

**San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
May 28, 2008**

Administration

Director's Office

The process has begun to develop the City's Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget. As part of that process, in 2007, the City contracted with the Cultural Policy Institute of the University of Texas at San Antonio to conduct a city-wide community survey in January and February of 2008. The purpose of the survey was to identify City residents' satisfaction rates about City services. The Library was one of only three City departments to receive a satisfaction rating of 90% or higher: 92% of respondents rated themselves satisfied or very satisfied with library services (the other two City departments were fire, 96%, and emergency medical services, 93%.)

Work continues on negotiations with the County for a new interlocal library services agreement. On April 30, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Fiscal Planning Manager Kathleen Donellan, Senior Management Analyst Jessica Ramos, and Special Projects Manager Roberta Sparks met via conference call with Dr. David Morgan from Bexar County. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible funding scenarios under a new interlocal agreement. Staff are reviewing the County's most recent proposal to develop a SAPL response.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar represented the library throughout Fiesta 2008. He joined representatives of the Library Foundation on their Cavaliers' River Parade Float on April 21, and on April 25 he and Board Chair Jean Brady rode in the Battle of Flowers Parade in an antique car.

The Landa Gardens reopening was an outstanding success. Several hundred attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony the morning of May 1, and the gala that same evening. Both events received extensive media coverage.

On May 16, Mr. Salazar attended the 49th Conservation Society Awards to accept a citation honoring the library for its restoration of the San Pedro Branch Library. The award was covered by the *Express-News* and "American Libraries Direct," the online version of *American Libraries*.

The library also received a certificate commending Mr. Salazar for his dedication to the Karate Kids of American "Just Say No to Drugs" program.

City Manager Sheryl Sculley has announced the appointment of a new Deputy City Manager, A.J. Rodríguez, formerly President and CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. At the same time, she announced a reorganization of City management, under which the library will now be under the supervision of Mr. Rodríguez. To assist Mr. Rodríguez in the transition, on May 28 Mr. Salazar met with him to give him an overview of the library department. Mr. Rodríguez is expected to assume his duties on June 30.

KSAT-12 News used an open records request to obtain access to a list of websites accessed by library customers over three one-hour periods in April, in order to run a story about the rate of access to inappropriate websites at the library. Analysis of the information showed that of 141,616 sites accessed, only 347, or ¼ of 1% (0.0025) contained questionable content. District 4 City Council Representative Philip Cortez was also interviewed for that story. As a result of this news coverage, Mr. Salazar and Assistant City Manager Frances González met with Councilman Cortez to outline a number of initiatives the library has begun, and has planned for the future, to further restrict inappropriate use of the Internet on library public computers. Councilman Cortez's response to this

meeting was positive, and he has requested a joint news conference with the library to make a public announcement of the plan.

Interim Assistant Director/Public Services Kendra Trachta, Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash and Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez met with District 8 Council Representative Diane Cibrian to discuss her proposal for an Olympic reading program in August. In an e-mail to Library Director Ramiro Salazar, she outlined plans for Olympic swimmer and Churchill High School graduate Josh Davis to participate in an interactive fashion while he is in Beijing for the Olympics, August 8 through 24. Library staff suggested the idea of a blog with daily postings from Mr. Davis and daily booklists developed by librarians for children and teens, and Councilwoman Cibrian enthusiastically endorsed the concept. "Olympic Reading" will fit well between summer reading and the fall library card campaigns. The Councilwoman committed to raising funds for printing and publicity and also said that she would make the library a priority in the FY 2009 budget.

Several library locations served as Early Voting sites for the May 10 election. Libraries represented five of the top ten early voting locations. These libraries include: Brook Hollow, Cody, Tobin @ Oakwell, Semmes, and McCreless. Several libraries also served as an Election Day voting site.

Automation

The Automation department hired a Department Systems Specialist to assist with desktop support and technology project duties. Department Systems Aide interviews were conducted for the Carver and Cortez Branch Libraries. Project initiation forms were submitted for each technology project scheduled to be implemented in 2009. Information Technology Budget Request Forms were submitted for applicable technology projects to be initiated over the same period. Automation continues to work with internal stakeholders to facilitate special needs technology purchases.

Branch Services

Joel Bangilan visited with the managers of the branches he supervises to discuss goals at the middle of the rating period. This serves as a check point for the managers to chart progress. He and Barbara O'Hara were given the assignment with creating procedures for in-house check-out of laptop computers. He and Ms. O'Hara met with the staff of Collins Garden Branch Library to determine some practical guidelines for circulating the machines. He and fellow Branch Services Coordinator Barbara O'Hara conducted Intellectual Freedom sessions as part of the Library's New Employees' Orientation. He attended the meeting with the Memorial Amigos to plan the flag raising ceremony which is scheduled for May 24, 2008, and represented the library at the VITA recognition, the groundbreaking for the Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School, and at the Every Child Inc. events. He is currently reviewing the bookmobile designs and meeting with the staff that will provide bookmobile service to develop the outreach program. He is leading a team of department systems aides and librarians to develop continuing training in library technology skills. As a member of the Texas Library Association's Programming Committee he went to Dallas to take part in the scheduling of the 2009 conference.

Barbara O'Hara coordinated branch preparations for the grand reopening of Landa, working with Branch Manager Kathy Claspill and staff to ensure that interior renovation goals were met. She and Senior Management Analyst Jessica Ramos Met with the Library Foundation's L3 Committee. The week of May 12, she served as interview team leader for Librarian Assistant positions; the team interviewed 22 candidates for a total of 7 open positions. She also assisted Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash and HR Generalist Joe Gómez with interviews to select new Children's Librarians with Viki and Joe Gomez. Ms. O'Hara met with staff regarding grant possibilities for a "Let's Talk about It" reading and discussion program and a partnership with Say Sí.

Children's Services

Preparations for Summer Reading 2008, *Read Across Texas*, are proceeding at an energetic pace. Across the system children's librarians are making school visits, designing bulletin boards, selecting storytime books to share and preparing supplies for craft projects. Mayor Phil Hardberger has thrown his support behind the 2008 campaign and his name is featured prominently on calendars, reading logs and certificates. There will be a ceremonial kick-off for Summer Reading in the City Council Chambers on Thursday, May 29. Many branches will be holding local kid-friendly kick-off events between May 31 and June 7. Summer programs continue through June and July.

Little Read Wagon Librarian II Cresencia Huff and Children's Coordinator Viki Ash presented two "Storytime Strategies" sessions for children's staff during the month of April. Focusing on the delivery of service to infants and toddlers, the sessions featured information on the early literacy as well as other aspects of early childhood development.

