

**San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
October 22, 2008**

Administration

Director's Office

Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with Library Foundation Chairman Guillermo Nicolás and Cortez Branch Library architect David Alvidrez on September 25 to discuss renovations at the branch.

On Friday, September 26, the Library system was closed to allow employees to attend the annual Staff Development Day professional development program. Following kickoff remarks by A.J. Rodríguez, Mr. Salazar presented a "state of the library" report and congratulated staff on their many achievements during the past year. Subjects covered during the day included how to encourage younger readers, how to attract teens to the library, how to work with multi-generational customers and colleagues, services to the Spanish-speaking, and question-and-answer sessions with authors.

The evening of September 26, Mr. Salazar attended the Library Foundation's 25th Anniversary Gala held at the Central Library, with special guests Tommy Lee Jones and Sissy Spacek.

On September 29 a design charrette, facilitated by Kell Muñoz Architects, was held at the Central Library for the Library Board Facilities Committee to offer their input into the planning for the new District 3 Branch Library.

Mr. Salazar held a telephone conference with Tim Salas, Chief of Staff for District 4 Council Representative Philip Cortez, to update him on plans for the Cortez Branch Library renovations. The same day, he attended the San Antonio Literacy Commission annual luncheon as the guest of Library Board member and Commission representative Gloria Malone.

Mr. Salazar and Library Public Relations Manager Beth Graham met with District 7 and District 10 Council representatives Justin Rodríguez and John Clamp on September 30 to share with them conceptual plans for the planned Library Card Registration Campaign.

Mr. Salazar was out of the country in early October to attend LIBER, the international book fair held annually in Barcelona, Spain.

On October 4 the Library hosted a Rock the Vote: Register to Vote Rally at the Memorial Branch Library. The rally provided members of the community an opportunity to register to vote, listen to great music, and meet their neighbors. By night's end, 23 attendees were registered to vote. This event was co-sponsored by the Memorial Amigos/Friends of Memorial Branch Library.

The Central Library hosted the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's October 16 reception honoring notable Hispanic women business owners. Library Director Salazar welcomed the Hispanic Chamber to the Library. The San Antonio Public Library is a member of the Hispanic Chamber.

Kendra Trachta, Interim Assistant Director for Public Services, has been working with staff on the Telephone Notification System. This system automatically calls patrons who have items on hold or overdue, allows patrons to receive their reserved items sooner, and has saved San Antonio Public Library approximately \$5,000 in postal costs alone during its first month of service. Patron response has been positive.

Kendra is also leading a work team of librarians to investigate the possible use of handheld computers and communication devices that would enable staff to help patrons remotely and away from the reference desk. Reference Librarians Rolf Laun, Didi Morganti, Jody Hampton, and Diana Starrett are currently benchmarking “roaming reference” service without this equipment and will soon be evaluating service improvements with the equipment. The devices will also be evaluated by the Central Children’s Department and some larger branch libraries where they may be useful.

Ramona Lucius has been named Manager of the new Outreach Services Department. Over the next few months Ms. Lucius will be working with Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan to develop new ways of reaching customers who do not or cannot access SAPL’s services through traditional avenues.

On October 10 Kendra was interviewed by KSAT 12 reporter Marilyn Moritz about the increased use SAPL has experience recently, as the economy has declined. The interview generated a positive public response, with patrons mentioning it as they visit the library.

Kendra and Library Department Systems Manager Ray Fraga met with Amelia Rowe, COSA Information Technology Services Department (ITSD) Assistant Director for Customer Service on October 10 to discuss collaboration between the departments. Both SAPL and ITSD would like to develop a closer relationship in order to plan and implement successful services in the future.

On October 14, Ms. Trachta met with Department of Community Initiatives Assistant Director Melody Woosley to discuss SAPL’s involvement in the Haven for Hope homeless campus. They discussed many possibilities with library staff, and anticipate a partnership that will provide library services to those who need them the most.

Automation

During the week of September 29, the Library information technology team worked with the appropriate internal and external stakeholders to have Library databases and other required vendor network connections modified in preparation for network upgrade activities. On October 6, the Library’s wired network migrated from a connection shared with other City departments to a dedicated connection. The new dedicated network connection increased bandwidth speeds from 10 Mbps (megabits per second) to 100 Mbps.

On October 3 the Library’s wireless service provider was changed and WiFi network bandwidth was increased from 3 Mbps to 12 Mbps.

Branch Services

Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan is coordinating the development of the Outreach Services Department, which is expected to be fully operational by the end of October.

Joel is working with Department Systems Aides and librarians to develop courses to take greater advantage of the mobile lab resources. Possible topics include job searching, resume writing, and a library computer orientation. The team created slide show presentations, outlines, and support materials for librarians to use when they host a mobile lab.

For Staff Development Day, Joel presented a session called “A Game Plan for the Generations,” which discussed communication issues between the generations and the importance of respect for all ages in the work place.

As Branch Services Coordinator managing the Memorial Branch Library, Joel supported and assisted with the planning of the Rock the Vote Voter Registration Rally held at the branch on October 4.

On October 18 the San Antonio Public Library partnered with the Japan America Society of San Antonio to present the sixth annual Maturi (community festival) celebrating the art, culture and history of Japan. Outreach Department staff member Barbara Celitans coordinates this program, which is held at the Central Library each year. Throughout the building, patrons were treated to traditional Japanese arts and crafts such as classic Japanese dance, songs, *shakuhachi* flute music, the *cha no yu* tea ceremony, *kamishibai* puppetry, Kendo sword demonstrations, ikebana (Japanese flower arranging, kimono basics, *sumi-e* painting, and origami. They also had the opportunity to learn basic Japanese greetings and phrases with students from SAC. Exchange students from Kumamoto, San Antonio's sister city, assisted with the event. Texana/Genealogy displayed material from their archives on Japanese Texans and provided information on genealogy research. Teen Services focused on Anime with representatives from San Japan, and the Children's story room was filled with the voices of Tafolla Middle School students singing in Japanese. The Houston Japan Consulate sent the Coordinator of the JET/MEXT Program to present information on the Japan Exchange & Teaching Program. JASSA members provided a discussion session for hosts of Japanese high school exchange students. At the end of the day, more than 400 customers participated in the activities offered.

Children's Services

Hispanic Heritage activities for children are in full swing across the city. Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from Target Stores, the good work of Hispanic Heritage committee members Betsy Dalton [*San Pedro*] and Sheila Acosta [*Cody*] and the design talents of Ana Farr, the programs and their associated publicity, are especially inviting this year.

Children's services received two additional grants from Target in their 2008 giving cycle. These grants, each in the amount of \$3,500, will allow a variety of storytime enhancements at both the Igo and the Maverick Branches. Included in the grant budgets for both libraries are reusable supplies, books and consumable supplies. Children's librarians at both branches look forward to expending the funds for the benefit of the children they serve.

At the regular monthly meeting of the children's librarians, Melissa Tijerina from Child Protective Services trained the staff on multiple aspects of child abuse and neglect. Questions about staff obligations to report suspected abuse were answered. Concerns about the confidentiality of library records in relation to suspected abuse were also addressed. The children's librarians were so impressed by Ms. Tijerina's presentation that they immediately recommended a similar session for branch managers and for the broader staff at next year's Staff Development Day.

Promotional materials have been developed and distributed for the 2009 Young Pegasus Poetry Competition. Additionally, the Young Pegasus website has been revitalized. The activation of the electronic submission form has already yielded a number of poems for consideration. 2009 will mark the eighty-second year of the library's commitment to the young poets of our city.

