

**San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
February 24, 2009**

Administration

Director's Office

Library Director Ramiro Salazar concentrated on partnerships and community outreach during the past month. On January 27, he participated in the award ceremony for a Metro Health poster contest, and on January 28, accompanied by Library Board Chair Jean Brady, he attended the Mayor's State of the City Address.

A news conference moderated by Ramiro on January 31 initiated a partnership with Eva Longoria Parker's non-profit organization Eva's Heroes and the District 8 City Council Office. Ms. Longoria Parker and City Council Representative Diane Cibrian joined Jean Brady and Ramiro to announce that with support from the new partnership the Library would be increasing its collection for the intellectually challenged, as well as planning outreach activities with Eva's Heroes and other organizations which serve this community.

On February 7, Ramiro and Jean traveled to Fort Worth at the invitation of the Fort Worth Public Library to share local advocacy strategies during the annual planning retreat of their Advisory Board and Friends organizations.

At a meeting with Dan Parman, Marmon Mok architect Steve Souter, and Library Foundation Executive Director Tracey Bennett, the conceptual design for the new District 9 Branch Library was reviewed and discussed.

On February 13, Ramiro served as Master of Ceremonies for a news conference at the Semmes Branch Library to announce the results of the public opinion poll commissioned by the Library Foundation and conducted in October 2008. Participants in the news conference included District 10 City Council Representative John Clamp, Library Board Chair Jean Brady, and Library Foundation Chair Gene Ames. Jean concluded the event by announcing that the Library Board would seek to have the 1/8% sales tax added to the ballot in November 2009 as a measure to enhance revenues for the Library.

On February 14 Ramiro attended the dedication of the new Bonnie Conner Park in northwest San Antonio adjacent to Igo Branch Library.

District 9 City Council Representative Louis Rowe and Library representatives hosted a community meeting was held on February 19 to obtain public input on the new District 9 Branch Library. Approximately 20 citizens attended, representing neighborhoods in the area.

February 22 and 23 Ramiro accompanied Foundation Chair Gene Ames and Foundation President/CEO Kaye Lenox on a site visit to observe operations of the Las Vegas – Clark County Library District.

SAPL Administration representation at the ALA Midwinter Conference

Ramiro attended the ALA Midwinter Conference held in Denver January 23 through 28. He has accepted the position of Co-Chair of the 2010 Conference of REFORMA, the association to promote library services to the Spanish-speaking, and much of his time at the conference involved initial planning for that event.

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez also attended Midwinter, where she made a presentation to YALSA (the Young Adult Library Services Association) on “Library Services to Today’s Diverse Youth.”

Automation

The Automation Department received 75 computers that were purchased using City General Funds to replace the oldest public-facing units. Those computers are currently being configured for testing and then deployment. Special needs software designed to provide services to the vision impaired has been received. Computers are being configured and are expected to be installed by the end of February. A new web-based IT support request system was launched. A similar application is being developed to manage requests for the Facilities group. Assistant Director Kendra Trachta and Department Systems Manager Ray Fraga have met with stakeholders with NEISD to discuss technology services being considered for the Roosevelt High School library.

Branch Services

Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan was part of the San Antonio Public Library’s presence at the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting. He is an active member of the Asian and Pacific American Library Association (APALA); the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table of the ALA (GLBTRT); and the Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC). He is the APALA representative on the ALA Diversity Council. He reported on the activities of APALA to the council. He met with the APALA caucus later in the week and shared the direction and focus of ALA to APALA. His service on the Newbery Award Committee of ALSC began at this conference. Joel’s nomination to the Newbery Committee is an exciting opportunity and a great honor. As one of few people of color on the committee, he has an opportunity to be a voice for underserved communities. Joel also attended a meeting of the GLBT Round Table to discuss ideas for observation of Pride Month at the library.

Children’s Services

Children’s Services’ celebration of Black History Month is off to a good start. A total of fifty-three programs are planned, centering around four “Firsts” themes: the First African American President (Barack Obama), the First Celebration of Black History (Carter Woodson), the First African Americans in Space (Guion Bluford and Mae Jemison) and the First African Americans to Win Multiple Olympic Medals (Jesse Owens and Wilma Rudolph).

A committee of Children’s Librarians has plans in development for the 2009 celebration of Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros and a similar committee is at work on the 2009 Summer Reading Program, “Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas. The print materials supporting Summer Reading 2009 from the State Library includes a map of Texas with several distinctive libraries pictured – and happily, the San Antonio Public Library is one of the featured structures.

Children’s Coordinator Viki Ash attended the American Library Association Mid-Winter Meeting in Denver in late January. Viki is currently serving on a task force evaluating the *Every Child Ready to Read* project which was the precursor of SAPL’s Little Read Wagon initiative.

Little Read Wagon

This month Little Read Wagon conducted a series of *Para los niños* programs at the Cortez and McCreless Branch Libraries. Both locations have had a great response with several families returning each week. The February 10 program at Cortez marked one young participant’s first opportunity to use scissors! It was a big milestone for him and his family.

On three occasions Little Read Wagon staff joined the Scholastic Literacy Caravan at area HEB stores. Families with young children sampled activities from the *Para los niños* series and were invited to attend the programs at Cortez and McCreless.

Public Relations

The past month has been occupied with media relations. At a news conference at the Central Library on January 31, Eva Longoria Parker and District 8 Council Representative Diane Cibrian announced "Read for the Stars," a partnership to enhance and promote the Library's resources for developmentally challenged children and teens and their families. With the support of Ms. Longoria Parker and a contribution from the District 8 Council office, additional books and other resources on this topic were purchased for the Library collection. Clients of Ms. Longoria Parker's program Eva's Heroes will receive regular visits from the SAPL Bookmobile, as will other organizations such as ARC. The news conference was covered by television stations KABB/Fox, KSAT/ABC, KENS/CBS, WOAI/NBC and KWEX/Univision, as well as the *Express-News*.

The results of the October 2008 Baselice & Associates public opinion survey were announced by Library Board Chair Jean Brady at a news conference at the Semmes Branch Library on February 13. Other participants included District 10 City Council Representative John Clamp and Library Foundation Chair Gene Ames. At the conclusion of the news conference, Ms. Brady announced the intention of the Library Board and Foundation to seek to have the Library included in a 2009 referendum on the remaining 1/8% of City sales tax capacity. The event was covered by WOAI-TV, WOAI Radio and KTSA Radio.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar served as Master of Ceremonies for both news conferences.