Public Relations

Public Relations Manager Beth Graham worked with Margaret Anderson from the Landa Gardens Conservancy and Nancy Scott Jones (Nancy Scott Jones Public Relations) on publicity for the Landa Ribbon-cutting and reopening on May 1. The event received coverage in the *Express-News* and on KABB/Fox, KSAT-12 and KENS-TV.

On May 5, Ms. Graham met with Amy Trench from the Valencia Hotel and Tracey Bennett of the Library Foundation to discuss a possible partnership with the library to promote Summer Reading. The Valencia Hotel will offer a discount to anyone who brings a new children's book to donate to the library during June and July. The books will be used as incentives to give to children who complete the Summer Reading Program by reading 15 books.

Mayor Phil Hardberger has agreed to champion Summer Reading 2008, and on May 13, Ms. Graham met with Rebeca Chapa and Ricky Garza from the Mayor's office to discuss publicizing the partnership. The Mayor will recognize the Summer Reading Program with a proclamation at City Council on May 29.

On May 10, Ms. escorted library mascot Libro the Lion for an appearance at the Walk and Roll Festival at the Botanical Garden.

Ms. Graham was asked to serve as a judge for the Ford Salute to Education Scholarship Program. She reviewed scholarship applications from high school students in the Rio Grande Valley.

Graphic Designers Ana Farr and Tiffanie Wilson worked with the CPS Energy print shop to coordinate final printing of Summer Reading materials. They have also supported preparations for the ALA exhibit booth, Councilman Cortez's news conference at the library, and the Council Summer Reading proclamation.

Teen Services

Project WORTH Partnership

The Teen Services Department of the Central Library was the site of a press conference for the City's Project WORTH (Working on Real Teen Health) initiative. The press conference, held to kick off the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, was attended by State Senators Leticia Van de Putte and Jeff Wentworth, Texas Representative Ruth McClendon, District 8 City Council Representative Diane Cibrian, and District 5 City Council Representative Lourdes Galván. Following the press conference, teens were able to take the on-line National Day quiz using the computers in Youth(wired). Teen Services is exploring ways to deepen the partnership with Project WORTH.

Teen Summer Reading Program 2008

Teen Summer Reading is on the way. This year's theme is Teen ECO-Summer 2008, and teens are invited to attend weekly programs at all library locations. Activities will include video gaming, crafts, and presentations from local environmental/plant/animal welfare organization showing teens how they can get involved to improve the condition of their neighborhoods and the planet. Teen liaisons are putting the finishing touches on recommended reading lists and have received their printed material and prize books.

Free comic book day was May 3, and teens at all library locations were invited to visit and receive a free comic book courtesy of Heroes and Fantasies. Members of the San Antonio Star Wars Society were on hand at the Central Library (they also crashed the Día de Los Niños celebration!) to add to the festive comic-booky atmosphere. Approximately six thousand comic books were distributed system-wide, and staff from Heroes and Fantasies are eager to plan for next year.

Education on Demand Committee

Jennifer Velásquez is serving on the planning committee for the 3rd annual Education on Demand Summit to be held at the AT&T Center in October. This annual event, spearheaded by District 2 Councilwoman Sheila McNeil, is attended by four thousand middle and high school students from around the City.

Kudos to staff - Customer comments

Judy Tyrling called the director's office to express her appreciation for the great job Branch Manager Jef Martin and the staff are doing for the patrons and the community at Maverick Branch Library. Ms. Tyrling said that she had always found the whole staff has always been very helpful and cooperative, and, more specifically, that Mr. Martin exceeded expectations with his coordination of the March 4 Texas Primary Elections. She mentioned that Mr. Martin merits special recognition.

Central Library

Alamo Area Library System

The Alamo Area Library System is managing several projects during the month of May. These are:

The Staying Connected Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. AALS will purchase 500 licenses for Fortres Grand products that will provide several services to member libraries such as greater network control for monitoring Web sites that patrons are visiting; online session time managers; and the ability to remove any previous changes or activities that a patron might make to a library computer. AALS staff will also install all the software.

AALS is updating their web page. They will be installing a content management system (CMS) later this summer in order to provide better services to member libraries. They are also working with the Central Texas Library System and the South Texas Library System on a collaborative Web site for all 10 systems across the state.

AALS staff are also designing and installing Plinkit Web sites for 15 member libraries that do not have sites. This project will be completed this summer so that all 45 member libraries will have web presences.

AALS workshops for May include:

- ♦ Two online courses from the University of North Texas: "Trends in Children's Literature" and "An Introduction to RFID."
- ♦ Face-to-face workshops: "Running a Teen Film Festival in Your Library," "Records Retention and How to Survive an Audit," "Government Documents 101," "Advanced Google," and "Interlibrary Loan Basics."

Children's Department

The Department welcomed two new colleagues. Cole Johnson took over the Librarian I position on May 6, and Lydia Scott began work as a part-time Library Assistant on May 12. The addition of these two staff members leaves the department with only one vacancy, in the Librarian II slot.

Reference

Fiesta was a very busy time for the Reference Department

Cynthia Deleon, Diana Starrett, Kate Simpson, and Pannaga Prasad participated in "Fiesta Especial" organized by the River City Christian School on April 18 and 19. Charles Delgado of the Central Shelving Unit was the Committee Chair for the event and did a great job in seeing that everything came together seamlessly. The Reference staff members promoted library services to Special Education students, parents and teachers.

Numerous members of the Reference Department and REFORMA came together to create and man a library float for the King William Parade. The theme for the float was "Rhyme with No Reason." The majority of participants were wearing costumes relating to nursery rhymes. Mayor Phil Hardberger was seen cheering for the library float.

Reference Team staff who are also members of REFORMA participated in the Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros event at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower. Reference Team members provided a star craft and promoted library services. Over 200 contacts were made with the community that afternoon.

Technical Services

The Technical Services staff said farewell to Administrative Associate Pete Flores, who will take courses at the University of Mexico in San Antonio with the goal of teaching in Mexico City by the fall. Rose Marie Cenicerros has taken over Pete's duties checking in magazines for Central.

Cataloging Manager Katie Enright worked with Midwest Tapes' staff to download the file of test records. When the staff approves the digital processing, all media orders from Midwest Tapes will be shipped already cataloged and processed.

Martha Knott, Katie Enright, Charlotte Balusek and Jim Davis met with Rosie Amaya, a library school student at the Texas Women's University who will do a practicum during the summer session in the Technical Services Department beginning June 5.

Millennium Overview

During the Innovative Users Conference in Washington, D.C., Martha Knott attended a workshop on Library Staff Transitions: Managing Your Library's Innovative System through Staff Changes. This workshop provided guidance on developing a knowledge bank of implementation decisions, procedures, training materials, and new products for the Millennium system. Martha also attended sessions on e-commerce; new developments in circulation, acquisitions, and serials; loan rules, telephone notification, web management reports, and telephone notification.