Little Read Wagon

Congratulations to Julia Lazarin, who has been admitted to Texas Woman's University School of Library and Information Studies! Ms. Lazarin is the recipient of a "Mejor Futuros" scholarship from the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

Young children and their families throughout San Antonio are once again the beneficiaries of a grant obtained by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. The grant provides funding for continuation of Little Read Wagon's participation in the EarlyON! school readiness initiative. As part of the initiative Little Read Wagon staff provides "Every Child Ready to Read" and "*Para los niños*" workshops for parents and other adult caregivers, and "Exploring Early Literacy" workshops for teachers.

The first week of October included a record-setting twenty-four school visits! This was a great way to start the first “*Para los niños*” series of the year. “Raise a Reader” is the first of eight topics in the series presented to parents and other adults at schools surrounding the Carver and Westfall libraries. On October 7 and 9 the series continued at the branch libraries and will conclude on November 20 and 25. The hospitality of the branch staff is always appreciated!

Little Read Wagon staff had the opportunity to receive training in two areas this month. In early October all three staff members participated in E-vanced online calendar training. This is an exciting new tool that will make Little Read Wagon event information more accessible to the public. On October 15 Julia Lazarin and Cresencia Huff attended a full day of training for Bexar County Jail volunteers. Corinne Sanchez attended the same training on October 18.

Community support has always been a key factor in Little Read Wagon operations. On October 17 five Incarnate Word High School students assisted in labeling books and assembling packets of information for distribution at early literacy events. Each year the high school has a community service day and sends a group of young women to volunteer at the library.

Facilities

Installation of new fire alarm panels continues at the Central Library. Testing and system inspections are currently in process, as well as correcting system discrepancies that have been discovered. A new fire panel at Oakwell was recently installed and is pending inspection approval. Fire system inspections are also taking place at all branches.

Outreach Services

Formation of the new Outreach Services unit, consisting of the bookmobile, Little Read Wagon and homebound circulation, has begun. The unit performed its first function on September 20, with Outreach Coordinator Ramona Lucius and Bazan’s Melody Smith providing an information table at the Silver Stars game. More than 300 Stars fans were given SAPL promotional items. Ramona also participated in Memorial’s Rock the Vote night on October 4.

The new bookmobile made its debut at Staff Development Day and had its first public run on October 1. The bookmobile, accompanied by Ramona, Kathy Claspill, Monica Garza and driver David Caseras, visited the Dellview Neighborhood Organization’s National Night Out, October 7. Kathy provided a storytime for a dozen young listeners while their parents checked out books and had library cards made or renewed.

Public Relations

The Public Relations Department was proud to receive a SALSA (San Antonio Library Service Award) as Best Central Unit at Staff Development Day on September 26. Other SALSA recipients are listed below.

The new quarterly calendar *Bookmarks* also premiered to enthusiastic reviews at Staff Development Day.

Following the lead from Council Representatives Justin Rodríguez and John Clamp, Public Relations Manager Beth Graham developed a conceptual plan to roll out the library card campaign in mid-November. She accompanied Library Director Ramiro Salazar to a meeting with both Councilmen on September 30, where the proposed plan was presented and feedback was shared.

Beth coordinated publicity activities to support the opening of the *Winds and Words of War* Exhibit at the Central Library Gallery, and the “Rock the Vote Rally” at the Memorial Branch Library. Both events received outstanding coverage.

She attended a meeting with Senior Management Analyst Jessica Ramos, County Elections Administrator Jackie Callanen, and managers of branches where early voting or Election-Day polling will take place to coordinate voting activities, and anticipate and prevent potential concerns.

Beth represented the Library at the Literacy Commission luncheon on September 30 and the Junior League luncheon to announce its "Literacy San Antonio Campaign" on October 15.

Planning has begun for a news conference to announce the donation by Dan Parman of a 10-acre site for the construction of the new District 9 Branch Library. Beth attended a meeting with Mr. Parman and representatives of the Library Foundation and the Stone Oak community to tentatively set a date (November 13 at 10:30 a.m.) for the announcement.

On October 2, Beth attended a Public Relations Society of America workshop on Web 2.0 and social media.

A temporary marketing assistant has been hired to assist with the development of a San Antonio Public Library marketing plan.

The Library received 17 media mentions over the past month, including coverage of the Winds of War Exhibit by both the *Express-News* and the *Current*, a KSAT-TV live shot about voter registration from Johnston Branch Library, a KSAT-TV interview with Interim Assistant Director Kendra Trachta about increased use of the Library during economic downturns, a WOAI Radio interview with Public Relations Manager Beth Graham on the same subject, coverage of the Memorial Branch Library "Rock the Vote" rally, and front-page coverage by *Library Journal Hotline* on the increases for library service in the FY 2008-2009 City budget.

San Antonio Library Service Awards

Recipients of the San Antonio Library Service Awards (SALSAs), the library's annual employee recognition program, were announced in a ceremony at Staff Development Day 2008, held September 26. Fifty nominations were received for consideration in eight categories. This year, two new categories were introduced as "Fan Favorites," and recipients of these awards were determined by online voting open to all library staff.

The 2008 SALSA recipients are:

- Outstanding Service: Robert Solis, Shirley San Miguel, Patricia Perez, Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard
- Outstanding Overall Contribution: Roberto Zapata, Haley Holmes, Danny Duran, Barbara Kwiatkowski
- Innovator: Julia Selwyn, Adam Spana
- Outstanding Team: Facilities/Maintenance staff (systemwide), and the Staff Development Day 2007 Committee [Andrew Gordon, Theresa Garza Ybarra, Roberta Sparks, Carla Conrad, Sherrie Langston Hardin, Nohemi Lopez-Rosdahl, Didi Morganti, Michelle Ricondo, Andrea Silva]
- Outstanding Branch: San Pedro Branch Library
- Fan Favorite: Outstanding Program: Teen Triathlon Tuesday Finals [Connie Hejl and Valerie Cruz, organizers]
- Fan Favorite: Outstanding Programming Series, Special Event or Program: National Pet Week (Rhonda Woolhouse, organizer)

Kudos to staff - Customer comments

"I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate our local library. We usually use the Great Northwest Library but have also utilized Maverick, Cody, Westfall, and the Central Library downtown.

My two youngest have been involved in the homeschool art program, and the “Quirkles” science program at the Great Northwest Library. Some of the projects we have done in the past but some were new and [the] kids wanted to repeat [them] over and over again at home. We actually met families in our neighborhood we didn't even know who also homeschool. This is the fourth year my oldest has been part of the Teen Book Club (Great Northwest and Maverick).

“The Teen Book Club has been especially helpful. Ms. Hunt, the volunteer leading the group, discusses the author and historical background of each book the teens read. My oldest has always been very shy and has trouble speaking because his mouth won't open completely. The first year he said very little in the discussions. Now he gives his analysis of the chapters assigned every week. Thankfully his speech has become clearer. He has even ventured into the public speaking project through 4-H. On a few occasions, Ms. Hunt allowed my son and a couple of other students to practice their 4-H speeches at the end of book club.

“All my children love to read and check out a number of books each and every week. We are avid readers here at home with two full book cases of books and 15 boxes full in the attic. We also take part in the book sales at various libraries throughout the city. Homeschooling can be time-consuming, but because of the programs at the library we schedule a specific time to be at the library where the children have access to a wealth of knowledge.

