

**San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
April 22, 2009**

Administration

Director's Office

Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the annual conference of the Texas Library Association (TLA) held in Houston the week of March 30. While at the conference, the Library Director and the directors of the Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and El Paso Public Libraries met with the State Librarian to express their concerns over the State Library's proposal for changes in funding for interlibrary loan services.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the TLA Benefactor Award to the Landa Gardens Conservancy in recognition of the Conservancy's renovation and restoration of the grounds of the Landa Branch Library. Conservancy Treasurer and founding member Ann Van Pelt was present to accept the award, accompanied by the Library Director and the Chair of the Library Board of Trustees.

Immediately upon his return from the TLA conference, Ramiro served as Master of Ceremonies for the celebration at the Central Library of the 25th Anniversary of Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*. The "block party" was a great success, with attendance of more than 300. A highlight of the event was the reading by Ms. Cisneros of an unpublished short story. Following her presentation, Ms. Cisneros remained to autograph books and posters for a large crowd of attendees.

A priority for the Director's Office has been to follow and respond as necessary to changing factors in the federal economic stimulus proposals. Ramiro has communicated to the State Library his strong opinion that any appropriations available to libraries should be distributed on a more local level, rather than the statewide package proposed by the State Librarian.

To improve the possibility that San Antonio Public Library will be considered for funding under the national broadband initiative, Ramiro is in discussions with the San Antonio Area Foundation to partner with them to implement a grant from the Knight Foundation. The grant will fund pilot projects to enhance local public access to information. The San Antonio Area Foundation's proposal is to establish, equip and staff local "news centers" in libraries.

Negotiations for a new City-County Interlocal Agreement for Library Services have come to a successful close, and the Agreement was presented to City Council for ratification on April 16.

On April 9, Ramiro met with a group representing East Central Independent School District, which has approached SAPL requesting library services within the school district, most of which lies outside the San Antonio city limits. This group has also approached District 3 Council Representative Jennifer Ramos for support.

The March 31 grand opening of the javaNook Café, emceed by Ramiro, was very successful. The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce sent a delegation to present a proclamation recognizing the occasion, employees from a number of surrounding businesses attended. The event was covered by KABB/Fox TV and KENS/TV-5.

Ramiro will be out of the office from April 18 through April 24 to attend the *Feria Internacional del Libro de Buenos Aires* (Buenos Aires International Book Fair), the largest Spanish-language book fair in the world. There is no cost to the City for this travel.

Automation

The Automation department has completed deploying 75 public-service computers that were purchased using City general funds. In addition, fifteen special needs computers were installed in thirteen library locations. The Library IT and Fiscal groups continue working on upcoming budgetary technology initiatives to be presented to the Strategic Planning Council. To protect against a malicious software activity, approximately 900 desktop computers have received antivirus definition updates and Microsoft security patches. A total of 657 salvaged technology items have been returned to ITSD for proper disposal. Department Systems Manager Ray Fraga and the City Information Technology Service Department have meet with NEISD to discuss the implementation of technology services considered for the Roosevelt High School library.

Branch Services

Joel Bangilan attended the Texas Library Conference. As part of the programming committee for the conference he was the moderator for a panel discussion. "Take the LEED in Green Libraries," discussed environmentally-conscious building designs for libraries. At three branches, he coordinated "Brew-Ha-Ha: Coffee and Comedy, Laughter in the Library". These were a series of performances from *Comedy Sportz* at branches and Starbucks donated refreshments.

Children's Services

Preparations for the 2009 Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros celebrations are in place. This year's festivities will be hosted at thirteen branches between April 25 and May 2. The Día Committee, Imelda Merino [*Westfall*], Carol Collins [*Cortez*], Cresencia Huff [*Little Read Wagon*] and Viki Ash [*Central*] has developed a puppet show and a variety of craft activities all based on the colors of the rainbow, hence subtitle *Fiesta de Colores* for the 2009 celebration. In addition to the in-house events at the libraries, Children's Services Librarians will be visiting DCI's Adult Learning Centers to provide story times and library card sign up as part of the Día celebrations.

The *2009 Young Pegasus Anthology* is in production and features the work of 71 young poets ranging in age from six to eighteen. The volume includes 86 poems on topics ranging from mangos and muffins to death and divorce. The Awards Ceremony is slated for 2:00 p.m. on May 17 at Hermann Sons Grand Lodge.

The SAPL Kids Team (Leigh Bedford [*Collins Garden*], Leslie Elsasser [*Thousand Oaks*], Susan Maldonado [*Central*], Judy Slaughter [*Central*] and Viki Ash [*Central*]) has been diligently working to enhance the electronic presence of Children's Services on the web. Conventions and guidelines for Kids Guides have been developed, improvements to the photo array on the Kids' page have been instituted, and steps have been taken to assure that all electronic tasks have staffers with both primary and secondary responsibilities so no gaps in coverage will occur. The SAPL Kids Team invites you to visit the Kids' page regularly to see the results of their efforts.

Public Relations

The San Antonio Public Library/Owl Radio partnership was renewed for the Big Read 2009. Owl Radio will present the audiobook of *Fahrenheit 451* on-air for its reading-challenged listeners.

The Public Relations Office and the office of Assistant Library Director Kendra Trachta have been occupied in confirming donations from the City Council to support the "Be One in a Million" school challenge and in launching the challenge. More than 100 schools have signed up to participate in the challenge, and promotional materials are being sent to them. Appreciation is due to the Library's Fiscal Office for assisting with establishing the funding and to the Library's graphic designers for rushing production of the promotional materials.

The javaNook grand opening on March 31 received coverage by KABB/Fox TV, KENS/TV-5 and the San Antonio *Business Journal*. The *House on Mango Street* 25th Anniversary celebration was widely

covered in the San Antonio *Express-News*, *Conexión*, the *Star* Sunday edition, and *San Antonio Magazine*.

The Igo "Living Library" program has intrigued local media, and coordinator Haley Holmes (Adult Services Librarian) was interviewed by WOAI Radio and KENS/TV-5.

The Library received 19 media mentions in the previous month.

Teen Services

On March 21, Teen Services premiered the movie *Twilight* in the afternoon. In addition to the audience of excited girls, seven young men viewed the movie and were shocked that it ended in a cliffhanger. In response, Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano told the boys that if they had read the book, they would have known about the ending. Then two boys asked to place *New Moon*, the second book in the series, on hold. They could not wait for the next movie to come out in November.

Central Teen Services Librarian Kathleen Fordyce, Central Library Assistant Regina Almanza, and Landa Library Assistant Brooke Ballard staffed a teen craft table at the *House on Mango Street* party on April 3. Teens (and children too) were able to decorate their own *chanclas* (flip-flops) using ribbons and glitter paints. (*Chanclas* are the subject of one of the chapters in *Mango Street*.) The craft was a huge success.

In addition to the Teen Services Wordpress blog (<http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/>) and MySpace page (<http://www.myspace.com/210teenlibrary>), Teen Services now has a DeviantArt account. Since there are so many talented artists in the Department, teens can now post their artwork on the site to share with others.