On May 15 Katie Enright and Martha Knott presented a Create List class for SAPL staff members.

Texana/Genealogy

Seven members of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Genealogy Club visited Texana/Genealogy on April 24 and spent the day researching.

Amanda DiFlorio, formerly of Texana/Genealogy and now City Archivist, presented a program about the City Archives project to fourteen people on May 3.

Both the African American Genealogical and Historical Society and Los Bexareños Genealogical Society met the morning of May 3.

On May 5 Andrew Crews taught a class on "Family Websites" and Frank Faulkner represented the library at the Bexar County Historical Commission meeting.

On May 24 Sylvia Reyna presented a "Beginning Genealogy" workshop at Igo Branch.

Staff continues to process Gloria Cadena's collection of books and research materials, and work also continues on former Mayor Bill Thornton's papers.

Matt DeWaelsche and Andrew Crews are spending four to eight hours each week at the City's Records Facility processing a collection of maps.

Additions were received to the King William Association Archives, and the Greater San Antonio Camera Club donated its newsletters, directories, and minutes to be archived.

Youth(wired) Teen Services

Mondays with Regina Almanza: Monday nights are video game nights at Youth(wired). The first Monday night of each month, Youth(wired) presents a Guitar Hero tournament, and 23 teens participated on May 5. The winner's list is posted in the Youth(wired) Round Reading Room. Teens either play one of the PlayStation2 games or one of the Nintendo GameCube games.

Tuesdays with Kathleen Fordyce: On April 29, teens played Dance Dance Revolution (DDR), then got to show off their dance skills for the DDR Tournament on May 6. On May 13, teens made beaded bracelets and necklaces. May 20 was Game Night. Teens had fun playing Scrabble and Monopoly. Teens played DDR again on May 27, in preparation for the next tournament in June.

Wednesdays with Sylvia Pachecano: Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano held a jeweled candle holder craft on April 30. A Born to Read workshop was held on May 7 for the teen mothers who visit Youth(wired). On May 14 the Red Cross presented a "Babysitting 101" program. Ms. Pachecano hosted another jeweled craft on May 21, with teens creating jeweled butterfly or flower photo holders.

On May 3, Ms. Pachecano hosted the Baka Onigiri Con Ost (Stupid Riceball with Cheese) International Anime/Manga club. Seven students attended. They discussed and gave their input and opinions on new manga titles that the library is considering purchasing.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza: On April 24, teens made colorful bubble magnets using glass gems and magnets. On May 1, tissue paper, floral wire and scissors were set out for teens to make their own cherry blossom branches. Not only were branches formed, but a couple of teens covered the floral wire with paper, added flowers and shaped it like a crown. It was a nice celebration of spring. A popular craft program was brought back on May 8. Teens requested supplies for Gocks, gothic sock puppets. Each creation was definitely one of a kind. Teens participated in an easy and creative craft on May 15, using fabric markers, rubber bands and water to make tie-dye shirts. On May 22, supplies were set out for teens to make a small jar garden with faux flowers.

Tours and Groups

On April 24 and May 6, 8, and 19, art classes from Fox Tech High School used the Youth(wired) computers for class projects. On May 7, Kathleen Fordyce conducted a tour of the library for students from Taft High School. On May 13, students from Cedar Creek School used the

Youth(wired) computers for research. In addition, a Spanish class from Fox Tech used the computers for research on May 13. Sylvia Pachecano provided catalog instruction for the class.

Branch Libraries

Bazan

Congratulations to Bazan staff member Charles Tucker on receiving his Master's of Library and Information Science degree from the University of North Texas.

Branch staff express their sincere gratitude to Kavita Venkateswar and Monica Petluru for the excellent math tutoring they provided local students during the 2007-2008 school year. As visiting math tutors from Churchill High School, they were able to assist more than 60 students during the fall and spring semesters. Kavita and Monica were also instrumental in developing a simultaneous second tutoring session for students preparing for the fifth-grade TAKS Test in mathematics. They both undertook these school-year goals as community service projects for students in the Bazan neighborhood, representing the PALS (Peer-Assisted Leadership Services) organization.

On May 9, a Russian folk music duo performed at the Bazan Library to an excited school-age audience of 67. The program, which was by the performers themselves as part of a special grant from Washington, D.C., was very well received. The duo named *Samovar* performed free for nearly an hour using two traditional stringed folk instruments, the balalaika and the domra. The performance was in native regional costume much to the delight of the students in attendance who asked many questions.

The Bazan Library has very recently developed a special partnership with a nonprofit organization called Academia America to make available a bilingual citizenship curriculum to legal immigrants of San Antonio who are not proficient in English and do not qualify at the City Learning and Literacy Centers. The ten-week summer course begins June 24, with classes scheduled at the branch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This partnership also includes civics instruction as part of the curriculum. This new service also has the support of District 5 Council Representative Lourdes Galván. These classes will provide an especially important service to the many immigrants who reside in District Five, and who will most likely choose the Bazan Library as their primary source of information and assistance. Staff hope that class participants will also become library cardholders.

Brook Hollow

Brook Hollow began RFID tagging their collection with help from the fantastic team of new temporary staff members, Yvonne Beltran and Alison Resendez.

The Friends' Spring Book Sale date has been set for Saturday, May 17.

Plans for renovation of the branch's kitchen renovation are moving forward and work is set to begin in late May.

Children's programming included activities for Fiesta and Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros. Outreach visits were made by Children's Librarian Ruth Turner to six area schools to promote library services for children during the summer. Ms. Turner spoke to more than 1,500 children and met with librarians, teachers, and parents at each of the schools. Teen Services Librarian Mary Smith began offering weekly after-school activities on Thursdays for teens. Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell reports that The Big Read programs held at Brook Hollow were very successful. Ms. Turner, Ms. Smith and Ms. Trudell are all in the midst of planning reading programs for children, teens and adults at Brook Hollow this summer. All three were also very fortunate to receive funds from the Brook Hollow Branch Library Friends to assist with the special events they have planned for library visitors this summer.

Branch Manager Beth Schorlemer attended the biennial Public Library Association conference in Minneapolis, where she got ideas for tools that could be implemented at the branch and SAPL; of special interest were those programs encouraging youth participation and hints on invigorating staff.

Once again Brook Hollow hosted run-off elections and proposition votes on-site, which all went very smoothly.

