

**San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
March 25, 2009**

Administration

Director's Office

On February 23, Library Director Ramiro Salazar accompanied Library Foundation Chair Gene Ames and Foundation President/CEO Kaye Lenox on a site visit to Las Vegas County/Clark Library District to observe best practices related to library technologies.

At the request of Dennis Campa, Director of the City's Department of Community Initiatives. Ramiro attended the February 25 Testimonial Breakfast sponsored by the San Antonio Education Partnership.

The Texas Library Association Legislative Day program on February 25 was very successful. Ramiro accompanied several Library Board members and other Library stakeholders to Austin to visit with local area legislators to advocate for issues affecting libraries on a local, statewide, and nationwide basis. The group also presented the local legislators with framed photographs of the Central Library for display in their offices. Through the generous support of the Library Foundation, a charter bus was secured to transport the group to Austin.

During the March 5 City Council ceremonial agenda Councilmen Justin Rodríguez and John Clamp presented the "Be One in a Million" Library Card Campaign to their Council colleagues and challenged them to support the initiative. City Councilwomen Diane Cibrian and Jennifer Ramos responded by pledging \$2,500 each from their HDS funds to support a city-wide school challenge. Ramiro attended the session, accompanied by Library Board Chair Jean Brady and representatives from the Library Foundation.

The Library's new webpage is drawing lots of favorable attention. On March 10 Ramiro and Acting Library Services Administrator Jennifer Velásquez briefed the City Council Quality of Life Committee on the upcoming webpage launch. The official launch took place on March 17 with a news conference at the Central Library, attended by Board Chair Jean Brady, Library Trustee Laurie Gruenbeck, Friends of the San Antonio Public Library President Nancy Gandara, and Library Foundation President Kaye Lenox. The event was covered by KENS-TV, KABB-TV, KWEX-TV/Univision, and WOAI News Radio.

The March 17 meeting of the San Antonio Medical Rotary Club received a presentation on the Library system from Ramiro and Board Chair Jean Brady.

The Library staff and Board were pleased to learn that one of the Library's nominees for a Texas Library Association Award had been named as a recipient. The Landa Gardens Conservancy has been selected to receive the 2009 TLA Library Benefactor Award.

Ramiro and Assistant Library Directors Aubrey George and Kendra Trachta will attend the City's two-day Executive Team Retreat on March 26 and 27.

Branch Services

Joel Bangilan is overseeing adult programming in addition to his supervision of the Bazan, Collins Gardens, Forest Hills, Great Northwest, Guerra, Igo, Johnston, Las Palmas, Maverick, Memorial, Westfall Branches and the Outreach Department. In this reporting period, he visited with managers and staff of Johnston, Las Palmas, Maverick, and Memorial Branch Libraries.

Joel continues his work as a member of the Newbery Award Committee, continuing with the reading to properly participate in the selection of the 2010 honorees. His work on the Diversity Council is keeping the Asian and Pacific American Library Association connected to the American Library Association as a whole. His work on the programming committee of the Texas Library Association is resulting in a program at the upcoming conference about LEEDs certified libraries.

Outreach Services

The bookmobile made a special visit to Elmendorf, where staff made 35 new library cards and checked out 252 books. Approximately 65 Elmendorf residents, representing all age groups, came out to see the bookmobile, and the request for a regular stop to be established was the most frequently asked question of the day. One youngster who came aboard the vehicle assisted his mother, who spoke no English, in acquiring her first library card. He explained to staff, "This is the first time I ever got to go to the library" because the branches are too far away. After escorting his mother, with her books, back home, he returned with his older sister and her baby, so that she could get a library card too. Plans are being made to develop a regular stop for the area.

The bookmobile also visited Seton Home, where 16 young mothers and their babies checked out books and 11 new library cards were issued. Other special visits were made to Independence Hill Retirement Community, and the San Pedro and Bannwolf-Reagan branches.

Regular service to the two ARC-SA centers began March 17. The centers' clients, accompanied by their teachers, came onto the bookmobile to check out books.

The nonprofit organization Public Allies hosted a visit by the Scholastic Literacy Van on March 14 at Southside Baptist Church. The event, entitled "Read around the World," gave children the opportunity to learn about other countries and have their "passports" stamped for each country. Outreach intern Shannon Calderon organized the event; Jesse Aguilar was on hand to make library cards.

Joel Bangilan, Sheila Acosta, Val Capelo, Trina Smith, Julia Lazarin and Ramona Lucius presented story times and registered new library patrons at the Healthy Baby & Child Expo, March 14 and 15.

Arrangements are being made for Outreach staff and members of the "Be One in a Million" Committee to visit most of DCI's senior nutrition sites throughout the spring and summer, to make library cards. The first visit came March 11, when Ramona Lucius visited Primrose at Mission Hills.

Little Read Wagon

On February 28 Little Read Wagon offered a teacher workshop at the Las Palmas Branch Library. Gina Brudi briefly introduced herself and discussed library services available for child care providers. Adam Spana once again shared valuable information about online library resources. Ernest Mendoza of PACES Early Childhood Intervention provided information on their services and the importance of addressing developmental delays and disorders as early as possible. All of this was in addition to the usual early literacy information and make-and-take opportunities offered by Little Read Wagon. This combination made a rich learning experience for our participants.

The *Para los niños* series were completed at the Cortez and McCreless Branch Libraries on March 3 and 5, respectively. The next seven-week series will be at the Pan American Branch Library. Another *Para los niños* Party Night, funded by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, was held at the Memorial Branch Library on March 9. Interest has grown tremendously, resulting in the need to schedule two sessions, one at 4:30 and another at 6:30 to accommodate the crowd.

Little Read Wagon staff also had opportunities to receive training. On March 6 Cresencia Huff, Julia Lazarin and Corinne Sanchez attended Linda Ernst's lapsit workshop sponsored by AALS. Staff also attended Thom Barthelmess' presentation on children's book illustrations. Information from both workshops will be used to enhance outreach and training efforts.

Children's Services

SAPL Children's staff enjoyed two extraordinary training opportunities during the month. Linda Ernst, author and nationally-recognized consultant on library service to infants, presented an inspiring workshop of Baby Rhyme Time on March 6. Her workshop, sponsored by AALS, offered considerable research-based information on why serving the library's very youngest customers is so important, as well as an afternoon of practical advice based on best practices gleaned from libraries across the country.

On March 12, Thom Barthelmess, newly appointed Director of the Butler Center for Children's Literature at Dominican University, helped the children's staff develop both a critical eye and an expanded vocabulary when analyzing picture books. Thom's background in art along with his years of experience as a Children's Services Librarian provided a credible and knowledgeable backdrop for an afternoon of picture book discussion

Digital Services

The Digital Services Team is working on improvements for the beta launch of the new website. They have added new rotating service ads to highlight government documents, self-checkout, and new library cards. The team has also added new content to Frequently Asked Questions to provide patrons with information regarding Fines & Fees, Interlibrary Loan, and Meeting Room Rentals.

Librarian I Adam Spana conducted a session in the use of the library's online resources at Little Read Wagon's continuing education training at Las Palmas Library; trained staff at the Johnston and Bazan Libraries in the use of the MedLine Plus medical reference site; led a research database class for students from Wayland Baptist University; and prepared the library's new federated search service, WebFeat, for its public launch.

Adam and Digital Services Manager Rolf Laun held training classes to teach staff how to use our new Business Decision Database. This database combines geographic information with census and marketing data to analyze target markets for business and strategic planning. The San Antonio Public Library is the first public library in Texas to offer this service. They have trained approximately 40 students over the past few weeks.