Assistant Library Director Kendra Trachta and Public Relations Manager Beth Graham met with Sandy Potter of the District 8 Council office to discuss a "Be One in a Million" Library card challenge to involve San Antonio schools in the Library Card Campaign. Supported by funding from the District 8 Council office, local schools will be challenged to sign up as many new Library cardholders as possible. Details are being finalized and more information will be available soon.

Over the past month the Library received 18 media mentions, two of them in Toledo, Ohio, newspapers, in connection with the opening of the "Winds and Words of War" exhibit there.

Graphic designers Ana Farr and Tiffanie Wilson have been occupied with publicity materials for Black History Month, the Big Read, and César Chávez Month. They also supported the February 13 announcement of the results of the Baselice poll with graphics highlighting the most significant responses.

Staff Training

Thirty-seven Library managers participated in an all-day retreat at the Botanical Gardens on February 12. Gail Johnson and Pam Parr of Face to Face Communications and Training facilitated the all-day workshop "The Art of Managing," a/k/a "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People." Managers explored the concepts of accountability, communication, empowerment, staff development, influence, and hiring practices. They left enthused and energized with practical tools to help them in their day-to-day work throughout the Library system.

Teen Services

The Kids Café program, a partnership between the Central Teen Services Department and the San Antonio Food Bank, continues to thrive. Since the program began on January 14, 230 teens have participated, and 954 snacks have been served.

Librarian I Violeta Garza provided training on Teen Tech Week activities at the Teen Services Liaison meeting on February 11. Her training was much appreciated by the group.

Central Library

Alamo Area Library Systems

AALS offered an online social networking workshop, presented by Christine Peterson of Amigos Library Services, that proved to be so popular a second workshop was added to accommodate the waiting list.

The AALS Spring Membership Meeting will be held at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library in Bulverde on March 20. Dr. Coleen Grissom, a professor of literature at Trinity University, will present a program entitled, "A Novel Approach to Life."

Children's Services Department

In light of December's successful "Come and Go" craft programs, the Central Children's staff planned two additional "Come and Go" sessions in February. These programs allowed children to make hand-crafted Valentine cards for family and friends. A total of 33 people participated in the sessions including quite a number of teens and parents, who seemed to enjoy the activity. (Which only goes to show – you are never too old for cut and paste!)

On February 18 Central Children's staff participated in the San Antonio Independent School District Parent Summit. The Summit encourages parents to actively participate in their children's education, and staff were happy to have the opportunity to connect parents to the educational support aspects of the public library.

Digital Services

The Digital Services Team is preparing for a beta launch of the new mySAPL website to the public. As part of this launch, they are working to include a web-based form that will allow patrons to contact the library regarding account problems or other questions, or to submit a general comment. They will also have the ability to contact Texana regarding local history or genealogy questions. Digital Services presented the new mySAPL website, along with integrated third party utilities, to the Library Board of Trustees at their January meeting.

Adam Spana is working to configure Webfeat, a third party federated search engine, to allow patrons access to a more thorough method of getting information from SAPL's subscription databases. He has recently presented classes for introducing online library services to the community both with the Little Read Wagon at Igo and at the Oasis Senior Center. The Library recently purchased Business Decision, a database that combines geographic information with census and marketing data to analyze target markets for business and strategic planning. Adam and Rolf are working to train staff.

The Digital Services Team continues to provide ongoing support for web updates and special programs, such as Reading Fiesta and Black History Month

Government Documents

The Government Documents Department is undertaking a major weeding project as part of the department's reorganization.

Tax season is here and the demand by the public for tax forms is as great as ever.

Outreach

Fulfilling a campaign pledge to combat truancy with literacy, Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Stephen Walker invited Outreach staff to his court on January 26 to issue library cards to teens appearing before him for truancy. In return, the students received credit for two hours of their mandatory community service and were given the option of credit for four additional service hours in exchange

for a book report. Luann Bloom from Great Northwest, Kate Gray, Barbara Celitans and Ramona Lucius made 20 temporary library cards during this visit.

Outreach welcomed a new staff member, Librarian Veronica Anderson, and is now completely staffed.

Barbara Celitans assisted HEB in organizing a Black History Month exhibit and a lunchtime program for the store's corporate officers. Ramona Lucius spoke about library services at this program. Outreach intern Shannon Calderon assisted the staff of the Scholastic "Lee y serás" Literacy Caravan in several of their events. Ramona spoke about bookmobile services at a Department of Community Initiatives workshop with sixty senior nutrition center managers in attendance. Ramona also taught two sessions of "How to Facilitate a Book Discussion" for library staff.

The Outreach Office processed requests for library staff appearances at eight events, handling seven of these itself. The office began taking the new bookmobile out on special visits to the branch libraries so that staff and patrons could become familiar with the vehicle. The first of these visits, in collaboration with the Scholastic "Lee y serás" Caravan, was made to the Guerra Branch. The bookmobile also made a special visit to Seton Home to make library cards for the residents.

Beginning March 17, two new stops will be added to the bookmobile's schedule: the ARC's West Avenue campus and the Pam Stephens Center. This venture will bring service to an underserved audience – for some of the ARC's clients, the bookmobile will be their first experience with the library.

Reference Department

As a prelude to the Big Read, Cristine Mitchamore of Reference, Tapley Trudell of Brook Hollow, Stephen Jackson of Guerra and Ramona Lucius of Outreach services offered two classes on leading book discussion groups. A total of twenty-five staff members came to these classes.

Stephanie Hatch has given a class to teachers on kid-friendly databases as well as assisting with a training program of Catholic school librarians.

Pannaga Prasad has published an article, "Reference Services to Seniors in the San Antonio Public Library," in the *Reference Librarian* (Vol. 50, Issue 1, January-March 2009). The article discusses the services and programs that the San Antonio Public Library offers for senior groups, with an analysis on what services other public libraries provide to senior citizens.