“Thank you for approving the homeschool programs at our local library.” – **Elda Crenwelge**, September 26

“I want to share a compliment given to Cortez Branch Library Custodian Maria E. Ramos. Ms. Blake came in today and told me what a great job Maria was doing at this branch. She said Maria is awesome. She has made the look fantastic. Ms. Blake said the other day her car was leaking oil and Maria offered to help her out. She really appreciated that. We are very lucky to have Maria here.” – **Rebecca Gonzales Johnson**, Manager, Cortez Branch Library, September 30

“I am working on an article about the Texas Hotel in San Antonio, where lots of recording was done by RCA Victor in the 1930s. I had hit a couple of dead ends on my research when I stopped by the Texana/Genealogy department.

“All of your folks on that desk are extremely helpful. I have utilized their talents on numerous occasions. This time I had a music question and they suggested the “music man,” who turned out to be Andy Crews. Andy was able to locate newspaper and magazine articles that directly addressed my research needs. I might have never found the sources he was able to pull up in a few short minutes.

“Amazing!

“All of your research experts in the Texana and Genealogy department are to be congratulated for their patient and knowledgeable assistance.” – **Hank Harrison**, October 15

Committees and Work Teams

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

RFID

All circulating collections at Central have been tagged, and self-check stations are scheduled for installation in the media room the week of October 13, followed by installation in the circulation desk area. The tagging of collections continues in the many of the remaining branch libraries. The use of the self-check machines continues to be the highest at the Cody Branch Library (64% of circulation)

followed by the Igo Brach Library (60% of circulation). The RFID project is on schedule for completion in early 2009.

Central Library

Alamo Area Library Systems – AALS libraries met several times during October. The Collections/Advocacy/Public Services Committee (CAPS) and the Communications/Access Committee met on October 3 and discussed several strategies for FY2009. One of the projects that AALS staff will be working on is a Texas State Library and Archives Commission Systems grant for an integrated library system package for multiple libraries. The details for this grant were worked out during the Geographic Meetings held October 15 – 17.

AALS staff will also be working with member librarians and lay representatives on advocacy issues in relation to the 2009 TLA Legislative Day, scheduled for February 24 and 25 in Austin. AALS staff will offer information sessions on the state library exceptional items, the fundamentals of Legislative Day and communicating with legislators.

Children's Services

In anticipation of the new library web page and the improved electronic calendar of events, Central Children's staff received E-vanced training on October 8. Staff eagerly await the implementation of this new exciting method for informing customers about library events.

Two Central Children's staff members are now serving on system-wide committees: Rachael Pensiero is a member of the Career Path Committee, and Cole Johnson is serving on the Downloadable Media Committee.

Outreach efforts this month have included visits to Green Elementary School, Central Christian Child Development Center and Laurel Heights Weekday School. Additionally, Department Manager Viki Ash has presented workshops for United Way agencies and the Family Services Association on techniques for reading aloud to young children.

Working with the American Sign Language Interpreter program at San Antonio College, the department is once again offering ALS storytimes on the first Sunday of the month. These programs, which draw a substantial crowd, are attended by members of the deaf community and SAC students as well as many of the library's hearing customers.

Digital Services

The Digital Services Department is currently testing web pages using different browsers, including Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, and Safari. Using a developer utility, staff have also been able to standardize some of the presentation code to conform to W3 standards. This will allow our pages to be correctly viewed by a larger audience.

Julia Selwyn and Juanita López presented a Flickr session at Staff Development Day to show how the San Antonio Public Library can take advantage of using online digital photo sharing. Staff would like to extend special appreciation to everyone who has contributed in helping to improve the library's image via the internet. As we gain more experience in using these types of utilities, we will be able to better promote the library system and the services that we offer.

Julia and Juanita also continue to host E-vanced calendar training sessions, answer questions, and provide real-world library examples on this application can be used to support library programs. Along with various ad-hoc requests, Juanita has provided organizational support for the following information:

- United Way Charitable Campaign
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Directory Updates
- Young Pegasus poems
- Book sales events
- Holiday schedule updates for 2009
- Board minutes
- Disaster relief links
- Staff Development Day Information

Reference

Reference Services will be offering business research classes for the public, with special emphasis on how to use library resources to access online content not otherwise available for free. Focus is on the ReferenceUSA, Business Source Complete and Plunkett Research databases and important print resources.

Library staff presented an overview of library resources to homeschooling parents and students at the Semmes Library on October 3. Staff tested a survey tool to gather information on this important group, including their unique needs and awareness of library services, and to determine effectiveness of the training. Staff hopes this will serve as a model for gathering feedback from outreach populations.

On October 12, Dan Stanford and Lyle Rosdahl participated in the second annual Accessibility Fest, promoting library resources to hundreds of individuals with disabilities from the San Antonio area. A special feature was the newly acquired Monomouse small electronic magnifier that the library will soon be circulating.

On October 4, Sally Bauer and Andrew Jung hosted a program, "My Child Has Cancer," with Dr. Della Howell, the author of *My Child Has Cancer: A Parent's Guide to Diagnosis, Treatment and Survival*. Dr. Howell discussed the differences between pediatric and adult cancers, the most common types of pediatric cancers, and symptoms that are a "red flag" that a child might have cancer. Dr. Howell also fielded questions from the audience. A display on the subject of pediatric health was put up to go along with the presentation.

Elma Nieto-Rodríguez provided Outreach at the first Annual Edgewood Family Network Health Fair on Saturday, October 4. Those who attended the fair were provided a coloring craft as well as library materials. The event was a success with well over 200 families attending.

Adam Spana and Julia Selwyn both won individual SALSAs at this year's Staff Development Day. Rolf Laun, Julia Selwyn, Cristine Mitchamore, Elma Nieto-Rodríguez and Didi Morganti all presented programs during the event. Sally Bauer showed true grace as one of the SAPL cheerleaders, while Julia Selwyn and Rolf Laun participated in the Book Cart Drill Team.

On October 11 Pannaga Prasad organized a program entitled "Test Strategies for the SAT and ACT." The program was presented by a professional from the Princeton Review organization in San Antonio. Besides the presentation, the program offered handouts for attendees to help them learn about test-taking strategies and the "Dos and Don'ts" of taking the PSAT, SAT and ACT.

The Reference Department assisted 125 students from Roosevelt High School on October 9. The students were seeking information on obscure scientists and inventors.

Texana/Genealogy Department

On September 19 ten students from UTSA's School of Architecture visited Texana/Genealogy to learn about resources available to them for use in projects.

Members of Los Bexareños Genealogical Society worked with Texana/Genealogy staff to conduct a series of oral interviews on October 1. Interviewees included Elvira Cisneros, mother of former Mayor Henry Cisneros, La Prensa publisher Tino Duran, and eight others.

The Library Foundation and the San Antonio Public Library mounted an exhibition of forty World War I posters originally donated to the Library by Harry Hertzberg. The Foundation hired Allison Hays Lane to curate the exhibit. Ms. Lane assembled a catalogue for the exhibit with photographs of the posters and essays by Char Miller, Jeanne Reesman, and herself. She and staff created a teacher's packet which has gone to several schools. After it closes here the exhibit will travel to several cities across the country.

A calendar of special programs was developed to support the exhibit. These included two walking tours; lectures by Allison Lane, Char Miller, and Jeanne Reesman; and a musical revue of Irving Berlin's music.

The publisher of the *San Antonio Observer*, *San Antonio Register*, and *El Starous* has given the department complete back files of these publications. He has also agreed to allow the library to have them microfilmed for preservation purposes when funds are available.

The Rev. Oscar Garza donated part of his personal collection of documents from his service as a pastor in the Rio Grande Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2006. On 14 October 2008 Matt DeWaelsche, Andy Crews, and Frank Faulkner received the rest of his collection. This should prove to be an important collection as the first part has been used, and we have received requests for access to the rest already.

Branch Libraries

Bazan

On October 7 Bazan Branch Manager Raymond Villarreal participated in the National Night Out celebration held at the Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association offices. He provided library card applications and library information.