The Digital Services Team continues to provide ongoing support for web updates and special programs. They are also working on a new Featured Event section that will allow advertisement for system wide events on the home page of the new Internet.

Public Relations

The Big Read 2009 kickoff on February 28 was attended by Library Board Chair Jean Brady and San Antonio Fire Department Chief Charles Hood, who officially declared March and April Big Read months in San Antonio. A highlight of the ceremony was delivery of five copies of the 2009 Big Read selection *Fahrenheit 451* by a fire truck and two firefighters in full equipment. *Express-News* Book Editor Steve Bennett covered the event.

On March 3 Public Relations Manager Beth Graham met with representatives of McDonald's and their advertising/PR agency KGB Texas to discuss possible McDonald's participation in the Be One in a Million Library card campaign. Appearances by Ronald McDonald are being scheduled at branch libraries to promote reading and libraries.

"Be One in a Million" continued in the spotlight on March 5, when it was recognized during the City Council ceremonial agenda. All City Council representatives present pledged their support to the campaign.

Requests for additional information on the "Be One in a Million" campaign poured into the Public Relations office after TLA Legislative Day and a presentation to City Department Directors by Kendra Trachta. A short release with information on the campaign was sent in response.

On March 13 Beth appeared on WOAI-TV's "San Antonio Living" program to promote The Big Read 2009. The "Freedom to Write" workshops moderated by Central Reference Library Assistant Lyle Rosdahl were highlighted, as well as the ArtPace "Freedom to Create" workshops for teens. Beth presented "Living" host Shelly Miles with an official Big Read copy of *Fahrenheit 451*.

Beth had a lunch meeting with San Antonio *Business Journal* reporter Donna Tuttle on March 16 to discuss possible stories on SAPL business resources.

The launch of the new SAPL website www.mysapl.org on March 17 was a media success, with coverage by KENS-TV, KABB-TV, KWEX-TV/Univision and WOAI News Radio. Website project coordinator and acting Library Services Administrator Jennifer Velásquez was interviewed by KENS and KABB, Library Director Ramiro Salazar was interviewed by KWEX, and Beth was interviewed by WOAI Radio.

On March 18 Beth attended a breakfast meeting of the San Antonio Social Media Club to learn more about social media as outlets for library publicity. That afternoon, Beth, who is Professional Development Chair for the San Antonio Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), hosted a teleseminar presented by PRSA national on "Developing an Approval Process that Doesn't Drive You Nuts."

San Antonio public relations practitioners sponsored a lunch on March 23 for local media employees who have been laid off, to allow them to begin networking as part of their job search. Both Beth and Ramiro hosted *Express-News* reporters to the event.

Graphic Designers Ana Farr and Tiffanie Wilson finished up work on the Big Read and House on Mango Street promotional items, as well as producing a calendar of events for Women's History Month and a poster and bookmark for César Chávez Month. They are now working on Summer Reading, new promotional items for the "Be One in a Million" campaign, and the next issue of *Bookmarks*.

Teen Services

Teen Services hosted two major events during Spring Break. On March 9, Sylvia Pachecano hosted the first annual Teen Film Festival at the Central Library. Over 60 student films were submitted, and of those, 35 films were selected. Hot fresh popcorn was served to 42 film attendees. The Teen Film Festival was a smashing success, and Sylvia is already planning next year's event.

This year's Teen Read Week Kick-Off at Central Library (the Zombie Prom) was named first-prize winner of the Young Adult Library Services Association Best Teen Read Week Celebration for 2008. As first place winner, Central Teen Services received an author visit from Kimberly Pauley, author of *Sucks to Be Me: The All-True Confessions of Mina Hamilton, Teen Vampire (Maybe)*. The author visit took place as part of the Teen Tech Week Celebration, "Press Play." On March 13, Ms. Pauley presented a Teen Writers Workshop and nineteen teens attended. After the workshop, Teen Services held a Vampire Party. Seventy-seven people had fun making "Sucks to Be Me" and bat buttons, participating in a "Blood Red Taste Test," listening to DJ GQVelasquez spin, and eating yummy snacks. Ms. Pauley also signed free copies of her book for teens and their parents. Photos

of the event are posted on the Teen Services Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/210teenlibrary/>).

Kudos to staff - Customer comments

"A gentleman came into the Igo Branch this afternoon and said he 'just loved the posters that the library puts out.' So I explained to him about the hardworking women in the graphics department and he was lauding the Black History Month 2009 poster and said he had it framed at home.

"I just wanted to pass along that your hard work is appreciated." – submitted by **Michelle Ricondo, Igo Branch Library**, March 5

Committees and Work Teams

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

RFID Team

Temporary workers have completed tagging the Thousand Oaks and Maverick Branch Library collections. After mid-March the remaining branches, Forest Hills, Memorial, Collins Gardens, Landa and Reagan, will begin tagging. Forest Hills and Memorial will be tagged simultaneously until the lease on the conversion carts expires. Staff in those branches is being trained to use the circulation pads to apply the tags for after the leases expire. At Landa and Collins Gardens, staff are tagging materials and have completed major portions of those collections. Completion of the final project is estimated for mid-April.

At the Central Library, all circulating collections have been tagged. On a daily basis, from 30 to 50 items are returned that have not been tagged. At that point, the items are tagged and returned to the collection. The final order for the RFID equipment for the remaining branch libraries has been placed.

Central Library

Alamo Area Library Systems

AALS staff will hold their annual Spring Membership Meeting March 20 in Bulverde. Dr. Coleen Grissom will be presenting a program, "A Novel Approach to Life". The AALS Awards will be presented, the new AALS Web site will make its debut, and attendees will tour the new Bulverde/Spring Branch Library.

AALS presented several workshops in March: Infant Lapsit Programs by Linda Ernst; Improving Collections and Services to Special Populations by Linda Plevak; and Storytime Techniques by Jeanette Larson.

Children's Services Department

Staff in the Children's Services Department happily welcomed a new colleague, Susan Frances-Maldonado, on February 28. Susan comes to the Department as a Librarian I, filling the vacancy left when Leslie Elsasser was promoted last fall. Susan had previously worked as a Library Assistant at Memorial, and she continues to present storytime at that branch in light of their current vacancy.

The Department's biggest success of the month was the come-and-go craft series held during the San Antonio ISD Spring Break. Over the five day period, a total 250 attendees (children and grown-ups) had fun with five different crafts: sun catchers (Monday), jumping fish (Tuesday), sun flowers (Wednesday), sun books (Thursday) and snakes (Friday). A few families attended all five sessions, although most dropped in only one or two days. Staff prepared book displays to compliment each day's craft activity and also had the chance to visit informally with many young customers as they busily worked away on their projects.

Reference Department

On March 23 the Reference Department hosted a program on identity theft prevention, presented by Citibank Financial Center Manager Juan Solís.

Reference Department Manager Dan Stanford and Library Assistant Lyle Rosdahl represented the library at the annual San Antonio Low Vision Expo on March 14. Each year this is the single best opportunity to communicate with the low vision community about Library resources and services. Library staff estimated that they spoke with approximately 200 Expo attendees during the event.

Pannaga Prasad organized a program, "Financial Aid Applications for Free College Money," presented by the Council on South Texas Economic Progress (COSTEP) on February 22. The business service representative offered assistance on the application process to secure funding for college through grants, work-study programs and loans. Both parents and students found the event very informative.

