

San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
June 24, 2009

Administration

Director's Office

The Library is pleased to announce that former Assistant Director for Public Services Mark Gretchen has agreed to accept the position of Interim Assistant Director for Support Services. Mark assumed his new duties on June 10.

Joining Board Chair Jean Brady in meetings with members of the new City Council and planning for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget process has been the Library Director's major focus recently. The week of June 8, Ramiro and Board Chair Jean Brady met with District 6 Councilman Ray López, District 4 Councilman Philip Cortez, and District 7 Chief of Staff Charles Mazuca to inform and update them on Library projects and issues. Ramiro attended a "meet and greet" hosted by District 9 Councilwoman Elisa Chan for City Department Directors on June 15.

Library Management met various times to develop budget reduction recommendations in response to the request from the City Budget Office for a 10% reduction plan. Staff presented these recommendations to the Board of Trustees on June 9. The Board fully endorsed staff's recommendations.

On May 29, Library staff met with State Librarian Peggy Rudd and her staff to discuss proposed changes in the budget and structure of the Interlibrary Loan system.

That evening, Ramiro attended the John Igo Branch Library Founding Donors recognition ceremony hosted by the Library Foundation at the branch. He was accompanied by Assistant Library Director for Public Services Kendra Trachta.

As part of the planning process, on June 10 an initial meeting was held with the consultant selected to facilitate the upcoming SAPL community needs assessment. Attending with Ramiro were Board Chair Jean Brady, Assistant Library Directors Kendra Trachta and Mark Gretchen, and members of the Library Management Team.

A meeting with Dan Parman and his family was held on June 12 to discuss planning for the Parman Branch Library.

Branch Services

Branch Services Coordinators Kate Gray and Joel Bangilan wish to recognize the efforts of those branch staff who are giving the extra measure during the City's hiring slowdown: Roberto Zapata, who is managing his own branch, Great Northwest, as well as Forest Hills; Michael Kaminski, managing San Pedro and Landa; and Christine Palmer, managing Thousand Oaks and the Tobin Library at Oakwell. We thank also James LaFerla, Librarian II, who has accepted management responsibilities at Pan American while the Branch Manager is on extended leave.

Children's Services

Certainly the big news this June is the launch of the 2009 Summer Reading program, *Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas*. Summer got off to a roaring start with kick-off events at many library locations. As of 5:00 pm on Monday, June 15, registration for the Reading Club stood at 11,760. This number represents just over 50% of this year's registration target of 22,000 children.

In addition to running the 2009 Summer Reading program, the children's services staff is also hard at work planning for the fall's Hispanic Heritage celebration and participating in the newly established procedures for replacement buying. Many children's books are lost in circulation or weeded due to condition but continue to be in high demand. Through replacement buying, Children's Services Librarians are able to restock both popular and classic titles.

Public Relations

Public Relations Manager Beth Graham coordinated responses to two Open Records Requests submitted to the City Attorney's Office soliciting information from the Library. The first was from KENS-TV/Channel 5, for a listing of all URLs accessed by both staff and the public at Westfall Branch Library during the week of May 11 through 15; the second was from one of the respondents to the Request for Proposal for the Community Needs Assessment, requesting the score sheet for that respondent and a copy of the winning proposal.

The Public Relations Office coordinated two radio interviews about Summer Reading, one with Chrissie Murnin of Cox Radio and one with Kelly Kendall of KISS Radio. Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash and Teen Services Librarian Violeta Garza represented SAPL for the Cox Radio interview, and Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez interviewed with KISS.

On June 2, Beth met with representatives from the San Antonio Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and Adult Services Librarian Jody Hampton to discuss a possible co-operative project to offer training for both PRSA members and the general public on using social media for business.

The Summer Reading Kickoff at the Central Library on June 6 was covered by KWEX-TV/Univision and an *Express-News* photographer.

Beth coordinated the June 10 meeting with consultant Ron Vines of the ETC Institute to begin preliminary planning for the Community Needs Assessment.

On June 15, she attended the KENS 5/McDonald's "Monday Mornin' Grub" promotion at Westfall Branch Library. Adult Services Librarian Monica Garza was interviewed and the segment appeared on KENS' "Great Day SA" morning show.

The Library received 16 media mentions in the past month.