Carver

Spring marked a rise in youth adult activities at Carver. Staff who have been pursuing avenues to reach out to young adult customers finally saw their efforts pay off. The Kiremeki Anime Club launched its initial gathering meeting with a pizza party at the branch on April 26. At each meeting, they view an anime feature, discuss club business and new trends, and test-drive the latest video gaming products. The success of the group has sparked a spin-off. The focus of the second YA organization is the horror movie genre. The groups plan to meet on alternate Saturdays.

Special Assignments Librarian Amy Williamson has been assigned to the branch as interim Children's Librarian. A Houston native, Ms. Williamson holds a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University. She earned the master of library and information science degree at Florida State University and has worked in libraries in Texas and Virginia. She brings to Carver an enthusiasm for children's services and a willingness to adapt to serve the needs of this group.

Adult Services Librarian DL Grant represented the branch during several outreach visits in April and May. Otto Pfeiffer Academy, which serves students in grades six through eight, included Carver Library in its community involvement celebration brunch. Pfeiffer faculty member Jessica Evans expressed appreciation for the Carver staff: "You have made my job so much easier. God bless."

The branch was also privileged to represent San Antonio Public Library at the monthly meeting of Neighborhoods First Alliance at the Claude W. Black Center. In an effort to publicize library services, staff also spoke to about 15 adult students at St. Philip's College preparing to take the GED. Mr. Grant, president of the Bexar Library Association, presided over the organization's final meeting of the service year, held on May 8 at the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.

Ethnobotanist Vernon Mullins, who offers monthly gardening classes at the G.W. Carver Branch, incorporated womanhood as a May theme with such topics as "An Herbal Tribute to Motherhood" and "The Genius of Women in Horticulture". Other May programs included the Texas Agrilife Extension's Fire Ant Management Program, which was a free educational seminar on controlling the pesky insect.

Branch Manager Ronnie Delgado and his wife Ana celebrated the graduation of their youngest son, Charles, employed in the shelving unit at Central Library. Charles, a graduate of River City Christian School, has been accepted at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where he will study Theology and Political Science.

Library Assistant Rosemarie Rodríguez received a Bachelor's Degree in Art from the University of the Incarnate Word.

Cody

Cody again served as an early voting site for the venue tax propositions. Cody's various clubs held their monthly meetings. Selections included *The Maltese Falcon* (Film Club); *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini (Thursday Book Club); *Call of the Wild* by Jack London (Saturday Book Club); and "anything by Ben Rehder" (Mystery Book Club). On April 26 a small group gathered to discuss the Big Read Selection *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Comedy/Mystery writer Ben

Rehder visited with fans and talked about his books on May 17. Displays around the library included "Go, Spurs, Go," "Memorial Day," "Latino Book Month," and "Children's Book Week."

Children's Librarian Trina Smith visited the Parent Child Initiative Center on Fredericksburg Road on May 1. She read stories and provided books to over 65 children. Ms. Smith also helped with the Young Pegasus Award ceremony on Sunday, May 4. Ms. Smith is spending a great deal of time preparing for the Summer Reading Program. She created flyers and a special display board advertising the program and the special activities that the library will be hosting this summer. To promote Summer Reading, she visited several local elementary schools during the library's programming pause.

Young Adult Librarian Connie Hejl attended the teen film festival workshop sponsored by AALS. She has begun the planning process of developing a program soliciting entries from local high schools and individuals for a festival to be held next spring. Ms. Hejl also visited several area middle and high schools providing materials promoting the Teen Summer Reading program.

Cody welcomed new Library Aide Sarah Carolan, but were sad to say goodbye to Library Assistant Amber Castor who recently received her MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin and will continue her career at a college library in Conway, Arkansas. Cody staff were happy to see new carpet installed in the meeting room.

Upcoming Special Events:

June 3, 2 p.m. Teen Tuesday: DDR & Mario Kart
June 4, 2 p.m. Family Movie: *Surf's Up*
June 5, 11 a.m. Magic Show: Illusions by Blake
June 10, 2 p.m. Teen Tuesday: Guitar Hero & Mario Kart
June 11, 2 p.m. Family Movie: *Open Season*
June 12, 11 a.m. Magik Theatre: *The Kingdom of Texas*
June 17, 2 p.m. Teen Tuesday: DDR & Mario Kart
June 18, 2 p.m. Family Movie: *Over the Hedge*
June 19, 11 a.m. Pet Therapy by Pennies from Heaven
June 24, 2 p.m. Teen Tuesday: Guitar Hero & Mario Kart
June 25, 2 p.m. Family Movie: *Alvin & the Chipmunks*
June 26, 11 a.m. Storyteller Purlly Gates

Collins Garden

On April 14th and 15th there was a flurry of last-minute tax filers, as well as numerous telephone calls asking about VITA hours or the availability of specific tax forms.

For the municipal election on May 10, the branch experienced a light voter turnout during early voting and on Election Day.

On May 5, the Friends of the Collins Garden Branch Library had their first meeting. They will be holding their first book sale on July 26.

Children's Librarian Leigh Bedford has been continuing her outreach activities by sharing stories with a daycare at Kelly USA. She is also networking with local schools, promoting summer reading. Additionally, Leigh is working on her plans for decorating the branch's meeting room for summer reading's *Read Across Texas*.

Library Assistant and Teen Liaison Carlos Loera has been offering a variety of programs on to appeal to the teens in the branch's after-school crowd, who tend to spend two to three hours at the branch after school has let out. The programs have averaged 12-15 a session. Carlos provides a

craft on the Wednesdays when the Playstation games *Guitar Hero* or *Dance Dance Revolution* are scheduled so that the teens who are waiting to participate have something to do in the meantime. He also schedules a craft on the Wednesdays when the Playstation activity is not scheduled so that the teens will be anticipating a library activity every week.

On May 3 more than 75 children received a free comic book courtesy of Heroes & Fantasies.

Cortez

The Cortez Branch Library partnered with Palo Alto College instructor Juan Tejeda for the Día de los Niños program on Saturday, April 26. Mr. Tejeda is an author, musician, and lecturer. Patrons were impressed and entertained by the musical performance of Mr. Tejeda's student ensemble group, Conjunto Palo Alto, and Mr. Tejeda's knowledge of the history of conjunto music. The audience also thoroughly enjoyed bilingual storyteller MaryAnn Blue.

Children's Librarian Carol Collins is visiting local schools to promote the Summer Reading Program. She visited Zamora Middle School on May 12, Kazen Elementary School on May 14, and South San High School and the West Campus on May 15. Four kindergarten classes from Benavides Elementary School visited the branch on May 15 to tour the facility, attend a storytime, and check out materials. Ms. Collins provided information about the Summer Reading Program to the students. To date, she has promoted the Summer Reading Program to more than 600 students!