On March 14, Diana Starrett and Pannaga Prasad presented "10 Things You've Got to Know About Paying for College," which offered information on how to get the best return from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The session was presented by EmPowerment 21.

As part of the Big Read, on March 14 Stephanie Hatch presented a teacher's workshop focused on helping teachers better understand the electronic resources provided by the library. This will take place on Saturday March 14.

Also as part of the Big Read, Lyle Rosdahl offered two "Freedom to Write" workshops on March 14 and 21.

Technical Services Department

Technical Services staff are pleased to congratulate Margo Guzmán on her promotion to Collection Development Manager.

Margo, Technical Services Supervisor Martha Knott, and Collection Development Librarian Lucia Silva attended training on the BusinessDecision database, which enabled Lucia to create demographic reports for the new District 3 and District 9 branches.

Martha and Margo attended the Urban Library Council Foresight 2020 audioconference on the Future of Public Library Funding for Urban and Metropolitan Libraries held on March 11.

Margo, Lucia Silva, and Children's Collection Development Librarian Nohemí López-Rosdahl visited staff at four branches (Memorial, Johnston, Westfall, and Cortez) to determine the collection development needs for each location.

Bibliographic Services Supervisor Katie Enright presented a Create Lists class on March 17.

Martha and Nohemí attended the 2010 TLA Program Committee meeting on February 27.

Martha attended the TexShare Implementation Task Force meeting on February 26 and the Texas Electronic Information Working Group meeting on March 6. She also reviewed and scored the 2009 TLA Awards nominations and participated in a conference call with committee members to select the recipients.

Teen Services Department

Teen Services staff host programs for teens Monday through Thursday afternoons.

Mondays with Librarian I Violeta Garza: The first Teen Advisory Group meeting occurred on February 23, where teens shared ideas on how the Central Teen Services Department can make their library experience more inviting. The group met again on March 16. Teen fans of Guitar Hero competed in the monthly tournament on March 2. On March 9 teens got to play Wii Sports with Teen Services' brand new Wii console. On March 23, gamers were given the opportunity to play Super Smash Brothers Melee.

Tuesdays with Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce: Tuesdays are Guitar Hero nights for teens. On February 24 and March 3, 10, 17 and 24, enthusiastic teens played Guitar Hero II and III.

Wednesdays with Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano: Sylvia hosted teen to play NBA LIVE '09 on February 25, and March 4, 11 and 18.

Thursdays with Library Assistant Regina Almanza: On February 26 and March 5, teens painted posters for the Teen Services Department. Their creations are currently on display in the department. On March 12, teens made a dream journal. Various dream interpretation books were set out and checked out by the teens. On March 19, teens used various sized marshmallows to create some fluffy and edible marshmallow animals. Pictures from this program are posted on the Teen Services Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/210teenlibrary/>).

On Saturday, March 7, Ms. Pachecano invited the Alamo Cosplay Troop to the monthly Baka Onigiri Con Ost (Stupid Riceball with Cheese) International Anime/ Manga Club. The Troop talked about cosplaying, conventions and costuming. Teens also learned how to make costumes inexpensively. Photos of the program are posted on the Teen Services Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/210teenlibrary/>). (Cosplay is a type of performance art whose participants outfit themselves, with often-elaborate costumes and accessories, as a specific character. Characters are usually sourced in various Japanese and East Asian media, including manga, anime, tokusatsu, comic books, graphic novels, video games, and fantasy movies. [Wikipedia])

Tours and Groups

Art classes from Fox Tech High School reserved the computers in the Central Teen Services Department to do research for school projects on January February 26 and 27.

Texana/Genealogy Department

The Lambda Theta Sorority met in Texana/Genealogy on February 19. Nineteen participants were given an introduction to the department and how to begin a genealogy project by Frank Faulkner.

On February 27 Matt DeWaelsche and Andy Crews attended the regular meeting of the local archivists group.

Sylvia Reyna represented the library at the February 28 Houston Street Fair.

In a program on "Genealogical Software," on March 3, Andy demonstrated various software products to a group of 14 and discussed the pros and cons of each.

Matt spoke to a group of 24 at a meeting of the Southwest Texas Genealogical Society held in Castroville on 7 March.

March 21 saw an all-day series of workshops on various genealogical topics. Debbie Countess spoke on census records, and Sylvia on official and alternative sources of vital records. Andy

discussed various state and local records used for research. Finally, Frank described major federal records such as military, immigration, and others.

Matt and Andy continue to work with the City Records Facilities to properly house City records. They recently finished former assistant city manager Jelynn Burley's papers and will begin a new group.

Debbie and Sylvia have almost finished duplicating the Menke oral history tapes. Sylvia and volunteers continue to transcribe tapes, and Sylvia is also indexing the records of the McCullum Funeral Home, available in the Central Library archives.

A volunteer is entering Perry Kallison's handwritten notes for his "Old Trading Post" radio show. Entered so far are 1949 through July 1951. Bexar County Commissioners Court Minutes have been transcribed for the period July 1837 through October 1841.

Finally, Kate Simpson is working with Texana/Genealogy staff in putting together a local history blog to be added to the future Texana/Genealogy section of the new library webpage.

Branch Libraries

Bazan

The new furniture for the Bazan Branch Library has arrived. Bazan has received ten new round reading tables with four chairs each for the general public. Five of the tables have built-in electrical connections for users with laptop computers. In addition there are ten comfortable reading chairs. The children's area received six new round tables with four matching wooden chairs each, and 95 new chairs and 12 new tables were ordered for the meeting room. Four modular desks were provided for the staff workroom. In this area the desks provide ample room for staff which needs to work away from the public for a period of time. These desks include electrical connections for computers at each unit.

Currently being on exhibit at the branch are the paintings of Memorial Branch Librarian II Sandra Calderon Griffin

Brook Hollow

Brook Hollow was the lucky recipient of a Nintendo Wii from purchased with funds from the Loan Star Libraries Grant Program. Their first Wii gaming event was March 11 during Teen Tech Week. In addition to the Wii gaming, the teens celebrated Teen Tech Week by completing Internet scavenger hunts, as well as creating digital avatars that will be displayed on the teen message board. Brook Hollow staff also took part in the events by creating their own avatars that were on display for the week. Teen Services Librarian Mary Smith is also serving on the Teen Summer Reading Committee.

As part of the Big Read initiative, Brook Hollow teens participated in ArtPace Workshops this month. Brook Hollow has many budding artists who were able to express their talent under the direction of ArtPace educators. Art resulting from this activity will be displayed in the Gallery at the Central Library.

Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell is collaborating with Digital Services Manager Rolf Laun to present the first readers' advisory training course for SAPL. The course, which will begin in late March, is expected to be repeated about every 3 months at different locations throughout the system.

Librarian II Ruth Chiego Turner has been appointed to both the Idea Team and Floating Collections Committee for SAPL. She also delivered a presentation about Brook Hollow at the February Library Board of Trustees meeting held at the branch. The Executive Board of the San Antonio Public

Library Friends group also met at Brook Hollow in early March. In addition, a new group, the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition, has begun using the branch's meeting room. Their first meeting was very well-attended and the group plans to continue meeting at Brook Hollow on the second Tuesday of every month.

Brook Hollow has the work of Brianna Burnett on exhibit as a part of SAPL's Women's History Month programming. Ms. Burnett's work consists mainly of tintypes and photograms. In her words, "(I) interpret stories, retell memories, and unravel narratives. This act of retelling becomes an oral reference of time and collection. I adore a collection and find comfort in pattern and multiples. As humans the stories we collect keep us all connect to being alive and experiencing life. I envision this body of work as being a collection of images which reference experience, past, commonality, and community."