Central Library

Alamo Area Library Systems

AALS staff are working on the next-to-last issue of our popular newsletter, *El Nopal*. After the August issue, any news to and from AALS librarians will be directed to the new Web site which is located at www.aalstx.net. Currently, staff is loading a Twitter app, a workshop registration module, a new calendar system and Ning.com online social software.

Children's Services Department

During the past month, Central Children's staff has played a big part in preparations for the Día de los Niños celebrations, the production of the Young Pegasus Anthology and on-going planning for 2009's Summer Reading Program. Without the help of Central staffers, these projects would not be as carefully planned nor as skillfully executed. Children's Coordinator Viki Ash and Children's Services Librarians across the system are indebted to them for their dedication and hard work.

Digital Services

Digital Services Manager Rolf Laun attended the 2009 Annual Conference of the Texas Library Association in Houston, Texas. While there, he attended sessions covering topics that ranged from new technologies for libraries to the historical changes in the reference interview.

Rolf and Tapley Trudell [*Brook Hollow*] presented their first Readers' Advisory training class to five exceptional students. They hope to make the class available to staff on a quarterly basis. In addition, the first of a continuing series of monthly Readers' Advisory meetings was held, the April meeting focusing on tips for using NoveList.

Librarian I Adam Spana conducted two sessions on the use of the library's catalog and online resources at Little Read Wagon's continuing education training at Central Library.

The Digital Services Team worked to support the Library Card School Challenge by creating an online registration form. As part of the city-wide 'Be One in a Million' campaign, District 8 Council Representative Diane G. Cibrian and District 3 Council Representative Jennifer Ramos have challenged San Antonio schools to participate in the library card sign-up campaign. Councilwomen Cibrian and Ramos urge students, parents, faculty and staff to get library cards and have challenged the other Council Districts to do the same.

The team's next web project is to create the necessary web components for the 2009 Summer Reading Program. In addition to supporting special library projects, Digital Services continues to incorporate new content including FAQs, image ads, website links, promoted books, and more.

Government Documents

Government Documents is seeing a strong increase in the number of reference questions due to the tax season.

Outreach Services

Circulation statistics for the bookmobile leapt in March, from 706 items in February to 1,307 items in March. This nearly 200% increase may be attributed in part to the addition of DVDs to the bookmobile's collection and to the addition of two new stops: the ARC-SA centers.

The March-April timeframe proved to be quite busy. Outreach coordinated the presence of library staff at 30 events, with either the bookmobile or information tables providing SAPL's point of contact for the public. For the weekend of April 17-19, Outreach coordinated SAPL appearances at eight events.

The Outreach Office's senior outreach continued, with library cards being made at the Wellmed Clinic, Comanche Park and Primrose at Mission Hills Apartments, and the bookmobile making a visit to Independence Hill, a retirement community.

Among the bookmobile's special visits this month were trips to the Highland Forest and Paschall Elementary Schools. Westfall Branch Library also hosted a bookmobile visit.

Other COSA departments have responded enthusiastically to the One in a Million campaign. Customer Service/311 volunteered to offer library card registration at their five Link centers, so Outreach staff trained Link center staff in the process of card-making.

A Facebook page was created for Libro, to recruit volunteers to play the role. Outreach and the bookmobile also have blogs.

Little Read Wagon

This month Little Read Wagon began two more *Para los niños* series at the Pan American and Forest Hills branch libraries. Each series was preceded by visits to area schools where the program format was demonstrated and attendees were invited to participate in the events at the libraries. Little Read Wagon appreciates the hospitality of the Pan American and Forest Hills Branch Libraries and anticipates that many program participants will continue to make regular visits to the library.

Little Read Wagon is in its second year of implementation of the *Para los niños* program. However, staff took advantage of the opportunity to attend a formal workshop about the program sponsored by the State Library and Archives Commission in Lakehills. The workshop was presented by Rose Treviño of the Houston Public Library and attended by several SAPL Children's Services Librarians in addition to the Little Read Wagon staff.

On March 28 Little Read Wagon presented a teacher workshop at the Central Library. 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. Adam Spana conducted two classes about the library's online resources. Participants were given the option of a library tour, an online resources class, or independent study/preparation time for one hour of the six-hour workshop.

Reference Department

Central Reference staff coordinated several programs in support of The Big Read. On April 11 Librarian Sally Bauer hosted "Freedom to Read" with a mock trial of two children's books and a presentation by John Horany, a Dallas attorney and Trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation. The same day the San Pedro Players presented interpretations of passages from *Fahrenheit 451*.

As part of the Big Read collaboration between ArtPace and San Antonio Public Library, Library Assistant Brook Ballard [*Landa*] and Librarian Pannaga Prasad [*Central Reference*] organized the opening reception for a teen art exhibit, "Teens respond to *Fahrenheit 451*." The exhibit features student work from the Central Library and Brook Hollow, Cortez, McCreless and Cody Branch Libraries. The reception was attended by more than ninety people. DJ Gabe Velásquez provided music for the event.

The Reference department has started a program in which staff members are training each other. During the first phase of the program training will be offered only to Reference and Central Circulation staff members. As part of this program, in March and April Librarian Cole Johnson facilitated three training sessions on how to create displays with Microsoft Publisher. The emphasis was on creating eye-catching displays to promote library materials and increase circulation.

For the past six months Library Assistants Kate Simpson and Christina Hess have been planning the 25th Anniversary party for Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*. Through coordination with Library Administration and the Library Foundation an incredibly successful and festive event was presented on April 3. More than 300 fans of Sandra Cisneros attended the party to hear her read a new story and sign books. Those in attendance were treated to music by DJ Gabe Velásquez, mango paletas and the opportunity to listen to stories and decorate chanclas. Large pieces of art created by Fox Tech art students decorated the library and grounds and many of the artists attended the event as their work was proudly displayed. There was an additional treat as excerpts from *Mango Street* were performed by members of the Teen Arts Puentes Project. Numerous staff members from both Central and the branches helped make sure that the event was a huge success.

On March 31, as part of the partnership between the Library and the South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency, Librarian Jody Hampton hosted a seminar that focused on small and minority owned businesses becoming certified to do business with the Texas Department of Transportation. Approximately 50 people attended.

Jody also made a presentation to the City Manager and the directors and assistant directors from City of San Antonio departments, detailing the many resources available through the library that would be of value to the other departments.

Technical Services Department

Martha Knott attended the 2009 Texas Library Association Conference in Houston on April 1-April 3. While in Houston, she met with Houston Public Library Technical Services Coordinator Zyma Zerkow to discuss issues dealing with floating collections, security of new materials, and using the vendors' shelf-ready services.

Bibliographic Services Supervisor Katie Enright attended a TLA preconference, the *Nuts & Bolts of RDA*, to learn more about the new approach to cataloging rules and the Resource Description and Access (RDA) implementation process.

On April 9, Alice Belous of Baker and Taylor trained the Collection Development staff on the use of elements of Baker and Taylor's web-based ordering system.

Teen Services Department

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

Mondays with Librarian Violeta Garza: The Teen Advisory Group met on March 30, and teen participants helped engineer the look of Teen Services' new MySpace profile. Teen fans of Guitar Hero competed in the monthly tournament on April 6. Teens showed off their pop culture trivia knowledge during Nerdfighter Jeopardy on April 13. The teen program on April 20 was devoted to Wii games.