Cortez hosted early voting from April 28 through May 6. The branch had a light turnout and everything went smoothly for the branch as well as the early voting staff.

The local Girl Scouts met in the meeting room on May 7 and were very impressed by the renovations. The Girl Scout leader stated that she hoped to make future use of the meeting room.

The branch's partnership with the Central American teachers attending Palo Alto College continued this month with a program on May 8 about the history and culture of Nicaragua.

The Raoul A. Cortez Movie Club met and viewed the film *13 Conversations about One Thing*. The well-attended screening included refreshments and was followed by an informal discussion. This was the first of a monthly viewing and discussion of films at the branch.

Forest Hills

Major shifts in the placement of many collections have been happening and this is yielding a neater, more organized appearance and better service to Forest Hills patrons. Branch staff are currently in the process of creating a wish list for the Friends group to start considering. Plans include improving the appearance and functionality of the community meeting room.

The Children's Librarian has returned to work after being out on short-term disability for six weeks following a motor vehicle accident she was involved in. She is doing fine.

The branch has continued to weed in advance of the expected RFID deployment this fall.

Preparations are in full swing for Summer Reading. Outreach requests and opportunities are being scheduled.

The Embroidery Circle met on April 23 and May 21.

The Forest Hills Branch conducted a read-in, attended by 28 students, on April 24

The Woodlawn Hills Neighborhood Association met at Forest Hills on April 29.

The Frosting Creators Cake Decorating met on May 4.

Keetowah, a group promoting education and knowledge of indigenous cultures, had nine members at their meeting on May 5.

Ralph Thompson was the discussion leader when members of the Contrarian Viewpoint Book Club met on May 10 to discuss the book, *A Necessary Evil: A History of American Distrust of Government* by Garry Wills.

The Thunderbird Hills Board of Directors met at Forest Hills on May 13.

Great Northwest

Great Northwest staff are using the programming break in May to get ready for a busy summer, but there is still a lot going on:

Sandra Griffin has coordinated an exhibit of photo-realistic drawings created by artist Vikky Jones.

The branch is hosting "Fiesta of Sights: Looking at Fiesta San Antonio through the Years," a display of photographs on loan from the Institute of Texan Cultures.

Northside Independent School District continues to offer ESOL and parenting classes. Two parenting classes are being offered for teens and adults who speak Spanish.

The branch presented a craft showcase on May 24. Knitting, quilting, and embroidery organizations demonstrated their various hand crafting skills, and a cross-stitch class followed the showcase.

ABC Club graduation was a grand occasion. Themed on the *Chicka-chicka Boom Boom* book by Bill Martin, the children made their graduation hats and decorated them with palm trees and letters. They showed off their ABC knowledge with Chicka-Chicka Boom Boom Bingo, exercised and danced to Alphabet Aerobics, and grandly marched to "Pomp and Circumstance." To top it off, the families had a great party afterward with all kinds of snacks and so many pictures that light flashes were dancing in everyone's eyes.

Schools are being visited and the word is spreading in preparation for Summer Reading. Reading "camps" are planned for oldest to youngest: Reading Round-Up, Buckaroo Camp, and Little Wranglers. Programs will be offered Monday through Wednesday afternoons, and Tuesday and Friday mornings. Performers are coming and movies are set up. Volunteers are still being sought.

Installation of the CMS (PC reservation system) was complete as of May 8. Customers and staff are learning to use the system. One of the benefits is that customers are applying for full-service library cards.

The Great Northwest Library Friends hosted their May Book Sale May 16 through 18. Volunteers spent most of the week setting it up. The branch would like to thank them for their efforts in supporting branch activities and staff.

Igo

Happily, Igo's upward trends in all areas continue! The branch is busier than ever, with more visitors, questions, computer use, meeting room use, program attendance, and patrons just coming to spend some time in the building and its surroundings. This past month alone, the branch hosted several noteworthy programs, including the successful celebration of National Pet Week. Over two hundred people participated in the week-long schedule of events, from animal origami to basic animal training.

to actual microchipping and vaccinations. A total of six animals found new, loving homes on Animal Care Services' pet adoption day. A patron called to comment that she "is so excited to have this service available – she wishes that more libraries would do more things like this!" Other extraordinary programs that were held included a bilingual storyteller for Día de los Niños, and a Poetry Coffeehouse for teens. Regular programming such as the adult book club, teen book club, storytimes, etc. also met with satisfactory attendance and enthusiasm.

Two staff members, Librarian Michelle Ricondo and Library Assistant Rhonda Woolhouse, were able to secure a spot on radio station KZEP for an interview. They promoted all the great resources available at the library. Rhonda also made an appearance as a guest on "Cover to Cover." It is also in the works for an Igo staff member to get a PSA spot on Y100 to promote the summer activities being held at the library. Librarian II Haley Holmes was invited to a luncheon presented by the SAPL Foundation to recognize her role in the "Better Futures" grant. Librarian Michelle Ricondo was invited to a luncheon held at the University of the Incarnate Word as a representative of the library as a strong partner.

Continuing in the belief that it is the personal contacts that the library makes each day that truly measure worth and success, several noteworthy interactions with patrons have taken place this month: (1) a frequent customer came in to tell us that he relishes the fact that we have such a diverse collection of music since he uses our CDs to play in the Chinese restaurant that he owns and that he knows his customers are happier because of the ambience it provides (and he always tells them that he got the music at the library!); (2) the director of several DCI offices uses our resources when planning meetings for the various committees on which she is a representative; (3) teen patron Adam's mother told us that her autistic son has never felt so comfortable anywhere in his life before he found Igo Library. He is more vocal with certain staff members than with anyone else outside of his immediate family.

A workshop on "Anger and Stress Management" was held at the branch for library employees system-wide. Dr. Rolkin from the City's employee assistance program presented two hours of information and practical advice for dealing with these two inevitable emotions. Attendees particularly enjoyed the guided imagery and progressive relaxation that was offered. This meeting has sparked the beginnings of a monthly staff development session to be held at Igo for its employees. Other training that Igo staff attended included an AALS workshop on teen filming, storytime strategies, and cash handling procedures.

The Friends of Igo held their first ever mini-Book Sale, which was a success, and staff already plenty of plans in place for spending the funds raised. Thanks, Friends!

Johnston

Librarian Rich Fields was amazed when Johnston Branch employees threw a surprise party for him in appreciation of the job he has done as Interim Branch Manager. Several members of the branch's Friends group and former Johnston manager Cheryl Sheehan attended the party as well. The staff and Friends group also presented Rich with a gift certificate from a local restaurant.