Teen Services

The Teen Summer Program kicked off on June 1. Throughout June and July, teens can register for the program at Central or any branch library and receive a game card full of fun activities (including reading!) to complete. As they complete the activities, the teens are then entered in a drawing. Teens who complete all the activities will receive a hacky sack. The grand finale drawing will be held on August 8 during GameFest at the Central Library. Prizes will include a Wii, an mp3 player, a camera, tickets to San Japan and more. In addition to the game card, the Library will present special weekly programs for teens during the summer. Several presenters will visit the libraries to host programs for teens, including ACES (Anime Culture Enthusiasts Society), San Japan, Alamo Cosplay Troop, the Star Wars Society of San Antonio, Southern Dragon Gaming Club and the local Star Trek fan club USS Bexar.

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez applied for a Loan Star Grant through the Texas State Library, and the grant was awarded to SAPL. With these funds, Teen Services bought Wii consoles and games for teen programming at all SAPL locations. All of the branches have received their consoles, and Teen Services at the Central Library now has a Wii game library which branches can use to reserve games for their programs.

During the summer, representatives from the Americorps Vista GO Center will staff a table in the Central Library Teen Services Department to answer questions about scholarships and financial aid for college. The GO Center representatives will be available every Monday and Wednesday from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Central Teen Services will offer free lunches for children and teens aged 1 through 18 again this year. The San Antonio Food Bank will be providing both hot and cold lunches for the program, which runs from June 8 to August 21.

Central Teen Services Librarian Violeta Garza and Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash, participated in a radio interview for a local station on June 3. Violeta discussed the Teen Summer Program and library services. In addition, Violeta taped an episode of Cover to Cover on June 17. She and the owner of Heroes and Fantasies (a comic book store) discussed Free Comic Book Day. Violeta also talked about the Summer Lunches program and the GO Center program.

Kudos to staff - Customer comments

"I just logged in to the web site after reading an article in the *Express-News*. Great site! It's been a while since I visited the site, so I'm impressed. Thank you!" – **Lou Georgieff**, April 23

"Please pass the word of gratitude to the team: Sr. Salazar and crew, Ramiro, if I may be so bold. Congratulations on the AWESOME new home page for the library. Let the grito go out! Seriously, I was glad to see it. Peace & intellect, yours very truly," – **Andy Hull**, April 25

"Dear Kaye [Lenox, President and CEO, San Antonio Public Library Foundation]:

"When I had administrative responsibilities, the rare communication I received in which someone took time to compliment any member of my staff delighted me. So, I thought I'd tell you this story:

"A friend of mine, who is a newly anointed docent at the McNay, forgot that Memorial Day weekend was upon her and hadn't gotten around to going to the Trinity library to check out books to help her research an upcoming presentation she has to do on Gauguin.

"Of course, the university library as well as the McNay library was closed from Friday through Monday.

"So, she perused the San Antonio Public Library website, learned that an out-of-Bexar-County resident with proper identification can obtain the privilege of checking out books - either for a year or for a three-month period. She called to be sure the library was, in fact, open on Saturday, the 23, and, since it was, I drove with her to help her purchase the three-month card, find the books, and haul them to the car. (Art books are, as I suspect you've noticed, often humongous.)

"Every staff person at that facility, Kaye, was pleasant, friendly, and forthcoming in efforts to assist us as we wandered around trying to find the right sections, assess the catalog, and even locate the elevator.

"I was so impressed not only by the quality, obvious training, and professionalism of the staff but also by the large number of Bexar country residents reading, checking out books, using the computers, acting as if that place was 'their' home! Everyone seemed so comfortable.

"The entire experience was such a pleasure that I just had to share it with you. You and your colleagues on the Foundation staff as well as on the Library staff should take much pride in what you have created.

"All best wishes to you and yours." – **Coleen Grissom**, May 26

"p.s. Oh, and my friend said your holdings on Gauguin are quite impressive."

"Dear Mr. Salazar: I was just searching the catalog, saw your picture and thought I would just take a minute to say that I am constantly amazed at the level of service provided by the San Antonio Public Library system. I visit one of the libraries in the system at least once a week. (Igo, Cody, Westfall, Central)

"I particularly enjoy the HOLD system where I can place my name on the list for the newest books from my home computer and the books magically (with the help of the staff) appear on the Hold Shelf at Igo, my closest location. Also the email reminders of when books are about to be due is so helpful.

"The Librarians and staff at Igo are always super helpful, friendly and knowledgeable. I think the self-checkout is brilliant! Igo is a lovely facility too. I also enjoy browsing and buying the bargains at the Book Cellar at Central.