Branch Manager Beth Schorlemer is now acting as a mentor for an IMLS grant recipient. This student is exploring public library work and Beth is working on facilitating her learning experience at the branch.

Thanks to the Brook Hollow Library Friends group, there are four new plants to be enjoyed on the Library's grounds!

Carver

The last of the computer courses offered at the Carver Branch Library had peak attendance. Customers continued inquiring about classes up to nearly two weeks after the last course. There is much anticipation for the next round of computer training scheduled at the branch in the future, as more customers continue to realize the benefit of improving technological skills.

The *Express-News* featured an article on historian Juan González, who presented Black History/Black Inventors at Carver Library, drawing an impressive audience and sharing little-known information about the contributions of African-Americans. Highlights of the presentation included González's model of a slave ship complete with human cargo and the display of his extensive collection of inventions by African-Americans.

An initiative to inspire youngsters to achieve was launched at Carver Library in late February, attracting considerable media buzz. More than 60 children and adults attended the 1,000 Books for 1,000 Kids event, the branch's final program commemorating African-American Heritage Month. Among the guests were SAPL Trustee Gloria Malone and keynote speaker Nevil Shed, who shared his experiences as a member of the Texas Western University (now the University of Texas at El Paso) Miners, which "was the first [team] to start an all-black lineup in an NCAA basketball championship game," the *Express-News* reported. Shed spoke of one of his other accomplishments, which was fulfilling a promise to his mother to complete his education. He urged the students to do the same and to keep reading. He said they should view the ending of each book they read as "to be continued" by following up with yet another good read.

Library Assistant Rose Marie Rodriguez helped the branch kick off Women's History Month with a prominent display depicting important events in United States history involving females.

March 7 was a busy day at the library, where Austin-born artist Clifford Moore held an exhibit of pieces from his extensive collection. Meantime, outside the building children cheered the arrival of a fire truck driven by San Antonio Fire Department. The firefighters were on hand to help promote SAPL's Big Read selection, *Fahrenheit 451*. Adults and children alike were able to talk to the firefighters and learn things about the profession and the handling fires they hadn't known. The following week, customers were treated to another Big Read program, when the San Pedro Players

performed a dramatic reading of selections from Bradbury's acclaimed work. The branch screened the film adaptation of the book on March 16. A discussion of the book was held on March 18.

Carver's Anime Club, sponsored by Children's Services Librarian Amy Thorne, continues to thrive with new members joining every month. The branch has become a favorite gathering spot for devotees of the genre. Amy, who also serves as the branch's teen liaison, has recruited several members willing to serve as library volunteers. During March, Amy, who offers a nighttime infant lapsit program, enjoyed some of largest participation ever for the program and she plans to continue attracting more families.

Cody

On February 23, Children's Services Librarians Trina Smith and Sheila Acosta visited the Eleanor Kolitz Academy for a story time and book talks with the first graders. After the book talks, the children were so excited, they wanted to read them right away.

On March 2 *Read Across America* was celebrated in a big way at the Cody Branch with a Dr. Seuss story time and a variety of Dr. Seuss crafts. Children created Dr. Seuss hats and Horton's ears, and were challenged with a variety of Dr. Seuss puzzles. Everyone who dropped by voted for his or her favorite Dr. Seuss book.

During Spring Break, Ms. Sheila and Ms. Trina, as they are known to the children, hosted a "make and take" every afternoon in the children's area. Arts and crafts ranging from sun catchers to animal puppets were available for the children to make and take all week.

Artwork from the students at Mead Elementary School was exhibited in the month of March.

Susan Campbell from the Medina River Natural Area presented the San Antonio Natural Parks Division's program sponsored *Mammal Skins and Skulls* on March 12 to Cody families. A nature craft concluded the program.

Children of all ages were treated to the movie Wall-E on Wednesday morning, March 11.

Sheila hosted the Montessori Schoolhouse on Thursday, March 12, by offering a story time and assisting the children with book selections for the month.

Green was the color of the day as Trina and Sheila hosted Family Fun on Saturday, March 14. Families were entertained by the musical group Irish Flats, and then both librarians read stories and limericks celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Irish arts and crafts concluded the St. Patrick's celebration.

Both Sheila and Trina volunteered to assist with story times for little ones attending the Healthy Baby Expo sponsored by HEB on March 14-15 at the Alamodome.

In addition to attending an AALS workshop on Baby Time and Toddler Time on March 6, librarians Trina Smith and Sheila Acosta will be attending TLA.

Cody's Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl was involved in outreach for the Big Read in March. She visited Clark High School to pass out free *Fahrenheit 451* books, reader's guides and information on teen programs. Connie also participated in family activities by reading *Green Eggs and Ham* during the *Read Across America* program and teaching a craft during the March Family Fun day.

Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Blow, Department Systems Aide Valerie Cruz, Library Aide Julie Pantusa, Library Assistants Deborah Bender, Cristina Abbenante, Sarah Carolan and Kimberly

Ammerman, created a large colorful display to attract new readers in the community to the Big Read celebration featuring Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

Cody Adult Book Clubs are averaging attendance of 14 to 20 per club each month. Selections included Richard North Patterson's *The Exile*; Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*, and any mystery by author A.C. Baantjer. The film club had a lively discussion on the film *Roman Holiday*. Many new customers are inquiring about the requirements to become a member of the book clubs at Cody.

On February 28, new Austin author LaShaundra Seale gave a book talk program entitled "Never More Than You Can Bear." The audience learned about the problems that adults and college students face in their relationships and in marriage.

In preparation for spring, Bexar County Master Gardener Lura Rogers presented a special "How to Grow a Garden" program on March 7. Attendees learned all about the "whens" and "hows" of planting a successful vegetable garden.

Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Blow will host a Big Read book discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* on April 4. Dorothy has been distributing flyers and posters throughout the community in order to make a larger impact on the Big Read celebration.

Collins Garden

Collins Garden continues to host its Job Help workshops every Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Job-seekers may ask for help improving their résumés, get help registering for unemployment benefits or email accounts; and receive assistance with finding helpful job search sites.

Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford reports that things have been hopping at Collins Garden Branch Library during this reporting period! She created displays of books on spring, gardening, women's history, and new children's books. Collins Garden has also been busy helping the juvenile customers keep busy during spring break, offering them various activities and crafts to keep them occupied. The branch also offered a Red Cross program, which helped the kids become aware of what the Red Cross does and why it's important.

Teen Services Liaison Carlos Loera is pleased to relate that there were 149 attendees at the various teen programs offered in this reporting period. The *Rap/Poetry Slam* attracted 20 participants; and *The Big Read Recite* attracted 12 teens who read excerpts from *Fahrenheit 451* with two readers being awarded an MP3 player. During Teen Tech Week teens were able to use the new Wii and the new digital projector for a gaming program, as well as making color posters on the computer. The posters were then sent to Teen Services at the Central Library for printing on their color printer. Twenty teens also attended the screening of *Kung Fu Panda*, bringing their own snacks to enjoy while watching the movie.

Cortez

The Cortez Branch received positive feedback from patrons on computer instruction offered through the City's Department of Community Initiatives. The classes were offered at Cortez from March 9 to March 28. In addition, Department Systems Aide Sonia Cruz offered several computer classes for Spanish-speaking patrons during that period. There is a continuing need for computer classes at the library.