Tuesdays with Librarian Kathleen Fordyce: On March 31 and April 7, 14 and 21, teens had fun playing Guitar Hero II and III.

Wednesdays with Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano: On Sunday, March 15 the NCAA held its Selection Sunday, where the 65 teams were announced to participate in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Sylvia set up a Fantasy Basketball League for teens. Ten teens signed up and selected their favorite college basketball teams to play toward the National Championship. Round One and Two were played on the weekend of March 19, the Sweet Sixteen round was held on March 26 and 27, and the Elite Eight was held on the weekend of March 28. Final Four was held on the weekend of April 4, and the National Championship was held on April 6. Every Wednesday during the tournament, Sylvia made the PlayStation2 available and the teens played NBA Live '09 and compared the standings in the tournament. Sylvia will continue to host NBA Live '09 games every Wednesday evening for the rest of the month of April.

Thursdays with Library Assistant Regina Almanza: On March 26, teens used air-dry clay to create some unique items. Some teens used the provided small mirrors and pre-cut mosaic tiles to make a small wall mirror. Others attached googly eyes to create one-of-a-kind clay creatures. To get Teen Services ready for spring, teens made origami butterflies on April 2. They also decorated die-cut butterflies with fabric paints. Teens got cute on April 9 by using cotton balls and hairspray to make baby chicks. On April 16, teens did not leave the area hungry as they got to make their own pudding parfaits. They watched a great movie as they ate their tasty snacks. Pictures of some of these Thursday night crafts can be found on the Teen Services Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/210teenlibrary>.

Sylvia Pachecano hosted the monthly meeting of the Baka Onigiri con Ost (Stupid Riceball with Cheese) International Anime/Manga Club on April 4. She told the teens about Teen Services' new social networking pages/accounts, such as the Teen Services Wordpress Blog, MySpace Page, DeviantArt account and Flickr account and invited the teens to contribute their works for the new DeviantArt account.

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 March 26 and 30 and April 1.

Texana/Genealogy Department

Staff of the Texana/Genealogy department presented an all-day series of workshops on March 21. Sessions included "Census Records," "Vital Records," "State and Local Records," and "Federal Records." "Vital Records" was attended by 29 researchers, while the rest had 26 each.

On March 28 Sylvia Reyna and Frank Faulkner attended "Genealogical Research in Spain and Mexico: Nuestros Antepasados" presented by Peggy and George Ryskamp. Mr. Ryskamp is a nationally recognized lecturer and researcher on Hispanic genealogy and a member of the faculty of Brigham Young University. Thanks are due to Los Bexareños Genealogical Society for inviting the SAPL staff.

On April 3 Matt DeWaelsche gave a presentation to a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on "Preserving Family Treasures." Attendance was 35.

City Archivist Amanda DeFlorio discussed "Organizing Your Research" with eight participants on April 4.

Footnote.com, a new database on the Library's website, was the subject of the monthly internet class.

Texana/Genealogy has prepared four library guides now available on the library's new webpage. They are Local History, Family History, Texas History, and Special Collections. The guide on local history includes "San Antonio Remembers," a blog which includes two postings so far and daily happenings from San Antonio's past. The first posting discusses a connection between *Fahrenheit 451* and the San Antonio Public Library in the early 1950s. The second includes two articles from the *San Antonio Light* that appeared on April 1, 1938 and April 1, 1956. Thanks go to Kate Simpson of Reference who, as part of her library school practicum, created the blog and has worked with Frank Faulkner on content.

Branch Libraries

Bazan

The Bazan Branch Library is happy to announce that part-time Library Assistant Marisa Sparks is close to acquiring her MLS from North Texas State University. She will graduate in May 2009 with the goal of becoming a full-time librarian in the San Antonio Public Library system as soon as she can. In the meantime she continues to contribute to Bazan in many positive ways through her involvement with teens as the branch's Teen Services Liaison. She continues to work closely with teens to organize and present library-sponsored activities and helps them with their in-house library needs. Her supervisor and colleagues join in congratulating her on a job well done.

Department Systems Aide Chuck Tucker recently attended the Texas Library Association Conference in Houston. He was able to meet many of the library materials vendors, attend meetings, reunite with other NTSU alumni and meet librarians from throughout the State, and generally enjoyed the "bigger than life" event. He was most impressed with much of what he saw. Chuck recently received his library degree and hopes to become a librarian within the SAPL system soon.

Brook Hollow

As part of the Big Read, Brook Hollow teens were invited to participate in special art workshops presented by ArtPace. During two visits from ArtPace educators, teens at Brook Hollow worked on creating visual representations relating to their favorite books and the freedom to read. Their resulting artworks are currently on display in the Central Library Gallery. To celebrate National Poetry Month, teens took part in mad-lib style poetry activities and wrote a creative poem as a group. Teens gained a new appreciation for the creative power of words. Brook Hollow's new time

and day for the Teen Book Group has proven successful. Attendance increased fivefold for the March book group.

Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell continues leading readers' advisory training courses for SAPL with Central Library's Rolf Laun. This month one session focused specifically on the NoveList database. Tapley is also coordinating Big Read events such as the book group discussion and movie showing at the branch.

Brook Hollow's fantastic Friends group raised an astounding \$4,800 at their Book Sale in late March. The meeting room was crammed full with happy customers and plenty of books to choose from. Brook Hollow's meeting room also held Mayoral debates hosted by the District 9 Neighborhood Alliance; this was very well attended.

Carver

On Friday, March 27 the "60+ Mardi Gras Parade Senior Service Division" was held at Comanche Park No. 2. Carver Branch Library, in partnership with the Department of Community Initiatives, was among 30 organizations that participated in this event. Carver Branch Manager Ronnie Delgado handed out more than 1,200 library card applications and fielded dozens of inquiries regarding library services.

The Carver Branch was the site of the East Side Economic Development Summit on April 4. The theme was "The New Economic Renaissance of East/Northeast San Antonio." Organizers said the purpose of the event was to assemble a wide range of visionaries from across the city to hear and discuss the great opportunities and challenges facing the East and Northeast communities. Organizers hoped to address neighborhood and business development, public safety and education initiatives.

Adult Services Librarian D.L. Grant was among the SAPL delegates who traveled to Houston for the Texas Library Association annual conference. He presented *In Plain Sight – Recruiting from Within*, which was a lively session on the first day of the three-day conference. Audience members remained afterward to discuss points from the discussion. Mr. Grant wishes to thank Director Ramiro Salazar for his support of the presentation and for submitting information, as well as Kaye Lennox, Sarah Swinney, and Mary Jo Fernandez of the Library Foundation for their assistance during the research phase of the project. Mr. Grant was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the Black Caucus Roundtable of the Texas Library Association, the organization sponsoring his session.

In honor of National Poetry Month, branch staff held a series evening poetry readings, featuring published San Antonio poets Antoinette V. Franklin, Phillip S. Joyner, and Laura Thompson. Audience members were also invited to take the mike to share their original works of poetry. Percussionist T-Bow González provided accompaniment.

The spirit of Fiesta is everywhere at Carver Branch Library, where staff went all out in April, filling the display case with colorful and festive artifacts. A display of materials explained the celebration.