Carmen Roja and Pannaga Prasad attended the annual College Access Conference entitled "Road to Success 2009" held on February 14 organized by the San Antonio Education Partnership and held at Our Lady of the Lake University. They represented SAPL in the exhibitor section, and distributed information on SAPL's free online educational resources, as well as attending conference sessions.

Technical Services Department

Tommy Moreno from the City's Risk Management Department visited the Technical Services/Collection Development department on February 3. He presented information on ergonomics, visited with each staff work area, and assisted staff in making adjustments to their work areas to make them more ergonomically effective.

On February 20, 3M representative Paul Sevcik visited the library to see how 3M's RFID software upgrade for the circulation pad works with Innovative's Item API product and Millennium in a library setting. He talked to the circulation and shelving staff to get their feedback.

Teen Services Department

Teen Services staff host programs for teens every Monday through Thursday evening at 5:00.

Mondays with Librarian I Violeta Garza: Teen fans of "Guitar Hero" competed in the monthly tournament on February 2. On February 9, gamers were given the opportunity to play "Super Smash Brothers Melee." The first Teen Advisory Group meeting occurred on February 23, giving teens the opportunity to share ideas on how the Central Teen Services Department can make the library experience more inviting.

Tuesdays with Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce: Tuesdays are gaming nights for teens. On February 3 and 10, teens played "Guitar Hero III." On February 17, teens took turns singing as they played "American Idol Karaoke." On February 24 teens played "Dance Dance Revolution," followed by "Guitar Hero."

Wednesdays with Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano: In conjunction with the end of football season and the upcoming NBA All-Star Game, Sylvia introduced a new video game, "NBA Live '09," which the teens enjoyed on February 4, 11 and 18.

Thursdays with Library Assistant Regina Almanza: On January 29, teens celebrated Chinese New Year by making bracelets using red beads for good luck, then feasting on egg rolls and oranges. The teens also figured out their Chinese zodiac signs and read about their characteristics. Pictures from this event are on the Teen Services Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/210teenlibrary>. The craft on February 5 was met with great enthusiasm. With some fabric markers and stencils, teens took plain white t-shirts and decorated them in their own unique styles. In anticipation of Valentine's Day and all the thoughts about sweet treats it brings, teens took a candy lineup quiz where they had to guess a candy by sight. They then enjoyed a rousing game of chocolate Bingo. The Bingo cards were filled with chocolate-related words, and each teen had a handful of M&M's to use as the markers. With the interest that teens have about their own dreams, they made dream journals on February 19.

On February 7 Sylvia Pachecano conducted an informational session with her Baka Onigiri Con Ost (Stupid Riceball with Cheese) International Anime/Manga Club. Teens were advised of new manga and graphic novels in the collection, as well as teen events, programs and activities coming up. Teens also discussed future anime/manga club topics and anime conventions in the San Antonio area.

Tours and Groups

On January 30, 30 seventh-graders from Garner Middle School received a tour of the library from Library Assistant Regina Almanza. Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce then provided catalog and database instruction for the students. She also showed them how to use *Occupational Outlook Handbook* online because they were studying careers. On February 9, thirty students from Fox Tech's Criminal Justice class visited the Teen Services Department to use the computers for research. Kathleen gave a book talk on *Fahrenheit 451* to the seniors in the class and promoted The Big Read. The same class returned to the library on February 13 to use the computers for research again.

Texana/Genealogy Department

Programming for the month began on February 3 with a workshop presented by Debbie Countess on the Ancestry database. Eight individuals attended this session.

The following Saturday Ms Countess discussed "Beginning Genealogy" to a group of nine.

On February 7, a group of eight from a Latter-Day Saints study group came into Texana/Genealogy for a tour of the resources available for research. After the tour, they spent several hours doing research.

The annual book sale for the Friends of Texana/Genealogy was held on February 14. Again this year, the sale was coordinated by Maria Pfeiffer. The staff of the Texana/Genealogy Department truly appreciate this group of volunteers and the support they give the library.

Matt DeWaelsche and Andy Crews continue to work at the City's Records Facility for four hours each week to assist in processing the City's permanent records. Finding aids to some completed collections are available on the City Clerk's webpage under City Records Facility (City Archivist) and "Available Collections."

Cataloging and processing of the gift collection from former historian Rosalind Rock of the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park has been completed, and items are available to the public.

A local researcher donated several items recently. One is an undated program for a "Concert for the Red Cross" to be held in the Wolff & Marx Auditorium from the World War I period. There are a couple of programs from events at Brackenridge High School in June 1921. Also donated was a program for the "Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Founding of Protestantism in San Antonio, Texas" held between February 2 and 5, 1922. There are several programs for concerts and recitals during the early 1920s, including one held on March 9, 1920, featuring Percy Grainger and the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra.

The World War I poster exhibit is currently in Toledo and has gotten good reviews in the local media there. One lady from Toledo telephoned, saying she had some World War I posters, and wanted to know how to take care of them.

Finally, library school student and Reference Department staffer Kate Simpson is inventorying the Keach Collection of "rare books" based on a list produced many years ago, as part of her library school practicum. She will also clean and repair or box items as needed. Her work can be followed on her blog <http://www5013isarks.blogspot.com/>.

Branch Libraries

Bazan

The Bazan Branch Library is very pleased to announce that the citizenship classes that were so well received but moderately attended last year have received a tremendous boost this year. Branch Manager Raymond Villarreal and *Academia America* instructor Pancho Gonzales were both interviewed by Monica Navarro from KWEX/Univision on February 3. Raymond emphasized that the classes were free and open to those who needed them. Mr. Gonzales spoke about the requirements and how the classes would be conducted. The response from the news item was amazing; staff answered phone calls all afternoon and into the evening from a very interested and responsive community. Approximately 140 students arrived on the first day and then close to the same number came in on February 5. Instead of having a first week of classes it turned out to be a first week of registration. A second venue was needed immediately, so Mr. Villarreal turned to Las Palmas Branch Manager Rebecca Alvarez to see if she would be able to assist. Her cooperative involvement in this project on such short notice was very much appreciated. Both the Bazan Branch Library and the Las Palmas Branch Library are now in partnership with *Academia America* as it moves forward to meet the needs of potentially new citizens.

Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) started preparing taxes for the surrounding neighborhoods on January 15. Although the start was fairly slow while people were still waiting for their W-2 forms,

within the last two weeks business has picked up considerably. Bazan staff are taking a proactive approach with the tax assistance customers to see if they would like to sign up for a library card and follow it up with voter registration card availability. A television and movies are available for children who accompany tax assistance customers.

Brook Hollow

An eight-week Spanish course for very young children (ages 4-6) is in full swing at the Brook Hollow Branch. All lessons are in Spanish from start to finish in these free interactive, fun sessions led by volunteer instructor Nancy Iragorri. The current course is filled, but since the classes have been so successful, Ms. Iragorri will likely return to teach more young students in the future.

Brook Hollow's Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell attended the ALA Midwinter meeting. Tapley served on the Reading List Council, a group of librarians who are experts in readers' advisory from around the country that determines outstanding titles in eight genres published between November 1, 2007 and October 31, 2008. The winners were announced at a reception in late January. More information about the current list can be found at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/february2009/rusareadinglist.cfm>

Gemini Ink has been meeting at Brook Hollow for their First Thursday readings. There was such a great turnout for past meetings that they will return to Brook Hollow on February 5 with a meeting featuring fiction writer Billy Taylor and creative nonfiction writer Cary Clack. Moving readings to locations like Brook Hollow is part of an effort for the group to branch out of the downtown area.

Teens at Brook Hollow celebrated the Chinese New Year with Teen Services Librarian Mary Smith by making paper dragons and Chinese paper fans. They are also now enjoying games of Pictureka after school. Children at Brook Hollow enjoyed two Black History month events with Children's Services Librarian Ruth Chiego Turner, whose sessions had more than 200 participants both after story time and after school.

Carver

Carver Library was alive with the sounds of chanting and drumming when capoeira returned to the branch. Representatives of two of San Antonio's leading Capoeira groups performed unbelievable kicks and backflips and impressed the crowd with their display of energy and athleticism. During their hour-long demonstration their routines became increasingly daring much to the delight of the enthusiastic audience that numbered nearly 50. Afterward, some members of the audience checked out books on the African-inspired martial art that began in Brazil, while others remained to ask questions about taking up the sport as a hobby.

On February 12, Antioch Christian Academy visited the branch, searching the OPAC and checking out numerous biographies before settling down for storytime. DL Grant treated the youngsters to a special Black History presentation that highlighted family quilting traditions and ancestry. To personalize the ancestry portion of the presentation, he encouraged the children to name a relative or two from their own family trees. The presentation also included the story of Harriet Tubman. At the conclusion, the students were led on a tour that included the branch's special African-American Heritage Month display, which featured an elaborate hand-stitched ancestral quilt by Nina Fennell of the African-American Genealogy & Historical Society, as well as a book display that had to be replenished after borrowers kept checking out the materials.

February 14 was Carver's busiest day for programming. Events included Ruth Statham's stunning portrayal of Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman. Statham's performance was complemented by Milton Wilson and his Sequential Drums, which added a dramatic effect. Writer Antoinette Franklin continued Carver's writer's workshop series, focusing on scholarship essay

writing tips for college-bound students. Percussionist T-Bow González's infectious drumming demonstration was also a special treat for Carver visitors.

Our Lady of the Lake University professor and media researcher Antoinette F. Winstead visited the branch on February 21, where she delivered the lecture *The Obama Phenomenon: The Media's Role in Creating Political Superstars from FDR to Barack Obama*.

Carver Library staff noticed impressive statistics for computer classes during February offerings. Each class was filled and in some cases students arrived with their own notebook computers to take part. Among the students were a good number of senior citizens, eager to improve their technological skills.

Cody

VITA tax season is in full swing with almost 40 people being helped daily. Cody's various book clubs and film club held their monthly meetings. On February 7 "Stampin' Up" demonstrator Candy Rattray presented a "Make Your Own Valentine Cards" workshop. Attendees created cute matchbook style Valentine's cards. On February 14, Delta Sigma Theta presented "Honoring Black History" for Black History Month.

On January 31 Cody hosted an Asian New Year Celebration for the whole family. The celebration included Chinese calligraphy and art for teens and adults, stories for children, games for the whole family, a book and artifact display, and a show-'n-tell of artifacts that the patrons brought to the celebration. Several little ones were dressed in authentic costumes, and after the games all enjoyed making Chinese lanterns and dragon puppets. Every attendee received a fortune cookie.

The Montessori Schoolhouse visited Cody on February 11. The children enjoyed listening to stories and singing songs before they eagerly checked out their books for the month.

The children's librarians visited with all of the elementary schools in the Cody area to deliver Black History Month Posters, bookmarks and program flyers for upcoming events at the branch.

The library featured art by students from two area elementary schools, Thornton and Mc Dermott. Many families visited the library as their children proudly showed off their work.

Several families joined in Cody's first puzzle competition in recognition of National Puzzle Day. Puzzles ranging from picture to sudoku were available for those who accepted the challenge. Many parents had fun helping their little ones, but some adults chose to do their own sudoku, and even asked for more! After the event parents asked when Cody would be doing this again. It was a hit! In addition the library has left a jigsaw puzzle on a table in the general seating area for customers to work on. Staff have been surprised at the number of people who have stopped to work on it. Several have even spent an entire afternoon working on the puzzle.

Families were invited to Cody's Black History Month celebration which included stories and books about the first African American President as well as other noted personalities in the space program and Olympics. The event included arts and crafts to accompany the stories— as well as a giant book display for the patrons. Valentine candy crafts were also available for children.

In observance of Heart Month, the San Antonio Food Bank presented a nutrition program for children and families on February 19. The "Eat this, Not that" program focused on nutritious snacks versus high-sugar and high-sodium snacks often consumed by children after school and between meals.

Spurred by low attendance at evening events, Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl is planning on revamping the teen programs that are offered at Cody. It is hoped that programs scheduled during the 4:00-6:00 p.m. hours will bring more teens into the library.

Collins Garden

Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford has put up a display of books for Valentine's Day, a perennially popular holiday subject. She has also re-arranged the juvenile area book displays to make the new picture books easier to identify. Story times are continuing with themes that include Valentine's Day and Rodeo.

