.

At the beginning of March, the branch hosted a performance by *Fiesta Flutes*, which was well received by attendees.

Collins Garden Branch Library was once again chosen to host the primary election and early voting. The turnout was light.

## CORTEZ

The branch's successful African American Heritage Month program featured a panel discussion about race relations and the civil rights struggle. The panel discussion included eyewitness accounts by two participants in the historic Freedom Bus Rides. Prior to the discussion, the branch screened a brief segment from an award winning PBS documentary and an oral history video about the civil rights movement.

Library Aide Madeline Vasquez designed a very popular, colorful, and informative display highlighting our program and books in celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

The current book and media display features Women's History Month.

Zombie Meet, hosted by Library Aide Madeline Vasquez, continues to be a very 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 laptops, participate in craft activities, and socialize with friends.

The Friends group presented the Teen liaison, Jo Ann Paredes, with an XBOX including games and controllers.

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 classes remain 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 Anime club.

## FOREST HILLS

Spring is a time of renewal, and so the Forest Hills Branch staff has recently focused developing creative approaches to developing and enhancing service to patrons. Staff members have been invited to submit thoughts and suggestions for adjustments, no matter how far-fetched the idea may seem. A number of insightful ideas have been developed and will be put in to motion over the next months. Many of these ideas are in reaction to current statistics, and others are proactive changes in anticipation of growing trends. Staff members pay special attention to the behavior and requests of patrons and consider these when implementing changes.

Circulation of media items at Forest Hills has increased dramatically over the past few months. This interest in DVDs and music CDs has led to a decision to relocate the media items to a more prominent place in the library. Staff members Robert Solis and Ruben Gutierrez, with some assistance from manager Mary Naylor, completed the move in record time as they aimed to create the least amount of disruption in the use of the collection. Regular patrons have been pleased with the new placement of items in what is being dubbed the "Media Row". The better lighting and increased space for browsing has greatly improved the patron experience. After initial confusion as to where these popular items had been relocated, patrons had nothing but overwhelmingly positive comments on the change. One such positive comment came from a patron who simply exclaimed "I love this library!" as she walked past the desk of Branch Manager, Mary Naylor.

Movement of the media items also provided a great opportunity to highlight the Express and New Book collections. Now patrons visiting the library solely to retrieve item holds are able to conveniently browse these collections as they are in close proximity to the holds shelf. Staff expects to see a jump in circulation of these new items over the course of the next few weeks.

Forest Hills continues to be a site for VITA services. Patrons visiting exclusively for the purpose of tax preparation have been invited to sign up for library cards and take part in the variety of events offered at the branch. While this time of year is busy as large numbers of residents are visiting the library for tax services, it is a great opportunity for staff to introduce them to the many benefits of owning a San Antonio Public Library card.

### **Adult Programming**

Librarian Sandra Griffin maintains focus on adult programming which includes a number of regularly scheduled events which focus on handicrafts. The Project Linus group continues to meet twice a month to create beautiful blankets which are then donated to children who have experienced traumatic events. The newest addition, the San Antonio Needlework Guild, is coming along nicely. The members of this guild have supplied beautiful examples of their work to be shown in the display case located in the entry foyer of the branch. This rotating display currently features spring themed needlework projects.

### **Children's Services**

Children's Storytime featured fairy tales in the month of March. Children's Librarian, Valerie Shelley, read classic fairy tales such as the Princess and the Pea and Cinderella which entertained the children while educating the parents and grandparents with tidbits from Little Read Wagon curriculum. Activities following each story focused on sequencing and other important literacy skills. Ms. Shelley strengthens her ability to provide quality programs which bolster literacy skills in preschool children by attending trainings on Every Child Ready to Read skills: talking, singing, reading, writing and playing.

Mancala has been the game of the month during Tween Time. The tween-aged patrons learn to play the game and have fun practicing strategies as they attempt to make the winning move. The Tweens worked on cooperation and leadership skills as they attempted to create a cardboard reading house for preschoolers.

### **Outreach Services**

Ms. Shelley visited Powell Elementary School for Smart Night. She presented SAPL online service, emphasizing those most likely to be used by students and their parents. Ms. Shelley prepared a useful quick reference handout with the sites and descriptions listed in English and Spanish. Library card applications were available resulting in new and renewed library card accounts being entered into the SAPL system.

Colby Glass Elementary School was the site for Reading Fiesta for which Ms. Shelley donned fiesta regalia. An information booth for SAPL was setup for her to address participants and give out information. SAPL programming for the summer and information on the "Activate your mind energize your body" program were highlighted.

As chair of the Live Well, Age Smart committee, Branch Manager Mary Naylor attended the Department of Human Services, Senior Services Sweet Heart Dance on February 20. Mrs. Naylor and her team were able to make contact with over 400 seniors and inform them of library events offered as part of the Live Well, Age Smart programming tract. With suggestion from Mrs. Naylor, the marketing department designed a Valentine themed card to promote SAPL services. Mrs. Naylor continues to work with the Department of Human Services to foster partnerships which will be mutually beneficial to both City of San Antonio departments.

## GREAT NORTHWEST

Roberto Zapata conducted a monthly outreach to the Alicia Trevino Senior Center. The participants are eager for a more advanced Ipad training in the future. Many of the attendees visit the library for hands-on help as a result of the outreach.