On April 16, Jubilee Academy paid a visit to the branch, where staff treated the students to a presentation on tropical rain forests. Afterward, the students and teachers were given a tour. Those without library cards were urged to sign up.

Cody

VITA wrapped up a successful season of tax preparation on April 15. The community is always appreciative of this service that is held at Cody each year.

The Friends of the Cody Branch Library held their Spring Book Sale on April 18 and 19. This year their book sale was held over two days with the popular "Bag of Books for \$2" being offered on Sunday. The sale was a success and the library has plans to purchase new meeting room tables soon.

The branch held several events associated with the Big Read. Twelve teen artists participated in the two ArtPace workshops held on March 21 and 28. Central Reference Librarian Cristine Mitchamore oversaw the book discussion offered on Saturday, April 4. The library saw moderate attendance for the movie *Fahrenheit 451* and its accompanying documentary.

Children's Services Librarians Sheila Acosta and Trina Smith and Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl donned bunny ears in preparation for the Cody Easter Egg Hunt following each of the Baby Time and Toddler Time story programs Easter week. Over 200 children, along with their parents, enjoyed hunting for brightly colored eggs in the children's area.

Sheila and Trina offered activities with the theme "Have a Book Fiesta!" for National Library Week. Contests involving counting jelly beans in a jar, guessing the number of children's books in Cody's collection, and guessing authors' names were popular with the younger patrons. Winners received books as prizes.

Families enjoyed the Fiesta-themed Family Fun Day on April 11. Music, stories and arts and crafts featured a fiesta flavor. An Easter egg hunt concluded the Family Fun.

Stocking up on recycled aluminum soda cans and plastic coffee cans, Sheila and Library Assistant Cristina Abbenante are preparing arts and crafts, along with stories, for the Earth Day program on April 22. The theme this year is "Keep it Green!"

Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl threw a *Twilight* party to coincide with the recent release of the movie. On April 13 a book discussion and contest to win *Twilight*-related prizes entertained teens before a showing of the movie. Guitar Hero gaming has been slow, but gaming night promises to pick up with the introduction of a new Wii console.

Staff were kept busy this month with several visits in the community to promote library services. Children's Services Librarian Trina Smith visited the San Antonio Food Bank's Kids' Café at Nob Hill Apartments. Trina, Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw, and Department Systems Aide Valerie Cruz also staffed a table at the Diversity Conference sponsored by the Jewish Community Center. Trina also participated in Kids Day at San Pedro Park. Circulation Attendant David Guzmán and Library Assistant Cristina Abbenante participated in the community fair held at the groundbreaking for the new Fire Station No. 51 in District 8.

Staff are finalizing the details for Cody's 25th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for Saturday, April 25. Family events will be scheduled throughout the day. Programs include a hula and ukulele demonstration and class, *Goldilocks* presented by the Clark High School Drama Department, and much more.

Collins Garden

At Collins Garden Branch Library a variety of displays were created during the reporting period to entice browsers to check out materials on Fiesta, National Poetry Month, and Springtime. Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford continues her outreach efforts, visiting numerous daycares to bring them a wide variety of books as well as providing them with a lively and absorbing storytime. To engage the energetic after-school crowd who are waiting for their turn on the Technology Center computers, staff are providing them with games, puzzles, and coloring sheets.

RFID tagging of the circulating and reference collection is nearly complete with only older returning circulating items still remaining to be tagged. Kudos to staff members who diligently worked on this project, especially Circulation Attendants David Alvarez and Julia Alvarez (no relation).

Thanks to the Branch's generous Friends Group, Collins Garden now has a 32" flat screen HD television. It is proving very popular for movie programs and Wii gaming. The new television is a big improvement over the more than 20-year-old unit used previously, and staff members and customers appreciate the gift very much.

Use of the VITA tax assistance program waned for a while but as the tax deadline approaches, the volunteers are once again dealing with a steady stream of folks anxious to get help with their taxes.

Collins Garden staff members continue to upload photographs to SAPL's Flickr site and, thanks to Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford, Collins Garden is among the most prolific uploaders. It is great fun to see branch activities featured on Flickr.

Collins Garden continues to provide résumé and online job searching help every Wednesday morning. One participant recently phoned the library to say, "Thank you." She stated that she was offered a job after receiving interview tips at the library.

A partnership was created with a senior citizens' group at the Palm Heights Community Center. Adult Services Librarian Elma Nieto-Rodríguez will visit the center once a week to provide library cards, books, and library program information. Elma was pleased to report that some of the seniors have started to request specific titles and/or subjects.

Teen Services Liaison Carlos Loera reports that in March and April teen programming attracted 104 participants. Wednesday gaming afternoons and evenings are averaging fifteen participants each and the movie *Madagascar 2* attracted fourteen attendees. Chess night has been temporarily suspended but is expected to resume in the fall.

On April 3, thirteen UTSA volunteers assisted with the following projects:

- ♦ organize the craft bins in the meeting room
- ♦ rearrange the teen fiction and juvenile biographies
- ♦ shelf-read Español
- ♦ RFID tag the Reference Collection
- ♦ place branch, barcode, and sleeve information on the RFID hub sticker on almost all of the DVD's and some CDs
- ♦ make fiesta flowers to decorate the branch

Cortez

In April the Cortez Branch Library partnered with Avance to provide a series of Early On workshops for caregivers and parents. Topics of the workshops included brain development, home safety, healthy foods, and literacy. The goal of Early On is to help children develop communication, problem-solving, and life skills. The classes were very popular with Cortez patrons.

The library celebrated Family Day on April 11 with a visit from the Scholastic Literacy Van and a performance by Mariachi Palomino.

By popular demand Children's Services Librarian Carol Collins repeated a recent story time on bugs for children at a nearby Texas Migrant Council Center, who wanted their chance to make ladybug hats.

MTV held casting for their series *Made at Cortez* on Monday, April 13. The branch had a huge turnout from nearby South San High School. The students were interviewed by an MTV producer for a chance to appear on the show.

On April 15, a troupe from Comedy Sportz shared some fun, improvisational comedy for Brew-Ha-Ha: Coffee and Comedy, Laughter and Libraries. Starbucks provided coffee for the event.

This month the family movie night on April 16 featured the award-winning animated film *Bee Movie*.

The library hosted a Via Metropolitan Transit Program on April 20. Representatives from VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority discussed services and programs offered by the agency to the community.

Forest Hills

Forest Hills hosted the VITA income tax preparation assistance program from January 15 through April 15, 2009. Forest Hills displays for March and April included *The Big Read: Fahrenheit 451*; *Worlds Connect*; Career Center; Poetry Month; National Library Week; Women's History Month; Humor Month; the Alamo; and U.S. Presidents. Currently on display are works by artist Elizabeth Goode entitled *Women in Veil Series*. Forest Hills began the RFID program and has completed the preliminary tagging of the materials. Thanks go to the temporary RFID tagger Dora Ramirez for her diligent work. Self-check-out equipment should be delivered very soon.

Forest Hills hosted the April 6 meeting of Keetowah, an Indigenous education group.

Charles Rodríguez was the discussion leader when the members of the Contrarian Viewpoints Book Club met on April 11 to discuss Alan Dershowitz's *Blasphemy: How the Religious Right is Hijacking our Declaration of Independence*.

