

**San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
April 23, 2008**

Administration

Director's Office

Continuing the initiative to keep the library high on the list of elected officials' priorities, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Board Chair Jean Brady have been meeting with state and city representatives. On March 31, they presented State Senator Jeff Wentworth with a resolution of thanks from the Texas Library Association for his support of library district legislation and invited him to participate in the kickoff of the Library's Voter Registration Campaign. On April 1, they met with City Council District 4 Representative Philip Cortez to discuss the status of District 4 library projects and the Library's Internet Use Policy. That same day, Board member Lora Devlon Eckler joined Mr. Salazar and Ms. Brady to meet with Council District 6 Representative Delicia Herrera for an update on library issues in her district. On April 2, Mr. Salazar and Ms. Brady met with Council District 3 Representative Jennifer Ramos to discuss the new District 3 branch library. A second TLA resolution of thanks was presented to State Representative Joe Straus at the Central Library on April 3. On April 9, Mr. Salazar and Ms. Brady met with State Representative Joaquín Castro to update him on the library district initiative and to discuss library issues in his district and a possible partnership to promote Mr. Castro's book drive. On April 11, they met with District 1 Council Representative Mary Alice Cisneros to thank her for her support of the Voter Registration Campaign and give her an update on the Landa project and other library issues.

On April 9, Mr. Salazar served as master of ceremonies for the media kickoff of the Library's Voter Registration Campaign. State Senator Jeff Wentworth, State Representative Joaquín Castro and City Council District 1 Representative Mary Alice Cisneros all spoke at the event, as did Board Chair Jean Brady. In attendance were representatives from partner organizations the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and the League of Women Voters, together with Bexar Elections Administrator Jackie Callanen. The event received extensive media coverage.

Mr. Salazar was interviewed by Berit Mason of WOAI News Radio about the Landa Gardens project and other library initiatives, by Donna Tuttle regarding library construction and other issues for the San Antonio *Business Journal's* annual corporate relocation issue, and by Vince Davis of the *Express-News* about how San Antonio library services and resources compare with those in benchmark cities.

Mr. Salazar attended the biennial Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis March 26 through 29, and the Texas Library Association annual conference in Dallas April 16 through 18. During the TLA Conference, SAPL's Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash was presented with the Siddie Joe Johnson Award by the Children's Round Table of the Texas Library Association. This award recognizes an outstanding Texas librarian and member of the Children's Round Table who works with children from preschool to eighth grade, and the criteria for selection included outstanding or innovative programming, leadership, involvement in professional organizations, and cooperation with parents and other libraries, especially outside their own systems.

The San Antonio Public Library has been notified that the San Antonio Conservation Society will recognize the City of San Antonio with a preservation award for its restoration of the San Pedro Branch Library. The presentation will take place at the society's awards dinner on Friday, May 16.

City/County Contract for Library Services

As a follow-up to the Library's January 22 presentation to Commissioners Court, Ramiro Salazar met with Dr. David Morgan on April 11 to continue discussions on the county contract for library services. Mr. Salazar and Dr. Morgan are negotiating years two through five of the contract for library services with the County and discussed possible funding formulas and other related library information with Dr. Morgan. A second follow-up meeting is scheduled for the last week of April.

Outreach

Councilman Clamp hosted the District 10 Senior Spring Fling celebration on March 25 at the New Creation Christian Fellowship Plaza. The library contributed library pencils for goodie bags distributed to attendees. Jessica Ramos from Library Administration, and Omar Berrios from the Library Foundation attended the events and provided information about the library, registered new library card holders, and handed out "*Vámonos a la biblioteca*" posters. Councilman Clamp sent a letter to Ms. Ramos acknowledging the Library's participation in the event. Library Board Member Ron Campos attended the event and volunteered to serve refreshments.

Branch Services

Branch Coordinator Joel Bangilan has been assigned to develop the Outreach Services unit. This unit will incorporate a team to provide the services of the bookmobile, books by mail, and Little Read Wagon, as well as coordinating outreach activities such as library appearances at health fairs and similar events.

Joel attended the Public Library Association conference this year. In addition to spending a day at the recruiting table, he attended management and reference seminars. The "table talk" session he attended discussed roving reference librarians. This reference service model has seen significant results and might be practical to implement in San Antonio.

Joel is serving on the Texas Library Association Planning Committee for Conference 2009. He is developing an interview with a number of experts about green libraries. He attended the TLA Annual Conference in April to assist with SAPL's recruiting activities and to work on the programming committee.

Branch Coordinator Barbara O'Hara conducted FISH! Customer Service Training for staff from the Carver and San Pedro Branch Libraries. (FISH! training is a matter-of-fact approach to creating a fun work environment, and understanding how having fun in the workplace affects both staff and their interaction with customers. The program is based on the world-famous Pike Place Fish Market in Seattle, where the employees made a conscious decision to take what could have been a routine, unglamorous job and have fun, while "being" with their customers. As stated in FISH! literature: "Play makes our job fun, energizes the creativity and problem-solving abilities within us, pleases customers and team members, makes boring tasks easier, and makes time pass more quickly.")

Barbara attended the biennial Public Library Association conference, where she went to sessions on Intellectual Freedom, Libraries as Community Problem Solvers, and Building Partnerships between the City and the Library.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar has assigned Barbara the responsibilities of coordinating adult programming and serving as the lead management team member for the Chicano Renaissance project as part of the library's observance of Hispanic Heritage Month 2008. This initiative will be a retrospective and recognition of the activities and contributions of the early years of the Texas Chicano movement.

Children's Services

Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash was one of seven panelists featured on KLRN's "Raising a Community of Readers" literacy town hall taped on April 8. The program, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of supporting the developmental early literacy of San Antonio's youngest citizens, aired on Thursday, April 17, on local public television. The program was conceived as part of the city-wide participation in the National Week of the Young Child, April 13 -19.

Viki also participated in the San Antonio Junior League's "Kids in the Kitchen" project on Sunday, April 13 at the Pearl Stables and is serving on the San Antonio Botanical Garden's Education Advisory Committee.

The children's librarians are busy preparing for the 2008 Summer Reading Program, "Read Across Texas!" This year's summer programs feature virtual visits to state and national parks across Texas. Ranger Tom from the San Antonio Missions Historical Park will be visiting every library location to help children understand the significance of the Missions and encourage them to visit our local national park.

Little Read Wagon

Yet another group of child care providers converged on the Central Library on March 29, and went home with great ideas and resources for building literacy skills in their classrooms.