Children's Librarian Karen Sebesta has been busy gearing up to promote the Summer Reading Program. On May 12, she conducted an outreach program to 700 students at an elementary school near Johnston and she has similar presentations planned for five more schools in the branch's locale. Children's activities in May began with a Día de los Niños program that featured professional storyteller Mary Ann Blue entertaining children and their families with rhythmic tales told in Spanish and English. The Little Read wagon has generously donated six animal puppets to Johnston.

Landa

On May 1 the Landa Branch re-opened in grand style after being closed for 11 months. The Landa Gardens Conservancy started the festivities off with balloons, welcoming comments from the Landa Gardens Conservancy President Veronica Salazar, Library Board Chair Jean Brady, and District 1 Council Representative Mary Alice Cisneros. After the welcoming speeches, guests were asked to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Music was provided by the St. Anthony High School Jazz Band. Later in the evening, the Conservancy hosted a gala which was attended by a sell-out crowd. The re-opening of the Landa Branch and the grounds are a success; the door count for the first two days of business totaled over 900 visitors. The branch has now been open for two weeks, and business is rapidly growing as news spreads about the fantastic transformation of the grounds along with the updating of furniture, painting of the building and new floors inside the building.

May 7, the first storytime since the re-opening, was a time for greeting old friends and making new ones as four sessions were presented. Library lapsit welcomed eleven new babies, including two sets of twins. Toddler storytimes were filled with surprises. The old-timers had all grown at least a foot and wallflowers had blossomed into full steam locomotion, while newcomers were drawn into participation by the example of their peers. A good time was had by all as Moosie Moose and Miss Ginger lead the crew in an exploration of gardens: "Moosie Moose wants to go somewhere where he can see a beautiful garden," Miss Ginger announced. "Where could we go to see a beautiful garden?" "Outside!" the children replied.

Las Palmas

Teen Services Librarian Heidi Novotny is working on developing a grant request to create a teen section at Las Palmas. She envisions a partitioned area with rugs, tables, and chairs that would be a place for teen to congregate, talk, and use their laptops. She's already weeded and moved the Young Adult collection to a more visible area in the center of the library, making access and browsing easier for teen customers. Also, the move to Saturday for the monthly teen programs has seen the session average an attendance of 11 teens.

"Gifts for Mother's Day" was the theme for two craft programs this month. Adults created paper flowers, and teens and tweens created decorated gift boxes. A total of 35 persons attended both programs.

Las Palmas Book Club presenter Librarian Karen Michaelson finished up the Big Read by moderating the *To Kill a Mockingbird* discussion with members of the Laurel Heights Methodist Church (18 attending) and the Everywoman's Class (8 attending). This month at the branch, a small group discussed Jay Brandon's *Silver Moon*.

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi visited with 180 first and third graders from Las Palmas Elementary, telling stories and talking about Summer Reading. An information session for parents was planned at the school on May 22. Gina had a great time at Career Day at Henry B. González Elementary School, talking to 100 kindergarten and first grade students about librarianship. Thirty kindergarteners from Carvajal Elementary School visited the library for a tour and story hour. Ms. Brudi spoke to 10 parents at the Cardenas PCI regarding library services at Las Palmas; Mrs. Alvarez returned to present the program for a group of 11 Spanish-speaking parents.

Ms. Brudi's outreach visits to AVANCE (40 children) and to Mirasol PCI (60 children) are going well; children enjoy her stories and the classroom board book collections that she leaves.

An audience of 25 celebrated Día de los Niños with storyteller MaryAnn Blue. Family Fun Time story hours presented by Children's Librarian Gina Brudi continue to be well received, averaging 20 participants a session.

In addition to the COSA Customer Excellence class, staff attended a "Create Lists" class, an "Introduction to Government Documents" class, and a "Stress and Anger Management" class.

Early Voting and Election Day went calmly this time around. Thanks to Jessica Ramos for working with Public Works to develop a plan for campaign sign pickup after elections; it will be needed in November!

Maverick

Maverick Branch has hosted or presented several special events lately. Lotería was fun for all, including David Canales and J.D. Elizondo, who conducted the festivities in the spirit of Fiesta. Staff is supporting Master Gardener Sheryl Raineri who provides a program on Water-wise Low Maintenance Landscaping. The book discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird* became a special treat as it was attended by a gentleman who had attended school with Harper Lee, which gave a special meaning to the program. The Texas Pastel Society is keeping the branch's display cases full for now, with some truly delightful works to please the eye.

Maverick staff is pleased to welcome Hope Sonnen back home to the branch after a few weeks of helping out at the Bazan Branch. Amy Roberts and Hope are busy getting ready for Summer Reading with decorations and school visits as well as coordinating the training for the rest of the staff.

Ginette Magana, the Field Representative for Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez, was able to spend an evening at Maverick. Although there was no set agenda for her visit, she was able to meet with several constituents. Ms. Magana has expressed a desire to become a regular visitor to the Maverick branch to assist people with communicating their concerns to the Congressman.

McCreless

May was a month for volunteering by McCreless staff. On May 3 both Children's Librarian Beverly Bixler and Branch Manager Cammie Gunter had fun at the City Volunteer Services day at Animal Care Services. They walked and washed dogs, played with cats and thoroughly enjoyed helping out.

On May 9 Circulation Attendant Alma Bruno participated in the City "Walk and Roll to Work" event.

On May 19 Steele Elementary School brought 19 first graders to McCreless for a tour, stories and new library cards.

The display case this month features Ms. Bixler's very charming collection of miniature teapots.

Ms. Bixler has continued her visits to schools in preparation for Summer Reading Program. She visited Japhet, Highland Hills and Sinclair Elementary Schools to bang the drum for Summer Reading Program. As a side note, at her weekly popular storytimes the children always literally "bang a drum," which was challenging this month since the meeting room was almost constantly in use for voting!

The McCreless Friends recently purchased a very nice chair that includes a swivel tabletop for resting a laptop on. It was placed near an electrical outlet and is almost constant use. The Friends plan to purchase at least one more as funds allow.

A funny story from the McCreless Branch: one Tuesday morning before the library opened there was a customer buzzing at the back door. It turned out that when she had stepped out of her car to put books in the book drop, her car door had closed behind her and her pug dog locked the doors! Both sets of car keys were in the car with the dog. All she wanted was to borrow a phone book to find a locksmith. Custodian Joe Brown was dispatched to see if he could do anything to help the customer.

He came back into the library five minutes later, laughing. While he was trying to see if he could get into the car, the agitated and clever pug rolled down the electric window. Problem solved!

Memorial

Staff

Library Assistant Susan Francis-Maldonado obtained her Master of Library Science degree from the University of North Texas.

Memorial welcomed new maintenance staff member Mary Davis.