On March 15, Roberto Zapata conducted a Spanish language outreach to the Pueblo De Dios Iglesia Cristiana. The event held at the church was a literacy fair where participants talked about the importance of literacy and Spanish language materials. Roberto Zapata talked about the library services available to the group.

The Great Northwest Thursday Book Group met and discussed *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

Other groups continued to meet at the library, such as the monthly community book club and the knitting and quilting groups. The Quilting Group is currently designing a quilt for the Friends of the Great Northwest Library.

The Children's Librarian, Cari Raley, created some special activities for the spring breakers. Buddy from Dinosaur Train visited the branch on Friday, March 14. People were lined up outside and around the corner to have their pictures taken with Buddy and to participate in the activities presented by PBS. Ongoing programs such as Story Train and the ABC Club continue to be popular with the community.

Teen Tech Week was held during March. It was capped off by a Video Game Tournament where the ultimate victor won a gift card to a local gaming shop. Caroline Mossing from Teen Services presented a Scratch Animation tutorial using MacBook Airs to teach teens the basics of code writing and animation. Other Spring Break activities included a Teen cooking class that taught teens the basics of cooking. Cosplay 101 was also held and served as an introduction to costume play for the novice.

## GUERRA

VITA provided services to approximately 550 members of the community during the reporting period. The branch served as a general election early voting (February 18 through 28) and Election Day (March 4) site. VITA and children's and teen programs relocated on several days so that voting and Election Day teams could use the Barrera Room. Library Aide Corinna Cabeza was promoted to Circulation Attendant. She will be a welcome addition to an already professional and productive team.

Dexter Katzman provided Tech Friday computer training on February 21 and 28 and March 7. He attended the monthly meeting of the Safety Security Work Group on March 5. Three members of the community discussed *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin on March 13. Dexter was assigned to provide interim coverage as Pan American branch Manager for the next 60-90 days.

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs began her spring program cycle. She planned and presented four Toddler Times and four Story Times--February 19, 26, and March 5 and 12. She celebrated Read Across America Day with a Dr. Seuss Come and Go Craft. She planned and presented one Family Fun program with assistance from Library Assistant Leticia Guerra. On February 19 she attended a workshop facilitated by Thom Barthelmess at the Central Library on writing annotations. February 28 she presented two Story Times to 91 at Lackland Village Headstart. On March

7 she planned and presented four Story Times to 58 at Greatest Gifts Daycare. Arlene designed and installed a Spring Break display for children, highlighting fiction, non-fiction materials and activities based on the materials for children. As a member of the School Committee, she wrote the questions on four books for this year's Battle of the Bluebonnets competition.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish language book club) on February 27; participants discussed *La llamada de la selva (The Call of the Wild)* by Jack London. On March 7, he gave a bilingual PowerPoint presentation at Cable Elementary School about library services with a focus on programs and materials for school children. On March 10 he spoke to the Valley High North Neighborhood Association about the spring break events for young adults and about library computer classes.

Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra on February 20 and March 20. Edwards was bested by some of the more skilled teens in his first attempt to play Smash Brothers on the Wii. Edward held a movie night on March 6 for Teen Tech Week. He hosted a Yu-Gi-Oh tournament on March 13. First and second prizes were a \$20 and \$10 gift card to target donated by the Guerra Friends. This event attracted a large crowd.

## IGO

For this reporting period the children's service staff presented twenty-one programs. In addition to the regular Early Literacy children's program schedule, the children's services librarian has added a Beginner Reader's Book Club to the Spring Schedule. The program is geared to emergent readers and school age children 5 to 8 years old. This monthly program invites new readers to share their favorite books through group read-alouds, booktalking, and word play. Snacks, crafts, and word games are included to enhance the reading club experience.

As a special treat for *Read Across America Day*, Mindy Benjamin from Treehouse Music Together presented a musical story time demonstration of ways for parents and caregivers to incorporate music, movement, books for babies and toddlers. This collaborative evening program proved to be a great success with twenty parents and eighteen young visitors in attendance.

### **Tweens**

The Tween Time Event at Igo Branch Library, open to young people age 9 to 12 years of age, is being well received and is gathering momentum. This past month, March, the Tweens Time Event begins with a very casual discussion of what the young people are reading and their thoughts on the books. There are refreshments available throughout the Event time. The young people, after book discussions, have the opportunity to play a variety of games; table tennis, Uno; and the opportunity to do creative artwork or building with legos and straws and connectors.

### **Teens**

This month Igo teen services in addition to regular programming presented series of events observing Teen Tech Week.

Teens had the opportunity to learn about Robotics, Photo booth application, Chrome key technology and others. All programs were prepared and presented by teens from Igo DigiLab. All events were hands – on for all participants. Due to the Spring Break many new people attended and expressed interest in becoming a member of Digi Lab.

### **Adults**

On February 18, Igo Genealogy Book Club hosted Familysearch.org workshop. Ten genealogy fans attended with three new club members amongst the group. Also on February 18, the Afternoon Book Club continues to grow in membership. The 13 member strong club discussed *The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty and planned for the next meet-up.

On March 5, the Crime Etc. Book Club with its loyal members enjoyed a book share and will look for other opportunities to meet up in the future. Additionally, the Igo Mystery Book Club retained a steady nine members for a discussion of *Skinny Dip* by Carl Hiaasen.