As part of the "Week of the Young Child," Little Read Wagon co-sponsored an institute for informal caregivers. Also known as "Family, Friend, and Neighbor" caregivers, these individuals often provide childcare without the support of a licensed child care facility. The April 12 event was held at Family Service Association's Neighborhood Place, and offered informative workshops, opportunities to network, and library cards.

On April 14 and 16 Little Read Wagon began another round of "*Para los niños*" programs at the Las Palmas and Bazan Branch Libraries. Cresencia Huff attended the Texas Library Association annual conference in Dallas, where she moderated a panel discussion of the "Every Child Ready to Read" program.

Public Relations

The Library Voter Registration Campaign received extensive media coverage, including a story in the *Express-News* and reports on KENS/Channel 5 and KSAT/Channel 12 and news radio stations WOAI and KTSA.

Other coverage included a story on the Library's services and resources for special-needs customers, which arose out of the news release sent out about the Library/Texas Public Radio/Owl Radio Big Read partnership.

Additionally, the Central Library was included in "Three Perfect Days: San Antonio," a story by Terry Scott Bertling in *Hemispheres*, United Airlines' travel magazine; the Maverick Branch Library was featured in the Palo Alto (College) *Review* Spring 2008 issue, a tribute to Maury Maverick, Jr.; and in the constituent newsletters of State Senator Leticia Van de Putte and District 6 Council Representative Delicia Herrera.

Public Relations Manager Beth Graham is working with the Landa Gardens Conservancy on arrangements for the May 1 garden ribbon-cutting and branch library reopening. She coordinated interviews with Ann Van Pelt of the Landa Gardens Conservancy and Library Director Ramiro Salazar for Berit Mason of WOAI News Radio, and with Mr. Salazar for Vince Davis from the *Express-News* and Donna Tuttle from the San Antonio *Business Journal*.

Beth has accepted the assignment of coordinating and overseeing the Library's community needs assessment study.

Graphic design staff have been concentrating on the Young Pegasus Poetry Awards, producing layout for the poets' anthology and the invitations to the ceremony itself; and "Read Across Texas," the 2008 children's Summer Reading Program.

Web Services

The Web Services Team is continuing to move forward with the Web Redesign project. The team is learning about the E-vanced Events module via webinars taught by the vendor. They are also working to develop newly designed library location pages containing address, phone, hours, bus routes, Flickr photos, location events, and a manager message. To better assist library patrons, Juanita López is building individual Google maps showing the location of the branch and the surrounding streets, to be embedded in the web page, allowing customers to get a map of the surrounding area. Linking to Google Maps allows them to get detailed driving directions from their current location. While working on the new website, the team continues to provide a wide variety of updates to web content, event publications, and pages to promote information, including voter registration and RFID.

Kudos to staff - Customer comments

"I literally just got off the phone with Mary Badham. What a fun conversation! She absolutely loved her visit here and raved about how well everything had gone. She said all three of her engagements were standing room only and laughed when she mentioned how good this makes a speaker feel! Ms. Badham also got a kick out of waking up to a promotion of *The Big Read* on television this morning. She enjoyed San Antonio and her stay at Hotel Contessa on the Riverwalk (FYI, she raves about a masseuse there that has the hands of an angel...in case you ever need a massage). While her visit was a fairly quick one, she'd love to return to San Antonio and work with teachers and students in their classrooms.

"Thanks to all of you for coordinating her engagements, making her stay a wonderful one, and for getting the word out on the fabulous *Big Read* events!

"Many, many thanks" - **Sarah Swinney**, Development Coordinator, San Antonio Public Library Foundation

"I LOVE the courtesy notice about materials that will soon be due. I got the first one ever today and went online to renew my books. Super Easy!" – Betty Myrvang, March 19

Central Library

Children's Department

The Central Children's staff was happy to welcome Mary Elizabeth Fernández as a full-time Library Assistant on Saturday, April 12. She had worked in the department previously as a part-time Library Assistant.

On March 17, the department hosted a "Flannel Board Fun" workshop for children's staff system-wide. Morning and afternoon sessions were provided, with seventeen total staff in attendance. The sessions were designed to introduce new techniques and encourage use of the flannel board as a supplement to the library's on-going storytime presentations.

Tours of the Central Library continue to be very popular this spring with groups ranging in size from fifteen four-year-olds on April 14 to 120 kindergarteners on April 11.

Reference

Julia Selwyn has been accepted into the prestigious Tall Texans Program, which “provides leadership training for the Texas Library Association membership by offering an annual Leadership Development Institute for librarians and laypersons.”

Librarian II Natasha Arguello and her team, Central Reference Librarian I Sally Bauer, Memorial Librarian II Jimmy Jiménez, and Central Reference Library Assistant Adam Spana were successful in obtaining a \$5,000 Express Outreach Grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). Their proposal, “Promotoras and Libraries: Advancing Online Health Information in San Antonio’s Underserved Communities,” establishes a partnership between SAPL, the University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio Library and the Edgewood Family Network to promote NN/LM medical databases, such as Medline Plus and PubMed. The partners will target their outreach to ten ZIP codes that the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District have designated as at-risk for health issues.

Natasha also attended the Computers in Libraries Conference in Arlington, Virginia, April 7 through 9. The theme of the 2008 conference was :Innovative Change: Integrating High Tech with High Touch” (more information is available from the wiki at <http://www.infotoday.com/CIL2008/>). The conference offers opportunities for those interested in discovering insights, strategies and practices for managing digital information, supporting innovation and training, building new communities online, marketing libraries and much more. One of the highlights was the second annual Infotubey Awards ceremony (<http://www.infotubey.com/>), where the top five short YouTube films were presented. Natasha has also been asked to serve as an Outreach Advisor to the Library of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Librarian II Rolf Laun (Central/Reference) attended the PLA conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 25 through 29. He attended a variety of programs and events, but focused mainly on sessions dealing with Readers' Advisory for both fiction and nonfiction, including a session on creating Readers' Advisory training. Rolf was also one of the conference’s official bloggers, documenting individual attendees’ experiences during the meeting.

Librarians II Rolf Laun and Julia Selwyn attended the annual Texas Library Association conference April 15-18.

Pannaga Prasad and Carmen Roja organized a program entitled “Are you ready to buy a home?” on April 5. Presented by Housing and Neighborhood Services Loan Coordinator Adolph Torres, the seminar offered information about mortgage loans, property tax and low-interest loan offerings that could be used towards down payment and closing costs, etc. More than fifty people attended.