"I am so proud of the SAPL system that I constantly brag about it to my friends in other states. They can't believe you also offer CDs and DVDs as well. (I know these must be a huge hassle for you guys sometimes)

"Thank you so much for your and your staff's continued efforts and hard work at creating a world class library system for a world class city.

"Have a great day!" – **James P. Long**, May 28

"As a parent, I truly appreciate the services provided by our neighborhood library, the Bazan Library. Both my daughters love to read and it has really helped them progress in school. As a matter of fact, my eldest will be a senior and is an A student in her AP classes. My youngest, who was in 6th grade this past school year, was told that she was reading and writing at a 12th grade level, so this coming school year she will be bumped up to 8th grade rather than 7th. The support she has received from the library to complete projects (was taught how to order books from other libraries) has been a blessing. She goes into the public library system so often that she has memorized her library card. I just want to thank the staff at the Bazan Library for the support they give students in our area, especially because many of us do not have any other support (technology, literature, etc.). Our children are making progress due to the support from our community (parents, teachers, and yes...the staff at our public libraries). Thanks again!!!" – **Adela Ellis**, June 19

Central Library

Alamo Area Library Systems

The AALS staff has been busy working on consulting projects on the road and in the office. Staff will visit 15 libraries this month to assist with technology concerns, collection management techniques and library policies. Staff sent out information on the upcoming Windows 7 release; AT&T grants; cataloging without the Dewey Decimal System; barcoding with Google books; assignment alerts;

and Texana collections. Staff have also been prioritizing projects for the state funding AALS expects to receive as a result of the most recent legislative session.

Children's Services

Summer Reading at Central launched on Saturday, June 6 with two standing-room-only performances of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Magik Theatre. The department also hosted a come-and-go-craft that day, inviting children to participate in the creation of "I Love Summer Reading" banners that are now on display in the story room.

Central Children's staff have been making good use of the Digital Library Assistant (DLA) for shelf reading, inventory and collection development purposes. Affectionately known as "the device," the DLA is a wand-like instrument that reads RFID tags while books are on the shelf. By programming the device appropriately, staff can locate books that are out of order on the shelves, identify books that are erroneously listed as missing, lost or in transit, and thus identify items that are in need of replacement. Central Children's staff find that the time necessary to complete these tasks has decreased significantly due to this new and powerful technology.

Circulation

The Central Circulation Department has been preparing itself for the busy summer days to come. Staff is working together as a team to help patrons establish and reestablish their relationship with the San Antonio Public Library by creating and updating accounts.

Dianna Gamez and Leticia Guerra completed create list training and are already putting their training to work. Together they are creating lists of patron accounts that will help SAPL circulation improve and correct our Millennium database. After creating the lists, Central Circulation staff corrected 685 accounts to reflect current information needed.

Thomas Wood will begin training in the Interlibrary Loan department on June 22. He will learn how to use ILLIAD to maintain patron accounts, check for new email addresses, prepare print notices, and update Texpress participants. This is in conjunction with the ILL implementation process and the duties that the Circulation Department will assume.

As part of the "Be One in a Million" library card campaign, the Circulation Department voted on how to best get the word out to our patrons encouraging them to get a library card. The idea for T-shirts was born and Gracie Rendón accepted the responsibility of ordering staff T-shirts that encouraged patrons to "GET CARDED". The staff looked fabulous as they proudly wore their shirts on Wednesday, June 3, and received several compliments from both staff and patrons. They were even stopped during their lunch hours by patrons asking to see their shirts.

In order to assist Children's Services to spread the word about our summer reading program, the circulation staff processed 703 library card applications for a nearby school. The Central Library has already seen a flurry of activity due to those created accounts, and the staff anticipates that many of those young readers will become permanent library patrons.

Government Documents

The big weeding project continues to go well; Government Documents staff is closing in on 3000 boxes of documents for disposal.

Perhaps as a result of the current economic downturn, the department is also seeing an increase in the number of customers requesting patent search training.

Outreach Services

The bookmobile staff is eagerly awaiting the launch of new service sites. Beginning June 29, the bookmobile will make regular visits to Eva's Heroes, an organization founded by Eva Longoria Parker to provide care for developmentally disabled youth. In July, the bookmobile will expand its reach to Elmendorf, with a stop at IH-37 and South Loop 1604 East, and to Kirby, with a stop at Hopkins Elementary School. Service to the Southside ISD and John Glenn Elementary School will be discontinued.