## JOHNSTON

Early voting was a big success at Johnston Library. According to the newspaper 1,066 early voters cast their ballots at the branch from February 18 - 28. And, many of those people stopped by to get library cards. The staff has noticed a lot of new names appearing on the hold shelves! The good part of this is that the new parking lot was available to customers beginning on February 18. The existing parking lot will be resurfaced by the end of March.

Children's Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth continued presenting her programs for children. She also found time to attend several workshops, one on writing annotations and a series of webinars for story times. She also participated in an outreach event at Southwest Elementary for their "Reading Night." She promoted library services to 117 children and parents.

Teen Liaison Christina Martinez was very busy as well. She presented several programs, including movie night, building a bridge out of Popsicle sticks, homemade glow sticks. Caroline from Teen Services at Central led a program called "Scratch" during Teen Tech Week.

The Johnston Friends of the Library had a meeting on February 23. They elected new officers, and also approved a wish list that was presented by Diane Backhus. They will be purchasing items such as new carpets for Story time, programming support for children's and teen services, a digital photo frame. The new display shelving for book sale materials have been assembled. Sales are going very well. The branch continues to receive great donations as well.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza continues to offer one-on-one e-reader clinics for customers. She also created several displays for Women's History Month, and Spring Break.

Diane Backhus took advantage of two Public Library Association (PLA) sessions on March 13. She attended "Do you know where your Librarians Are?: Building relationships outside the Building; and "Always be Circulating": how public Libraries meet demand and increase use. Both sessions provided excellent information.

## LANDA

Landa Library was pleased to welcome back guitarist/singer/songwriter Scott Duncan who presented a concert on Saturday, February 27, to a full-house. This entertainer is popular with the Landa audience and will no doubt be invited to return. The monthly Adult Programs at Landa continue with The Seniors' Mystery Book Club which discussed the very cozy who-dun-it, *The Teaberry Strangler* by Laura Childs. Member Joan Cunningham was inspired to treat everyone to tea and a program about Charleston, South Carolina, where the mystery is set. Member Mary Achee brought a plate of delicious warm scones to accompany the tea. Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta took a Mardi Gras-related program to Incarnate Word DeMatel Nursing Home where residents made necklaces with traditional Mardi Gras colors of purple, gold, and green and played a trivia game related to Lent which begins following the Fat Tuesday celebration.

Landa has recently received a sprucing-up in the way of painting and other renovations including some re-configuration in the workroom kitchen. The changes were made with a minimum of negative impact on library services, thanks to careful planning by manager Michael Kaminski.

Children's programs at Landa continue to bring in large crowds. This month saw over 800 people attend our six weekly programs, plus outreach visits to preschool classrooms and a special program. Children's

Librarian Clair Larkin celebrated Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' birthday by making *Cat in the Hat* hats, *One Fish, Two Fish* aquariums and from *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, oobleck, a cornstarch-water mixture. It made for a hands-on sensory experience that both children and adults enjoyed. Clair attended a professional workshop on writing book annotations with Thom Barthelme, Dominican University professor and Kirkus reviewer. The results of that workshop will be on display this summer on the Kids Blog.

While the Children's Services Librarian was on a well-deserved vacation during Spring Break, Karen took over the programs. She enjoyed seeing some of her old friends from baby and toddler time who returned during Spring Break with younger siblings to hear stories and sing their favorite story time melodies.

Landa Teen Services Liaison, Bea Canales, maintained a high level of activity for teens and by teens during this reporting period. The Teen Tutoring for Young Children continues to increase their enrollment and the new Science Demonstrations program is really capturing the families that attend the tutoring program.

The Teen Library Leadership Council agenda items included solidifying Teen Tech Week activities, prepping for the Library Science demonstration, "adopting a bat" and challenging the International Teen Club to look at community service activities.

The International Club members enjoyed teaching each other the cultures of Vietnam and Kenya on February 23 and March 9 respectively. The members have contacted the COSA International Affairs department to explore a Sister City connection for a possible pen pal program to orphanages. Teen Blogger, Ale, blogged on the SAPL Teen Services WordPress site about Kenya (<http://wp.me/pnROx-2OY>) and used SAPL Databases as resource material for her blog post.

Teen Tech Week (TTW) activities included two council members, Mathias H. and Kristine S., taking up the challenge to be TTW Workshop presenters on Trouble Shooting Video Games and How to Create and Edit vlogs. They created their own PowerPoint presentations and took their job as presenters seriously. On Wednesday March 12 the Radio Teen Landa members created a blog post and a podcast on the topic of "What faction would you be" based on the young adult fiction book, "Divergent".

Bea Canales has been asked by several teen volunteers to write up recommendation letters on several scholarship sites such as Kohl's Cares® Scholarship Program.

Finally, the Landa staff is very sad to say good-bye to manager Michael Kaminski, who is leaving SAPL. He has done a great deal of very fine work at Landa. Staff wishes him the best in his new endeavors.

## LAS PALMAS

Welcome, Library Assistant Anne Schuette, to the Las Palmas team!

Scheduling the Scholastic Literacy Caravan during Spring Break week gave families (34 children and 20 adults) an opportunity to spend fun learning time together.

Early Voting and Election Day brought 1,398 voters to Las Palmas. Representatives of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of the Secretary of State were on hand February 26 to inform voters of the Texas Election ID Card program.

The pilot program for lending Nexus 7 tablets to the community has been well received. Tablets have a quick turn-around borrowing time.