Special Events

The Central Library and Special Event Coordinator Andrew Gordon were honored at a reception by the Texas Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services and the Alamo Area Disability Alliance, where Andrew accepted a plaque recognizing him and SAPL for their "outstanding vision, dedication and commitment towards providing service to persons with disabilities."

The Central Library was the host partner for the first Annual Alamo Area Disability Career Expo in October 2007, which provided an opportunity to highlight SAPL's disability and employment resources to approximately 600 attendees, and was also the host venue for the April 2008 AADA Spring Career Fair. The event drew 24 recruiting employers and nearly 500 job seekers.

AADA is a partnership of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Alamo WorkSource, and other local disability advocacy organizations within Bexar County.

Texana/Genealogy

Texana/Genealogy hosted Big Read presenter Dr. Claudia Johnson at an informal luncheon and discussion in the department on March 27. Earlier in the morning she did research in Texana/Genealogy, and later Sylvia Reyna and Kate Simpson took Dr. Johnson on a trolley tour of downtown San Antonio.

Matt DeWaelche was one of the Library staff who worked at the March 29 Houston Street Fair.

On April 2, members of Los Bexareños conducted oral interviews with two more individuals whose ancestors go back to early Spanish San Antonio.

3 April - Matt DeWaelche represented the Library at the monthly meeting of SARA, the local archives group.

City Archivist and former Texana/Genealogy staff member Amanda DeFlorio presented a workshop on April 5 on "Organizing Your Genealogical Research" to a group of seven.

On April 7 Deborah Countess taught a group of twelve the ins and outs of ancestry.com, library edition.

Matt and Andrew Crews continue to work at the City Records Facility sorting, identifying, and labeling maps. They each spend four hours a week working on hundreds of city maps, so that these resources will eventually be available to patrons. At other times they continue to work on former Mayor Bill Thornton's papers.

Gloria Cadena's "Chabot Papers" have been re-housed and are now being indexed. A number of her books have also been catalogued.

Texana/Genealogy received a \$150 donation from the History Club of San Antonio with the following note: "Thank you for your efforts in serving the citizens of San Antonio through this special library collection. Truly, your materials and assistance enhance and uplift all of us."

The center display case now features "Main Plaza" honoring the re-birth of that location. Other displays in the room are "Texas Music and Poetry," "Texas Arts and Crafts," and "Fiesta."

Youth(wired) Teen Services

Mondays with Regina Almanza: Monday nights are devoted to video games, with games for the PlayStation and Nintendo GameCube being rotated every week. A Guitar Hero tournament was held on April 7 with more than twenty teens participating. The winner's list is posted on the wall of the Round Reading Room in Youth(wired).

Tuesdays with Kathleen Fordyce: On March 25, teens used buttons and pony bead lace to make Knot Bracelets. The Round Reading Room was packed when teens played Dance Dance Revolution on April 8. On April 1, 15 and 22, in celebration of National Poetry Month, Youth(wired) hosted Open Mike poetry in the Round Reading Room. Teens read their own poems and poetry from library books.

Wednesdays with Sylvia Pachecano: On March 26, Sylvia hosted a viewing of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, with teens enjoying popcorn and soda. On April 2, Sylvia presented a program entitled, "Faerie Magik." On April 16, Ms. Pachecano hosted a gardening program for spring entitled, "Planting Wishes." Five teens planted a wish and a bean, hoping that when the beans grow, their wishes will come true.

On April 5, fourteen teens attended Ms. Pachecano's monthly Anime/Manga Club. The teens participated in a Haiku presentation by Mr. Bob Olsen of the Japan America Society of San Antonio.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza: On March 27, teens made origami butterflies to use as decorations on wire picture frames that they also made. Using items such as yarn, floral wire and floral tape, teens made yarn flowers. One teen wore hers in her hair for the rest of the night. A favorite program was brought back on April 10 – candy lollipops. This is an easy process that allows teens to get creative with chocolate either by filling molds or making free-form ones. "Chicks" ruled on April 17. Teens used everyday items such as cotton balls, hairspray and beads to make cute cotton ball chicks.

Tours & Groups

On March 31 and April 2, 4, 7, and 21, art classes from Fox Tech High School used the Youth(wired) computers for class projects. On April 17, Youth(wired) staff conducted a tour of the library for tenth-grade students from Harvest Academy. The students also received catalog and database instruction.

Branch Libraries

Brook Hollow

Department of Community Initiatives public computer training resumed at Brook Hollow for the month of March, and classes were full at each of the eight sessions.

Librarian Mary Smith recently started an after-school program for teens, and the kids are loving it! They've played board games, made bubble magnets and have asked for Pictionary next week. Plans are in effect to purchase a Play Station and incorporate gaming activities as well. Children's Librarian Ruth Turner will start after-school activities for the younger ones soon. These activities have helped make the after-school hours more productive for both staff and children.

Barbara Scott-Gore came to Brook Hollow Branch Library dressed as The Cat in the Hat, representing "Read across America." She read several Dr. Seuss tales to area children. This is her twelfth year performing at various libraries and organizations around San Antonio. "Have hat, will travel" is her motto because she thinks "reading is very important in a child's life!"

Branch Manager Beth K. Schorlemer and Library Assistant Anne Schuette both attended the Public Library Association's 2008 Conference in Minneapolis. Anne went as a requirement of the MLIS grant provided to her by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar recently received this e-mail regarding Brook Hollow Branch Library:

From: Terri Salazar On Behalf Of Tony Bosmans
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 4:49 PM
To: Ramiro Salazar
Cc: Frances A. Gonzalez; Tony Bosmans
Subject: Reality Check Results

Good Job! A recent Reality Check visit to your Brook Hollow Branch Library received a "Good" overall rating. As you know, UMAST Volunteers are visiting City offices to observe inside and outside appearances of City facilities and actual customer service delivery by staff. A "Good" rating does not require an immediate action plan by the center; however, your continued commitment to achieve an "Excellent" is greatly appreciated. Once again, good job, and congratulations!

“Reality Check” is an initiative of the City Manager’s office to monitor and document staff skills and performance in the area of customer service.

Carver

Fiesta fever swept through the Carver Branch Library where staff, eager for the arrival of the April kick-off of the annual celebration, decorated the building with festive emblems and tore through the collection in search of informative materials dealing with the occasion. The major attraction, however, was the display case which featured colorful paper flowers, a piñata, cascarrones, multi-colored confetti and animal masks crafted by school children. Books were displayed prominently in the display case, where they boosted circulation by inviting customers take them home.

