

**San Antonio Public Library**  
**Director's Report**  
**June 24, 2008**

**Administration**

**Director's Office**

Preparation for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget has been a priority for the Library Director. The Library's Management Team met several times to develop a proposal for the Library Board Budget Committee. Library Director Ramiro Salazar worked with Board Chair Jean Brady to craft a letter from Ms. Brady to the City Manager outlining the Board's priorities and concerns regarding the budget process.

Responding to the concerns expressed by District 4 Council Representative Philip Cortez about possible inappropriate Internet usage at the library, Mr. Salazar and Public Relations Manager Beth Graham met with members of Mr. Cortez's staff on May 27. The Library Management Team developed a plan to enhance safety for library Internet users, which Councilman Cortez presented at a news conference at the Central Library on May 27.

Earlier the morning of May 27, Mr. Salazar attended a Leadership Appreciation breakfast hosted by United Way of San Antonio for those who donated \$500 or more to the City's 2007 Charitable Campaign.

On May 29, Mr. Salazar and members of the library Management Team accompanied Library Board Chair Jean Brady and members of the Library Board to the City Council meeting, where Mayor Phil Hardberger read a proclamation declaring June and July Summer Reading in San Antonio. Mayor Hardberger is Honorary Chairman for the 2008 Summer Reading Program.

On June 2, Mr. Salazar led the team interviewing five candidates for the position of Assistant Director for Public Services. The team also included Assistant City Manager Frances González, Community Initiatives Director Dennis Campa, Human Resources Director Flor García, Grants Monitoring and Administration Director Drew Cameron, and Fleet Maintenance and Operations Director Florencio Peña. The previous day, the candidates had been given a tour of the Central Library, the Cody Branch Library, and the McCresless Branch Library. Following the formal interviews, each candidate met with the library Management Team for an informal session.

Mr. Salazar met with District 3 Council Representative Jennifer Ramos to discuss the demographics of the service area for the new District 3 library and how the library can best serve her constituents. Later that day, Mr. Salazar participated in a news conference with State Representative Joaquín Castro at the Central Library to kick off Mr. Castro's annual book drive. He also attended the Advocacy Committee meeting with Frank Guerra at Guerra DeBerry & Coody that afternoon and the REFORMA meeting that evening.

On June 4, Mr. Salazar and Board Chair Jean Brady met with Julián Castro to discuss library issues. That afternoon, he met with newly appointed Deputy City Manager A.J. Rodríguez, who will assume oversight responsibility for the library upon joining the City in late June. Mr. Salazar presented Mr. Rodríguez with a quick reference guide to the library and discussed priorities such as the upcoming Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget and library capital projects.

June 9 through June 13 Mr. Salazar served as a mentor for the 2008 TALL (Texas Accelerated Library Leaders) Texans program. TALL Texans is a leadership development initiative targeted at mid-career library and information science practitioners. Prospective participants must apply to

attend, and there were only 24 participants selected state-wide. Central Reference Librarian Julia Selwyn was one of those selected.

June 16, Mr. Salazar met with Bexar County official Dr. David Morgan to continue negotiations over the City-County contract for library services, and on June 18 he met with District 7 City Council Representative Justin Rodríguez regarding library service in his district.

Assistant Library Director Aubrey George and Senior Management Analyst Jessica Ramos participated in a Community Night hosted by Congressman Ciro Rodriguez on June 12. Mr. George discussed Internet safety and the library and distributed bookmarks related to that topic.

### **Automation**

The Automation department conducted interviews for a Department Systems Specialist to assist with desktop support and technology project duties. Department Systems Aide positions were filled for the Cortez and Thousand Oaks Branch Libraries. Work continues on Information Technology Budget Request forms. PC Cop software was installed at the Maverick Branch Library and the Tobin Library at Oakwell. Site evaluations were conducted for the final phase of the RFID self-check project at the Collins Garden, Forrest Hills, Guerra, Landa, Maverick, Memorial, and Thousand Oaks Branch Libraries.

### **Branch Services**

Branch Services Coordinators Joel Bangilan and Barbara O'Hara and Interim Assistant Director for Public Services Kendra Trachta conducted interviews for two Librarian III positions. They also assisted with tours for the Assistant Director candidates and participated with the rest of the management team in interviews with the candidates. The candidates toured the Central Library, Cody Branch Library, and McCreless Branch Library.

Mr. Bangilan has prioritized improving the connection between branches and administration. He is planning to spend much more time meeting with individual staff members and being out in the branches. In the past month he visited with Johnston, Igo, Las Palmas, and Forest Hills Branches. At the Johnston Branch, He spent a whole day on the reference desk to learn about the daily issues that frontline staff have to deal with. He met with the Special Assignment Librarians at the Borders in the Quarry to look at retail marketing techniques. The group determined that there are a number of techniques that a library could use to "sell" the collection. He worked with Ray Fraga and Rich Walker touring the remaining branches and determining locations for RFID equipment. He and Barbara O'Hara met with the branch managers at Semmes for the monthly manager's meeting.

Barbara O'Hara met with the principal of Garner Middle School and Tobin/Oakwell Branch Manager Wendy Friedman to discuss working with students at the middle school, which is directly next door to the library.

Ms. O'Hara, Library Public Relations Manager Beth Graham, and Library Foundation Development Coordinator Sarah Swinney traveled to Minneapolis to attend orientation for The Big Read.

Under Ms. O'Hara's coordination, planning has begun for Hispanic Heritage Month, the Chicano Renaissance Project, the Big Read 2009, and other projects.

Ms. O'Hara conducted a FISH! Customer Service training session for the staff at McCreless Branch Library and accompanied Capital Projects Manager Rich Walker and Department Systems Manager Ray Fraga on a tour of branches scheduled to receive RFID and self-check equipment in the next phase of the project.

### Outreach

On May 30, District 5 Library Board Trustee Laurie Gruenbeck, Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan, and staff from the Las Palmas and Bazan Branch Libraries represented SAPL at Lourdes Galvan's First Annual District Five Spring Fling. The team talked to many people and passed out information to about 100 parents and children. Ms. Gruenbeck made paper hats. The library staff gave out pencils and posters to promote the library's services. Libro came out to greet many excited children.

On June 19, 2008, the San Antonio Public Library joined the Juneteenth Freedom Coalition in celebrating day slaves in Texas learned about the Emancipation Proclamation. Barbara Celitans and other staff members distributed Library information at the event. Little Read Wagon staff drove the van in the Juneteenth Parade that commenced at the Buffalo Soldiers Camp Ground and ended at the Juneteenth Festival in the Joe Freeman Coliseum. Little Read Wagon staff then joined Carver Library and Texana/Genealogy staff at the Library's booth to register Festival participants for library cards, the Summer Reading Program, and genealogy classes.