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi continued her outreach to the Good Samaritan, *Avance* Marisol and Castroville, and Madonna day care centers, presenting story hour and delivering classroom collections. Family Fun continues on a weekly basis.

Members of the Book Club thoroughly enjoyed February's read, *Ghostman*, an "addictive" novel by crime writer Roger Hobb.

Librarian Rhonda Davilla and Library Assistant Carlos Loera continue to assist with staffing at Las Palmas; Ms. Davilla is the LIC on Tuesday mornings, and Mr. Loera presents Wednesday Teen Nite.

## MAVERICK

Maverick Library served as an Early Voting Site from February 18 - 28 and an Election Day Site on March 4. Management would like to thank the staff members who opened early and stayed late.

Due to staff realignment, PT Library Assistant and Teen Liaison, Audrey McPherson was transferred to Igo Library. Maverick gained one PT Circulation Attendant, Alice Mendez, who transferred from Landa and is a welcome addition to the team. Tina Morales is a new Library Aide who was hired in early February and is also an asset to the Maverick staff.

Lucy Villa, FT Library Assistant and Pat King, Librarian I, are each taking a night to continue teen programming at Maverick. On March 6, Ms. King took "shelfies" or selfies of the teens near the shelf of their favorite book or author.

Many other programs occurred during this time period. The Maverick Ladies Choice Book Club had 16 attendees on February 22. On March 8, Librarian II Ben Longoria set up a program called "Spain's Contribution to the American Revolution". The presenters were in costume and had a lively performance for 17 attendees. On March 15, Jorge and Nicole will come play acoustic guitar in the main area of the library. Children's Librarian II, Amy Roberts conducted 16 storytimes during this time period with 413 attendees. She also had a Cub Scout Troop comprised of 1<sup>st</sup> graders who came for a tour and storytime on February 18. Ms. Roberts is looking forward to the first LEGO event for children at Maverick on March 15.

In other news, Branch Manager, Jef Martin is also serving as the Interim Manager of Igo Library as of March 6. Ben Longoria continued to meet with the Jobs and Small Business Committee and participated in interviewing candidates for Library Aides and Library Circulation Attendants. Lucy Villa attended Resume Training at Central on February 26. Amy Roberts attended Preventative Care Training at Central on February 27.

## McCRESS

Despite hosting voting for two weeks during this reporting period the branch had a month full of activities. After training by Circulation and Automation Supervisors, McCreless started checking out Nexus Google Tablets on February 24 as part of a pilot program for the devices. After a slow start the tablets have caught on and are experiencing steady use.

Beginning March 13 and running for six weeks the branch is excited to partner with Metro Health for a six-week series on diabetes management. Topics will include diet, exercise, motivation and support for those with diabetes or those who want to help a family member.

On March 7, the branch co-sponsored an event on social media for seniors. The program was skillfully presented by Professor Denise Barkis Richter from Palo Alto College who helped the attendees navigate the world of tweeting and blogging.

On March 1 Manager Cammie Brantley met with the Adult Book Club for a discussion of *The Ghost Writer* by John Harwood.

The teens had a great time over spring break and Teen Tech Week. The branch had a record attendance for Teen Time!

Four Story Times and two Family Fun events were held at McCreless during this time period. Preschoolers learned about eggs, pets, insects, and sleep. They also enjoyed stories, songs and crafts – designing pajamas, decorating eggs, making a stretchy dog and a clothespin butterfly. On two occasions, activities were followed with an opportunity for learning through play.

Two Family Fun events were held. Participants celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with the creation of Dr. Seuss hats and puppets and cupcakes completed the birthday celebration. St. Patrick's Day was the theme of the second Family Fun. Children and parents created 3D landscapes with rainbows and pots of gold. Kids also played toss the leprechaun-gold-in-the-pot and were rewarded with play money in huge denominations.

March 8 and 9 brought the Friends of McCreless for one of their regular book sales to support the branch. The proceeds exceeded expectations and garnered over \$800 to support branch programs and purchases. The Friends are currently working with Ms. Brantley to help pay the balance of the cost of new staff chairs which are being partially paid for by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

## MEMORIAL

### Children's

Children visiting the Memorial Branch during spring break found several activities to enjoy. *A Diary of a Wimpy Kid* party, which proved to be very popular, was held on March 11. Kids played trivia games, had chances to win prizes, made crafts and checked out books. Families also enjoyed watching the movie, *Monster's University*, during the week of spring break. Passive programming activities were also available.

Dr. Seuss's Birthday, in collaboration with the National Read Across America campaign, was celebrated with crafts, puzzles and games. *Cat in the Hat* hats were made, birthday cards written and truffula trees drawn and decorated. Each child who participated received a certificate for taking part in the birthday celebration.

In celebration of African American Heritage Month, children enjoyed solving maze and word puzzles, listening to stories and learning about African American Civil Rights leaders, inventors, physicists, and gymnasts. President's Day was celebrated by making crafts and a writing activity where children wrote about what the holiday meant to them. In recognition of the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, families enjoyed decorating paper cowboy boots, one to take home and one to display in the library.

### Adults

As the March 31 deadline for enrollment in the Affordable Care Act program approached, health care navigators at the Memorial Branch saw a significant increase in traffic. Navigators from AACOG and SRA International have been providing one-on-one healthcare enrollment assistance since January.