On Saturday, April 5, the Life Synagogue Children’s Literacy Program set up its wares in the branch meeting room, attracting families with children ages Pre-K through third grade for an afternoon of story time, face painting, arts and crafts and refreshments.

Carver staff remained committed to outreach services in April. Branch Manager Ronnie Delgado represented the library at a health fair sponsored by Childress Memorial Church of God in Christ. He took advantage of the opportunity to discuss the vast array of books available in San Antonio Public Library dealing with health information. Explaining that health information was also just a click away, he invited customers to visit the branch to access the latest in health topics on SAPL databases, such as PubMed and MEDLINE Plus.

Librarian II D.L. Grant participated in Literature under the Stars, an evening fundraiser for the library at Wheatley Middle School. The event featured food, music, games and an appearance by renowned children’s writer Xavier Garza, author of *Creepy Creatures and Other Cucuys*. D.L. also offers a teen book club at the school. He shared an excerpt from Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and promoted SAPL resources and services. Mr. Grant also accepted an invitation to promote the library at St. Philip’s College, where evening division students study for the GED. He traveled to Dallas to attend the Texas Library Association Annual Conference. He is chair-elect of TLA-District 10.

Friends of the Carver Library reported healthy profits from its spring book sale which was held on April 12. The branch reported higher-than-usual traffic by customers attracted by the bargains.

On April 17 Public Service Manager Ronnie Delgado spent the afternoon at King Academy reciting poetry to third, fourth and fifth graders. The students were attentive to the recital. Carver Library will be invited back for more poetry recitals and Career Day presentations in the near future.

The Carver staff would like to thank Children’s Librarian Ginger Payne for helping out at Carver Library for the last four months while awaiting the Landa Branch reopening. Her camaraderie will be greatly missed at Carver.

Cody

The Cody Branch Library *Casablanca* event in February welcomed a spur-of-the-moment program opportunity for the Big Read event. Attendees at the February meeting asked that local film critic Larry Ratliff come back in April to discuss the film *To Kill a Mockingbird* on April 5. Attendees and Mr. Ratliff have thoroughly enjoyed the film discussions and are excited about more such programs in the future.

Early voting and VITA kept Cody’s meeting room busy during the month of April. Cody’s various clubs held their monthly meetings; selections for the month were: Film Club, *The Maltese Falcon*; Thursday Club, Khaled Hosseini’s *A Thousand Splendid Suns*; Saturday Club, Jack London’s *Call of the Wild*; and Mystery Club, anything by Ben Rehder. On April 13, the poetry club celebrated

National Poetry Month with public readings by its members. The Friends of the Cody Library held their semi-annual book sale on April 19 with great success.

In addition to performing regularly scheduled library lapsit programs and storytimes, Library Assistant Trina Smith has been busy lining up performers for the summer reading program. She has confirmed dates for *Illusions* by Blake and *Donnabelle the Clown*. Ms. Smith has also started the process of contacting schools, day cares, local Girl and Boy Scout Troops, and other agencies to promote the library summer reading program.

Cody's anime club has been moved to the second Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m., and as a result has begun to attract some regular attendees. Librarian I Connie Hejl has also begun to contact local middle and high schools to promote the summer reading program.

Cody welcomed new Facilities staff member Mark Ruíz, who transferred from the Semmes Branch Library. Staff have been busy working on a major rearrangement project which includes interfiling reference books into the adult non-fiction collection. The hope is that with customers only having to go to one location, they will be able to find information quickly and more efficiently. Staff were excited to hear about the CDBG funds that were approved to repair and enhance the building.

Upcoming Events:

April 26 Big Read Book Discussion of *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
May 17 Author visit by Ben Rehder, discussing his latest release *Holy Moly*

Collins Garden

Recently Collins Garden Branch Library has been a center for community activity. The branch served as an early voting run-off site this month, while VITA volunteers continued providing much-needed tax assistance. Tax volunteers have been understanding and accommodating during times when the meeting room was in use for early voting and various elections, setting up their filing operations in the back corner of the library. So far, VITA has assisted more than 1,200 customers at this site.

Librarian Amy Cline and Library Assistant Mary Pérez have livened up the branch with several colorful displays for April, including "Jazz," "Spring into Poetry," and "Fiesta! San Antonio."

Twenty-five enthusiastic teens attended a matinee screening of *Ratatouille*. Teen liaison Carlos Loera made the program extra special by seeing that movie-goers got their fill of hot dogs, popcorn and soda.

The parking lot was full on Saturday, April 6, with the Collins Garden Neighborhood Association's annual rummage sale. Shoppers visited the library after searching for bargains outside. FOSAPL President Linda Nairn was on hand throughout the day to provide information and recruit members for the newly established Friends group.

Collins Garden has hosted its first ever Poster Board Art Marathon. The library supplied poster board and craft supplies, and for three afternoons children could create artwork that the branch would then display. The kids loved it, the craft supply cabinet got emptied of all the odd leftover craft supplies, and adults appreciated that the kids were busy creating artwork, rather than milling around the Technology Center while waiting for their turn on the computers.

The branch's puppet Miss Chicken is a hit at storytime. Attendance continues to be small but enthusiastic, and the children enjoy getting to pet and hug Miss Chicken at the end of storytime.

Cortez

The Cortez Branch Library was an early voting site for the primary runoff election from March 31 through April 4. Voter turnout was much lighter than the presidential primary just a few weeks earlier.

On April 9, a group of thirty people attended the Magik Theater's dramatic reading of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which was quite an impressive turnout for the branch! One attendee said, "It was awesome. Thank you for providing it for free!" This was the first of three programs offered at Cortez as part of the library's participation in the Big Read. The screening of the classic movie *To Kill a Mockingbird* on April 15 was the second in the series, and Jerry Madrigal facilitated the book discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on April 17.

The monthly presentation by Central American teachers attending Palo Alto College took place on Thursday, April 10. Guests described the customs, history, geography, music, folk art and dances of Honduras. The program started with the singing of the Honduran national anthem and ended with a question-and-answer period.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, Library Assistant and Young Adult Liaison Amanda Hernández organized and hosted the branch's first teen poetry open mike program on April 16. On April 21, Branch Manager Rebecca Johnson organized an open mike poetry day for adults to read their favorite poems. The open mike programs were a first for the library.

The Cortez staff was very happy to host the Library Board meeting on Wednesday, April 23. Branch Manager Rebecca Johnson gave a presentation of library happenings.

Cortez was one of ten branches in the San Antonio Public Library system hosting programs for *El Día de Los Niños/ El Día de Los Libros* this year. The Cortez event on April 26 featured bilingual storyteller MaryAnn Blue; Conjunto Palo Alto, a student conjunto ensemble from Palo Alto College led by Juan Tejeda; and craft activities with the help of Children's Librarian Carol Collins and Library Assistant Amanda Hernandez.