Staff provided library card registration at Housing and Neighborhood Services' retreat, KLRN's Family Fun Day, the Family Services Association Conference, Pridefest and the YMCA's Juneteenth. The bookmobile was in high demand, attending the Spina Bifida Texas Family Night, the City Council District 3 Fair and USAA's Child Development Center.

Hopeful job applicants in suits and ties were met by the bookmobile at the San Antonio Employment Guide Job Fair on June 3. Staff had stocked the vehicle with books about job hunting and career planning, but, interestingly, the applicants checked out fiction and travel books instead.

Bookmobile staff had the pleasure of providing an elementary-school child his first library experience. The youngster came on board at the IH-10 stop and made a beeline for the juvenile books about trucks. He urged his mother to check out the books on his behalf, but she had another idea: she asked staff if he could have his own library card. When the card was made, the mother stood aside and allowed her son to step up to the counter himself to present the books he wished to borrow. She explained that this was his first visit to a library, as the school he attends does not provide library service.

Outreach has begun a partnership with the Bexar Library Association to provide reading materials for jurors at the Bexar County courthouse. The first delivery, made this month, consisted of more than a hundred magazines, used but in excellent condition.

Little Read Wagon

Little Read Wagon has shifted gears for the summer. Staff will spend time making visits to WIC nutrition clinics and other community locations that are not typically included in school-year programming. Summer also brings an opportunity to experiment with offering storytime at limited Bookmobile stops. High on Little Read Wagon's agenda for the next few months is planning for the coming year based on feedback from workshop evaluations.

Some activities remain constant throughout the year, such as teacher workshops. One workshop was held on May 30 and another on June 20, both at the Central library. Adam Spana of Digital Services graciously shared his knowledge of library resources with a portion of the workshop attendees. Participants reported having learned how to conduct a variety of searches using the online catalog and databases and gained knowledge of digital media. Molly McCormick and Ernest Mendoza, of Easter Seals and PACES respectively, also presented Early Childhood Intervention information encouraging teachers to make referrals for children who may need additional assistance in their development.

Para los niños programming continued in June with a new series starting at the Guerra Branch Library. Recruiting for this series took place at the Marbach WIC nutrition clinic as well as at elementary schools and child development centers in the area. Little Read Wagon finalized plans for two more *Para los niños* series to be held at Family Service Association's Neighborhood Place and Miller's Pond Community Center.

Corinne Sánchez attended two meetings at United Way. On June 2 she spoke to the Great Start Family Support Collaboration program supervisors, and on June 11 she was invited back to speak to

Great Start program staff. At both meetings Ms. Sánchez shared information about Little Read Wagon programs and library resources.

Reference

Pannaga Prasad organized a series of programs and workshops in observance of Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. On May 31, programs were offered at the Central Library consisting of dance demonstrations and yoga workshops. These were provided by various Indian dance organizations and the San Antonio Yoga Center. There was great attendance and enthusiasm for these programs at both the Central Library and the branches.

Library Assistant Lyle Rosdahl and Reference Department Manager Dan Stanford presented information concerning library resources to more than 50 individuals attending a job fair at Sunset Station sponsored by ROAR (Reach Out and Recruit). Emphasis was given to our Learning Express database and our Live Homework Help databases.

Special Events

The Central Library was selected as the meeting venue for the Writer's Guild of America conference on June 6 and 7. The Guild invited 70 Iraq War veterans from across the country to discuss their experiences with 15 Guild members. The project occupied seven conference rooms, and the Gallery served as the primary meeting site. The project organizers were extremely pleased with the facilities and the assistance that staff provided them during their visit.

Technical Services

The City Council approved the selection of Midwest Tapes as the major vendor for media materials. Collection Development staff began ordering media titles and setting up accounts to develop the opening day collections for the two new branches, Mission and Stone Oak.

Starting in September, the Technical Services Department will assume the mailing duties for Interlibrary Loan. Annie Sarabia, Jennifer Michaelson, Pat Mojica, and Jim Davis from the Processing Unit began working with ILL staff to learn the mailing process.

Katie Enright taught a Create List class on June 11.

Teen Services

Teen Services staff host programs for teens Monday through Thursday at 2:00 during the summer.

Mondays with Librarian I Violeta Garza: The obligatory and always fun Guitar Hero tournament was held on June 1. June 8 was the first Monday of summer programming, dubbed Japanese Bunka (Culture) Monday, and attendees watched an anime film. Teens played a Japanese trivia card game called "karuta" on June 15. On June 22, participants made candy "sushi".