### **Children's Services**

During the City Council meeting on May 29, Mayor Phil Hardberger read an official proclamation in support of the Library's Summer Reading Program. Library staff and members of the Library Board were on hand for the ceremonial reading of the proclamation during the Council meeting and to receive words of encouragement and support from members of the Council.

District 8 City Council Representative Diane Cibrian is working with the Children's and Teen Services Coordinators to develop a reading promotion featuring the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. San Antonio native and former Olympian Josh Davis is slated to be the spokesman for the campaign. Since the Olympics begin in early August, just as *Read Across Texas* programming draws to a close, the Councilwoman is working with library staff to create an alternative to the library's traditional reading programs. Preliminary plans for the campaign include an Olympic Reading blog featuring daily posts from Josh while he is at the games, along with a daily list of recommended reading. Additional information will be forthcoming as the August launch date draws closer.

Looking further into the future, the Children's Hispanic Heritage Month Committee is hard at work creating programs for the fall. Sheila Acosta (*Memorial*) and Betsy Dalton (*San Pedro*) are joining Children's Coordinator Viki Ash in designing a celebration entitled *Colores, Calavaras y Canciones*. Expect a colorful flyer advertising Hispanic Heritage events for children to come out in September with programs scheduled throughout the month of October.

### Little Read Wagon

Little Read Wagon staff and Memorial Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta represented the library at KLRN's community fair at Rosedale Park on Saturday, June 7. Dozens of children signed up for summer reading, library cards were issued, and another connection was made between literacy development and everyday activities. This time children visiting the library booth got to make "goop," a mixture of liquid starch and glue similar to Silly Putty. In addition to having a fun sensory experience and making a little bit of a mess, children received more exposure to words like "sticky" and "slimy."

June 12 marked another expansion in services. For the past five years Little Read Wagon has offered monthly early literacy workshops to incarcerated parents at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center. In addition to the classes provided by Little Read Wagon and other community agencies, the PaTCh (Papás and Their Children) and MaTCh (Mamas and Their Children) program participants are allowed one-hour contact visits with their children. During this time two Little Read Wagon staff assisted in the visitation room and observed the parent-child interactions. It was

especially pleasing to see the parents quickly select books to read with their children or spend time at the chalk board writing and using strategies shared during previous classes.

A third Little Read Wagon staff person remained in the waiting area with the parents/guardians who brought the children to visit. This was an opportunity to share information about library resources that are especially important for families under highly stressful circumstances. Conversations often turned towards the difficulty of finding time to read with the children while managing all the other demands and basic needs of the family. Staff then offered encouragement, early literacy information, and additional invitations and referrals to special events hosted by the library and other agencies. The experience was rewarding and beneficial to both the staff and customers served.

Avance, one of Little Read Wagon's long-term community partners, held a special event "Luau" on June 13. The event was designed to maintain contact with previous clients while recruiting new customers. Families invited by both the library and Avance had the opportunity to interact with each other and learn more about available services.

Little Read Wagon completed another series of *Para los niños* programs at the Las Palmas and Bazan Libraries. The Great Northwest library has generously found an opening in their summer calendar for a *Para los niños* series to take place June 11 – July 30.

On the last Saturday of each month the Central Library continues to welcome large groups of teachers and child care providers for the "Exploring Early Literacy with Everyday Experts" workshops. The volunteer presenters have had a wonderful experience sharing their expertise and growing professionally. This summer the frequency of teacher workshops will increase with a two-hour workshop facilitated entirely by Little Read Wagon staff at a different branch library each week. Although the number of training hours is less, using the branch library locations makes the workshops more accessible to those who are reluctant to travel down town or have other obligations on Saturdays. It also is an opportunity to encourage teachers to use the libraries closest to their work places or homes as both personal and professional resources. Little Read Wagon appreciates the hospitality of all the branches.

### **Public Relations**

Library Public Relations Manager Beth Graham worked with the offices of Mayor Phil Hardberger and City Clerk Leticia Vacek to coordinate the City Council Summer Reading proclamation on May 29. She and Senior Management Analyst Jessica Rodríguez worked with the office of State Representative Joaquín Castro on Mr. Castro's news conference at the Central Library announcing the kick-off of his annual book drive.

Ms. Graham participated in the Advocacy Committee meeting with Frank Guerra and attended the committee meeting on June 5 to begin developing questions for the proposed survey of community attitudes about the library.

Ms. Graham developed and assembled the SAPL quick reference binder presented to new Deputy City Manager A.J. Rodríguez by Library Director Ramiro Salazar.

June 8 and 9 Ms. Graham accompanied Branch Services Coordinator Barbara O'Hara and Library Foundation Development Coordinator Sarah Swinney to the Big Read orientation conference in Minneapolis. More than 500 representatives from Big Read communities nationwide (and, for the first time, even from Mexico!) were in attendance, and there were many opportunities to meet communities planning to read the same books and to brainstorm strategies to maximize participation.

Publicity for the Summer Reading Program has been a high priority. On June 12, Ms. Graham was interviewed by Cox Radio News Director Chrissie Murnin for a program scheduled to air the morning of June 29, and on June 18 she appeared on KENS-TV's morning show Great Day SA to discuss both the Summer Reading Program and the Hotel Valencia's promotion to encourage their guests to donate new children's books for the library offering a discount at the hotel in return for each donation. Hotel Valencia Conference Services Manager Sarah Linley was also interviewed.

Ms. Graham was invited by VIA Community Relations Coordinator Jerri Ann Jones to serve as a judge for VIA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary essay contest. The contest winner will receive a free pass on VIA for six months.

Graphic Designer Ana Farr worked with the CPS Print Shop staff to coordinate timely printing and delivery of Summer Reading materials. She also developed a versatile presentation folder that can be used for varied purposes. Its first appearance will be at the 2008 ALA National Conference, where it will be used to present information to prospective applicants for employment opportunities at SAPL.

### **Teen Services**

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez has accepted a position as a part-time faculty member at California's San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science, the largest ALA-accredited library school in the world. As an on-line instructor, Jennifer will teach "Programming and Services to Young Adults". Library administration and staff are very proud that Jennifer has been recognized as a resource in the academic community, and is helping to grow the next generation of librarians serving teens. Jennifer will continue to serve the San Antonio Public Library as Coordinator of Teen Services.

YALSA (Young Adult Library Service Association), the fastest growing division of ALA, will use the Central Library as the site for this year's Wrestlemania Reading Challenge photo shoot, scheduled for June 23 and featuring talent World Wrestling Entertainment personalities Matt Hardy, Mr. Kennedy, MVP and the Diva Layla. The Wrestlemania Reading Challenge kicks-off during Teen Read Week in October. Posters from the photo shoot are distributed to libraries through the nation – and offer a great opportunity for exposure for the San Antonio Public Library.