Staff members created a display of materials about Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as a display for Black History Month, which featured materials on famous African-Americans and African-American history. Presidents' Day was celebrated with a display of juvenile books featuring presidents past and present.

Teen Liaison Carlos Loera reports that there were 73 in attendance at the various teen programs offered over the past month. On February 11 the teens and the Friends of the Collins Garden Library hosted a program, "Learn how to make an Old-Fashioned Float," which was popular with all library visitors. Gaming nights on Wednesdays are attracting an average of thirteen participants and chess nights on Thursday evenings have an average of eleven teens participating.

Since the VITA tax preparation season began, volunteers have experienced an overwhelming response to VITA services. Between January 15 and February 10 the VITA volunteers have prepared 734 tax returns – an average of approximately 46 per day.

Repair work to the roof and the ceiling continues, creating occasional difficulties in entering and exiting the building, as well as accessing the collection. While the painters were patching and painting the ceiling, some parts of the collection were not easily accessible to customers, especially those who like to browse, but most were willing to have staff members retrieve items or to wait until their next visits.

Cortez

On February 5 Library Assistant Stephanie Vasquez facilitated the Cortez Book Club discussion of *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez. This selection was a favorite among the regularly attending Club members.

ESL classes presented by Project Learn to Read of San Antonio are attracting new students. Open enrollment will continue until the class has twenty regularly attending students. ESL classes are held every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Twelve people enjoyed the first of the Cortez Branch Black History Month activities in February titled "First Black Astronauts in Space," presented by Children's Services Librarian Carol Collins.

Thanks to Carol's outreach efforts, some customers have mentioned that they learned about Cortez story times through fliers at local barber shops.

When Carol visited an elementary school evening program, several people expressed interest in the free Spurs tickets the library is offering new card holders.

The Little Read Wagon weekly parent and caregiver workshops have been well-attended at Cortez. The attendance averages fifteen children and fifteen adults per weekly session.

On February 11 Library Assistant Amanda Hernandez and Branch Manager Rebecca Johnson participated in outreach at the Mission Flea Market. They spoke with nearly forty people about library services.

Forest Hills

Forest Hills is hosting the VITA income tax preparation program from January 15 through April 15.

Displays for February include the Battle of the Alamo, President's Day, the Presidential Inauguration, Martin Luther King Day, Black Heritage Month, and Feng Shui. Forest Hills is also a distribution point for Federal Income Tax Forms. Forest Hills also began the RFID program and is busy tagging the materials.

On February 8 Forest Hills conducted a program on African American Genealogy.

The Forest Hills Kit Book Club met on February 12 to discuss *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel.

On February 13 the Pastel Society held a demonstration on the use of this medium in painting.

Ralph Thompson was the discussion leader when the members of the Contrarian Viewpoints Book Club met on February 14 to discuss *Blasphemy: How the Religious Right is hijacking our Declaration of Independence* by Alan Dershowitz

During a program about the First African Americans in Space on February 7, children and parents learned about Mae Jemison and Guion Bluford and made a rocket ship.

On February 18 there was a Family Fun Storytime with read-a-louds and a craft, followed by a movie.

Great Northwest

With the help of staff from Facilities, the book drop was moved to the front of the building, next to the Reference Desk. This has resulted in a lot of compliments from the public. In addition, a shelf that formerly shelved reference materials has been moved to provide additional space for holds.

On February 13, an early school release day, Great Northwest Library hosted an "African Marketplace" for elementary-school children and their families. The session offered string games and stories, several different crafts and a scavenger hunt.

Great Northwest Library met with a local Girl Scout troop that would like to help promote reading by donating American Girl materials to the library and presenting an American Girl party for our library customers this spring. This presentation will be a major portion of their work towards a Bronze Star award, the highest earned recognition in Junior Girl Scouts.

Department Systems Aide Danny Duran continues to provide teen programming. He conducts gaming activities with a donated Wii system and is in the process of planning additional programs, such as teen book discussion groups. Librarian I Patricia King is planning adult programs.

Guerra

Children's Services Librarian Yanira Cruz planned and presented several outreach programs: at the Westwood Terrace and Passmore Elementary School Even Start English for Speakers of Other Languages sessions. She offered story time and talked about library services to a total of 62 participants. She still collaborates with Little Read Wagon delivering books to the local Metro Health Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics in the community and recently met with Little Read

Wagon, other children's librarians and WIC representatives to discuss building awareness of library services in their locations. Besides the outreach efforts, Yanira planned and presented nine in-library story times with an average attendance of fifteen.

Floater Librarian Tracey Knouse continues to build her outreach program in the senior centers in the neighborhood. In February, she made presentations about the Chinese New Year at the Virginia Gill Senior Center and the Sterling Adult Care Center. Thirty-two adults enjoyed the learning the history of the Chinese calendar and making red door hangers and bookmarks featuring the *kanji* of Fortune and Happiness.

Librarian Assistant Timothy Johnson, a member of the Big Read committee, delivered study guides of *Fahrenheit 451* to Northwest Vista College. Besides his work on the Big Read, Timothy keeps the teenagers at Guerra occupied with "Game-Ra" and now with Animangiacs, a manga book club, currently featuring the series *Death Note*. He has also been assigned to work on developing a vision statement for San Antonio Public Library's teen services. He will also be responsible for the training course next month. The topic will be "Teen Services Websites for the Post-Post Modern Public Library."

Guerra is hosting the Income Tax Service provided by VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) five days a week, until April 14. The art program for teenagers provided by SAY SI started two weeks ago and will meet every Saturday afternoon through August.

On February 7, the staff was able to visit the new bookmobile and the Scholastic Literacy Caravan. Eighteen children and eleven adults attended the story times provided by the Scholastic staff.

Celebrating special dates for February, Circulation Attendant Monica Ruiz assembled displays for Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. Guerra Patron Ann Swain loaned the library her collection of *Golden Legacy* (1972 edition) for display. *Golden Legacy* is a collection of an illustrated magazine featuring biographies of African-American historical figures. As Ms. Swain explained, these magazines were distributed for free by the Coca-Cola Company during the 1960s.