In celebration of African American Heritage Month, the Memorial Branch screened, *When We Were Kings*, a 1996 documentary about the famous "Rumble in the Jungle" heavyweight championship match between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman. Additionally, a book display was created highlighting Muhammad Ali's career. The exhibit included books, quotes and photos. Several customers checked out books and expressed great admiration for the "Greatest".

As part of Memorial's continuous art exhibit program, street artist Joe Martinez exhibited whimsical galaxy-like scenes of space, planets and pyramids done with spray paint. Customers found the works that had toned down colors and clear shapes to be very appealing.

For National Quilters Month, the library featured the works of master quilter Ruth Felty, a former high school sewing instructor and president of the Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild. Many customers admired the detailed and intricate work that featured traditional patterns and art themed designs.

On Feb 20th, Adult Services Librarian, Rhonda Davila visited St. Mary's University's Blume Library. She met with Associate Director for Career Development, Rebecca Rutledge to present the Library's business databases and answered questions about how students can get a library card and access SAPL library resources and services. Ms. Davila utilized the recently issued iPads purchased by the Library Foundation during the outreach effort.

### **Teens**

Teen Tuesdays at the Memorial Branch continued to be popular. During spring break, sixteen teens gathered to watch movies, enjoy pizza and play games. Poems were solicited for the fourth annual teen poetry contest. The group also discussed volunteer opportunities assisting with various Memorial Friends group activities.

## MISSION

Mission continues to host VITA. The popular service has brought many new visitors to the library. Mission also served as an early voting site. Birth certificate and immunization records sales continue to increase at Mission. New parents are offered information related to new cards and story times.

On February 21 Mission continued its partnership with Texas A&M University - San Antonio. Students from the university conducted surveys related to the San Antonio Missions. Community leaders were scheduled to offer their insights throughout the afternoon. Some were new visitors to the library.

Facility enhancements continue. Shelving was moved in the adult, teens and children's areas. This created new seating and study spaces. Electrical components were also added to the Teen Area in preparation for the arrival of new furniture.

Children's, Tweens, and Discovery Time participants were all offered fun and educational programs. Mission Teens enjoyed many activities. Most recently the teens got to experience Teen Tech Week. They disassembled old desktop computers in an effort to up-cycle the materials into something new. Teens were also offered the opportunity to explore solar electricity with robot assembly kits. Both the teen liaison, Megan Feeley, and the branch manager, Elma Nieto-Rodriguez, were interviewed by Univision 41, regarding Teen Tech Week events prior to its start. Young adults were invited to visit their local library.

## PAN AMERICAN

Yoga classed on Mondays and Tai Chi classes on Friday continued during the reporting period. There was a family activity showing patrons how to decorate cupcakes on February 16. The branch hosted a program for those with or interested in learning more about hearing problems presented by Dr. Janice Miller on February 19.

Interim Branch Manager Dexter Katzman began his assignment at Pan American on February 27. His assignment is expected to last 60 to 90 days.

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Carol Collins Children's added DePaul-Wesley Children's Center to her outreach sites. She continued her visits to Guardian Angel Day Care, Creative Little Minds, and Center for New Communities, Heavenly Place Child Development Center, and San Antonio Cottage. She presented programs at each location and delivered fiction and non-fiction books for staff to read to children.

Teen Liaison Angela Olivarez presented a special program for Teen Tech Week on March 13 that featured the family movie *Kindergarten Cop*.

## PARMAN

As part of the Live Well Age Smart committee, Assistant Manager Tim Johnson attended the Seniors Sweetheart Dance at the Convention Center. The SAPL table was well attended with staff giving out over 400 pieces of literature. Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow spent a Saturday afternoon at Brandeis High for their annual Librarypalooza event. SAPL staff made buttons for hundreds of high school students.

The Jane Austen Society of North America, San Antonio & Austin Region and Brook Hollow Library held a joint sponsored event at Parman on Sunday, February 23. All of the library's Jane Austen book clubs were invited. Attendees enjoyed an English Country Dancing Group Presentation and had fun participating.

Parman Library is joining with Igo and Mission to offer regular chess clubs through area chess masters. The Parman Pawn Stars Chess Club started in February and will be meeting monthly.

Parman's DIY U kicked off in March with classes in wood photo transfers, altered books, coffee techniques, and beading. A total of 25 classes are being held from March through May. Registration is required and can be done through the online events calendar. Staff have received tons of positive feedback, and the classes are filling up.

For Teen Tech Week, Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow held snap circuit and squishy circuit events. Teens had fun learning about how electricity works to create lights, action, and sound.

Assistant Manager Tim Johnson planned a Star Party with the San Antonio Astronomical Association. The group brought out telescopes and about 80 library patrons attended. Library Assistant Christina Hess also helped with the after-hours event including serving hot chocolate to the attendees.

## PRUITT

### **Adult Programming**

The KnitWits are returning to Pruitt. Knitwits are people that want to learn to knit and crochet. Librarian Kim Wygant is the mastermind and yarn whisperer behind the fun times. This program will be held the first two Sundays of the month.

A group of seven adults with special needs has been attending the Special Needs Adult Programming or SNAP on the first Wednesday of the month. These adults enjoy a fun hour of crafting and socializing. Their first creation was stretchy book marks.