The Teen Summer Reading Program, eco-summer 2008, kicked off on June 1. Teens register for the program online and receive a reading log. By registering, teens will be entered into a drawing to win an iPod Nano. Teens who read fifteen books throughout June and July will receive a free prize book. All library locations will be hosting weekly teen programs, including video games, crafts and presentations from various local environmental and wildlife organizations.

Teen Services bought PlayStation 2 consoles and either Dance Dance Revolution or Guitar Hero III games for those branch libraries that did not already have them. Branches can use this equipment to create excitement during their weekly teen summer programs, as well as hold gaming tournaments throughout the year. Teen Services also sent out craft kits to the branches that included canvas tote bags and fabric markers for teens to decorate their own shopping bags. This June craft is eco-friendly and goes along with the eco-summer theme.

### **Web Services**

Juanita Lopez has been working to support the Summer Reading Program, entering more than 850 events on the calendar and providing web page content updates. She also redesigned the code to allow the library to collect phone numbers for teens wishing to enter the drawing for an iPod.

The team continues to work on the redesign of the library's online calendar. This includes attending online seminars, learning more about application configuration settings, using the product to test

upcoming Summer Reading events, and understanding how to can import information about the events into web pages. Staff have also been working with the vendor to improve the data provided in RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds.

Along with their efforts to improve event management, Web Services staff have created individual Google Maps for each of the branch locations. These maps will show the location of the branch along with surrounding streets and give the user the option to click to the larger Google map where they can generate detailed driving directions. The maps will be embedded in each of the branch pages as part of the website redesign.

Central Reference Librarian Julia Selwyn has been working with Webmistress Juanita López to improve library marketing on Flickr, a photo sharing service that allows SAPL the opportunity to market events using digital photography while encouraging more visits to the library's website. Public Relations Manager Beth Graham worked with City Attorney Steve Whitworth to approve photo sharing guidelines that will be presented to management.

#### **Kudos to staff** - Customer comments

"Dear Mr. Salazar:

"This is a follow-up letter regarding the fine people working for you. Since my letter of January 7, I neglected to mention some names and I have met a couple of staff members who deserve recognition.

"I really enjoy visiting the Central Library, but occasionally I use Bazan, which is my branch library. Gold stars for everyone there, starting with **Raymond Villarreal**. During his tenure as manager, he has been most helpful to me. We have great conversations about numerous things, and he always demonstrates a pleasant attitude despite the stress I'm sure his position poses. Apparently, his good nature has "rubbed off" onto his staff, because I get the same respect from **Rhonda Davila**, **Rosemary Lozano**, and **Chuck Tucker**. The new staff members are equally cordial, but the only one whose name I know is **Isabel [Salinas]**. I know that when I go to Bazan, it will be a good experience.

"Since January, I have met **Hortense Ayala** in the Interlibrary Loan Office. In Gamini's absence, she has guided me through procedures of which I wasn't aware. Now, when I visit their office, I have a dilemma as to which one I should go to without slighting the other. Hortense has been a terrific help. Another person, **Cindy Vasquez**, has assisted me over the phone, but I have not had the opportunity to meet her in person yet. She said some very nice things to me when I needed help. What a great staff you have in the ILL Office.

"Once again, the library system has lots to offer the public, but it is your fine staff that makes every visit a pleasant one. It was essential that I inform you once again." – **Rick Carabetta**, May 30

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"Dear **Melva [Ramírez, Memorial Branch Manager]**,

"Thanks for the outstanding Dedication Ceremony and for your gracious acknowledgement of the military, veterans and family members. Thanks for what you do to enhance the wellness of our City by having a strong Memorial Branch Library program. I am a member of the Friends of the Library at the Guerra Branch and do support their efforts.

"Best Wishes" - **Larry Romo**, Lt Col USAFR (Ret)

## **Committees and Work Teams**

This section offers a regular update on initiatives undertaken by library staff teams:

### **RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)**

The RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) project continues to move forward with the installation of RFID tags and equipment. In addition to the libraries previously reported as using RFID technology, the Bazan, Brook Hollow and Johnston Branch Libraries are now offering self-check to library customers. The Tobin Library at Oakwell, Pan American Branch Library and Carver Branch Library have self-check equipment installed but are still in the process of tagging the collections, and the Las Palmas Branch Library has the equipment and is preparing to start tagging the collection.

At the Central Library, non-fiction items with the exception of the 700s and the 930-999s have been tagged. The adult fiction, large print and all audio books have been completed. Virtually all DVD's and about seventy percent of the music CD's have been completed as well. The Central Children's Department is in the process of tagging books and has completed all but the 914-999, biographies and media. The reference, Latino and Spanish language collections but will be tagged as soon as the other parts of the collection have been completed.

## **Central Library**

### **Children's Department**

The Central Department kicked off Summer Reading on Saturday, May 31 with a Family Fun event entitled "T is for Texas." A total of 47 attendees enjoyed singing Texas songs, developing a Texas alphabet book, and decorating maps of the Lone Star State. On June 8, local magician Spikey Mikey was the first featured performer at a Central Children's program. Mikey drew a crowd of 131 enthusiastic attendees.

On June 9, the department welcomed Rachael Pensiero to the staff as a Librarian II. Rachael comes to SAPL with experience working in the Children's Center at the J. Erik Jonnson Central Library in Dallas. Her arrival puts the children's department at full staff.

### **Reference**

As part of the Express Outreach Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine "Promotoras and Libraries: Advancing Health Information", the implementation group (Natasha Arguello, Adam Spana, Sally Bauer, Elma Nieto-Rodríguez and Jimmy Jiménez) hosted a focus group with the Edgewood Family Network and University of Texas Health Science Center Libraries at the Central Library on June 9. Five representatives from branches located in the EFN service area were also present. EFN's Promotores de Buena Vida, or trained community advocates, provided their feedback on perception of libraries in their community, Internet access at home and sources of health information. According to an informal survey of 62 residents, half of them (53%) have Internet access at home. Among those who don't have home Internet access, the number of library non-users is higher than library users. Among reasons for not using the library, residents cite "don't know where it is," "don't understand how it works," "child is too young." While it is not a scientific survey, this snapshot of the EFN's community correlates with national trends. Promotoras made several suggestions to increase library awareness and usage, including teaching people about setting up a library corner in the house so that books wouldn't get lost, having a strategy to address men, using performers during storytimes, and doing outreach in parks and other places where people gather informally.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Reference Librarian Julia Selwyn recently attended the TLA TALL Texans leadership institute. A select number of library professionals including Selwyn were chosen to participate among many candidates. Mr. Salazar served as a valuable mentor to these students.