On February 3 and 10, Librarian Stephen Jackson was a co-presenter in the book group facilitation workshop, along with Cristine Mitchamore, Ramona Lucius, and Tapley Trudell. Mr. Jackson chose the subject "How to Start and Maintain a Book Club in Spanish." This topic was chosen in response to past inquiries and interest by others because Guerra has the only library employee-led book club conducted in Spanish, using books written in or translated into Spanish, in the library systems. He shared with reasons why Guerra's Club de Lectura has been successful and challenged those who attended to consider starting a book club for San Antonio's large Spanish-speaking population. His presentation included the marketing strategies used to promote interest, and strategies used to maintain interest and satisfaction by those who have already begun to attend.

Guerra welcomes Dexter Katzman and Jonathan Hernandez. Dexter Katzman began work as Branch Manager on Monday, February 2. He spent the first week at Central for general system orientation and began work at the branch on Monday, February 9. Dexter has 20 years of library experience and is bilingual in Spanish. Jonathan Hernandez comes from Westfall after being promoted as a Library Assistant. Mr. Hernandez will begin work at the branch on February 21.

Igo

Sir Lisalot (a/k/a Children's Services Librarian Lisa Taylor) presented a Family Storytime on January 31 complete with tales of dragons and knights. The children searched for dragons but only found a dragon puppet used in the new puppet stage purchased for the branch by library namesake John Igo.

Children's Services Librarian Cara Waits has developed a monthly Saturday school-age program called "Discovery." Each month's presentation will focus on science topics. For Black History Month, Cara talked about space travel and showed the children how to make rockets and Earth spinners.

Igo's first Anime Club meeting was held February 10 with a great turnout. Library Aide Megan Feeley has graciously accepted the responsibility of facilitating the group each month.

Library Assistant Rhonda Woolhouse conducted the first meeting of the Igo Media Club. Each month, participants will discuss a movie or television show.

Igo is hosting KLRN's Early On Literacy program once a month. February's turnout was by far the largest, with 92 participants. Plans have been made to hold more KLRN programs including their Play and Learn series at Igo in the next few months.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Bonnie Conner Park adjacent to the library was held February 14 with many dignitaries in attendance, including Bonnie Conner herself.

The Friends of Igo Library held their second major book sale on February 21 and 22. The group continues to grow and the sales just keep getting bigger and better.

Johnston

Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta ended January with a visit to Lawrence Powell Elementary in Northside School District. She spoke with third-grade classes about library careers. As usual, she took her portable keyboard and incorporated stories and songs into her visit with the students.

Karen completed her first Reading Club Discussion Kit for the library. She also attended holdings editor training with Barbara Lujan and Katie Enright, and is now able to assist with holdings editors tasks for the branch.

On February 9, a group of scouts from Troop 288 came by the Library for training to receive their library skills badges. Karen gave them an overview of where materials are located in the library and a lesson in using the card catalog. They enjoyed her tour and all had library cards before the visit was over.

Librarian II Rich Fields conducted his monthly book talk at the Air Force Village Retirement Community on Thursday, February 12. His selection, *The Conviction of Richard Nixon*, was turned into the play *Frost/Nixon*, upon which the current film of that name is based. The sixteen attendees thoroughly enjoyed the discussion.

Rich also put together a display of great jazz films and music CDs for Black History Month.

Branch Manager Diane Backhus visited with staff and parents at the Indian Creek Parent-Child Inc. facility on February 4. She shared information about the library and encouraged the families to come in and get library cards. On February 10, she attended the PTA meeting at Neil Armstrong Elementary. She invited the parents and teachers to come in and use their local branch and to get library cards. Many in the audience already had one, and had used it in the last month!

The branch presented a sneak preview of a San Pedro Playhouse Cellar Production, *Number 5*, on February 21. The play is based on the life of famed Paris couturier Coco Chanel.

Landa

On January 28, 29, and 30, Kerrville City and Library staff, including city council members and the assistant city manager, visited the Landa Branch Library. Branch Manager Kathy Claspill and Librarian II Teresa Pennington conducted tours of the branch, pointing out the arrangement of the collection for adult and children's items and discussing the process involved in tagging the collection in preparation for RFID implementation. The tour also included information about the historical value of the branch and the restorations of the grounds by the Landa Gardens Conservancy. The Kerrville Library has received a \$1 million grant from H-E-B for extensive renovations to their library and the surrounding grounds, and is conducting research prior to beginning the project.

On January 28, Kathy Claspill attended Wednesday night activities at the Laurel Heights Methodist Church and registered 17 members for library cards.

Landa is about halfway through tagging the branch collection for RFID; all items on the second floor are completed and staff plan to be finished with all of the collection by the end of March.

Current displays celebrate Black History Month and the books on display seem to be popular.

Las Palmas

The City's IT department upgraded the branch communications system. From February 1 to February 3, data lines, including public use Internet, were down. Prior to the beginning of the work staff alerted branch customers, who made arrangements to visit other locations. Las Palmas staff were kept busy providing circulation, reference, and reader's advisory services; they also worked on RFID tagging. Thanks to all of the SAPL folks who helped Las Palmas staff prepare for this down time, and to the staffs at neighboring Bazan, Memorial, and Central Libraries who made Las Palmas customers welcome!

Karen Michaelson's book club discussion group chose *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez for their February 12 read.

Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi visited her Good Samaritan group, telling stories and leaving a classroom book collection for them to enjoy. A Family Fun Time event focusing on President Barack Obama had an audience of ten.

Branch Manager Rebecca Alvarez attended two training sessions this month: "Basic Supervision," presented by the City training unit, and "How to Facilitate a Book Discussion," presented by SAPL staff.

Maverick

Maverick continues to be a busy venue for V.I.TA., with heavy usage of the tax service.

Program attendance continues to rise in the Adults', Children's and Teens' categories. On January 29 and 30, Children's Services Librarian Stacy Bosquez conducted tours and storytimes for kids from Nana's Learning Center. Adult Services Librarian Alice DeCristoforo had eleven in attendance for her Ladies Book Club on January 31, and hosted a program for twelve attendees on dyslexia, ADD and ADHD presented by a branch patron. Teen programming by Librarian Derika Bailey included chocolate bingo, a Movie Matinee showing *Made of Honor* on February 14 and a teen book club on February 17. Children's Services Librarian Amy Roberts attended the Friends of the Northside Libraries literary festival on January 24 at Marshall High School. In addition to meeting and listening to author Rick Riordan, she manned a booth and passed out library promotional materials and pencils to more than 400 attendees.