Great Northwest

Great Northwest would like to thank Automation Department staffers Ray Fraga, Janie Magallanez and Ernie Veracruz for delivering and supporting the installation of sixteen new public PCs. Branch Department Systems Aide Danny Durán was able to have all the computers installed and running within two days.

Children's staff are winding down their spring programming series to get prepared for Summer Reading. The ABC club participants will have their "Graduation Ceremony." Maricela Martínez and Luanne Bloom presented storytime at Maverick Library while Amy Roberts was away. Timberwilde Elementary brought all of the second- through fifth-grade classes to the library for tours.

Children's Librarian Cari Raley received a Certificate of Recognition from District 6 Council Representative Delicia Herrera at her March town meeting. Ms. Raley was recognized for her unique programming services to the community.

Guerra Programs

At the end of March, Little Read Wagon presented a workshop for parents and caregivers of children. Attendees were taught techniques for helping young children learn to read and received free books.

Regular children's programs have been assigned to Library Assistant Tim Johnson and Librarian I Steve Johnson during the eight-weeks that Children's Librarian Yanira Cruz will be on maternity

leave. Tim is conducting Toddler Tuesday and Baby Bounce. He has already received mothers' compliments for his programs. Steve Johnson is conducting Preschool Storytime.

Guerra's teen-focused video game group Game-ra resumed in April with a Retro Night followed by a Free Night. Teen Move Night featured *The Simpsons Movie*. In addition to the movie, the board game "Simpsons Clue" and the video game "Road Rage" were offered. Simpsons mazes and word searches were also distributed. In Homer Simpson's honor, donuts and root beer were served. The newly created Teen Book Club read *Twilight* by Stephanie Meier as its first selection. On April 22 there will be an Open Mike Night & Poetry Slam. Teen Liaison Tim Johnson and Department Systems Aide Erich Backhus have worked cooperatively on the teen program agenda.

Branch Manager Joyce Anne Stevens led the Big Read book discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. There was lively discussion about how much of the book was autobiographical, the basic themes, Harper Lee's small town life and the meaningful ways in which her background might be reflected in her work. Joyce Anne brought to the group's attention the only comprehensive biography of Harper Lee written to date, *Mockingbird: a Portrait of Harper Lee* by Charles J. Shields. Each participant received a copy of the Big Read Reader's Guide.

Displays

Library Assistant Ernestina García created a Big Read display incorporating all the materials distributed in association with the program. She also pulled excerpts and pictures to enhance the display.

Ernestina also created a Book Barn display featuring a large model of a barn with books on farm animals and rural life. This meshed well with Tim Johnson's first storytime, which focused on farm animals.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, poems were framed and displayed in Guerra's horizontal display case. Ernestina created the poetry display and incorporated poetry books to accompany the display.

A Fiesta display created by Ernestina included books about Fiesta and San Antonio. A brightly colored sarape, a large poster with a festive wreath, and Fiesta floats created by staff members Ernestina, Christina Martínez, and Aurora Hernández draw patrons to the display. The seven flags of Texas hang above the display.

Staff

Christina Martinez and Steve Jackson volunteered to participate in Dial-a-Story/Telecuentos. They each taped a reading of children's books in Spanish. Since the branch serves a predominately Spanish speaking population, Guerra is fortunate to have eight Spanish speakers on staff.

Custodian Annie Castillo attended the Frontline Focus Group aimed at soliciting budget suggestions from staff. She collected suggestions from the Guerra staff and returned from the meeting with a long list of the suggestions that were made by the group.

Joyce Anne Stevens is presenting a short speech at the Cafecito for parents on April 18 at Westwood Terrace Elementary School. She will promote the Summer Reading Program and other events held for children at the Guerra Branch.

Christine Martínez has been pulling and labeling Texas Bluebonnet Award books and creating a display highlighted by live bluebonnets. Students are invited to read five books in order to vote for a Bluebonnet book title. Christine also created notebooks for book titles nominated from previous years as well as a Master List for 2008-2009.

Librarians Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard, Tim Johnson, and Steve Jackson attended the ROSA (Reaching Our Spanish-Speaking Audience) workshop sponsored by the Texas State Library in cooperation with WebJunction, an online community for library staff serving the Hispanic population.

Early Voting and VITA

Guerra hosted Early Voting and Election Day for the runoff election from March 31 through April 8. VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) services provided at Guerra ended April 15.

Facility

Project Control Manager Rich Walker has been facilitating the completion of two improvement projects. Protective metal boxes are being installed over the ground lights. Acoustic panels are being installed in the Guerra meeting room to reduce the echo. Both projects are nearing completion.

Igo

The Igo staff was joined by volunteers of the Branch's Friends group for a Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Food, teambuilding exercises, individual achievement recognition and fun were all rolled into one productive meeting. Comments on the success of the event and the goodwill it generated all indicate that this is an event worthy of repeat in the future.

The Big Read was in full force at Igo with several programs being offered: a book discussion, movie showing, a presentation by Dr. Claudia Johnson, and a performance from the Magik Theater group. Library staff did a great job of decorating for the SAPL-wide celebration, including a life-size replica of an oak tree (complete with mockingbird and all). Other successful programs were also attended by the public, and it was not uncommon to witness crowds of at least 50 participants in children's and teen sessions. Some of the special workshops held this month included an iPod case craft for teens, a family storytime especially welcoming of children with special needs, eco-friendly gardening, beading jewelry for adults, a Guitar Hero tournament and a Poetry Cabaret for school-age children. Outside organizations continue to request meeting room space in increasing numbers, and this past month saw visitors from several City agencies, homeowners groups, and leisure-time instructional groups such as drama coaching, musical instrument explorations, and sign language education.

After their formal acceptance as a bona-fide group at a meeting held at the Brook Hollow Branch, the Friends of the Igo Library held their first official meeting on April 12. The excited throng discussed plans for their first mini-book sale to be held in May, was presented with an ever-growing wish list from the Branch Manager, and met with some of the Branch's key staff.

As part of the ongoing focus on professional development, certain staff took part in training sessions offered by COSA and/or SAPL. Librarians have been busy researching and discussing philosophical and practical trends of the career. Two focal points of exploration for the group are, "What behaviors, services and tasks define different roles of library employees?" and, "What makes a library great?"