The TALL (Texas Accelerated Library Leaders) Texans Institute focused on identifying leadership styles, fostering library collaborations and transforming libraries in Texas. Both Mr. Salazar and Ms. Selwyn engaged leaders from school, academic and other public libraries. Ms. Selwyn found it a rewarding experience, and even designed the t-shirt for the 2008 TALL Texans class.

## **Teen Services**

### Weekly Programs

Mondays with Regina Almanza: Summer Monday afternoons will be dedicated to Guitar Hero and a Guitar Hero tournament was held on June 2. The Texas Wildlife Association gave a "Skins and Skulls" presentation to teens on June 2. Teens were able to touch various Texas animal skins and were invited to guess what kind of animal belonged to each skin and skull.

Tuesdays with Kathleen Fordyce: Tuesday programs have been moved to two o'clock for the summer. Teens have fun playing Dance Dance Revolution every Tuesday.

Wednesdays with Sylvia Pachecano: The Teen Summer Reading Program has started, and, in keeping with the theme of ecology, Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano will present movies with an ecological theme throughout the program. So far teens have screened *Mighty Joe Young* and *Born Free*.

On Saturday, June 7, Ms. Pachecano hosted Teen Services' monthly Anime and Manga Club session. Twelve teens watched and critiqued *Diamond Daydreamers* from ADV Films.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza: On May 29, teens made decorations for Teen Services' purple wall. Teens made batik-like paintings by drawing bold designs with crayons on construction paper, crumbling the paper in a bowl of water, laying it flat and then painting over it with tempera paint. For summer, Thursday craft time has been moved up to two o'clock. In keeping with the eco-summer theme, teens will attempt to recycle or re-use craft items and supplies instead of buying new ones. On June 5, teens made knot bracelets. On June 12, tissue paper, contact paper and templates were set out for teens to make a sun catcher with a stained-glass effect. On June 19, teens decorated t-shirts with non-toxic fabric markers.

On Fridays, teens play board games such as Monopoly, Jenga, Scrabble and Sorry.

### Tours and Groups

On June 13, over fifty students from the Summer Reading Camp at Sam Rayburn Middle School received a tour of the library from Library Assistant Regina Almanza. Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce provided the students with catalog and database instruction. Staff also signed the students up for the Teen eco-summer program.

### Summer Lunches

The Teen Services Department is again participating in the San Antonio Food Bank's Summer Lunches program. Children and teens from ages one to eighteen can receive a free lunch Monday through Friday from noon to 1:00 p.m.

## **Texana/Genealogy**

Matt DeWaelche taught a class on "Beginning Your Genealogy on the Internet" to nine participants on June 3.

Due to popular demand, SAPL's "Second Annual Texana/Genealogy Lock-In" took place on June 6. Thirty-seven people were locked-in on that Friday evening to attend classes and research family history Debbie Countess taught classes on "Beginning Genealogy" to twenty-eight and "Heritage

Quest Online" to twenty-four participants. Nancy Brennan, a volunteer and member of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, gave an overview of that society's library to twenty-two.

Judging by participants' comments on the follow-up questionnaire, the program was a success:

- "I have really enjoyed this evening and the information gained will be very helpful."
- "It was a great public service by the S. A. Public Library."
- "The staff was a lot of fun and so willing to help."
- "Your volunteer staff is so knowledgeable."
- "This lock-in piqued my interest."
- "Extremely well organized."
- "Very nice session! Found new sources and made some progress. Thanks...Keep doing this every year."

The Texana/Genealogy staff would especially like to thank security for their assistance during the evening.

Matt DeWaelsche and Sylvia Reyna staffed a table at the Juneteenth Freedom Coalition Event held at the Freeman Coliseum on June 19. They provided information on SAPL's resources for African American genealogy, highlighting the funeral program collection, which now contains over 2,100 items.

### Archives

The funeral program collection now includes 1,900 programs from San Antonio, 209 from other Texas cities, and fifty-six from other states.

The inventory of Mayor William Thornton's collection is now complete. A finding aid will soon be available.

The request to continue the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant for a second year has been approved at \$52,000. The NHPRC grant funds the Assistant City Archivist position as well as archival supplies.

The collections that have been inventoried, and which have finding aids, will soon be listed on OCLC, with the finding aid attached so researchers anywhere will know what is available. This is part of the NHPRC grant.

Additions to the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood and the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training Collections have been received.

The library received a donation of yearbooks from Main Avenue High School, now Fox Tech, covering the years 1919 through 1980. Although there are a number of gaps in the donation, these yearbooks will help to fill other gaps in our already existing collection. Also included in the donation were photographs for many of the graduating classes during the 1950s and 1960s. There are other Fox Tech and SAISD items in the collection as well.

Herbert Mills of Houston donated a scrapbook of the Carttar family. The oldest item is an indenture for Joseph Carttar to apprentice to George Mitchole as a shipwright, dated February 23, 1786. Other items cover the early 1800s through about 1910 and include correspondence, stock certificates, Scientific Society of San Antonio items, business cards, and much more. The scrapbook appears to have been compiled by Charles Graham Carttar, one of an English family who immigrated to Texas in the late 1800s. C. G. Carttar was a Notary Public and accountant in San Antonio.

## **Branch Libraries**

### **Bazan**

The replacement of Bazan Branch Library's air conditioning and heating system has just been completed. Both patrons and staff have commented on how much cooler the building is and how much quieter the new system is. Bazan customers and staff thank Rich Walker and others in Library Administration who ensured that this project was carried out quickly and efficiently.

### **Brook Hollow**

Brook Hollow now has self check-out stations, which are being heavily used.

The Friends' Spring Book Sale was held on May 17 and was very successful.

The branch's kitchen renovation has begun and is expected to be complete within about a month.

Branch Manager Beth Schorlemer and Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell attended a District 9 Senior Fair where they distributed information about the Library and handed out library card applications.

Both the child and teen summer reading programs have been very popular at Brook Hollow. Children's Services Librarian Ruth Turner hosted a Kick-Off Party, which attracted over 100 children, and registration activity for both children and teens has been very high. Storytimes and other group activities such as crafts programs have been very well attended. Teen Services Librarian Mary Smith will begin hosting crafts and gaming events for young adults featuring Guitar Hero III and Dance Dance Revolution.

### **Carver**

The Carver Branch Library's three-month-long film series Summer Cinema kicked off the branch's summertime activities with a screening of *Stomp the Yard*. The energetic film with a hip-hop theme drew a mid-size crowd. Staff sought to create a realistic movie-going experience for the customers, placing blackout curtains over windows and crafting a movie screen out of materials on hand at the library. Branch Manager Ronnie Delgado got into the spirit of the occasion, serving popcorn and inviting customers to relax and enjoy the feature. Other offerings in June included *Pride and Akeelah and the Bee*.

Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Service offered children an unusual craft – an edible one! Using fresh strawberries and white grapes, presenter Grace Guerra taught families how to make fruit kabobs. This was a big hit with youngsters who enjoyed eating their creations afterward.

With its goal of promoting health, wellness and education, the Life Synagogue Family Literacy program returned to Carver in June with a poetry and storytime presentation.

Artist Irene Boone brought her "Art Travels" children's classes to the branch during June, providing youngsters with a different approach to learning about art. Ms. Boone, who presents her program in different locations across town, said she seeks to use art as a "hook to build self-worth in children." Engaging in art is not merely a learning technique or working in a particular medium, she explained, but helps children learn to know themselves through the process of creating art.

Once again the Carver Branch Library hosted the GAP Program, a creative writing workshop for children. The program, whose motto is "Think and Write," provided snacks, prizes and certificates to students who participated in the two-hour Saturday afternoon program.

On June 19, the Central Library Texana/Genealogy Department and the G.W. Carver Branch Library represented SAPL with an information booth during a Juneteenth celebration at Joe and Harry Freeman Coliseum organized by the Juneteenth Freedom Coalition. The day's activities included a parade featuring SAPL's Little Read Wagon.

In June, Carver Library continued to be a regular presence at the annual Community Health Fair presented by Childress Memorial Church of God in Christ. The fifth annual fair was held on June 21. Public Service Manager Ronnie Delgado was invited to share information about health and wellness resources available through San Antonio Public Library.

### **Cody**

Cody's various clubs held their monthly meetings. Selections for the month included: *Gigi* (Film Club); *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan (Saturday Book Club); *Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky (Thursday Book Club); and *Murder Carries a Torch* by Anne George (Mystery Book Club). The Desert Rain Poetry group also met.

The Department of Community Initiatives brought their cluster of computer classes which were well attended. Cody staff also offered "Job Searching Online" and "Health Information Online" classes.

Children's Librarian Trina Smith spent the last part of May and early June visiting area schools and child care centers promoting the Library's summer reading program.

Summer is here and everyone has been coming to the library to the library to sign up for the summer reading. After only a couple of weeks into the program, Cody had a total of almost 600 registered for the children's and teen programs. Attendance at Cody's special summer programs have been outstanding, with more than 100 children and parents in attendance at each event. Programs for the month included Illusions by Blake; Magic Theatre's presentation of *The Kingdom of Texas*; and pet therapy with Pennies from Heaven. Family Movie Day has also been a hit, with families enjoying such hits as *Surf's Up*, *Open Season* and *Over the Hedge*. And, of course, Cody is still seeing strong attendance at its regularly scheduled lapsits and storytimes.

Teen Triathlon Tuesday is slowly seeing an increase in participation. The first week had low attendance due to the fact that school was still in session, but the following Tuesday more than ten teens showed up to test their skills in Mario Kart and Guitar Hero. Each week has seen more teens signing up for the events.

#### **Upcoming Special Events:**

- June 25 Family Movie: *Alvin & the Chipmunks*
- June 26 Purlly Gates, Storyteller
- July 1 Teen Tuesday: Dance Dance Revolution & Mario Kart
- July 3 Ranger Tom from the San Antonio Historical Mission
- July 8 Teen Tuesday: Guitar Hero and Mario Kart
- July 10 Snake Connection with Susan Frigge
- July 15 Teen Tuesday: Dance Dance Revolution and Mario Kart
- July 17 The Pirate Players
- July 26 Grant Seeking for Schools, Churches, and Nonprofit Organizations
- August 11 Elvis Night

### **Collins Garden**

The Collins Garden Summer Reading Kickoff Party was a success, with both children and teens participating. Children's Librarian Leigh Bedford read stories and set up special displays of Texas related books, and the branch offered not one, but two, craft activities.

The staff are encouraging young adult and juvenile customers to sign up and they are all registering with great enthusiasm. The kids especially like the bookmarks and the reading logs.

Spikey Mikey enthusiastically entertained those who attended his magic show by amusing the audience with his humor and magic tricks.

Young Adult programming is in full swing for the summer. Various events are being held on Wednesday afternoons, and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, the teens are gathering in the meeting room to play board games and draw. The YA events are averaging 18 participants per program.

The Collins Garden Neighborhood Association has thoughtfully offered to purchase a laminating machine and supplies, which were on a Wish List that the Association had requested from Collins Garden employees.

### **Cortez**

The Cortez Branch Library began a new program of monthly exhibitions of works by local visual artists. Juan Miguel Ramos was the first guest artist. He displayed a piece at Cortez that was included in the book *Art at Our Doorstep: San Antonio Writers and Artists* published by Trinity University Press in April 2008.

The branch's partnership with the Central American teachers attending Palo Alto College continues this month with a program about the history and culture of Panama. The Raoul Cortez Movie Club met and viewed the film *Nine Lives*. The well-attended movie was followed by an informal discussion.

The big news this month is the Summer Reading Program. Children's Librarian Carol Collins promoted SAPL's summer reading program at the area high school, two middle schools and seven elementary schools. *The Southside Reporter* published an article about the start of summer reading at Cortez. Story time quadrupled its usual attendance for the first story time of the summer. The patron count averaged over seven hundred per day during the first few days of summer. The Summer Reading Kick-Off Party was very well attended with 48 enthusiastic participants. The Magik Theatre and the Ranger Tom programs were both very well attended. Carol Collins is collaborating with a new apartment complex's children's program and will continue support of a local PCI location throughout the summer.

### **Forest Hills**

With the help of the Forest Hills Friends, the branch is planning improvements to the meeting room, including shelving for book sale donations, a projector and screen to enhance programming efforts, and fresh paint for the room.

On May 27, the Origami group had its first meeting, attended by seven persons.

The Embroidery Circle met on May 28 to continue work on their projects.

On May 29 Child Protective Services used the branch meeting room to conference with ten clients in the meeting room.

The Frosting Creations Cake Decorating Club had several members in attendance met on June 1 to discuss the latest in cake decorations.

Keetowah, a group promoting education and knowledge of indigenous cultures, met on June 2.

The Thunderbird Hills Neighborhood Association Board of Directors met at Forest Hills on June 10.

The Friends of Forest Hills Branch Library met on June 14 to discuss the proposed spending plan.

Ralph Thompson will be the discussion leader on June 14 when members of the Contrarian Viewpoint Book Club met to discuss *What's So Great about Christianity* by Dinesh D'Souza.