Tuesdays with Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce: Tuesdays are gaming afternoons for teens, who choose which games they would like to play on these days. On June 2 and 9, several enthusiastic teens played Super Smash Bros. Brawl for the Wii. This has been their favorite game to play on the Wii so far. On June 16 and 23, teens played Mario Kart for the Wii and had a great time.

Wednesdays with Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano: On May 27, Sylvia hosted a group playing the PS2 video game American Idol Karaoke. Twenty-five teens watched and/or sang their hearts out, and Simon Cowell let them know who did well and who didn't. As part of the Teen Summer program, Sylvia will host "Wii Wednesdays" every Wednesday in June. Teens can decide which video games to play on these days.

Thursdays with Library Assistant Regina Almanza: At the end of May, teens did a felt craft, using felt, thread and needles to follow patterns or create their own felt plushies. At the beginning of June, teens created drawings that are currently on display on the purple wall at Teen Services. The drawings, which will be up all summer, compliment our Teen Summer Program theme, "A Summer with Character." Summer Thursdays are in full swing on Thursday afternoons, and teens will be participating in a variety of activities from video games, crafts and games.

On Saturday, June 6, the Baka Onigiri Con Ost (Stupid Riceball with Cheese) International Anime/Manga Club met. The club was visited by a Japanese-published 18-year-old, Bernice Flores. She spoke to teens about getting published, her art work and her current project. At the end of the question and answer session, Angel, Bernice's fiancée, got down on one knee and proposed to her in front of the teens. She said "yes" and cried, and so did some of the teens.

Tours and Groups

On May 28, Kathleen and Sylvia gave a tour of the library and presented catalog and database information to 50 English as a Second Language students from Marshall High School. June 15 through 18 Teen Services hosted a group of 40 students from the UTSA TRIO Talent Search program. According to the UTSA website, the program is "designed to encourage students to complete high school and enter a university, junior college, technical or vocational school after high school graduation." Teen Services provided the students with catalog and database instruction, along with a tour of the library. The teens also participated in a Central Library scavenger hunt created by Kathleen and Regina. The students were able to sign up for library cards and the Teen Summer Program, as well as receive free lunches provided by the S.A. Food Bank. On June 19 Kathleen, Sylvia and Regina presented database and catalog information and a tour of the library to 100 Rayburn Middle School students.

Texana/Genealogy

June began with a series of classes presented by the staff.

On 2 June, Andy Crews presented an internet class to seven individuals on Creating a Family Website. This was followed on June 5 with the third annual Texana/Genealogy Lock-In. There were a total of 18 participants researching and attending classes. During the lock-in Librarian II Deborah Countess taught Beginning Genealogy to 15 of the researchers, and Texana/Genealogy Manager Frank Faulkner discussed SAPL's genealogy databases with all 18 participants.

Los Bexareños, the Hispanic historical and genealogical society, donated \$600 to the Friends of Texana/Genealogy at their June meeting.

On June 12 the San Antonio Regional Archivists held their regular meeting in the department.

Texana/Genealogy has added a new LibGuide called "The Wild West" to the Library's website.

Librarian II Matt DeWaelsche has finished archiving former Assistant City Manager Jelyne Burley's papers and is preparing a finding aid. Andy Crews is cleaning up digitized City Council meetings from 1957-1963, which were originally on reel-to-reel tapes.

A unique donation to the collection occurred on June 11 when local architect Morgan Price donated a small box of print blocks for the book *Life on the Range and on the Trail* by Robert Lauderdale and John M. Doak. At the back of this book, a Naylor publication from 1936, are several pages of cattle brands. The print blocks for these brands were purchased by a friend of Mr. Price a number of years ago and given to Mr. Price. They provide an excellent glimpse at one element of the printing industry and the activities of a local company.

Retired SMU Chemistry Department Chairman George Crawford of Dallas donated three books to the collection. One is *Three Crawford Brothers, the WWII Memoirs of Three Pilots: Raymond, George, and Fred Crawford*. After all these years Dr. Crawford remembered the San Antonio Public Library and for a very good reason. After graduating from Burbank High School, he enrolled at the University of San Antonio, later incorporated into Trinity University. World War II began; he enlisted for pilot school; and while waiting to enter worked as a page for Miss Phillippi in the Reference Room. One day upon entering the library he noticed a new circulation clerk, Jeannette Kizer. They fell in love and married in June 1946. Dr. Crawford thanks the San Antonio Public Library for “his gift”; as he writes in a note at the front of the book, “The story of our courtship hasn’t ended yet.”