The Thunderbird Hills Neighborhood association met at Forest Hills on April 14.

The April 16 Big Read book discussion featured *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

On April 17 the History of San Antonio Book Club met to discuss the founding and history of Mission San Antonio de Valero and general policies during the mission period.

To promote the Library's "Be One in a Million" campaign, Forest Hills hosted a visit by Ronald McDonald on April 21. Ronald gave a brief performance and spoke to children about the importance of getting their library cards and becoming readers.

The Children's Area is soon expecting a new carpet that was furnished by the Friends of the Forest Hills Library. The carpet has been approved and is expected to be delivered before the start of the summer.

The story time before Easter Sunday had story time kids and guardians gluing flowers and little chicks onto a big poster board. It was a big hit with all who participated!

Great Northwest

Branch Manager Roberto Zapata attended the District 6 Spring Fling with Library Assistant Luanne Bloom and Guerra Branch Manager Dexter Katzman. They signed attendees up for library cards and handed out information about the library.

Adult Services Librarian Patricia King attended the Collection Development workshop held at Central.

Preparations are underway for this year's Summer Reading Program. Children's Services Librarians Cari Raley and Elspeth Blakeman are planning outreach to the community. Children's programs continued to be very popular and well attended. Currently, the ABC Club is the most popular program with an average attendance of 99. Other programs include Puppet Time, Flying Creatures, Quirkles, and the Homeschool Art Club. The average attendance for all programs is 43, with an average of 25 programs per month.

The Chess Club and Adult Book Club continue to meet at the branch. Library Assistant Christina Reedy held a beaded earring workshop with about 20 attendees. In addition, a "Dress for Success" program attracted twelve participants. Book displays for this period included "Go Green," *Fahrenheit 451*, and Women's History Month.

Guerra

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman attended the monthly meeting of the Meadow Village Neighborhood Association on April 1. He met several times during the reporting period with District 6 Library Board Trustee Lora Devlon Eckler and Friends of Guerra Branch Library President Delores Huber to begin planning for a fifth anniversary celebration tentatively scheduled for mid-July. He participated in Steve Jackson's Spanish-language book club on March 26. He attended a Branch Managers meeting on April 2.

Children's Services Librarian Yanira Cruz planned and presented six story times, two each on March 25, April 1, and April 8, with a total attendance of 123. Yanira planned and presented two toddler programs on March 31 and April 7, with a total attendance of 90, as well as two infant lapsit programs (March 25 and April 7), with a total attendance of 9. She participated in Steve Jackson's Spanish-language book club on March 26. On March 30, she recorded a *Telecuentos* story for the Library's Dial-a-Story program. She conducted outreach visits to Glenn Elementary School (Even Start ESOL Program), New Westwood PCI, a local WIC Clinic, Westwood Terrace Even Start ESOL/GED program, and Westwood Elementary School/Cafecito to speak to parents and educators about the library's Summer Reading Program.

Adult Services Librarian Steve Jackson discussed the Big Read title *Fahrenheit 451* in his monthly Spanish-language book club. Participants viewed the movie version (subtitled in Spanish) and discussed the book, the movie, and larger concepts such as intellectual freedom. Five community members participated.

Library Assistant Tim Johnson continued to plan and present programs for teen and young adult groups. On March 25, 17 teens used the large meeting room to play Guitar Hero World Tour, Smash Brothers Brawl, and Mario Kart. On April 8, the selections included Guitar Hero World Tour, Guitar Hero Metallica, Guitar Hero 3, Rock Band 1 & 2, and Smash Brothers Brawl; 31 teens attended. The Animangiacs group started *Death Note* on March 26, finishing it on April 2. There were eight participants. The group returned on April 9 and 16 to watch and discuss session one of *Bleach*.

Tim will oversee and host a Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament this summer. He is working with the Chess Club at John Jay High School to develop summer activities.

The Say Sí Art Program recognized Women's History Month on March 25 with a clay sculpture project; there were eight participants. The group cast plaster figures on April 4 and worked with rugs and fabrics on April 11.

Igo

It has been a busy month at the Igo Branch Library promoting library services and the Big Read program.

On March 24 six adults attended the Big Read *Fahrenheit 451* book discussion facilitated by Adult Services Librarian Haley Holmes.

On March 30 and 31, Haley and Library Assistant Rhonda Woodhouse visited the 7th- grade reading classes at Stinson Middle School. Rhonda and Haley made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting library services and issued 58 library cards.

On April 2 Children's Services Librarian Cara Waits gave a tour of the library to students from Scenic Hills Middle School. During the tour, Cara provided information on how to use library databases, with special attention to those that would be helpful in completing homework assignments. Cara also demonstrated how to use Tutor.Com. Most of the students who visited already had library cards but the library did issue five new library cards as a result of the tour.

Johnston

Johnston Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta had the unique opportunity to attend Reading the World XI, a conference dedicated to the advancement of multicultural books for children and teens. There were numerous authors, illustrators, professors of children's literature, and other luminaries associated with multicultural literature for youth, including Michael Cart, Rosemary Wells, Nancy Tabor, Julia Jarmin, Junko Yokota and Theresa Breslin. This outstanding conference was held at the University of San Francisco and was sponsored by that school's education department. Karen's attendance was made possible by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

The Free Craft Activity Time that the Johnston Children's Services unit started during Spring Break was such a success that it is now offered at varying times throughout the week when the Children's Services Librarian is present.

In our first annual Make-A-Float family event, held on April 18, families were invited to make miniature Fiesta floats in honor of San Antonio's annual celebration.

Karen's outreach activities included a visit to Five Palms Elementary School and a program for the Parent/Child Incorporated parents at Valley Hi Elementary School.

Johnston Branch is very proud of Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta who ran in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, a 5K (3.1 miles) race through downtown San Antonio on April 4. She joined about 30,000 others in support of the fight against breast cancer.

Department Systems Aide Danny Alvarez has put the branch's New Wii to work with "Game On" at Johnston on Monday afternoons. Fourteen teen patrons showed off their skills with the Wii remote by challenging their friends to friendly games of tennis, baseball, bowling and golf.

Danny also created a special program for National Library Week. The Branch hosted its first Altered Book Contest, in which patrons used worn books to cut, fold, glue, paint, collage or any other technique to create their work of art. Thanks go to the Friends of Johnston Branch Library for donating prizes.

Adult Services Librarian Rich Fields created an elaborate book and media display on organized crime, featuring such DVD's as *The Godfather*, *Bugsy*, and *Donnie Brasco*, and a wide array of books, ranging from Mario Puzo's fiction to non-fiction exploring "family" values to home entertaining Sopranos-style. Rich dressed up the display with photos and mug shots of assorted underworld denizens along with some of their more colorful quotations, such as the Godfather's, "I'll make him an offer he can't refuse," and, "A kind word and a gun will get you farther than a kind word alone," attributed to Al Capone.

Landa

Landa has been very busy recently. RFID tagging was finished in March and on April 9 and 10 the security gates and two self-check units were installed.

The Big Read caused a lot of interest and discussion, and on April 11 the Ray Bradbury documentary was shown, followed on April 13 by discussion of the book. The movie of *Fahrenheit 451* wrapped things up on April 18.