Bazan participated in a District Five Community Fair sponsored by the Margarita Huantes Learning Center, City Year and the American Diabetes Association, setting up a booth with library brochures and flyers on a variety of information. Included were library card applications and books on diabetes in both English and Spanish. Tina Serna and Tracy Muñoz represented the Library at the event.

The branch is currently hosting two simultaneous art shows. One includes works by local artists Rufino Espinosa and his son Manuel, both of whom work in a variety of media including watercolor, oil, tempera and yarn. These pieces evoke the spirit of Mexican art through their vivid colors and recognizable motifs. The second featured artist is famed San Antonian Jesse Treviño, who has loaned the library his large neo-realist piece *El Progreso*, as well as two portraits.

Brook Hollow

Brook Hollow hosted two new program offerings for seniors in October. The series of AARP Defensive Driving classes were very well attended as was the medication management discussion.

Several youth groups visited Brook Hollow for library orientation tours hosted by Children's Services Librarian Ruth Turner and Teen Services Librarian Mary M. Smith. Among the groups hosted at the

branch were local private school students, day cares, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Eagle Scouts.

Several Brook Hollow staff members made sleepy cameo appearances in Andrew Gordon's production entitled *Angel In The Morning*, first presented at Staff Development Day, which has now made its debut on YouTube. Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell co-hosted a Staff Development Day session called *True Stories: Nonfiction Readers' Advisory*.

Mary M. Smith visited Churchill High School as part of the Connect9 outreach initiative. This effort helps encourage freshmen to sign up for library cards and introduces them to the services the libraries provide. Mary also hosted a Teen Party on October 15 in celebration of Teen Read Week 2008. The theme was "Books That Bite" and the party featured pizza, games such as Guitar Hero, contests, and prizes, including *Breaking Dawn* t-shirts.

Carver

The Carver Branch Library took advantage of several outreach opportunities, giving the community more exposure to services the branch and San Antonio Public Library can provide.

Library Assistant Melody A. Smith accepted an invitation to an open house at Gates Elementary, where she met with students, parents and the school librarian. She did not show up empty-handed. She dispensed 60 library card applications and handfuls of bookmarks promoting SAPL's tutor.com service. She reported that tutor.com, which offers free online tutoring to students in grades four to first-year College really caught on with parents who had never heard of the service, but said they would love to try it with their children. Eager for another opportunity to connect with the community, Melody volunteered to be a guest reader at the W.W. White Elementary School fall book fair. Initially assigned to conduct four storytelling sessions, she wound up handling two extra. Afterward, she visited with faculty, students and parents, stressing the availability of juvenile beginner materials that help students become better readers. She reported that the library materials and paraphernalia she shared were popular with everyone.

Among the many places San Antonians observed National Night Out was the Boys & Girls Club, where Adult Services Librarian DL Grant staffed a booth promoting the library. The event was attended by District 2 Councilwoman Sheila McNeil. Carver's presence at the booth resulted in a networking opportunity for the branch. A school official offered an outreach visit possibility that DL immediately accepted.

Children's Librarian Amy M. Thorne celebrated Banned Books Week in October with a book display that proved to be very provocative. She lined her shelves with controversial titles accompanied by black and yellow signage designed to make passersby think of caution tape. Customers, upon observing the display, asked if Carver were actually banning books, such as *Captain Underpants*, *Catcher in the Rye* and *The Stupids*. Mission accomplished! Amy and Carver staff pronounced the display a rousing success as it captured the attention of customers and allowed for a lively dialog regarding censorship.

Amy collaborated with DL for the branch's Connect 9 campaign, an initiative by SAPL to sign up as many San Antonio ninth-graders with library cards as possible. Armed with stacks of library card applications, DL and Amy visited the Sam Houston and Wagner High Schools, where they spoke to dozens of freshmen. They were pleased that upperclassmen were interested in what the library has to offer as well.

Longtime Carver user Peggy Mills generously presented the branch with a print of the historic Little Rock 9, the group of African-American students who, in 1957, integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Staff member Melody A. Smith donated framing for the stunning print that

hangs on the north wall of the branch. It depicts the former students standing at the edge of a reflecting pool that features their images as they were 51 years ago.

Fall marked the first session in a series of writing workshops offered by San Antonio poet Antoinette V. Franklin, author of *In the Midst of Struggle Stands a Woman*. The workshop "Let the Words Fly" invited students to unleash their inner writers and featured techniques to get the creative juices flowing.

A broad array of programming was offered during this reporting period, including Vernon Mullen's special gardening program that celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month. His presentation drew a sizeable crowd. Another offering was the screening of the biopic *Selena*, starring Jennifer López, detailing the rise of Tejano singing star Selena Quintanilla Perez.

On October 18, Carver was the site of the Eastside Community Job and Health Fair. Vendors invited to participate included the University of Phoenix, Ashford University, WellMed Medical Group, ZLB Plasma, West Corporation, Swift Transportation, Aetna, and the Hyatt Hotel.

The Wheatley Middle School Lunch Book Discussion Group, moderated by Adult Services Librarian DL Grant, kicked off the 2008-2009 program with David Jones' *Baboon*, which was read by the sixth-grade participants. Students in the seventh and eighth grades preferred to be scared, and chose *Restless Dead* by Deborah Noyes. Both titles made for a lively discussion.

Promoting healthy eating and a fit lifestyle, the Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program returned to Carver to present a program about diabetes awareness.

Cody

Cody Branch Library is celebrating National Pet Month by holding a cutest pet contest. Through October 31 customers may bring in pictures of their pets which are displayed in the front area of the library. On November 1 the Heart of Texas Greyhound Association will judge the pictures and the winner will receive a special prize from PetCo.

During Banned Book Week Library Assistant Debbie Bender created a special banned book display. The display included books that had been challenged or removed from libraries along with some of the reasons why. Customers offered many positive comments and were amazed at the overwhelming number of titles in the display. The display was so popular that staff decided to keep it up until the end of October.

Stamp crafter Candy Rattray presented two very successful programs at Cody. On October 5 she offered a workshop to teach the art of card making. The cards that were created during the program were donated to the Ronald McDonald House. On October 6 Candy held a well-attended scrap booking workshop.

On September 26 staff attended the library's annual Staff Development Day. The highlight of the day was the presentation to Librarian I Connie Hejl and Department Systems Aide Valerie Cruz of a San Antonio Library Service Award (SALSA) for the Teen Triathlon program they organized this past summer.

The Friends of the Cody Library held another successful book sale on October 11. The funds generated will be used to purchase meeting room tables and to help pay for programs and performers throughout the year.

On October 7 Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta and Library Assistant Kimberly Ammerman attended the National Night Out event at the Woodhills Apartments. They spoke to approximately 90

people about library services. Sheila commented that many of the people expressed interest in the Live Homework Help and in computer classes. She also commented that several people who were given library card applications at the event were at Cody later in the evening registering for library cards.

In addition to regular storytimes, Children's Librarians Sheila Acosta and Trina Smith continued to keep themselves busy this month with special groups visiting the library and with outreach events. A group of 38 preschoolers from Castle Hills Day Care was treated to a special family-themed storytime. In order to receive their "reading" badge, a local Tiger Cubs troop visited the library for an "Adventure in Books." They toured the library, signed up for library cards, and were taught how to use the library. On the monthly visit to Parent Child Inc (PCI), Sheila performed storytimes for almost 70 children. She also dropped off books for the teachers to use in the classroom. Larkspur Elementary invited Sheila to speak to parents and their children at "Saturday School" on October 11. While the parents were not overly enthusiastic about having to go to school with their children on Saturday, Sheila had them excited about the many resources that the library offers that will help their children succeed in school. Larkspur voiced a desire to have the library come back for more "Saturday School" days.