On June 19, the branch hosted a discussion on Coahuiltecan and other Texas Indians.

The Summer Reading Club is off and running with three weekly programs on Tuesdays: Storytime, B.A.C.K. (Books and Crafts for Kids) Pack Power Hour, and Teen Space. These programs are averaging 20, 40 and 10 attendees respectively, per week. Outreach to elementary schools to promote Summer Reading included all-day visits to five schools, reaching over 2,700 students and teachers. Attendance at the Summer Reading Kickoff Party numbered about 88, and, as of June 19, 664 children and teens had signed up for Summer Reading Club. Programs targeting teens include origami, gaming sessions with the new Playstation 2, craft times and the creation of an anime club.

Further outreach to a senior center to promote library services reached about 70 mature adults, and expanded outreach to this demographic is planned after Summer Reading concludes.

### **Great Northwest**

Great Northwest Library is ready for the summer. The word is out. Schools and families have helped spread the news. The kids have made their cowboy t-shirts and cowboy hats and are ready to head west.

The "Little Wranglers" will have six programs a week in order to let the Little Wranglers keep their "little" groups, since it is the branch's smallest population.

The Buckaroo Camps will be heading to the library a couple of times a week, on Tuesday and Fridays to enjoy stories of the cowboy days and watch puppet shows.

The older kids are going to have a grand old time stomping to the music and 'do-si-do-ing' in the square dances; dramatizing the Old West in the Reader's Theater, or developing their skills in puppet workshops. The Reading Roundup Dudes will meet Monday-Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Pat King will direct the teens heading out to the library in the afternoons. They will enjoy "chick flicks" on Mondays; arts and crafts activities on Tuesdays; and on Wednesdays, a little friendly competition among their new friends with cards and board games. Little Read Wagon will offer a series of programs for teens who baby-sit beginning June 11. The sessions will focus on working with young children, teaching reading, health, and other useful skills.

Programming for adults continues. The Great Northwest Adult Book group will discuss *The Widow of the South* by Robert Hicks. ESOL classes in partnership with Northside Independent School District continue. The branch hosts Parenting Skills classes in English *and* Spanish.

Sandra Griffin and Christina Reedy are organizing "The First Annual Homemade Pie Contest" later this month.

Maricela Martinez, Library Assistant is in Albania for several weeks this month. A student at UNT, she is participating in the library automation project at the Tirana International School. The team will be assisting with the migration from one library automation system to another, cleaning up and adding records, training the librarian and faculty on the use of the new system, and developing

library policy. The project is part of two classes in my degree plan; Library Policy Development and Automation Project Management.

### **Igo**

June has been filled with Summer Reading preparation and activities. Children's Services Librarians Cara Waits and Lisa Taylor met with nearly 3,000 students during school visits. A short video featuring Pete, a horse that belongs to a neighbor of the branch, was produced and screened at some of the schools to summer reading events at Igo. Staff worked together to create amazing decorations including painted window clings of themed images such as an armadillo, cowboy boots, and cows. The Igo staff rallied together to throw an incredible Summer Reading Kickoff, attended by approximately 450 people. The Children's Services Librarians prepared numerous activities including crafts, outdoor games, a puppet show dancing, and a costume contest all based on the Read Across Texas theme. All staff participated by dressing up in western wear.

Teen programming is in full swing with video gaming and crafts each week. Librarian Haley Holmes spoke to 450 Jefferson Middle School students to promote the teen eco-summer reading program and gave a multimedia presentation complete with Guitar Hero.

Librarian Michelle Ricondo and Library Assistant Rhonda Woolhouse planned and launched an adult summer reading program, Passport to Summer Reading. Patrons receive a reading log designed to look like a passport and are given opportunities throughout the summer to win prizes upon completing each title. So far 150 adults have signed up.

Igo staff presented the first two of a summer series of movies. Two "Write Where You Live" workshops were also well attended. The workshops focused on using the five senses to create intense descriptions and on creating believable characters.

### **Landa**

After one month of being open, Landa is in the full swing of things. A mix of old and new customers is using the branch this summer, with many of the new customers being first-time users of the San Antonio Public Library.

Since Landa's reopening the Infant Lapsit program has been booming, with as many as 39 toddlers in attendance. The kindergarten class from Sunshine Cottage visited on June 6, and first through fourth grades from the Pershing Elementary School summer program visited on June 23. Summer Reading registration is going well, with teen enrollment already topping the last available figures from 2006. As of June 19, 86 teens were enrolled in the teen program, compared to the 2006 final enrollment of 44 participants. The children's summer reading program is also on the rise; as of June 19, 482 children were enrolled in the program, as compared to a final enrollment of 440 participants in 2006. Children's Librarian Ginger Payne attributes this partly to the increased interest in Landa resulting from excitement over the new Landa Gardens and partly to the proactive attitude of the entire staff who simply don't let a child or teen enter the building without inviting them to enroll in Summer Reading.

Teen Liaison Brook Ballard reports that attendance for teen programming is also up this year. On June 3, five teens embroidered pillow cases; on June 10, six teens decorated eco-friendly bags. This is a milestone for Landa; the toddlers of past storytimes have grown up and are eager to be involved in an active teen program at Landa Branch Library.

### **Las Palmas**

Summer Reading at Las Palmas is underway! Thanks to Library Assistant Beatrice Canales, the branch has eye-catching displays for Read Across Texas and Teen Eco-Summer 2008. As the school year has finally ended, registration is growing daily. Children's Librarian Gina Brudi's first

B.A.C.K. Pack event, *Pecos Bill*, and the SRP Kick-Off Party drew a total of 34 participants. Ranger Tom was a hit, with 52 children and adults attending.

YA Librarian Heidi Novotny has teen programming well in hand: Thursday will be Dance Dance Revolution game day, and the second and fourth Saturdays will alternate between a movie presentation and a craft session.

The Teen Services Department at the Central Library has lent Las Palmas a projector to use with our television; a larger screen projection will definitely add to enjoyment at the branch's event!

Library customers of all ages enjoy using the games on hand at Las Palmas, especially as they wait to access computer sessions. While some games have been retired due to missing parts, thanks to Department Systems Aide Michael Gutierrez and Librarian Gina Brudi, new games including Connect Four; Battleship and Sorry! have been added.

Ms. Brudi has added outreach to St. Jude ( 32 children) to her visits to Madonna (32 children) and to AVANCE (75 children).

Thanks to the work of Gina Brudi, Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez, and others, Las Palmas has a translation of the *Read Across Texas* flyer to hand out to our Spanish language speakers.

*Little Red Wagon's* final *For the Children/Para los Niños* presentation on June 2 reached an audience of 5 adults and 8 children.