On April 25 adults learned to make greeting cards using a stamping technique in a workshop led by a talented patron.

For Women's History Month Dillard's/La Cantera offered a "Dress for Success" program. Illustrating their points with store mannequins and clothing, three knowledgeable presenters chatted with and advised the seven audience members.

Talented graphic artist and Department Systems Aide Blanca Morales designed and produced a unique National Library Month display.

Teens are enjoying a wide variety of activities presented by Teen Services Liaison Brooke Ballard. They created avatars, and played Wii and board games while enjoying treats 'n' eats. Brooke was also involved with "Visual Poems for Remembered Words," the exhibit opening which was the culmination of 10 ArtPace workshops for teens that she helped to coordinate. It was attended by 83 people.

Landa is very excited to have former San Antonio Public Library Children's Services Librarian Michelle DiGiacomo helping out in storytime. She is currently reading to and presenting activities for all of our children four times a day every Wednesday.

Outside the building things are equally busy. On April 11 the Monte Vista Historical Society sponsored its annual Easter Egg Hunt, hiding approximately 2,000 eggs for area children to search for. The Landa Gardens Conservancy sponsored a visit by the Magik Theatre on April 18 on the grounds. Landa Branch's terrace has become more popular than ever and every Saturday it is booked solid with children's birthday parties.

Las Palmas

Adult Services Librarian Heidi Novotny attended training sessions for the Gale Databases, and for the Baker and Taylor Title Source Three ordering system. She also trained in the Millennium serials module, in preparation for taking over that responsibility in March. Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi attended the training session *Para Los Niños/For the Children* presented by AALS. Library Assistant Liz Area attended the Tips and Tools: NoveList workshop.

Teens are enjoying the new Wii gaming system, which rotates with board games and movies as part of the weekly Tuesday afternoon programs for teens.

The Academia América citizenship class attendance is down to 13 core members attending each week. Because of this the instructors have decided to merge the Las Palmas class with that at the Bazan branch, beginning with the April 13 class. The plan is to resume classes at Las Palmas with the next semester.

Gina Brudi continued her outreach to Mirasol (4 classes, 60 children), Good Samaritan (6 classes, 70 children), and Madonna (4 classes, 48 children). Family fun events reached an audience of 37.

Maverick

The Maverick Branch Library V.I.T.A. tax assistance service continues to be heavily utilized this tax season. Immediately after the V.I.T.A. service concludes, the Friends of Maverick Branch Library held their book sale on April 18 and 19.

Recent program at Maverick placed heavy emphasis on the Big Read and Women's History Month. On March 21, six people attended a program about Second Life's Bradburyville then stayed for a book discussion of *Fahrenheit 451*. On April 11, the branch presented a documentary about *Fahrenheit 451* author Ray Bradbury, followed by the film of *Fahrenheit 451* as well. Circulation Attendant J.D. Elizondo will help decorate the Big Read Fire Truck to appear in the Battle of Flowers Parade on April 24. For Women's History Month, Adult Services Librarian Alice DeCristoforo offered a program called "La Leche" for breastfeeding mothers and a "Dress for Success" program on March 28.

Book discussions continue to draw people to Maverick. Alice's Ladies Choice Book Club had nine participants on March 28 and Adult Services Librarian Derika Bailey's March 17 Teen Book Club six participants.

Children's Services Librarians Amy Roberts and Stacy Bosquez have been busy preparing for the upcoming Summer Reading Program. In addition, in March and April Stacy presented storytimes at Kids Are Angels Daycare as part of the branch's outreach effort. Librarians are also scheduling school visits to promote the library and Summer Reading. Amy also attended the TLA conference in Houston March 31-April 3. She continues to serve on the Texas State Summer Reading Committee.

On April 4 Guest presenter Lou Thomas offered a résumé workshop to an audience of 8. Branch Coordinator Joel Bangilan facilitated a swing dance class on April 9.

McCreless

Spring cleaning for McCreless patrons resulted in great gifts to the branch. One customer donated almost two dozen hardback Stephen King novels by that were added to the collection. Another customer generously donated almost two hundred videotapes left by his deceased father Rudie Fritz. Of those tapes the library was able to add 75 of them to the permanent collection!

Generosity was also extended from one patron to another this month. A customer anonymously cleared another customer's fines after he overheard a discussion at the desk that indicated that the second patron could not afford to pay. An extra note to the story is that the generous Samaritan was in military fatigues.

On April 8 the branch was visited by a representative from Lighthouse for the Blind and his dog. He spoke to three staff members with tips on assisting blind people in and out of the library as well as sharing some information on adaptive technologies.

Children's pre-school storytimes averaged 25 attendees during this period and Children's Services Librarian Beverly Bixler also made her regular visit to Highland Hills PCI.

New to Tuesdays during McCreless' teen time is Wii play coordinated by Library Assistant Tricia Masterson. The teens have been very enthusiastic and excited about playing the sports games on the projected screen. As of Tuesday April 7 there have been three events with an average of 25 participants. Other games are still offered through the Playstation 2 on an additional television, as well as snacks and drinks.

Recent book displays have included the Big Read, "Get Crafty," Poetry Month and gardening. Miriam Inglehart's dragon collection continues to be of interest in the display case.

Memorial

The Big Read was celebrated at the Memorial Branch with a movie screening of *Fahrenheit 451* on March 28 and a book discussion on April 4.

On March 30, Women's History Month was celebrated with a program entitled "Juggling Home and Work." A group of 25 library visitors learned the basics of juggling and enjoyed a juggling demonstration from an expert. Kids and adults alike held their breath when the instructor, James Nealy, introduced a razor sharp machete into the juggling mix. Happily, all ended well.

La Tragedia de Macario by local filmmaker Pablo Veliz was screened on April 3. Writer/director Veliz was in attendance and answered questions from the audience regarding the making of his film and talked about upcoming projects.

City of San Antonio Senior Human Resources Analyst Joe Gomez presented an application and Interview workshop on April 6.

A job readiness class was presented on April 20 by the Westside Education and Training Center. The program provided information on how to attain entry-level occupation skills or increase technical skills to connect to jobs or higher education opportunities.

Memorial Branch Library staff visited Madison Elementary School's PTA meeting on March 25. Over 150 parents and children learned about upcoming library programs and were encouraged to sign up for library cards. Libro the Lion made an appearance before a group of very excited kindergarteners. Special thanks to circulation attendant Adam Capelo for his excellent Libro the Lion mascot work.

The branch participated in Memorial High School's Job and Career Fair on March 26. High school juniors and seniors were encouraged to consider the library as a possible career choice and as a way to gain valuable job experience through volunteering opportunities.

Memorial Branch Library staff, along with staff from Bazan, Collins, McCreless, Central and REFORMA members, attended the Lowrider Car Festival at Mateo Camargo Park on April 5 to promote library programs and issue library cards. The Lowrider Festival, sponsored by Centro Cultural Aztlán, features customized cars and bicycles as art forms and draws hundreds of car enthusiasts and their families each year.

Pan American

On March 31 Little Read Wagon presented a program at Pan American. An all day Reader's Advisory Training was held in the meeting room on March 24 for library staff.