Hispanic Heritage Committee members include Sheila Acosta, Children's Librarian, on the Children's Committee and Jimmy Jiménez, Librarian II, serving on the Adult Programming Committee.

Department Systems Aide Tricia Masterson is on the Dream Team Committee. The team's purpose is to create training sessions to be presented by library staff. She is creating a Library 101 class to explain and promote the library's extensive services and databases.

Programs and Events

Working with the Memorial Amigos and Library Administration, Branch Manager Melva Ramírez planned a flagpole dedication ceremony. Council 5 Representative Lourdes Galván generously donated funds to repair and retrofit the existing flagpole. The ceremony was held on May 24, the Saturday before Memorial Day. The community was well represented by veterans and representatives from school districts, neighborhood associations and St. Mary's University. The Memorial Library is once again flying the United States and Texas flags.

Adults enjoyed several popular programs. Susan Francis-Maldonado hosted the premiere meeting of the Memorial Book Club "Summer of Suspense" series, with a discussion and film highlights. The first book/film was *The Black Dahlia*. "A Successful Summer Garden," planned by Melva Ramírez and hosted by the Bexar County Master Gardeners, was the second in a series of "green" gardening programs. Ms. Ramirez also worked with members of Vishwa Nirmala Dharma to provide a series of Non-Physical Sahaja Yoga Meditation classes. Department Systems Aide Tricia Masterson designed a "Learn The Computer" display and filled it with flyers, books and calendars.

Popular Teen and Game (TAG) hour activities included "Guitar Hero" tournaments. Chess tournaments brought out large numbers of teens, and thanks to the promotional efforts of Librarian I Maria Stroligo, chess sets are loaned out at an average of five sets per school day, and checker sets average two sets per day.

Approximately 75 people attended Memorial's Día de Los Niños event. In addition to the bilingual storyteller, Ms. Acosta and staff provided crafts and handed out coloring activity books and refreshments to each child.

Outreach

Sheila Acosta went to several elementary schools to promote the summer reading program, and attended Career Day at Roosevelt Elementary School to speak on "Librarian as a Career." She is continuing Memorial's outreach and book check-out to the PCI units and continues to provide materials and storytimes to day care and pre-kinder bilingual classes. Ms. Acosta attended the Día de Los Niños event at the Basilica of the Little Flower, representing the Library. Library Aide Grace Guerra appeared as library mascot Libro the Lion. The team assisted with signing up new card members and provided calendars, bookmarks, and crafts to the attendees.

Jimmy Jiménez addressed a Concordia University graduate student teachers class, informing them about the library's history, services, materials, and outreach programs. Many of the students were

from the Edgewood and San Antonio Independent School Districts and the meeting provided an excellent opportunity to increase the library's visibility in the community. Mr. Jiménez met with Neighborhood Place Community Liaison Officer Ron Morales to learn more about the services provided by the agency and to discuss future collaborations. Together with Amigos Vice-President Rosie Castro and Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan, Mr. Jiménez met with JPMorganChase's employees service group Adelante to discuss opportunities for volunteering and developing programming at Memorial.

Pan American

Children's Librarian Raissa Marking has been concentrating on school visits to share the excitement of reading and the fun of the Summer Reading Program. On April 28 she visited the PCI location on Zarzamora and shared transportation stories with the three- and four-year-olds, and farm, ranch, and dairy stories with four- and five-year-olds. On April 29, five groups of first-graders at Bellaire Elementary School enjoyed stories with Ms. Raissa. On May 9, she visited Stonewall-Flanders Elementary School to visit with nine groups of third- and fourth-graders, totaling 200 children. On May 12, she spoke with eighteen groups, totaling 396, at Adams Elementary School during their RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program; she also promoted the Summer Reading Program. On May 14, she was back at Stonewall-Flanders visiting first-, second-, and fifth-graders in thirteen groups totaling 325. On May 15, Ms. Marking spoke to four groups, totaling 100, during the Career Day event at Stonewall-Flanders Elementary School. Scheh Elementary School held their "Family around the World Night" on the same date and Ms. Marking provided library card applications and Summer Reading Program information. Friday, May 16, she finished visiting all the classes at Stonewall-Flanders Elementary School, with twelve groups of 250 pre-kinder and kindergarten students. On May 20, she visited with 570 students at Vestal Elementary School; May 21, she visited the second, third, and fourth graders at Carroll Bell Elementary School; and on May 23, she participated in the Bellaire Elementary Career Day.

The April 28 Family Fun program was attended by four children, who made mini-piñatas. In celebration of Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros, on April 30, crafts of baleros, sun catchers and sun booklets were enjoyed by 39 children. On May 7, there were seven attendees at preschool storytime. Many of the branch's storytime regulars are taking a May break.

Teen Night was well attended on April 30, with ten participating in games. On May 7, five teens made Mother's Day boxes.

New Library Assistant Melissa A. Carroll attended the Teen Services Committee meeting with Children's Librarian Raissa Marking on May 14. Ms. Carroll has expressed an interest in taking charge of teen programming.

Adult Tai Chi classes continue to draw an average of 15 each Monday evening.

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

The Bannwolf Library at Reagan High School had a special guest for Family Fun activities on May 3. For an entire hour, Donnabelle the clown entertained families with stories, tricks, and puppets. Seventy-five customers enjoyed this fun-filled morning.

A Scholastic Book Fair was held at the Bannwolf Library on the night of May 22, open to adults only. Customers had the opportunity to purchase books for the summer book club and were then able to choose a book of their choice for free.

The staff at the Bannwolf Library has been preparing for summer reading programs. Many activities have been planned for children, teens, and adults. The library will go to summer hours beginning on June 8.

San Pedro

Five teen programs were presented 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 what information the group would need 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 *Kitchen Princess*. All the participants 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 storytimes were offered. April's theme was "Spring, Glorious Spring." For one storytime, the children and parents accompanied Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton on an interesting and fun "listening walk" in San Pedro Park. Birds, cars, children, bugs, dogs, and other things were heard!

Four B.A.C.K. Pack programs were presented for elementary school children. B.A.C.K. Pack participants 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.

On April 26, 31 people enjoyed the Día de los Niños family program. Children enjoyed listening to bilingual storyteller MaryAnn Blue and then making suncatchers, baleros, and sun books.

On May 1, Betsy Dalton traveled to the Kenwood PCI to present the last story time for this school year to three classes, with an aggregate of 43 students. The previous month's books were also collected at this time. The PCI administrators, teachers, and students really seem to enjoy the visits. The PCI administrator and teachers are hopeful that the program can continue next school year.