Branch Libraries

Bazan

Branch Manager Raymond Villarreal represented SAPL at the Digital Converter Fair held at the Willie Velásquez Learning Center. The fair, which was intended to inform the public about the short time left to buy a digital converter box before analog television is no longer broadcast, was well attended. Raymond discussed the “One in a Million Campaign” to register new library users, as well as publicizing the many resources available at the Library.

Children’s Services Librarian Hope Sonnen is happy to announce that as of June 9 Bazan had registered nearly 180 children and 35 teens for their respective Summer Reading Programs. The June 1 kickoff for the Children’s Summer Reading Program was headlined by a visit from Donnabelle the Clown. The kickoff ended with cake and juice provided by the branch staff.

Brook Hollow

Brook Hollow’s staff was busy this month with continuing education opportunities, committee appointments, and program planning endeavors. Library Assistant Kathryn Ryan attended SAPL’s Romance Genre class, and has already used the information she learned to help Brook Hollow’s patrons.

Adult Services Librarian Mary M. Smith continued to work on SAPL’s Staff Development Day committee. Mary has played an instrumental role in recruiting leaders for breakout sessions. Mary also visited Bradley Middle School to provide students with information about the teen Summer Program. Children’s Services Librarian Ruth Chiego visited with school librarians and students at Encino Park Elementary School, Thousand Oaks Elementary School, Coker Elementary School, and Hidden Forest Elementary School to provide them with information about the children’s Summer Reading Program and activities. She also has enjoyed working on SAPL’s newly formed Idea Team which will soon be in full effect, accepting ideas for consideration in the weeks to come as they launch their system-wide program.

All of Brook Hollow’s summer programs are off to an amazing start. Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell has signed up more participants than anticipated for the branch’s raffle-style adult summer reading program *Be Adventurous, Read a Book!* Tapley has prepared a suggested reading list and gathered prize donations from several local businesses including Bin 555 Restaurant & Wine Bar, AMF Country Lanes, Dave & Busters, Embassy Miniature Golf, H-E-B, Magnolia Pancake Haus, The Rollercoaster, San Antonio Missions Baseball Club, Santikos Theatres, Souper Salad, and Splashtown. Librarians Mary M. Smith and Ruth Chiego were delighted to receive the funds they requested from Brook Hollow’s Friends group that allowed them to have fantastic kick-off and crafting events for teens and children. Kick-off events were very well attended and helped ensure that summer program registrations had a great boost from the beginning.

Playaways made their debut at Brook Hollow this month and are extremely popular. Brook Hollow is a test site for this pilot project and so far these new devices have been very well received.

Both CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) and VIA Metropolitan Transit set up tables at Brook Hollow and distributed information about their services.

Carver

The Carver Branch Library continues to enjoy great success with its writers group. What started out as a poetry month program has developed into a literary group that encourages artists working in a number of expressions, including storytelling, short story and poetry. Moderator Antoinette Franklin said that each session draws new writers eager to share their work and enjoy fellowship. No less than 15 people attend each session. The group meets twice a month and has also attracted a number of published writers, although being published is not a requirement for participation. Author Karen Chattum visited the group on June 2 and shared excerpts from her recently published novel *Tired of Being*.

Creative writing offerings are popular at the Carver Branch Library. Along with Antoinette Franklin's "Let the Words Fly" series of writing classes, Carver boasts Frederick Williams' five-part writing workshop. Williams is the author of *The Nomination*, *Beyond Redemption* and *Just Loving You*.

Summer Reading got off to a busy start at Carver with the kick-off party on June 6. Helping launch the program were representatives from the Beat 98.5 FM who shared stories with the children, a spokesman for the Smile Center Family Dentistry who shared information on dental health and teachers from the Say Sí art program who engaged the youngsters in arts and crafts activities. To the delight of all, Libro the Lion made a special appearance.

Summer readers are visiting the branch to check out their books and to attend the storytime and BACK Pack programs. Special guest Spikey Mikey brought his magic show to BACK Pack on June 16. Children's Services Librarian Amy Thorne is enjoying the season, which has allowed her the chance to hear from her longtime patrons about their vacations and plans for summer camps. Amy has also been visiting childcare centers to offer storytimes and talk about Summer Reading.