Circulation Attendant Lisa Díaz was on hand at the library's information table at the First Annual District Five Spring Festival presented by Councilwoman Galvan on May 31. This was a team effort, with District 5 Library Board Trustee Laurie Gruenbeck, Joel Bangilan, and Bazan staff Raymond Villarreal and Charles Tucker also in attendance.

Library Assistant Beatrice Canales created and submitted an outstanding display for the 2008 *Dummies Month Display Contest*. Sadly, Las Palmas didn't win the competition, but library customers did enjoy and comment upon the "dummies" that were a part of the *Books for Dummies* display.

This month, staff attended the City Customer Service class, the Field Employees Customer Service/Maintenance Procedures and Training class, and a Reference USA database class.

### **Maverick**

Summer Reading is here and Maverick is already having lots of fun! Amy Roberts and Esperanza Sonnen started things off with outreach to more than 4,500 children in area schools and the whole staff participated in a party to kick off both the Children's and Young Adults' reading programs that attracted attendance of over 300. Special programs for Maverick include magician Spiky Mikey and Magik Theatre as well as the ever-popular B.A.C.K. Pack programs. The teen programs seem to be doing very well also, with good attendance and enthusiastic participation.

Summer Reading isn't the whole story. Maverick is up and running with PC Cop now and finding it an interesting experience, while both staff and customers are becoming accustomed to the new procedures.

After the branch featured the Pastel Society's work for a month, one of the members presented a demonstration for all to see. Mary López was kind enough to devote most of one Saturday to that endeavor.

This month has been Maverick's turn for computer classes, which have been well attended, as have all the regular programs that we host for local organizations.

### **McCreless**

On May 31 Branch Manager Cammie Gunter helped staff the booth at the monthly Houston Street Fair. It was hot but the entertainment was good and attendees showed a lot of interest in picking up the Summer Reading Program calendars.

Librarian II Jalyn Kelley made her first school visit and spoke to 200 sixth-graders at Rogers Middle School to get them excited about the teen summer reading program. They were particularly interested in the idea of starting an anime and manga club at McCreless.

Children's Librarian Beverly Bixler continued with her schedule of school promoting summer reading, and spoke to 45 students at Riverside Elementary. As of June 19 550 children and teens had signed up for the Summer Reading Program.

The Friends of McCreless continued their giving ways and bought four tables for use in the public meeting room. They also donated some plants to brighten up the library.

The branch offered its first "Wednesday Night at the Movies" on June 11. Throughout the summer, every other Wednesday will feature popular newer family films. The first selection was *Enchanted*, and there were 39 people of all ages in attendance, which was considered a big success.

### **Memorial**

The Memorial Library staff spent time in outreach and publicity to promote the Summer Reading Program. Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta worked diligently with schools, including outreach to six elementary schools in the SAISD and EISD districts. She visited Holy Cross to promote the teen eco-summer program, with excellent results. Additional outreach included attending KLRN's Summer Reading event at Rosedale Park to sign up children for the reading program. Summer Reading Lists were compiled for grade levels 9-12 with a display of books from each list for our teen patrons.

Yoga and basic guitar sessions and weekly summer movies provided patrons with both entertaining and learning experiences. Susan Francis-Maldonado led Memorial's Book Club "Summer of Suspense" series with a discussion of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. The San Antonio Food Bank is working with the Memorial Library to provide snacks on a weekly basis for young teens prior to their weekly summer activities.

Graciela Guerra was promoted from Library Aide to Part-time Circulation Assistant. The Memorial staff is excited for her and pleased that she will remain at the branch.

A meeting was held with Branch Manager Melva Ramirez, Project Control Manager Rich Walker and City staff to discuss the projected \$300,000 project for improvements at Memorial.

The Memorial staff is displaying their personal arts and crafts through the summer in an exhibit entitled "Hidden Talents."

### **Pan American**

Since school has been out, crowds in the library have grown larger each day. Children's Librarian Raissa Marking finished visiting schools with a Career Day at Scheh Elementary on May 30. She met with four groups, totaling 89 children. She plans to visit all the summer school campuses during June.

Pan American's planned activities for the Summer Reading Program are held each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Monday afternoon is the B.A.C.K. Pack program, where children share books and complete craft projects based on the books. On June 2, 18 participants read about sea turtles, followed by a paper plate turtle craft with 18 participants. On June 9, Ms. Marking shared armadillo stories with 47 children and they all made armadillo hats. Everyone had such great imaginations that none of the armadillos looked the same, from stripes to flowers, from purple to green.

Wednesday morning at 11:00, which is traditionally the preschool story time, now includes all ages and offers puppet plays and crafts that coordinate with the theme. On June 4 "Storm Coming" blew into the meeting room for the enjoyment of 26 attendees. Ms. Marking was assisted with the puppets and sound effects by Library Aide Laura Lopez, Library Assistant Melissa Carroll, and Branch Manager Sherri Kyle. Following the storm, the children made a hanging storm with clouds, lightning, and rain. On June 11, there was a "Foot-Stomping Adventures of Clementine Sweet" puppet play with Raissa Marking and Melissa Carroll, and starring Adult Librarian Jim Laferla as Clementine. This was Jim's first role in a puppet play and he has definitely found his calling. The audience of 47 loved his Clementine.

Thursday afternoons at 2:00 are also Puppet Party time. On June 12, the children enjoyed for "Tres Vacas," based on the "Three Billy Goats Gruff" story because the branch has three cow puppets, but not three goats. An estimated 57 were in attendance for the puppet party. Again, Jim Laferla stole the show with his troll under the bridge over the Rio Grande. Prior to allowing the children into the meeting room there was fiddle music and dancing and horse riding practice led by Sherri Kyle. Raissa and Melissa shared puppet duties with Jim. The children then made large fiddles to wear and "play".

Teens are definitely not left out of the fun. On Wednesday afternoons Pan American invites all teens to participate in crafts or games, including Dance Dance Revolution; NBA; and Guitar Hero III. On June 11, fourteen teens decorated canvas bags.

Tai Chi classes for adults are still offered each Monday evening. More people have expressed an interest and said they planned to participate this summer.

### **Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library**

The Bannwolf Library at Reagan High School has received a new reference desk and library shelving. Juvenile DVDs were removed from the spinners and are now on regular shelves. All the juvenile books are also housed on new shelving. Audio books have been removed from wire racks onto the new shelving. The library now has plenty of room to expand the collection.

The staff is pleased to announce that the extended hours of operation during the summer have increased this year. The summer hours start on June 8 and run through August 16. The library is open seven days a week for a total of 70 hours, on the same schedule as the Central Library.