The staff is busy weeding the collection and starting the RFID tagging process. Staff are hoping to get some volunteers to help with the tagging, but library aides have almost finished the Juvenile Easies as of February 11.

Finally, congratulations to J.D. Elizondo for being selected for the Idea Team and to Amy Roberts for finishing the “23 Things,” a self-guided tutorial on Web 2.0 applications.

McCreless

Storytime continues to be popular at McCreless. In addition to the regular Tuesday storytimes which averaged 33 attendees during this period, Children’s Services Librarian Beverly Bixler also did one of her “Backpack” programs to enthusiastic response.

On February 11 Branch Manager Cammie Gunter offered a Valentine’s Craft program with coloring, chocolates and stick-on hearts. There were 9 attendees in a range of ages.

The Branch has a display for Black History Month and also for Lincoln’s 200th birthday.

The “Para Los Niños” program kicked off on Thursday nights, courtesy of the Little Read Wagon staff. The response was fantastic and the Branch looks forward to continuing to host this exciting series.

“Guitar Hero” continues to be a draw for teens on Tuesday afternoons.

Memorial

Memorial Branch Library hosted a Migrant Education Parent Advisory Committee meeting on January 29. Attendees were given a tour of the library and learned more about resources available to them and their families. Ideas were discussed as to how the library could better serve this group.

Valentine’s Day was celebrated at Memorial with a program by the “Bug Lady” Holly Camero. Patrons got to get up-close and personal with their favorite insects in this interactive educational program.

T-Bow González, a well-known percussion musician, performed in celebration of Black History Month at Memorial’s Tuesday Family Fun Night. Mr. González demonstrated the sounds of various instruments to the delight of the crowd.

Heraldry consultant Ramon Vásquez y Sánchez helped patrons discover the origins of their Spanish surnames and their coats of arms in a program held on February 21.

On January 18 the branch hosted a video production orientation class for 10- to 16-year-olds. The class was taught by the Casa Gutiérrez Multi-Media Center and provided an orientation to an ongoing program for kids who would like to learn the craft of video production, whether as writers, actors, directors or camera operators.

“Play and Learn” party nights hosted by Little Read Wagon continued in February. Children eight years old and younger and their families enjoyed fun activities and snacks and were given learning supplies and children’s books to take home.

Memorial Branch Library’s “Lost” Viewer’s Club continued screening episodes from Season One, and attracted new young viewers. Books and authors were mentioned in the program and offered for check out.

Pan American

Children's Services Librarian Raissa Marking has been keeping the children busy with stories and crafts. Every Monday afternoon at 3:30 a different theme is planned for Family Fun. On February 9, eight children made Valentines. George Washington's birthday was celebrated on February 23 with silhouette making. Wednesday's ABC Club preschool story time studied the letter N on February 4, with 17 children learning about Native Americans and making totem poles. Octopus crafts for the letter O with oatmeal cookies, Oreo cookies, and opposites were part of the program for February 11, when 25 children joined in the fun. Raissa noted that was the most children for a program since the branch reopened the end of December. The letter P for pink, penguins, popcorn, and punch was celebrated on February 18. Wednesday's 6:00 p.m. B.A.C.K. (Books and Crafts for Kids) Pack programs, which began this year, are seeing some attendance. On February 4, six children enjoyed patriotic stories and a patriotic craft. On February 11, the children celebrated the Carter G. Woodson, the originator of Black History Month, and on February 18, the first African Americans in space: Guion Bluford and Mae Jemison.

Raissa also visited Bellaire Elementary on February 6. She spoke with six groups of pre-kinder, kindergarten, and first-graders, a total of 132 total students. On February 12, she visited with 17 children at the Texas Migrant Council meeting and shared stories about farm animals.

Teen Night, held every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. has steadily increasing in attendance. On January 29, six teens enjoyed a freestyle craft session along with snacks. February 5, nine participants made picture Valentine's Day cards. Teens made stained glass hearts were made on February 12 and enjoyed video games on February 19.

On February 14 Pan American started a monthly Saturday Movie Time by showing *Kung Fu Panda*. Currently movies are scheduled only through May until the response is measured. Hopefully the movies chosen will be of interest to all ages and attract a good following.

Every Saturday the branch is hosting Teen Art Workshops presented by Say Si. The first class held on January 31 had five participants. The February 7 class had six participants, with one young man saying he will be here for all of the workshops because he was so excited.

The adults are still enjoying Tai Chi classes every Monday evening. Attendance continues to average 17 for each class.

A special program on feral cats was held on Tuesday, February 10, with 20 participants (no cats allowed).

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

Throughout the year, the librarians at the Bannwolf Library offer training on the use of Homework Helper and Learning Express Library to the students at Reagan High School. The library staff has received so much positive feedback from students that training sessions were held for teachers on January 16. Teachers have promised to promote these two services to their students.

The librarians at the Bannwolf Library are sad to announce the resignation of Marti Taylor, a full-time library assistant. The library is currently accepting applications for the position.

San Pedro

Storytime is held twice a week, BACK (Books and Crafts for Kids) Pack for school-aged participants once a week, the teen group once a week, and Family Fun programs once a month.

For the late January Family Fun time Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton hosted an Asian New Year Festival attended by 46 people. The kids made dragons, Chinese zodiac mobiles,

Chinese lanterns, and even abacuses! On February 14, Betsy hosted a Valentine Fun-Funny Valentine Family Fun event.

Betsy facilitates three offsite book clubs: the fifth-grade Hawthorne Academy book club, the fifth-grade Cotton Elementary book club, and the sixth-grade Young Women's Leadership Academy book club. Each club has fifteen students and meets monthly during the students' lunch periods at their respective school libraries. During each meeting, the students discuss the selected book. Additionally, at each meeting the Children's Services Librarian book talks 10-15 books, most of which are checked out by the students.

Betsy also conducted storytime and delivered books to five different childcare/preschool facilities, attending to sixteen classes and reading to 231 children.

Two schools bring classes to the library on a weekly basis. These schools are 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 and other branch staff spend approximately thirty minutes with the students, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials. The two schools bring approximately sixty-five students a week to the San Pedro Library.