Saturday ESL classes continue to be well attended.

On March 5, Library Assistant Stephanie Vásquez facilitated a book discussion of *Sofia's Saints* by Diane López.

Library Assistant Amanda Hernandez assisted with the Big Read Kickoff events at Central on Saturday, February 28. She also co-instructed a Big Read Teacher Database Workshop at the Central Library on March 14.

On Spring Break Tuesday, 49 people of all ages enjoyed Snake-arama, an educational hands-on program presented by The Snake Connection. The presenter spoke about the characteristics and habitats of snakes. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period. Afterwards patrons took pictures and petted several large snakes.

On March 12, Cortez hosted the Women's History program "Women Juggling Career and Home: Introduction to Juggling". The ten in attendance enjoyed the program. The turnout was a pleasant surprise in spite of the cold and rainy weather. Oranges provided by Branch Manager Rebecca Johnson were used by those in attendance for the program and enjoyed afterwards.

The screening of the movie *Fahrenheit 451* for the Big Read on March 18 was quite a success with good attendance for the program. Popcorn and beverages were served to patrons in attendance. Patrons are looking forward to the bilingual book discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* on March 25 that will be facilitated by Adult Services Librarian Gerald Madrigal.

Forest Hills

Forest Hills is hosting the VITA income tax preparation program from January 15 through April 15. Branch displays for February and March include the Battle of the Alamo; The Big Read: *Fahrenheit 451*; Influential Women; Career Center; and U.S. Presidents. As part of Women's History Month, the branch is presenting a display by artist Elizabeth Goode entitled *Women in Veil Series*. Forest Hills is a distribution point for federal tax forms.

Branch Manager Roberto Zapata has been assigned to the Great Northwest Library. He will continue to manage the Forest Hills Branch Library until a new manager is found.

Forest Hills has seen an increase for in storytime attendance throughout the months of February and March. Spring break brought in the regular story time group plus additional story time kids.

Children's Services Librarian Cindy Moreno attended a Library Lapsit Workshop with speaker Linda Ernst, hosted by the Alamo Area Library System.

RFID tagging continues.

On March 1 Forest Hills hosted a program on feral cats, attended by over 20 persons.

The "Introduction to Feng Shui" program attracted seven people on March 4.

The Thunderbird Hills Neighborhood Association met at the branch on March 10.

The Forest Hills Kit Book Club met on March 11 to discuss *Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold.

Ralph Thompson was the discussion leader when the members of the Contrarian Viewpoints Book Club met on March 14 to discuss the book, *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson.

The Woodlawn Hills Neighborhood Association met at Forest Hills on March 24.

Guerra

New Branch Manager Dexter Katzman attended the Department Systems Aide meeting on March 4 and a Branch Managers meeting on March 5. He completed cash handling training on March 9. He was assigned to the library signage committee during this reporting period.

Adult Services Librarian Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard worked on planning SAPL's celebration of Women's History Month. Guerra hosted the program "Make-Up for Women on the Go" on March 16. In support of this program, San Antonio artist and SAPL employee Barbara Lujan has agreed to loan eleven of her works to the library which will on display during March.

Children's Services Librarian Yanira Cruz planned and presented three storytimes on February 25 and March 4 and 11, with a total attendance of 52. She offered three toddler programs on February 24 and March 3 and 10, with a total attendance total of 120, and three infant lapsit programs on February 24 and March 3 and 10, with a total attendance total of 21. Yanira attended an AALS workshop entitled "Library Lapsit Programming" on March 6. On March 10, she helped with the KLRN Early On activities; there were 113 participants who enjoyed making crafts and visiting with costumed characters from the PBS Show WordWorld.

Adult Services Librarian Steve Jackson recorded a children's book in Spanish for the Telecuentos Dial-a-Story. On March 4, he substituted for the Guerra's Children's Services Librarian by presenting a storytime program. On March 5, he joined other members of the Book Kit Committee participants at the Central Library to work on the assembly of book kits. The kits included Stephen Jackson's kit contribution: Marcus Luttrell's *Lone Survivor: the Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10*. This kit, as well as others, is now available at Central Library.

Library Assistant and Teen Services Liaison Timothy Johnson attended a training presentation by Violeta Garza on the theme of Teen Tech Week programs. He delivered 150 Reader's Guides to the library at Northwest Vista College on behalf of the NEA and the Big Read Committee. He hosted two video game events on February 25 and March 11 with a total attendance of 31. On February 23, he contacted librarians and art teachers from Anson Jones and Sam Rayburn Middle Schools and John Jay and John Paul Stevens High Schools to help promote the Say Si Teen Art Workshop program. Tim hosted three anime events on February 26 and March 5 and 12, with a total attendance of 24.

Tim assisted in promoting the Say Si Teen Art Workshops during the reporting period; total attendance was 18. He also uploaded multiple pictures to both the SAPL and the branch websites.

Floater Librarian Tracey Knouse was instrumental in arranging for a visit from the San Antonio Fire Department on March 11 as part of the Big Read program. Attendance was about 65 children and adults, notwithstanding the wind and rain.

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 September of this year.

Igo

This month, the Igo Branch Library added two more book clubs to its repertoire of already establish book discussion groups. The mystery book club will meet on the first Wednesday of the month and the classic book club will meet on the first Saturday of the month. Library Assistant Jackie Dyess will lead the classic book club discussion group.

On March 12 49 children and 42 adults attended the early childhood program presented by KLRN, which is in partnership with the Igo Branch Library staff.

On March 24 the San Pedro Players presented readings from *Fahrenheit 451* in celebration of this year's Big Read program. Special guest John Igo and six other adults attended the program.

Johnston

There have been several programs over the month initiated by Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta. On February 28, she arranged for a visit from Jim Falconnier, a docent from the Institute of Texan Cultures, who came with his "Tex-Kit" filled with artifacts that brought alive his presentation on the life of the cowboy. The hands-on feature was a big hit with both young people and adults in the audience.

As part of our *Your Family @ Johnston* initiative to provide events for the entire family, Ms. Sebesta booked the Scholastic "Lee y serás" Literacy Caravan for March 10 for an afternoon of Spring Break fun. Approximately 40 children and about two dozen adults enjoyed the storytime, games and crafts presented by Tammy Morales-Bernal. The van was here for three hours with rotating presentations.

Karen Sebesta also arranged for a demonstration of the Department of Defense military working dogs from Lackland Air Force Base. On March 12, trainer Lynnette Butler brought an adorable Belgian Malinois puppy and told about this vital training program. Part of the presentation included a request for families to foster and socialize these puppies who will then return for training as an official military working dog. Regular Thursday morning storytime followed the demonstration with the featured book *Hardworking Puppies* by Lynn Reiser, a picture book about various tasks that working dogs perform. It is easily understood by preschoolers.

For Spring Break, Karen set out boxes of crayons, paper, stickers, and other materials for an on-going free craft time for children who came to the library. Many created works of art that they proudly gave to Ms. Karen to display or that they carried home to show off.

Ms. Jana, a regular Johnston patron who can be seen knitting or crocheting every Saturday at the library, was invited to bring materials to teach various types of needlework, including plastic canvas, a craft that is simple enough for young children to do. A number of children and adults enjoyed learning these new crafts with her.

Johnston Branch also presented a teen Spring Break program about tattoos. Local tattoo artist Jason Haney discussed the business, safety and permanence of tattoos.

Branch Manager Diane Backhus met with parents at the Valley HI Parent-Child Inc. on March 5. She shared information about the library and encouraged the parents to come visit the library with their children during Spring Break.