The Teen Summer Program also began with some flair: the Alamo Cosplay Troop visited the branch on June 10 to share some tips on cosplay. The cosplayers modelled some of their creations, brought several other outfits to show, and talked about creating a character's look with details and accessories. Their panel was greatly enjoyed by all those who attended. (Cosplay, short for "costume role play," is a type of performance art whose participants outfit themselves in often elaborate costumes and accessories as a specific character or idea, usually from various Japanese and East Asian media, including manga, anime, comic books, graphic novels, video games, and fantasy movies.) There are many teens taking advantage of the Teen Summer Program, and Amy, who also serves as Teen Services Liaison, is also happy to see teens signing up for the program and a library card at the same time. The Anime Club continues to be well attended by its regular members, four of whom have now volunteered at the branch for several months.

The popular family movie night has been revived and renamed the Popcorn Club. Staff were delighted to see some 20 movie buffs supporting the program at its first screening on June 8.

The Carver Branch Library marked Juneteenth with two days of activities aimed primarily at young customers. On June 18, Trinity University history professor Dr. Carey H. Latimore addressed a crowd of young people, helping them to appreciate the significance of the event and what it means for people of their generation. The lecture was followed by a rousing performance by the men's gospel group Atonement. The afternoon concluded with the first of a two-part Juneteenth workshop for students in grades 1 through 12, presented by Claudette Lewis, founder of the Cherice Cochran Mentoring Foundation.

The Cooperative Extension Program of Prairie View A&M University visited the branch on June 23, demonstrating to children tips for making nutritious and simple fruit snacks.

Cody

May ended with Children's Services Librarian Sheila Acosta visiting several area schools to promote summer reading. During the first week of June Sheila visited with students from grades Pre-K through fifth at Thornton, Locke Hill, Howsman, Colonial Hills, and Rhodes Elementary Schools and spoke with more than 2,000 students on how to join the Summer Reading Club at their public library. One school invited Sheila to appear on their closed-circuit television program that was broadcast to all classrooms on campus during their morning news show.

Three Hobby Middle School English as a Second Language classes visited Cody at the end of May to get library cards. Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl gave each class a tour and presented information about the Teen Summer Program. Connie also set up an information table at Hobby during a lunch to promote *A Summer with Character* by passing out flyers featuring the teen programs and family movies being offered at Cody.

June has been a busy month for Cody. The run-off election for District 8 brought more 2,500 early voters – the most of all the early voting sites. Customers were also happy to see the return of the computer classes that are offered in partnership with the Department of Community Initiatives. Several people enjoyed the June 11 Pride Month program, *All in the Family*, in which local attorneys Stephanie Boyd, Ina Castillo, and William F. Goodman spoke about legal and civil rights for same-sex partnerships and families.

Everyone from Circulation staff to shelvers joined in the campaign to sign up children for the summer reading program. Cody is off to a great start! The first two weeks saw Cody registering almost 1,000 children and teens for Summer Reading.

The branch introduced a new Monday afternoon program this summer entitled *Happy (half) Hour*. During this event, enthusiastic readers can find out about the various new fiction and non-fiction books and graphic novel series received by the library. Sheila gave brief book talks on the new arrivals and then encouraged children and their parents to relay their own experiences with read-alikes similar to the new books. The young patrons were eager to check out the new books and looked forward to the following week's event.

Another new Monday afternoon program introduced this summer was the *Game Time Challenge*. Kids and their families are able to play traditional board games, such as Checkers, Clue, and Monopoly. Each week during the challenge, Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw taught participants how to play some nontraditional games such as Fluxx, Blokus, Munchkin, and Are You a Book Thief? The kids have enjoyed challenging each other and have enjoyed learning the new games.

It wasn't about the Happy Meals at Cody Library on June 16 when Ronald McDonald visited with the toddlers and pre-schoolers. It was all about the storytime and the fun that happens at their local library every Tuesday morning. Ronald McDonald even stayed afterwards for pictures.

"Magical" is the only word that can describe the first two summer programs held at the Cody Library. Both Donabelle and Spikey Mikey performed their "magic" for audiences at Thrilling Thursday programs.

None other than Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan was the guest storyteller at the Cody Library toddler time on June 23. Reading his favorite stories and joining in the songs and dances, Joel proved his popularity with the children.

Teen summer is off to a promising start. The Friends of Cody Branch Library purchased two new Wii controllers and the Wii game Smash Brothers Brawl. Cody also received a donation for a television, allowing Connie to have three gaming consoles going at the same time. Teens have been enjoying Smash Brothers, Guitar Hero and Mario Kart.