Betsy conducted a tour of the library for the 75 third- graders from Beacon Hill Elementary School.

At the request of the librarian at Cotton Elementary School (one of the book club schools), Betsy conducted a workshop for the SAISD librarians professional group on the activities and crafts to be presented at San Pedro Library's Asian New Year festival.

On February 10 Branch Manager Michael Kaminski gave a tour of the library to 12 members of Maria Adiolez's ESL class which meets at Rochester Elementary School. Members of the class who did not already have library cards signed up to receive them.

On Tuesday February 17 the Women's Literature Book Group met to discuss Julia Glass' novel *Three Junes*.

Thursday night chess continues to be popular. Host Department Systems Aide "Hondo" Aguilar creates an atmosphere of fun and camaraderie for the participants.

On Tuesday February 3 the Craft Group met to work on Valentine crafts. Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz always manages to bring in interesting ideas and presenters for this event.

Semmes

The Semmes meeting room was kept busy during the month of February. The Census Bureau used the meeting room all month for administering tests for potential Census takers. The Blue Star Contemporary Art Center presented a workshop on February 7. Photographer Larry Leisner shared a slide lecture documenting natural preserves and conservation projects throughout Texas. Participants were invited to bring their digital cameras and document the surrounding natural environments at Comanche Lookout Park. On February 13 a press conference announcing the recent SAPL survey results took place at the Semmes Branch. To celebrate Black History month, on February 21 Ruth Stratham presented "Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad". Several Semmes Cinema presentations were well attended throughout the month. Semmes' anime/manga group the Otaku Ninjas celebrated spring on February 22 with a fun-filled afternoon of video games, cosplay (costumed role-playing) and snacks.

Semmes staff were also kept busy attending classes and meetings. Librarian II Debye Nicholl and Library Aide Emily Winkler attended the "How to Facilitate a Book Discussion" workshop. Emily, who recently received her MLIS, is excited to be starting a True Crime book club at Semmes. Librarian I Oscar Gonzales was elected Vice-President of La Estrella de Tejas, the San Antonio chapter of REFORMA.

Thousand Oaks

Congratulations to Kim Neidigh for having his poem "Paleogastronomy" published in the *Leading Edge*, a science fiction and fantasy magazine!

Big change has come to Thousand Oaks! The coin boxes for the public computers were installed at the beginning of February. The patrons have welcomed this new addition to the public internet service.

The VITA service is very popular with the community and lines have been long!

The programs at Thousand Oaks continue to have strong turnouts. The San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition program on February 1 had 22 attendees. The program teaches people how to trap cats humanely and provides options for spaying and neutering.

KLRN's "Little Bites, Big Steps" is a nutrition program to teach caregivers how to promote healthy lifestyle and eating habits in children. This program is offered every Tuesday evening in February.

Black History Month was celebrated during the Family Fun and B.A.C.K. Pack programs in February. Children had the opportunity to learn about African Americans in space, President Barack Obama, African American athletes, and the founder of African American History Month.

Toddler Time and Story Time have had large turnouts. Rodeo and Valentine's Day were a couple of the themes the children enjoyed.

Jorge Chávez's book club read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. The book was well received and enjoyed by the members of the book club. The group will read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury next month.

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

Children's Services Librarian Debra Bryant and Library Assistant Virginia Hurt present the Storytime and Babytime programs. Storytime attendance averages 19 attendees, and Babytime attendance averages 10 attendees. Librarian I Sherrie Langston Hardin conducts Teen programming every week on Wednesdays. The Teen programs included Rock Band, Dance Dance Revolution, decoupage collage boxes, and a showing of the movie *Wall-E*.

The Tobin Library serves as a testing location for the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau is recruiting temporary part-time and full-time census takers for the 2010 Census.

The Tobin Library welcomed new circulation attendant Adriana Jalomo.

Former Branch Manager Wendy Friedman had 12 attendees for the Tobin Library Book Group which met on February 4.

Library Assistant Virginia Hurt hosted two Family Fun events on February 14: "President Barack Obama: First African-American President;" and a Valentine card craft.

Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell held a book sale on February 21.

Westfall

Westfall welcomed a new manager this month as Cheryl Sheehan transferred from the Igo Branch. She is spending her initial time getting acquainted with the staff, patrons, and community. Much thanks goes to interim manager Lucy Green for “holding the fort” before her arrival. Westfall also said farewell to Aide Jonathan Hernandez as he transferred to Guerra. Best wishes to him as he begins his new position as Library Assistant.

In addition to regularly occurring events, programming at the branch continued with some special presentations. Thanks to the hard work of Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza, patrons were able to experience the soulful sounds of Cecil Carter and his musical accompanist at “Jazz Appreciation”; the birthdays of authors Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll were celebrated with films about their notable works; the life and times of Abraham Lincoln were discussed with materials from the Library of America produced in recognition of his bicentennial and Presidents’ Day; and job seekers learned new skills at the Résumé Workshop. Children and teens were also treated to some special programs with Children’s Services Librarian Imelda Merino where participants learned about cowboys, created Valentines for their loved ones, and more. Imelda also introduced Cheryl Sheehan as the upcoming Teen Liaison for the Branch as she prepares to take over this task. A change in facilitator for the branch’s Literary Book Club occurred as Cheryl took over the role this month. The meeting room also saw use by some new outside groups, including a presentation on ADA by another City Department.

For Outreach efforts this month, Monica Garza and Cheryl Sheehan met with the director of the nearby new Granados Adult and Senior Center which had its grand opening in January. Staff from both institutions are excited about future collaboration, and resource sharing has already begun. A visit was also made to the Bob Ross Senior Center, where copies of the Big Read nook were distributed. Mrs. Merino’s visits with the children and parents of the area continued with visits to local day cares and a visit to the library by students of the Discovery School.

Library Assistant Theresa Ybarra and Department Systems Aide Andrea Silva are helping to increase system-wide use of self-checkout terminals by travelling to other branches to encourage staff and patrons alike to become more comfortable with the service. As part of SAPL’s plan to improve training of librarians, Monica Garza helped her committee interpret and sort information gathered via survey for the Career Paths group.