Johnston

Johnston welcomed aboard two new staff members, Amanda Coronado and Abraham Galindo, both Library Aides. They are proving to be quick studies at mastering their jobs.

The Johnston Friends' group held its book sale the last weekend of March, drawing a good turnout and generating brisk sales both days.

Dealing with the public every day, library staff never know whom they might meet or what interesting tales they might have to relate. A long-time Johnston patron from Air Force Village, a retirement community near the branch, casually mentioned to Librarian Rich Fields that he had once had dinner with Jimmy Stewart and several Air Force generals. He remarked that Stewart was a very pleasant

fellow. He added that his brother, also a USAF general, has an Air Force base named after him in recognition of his having headed up the team that developed the inter-continental ballistic missile system.

Landa

On March 5 the Landa Gardens Conservancy held their annual Merchant Breakfast at the branch to showcase the newly renovated grounds. Twenty merchants who own businesses in the Monte Vista neighborhood attended the breakfast and were impressed with the grounds, pledging continued support of Conservancy projects for Landa Branch Library

Members of the Landa Community Gardens held their first work day on April 5, planting a variety of plants in the restored garden area on the grounds. After only one week, some of the plants are sprouting.

Las Palmas

Early Voting and Election Day for the March runoff elections was steady this time around, with very manageable crowds and parking.

Ambassadors for the PBS Raising Readers program interacted with 30 parents at Las Palmas on March 25, as part of the PBS "Ready to Learn" initiative. They demonstrated how parents and caregivers can use the Raising Readers television programming and website to help teach reading skills to young children.

Las Palmas staff attended various workshops this month, covering the topics of safety, interpersonal relationships, and professional development (Fire Safety in the Library; Recognizing the Mentally Ill, Avoid the Conflict Trap, and Story time Strategies.) Thanks to AALS, Melva Ramirez at Memorial, and Viki Ash at Central Children's Services for these learning opportunities.

"Math at Home" is the first of seven topics in the *Para los Niños* sessions that the Little Read Wagon is presenting on April 14 at Las Palmas. These learning activity sessions are aimed at children and caregivers – parents, family, friends or neighbors.

Thirty-three children and adults enjoyed Family Fun story hour presented by Children's Librarian Gina Brudi.

Library Board member Laurie Gruenbeck visited Las Palmas on March 31. Ms. Gruenbeck met and chatted with the staff members on duty, then toured the library.

Maverick

The focus for the Maverick staff has been the Big Read and Fiesta. All of the participants of the visit from Dr. Johnson were pleased and couldn't seem to praise her presentation enough. Folks were especially impressed by her extensive knowledge and with the informal time she spent with them at the end of her presentation. Maverick had two special events for Fiesta along with displays and discussions of the holiday.

Amy Roberts has been especially busy as Esperanza Sonnen has been temporarily assigned to the Bazan Branch. Ms. Roberts has been doing all the story times and other children's services duties as well as preparing for her trip to TLA.

Maverick's regular groups and guests are continuing to utilize the branch's space and hospitality. The knitters, needleworkers, chess players, writers, and neighborhood associations are keeping the community spaces busy. Even the VITA folks feel like regulars now; we will miss them. For the

primary runoffs, Maverick Branch Library was once again host to early voting and election-day polling.

The Spring 2008 edition of the Palo Alto (College) Review is a tribute to Maury Maverick, Jr., and opens with reflections on Mr. Maverick's life by guest editor Char Miller, inspired by the Maury Maverick, Jr., Branch Library.

McCreless

On April 17 Children's Librarian Beverly Bixler got an early start on school visits and took her storytelling skills to Highland Hills PCI.

On April 6 Beverly did her part for Dial-a-Story and recorded *Dogzilla* by Dave Pilkey.

The April book display is "These Books Will Grow on You," featuring books about gardening and fiction with the word "garden" in the title.

On April 9 the branch showed the film *To Kill a Mockingbird* as part of the Big Read project and on April 12 Branch Manager Cammie Gunter led a discussion of the same title.

The Friends of McCreless continued their giving ways by donating money for refreshments for programs and money for a new digital camera. They have also ordered a special armchair with an attached tabletop for use by patrons bringing in their laptops. The branch hopes to get at least one more of these chairs in the future as the demand for Wi-Fi access has increased and the availability of seating near electric outlets is often a problem.

Memorial

Department Systems Aide Tricia Masterson submitted pictures and an essay to Paramount Pictures promoting the *Spiderwick* book series. The contest's grand prize was for a private screening of the movie for patrons. Her entry won and she and library staff worked with the City, Paramount Pictures, and Regal Cielo Vista Cinema to show the movie. Eighty-eight patrons attended the screening to rave reviews.

Sheila Acosta and the Memorial Library hosted guest author Dr. Claudia Johnson for a discussion on the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* during the library's Big Read activities. She impressed the small crowd who could have stayed longer than the library's closing hours. The Memorial Amigos hosted dinner for Dr. Johnson and Sheila Acosta at Lisa's Mexican Restaurant.

Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta was invited to attend Madison Elementary School's Readers' Theater, an evening event for parents, to share information about the Summer Reading Program and events planned for the Memorial Library. Sheila maintains her monthly visit to Parent-Child Inc.'s Jose Cardenas classes to perform monthly readings. She contributed to a presentation with Viki Ash and Randi Jones on the Readers' Theater at the children's librarians' meeting in March.

Librarian II Jimmy Jiménez participated in four visits to St. Mary's CFRLC classes to speak to ESL and GED students about library services and obtaining a library card.

With funding from JPMorgan Chase, the Memorial Amigos supported a two-session One-Stroke Painting Class. The class was a big success.

The Amigos also participated in a fund raiser by charging for parking at the annual Oyster Bake at St. Mary's University.

Branch Manager Melva Ramirez worked with the West Patrol SAFFE Office to conduct a program on How to Manage the Mentally Ill. Staff from several other locations attended, as well Memorial's staff.

The teen Chess Club initiated by Librarian I Maria Stroligo and Librarian II Jimmy Jiménez continues with participation from students from Truman Middle School and Memorial High School.

Family Game Night continues with families enjoying Monopoly, Scrabble, Clue, Stratego, and many more board games.

Runoff voting was held at Memorial to quiet crowds.

Pan American

Pan American completed this session of the Wednesday ABC Club with letters "X", "Y", and "Z". March 26, there were 20 children learning about "X". Yarn pictures were created on April 2, with 21 in attendance. Zebras and zoos were the theme on April 9, with 23 participants. Graduation day was April 16. The walls of the meeting room are covered with large letters with pictures and attachments of examples the children brought in for the letter of the week. The ABC Club will take a break during the summer while everyone celebrates the Summer Reading Program.