Recent special programs have included a screening of *Fahrenheit 451* and a documentary about its author Ray Bradbury to an audience of eight on March 24. Adult Services Librarian James Laferla Librarian hosted this Big Read program. On March 26 a Women's History Month program, "Raising Your Family and Building a Business," was presented. Library Assistant Blanca-Sylvia D. Hernandez hosted the April 11 showing of the monthly movie, *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*.

Children's Services Librarian Raissa Marking has presented several outreach programs. On March 26 she visited the Flanders PCI and provided information and issued 35 library cards. She visited the Texas Migrant Council on April 2 to share stories about bugs with 27 children. On April 18 the Texas Migrant Council had a special two-hour event at Rhoades Middle School, where Raissa provided a display and information about the library and Summer Reading. She also promoted the Summer Reading Program at Columbia Heights Elementary School on April 3. She issued 35 cards at that time.

Monday afternoons are Family Fun time with Raissa. On March 30, five attendees heard the stories *Are You Spring?* and *Splish, Splash, Spring* before making bumble bee vases with paper flowers. On April 6, four attendees enjoyed *Farmer George and the Lost Chick* and made paper loop chicks. On April 13, *Tickly Octopus* was the story and the children made braided yarn octopi.

Wednesday's ABC Club preschool storytime is another of Raissa's responsibilities. For March 25, the letter U was studied with 22 children enjoying *Splish, Splash, Spring* and making umbrella pictures. On April 1 Raissa prepared an exploding volcano activity to celebrate the letter V. The children made paper bag vests. The Easter Party was held on April 8, with 40 participants. They shared the story *Bunny Day: Telling Time* and had an Easter egg hunt inside the library along with all kinds of snacks and treats. On April 15, the children studied the letter W with wiggle worms, windmills, and duct tape and paper watches.

The Wednesday evening B.A.C.K. Pack groups, also led by Raissa, have been very creative. On April 1, nine participants made duct tape bracelets. Seven attendees made an Easter chick or piggy from yarn, styrofoam balls, felt, and feathers on April 8. Button bracelets were the activity for April 15.

Teen Night continues on Thursdays. Library Assistant Melissa Carroll is the hostess for these programs. On March 26, ten participants made duct tape bracelets, bookmarks, roses, and anything else they wanted to try. On April 2, five attendees played Pictureka. Games with the Nintendo was the vote for April 9.

Say Si also continues to present art programs on Saturdays, averaging seven participants each week. Tai Chi classes for adults continue on Mondays, averaging 20 participants each week.

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

Children's Services Librarian Marva Allen plans many activities for the elementary-school-age customers that visit the library every Tuesday evening. Sign language is taught every other Tuesday by students from Reagan High School and there is now a stable group of patrons attending. Craft programs are held on the other Tuesdays. Marva has also created an exciting bulletin board for National Library Week.

Adult Services Librarian Hugues Caby held salsa dance classes every Tuesday evening for the last four weeks. Patrons enjoyed learning different Latin dances. Mr. Caby will be teaching beginning French classes to adult customers beginning on April 14 and will continue for four weeks.

Young patrons and their parents attending story time on April 11 had a special treat. Live rabbits were visiting in the library for an Easter story time. Children had their pictures taken with the rabbits and then decorated Easter cards to display their pictures. On April 18, the Latin Club from Reagan High School presented a play during story time. The kids and their parents enjoyed both the play and craft that followed.

San Pedro

San Pedro continues to reach out to its community through book clubs and story times conducted off site and through programming events at the library.

Outreach

Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton facilitated three off-site book clubs at two elementary schools and one middle school. Each book club has 15 members who enthusiastically discuss the book chosen for the month. They then check out the next month's selection along with approximately 12-15 extra books "book talked" and provided by Betsy. The book clubs have proved to be quite

popular at the three schools, Hawthorne Academy, Cotton Elementary, and the Young Women's Leadership Academy, all in SAISD. Ninety percent of the participants did not have a card prior to the book club.

Additionally, Betsy presented story time to 134 children at several different child-care facilities, including the VIA Child Development Center, the Kenwood PCI facility, and the SAC Child Development Center. Twenty books were also delivered to each child-care class for their use during the month.

On March 24, Betsy visited St. Anthony Catholic School to present programs to the students in kindergarten through sixth grade, promoting library services. During her visit, she issued 277 new library cards. Ms. Dalton was ably assisted by Department Systems Aide Alejandro Aguilar in issuing cards to the students quickly and efficiently.

On April 3, Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz assisted representatives from Gemini Ink at the House on Mango Street anniversary party.

On April 4, at the invitation of the Young Women's Leadership Academy Saturday, Betsy presented programs to 10 groups of incoming sixth graders. In connection with the programs she issued new library cards to 18 adults and 59 students, a total of 77 cards.

On April 7, Ms. Dalton gave a tour of the library to 15 students and 1 teacher from the Higgs, Carter, King Charter Academy.

During National Library Week Betsy will visit the three schools for which she facilitates books clubs. She will make presentations to students and issue new library cards.

On April 19 Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz attended Mission Fest at Mission County Park, where she distributed library materials, issued new library cards, and promoted the new Mission Branch Library to be constructed in City Council District 3.

Programs

On March 23 Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton presented a "Hello, Spring!" program. Children made Cheerios bird feeders; learned about, planted, and took home tomato and marigold "buddy plants;" and created "Mr./Miss Grass Heads." A total of 55 attended, including many families.

A different kind of programming is the *Newsflash*, a bimonthly newsletter published by Betsy. It contains pictures and descriptions of what San Pedro Branch Library's kids have been doing for the past two months, promotes upcoming San Pedro events, and offers book reviews, prose and poetry contributed by the young patrons. Library Assistant Sherrie Bossert expertly lays out all the elements into an eye-catching, kid-friendly format. The newsletter is available at the branch library. In addition, Betsy emails it to parents, children, and school librarians who sign up to receive it. Currently, the email list contains over 110 addresses!

In connection with the Big Read, Branch Manager Michael Kaminski and Department Systems Aide Alejandro Aguilar hosted movie screening of *Fahrenheit 451* on March 25. Six patrons attended. Two weeks later, Michael hosted a discussion of the book. Four patrons enjoyed a thought-provoking exchange of ideas.

On March 28 Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz hosted a résumé workshop in conjunction with the Seguir Adelante Community Center. Five adults attended and expressed appreciation for the assistance.

The Chess Club continues to meet on Thursday evenings. Alejandro Aguilar facilitates the chess events and sets up a display of chess-related books, periodicals, and media items.

On April 8, Cynthia hosted an adult crafts night, creating *papel picado* (paper lace), just in time for Fiesta! Following the craft program, a VIA Metro Services representative presented a program to 8 patrons outlining its services and upcoming changes.

Cynthia also arranged for the Seguir Adelante Community Center to return to San Pedro Library on April 15 to provide various information brochures to interested patrons.

The Children's Services Librarian presented 7 Story Times and 4 B.A.C.K. Pack (Books, Activities and Crafts for Kids) programs. Story Time is presented twice weekly, once in the morning and once in the evening. Ms. Dalton also facilitates a small teen group on a weekly basis.