On March 6 Digital Services Librarian Adam Spana presented a Medline Plus training workshop for Johnston Reference staff.

The branch is exhibiting student art work from Southwest High School and Elm Creek Elementary School. The drawings are geometrics, collages and animals. The branch plans to display more art from neighborhood schools.

A Women's History month workshop, "Building a Family/Starting a Business," was held on March 21. The focus of the workshop was time management, organization, and balancing home and the workplace

The Friends of the Johnston Library had a book sale on Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7. They were very excited about a new member who joined that weekend, and estimate they earned approximately \$400.00.

Landa

On February 24 teens helped create the Landa Big Read display. On March 3 teens "Simpsonized" themselves and made "South Park" avatars and mangatars for Teen Tech Week fun. On March 17 the teens celebrated St. Patrick's Day, and on March 24 enjoyed Teen Game Night with board games, Wii or PS2 gaming.

On March 23 preschoolers from Howard Elementary visited Landa for a story presentation and a picnic on the grounds.

Las Palmas

Kudos to the Las Palmas Adult Book Club! After reading Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, they joined discussion leader Librarian Karen Michaelson at the Big Read Kick-Of to hear the presentation by author Jay Brandon.

Librarian Heidi Novotny dropped off flyers and bookmarks at the Kennedy High School library, inviting teens to spend some Spring Break time at Las Palmas. Staff saw new faces in the library, when 17 teens attended Games Tuesday activities (*Dance Dance Revolution* & board games). Other activities planned are a "Simpsons" Marathon (including donuts and snacks), with the last event a screening of *Ironman*, the voters' choice. Nineteen "regulars" attended two programs earlier in the month.

Debra Castañon at the San Pedro Cross Barnes and Nobles store contacted the branch to inform staff that a spinner book display was available. Las Palmas now has a nice acrylic display for the Tokyo Pop published *manga* titles

Las Palmas was the last branch scheduled for a facilities assessment by Debra J. Dockery Architects and associates. Engineers and architects spent most of the afternoon of March 5 inspecting the building from top to bottom.

To date, a total of 104 students have attended the citizenship classes presented by Academia América.

While staff continues to work on the *23 Things* technology online training, Library Assistant Beatrice Canales finished by the deadline, and won an MP3 player! Congratulations, Bea!

Las Palmas staff met with Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan during his semi-annual visit to Las Palmas on March 4.

Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi made a presentation at the Las Palmas Elementary School Career Day (4 classes, 100 students) in addition to her outreach to Mirasol (4 classes, 60 children), Good Samaritan (6 classes, 70 children), and Madonna (4 classes, 48 children).

Gina's three Family Fun events were attended by a total of 35. Many thanks to Library Assistant Beatrice Canales, who stepped in to present the March 10 "Dr. Seuss" storytime in Gina's absence.

Classes, workshops and training sessions attended by Las Palmas staff included Rebecca Alvarez, "Coaching for Improvement"; Karen Michaelson and Heidi Novotny, "Business Decision Database"; and Gina Brudi, "Library Lapsit Workshop & Children's Book Illustration".

Maverick

The Maverick Library topped off the last day of February with a big party! The festivities began with Children's Services Librarian Stacy Bosquez presenting a Mardi Gras mask-making program for 79 drop-in participants. Next, Kazamba, the hottest drum and dance group in San Antonio, were decked out in their yellow, green and purple Mardi Gras outfits. Capuraginga San Antonio finished off the day with a very popular demonstration of Brazilian capoeira, which combines martial arts, dance and acrobatics.

Maverick continues to have lots of patrons utilizing the VITA tax-preparation assistance services during February and March.

Storytimes continue to be popular. The children's room has been enhanced by two Eric Carle quilts: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* made by Children's Annette Roberts, mother of Children's Services Librarian Amy Roberts. Stacy Bosquez presented a storytime and tour for Nana's Learning Center February 26 and will conduct an outreach storytime at Kids Are Angels Daycare in March. Ten people came to Librarian Derika Bailey's "Matinee Movies at Maverick" on March 7.

On March 14, firemen from Ladder 49, next door to Maverick, offered a fire safety program for families, related to the Big Read program. Other Big Read programs include the teen book club reading of *Fahrenheit 451* at its regular meeting and a book discussion moderated by Circulation Attendant J.D. Elizondo on March 21.

Children's Services Librarian Amy Roberts and the Career Paths for Librarians committee presented their proposals to the administrative team at Central on March 4.

Finally, Maverick displayed collections loaned from Jeralyn Williams, president of the local African American Genealogical and Historical Society.

McCreless

The past month was busy at McCreless. Children's events included the usual storytimes with an average attendance of 21. On March 4 Children's Services Librarian Beverly Bixler took books and stories to the Highland Hills Parent Child Incorporated. On March 21 KLRN brought their "Early On" program to the branch and there were crafts, refreshments and a visit from "Duck" and "Dog" to the packed house of 120.

For adult programming Ben Longoria arranged three events. On February 28, 15 customers attended "Black History and Black Inventors" presented by Juan Gonzales. This program highlighted contributions to innovation and progress by African-Americans in the U.S. On March 7 there were 8 attendees for "College Application and Financial Aid Made Easy" presented by Chandra Murthy. The group was given information and invited to ask questions about applying to colleges and acquiring financial aid. On March 11 the branch showed the film *Fahrenheit 451* as part of the Big Read initiative.

In addition to the Big Read movie and regular storytime, during the week of Spring Break the branch hosted two additional movies: *Madagascar* and *Prince Caspian* in the afternoon on Wednesday and Thursday to give families something else to do. Library Assistant Tricia Masterson also led another spirited round of "Guitar Hero" on Tuesday.

The Friends of McCreless Branch Library held their book sale on March 14 and 15. The Friends plan to use the proceeds to purchase another chair for Wi-Fi users and a CD/DVD cleaner.

During this time McCreless was also fortunate to have the amazing dragon collection of patron Miriam Inglehart on loan.

On Saturday March 21 Branch Manager Cammie Gunter was the featured speaker at the meeting of the Highland Hills Alliance. She discussed the history of the McCreless Branch and the plans for further renovation this year.

Memorial

Guitar lessons resumed at Memorial on February 24. A group of 20 eager students gathered for basic guitar instruction taught by instructor Moisés Hernández. This program was sponsored by The Memorial Amigos/Friends of Memorial Library and J.P. MorganChase.

The San Antonio Food Bank visited Memorial on February 25 and 28 to offer help with applications for CHIP/Children's Medicaid, Adult Medicaid and Women's Health Care, Food Stamps, TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and WIC to anyone in the community.

A "Basic Make-up Application for Busy Women" class was offered on March 7 as part of the Women's History Month celebration.

Scholastic's *Lee y serás* Literacy Caravan visited Memorial on March 9. Thirty children enjoyed art and reading activities on the bus.

Play and Learn Party Nights hosted by Little Read Wagon continued with great success in February and March. Classes had to be expanded to accommodate the large turnout. Children eight years and younger and their families enjoyed fun activities, snacks, and were given learning supplies and a children's book to take home.

Museo Alameda presented a Big Read workshop for teens on censorship and the arts, inspired by the novel *Fahrenheit 451*. Students were asked to consider what made a "perfect work of art" and then curate their own art exhibition in which some works of art were included and others "banned." Plans were discussed for future collaborative efforts for Teen programming.

A Women's History Month class focusing on teaching women how to develop time management skills, becoming organized and balancing home and work place demands was presented on March 12. The class was hosted by South Texas Women's Business Center.