Family Fun Mondays: On March 31, two children enjoyed the Russian folktale of the firebird and created paper bag puppets of a firebird. "Oh, my, a butterfly" was the theme on April 7 with nine children making beautiful paper butterflies. April 14, the cow who laid an egg was presented.

Raissa Marking, children's librarian is now leading the teen program. On March 26, there were four attendees. Game Night on April 2 was enjoyed by six. The following week four teens participated. Raissa visited the Zarzamora Parent-Child Inc. on March 28 and presented stories for five groups, totaling 74 children. On April 3, Creative Little Minds Day Care visited the library for stories, and on April 18, the Texas Migrant Council brought ten children for stories and a tour of the library.

Adults continue to enjoy the T'ai Chi classes on Monday evenings, with an average of 22 participants each week. The Big Read book discussion was held on April 1. On Wednesday, April 16, the branch was proud to be one of three locations to host Mary Badham, the actress who played Scout in the film of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The program was a huge success, with attendance of nearly 90. County Judge Nelson Wolff attended and presented Ms. Badham with a signed copy of his book *Mayor*. Branch Manager Sherri Kyle and Department Systems Aide Susan Villalobos participated in the Senior Wellness Fair at Our Lady of Angels Senior Citizen Center, on April 11. Over 60 attendees visited the library tables for free handouts on various topics, voter registration, bookmarks, and information about the Big Read.

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

The Bannwolf Library at Reagan High School had several special programs during the last month. During the first week in April, adults and teens enjoyed a drawing program presented by Graham Toms, a former Disney animation instructor. The staff was pleased with the number of participants. Mr. Toms has agreed to present a follow-up program. On March 31, Dr. Claudia Johnson presented a literary critique about Gothic themes in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The library hosted a reception after the discussion for the more than 40 guests who attended the program.

Children's Storytime on Saturday morning has recently seen a significant increase in attendance. Children and parents enjoy stories read by librarians as well as special programs presented by Reagan High School clubs.

The library has weeded media items that have not circulated in a while. The Igo Branch was contacted and eagerly accepted the offer to add these items to their collection. The library staff is preparing for shelving that should arrive shortly.

San Pedro

San Pedro Branch Library presented five Young Adult programs during the past month. Arts and crafts were created at each program, including making bubble magnets and fiesta sand art. Additionally, the students brainstormed about creating a small vegetable, herb, and flower garden at San Pedro. A lengthy discussion was held about what to grow and the information the group needed before the garden was started. The students chose the plants they would like to grow and agreed to research the information needed. The last program of the month was also a meeting of the Graphic Novel Book Club. The book chosen for March was Miyuki Kobayashi's *Kitchen Princess*. All the teens liked this book, but agreed it was a "girl" book. For April, each student chose a different book so that they can find out about more books.

Four story times were offered. The theme for the last half of March was "Things That Go." Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton introduced the children to a fun puzzle in which the puzzle pieces, which were various vehicles, made the sound of the vehicle. April's theme is "Spring, Glorious Spring." During the second week of April, Betsy and the children and their parents went on a "listening walk" in San Pedro Park. Birds, cars, children, bugs, dogs, and other items were identified. During the third week of April, the children will put together a "Bug" floor puzzle after listening to some fun bug books.

There were also four B.A.C.K.Pack programs designed for elementary school children during this period. Each program begins with a story read out loud by Betsy and the children, followed by a craft or activity. These students also are very interested in having a garden. The students talked about various plants, and agreed to research the needs of the plants they chose.

Eighteen members of the Hawthorne Academy Lunch Bunch book club met on March 25 to discuss *Ghost's Grave* by Peg Kephert. The students really enjoyed the book, and chose *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd as the book for the April meeting.

On March 29, 32 people enjoyed the Cesar Chavez family program. Children enjoyed learning about Cesar Chavez and making silly fruit faces and mini-piñatas filled with candy and other treats provided by the Olmos Park HEB.

On April 3, Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton traveled to the Kenwood Parent-Child Inc. to present story time to three classes with a total of 43 students. Ten books were also delivered to each class for their use during the month. The previous month's books were also collected at this time. The PCI administrators, teachers, and students really seem to enjoy the visits.

On April 10, 45 fifth graders and several teachers and aides from Forbes Elementary School visited the library. The Children's Librarian gave a tour of the library to groups of 15 students and described and promoted SAPL, its collections, Live Homework Help and the databases offered by the library.

On April 16, the Children's Librarian presented a tour of the library and story time to the Laurel Heights Methodist Church Day Care.

On April 17, Betsy traveled to the Early Childhood Center at San Antonio College to present story time to two classes of about ten students each. Ten books will also be delivered to each class for their use during the month.

The same day, Betsy will visit the VIA Child Development Center to present story time to two classes, one of 13 students and the other of 12 students. Ten books will be delivered to each class for their use during the month.

On March 31, Officer Erik Doyle of the San Antonio Police Department Central Substation visited the Library and spoke with several members of the staff about personal safety. His presentation was informative and well received.

On April 15 the San Pedro Park Branch Library hosted a Big Read book discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the San Pedro Springs Park Gazebo, just behind the library. Students from San Antonio College, The George I. Sanchez Charter School were invited to participate along with general public have been invited.

To improve and better manage communication, library staff launched the San Pedro Branch Library blog, designed to help staff stay better informed and to hold conversations on library issues when we cannot all be here together at the same time.

The Library Assistant/Adult Programming Liaison visited the Chandler Assisted Living Facility and the Lion's Field Adult Senior Citizens Center to discuss the possible creation of a book lending program for the elderly who may not be able to easily access the library.

The Reader's Inc. book group met once again at the library on April 5. A collection of great American poems was discussed and plans were made to discuss Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera* in May.

On April 9 Branch Coordinator Barbara O'Hara introduced the staff to the Pike Place Fish Market Philosophy of team building, customer service and individual development. It was very informative and we even got to throw a fish!

Semmes

This run-off session of early voting did not draw crowds as large as the primaries did.

The highlight of this month was the Book Sale, April 5, put on by the Semmes Friends. Because of the voting activity in the meeting room, the Friends came bright and very early Saturday morning to set up the room. Sales were brisk from 9:00 a.m. until closing at 4:00 p.m.

Big Read activities continue at Semmes. Monday, April 7, Oscar Gonzalez visited the Legacy Adult Apartment complex on O'Connor. Residents were treated to a showing of the movie *To Kill a Mockingbird* and many participated in a lively book discussion.