### **Teen Programming**

Pruitt is enjoying Teen Tech Month. There was too much to cram into just one week of fun so the Teens at Pruitt are stretching Teen Tech week into a series of month long activities. Teens were involved with coding using iPads and a coding application to expose them to the fun of creating computer games. Librarian Rae Downen obtained several used keyboards and engineered several crafts recycling the various parts into fun do it yourself fun activities.

### **Children's Programming.**

The Pruitt Library celebrated "Read Across America Day" by visiting Windcrest Day School on March 6 and 7 where librarian Cynthia Saenz led 3, 4, and 5-year olds with songs and finger plays, then read the popular Dr. Seuss titles, Green Eggs and Ham and Hop on Pop.

The Pruitt Library kicked off Spring Break for children by hosting a “Diary of a Wimpy Kid Party” on Saturday, March 8. The event attracted 37 children and 28 parents. Events included a “Jeopardy Trivia Game” comprised of questions from the different novels and a “Personality Quiz” where children discovered which character they are most similar. It was great to see children of varying ages working together as teams, and parents even got in on the act by applauding as questions were answered correctly. Popular prizes included copies of the latest novel, *Hard Luck*, and several Doug bobble-heads. The party culminated with a viewing of the *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movie while participants and parents were treated to nachos, drinks, and snacks. Fun was had by all, and it is planned to make this popular party an annual event.

During Bilingual Kids’ Time, children were treated to the story, *Veo la Primavera* in Spanish and its English translation, *I See Spring*. Children also sang spring-themed songs in both languages and participated in a craft activity where they made their own colorful kites. Children have the opportunity to expand their vocabulary in both English and Spanish when they attend Bilingual Kids’ Time which, at Pruitt, is a monthly event.

## SAN PEDRO

Long-time SAPL librarian Wilson Plunkett joined the staff at San Pedro Branch Library in early March. Wilson brings his many years of experience to the branch and replaces Librarian I Monty Holcomb, who transferred to McCreless Branch Library.

Children’s Librarian Betsy Dalton attended a workshop in mid-February on writing annotations for juvenile books.

Betsy also held a book club with 12 students at Monte Vista Montessori and conducted two additional outreach events at the school. Betsy also worked with children at the VIA Child Development Center and Educare.

## SEMMES

In honor of African American Heritage Month, Semmes Library hosted a program entitled, *The Abolitionists*, on February 1. An excerpt from the PBS documentary was shown, followed by a poetry reading of poems from the era. Fifteen people enjoyed the event. Refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Semmes Branch Library. Special thanks to Oscar Gonzalez from Mission and Gamini Haluwana from Central Reference for coordinating and facilitating the event.

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held their quarterly meeting on February 5. During the meeting it was decided that their next book sale would be held on March 15. A preview sale for Friends members was held March 14.

Storytimes at Semmes continue to be very popular with library customers. The Monday Toddler Time with Ms. Randi Jones is drawing 40-85 people each week. Ms. Shannon Seglin’s Baby Time on Wednesdays is so popular that another session is going to be added in March. Currently, there are 20-30 attendees each week.

## THOUSAND OAKS

### Children’s Activities

A variety of children’s programs took place within the past month. Toddler Time and Story Time participants had fun listening to stories and singing songs about chickens, ducks, boxes and St. Patrick’s Day. For St. Patrick’s Day story time, the children made Shamrock wands. Lego Time took place on March 6, and, as usual, the kids had fun building with the Legos. They also played a Lego matching game and read Lego books that were on display. During spring break week, children could make a Come and

Go Craft. Each day featured a different craft including crowns, bookmarks or lizards. To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, a *Green Eggs and Ham* tic tac toe game was out in the library for anyone to play!

### **Teen Time**

Over the last month the teens at Thousand Oaks have made Mardi Gras masks, challenged each other to see who could build the tallest tower from spaghetti and marshmallows, and had the Teen Tech Week program "Cute Baby Animals Share-a-thon". Turns out you can never see too many cute baby animals.

### **Book Groups**

The Monday Night Book Group met on March 3 to discuss the book *One Second After* by William F. Forstchen. Unlike previous selections, which featured almost unanimous approval of the books read, there was a fair amount of conversation from the book group members. Of course, all debate was civil, and with the addition of yummy snacks, no one left displeased.

### **Outreach**

On February 20<sup>th</sup> the LWAS committee, with Thousand Oaks Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse in attendance, provided outreach to the Seniors Sweetheart Dance. Along with staff members from Forest Hills and Parman, the committee provided information to over 400 seniors about library resources and programs in their area.

Trivia outreach was provided twice to the Northeast Senior Center in the past month – on February 17 and March 11 – by Thousand Oaks and Tobin @ Oakwell staff members. The February outreach featured Branch Manager Troy Hoyles challenging participants with questions on Valentine's Day and Winter Olympics. Assistant Branch Manager Jorge Chavez was Master of Ceremonies in March, which featured a special section on all things Irish.

### **VITA**

Even though this period of VITA is usually the slowest period, the branch has experienced long lines and numerous inquiries about the availability of the VITA service. The popularity of the program, along with Thousand Oaks serving as income tax form pick-up location, has meant that staff here have so far had a very busy tax season.

## **TOBIN**

Tobin gladly welcomed new Library Aide, Jessica Martinez who started on February 24. Ms. Martinez comes with a Library Science Certificate from Palo Alto College. The branch was the third busiest Early Voting location in the city during February 18 – 28 with over 3,200 voters. Many voters renewed cards and checked out items and new library services since their last visit. As one of the five selected pilot libraries, Tobin at Oakwell began circulating Google Nexus 7 tablets on February 24. These tablets are so popular that once a tablet is returned, another customer checks the tablet out within minutes to a couple hours.