On June 10 the Bannwolf librarians hosted a kick-off party for the summer programs. Elementary age customers enjoyed the "Ranger Tom" program followed by cookies and signing up for the summer reading program. Teen customers had fun with the newly purchased Wii and then were treated to cookies while registering for summer reading.

The staff at the Bannwolf Library has had many inquiries about the closure of the Huebner gate to Reagan High School during the summer. The gate has been closed by the school district because of construction, relocation of portable classroom buildings, and safety concerns since many cars cut through the campus because of the traffic congestion on Sonterra and Stone Oak.

### **San Pedro**

On May 29, Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton traveled to VIA's Early Childhood Center to present storytimes to two classes of ten students each. Fifteen books per class were also delivered for their use during the next four weeks.

On May 31, 56 kids and their parents helped to kick off the summer reading program at an outdoor party hosted by the Children's Librarian. After listening to the Children's Librarian read *T is for Texas*, and then creating an alphabet book of words related to Texas, the kids painted appliance boxes, blew giant bubbles, and decorated the sidewalk with sidewalk chalk. Great fun was had by all!

In connection with the summer reading program, magician Spikey Mikey appeared at the June 10 program. More than 80 children and adults attended the program! Lots of laughs and giggles were heard.

On June 19 Ms. Dalton will travel to the Early Childhood Center at San Antonio College to present storytime to two classes; each class typically is composed of ten students. Fifteen books will also be delivered to each class for their use during the month.

On May 20 Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz hosted an evening of knitting and crocheting with help from a local instructor. A collection of the library's books on the subject was on display.

On June 5 the library began Thursday Chess Night. Six patrons of varying skill levels attended and reported having a great time. Department Systems Aide Hondo Aguilar hosts the event and creates a display of books on the game.

On June 21, Hector Cárdenas, President of the Friends of San Pedro Park, hosted a library-sponsored walking tour of the park.. San Pedro is the second oldest public park in the United States and has a history full of fascinating stories, features and legends.

### **Semmes**

On May 31, the branch was pleased to welcome new Librarian I Carrie Vance, who will be working with Randi Jones in children's services.

On May 30, the OASIS Senior Education program presented a class on natural San Antonio, taught by Peggy Spring of the Parks Department. Following the presentation, the group took a walk into Comanche Lookout Park.

Semmes was the location of the Branch Managers' meeting on June 5, with Assistant Branch Manager Debye Nicholl hosting.

Summer activities are underway. The branch has had a visit from Little Read Wagon and is anticipating an exciting afternoon with Ranger Tom. Summer Reading Club sign-up numbers are growing daily.

June 19 – also known as Summer Solstice or the astronomical beginning of summer – was marked with a mid-summer celebration. Activities revolved around a screening of the movie *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

### **Thousand Oaks**

The Summer Reading Program is off to a great start at Thousand Oaks. Library Assistant Barbara Kwiatkowski spent hours decorating the meeting room and foyer display cabinets to reflect the *Read Across Texas* theme. The display cabinet has a lovely covered wagon and dancing armadillo holding

a reading log to attract customers' attention. The meeting room has wall-to-wall decorations including Texas maps, a flag, boots, horses and, of course, cowboys and cowgirls. The kick-off party held to start the summer program attracted some fifty kids and parents. The main draw for the party was the program Snake Connection presented by Susan Frigge. Ms Frigge brought six different Texas snakes to show and talk about to the audience. At the end of her lecture and after answering the many questions from the children she allowed each person who cared to handle the corn snake. To add to the festivities refreshments were served and a craft was provided. Some thirty children registered for the program and started their summer off right – at the library!

The Junior Book Ranger Program met for the first time on June 10 and had an attendance of sixty-three young environmentalists interested in learning about the science and history of Texas. Ms. Kwiatkowski has developed an entertaining and instructional program for the summer months. For the first meeting she discussed the Edwards Aquifer, tornados and what an environment is. The children got to make Blue Bonnet flowers out of blue colored popcorn and everyone was treated to an environmental dessert involving gummy worms and chocolate pudding.

Library Assistant Debra Lindenburg-Morrow has restarted the Thursday morning storytimes after the spring break. Many of her regular children along with a few new faces were delighted to be back. Ms Lindenburg-Morrow had new songs and dances, including the Chicken Dance, to entertain them. The theme that week was turtles so stories about turtles were read and the craft was making a turtle swimming in the ocean. The children made the ocean from blue finger-paint on construction paper, resulting in a lot of messy little blue hands and a lot of smiles.

### **The Tobin Library at Oakwell**

It really feels like Summer Reading when the snakes arrive. Susan Frigge and her Snake Connection drew more than 100 folks of all ages to learn about and meet garter snakes, an albino rat snake, and a royal python. In the absence of a Children's Librarian, part-time Library Assistant Ginny Hurt has somehow found the time to add coordination of the Summer Reading programs to her busy schedule. She also continues to plan and present fun and creative weekly storytimes with stories, crafts and music; in keeping with the *Read Across Texas* theme, she has started off the summer with "Texas Cowboys" and "Dinosaur National Park".

Several dozen young adults turned out for the end-of-spring *Dance Dance Revolution* tournament. Kicking off an Earth-friendly summer of crafts, more than twenty showed up to make Gocks, otherwise known as Gothic sock puppets. A Gock is made from an old black sock and the ones created by Tobin at Oakwell young adults featured sparkly blue hair, aqua and lilac sequins and lots and lots of safety pins and beads. Collages were the second summer activity. Kids cut out pictures and symbols from old magazines and made pieces of art. Young adults also turned out to create books from manila paper covered with wall paper scraps.

Neighborhood computer users were very satisfied with the concentration of branch computer classes into a one-month period. The ten classes offered in May averaged over ten students per class; with only eight computers available, the students good-naturedly shared computers so that nobody had to be turned away.

### **Westfall**

In June, Branch staff has been busy with the Summer Reading program. The kick-off party for the program was held on June 5. Many children came to the party and heard stories, made crafts, met a clown and enjoyed some nice snacks. Of course, they also signed up for the Summer Reading program and checked out books to get them started. The party was a great success, thanks especially to Children's Librarian Imelda Merino and Librarian I Monica Garza.

Weekly teen and children's programming began in June. The teen group is meeting on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Children's B.A.C.K. Pack programs are on Thursdays at 1:30 pm. Lots of exciting activities have been planned.

The Friends of Westfall Friends branch library held their book sale on June 7. They worked really hard and made over \$600.00. Thanks so much to Pat Cummins, the Friends president, and everyone else who worked to make the event such a success. All of the recent purchases the Friends made for the branch have arrived. The Reference staff is enjoying the new chairs, and the new floor rugs really make a difference in front of the Circulation desk. The new shelving unit in the Young Adult area has helped alleviate the overcrowding in the stacks.