Cody Teen Services kicked off Teen Read Week by introducing a new teen film club which will meet on the second Monday of each month. For the first movie teens voted between *Van Helsing* and *Blood and Chocolate*. The winner, *Van Helsing*, was shown on October 13. Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl created a special display highlighting ALA's "Books with Bite" theme. The after-school gaming program continues to be a success with many elementary-age children attending, as well as teens.

Cody staff said congratulations and goodbye to Adult Services Librarian Ramona Lucius, who was promoted to the Outreach Coordinator. Ramona's skills in programming will be a true asset to the organization. Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Blow, formerly of the Government Documents Department, was transferred to Cody. Sarah Carolan was promoted from Circulation Attendant to Library Assistant. Sarah plans to start library school in the spring. Library Assistant Cristina Abbenante was accepted as an IMLS scholar and will also start library school in the spring. Library Assistant Kimberly Ammerman was selected to serve on the "Explore More" Library card campaign committee. Connie Hejl was selected to serve on the professional development committee.

Cody's various clubs held their monthly meetings. Selections for the month included *Antonia's Line* (film club); *Death of a Red Heroine* by Xiaolong Qiu (Mystery Club); *The Appeal* by John Grisham; and *Song Yet Sung* by James McBride (Saturday Club). The Desert Rain poetry writing group also met.

The library is expecting large crowds during early voting. Staff is still preparing to close for renovations. The closing date has been set as November 10, and the branch is expected to remain closed for approximately two weeks. The old Bookmobile will be set up in the parking lot in order to continue to offer library services, on the following schedule:

Monday and Thursday 2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

October 20-October 31	Early Voting
October 27	Guitar Hero and Teen Halloween Event
October 30	Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark
November 3	Storytime and origami presented by Carol Johnson
November 8	Database Searching for Parents and Teens

Collins Garden

Collins Garden Branch Library observed National Night Out In collaboration with the Collins Garden Neighborhood Association. Community interest was high, and local patrons appreciated an opportunity to share neighborhood concerns. There were displays, activities, singers and free soft drinks and pizza, and CPS gave away goodie bags with flyers and brochures in them. There was face painting, hair painting and a bouncy castle. An Elvis impersonator performed and costume character Tex the Safety Turtle was available to hug kids and pose for pictures. Everyone had a good time. In fact, our door count for that day was over 2,500!

Although popular year 'round, ghost stories have been in especially high demand recently at Collins Garden. The branch has a Halloween display offering a wide variety of holiday titles, including storybooks and craft books.

Hispanic Heritage titles were often requested and Collins Garden offered a display featuring both juvenile and adult items.

The Early Literacy Computer is immensely popular with young children who love to follow the electronic stories and create "cyber art".

Children's Librarian Leigh Bedford reports that the Monday night story time is proving popular with local families. The numbers are increasing and several customers have switched from the Wednesday morning story time, citing the more convenient schedule of the Monday session.

Teen Liaison Carlos Loera visited Burbank High School to promote the teen outreach program Connect9. He visited ninth-grade classes the entire school day, relating information about library services and programming to about 210 freshmen. He brought back 168 applications, which the staff quickly processed.

The Wednesday after-school teen program continues to be popular. There were 78 participants during the month of September, most of whom enjoyed making craft items and competing in Guitar Hero play-offs.

The Collins Garden staff bid a fond farewell to Amy Cline, who has been promoted to a Librarian III position at AALS. We wish her much success in her new job and future endeavors.

Cortez

On September 25 the Cortez Branch Library screened *Barrio Tales*, a locally filmed movie, as part of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Branch Manager Rebecca Johnson introduced pioneering filmmaker Efraín Gutiérrez to the thirty-four patrons in attendance. A question-and-answer session with the director and two actors from the film took place after the screening.

On Saturday, October 4 the library hosted an artist reception for Jesse "Chista" Cantu, one of the founders of the Chicano art movement in San Antonio. Mr. Cantu spoke about his life and art. One of his pieces on display at Cortez was featured on the official poster for the Chicano Renaissance celebration.

Six patrons attended the Cortez Latino and Hispanic Monthly Book Club on October 2. This month Library Assistant Stephanie Vasquez facilitated the discussion of *Like Water for Chocolate*.

Sixteen energetic and enthusiastic patrons of all ages attended the Cortez Branch monthly dance class on October 9. This month the featured dances were salsa and merengue.

Children's Librarian Carol Collins sent a poster to the Palo Alto Elementary School with some of the great new additions to Cortez's juvenile section. Palo Alto Elementary School's library has offered to start announcing Cortez's new books on its website! This month Cortez had some new visitors as the result of fliers distributed at local businesses and flea markets by Carol Collins. She had 21 children and parents at her most recent story time.

Branch Manager Rebecca Johnson attended two outreach events this month. The first was the Southwest General Hospital Annual Health Fair on October 4, where she spoke with 53 people about library services and handed out library applications, library pencils, and bookmarks. She also met with representatives from other community organizations and discussed what the library has to offer them. The public seemed particularly interested in the new quarterly calendar *Bookmarks*, the monthly dance classes, and Live Homework Help. Rebecca also attended the Lago Vista Homeowners Association National Night Out event on October 7. There were about 150 people in attendance. Rebecca spoke with 43 people about the library, handed out library applications, library pencils, bookmarks, and offered an origami craft. District 4 Council Representative Philip Cortez attended the event along with San Antonio police officers and McGruff the Crime Dog. The Homeowners Association had a DJ, games, food, and prizes.

Heavy voter turnout is expected for early voting at the Cortez Branch, which begins on October 20.

Forest Hills

The Friends of Forest Hills Branch Library are holding a Halloween book sale October 11 through October 13. Department Systems Aide Matthew Deyo is constructing a Transformer display book cart for contest submission. In addition, the HEB "Picture Your World" photograph series was on display at the branch for the past month.

The Department of Community Initiatives offered computer classes featuring instruction in e-mail, Word and Excel.

Movies offered at the branch included *Stand and Deliver* and *Tortilla Soup*.

Keetowah, a group promoting education and knowledge of indigenous cultures met on October 6.

Volunteer Ralph Thompson was the discussion leader on October 11 when the Contrarian Viewpoints Book Club met to discuss *The Return of History and the End of Dreams* by Robert Kagan.

On October 14 Forest Hills presented a special "¡Colores!" Hispanic Heritage storytime that included a felt board activity, stories and a bird craft.

The History of San Antonio Book Club met on October 16 to discuss *Los Mesteños* by Jack Jackson and review the index to the *Provincias Internas*.

On October 16 Branch Manager Roberto Zapata attended a PTA outreach at Powell Elementary School.

Participants of the indigenous craft class made their own gourd dance bandoleros on October 19.

Great Northwest

Fall children's programs at Great Northwest are being heavily attended, with more than 1,500 participating during September. Elspeth Blakeman continues to do outreach to five neighborhood day cares each week.

The surrounding schools were all thanked for their support of the Summer Reading Club and given the names of their students who finished the program. Several are excited about the live homework helper and other digital resources that are free to Library users. Driggers Elementary School has asked for a library representative to come to one of their parents' meetings to demonstrate the databases and homework helper in both English and Spanish. Great Northwest received notice from the Bandera Barnes & Noble Bookstore that they were planning to donate their Sleeping Beauty display to the branch.

Department Systems Aide Danny Durán plans to start a Revolution Hero teen gaming program, a combination of Guitar Hero and Dance Dance Revolution. He will host it Thursday nights. Teen Services Librarian Patricia King will also be helping him run the program.