Children's Librarian, Ariel Cummins', in house programs continue with very solid attendance, as well as four monthly early literacy outreach visits. The Scholastic Van visited Tobin on March 1 where kids and parents enjoyed the fun and educational activities on board. During Spring Break, the daily Come and Go Crafts proved popular mastering crafts like fingerprint painting, airplanes, post it art and bookmarks. Teen Librarian, Elizabeth Leitko, has teens engaged with button making and beads, creative collages, Play Station and interactive apps on the branch I Pads with weekly teen and tween events. Ms. Leitko had clever I Phone holders and cube crafts for teens to make during Spring break too.

The Interesting Book Club's selection for March is Emma Donoghue's, *Room: A Novel*; while the Suspense Book Group is delving into Perri O'Shaunessey's, *Keeper of the Keys*. Displays this period feature American Heart and Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day, Never Laugh at a Live Dragon and Sci-Fi.

# WESTFALL

What better way to spend a rainy Saturday afternoon than visiting the Scholastic van? Lots of children and their big people did just that on March 8 when the van was parked at Westfall Branch Library.

Westfall Manager Sherrie Hardin joined Andy Stahlman, a circulation attendant at Cody Branch, to share library information with 103 people at the Low Vision Fair at Colonial Hills United Methodist Church. The event was sponsored by the San Antonio Low Vision Club. Sherrie and Andy talked about e-audiobooks and audiobooks.

Librarian I Karen Sagun visited with 25 students at Jefferson High School and is working to those kids signed up for library cards. Karen also gave 15 students from Mount Sacred Heart a tour of the library and talked about available services.

In mid-February Children's Librarian Imelda Merino attended a workshop on writing annotations for juvenile books.



## CONSTRUCTION

### **District 2 Branch Library**

**Description:** Development of a branch library in Council District 2.

**Funds:** \$6,000,000 (2012 Bond); \$100,000 (Public Art Piece)

**Location/District:** 5.73 acre site on US Hwy 87 East near Fosters Meadow Road / District 2

**City Architect:** Stacy Gonzales

**Project Architect:** O'Neill Conrad Oppelt Architects, Inc. (OCO)

**Design Enhancement:** Cakky Brawly – Artist from San Antonio

**Construction Contract:** TBD

**Estimated Completion Date:** FY 2016

#### **Project Scope:**

Development of a Branch Library in Council District 2. There is a commitment for a donation of land for this project, as such funding does not include resources for the acquisition of land

#### **Current Status:**

Library Board voted March 27 to accept property donation for new library, contingent on the completion of due diligence. Planning Commission approval was received on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and City Council approval for acceptance of donated land was given August 8.

Design Kick-off meeting was held with OCO Architects on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>.

The first public input meeting was held on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at Sinclair Elementary School. On September 25<sup>th</sup> an input session was held with the Library Board of Trustees.

The Owner Project Requirement meeting (OPR) was held on October 1<sup>st</sup> in the Central Auditorium. A library staff input meeting was held on October 12. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the Facilities Committee recommended accepting an additional donation of land from Mr. Schaefer that would allow for a possible driveway into the as yet developed subdivision. The Library Board of Trustees approved accepting the land donation at their December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. A staff meeting was held January 16 to finalize programming requirements. Conceptual floor and site plan was recommended for approval by Facilities

Committee on February 12, and was approved by the Board of Trustees February 26. A second public input session was held on February 20, 2014 at Sinclair Elementary School. The selected artist has been introduced to the design team and will begin developing conceptual themes for the project.

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#### **District 6 Branch Library Outlet Site**

**Description:** Development of a branch library site in Council District 6.

**Funds:** \$1,400,000 (2012 Bond)

**Location/District:** TBD/District 6

**City Architect:** Stacy Gonzales

**Project Architect:** TBD

**Design Enhancement:** N/A

**Construction Contract:** TBD

**Estimated Completion Date:** TBD

**Project Scope:**

Development of a branch library site in Council District 6

**Current Status:**

Library staff met with Councilman Lopez to provide an update on the project, solicit his feedback regarding the target area and to obtain feedback regarding service model options. Staff met again with CM Lopez on August 29, 2013 to explore a potential opportunity for Library Outlet. Outlet would be approx. 5,000 sf co-located in a 40,000 sf recreation center. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, an executive session of the Library Board of Trustees was held regarding proposed Real Estate transaction.

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#### **District 9 Branch Library**

**Description:** Development of a branch library site in Council District 9.

**Funds:** \$7,000,000 (2012 Bond); \$100,000 (Public Art Piece)

**Location/District:** 2515 East Evans Road/District 9

**City Architect:** Stacy Gonzales

**Project Architect:** Alvidrez Architects

**Design Enhancement:** Joe O'Connell & Blessing Hancock - Artists from Tucson, AZ

**Construction Contract:** TBD

**Estimated Completion Date:** FY 2015

**Project Scope:**

Development of a branch library in Council District 9. This project will require the purchase of land. Funding includes acquisition of the land

**Current Status:**

Library Board voted February 27 to accept offer for property located along Evans Road, west of HWY 281. Planning commission approved on March 27. City Council approved purchase on May 2, 2013. Property closed on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and all locks were re-keyed after ownership transfer to secure building. Staff has begun scoping meetings with Alvidrez Architects.