A class on *papel picado*, the traditional art of paper cutting, was presented on March 14. Participants used colored tissue paper to create works of art.

Memorial held a LAN (local area network) party on Sunday, March 15. The library was open only to gamers who competed against each other in an exciting fast-paced networked game. Food and drinks were provided courtesy of the St. Mary's University's Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

A Spanish-language program on breast cancer was held on March 17 by a *Promotora* (community health advocate) from Planned Parenthood. The program invited guests to share their own experiences and to get answers to their questions. The class was the first in a series of Spanish-language classes discussing health issues.

Red Cross Month was celebrated with a program on the work and life of Clara Barton, the founder of the Red Cross. Families learned about this life-saving organization and its founder. Highlights include a book reading and a craft.

Outreach Activities

Memorial staff participated in the St. Mary's Community Family Resource and Learning Center Job and Community Fair on March 10. Library card applications and Big Read information were shared with more than 70 attendees.

Outreach efforts to local neighborhood churches and to Edgewood School District schools continued. Information on upcoming branch and system-wide programs was shared.

Pan American

Family Fun on Mondays at 3:30 at Pan American is not having a large response in attendance, but those who come are enjoying themselves. On February 23, four children made George Washington silhouettes and shared George Washington books. Five children made handprint lilies to celebrate spring on March 2. They also listened to *Zinnia's Flower Garden*. Only one child came at the beginning of spring break, March 9, and made a "Verdi" snake bracelet. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated on March 16 with shamrock crafts and stories.

The Wednesday morning A.B.C. Club attendees are still studying letters. On February 25, "Q for Quack" was enjoyed by 17. On March 4, "R for Rabbit" included a paper bag puppet and *Seven Little Rabbits*, with 19 participants. On March 11, "S for Spring" caused flower hats to blossom for 19 attendees, along with the story *Fletcher and the Springtime Blossom*. On March 18, "T for Trucks" included a card stock dump truck that had wheels and a bed that moved.

The Wednesday evening B.A.C.K. Pack (Books and Crafts for Kids) program is seeing a growth in attendance. On February 25, stories about Jesse Owens were enjoyed by four children. March 4, there were 16 participating in a session of Dance Dance Revolution. On March 11, nine attendees made handprint sun faces and shared the story *Raven and River*.

Children's Services Librarian Raissa Marking has visited children at the Texas Migrant Council facilities every Thursday morning. On February 26, two groups of toddlers (25 total) enjoyed stories about transportation. March 5, another two groups (34 total) enjoyed more transportation stories. On March 19, stories about spring were shared. She also participated in a Literacy Fair at Southside Baptist Church on March 14, where she issued 23 new library cards.

Each Saturday at 2:00, teens get to practice various forms of art with representatives from Say Si. On February 28, there were five participants. March 4, there were also five.

Tai Chi classes continue on Mondays from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. with an average of 17 participants each week.

Several special programs been presented at Pan American. On February 28, a program on Harriet Tubman was enjoyed by four attendees. On March 14 an audience of 17 enjoyed the movie *Madagascar: Escape to Africa*. Adult Services Library James LaFerla led a discussion of *Fahrenheit 451* on March 17. On March 21, Library Assistant and Teen Services Liaison Melissa Carroll hosted a screening of the movie *Twilight*. James hosted a presentation of the film of *Fahrenheit 451* on March 24. As part of the observance of Women's History Month, Pan American mounted a special display of the works of artist Vikky Jones.

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

The staff at the Bannwolf Library at Reagan High School is pleased to announce that Stacia Hitzfelder has joined the library as a new full-time clerk. Stacia, who began work on March 2, has extensive customer service experience. The library staff is sad to announce the resignation of Kami Small, a part-time library clerk. The position is currently posted and is expected to be filled around the first of April.

Two American Sign Language students from Reagan High School teach ASL to elementary-school-age patrons twice a month Tuesday afternoons. These students are second year ASL students and have signed the National Anthem at a Spurs game. The ASL program at the Bannwolf Library has been a big success.

The National Honor Society of Reagan High School presented a story time to the youngest library customers on March 8. The children and their parents enjoyed the program and crafts provided by the high school students. The group plans on presenting a story time once a month through May.

The Children's Corner of the Bannwolf Library has new bulletin boards. Cork was placed over the dry erase boards in order to provide a space for colorful decorations and announcements. The theme for the bulletin boards this month is "Spring."

San Pedro

Outreach continues to be a high priority for the San Pedro Branch. Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz visited the Alta Vista Nursing home twice during this period and delivered books on Barack Obama and other U.S. presidents to the residents of that facility. Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton facilitated three off-site books clubs at two elementary schools and one middle school. Each book club has 15 members who enthusiastically discuss the book chosen for the month and then vie to check out the next month's book along with other books (approximately 12-15 extra books). The book clubs have proved to be very popular at the three schools: Hawthorne Academy, Cotton Elementary, and the Young Women's Leadership Academy, all in SAISD. One student at YWLA was so intrigued by the book club selection *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia* that she independently researched the book's central "character," two Rembrandt paintings!

Additionally, Betsy presented story times to 93 children at several different child-care facilities, including the VIA Child Development Center and the SAC Child Development Center. Twenty books were also delivered to each child care-class for their use during the month.

The Scholastic Literacy Caravan and the SAPL Bookmobile came to San Pedro on March 7. A nice crowd of children and adults visited both to find out what resources are available on SAPL's mobile units and to enjoy the story times, crafts, and games presented by Tammy Morales Bernal. The program lasted approximately 3 hours with rotating presentations.

On March 24 Betsy visited St. Anthony Catholic School during the-after school program to make library cards for children and parents and to distribute library brochures.

Many programs were also presented at San Pedro during this period. The chess group continues to meet on Thursday evenings. Department Systems Aide Hondo Aguilar facilitates these events and sets up a display of chess-related books, periodicals, and media items. On March 17, the Women's Literature Book Club met to discuss *Like Water for Chocolate*.

Betsy also presented eight storytimes and four B.A.C.K. Pack (Books and Crafts for Kids) programs. Storytime is presented twice weekly, once in the morning and once in the evening in order to make the program available to children of working parents. Black History Month dominated February's books and activities, while "Springtime" was the topic for March. Activities included the making of a

seed book by each child, after Betsy had read them a book about how seeds grow. San Pedro teens met five times during this period. They play Guitar Hero on the first meeting of the month. Recognizing the desire of other patrons to *not* hear the scintillating music, this program is held out of doors, weather permitting! Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton (who also serves as Teen Services Liaison) also facilitates other weekly teen programs, where crafts, activities, and games are presented, including a program this month creating beautiful delicate artwork mimicking the Japanese flower-arranging art of *ikebana* by using straws to blow paint.

Two adult programs were presented on March 19. Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan discussed "Wonder Women: Women in Super-Hero Comics and Graphic Novels." San Pedro also hosted Mary Clinkscales, who presented "Women and Makeup on the Go."

Betsy attended Thom Barthelme's presentation in March on children's book illustrations. The valuable information obtained from this delightful presentation will be used to enhance outreach and storytime.

San Pedro staffers continue to serve on various library committees. Branch Manager Michael Kaminski heads up the Floating Collections Committee and serves on the Adult Programming Committee; Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton serves on the Children's Cataloging Committee; Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz serves on the Adult Programming and Explore More Card Committees; and Library Assistant Sherrin Bossart serves on the Idea Team.