The second issue of *News Flash!*, a publication created by and for San Pedro's child and teen patrons, with the assistance of Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton, was issued on May 1. This issue contained not only descriptions and pictures of San Pedro Library activities and a variety of book reviews, but also several poems and a story by some of the branch's young patrons. The newsletter has expanded in size from a letter sized sheet of paper to a legal sized sheet, front and back! The children and teens really look forward to seeing their work in print.

The Hawthorne Academy Lunch Bunch book club met on May 6 and May 27. The book read by the 18 students was *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd and for the later date the book chosen by the students for their last meeting of the school year was *Skeleton Man*.

On May 10, 31 children and adults enjoyed the "Is Your Mama a Llama?" mother's day family program. Ms. Dalton read *Is Your Mama a Llama?* The participants then moved to the Storytime Porch for a variety of craft activities.

On May 15, Ms. Dalton will travel to the San Antonio College Early Childhood Center to present story time to two classes; each class typically is composed of ten students. Ten books will also be delivered to each class for their use during the month.

San Pedro staff members represented the library at the United Methodist Church Health Fair held at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church on May 17. Applications and information about library accounts, the Summer Reading Program, Electronic Databases, Little Read Wagon and San Pedro Park Library were disseminated.

Staff members have begun to refresh their customer service skills by attending City-sponsored Customer Excellence training.

On May 16 the Library and the City of San Antonio received an award from the San Antonio Conservation Society for its work in restoring the San Pedro Park Branch Library.

The final items ordered as part of the restoration have been delivered to the branch, including new storage lockers for staff, a multi-purpose portable table, four new wooden book trucks, new shelving for the north wing of the library, and a new book drop.

Semmes

Semmes Cinema joined hands with Regal Cinema on May 10 to present the film, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. After the movie, staff from Regal Cinema promoted the next Narnia movie, *Prince Caspian*, with activities, games, prizes and movie passes for the new movie. A major part of the presentation, listed on the promotional flyer, was “read it before you see it,” as well as a list of the other books in the *Narnia* series.

Saturday, May 3, saw the arrival of the *C-Span Campaign 2008 Bus on the Road to San Antonio*. The 45-foot motor coach found space in the parking lot from 10:00 a.m. to noon and welcomed visitors onboard to view the production studio and media demonstration center. Sponsored by Time Warner as part of their ongoing commitment to education and public service, this was an effort to explain C-Span’s different approach to reporting, and to promote responsible and informed participation in the democratic process.

Russian folk music was heard in the meeting room on the afternoon of May 8. The Samovar Folk Group is on a mission to introduce children to Russian folk music, instruments and folktales.

Semmes welcomed new maintenance worker Monica de la Cruz, who joined the staff on Monday, May 5, after a week of orientation at Central. The building is shining again!

Children’s Librarian Wendy Fox was invited to speak at the graduation ceremonies for the Lost Creek Parent Child Inc. Head Start program where she has been doing storytimes, as well as at the graduation ceremony for Live Oak PCI.

Thousand Oaks

The Friends of Thousand Oaks held their Spring Book Sale on May 3. They made over \$1000 and were very pleased with the results. The Friends have set up a continuous book sale area near the library entrance, where they display paperbacks and novels for sale for 50 cents. It is run on an honor system with the public placing the money in a locked box. It is working well and bringing in \$30 to \$50 a month. The Friends are pleased with the venture and the public seems to enjoy it. The Friends have agreed to spend some of the book sale money on funding the different summer time activities at the branch.

The “Chatterbooks” book club for school-age children has gone well this spring with a steady attendance of nine children. Library Assistant Barbara Kwiatkowski makes each session exciting with puzzles, word games and snacks to keep the children interested. This month they are reading *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson and will end the spring session with the showing of the Disney movie of the same title.

The last storytime for the Spring session was May 15 so Library Assistant Debra Lindenberg-Morrow made it extra-special with stories about the creature all children are fascinated with – dragons! After the stories the children got to make dragon masks with colorful construction paper manes. For Mother’s Day the children made cards for their mothers from floral design paper and rick-rack ribbon. The children were very proud of their professional-looking cards and the mothers were pleased to receive them.

Thursday nights are being discovered by the customers and business is picking up. This month's Thursday night movie series was entitled "Star Wars Festival," and the five Star Wars films were shown.

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

The Tobin Library at Oakwell capped off the Big Read with an exceptionally satisfying discussion of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Facilitator Wendy Friedman had no idea what to expect in the way of turnout, especially during Fiesta. She set up ten chairs and was very pleased to find them filled with a diverse group of readers beautifully representing the range of characters in the novel. The discussion was frank, insightful, and even inspiring.

The following evening, Ms. Friedman conducted a tour of the branch for a delightfully enthusiastic Cub Scout troop working on a library merit badge.

The Tobin at Oakwell Book Group expanded their horizons by trying a Science Fiction selection in May. Members were surprised at how much they enjoyed *Rollback* by Robert Sawyer, a story involving older characters with whom they could identify, facing unexpected and difficult choices.

More than 60 teens continued with Teen Wednesdays by making bubble magnets, playing DDR and creating sand art.

The Friends of Tobin @ Oakwell treated the staff to another wonderful Staff Appreciation Dinner on May 9. Guests feasted on steak or chicken at the Barn Door and received gift cards to Wal-Mart. It was, as always, a lovely evening and reminded staff yet again of their good fortune in having such a generous, supportive Friends group.

Westfall

Westfall was host to a Día de Los Niños event on April 29. Thirty-three people enjoyed the bilingual stories and stayed to create amazing crafts. It was a very enjoyable time.

Librarian I Monica Garza presented a screening of two classic Hollywood films. On May 1, *Citizen Kane* was shown. Accompanying the film was a display showcasing the movie. *Breakfast at Tiffany's* was screened on May 12. Special thanks go to the Great Northwest Branch Library and the Central Library for loaning the projection equipment.

Westfall served as a polling site for the May 10 elections. Turnout was not quite as high as for the recent primaries, but many people came and exercised their right to vote. Thanks are in order to Lucy Green for coming in at 6:00 am and to Imelda Merino for staying past 7:00 pm in order to make sure everyone had the opportunity to vote.

Currently, the Westfall lobby is adorned with many beautiful kites, some handmade. On May 24, the TAKO kite group presented a kite workshop. Patrons were invited to put together and decorate their own kites. After building the kites, attendees were given the opportunity to fly them and see them in action.

The Westfall Friends group will hold its next book sale on Saturday, June 7, 2008. The Friends recently purchased two new chairs for the Reference desk area, as well as new floor mats for the high-traffic areas of the branch. A new bookshelf was also purchased for the teen area. It will be used to showcase the graphic novel collection. The staff at Westfall is really grateful to their Friends.