There was great anticipation surrounding the April 15 visit of Mary Badham, the actress who played Scout in the movie. The Friends of Semmes hosted a reception, and there was a final showing of the movie after her visit. Semmes staff all watched the interviews with her and other cast members and the additional film that comes with the DVD set, in preparation for her visit. The program was standing-room only, with more than 80 in attendance.

On April 7, the art of Deborah Keller-Rihn was removed by Blue Star staff. In its place will go the artwork of George Schroeder, who created the sculpture on the library's patio. Blue Star hosted a reception for Mr. Schroeder on April 12. That morning Mr. Schroeder held a workshop for adults and high school students that offered an overview of his work and a detailed description of how he created the Semmes Library sculpture.

Semmes Stargazers gathered again for another “stellar” meeting on April 16 to discuss the latest astronomical findings and upcoming events. Semmes Circulation Attendant Joseph Knight is the organizational force behind this group which meets every two months.

Thousand Oaks

Thousand Oaks staff immediately took advantage of the new Thursday night openings by planning a series of movies for Thursday nights in April. Adult Librarian Jorge Chávez and Library Assistant Guillermo García came up with the idea of movies from the 80’s. They will be showing *The Goonies*, *The Gremlins*, *Ghostbusters*, and *Ghostbusters 2*. Thursday nights opened slowly but as the word spreads, and interesting and attractive programs are offered that night business should pick up.

Fifty children and adults showed up for KLRN’s program to encourage reading. KLRN brought the green masked and caped character “Super Why,” who visited with children while parents took hundreds of pictures. Super Why is a children’s program on PBS which teaches children reading skills. It is aimed at three- to six-year-olds and all the characters on the show have the Power to Read. The children and parents attending the program were very enthusiastic. KLRN gave out books and had games for the children to play.

The Friends of Thousand Oaks Library celebrated National Library Week by giving the Thousand Oaks staff an appreciation luncheon on Monday, April 14. The staff enjoyed food from TGIF and homemade desserts and definitely felt appreciated.

In the last few months the Thursday morning storytimes have seen an increase in attendance. Library Assistant II Debra Lindenburg-Morrow has worked hard to develop a creative interactive program for the toddler and pre-school storytimes. Each week she has delighted the preschool children with very creative crafts ranging from rocket ships to jellyfish to tambourines. On special holidays there is always a special craft such as a dog made out of valentines for Valentine’s Day. She has added music and dances and educational jiggles and her efforts are paying off as the participants are growing weekly. The pre-school storytime at eleven o’clock is seeing a regular attendance of over thirty kids and moms. It’s a noisy but happy group.

Library Assistant Barbara Kwiatkowski worked hard on producing a very attractive book display on the “For Dummies” books. She used the theme “For Dummies Books are out of this World.” She had a cardboard life-size stand-up of Captain Picard from the Enterprise holding a For Dummies book. The display included a computer video displaying all the For Dummies titles to be found at Thousand Oaks. She also produced an informative display in the entrance display cabinet depicting the history of Fiesta using colorful paper flowers and cornhusk dancing figures.

Staff News: on March 27 Children’s Librarian Cindy Moreno delivered a healthy baby boy named Joaquín. Library Assistant Debra Lindenburg-Morrow has enjoyed her tasks at the library so well she is applying to library school and will begin in the fall. Custodian Dora Farias and Library Aide Kim Neidigh were delighted to receive EZ Rider bus tags and are using them daily.

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

The Tobin Library at Oakwell now has a presence in the MySpace community with a page created by Teen Services liaison Sherrie Langston Hardin. Information about teen programs and events will be advertised in cyberspace.

The work of students in the Journalism and Photography Class at Krueger Middle School is currently on exhibit at the branch. The “iMAK” display features striking interactive media applications in both color and black and white.

Omega Sigma Phi, a spirit step group from MacArthur High School, mesmerized a large audience at the branch. The group, similar to the ones seen in the movie *Step It Up*, performed several routines,

then shared with middle school students what would be expected of them if they were to join the group once they get to high school.

In a spectacular display of systemwide teamwork, a group of four shelvers from Central Library descended upon the Tobin Library at Oakwell one recent morning to wipe out a persistent shelving backlog caused by a staff shortage. Led by Laura Villanueva, the team amazingly shelved **40** crates of materials and earned the lasting gratitude of Tobin staff.

Westfall

On April 8, Westfall was once again part of the democratic process and hosted the primary run-off election. Turnout was not quite as high as the March primary, but many people came out and exercised their right to vote.

During the month of April, several T-Shirts created for the Clothesline Project were displayed in the branch. From the group's website: "The Clothesline Project (CLP) is a program started on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women. It is a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. They then hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women." The group also presented a program on Saturday, April 12, 2008.

Since April has been designated National Card and Letter Writing Month, Librarian I Monica Garza organized an event where patrons were invited to come by and write a letter to send to the troops in Iraq. All of the letters will be sent to the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

On April 22 Children's Librarian Imelda Merino presented Fiesta Stories and a craft. Everyone who attended had an enjoyable time.

The Westfall staff welcomed a new member, Library Aide Mindy Nuñez.



SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY

March 26, 2008

Ramiro Salazar, Director
San Antonio Public Library
600 Soledad Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Mr. Salazar:

Each year the Conservation Society recognizes significant accomplishments in accordance with its purpose: *...to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty and all that is admirably distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow, with knowledge of our inherited regional values.*

This year the Society has selected the City of San Antonio to receive a 2008 preservation award for the restoration of the San Pedro Park Branch Library, 1315 San Pedro Avenue, San Antonio, Texas. We congratulate you on this achievement and look forward to presenting you with this award.

The presentation will be made at the Awards Dinner on Friday, May 16, 2008, at the Pearl Stable, 312 Pearl Parkway, Bldg. 2, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Two complimentary reservations will be made for you, and a formal invitation will be sent in the near future.

We look forward to honoring you and await your reply.

Sincerely,

Marcie Ince

Marcie Ince
President

Claire Golden

Claire Golden
Awards Chairman

c: Paul Kinnison, Jr., FAIA
c: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager
c: Hector Cardenas, Friends of San Pedro Springs Park

© Awards 2008 Letter W/N San Pedro Library

107 KING WILLIAM STREET ♦ SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78204-1312 ♦ 210/224-6163 ♦ FAX: 210/224-6168



The Purpose of this Society is to preserve and to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs, relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty, and all that is admirably distinctive to our State; and by such physical and cultural preservation to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow, with knowledge of our inherited regional values.