Semmes

The highly anticipated computer classes began at Semmes on March 16. Library patrons have been very interested to know when classes would be returning to Semmes. The branch has many patrons who are looking for jobs on the Internet and would like to enhance their Internet and word processing skills.

Spring Break proved to be very busy at the branch. Many patrons visited the branch to use the Internet and Wi-Fi service. Staff was also kept busy answering a lot of interesting reference questions. To help entertain kids on Spring Break, Children's Services Librarian Carrie Vance presented a come-and-go craft every day. Kids were invited to come and make a fun spring craft. At her Family storytime on March 12, Children's Services Librarian Randi Jones presented storytimes on firemen. As a treat, the San Antonio Fire Department came by and showed the attendees one of the trucks. The families also did a *Fahrenheit 451* craft to tie in with The Big Read.

Carrie also started up two new story times this month. A Baby Time was added on Thursday at 9:30 a.m., and a family storytime on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. Semmes patrons seem to be enjoying these new storytime opportunities.

On February 27 Robert Dittman presented a program on Seeing-Eye dogs. Semmes patrons were invited to experience some of the challenges a blind person experiences every day. Mr. Dittman brought his Seeing-Eye dog, a chocolate Labrador retriever named Snickers. Snickers celebrated his fourth birthday and everyone who attended the program enjoyed a cupcake in Snickers' honor.

Thousand Oaks

The staff at Thousand Oaks is happy to welcome Ernesto VeraCruz, the new full-time Department Systems Aide. He comes to Thousand Oaks after working as a shelver and a Department Systems Aide at Central.

Jorge Chavez's book club read *Fahrenheit 451* on March 10 to celebrate The Big Read. Jorge said the group had a good discussion about technology and censorship.

The RFID tag team, Yvonne and Alison, completed tagging the collection in the middle of March, and then they moved to Reagan.

To celebrate spring break, Thousand Oaks offered a variety of programs for patrons. In addition to the regularly-scheduled weekly programs, there were special events for children. The Scholastic Literacy Caravan came March 11. There were activities and games for the children, and the children all received a free book! Also on March 11, Dog and Duck from KLRN's *WordWorld* came to entertain children, and a crowd of 67 attended the event despite the cold weather. On March 10, the movie *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* entertained a large crowd.

In honor of Red Cross Month, two special Red Cross programs about Clara Barton were presented. The children attending the B.A.C.K. Pack (Books and Crafts for Kids) program March 3 and the Family Fun program March 18 heard a story and made a craft about Clara Barton and the Red Cross.

For Women's History Month, on March 22 an Avon representative provided make-up tips for busy women.

Library Assistant Guillermo García gave a presentation on Evanced to the staff to teach everyone how to add events and search for events.

The Hills of Park North Neighborhood Association donated a changing table to Thousand Oaks. The changing table was installed in the men's ADA restroom, and the staff and patrons are happy to have this table in addition to the table in the women's restroom.

Children's Services Librarian Leslie Elsasser and Library Assistant Barbara Kwiatkowski attended a presentation about how to evaluate illustrations in children's books presented by Thom Barthelmess on March 12. It was a very informative session and the information will be very useful.

VITA tax assistance continues to be a popular service for the community.

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

The Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell had another successful book sale in February. The Tobin staff would like to express their many thanks to book sale chairperson Pat DePasquale and the Friends. Through their hard work and their spirit of cooperativeness and enthusiasm, every book sale is a success.

The Tobin Library at Oakwell saw the U.S Census testing draw to a close on March 5. The Tobin Library has served as a testing location for the U.S. Census Bureau since January 2009. The Census Bureau was recruiting temporary part-time and full-time census takers from the Bexar County area in preparation for the 2010 Census.

Because of the resignation of former Children's Services Librarian Debra Bryant, Library Assistants Virginia Hurt and Allison St. Denis have graciously accepted the responsibility of presenting the children's programs. Virginia will continue with weekly storytimes and monthly Family Fun activities. Allison will host the B.A.C.K. Pack Summer Reading events. Thanks are due to Virginia and Allison for accepting these additional responsibilities.

Adult Services Librarian Sherrie Langston Hardin conducts teen programming every week on Wednesdays. The Teen programs for the month of March included Rock Band, Dance Dance Revolution, and a showing of the movie *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*.

On March 2, 9, 16 and 23 KLRN hosted Early On events in which parents and child-care providers use fun and educational activities for children to learn about the services KLRN and the public library have to offer the community. Early On is a Kindergarten Readiness project which helps parents to prepare their children for school.

Virginia hosted a Family Fun event on March 14. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the theme for March was "The Luck of the Irish: Get Ready for Leprechauns with Crafts, Stories and Treat Ideas."

Adult Services Librarian Monty Holcomb hosted a chess tournament on March 21, where participants had the chance to play a chess master! Eduardo Loyola, first and second place winner of New Mexico Chess Tournaments, will simultaneously play all participating chess enthusiasts. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell, the tournament champion will be awarded a chess clock.

In celebration of the Big Read, former Branch Manager Wendy Friedman facilitated a conversation about Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

Westfall

Staff has been busy with many projects and training. Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza and Library Assistant Theresa Ybarra participated in The Big Read Kick-Off at Central, and response to branch activities surrounding the initiative has been positive. Visits to two local senior centers have supported the Branch's efforts to reach out to the senior population. Children's Services Librarian Imelda Merino and Branch Manager Cheryl Sheehan visited area schools. A special storytime attracted more than the usual number of children during Spring Break. Local school teachers seem to be very excited about distributing publicity materials to their students and displaying posters in their classrooms. Regular monthly programming, including the mystery and literary book discussions, continues to be well received by attendees. Cheryl attended a workshop on a new business database which, in addition to being a great resource for small business owners, has supplied her with valuable information on the community nearest to the library. She has also been busy cleaning out some of the past files that needed to be discarded and reorganized. As a result, four large file cabinets were able to be distributed to other locations in SAPL who were in need of the furniture. Computer classes were very popular at the branch, with over 200 people attending.

In hopes of increasing the power of the collection for local users, the branch manager met with several members of Central's Collection Development Department to discuss updated information on the needs of the surrounding area. As a result, a few changes have been made to increase or decrease the orders in several different sections. At the request of Assistant Director for Public Service Kendra Trachta, Cheryl also met with Central Circulation Supervisor Laura Villanueva to produce public relations materials to alert the public to some changes in the holds process. As part of the effort to increase the benefits of our RFID system, several staff members are on committees to help other libraries better utilize self check-outs (which Westfall has termed Express Check-out) and have met with branch managers to give feedback on RFID in general.

As many know, libraries are experiencing an increase in usage, particularly by those seeking employment information during these rough economic times. At Cheryl's suggestion, Westfall librarians have created a special section on Education and Employment, which is a one-stop area for all materials and information related to testing, job searching, résumé writing, and college entrance. In the less than one month that this designated area has been in operation, circulation of these items has increased substantially. In addition, Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza has offered a program on résumé creation and has visited the local Alamo Work Force satellite office to gather information for referral to patrons.

Westfall's facilities have been getting an update as well. New HVAC units were installed on the roof and have been working smoothly. The contractors responsible for the delivery and emplacing the equipment could not have been easier or more accommodating to work with. Because of their diligence, there was virtually no impact on public service, save for closing off part of the parking lot for part of one day while the 20-ton machines were delivered. Westfall welcomed a transferred temporary custodian, who has been doing a terrific job of thoroughly cleaning the branch. The carpet in the meeting room has not looked so good in a long time!