Owner Project Requirement meeting (OPR) was held on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Central Library Auditorium.

First public input meeting was held on October 12 at Encino Park Elementary School. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> an input session was held with the Library Board of Trustees. A library staff input meeting was held on October 30<sup>th</sup>. A Second public input session was held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 2515 East Evans Road from 6:30-8:00pm. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Library Board of Trustees approved a conceptual floor plan for the facility. Floor plan, exterior elevations and selected finishes were shown to the Library Board of Trustees on February 27<sup>th</sup> and approved. HDRC approval was given on March 7<sup>th</sup> for this project. There is a third public community meeting scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> at the library site, 2515 East Evans Rd. Weekly project team meetings are being held as Architectural team is finalizing design documents. The selected artist has been introduced to the design team and will begin developing conceptual themes for the project.

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### **Central Library**

**Description:** Renovations, repairs, upgrades and space reconfiguration to the Central Library facility

**Funds:** \$4,000,000 (2012 Bond)

**Location/District:** 600 Soledad / District 1

**City Architect:** Stacy Gonzales

**Project Architect:** Marmon Mok

**Design Enhancement:** N/A

**Construction Contract:** TBD

**Estimated Completion Date:** FY 2017

#### **Project Scope:**

Renovations, repairs, upgrades and space reconfiguration to the Central Library facility

**Current Status:** Preliminary meeting with the selected Architectural firm (Marmon Mok) has been held to finalize their contract scope. Kick-off meeting was held on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Marmon Mok is currently designing 1<sup>st</sup> floor restroom renovations to coincide with Café Commerce project. Additional planning meetings have been held with Marmon Mok to finalize project scope for FY 2014. Scope to include new carpet in public areas on floors 2, 5 & 6; restroom renovation to all public restrooms; installation of new exterior sign along Soledad Street; staff and collection moves associated with Café Commerce project; Audio/Visual improvements to Auditorium and other assorted mechanical, electrical and HVAC repairs. Work has been completed at the 1<sup>st</sup> floor restrooms adjacent to Connect Space. Renovations have begun at the restrooms adjacent to the auditorium, and will be complete by April 5<sup>th</sup>. Carpet replacement for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors are in the procurement process, and will need to go before City Council for approval of purchase. Carpet replacement for the Chihuly area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is in process, and will be complete prior to the San Antonio Book Festival on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Collection and staff moves relative to Café Commerce Phase 2 are complete. A/V improvements to Auditorium have been completed, and a new podium has been order for the auditorium, and will be installed upon arrival. Assorted building repairs will be complete by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Exterior sign is in final design phase, and is scheduled to be installed by April 4<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Cody Library**

**Description:** Repair meeting room wall after vehicle accident

**Funds:** \$18,000 (Special Revenue Funds)

**Location/District:** 11441 Vance Jackson Rd. / District 8

**City Architect:** N/A

**Project Architect:** N/A

**Design Enhancement:** N/A

**Construction Contract:** JOC – FA Nunnelly

**Estimated Completion Date:** January 31, 2014

#### **Project Scope:**

Repair interior and exterior wall damage in meeting room

#### **Current Status:**

A patron accidentally drove into the meeting room wall at Cody Library on December 12, 2013.

No one was injured, but there was substantial damage to the exterior and interior wall surfaces.

BESD Department and library staff responded immediately to temporarily secure the damaged area.

Working with CIMS Department, library staff met with a structural engineer on December 13<sup>th</sup> and it was determined that there was not enough significant damage to prevent to meeting room from being safely used for regular events.

All repairs have been made, and Risk Management Division has obtained re-imbursement from the insurance company for all damages, and the funds have been given to the library for deposit.

Library staff is currently reviewing options to install parking lot barricades in front of this wall to prevent further damage.

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## **2013 Facilities Assessment Study**

**Description:** Repairs and improvements to 8 Branch Libraries

**Funds:** \$1,492,000 (Deferred Maintenance Funding)

**District:** 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10

**Project Architect:** Debra J. Dockery Architect, PC.

**Design Enhancement:** None

**Construction Contract:** BES / Job Order Contractor system (CIMS) / Vendor Contracts

**Original Target Completion Date:** September 30, 2014

**Project Scope:** Make branch repairs and improvements, based in part on the April, 2009 Facilities Assessment Study conducted by Debra J. Dockery Architect, PC. Some additional repair items identified since the 2009 FAS study have also been included in this work. There will also be three Extreme Library makeovers completed at Carver, Cortez and Tobin at Oakwell Libraries.

**Current Status:**

**1<sup>st</sup> quarter projects:** Work at Guerra (retainer block repair) and Maverick (roof, irrigation and wall repair) has been completed.

**2<sup>nd</sup> quarter projects:** Work is in progress at Johnston (parking lot improvements and security camera installation) and Landa (interior painting, roof repairs, front door replacement and other building repairs). All work to be complete by March 31, 2014

**3<sup>rd</sup> quarter projects:** Work scope is being finalized for work at Westfall (interior and exterior improvements) and Cortez (Extreme Library Makeover) All work to be complete by June 30, 2014

**4<sup>th</sup> quarter projects:** Work scope is being finalized for Carver and Tobin at Oakwell (both Extreme Library Makeovers). All work to be complete by September 30, 2014.