Great Northwest hosted a successful National Night Out event on October 7. The branch was one of twenty-two parties in the Great Northwest neighborhood. Diane Backhus, branch manager, worked with Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Betty Hood to set up the event. Ms Hood gave the branch District 6 Council Representative Delicia Herrera stopped by, as did representatives from State Representative Joaquín Castro's office. Library regular and member of the Great Northwest Neighborhood Association Lee Besing was a big help with the event. Mrs. Backhus will also write a short article for the Neighborhood newsletter *Passages*.

The Friends of the Great Northwest Library hosted a book sale October 11 and 12. The Friends Board will be meeting on October 14 to discuss how to spend the proceeds.

Programs hosted for the Chicano Renaissance Project at Great Northwest include the movie *Barrio Tales*, a *papel picado* (paper lace) workshop, and the musical duo Duetto Aztlán.

Adult Services Librarian Sandra Griffin coordinated "Pure Pigment," an exhibition of pastel paintings by artists of the Texas Pastel Society. The paintings will be on exhibit until October 31.

The parenting classes offered in partnership with Northside Independent School District concluded October 16. This series has been a very positive program for the branch.

A new program for adults begins October 16. The Great Northwest Creative Writing Group invites adults interested in writing and being writers to attend the first meeting. The decision to meet monthly or bi-monthly will be discussed.

The Great Northwest Quilting Classes have now become the Great Northwest Quilting Bee. The group will meet on the third Saturday of every month. Participants can work on new group projects every month or bring their own quilting projects. The Bee is led by members of the Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild.

Guerra

Programming

The teen program GAME-RA! set a new record on October 8, hosting 59 teenagers. Established by Teen Services Liaison Tim Johnson, this is Guerra's most popular program. *Game-Ra!* is held every second and fourth Wednesday alternating between a themed game night and a free gaming night with a variety of video games. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 4:30 p.m. the Teen Club enjoys a variety of activities including board or card games, teen movie matinee, crafts, or a manga book discussion. October 12, 2008, through January 12, 2009, Guerra teens will also be participating in the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Wrestlemania Reading Challenge.

October's programs kicked off with a special presentation by author Docia Williams. Her book talk attracted an audience that included adults, teenagers and children, all of whom exchanged ghost stories with the author. The branch staff received lots of compliments regarding her presentation, and Ms. Williams plans to interview one of the participants in November.

Two sessions of yoga meditation for adults were offered on a trial basis, with the hope that the classes will become a regular program. The sessions were led by Siva Kumar and his wife from Sahaja Yoga San Antonio.

On October 18 the Guerra Library offered a special screening of the film *Barrio Tales*, followed by a discussion with director Efraín Gutiérrez.

Displays

Library Assistant Ernestina García created a large poster highlighting events to be held at Guerra including the fabulous gallery show at Central Library. Together with Circulation Attendants Christina Martínez and Aurora Hernández, Ernestina created a display of books and decorations to highlight Hispanic Heritage Month and the Chicano Renaissance. The display directs customers to a beautiful painting by Carolina Flores. Staff have received many compliments about the painting.

Staff are currently involved in decorating the library and setting up a display for Halloween. Custodian Annie Castillo has donated "Peter Boy," an animated mannequin that greets people as soon as they enter the library. Needless to say, the kids just love to be around the scary Peter, although some adults think that he looks just like the witch from *Snow White*.

Outreach

Children's Services Librarian Yanira Cruz promoted the Library at English classes for speakers of other languages at four neighboring elementary schools: Westwood Terrace, Passmore, Glenn, and Linton.

Department Systems Aide Erich Backhus attended the El Sendero National Night Out and Yanira attended the event at Aurora Vista Park.

Adult Services Library Tracey Knouse continues to develop a relationship with Sterling Adult Day Care, and to create programs for seniors. On October 16, she read poetry and offered a "fall leaves" craft.

Staff Contributions

Christina Martínez and Stephen Jackson have continued to read children's stories in Spanish as part of the Telecuentos/Dial-A-Story program.

Yanira Vegerano Cruz is the coordinator of the Telecuentos program and is recruiting volunteers to read.

Thank you

Branch staff thank Elma Nieto-Rodríguez, who filled in for Joyce Anne Stevens at the Edgewood Family Network Health Fair on October 4. Thanks are in order for everyone who contributed dishes for "The Secret is the Bottom of the Pot," a Hispanic Heritage event: Yanira Cruz and her mother-in-law, Puerto Rican and Colombian cuisine; Stephen Jackson, a dessert from Honduras, and Cecilia Williamson [*Brook Hollow*], a Brazilian dessert.

Igo

September was filled with Staff Development Day preparations for Igo staff. Interim Branch Manager Haley Holmes served on the organizing committee and was involved in many aspects of the day.

Circulation Attendants Renita Baker and Joe Butcher participated as cheerleaders and on the book cart drill team. Library Aide Megan Feeley joined them on the book cart drill team which made its debut at Staff Development Day. Library Assistant Rhonda Woolhouse helped procure items for the goodie bags which were distributed to the close to 500 employees attending. Igo staff brought home four SALSA awards and had an excellent day together showing their team spirit by wearing matching shirts and cheering for one another.

The Friends of Igo met on October 4. Haley shared several of the Staff Development Day videos in which Igo staff were prominently featured, along with the Igo construction film. The Friends are excited to share the fruits of their book sale labors and have decided to purchase a projector and a Christmas tree for the branch. Preparations have begun for Igo's first birthday party, to be held December 6.

Igo Cinema's popularity continues to grow. *Enchanted*, presented on September 27, was the most heavily attended movie yet. Igo also began co-hosting Opera for Children in September, and the program will continue throughout the Fall. Nearby schools Brandeis High School and Stinson Middle School presented "Princess Plays" to Igo patrons at two showings on October 11.

In September and October, Librarians Cara Waits, Haley Holmes and Lisa Taylor and Library Assistant Jackie Dyess all led Cub Scouts on tours of the branch, introducing them to the library and the features of Igo which make it special, including the heritage oak tree.

Johnston

The San Antonio Police and Fire Departments both called at Johnston on September 27, but, happily, not due to any problems. As part of a child fingerprinting program initiated by Children's Librarian Karen Sebesta, San Antonio's finest fingerprinted between 40 and 50 neighborhood children. The kids then had the opportunity to inspect two fire trucks parked in front of the library and ask questions of the firefighters. Karen has also lately been busy with outreach activities, the most recent being a visit to the Elm Creek Elementary school on October 9.

KSAT-12 Television did a live shot covering voter registration at the branch for the September 25 6:00 p.m. news broadcast.

Landa

It has been a busy month for teens' and children's activities at the Landa Branch Library. Four teens attended the monthly book discussion group and the two programs offered. A total of 35 children and parents both enjoyed stories and dancing *calaveras* and other traditions of *El dia de los muertos* at the October 8 afternoon story time. After the stories children decorated their own *calaveras*.

Library Assistant Brooke Ballard was awarded one of the Mejores Futuros/Better Futures Scholarships. Brooke is enrolled in the Master of Library Science Program at Texas Women's University.

On September 20, the Landa Branch Library was visited by Customer First Representative Terri Salazar as part of the City's "Reality Check" secret shopper program. The Landa Branch Library received an "excellent" rating in all categories.

On October 4 Branch Manager Kathy Claspill had the pleasure to visit with Janna-Neen Cunningham-Jones and her daughter Ann-Eve Cunningham, great-niece and great-great-niece respectively of Hannah Landa. They were very excited about the improvements that have been made in the last year and the number of customers using both the library and the grounds. They commented that Hannah had grown flowers in the yard and had fresh flowers in the house every day.