Training

Recognizing that ongoing training is essential to effectively serving our patrons, staff members took advantage of various training opportunities. On April 17, Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton attended the *Para los Niños* Workshop in Lakehills, Texas. The information obtained from this program will be used to enhance outreach and Story Time, particularly to the large contingent of San Pedro's Spanish-speaking or bilingual families. Additionally, on April 21 Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz attended the Gale Database training to be held at Central Library.

Committees

San Pedro staffers continue to serve the larger SAPL community by their membership on various committees. Branch Manager Michael Kaminski heads up the Floating Collections Committee and serves on the Library Design and Construction Committee. Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton serves on the Children's Cataloging Committee. Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz serves on the Adult Programming Committee and the "Be 1 in a Million" Committee. Library Assistant Sherrie Bossert serves on the Idea Team and Department Systems Aide Alejandro Aguilar serves on the Staff Development Day Committee.

Semmes

Computer classes continued through the end of March at the Semmes Branch. Patrons continue to be very interested in learning more about the Internet and Office applications. This round of courses was very well attended. Due to high interest from the Spanish speaking community, Adult Services Librarian Oscar González plans to teach some classes in Spanish.

Oscar has also been very busy doing outreach for the Big Read. He has visited several community centers in the city to introduce *Fahrenheit 451* to the public. As part of the Big Read, the San Pedro Players visited the branch on March 28 and presented a dramatization of the novel.

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library met on April 1, and, due to the overflow of donations in the workroom, decided to have an impromptu book sale on April 11, with the goal of making the book room more manageable in preparation for their regular book sale in May. The Friends also approved the purchase of a new paperback book spinner for the Teen areas, as well as new Wii games.

Semmes' new True Crime Book Club had its first book discussion on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. Emily Winkler, recently graduated from library school, is leading this group. There has been a good deal of interest from Semmes patrons about attending this new book group.

Recently, a young raccoon had decided to spend the day sleeping in the rafters of Semmes' back porch area. Maintenance Worker Monica De La Cruz discovered the sleeping raccoon when

sweeping up the porch area. The raccoon slept all day but about 4:30 p.m., staff witnessed the raccoon falling about 20 feet to the hard concrete. The raccoon was stunned for about 15 minutes and staff called a local wildlife rescue organization for advice, but eventually the raccoon left the porch area and went off into Comanche Lookout Park. Hopefully he has discovered more appropriate sleeping areas.

Thousand Oaks

Branch Manager Chris Palmer and Library Assistant Debra Lindenburg-Morrow attended the senior citizens Spring Fling on March 31 at the New Creation Fellowship Plaza. Councilman John Clamp hosted the event, and about 300 seniors attended. Lunch was provided and there was music and dancing. Chris and Debra issued 26 new library cards at the event!

For the Big Read, the Thousand Oaks Theatre showed the movie *Fahrenheit 451* on March 31. The movie was well received and enjoyed by the people who attended.

To honor Women's History Month, Thousand Oaks offered a fun way to celebrate women's abilities to juggle many roles with an actual juggling class. Participants juggled apples and had fun learning to keep the apples in the air!

Two City Council candidates participated in a debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters on April 2 about the important issues facing the community. Students from the Alamo Community Colleges attended the debate. Thousand Oaks will be a polling site for the upcoming election on May 9.

The self-checkout machines were delivered on April 6. The Thousand Oaks staff is excited for them to be assembled so patrons can start using this new library feature!

VITA concluded on April 15. The volunteers remained busy filing taxes for people through Tax Day, and patrons seemed very pleased with the service they received.

Computer classes started April 20 with Meet the Computer. Interest in the computer classes is high, and patrons have been asking about the schedule for weeks!

Library Assistant Barbara Kwiatkowski attended the annual TLA Conference. She brought back posters, books and valuable information about the library profession.

The youth programs continue to be well attended. Storytime children celebrated National Kite Month April 16 by hearing kite stories, assembling and flying a kite. Family Fun participants celebrated National Library Week by hearing library stories and making bookmarks. The BACK Pack attendees dyed eggs to celebrate Easter. The teens continue to rock out on Thursdays with the Rock Band and Guitar Hero games. Thousand Oaks received its new Wii, which was welcomed with excitement by the eager teens ready to get their game on!

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

In celebration of National Library Week, Adult Services Librarian Sherrie Langston Hardin has organized several library tours. The students from neighborhood schools become first-time library users. They learn to use the catalog, databases, and how to sign up for the Internet. The students each receive a library card and are able to check out books. The Carver Academy, Eisenhower Baptist School, and Garner Middle School are a few of the schools participating in National Library Week.

Library Assistant Virginia Hurt hosted a Family Fun event on April 11. The theme was "Wildflowers: Thank You, Lady Bird Johnson."

In preparation for the Summer Reading Program, Library Assistant Allison St. Denis attended the Children's Programming meeting on April 9 and returned to the branch excited about the upcoming B.A.C.K. Pack events.

In celebration of Women's History Month, on March 28 Adult Services Librarian Monty Holcomb and the South Texas Women's Business Center hosted a seminar entitled "Raising Your Family and Building Your Business."

Westfall

Several members of Westfall staff were able to witness a heartwarming patron interaction recently. After working diligently on a PowerPoint science project, a grade-schooler was told that he needed a flash drive to save all his hard work. He was very upset and another patron on a computer offered to run home and get the student one of his and give it to him. The boy was so thrilled when the 20-something-year-old returned a few minutes later with a brand new device in a case for him to keep. When staff mentioned to the young man that his gesture was very kind, he replied that when he was growing up his only saving grace was escaping to the public library and he wanted to show his gratitude by passing along some goodwill to another young person. Very moving and motivating for staff to once again hear that libraries do make a difference in people's lives, sometimes without ever even knowing about it.

Programming has continued at the branch with activities supporting SAPL-wide initiatives. Several programs for the Big Read were offered, such as a book discussion, two different film presentations, an interactive workshop on Censorship and the Arts facilitated by members of Museo Alameda, and a display. A program for working women was offered for Women's History Month. National Library Week was celebrated with a banner for patrons to record the reasons why they "Love Their Library," and the library's Bookmobile made an appearance as well. Regular book discussions were held, and Library Assistant Theresa Ybarra held her first meeting of the Crafters Book Club, where attendees can bring their own projects to work on while listening to a "crafty" title chosen just for them. A representative from the Post Office came with lots of giveaways for the program they presented to recognize National Letter Writing Month. Attendees enjoyed a special treat donated by Starbucks while relishing the comedy of Brew-Ha-Ha.

Branch Manager Cheryl Sheehan took part in Jackson Keller Elementary School's Literacy Fair, where she registered children and families for library cards. Fruits of her endeavors are already being seen as children have started coming in and using the library, many for the very first time. Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza also reached out into the community by visiting two senior centers, where she promoted library services.

Monica also spent a few days at the 2009 TLA Conference, where she strengthened her library skills at several informative workshops. She brought back many exciting ideas, some of which she is anxious to begin here at the branch.

The Friends of Westfall Library met and were presented with the branch's "wish list." They were excited to hear some suggestions on how to spend their hard-earned funds to support the library.

Lastly, the patrons of Westfall are very grateful to have their express internet terminal back after several months! Computer usage is ever increasing at the branch, and this computer helps to ease the usual 20+ long waiting list.