Maverick

Maverick said congratulations and good-bye to Hope Sonnen, who was promoted to Children's Librarian II at Bazan. Children's Librarian Amy Roberts has been offering six storytimes per week in addition to her Teen Liaison duties. Special thanks goes to Library Aide and recent University of North Texas Library School graduate Stacy Bósquez for coordinating the monthly teen book clubs while Derika Bailey is on maternity leave.

In addition to attending National Night Out activities at the French Creek Subdivision, Adult Services Librarian Alice DeCristoforo has been planning Hispanic Heritage activities for families and adults at the branch. Salsa/Latin Dancing classes have been popular at Maverick in these first weeks of October. Musical duo Dueto Aztlán performed to an enthusiastic audience on September 25. The third annual Maverick lotería program was held on October 8 with 33 people in attendance.

The Friends of the Maverick Library had a successful two-day book sale on October 4 and 5.

McCreless

On October 1 McCreless Branch showed the film *Barrio Tales* with Director Efraín Gutiérrez also in attendance. The film was warmly received by the audience.

The branch participated in "National Night Out" on October 7 with snacks, games, and coloring activities. There were 24 attendees of all ages and everyone had a good time.

Children's Librarian Beverly Bixler welcomed two classes from St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Elementary School for special storytimes, in addition to a busier than usual month with regular Tuesday morning stories. On October 15 Beverly visited Highland Hills PCI to deliver books to them. She presented a special "*calaveras*" program at the branch on October 21 for Hispanic Heritage Month.

The book display for the month was "Banned Books" and not only did the materials circulate well, but there were also comments from the public expressing surprise about some of the challenged titles.

On October 6 Library Assistant Tricia Masterson did outreach to ninth graders to issue them library cards and get them excited about using the library.

Also on October 6 Tricia and Branch Manager Cammie Gunter attended a luncheon sponsored by the Library Foundation to welcome scholars and mentors to the new year of the IMLS program.

Memorial

Cinema Coolebra continues to bring in families on Saturdays to enjoy movies old, new, famous and unknown.

The Rock the Vote Voter Registration Rally coordinated by Senior Management Analyst Jessica Ramos was held on October 4 to a small but enthusiastic crowd. They danced to the great music of DJ Gabe Velasquez and local Tejano artist Liza Ybarra. Administrators who came to Rock the Vote included Public Relations Manager Beth Graham and Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan. Members of the Memorial Amigos/Friends of the Memorial Library who assisted included Albert Zamarrón, Micky Waner, and Juan Carlos Norianueva. Memorial staff on site were Rene Leija and Melva Ramirez. The event was considered a success, with a total of 23 new voters registering.

The Memorial Amigos saw their grant funds well spent with three public-access computers purchased. The three new computers have reduced the wait time dramatically. A laptop for programming and circulation use will be purchased with the remaining funds.

National Night Out on Tuesday October 7 was a huge success, with Memorial hosting five Neighborhood Associations: Loma Park, Loma Terrace, Loma Vista, Memorial Heights and Gardendale. Memorial was also fortunate to have vocalist Luz Barrientos perform that evening.

Memorial had a very successful chess tournament for teens. Ten teens participated in the event and were treated to pizza and drinks. The winner was awarded a trophy and runners-up were given medals for their participation. This event was held in support of Memorial Library's chess club sponsored by the Amigos Friends group that meets every Wednesday after school.

A program was held to inform patrons about the upcoming transition to digital television. KENS-TV/DT Assistant Director of Technology Jerry Paonessa informed patrons about how they would be affected by this change, how they could prepare for it and what the benefits to them would be.

A beautiful *Día de los muertos* display was placed in the library for the community by the Imelda Zapata Garcia family.

Pan American

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and the Chicano Renaissance, the Pan American Branch hosted Duetto Aztlan's *Música del Movimiento Xicano* on September 28, with approximately 20 in attendance. On display in the library are works by local artist Rudy Treviño, who was active during the Chicano Renaissance. Book and media displays about and by Chicano authors were also available throughout the library. In addition, the Wednesday ABC Club celebrated on October 1 with 24 participants learning about "colores." On October 13, Family Fun participants learned about "calaveras," and on October 20, "canciones" were the topic for Family Fun.

On National Night Out, October 7, the library received a surprise visit from the San Antonio Police Department's mascot McGruff and a S.A.F.F.E. officer.

On October 14, Pan American branch hosted Jerry Paonessa from KENS TV, who spoke to the audience about getting ready for digital television.

The regular Monday Family Fun sessions continue to bring in all ages. On September 28, eleven attendees made a book to take home. On October 6, nine attendees enjoyed learning about dragonflies and making a craft item with dragonflies. The weekly ABC Club began their new session and had fun with the letter F on October 8, with 23 children making frames for pictures from large craft sticks, markers, and stickers. On October 15, attendees shared gorilla stories and made a gorilla mask.

The Teen programs were switched to Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and on October 9, ten participants made clay creations and had sodas and popcorn. Games were the group's activity on October 16.

Tai Chi classes for adults continue on Mondays with average attendance of 18.

Children's Librarian Raissa Marking was busy with outreach to the area schools. On September 25, she spent the entire school day at Schulze Elementary School visiting with 12 groups of pre-kinder, kindergarten, and first-grade students, a total of 264. In addition to book sharing, information about the library was provided and a library card drive was initiated. Raissa returned to collect approximately 400 library card applications to process and return to the students. On October 7, she attended the Adams Elementary Career Day, and spoke to 154 students in five sessions about books and her job. She also provided library card applications. Raissa met with Special Education students at McCollum High School on October 17. Most of these students are at a kindergarten to third-grade reading level, so she shared stories that interested them. On October 21, Raissa presented stories to pre-kinder, kindergarten, and first-grade classes at Bellaire Elementary School.

She also attended the Columbia Heights Learning Center Health Fair and spoke to approximately 21 attendees.

Raissa created a special display for Banned Books Week which attracted a lot of attention. Library Assistant Blanca Hernandez prepared a "Résumé Resources" display and assisted with the Halloween displays. A "Books That Bite" display created by Raissa and Library Assistant Melissa Carroll for Teen Read Week was highly successful. In addition, a display of Halloween themed books for all ages was set up throughout the library.

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

The Bannwolf Library at Reagan High School began an outreach program for senior citizens. They now have a librarian visiting the retirement homes in the area weekly to bring materials and activities to the patrons. In-branch programs for senior citizens are also held.

The staff at the Bannwolf Library offers a calendar of events for their local customers. The calendar is available in print from the reference and circulation desks or can be accessed online through the Reagan High School Library homepage. The calendar is updated monthly and patrons find the information about the programs helpful when planning their week's activities.

Programming for all age levels has seen an increase in numbers since the beginning of school. A variety of programs is offered and the library is using local community members as presenters and facilitators for many of the programs.

San Pedro

Storytimes have been increased to twice a week. The BACKPack programs (for elementary-school ages) and teen programs continue on a weekly schedule, with a Family Fun program generally once a month. At the Family Fun program held on October 11 participants made Colombian percussion instruments and then formed a band! They also made skeleton masks with markers and paper plates. These programs were a part of the Hispanic Heritage Month activities. Twenty-six people enjoyed the Family Fun program. The other groups also had programs relating to Hispanic Heritage during early October.

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton visited three fifth grade classes at the Cotton Elementary School, speaking to 75 students to promote library services and the new book club that will begin the last week in October. Betsy will meet monthly with fifteen students during their lunch period to discuss a book they have chosen to read. A similar program has been initiated at the Young Women's Leadership Academy, and eighteen girls will be in the Book Club there. Finally, Betsy met for the first time this school year with the fifth-grade book club that was begun last year at Hawthorne Academy. Last year's group was composed of both fourth- and fifth-graders. This year all the fourth-graders from last year (now fifth-graders) wanted to do it again. Library cards were issued to those students not having cards, and lost library cards were replaced. The book clubs are so popular at all the schools that Betsy has decided to have a club for one group of students in the fall and a different group in the spring!

Betsy conducted storytime and delivered books to six different childcare/preschool facilities, attending to eleven classes and reading to 126 children.

Three schools bring classes to the library on a weekly or twice-weekly basis. These schools are KIPP Aspire Academy, Monte Vista Montessori and Kriterion Montessori. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades 2 through 8. When the classes come to the library, Betsy spends approximately thirty minutes with each group, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials. The three schools bring approximately 120 students per week to the San Pedro Library.

Betsy attended the Higgs Carter King Gifted and Talented Academy's open house on Friday October 10. She passed out various flyers and spoke with many parents and children about the programs and services offered.

Thursday night chess has drawn 27 participants so far this month. The group has been playing outdoors next to the fountain planter and enjoying the cool evening breezes as they plan their moves.

On October 2 *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez* was screened as part of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

On October 7 three staff members staffed a table at the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association National Night Out celebration. About 40 people stopped at the table.

Semmes

The Friends of Semmes held yet another very successful book sale on September 27. The staff of Semmes is very grateful for the strong support of its Friends Group.

On October 2, an entomologist from the Texas Agrilife Extension presented 'Good Bugs, Bad Bugs!' for the OASIS Senior Education class held at Semmes. A second program, on estate planning, was presented by an elder law attorney on October 16.

Semmes Librarian Oscar González represented the branch at a National Night Out event held at Rolling Oaks Baptist Church and sponsored by Northeast Crime Watch.

On Saturday, October 11, there was a 5K Fun Run in Comanche Lookout Park in honor of National White Cane Safety Day. This was sponsored by the Low Vision Resource Center in collaboration with the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Program. The library provided an information table at the end of the trail where the library's 'Special Needs Services, Material and Equipment' brochure was handed out along with a current list of feature films on DVS. Thanks to Central Reference Supervisor Dan Stanford for assembling the materials.

The Semmes Stargazers, in association with the San Antonio Astronomical Association, had another 'stellar' meeting on October 20. They discussed the latest astronomical findings and advancements in space exploration in addition to observing the stars. Circulation Attendant Joe Knight is one of the organizers of this group. On October 18 Mark Goll, a Semmes patron and another Stargazers organizer, conducted a one-mile tour of his scale model solar system which is located along the walkways of Comanche Lookout Park.

This is the season for library tours and Semmes Librarians Carrie Vance and Randi Jones have hosted Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and school groups, including a Young Scientists club from Coronado Elementary School in Judson ISD.

Teen Librarian Debye Nicholl and Library Assistant Bobbye Hernández spent two and a half very full days speaking with ninth-graders at Judson High Schools on October 14, 15 and 17.

The first meeting of 'Opera by Children' was held on October 9, in the meeting room. This will be a continuing monthly program, organized by the homeschoolers in the Semmes community and open to the general public, to teach music, stagecraft and performance techniques to school-age children.

Semmes staff enjoyed Staff Development Day on September 26. Librarian Oscar González served on the committee and joined Circulation Attendant Melissa Bustos on the cheerleading squad!

Thousand Oaks

Thousand Oaks staff members are proud of the SALSA nominees and winners from this year's Staff Development Day! Library Assistant Barbara Kwiatkowski won a SALSA for Outstanding Overall Contribution. Maintenance Worker Dora Farías was recognized with the rest of SAPL's facilities staff as part of the Outstanding Team. Branch Manager Chris Palmer and Library Assistant Guillermo Garcia were also nominated for awards!

Librarian Jorge Chávez attended National Night Out at the Valencia on October 7. He provided information about the library's resources and services to about 35 people. Chris Palmer attended the National Night Out event at the Hills of Park North Neighborhood Association, where she was presented with a check for \$100 to purchase a changing table for the men's restroom!

Preschool children celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at storytime on October 2 by learning their colors in Spanish. They also created colorful birds using oil pastels and watercolor paints. About 25 people attended the program.

First-, second- and third-grade students from David Copeland Elementary School of Excellence in Education have been visiting Thousand Oaks for a tour and storytime. Each grade will visit the library twice this semester.

Other programs for children and teens continue to be popular. Barbara Kwiatkowski's after-school program on Tuesday and Rock Band for teens on Thursday continue to be well-attended. For the October Book Club, Jorge Chávez chose *Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut for the group to read.

Computer classes have been offered during October at Thousand Oaks. Librarian Carol Crawford taught an Animated Graphics class October 8. Students created their own animated GIFs and posted them on the internet! Barbara Kwiatkowski taught PowerPoint on October 13. Guillermo García taught Meet the Computer on September 29 and Internet Safety for Parents on October 18.

Library Assistants Debra Lindenburt-Morrow and Barbara Kwiatkowski were recipients of the Better Futures/Mejores Futuros scholarship for students working toward their Master's Degrees in Library Science!

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

The Friends of Tobin Library at Oakwell held their most successful quarterly book sale ever in September. Although it has been just a couple of years since their receipts moved from the \$1,000 to the \$2,000 range, the latest sale brought in more than \$3,200! In fact, the preview sale held a day in advance brought in over \$1,000 alone. The preview sale is also a great source of new Friends memberships, as it is open only to current members and has spurred a number of people to join just to get first crack at the books.

On October 9 the Tobin Library hosted a retirement reception for Branch Manager Wendy Friedman. Wendy has retired after more than 25 years of service with the San Antonio Public Library. Wendy was very pleased with the crossword puzzle decorations theme.

Jernell Williams will serve as the Interim Manager of the Tobin Branch at Oakwell.

Westfall

Almost all of the Westfall staff were able to attend the annual Staff Development Day on September 26. Several staff members participated behind the scenes. Library Assistant Theresa Garza-Ybarra co-chaired the committee that planned the event. Department Systems Aide Andrea Silva helped set up all of the equipment needed, as well as assisting with presenter check-in throughout the day.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza served as a SAPL Team Cheerleader and Branch Manager Jamie Flowers joined Cody Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw to present a session on the use of the Digital Library Assistant. Theresa and Andrea also won SALSA awards for their contributions to Staff Development Day 2007.

Branch staff joined the Dellview Neighborhood Association at their National Night Out event at Pilgrim Park on October 7. The brand-new bookmobile made an appearance at the event. Monica Garza was on hand, along with the bookmobile staff, to promote library services.

Westfall hosted a Chicano Renaissance program on October 2. Author, poet, muralist and illustrator Nephtalí de León provided an informative and entertaining discussion on Chicano art and activism from the 1970s into the year 2010. Children were invited to come to the branch on October 7 for a “*calaveras*” program. Skulls were decorated in honor of *Día de los muertos*. “*Canciones*,” another Hispanic Heritage Month program, was held on October 11, with families making their own rhythm instrument and then singing and dancing together. Westfall’s final Hispanic Heritage Month program was held on October 18. Azul Barrientos performed traditional Latin American children’s songs.

The Matsuri festival was celebrated at Westfall on October 13. Patrons were invited to come and learn basic origami and Asian calligraphy techniques. To celebrate Halloween, Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza presented her annual pumpkin-carving program on October 18. Adults were invited to carve pumpkins, while children were able to paint and decorate small pumpkins.