Part-time Library Assistant Sarah Carolan was promoted to full-time as the Digital Services Library Assistant. Staff will miss Sarah and her unique sense of humor. Staff welcomed Library Aide Mindy Nuñez, who transferred from Westfall.

Collins Garden

The KaZamba Drum and Dance Group, who performed in the entry courtyard, emptied out the library as all except the diehard computer users went outside to watch their energizing performance.

Adult Services Librarian Elma Nieto-Rodriguez's visits to the Palm Heights Nutrition Center are paying dividends. Some seniors have been dropping by to talk to Elma and have also come by to place requests for materials.

Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford reports that Summer Reading is going very well at Collins Garden. The kids are listening to stories, watching movies, and making crafts. Registration statistics are excellent, and include both walk-ins and outreach daycares.

From June 1 through June 13 Collins Garden Branch Library served as an early voting site for the District 5 run-off election.

A Spanish-language program offering advice to the first-time home buyers was held on June 10 and received favorable evaluations from all participants.

Film screenings and Teen Summer programs, such as gaming, continue to draw regular teen participation. The teen program had eleven events for a total of 162 participants. Teens are also hosting a family film series. Two screenings were held for the month of June.

A Summer Reading kick-off event was held on May 30. Children and teens were offered three craft stations to challenge their creativity: a sandal decorating craft to celebrate the upcoming summer months, summer-themed coloring pages, and a star craft provided by *La Estrella de Tejas*, the San Antonio Chapter of REFORMA. More than 60 children and teens participated.

On June 9 Collins Garden created a mutually beneficial partnership with the San Juan Brady Community Center. The Center donated ten board games to the branch and the branch will be holding several outreach events at that location throughout the summer.

The response to the inaugural movie in the Collins Garden Summer Family Film series was way beyond staff expectations. Among the 45 attendees were several family groups, who all brought snacks and had an enjoyable afternoon watching *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*.

Cortez

The Cortez Branch renovation construction began on June 16. The library will remain open to the public throughout the construction.

As of June 10 almost 400 children and teens had signed up at Cortez for SAPL's Summer Book Club.

Magik Theatre started the school age summer programming at Cortez with a performance of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* for more than 200 people on June 9.

An audience of 40 enjoyed a show with two book-loving monster puppets on June 2. Many have enjoyed the play which was adapted by Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash.

The Cortez Book Club has resumed after a brief hiatus. Library Assistant Stephanie Vasquez was very happy to resume her role as moderator and sponsor of the book club, which had a very lively discussion of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Marquez on June 4.

Teens enjoyed candy sushi while playing their choice of simultaneously running Guitar Hero and Wii Sports games on June 10.

The Lone Star Sumo Wrestling Association made a stop at Cortez on June 17 to an enthusiastic crowd for a demonstration of their sport.

English as a Second Language classes continue to be a popular weekly program and resource for the community.

Forest Hills

Forest Hills displays for May and June have included Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month, Dragonology, Memorial Day, Hurricane Season, Great Outdoor Month and Audio Month. The branch is showing an art display by artist Elizabeth Goode entitled *Women in Veil Series*. Forest Hills is awaiting the installation of its new self-service RFID terminals.

Children's Services Librarian Cindy Moreno went to Esparza and Colby Glass Elementary Schools to promote Summer Reading. During the first week in June, the first-graders from Villarreal Elementary School came to visit the Forest Hills Library for a tour and a craft, and to check out books.

Forest Hills held its Summer Reading kick-off party on June 6. Susan Frigge of the Snake Connection came to talk to an audience of 75 about snakes and let the kids, parents and some staff members hold Chubsy, a ball python. Other snakes that visited during the party were The Leucistic, a Texas rat snake; Okatee, an Okeetee corn snake; Hopscotch, a checkered garter snake; and two of Okatee's offspring, one showing the albino gene and one not.

The Friends of Forest Hills Branch Library purchased a popcorn maker for the branch. After a very successful Friends book sale, staff is compiling a wish list for them to consider.

On June 9 Cindy accompanied Little Read Wagon manager Cresencia Huff to the nearby WIC Clinic for Outreach. Cindy presented a storytime and Cresencia offered some activities.

On June 13 the Contrarian Viewpoints Book Club met to discuss *Accountable* by Tavis Smiley. The Forest Hills Book Club met on June 18 to discuss *Walden* by Henry Thoreau.

On June 15, Azul Barrientos performed her folk songs to the BACK Pack audience.

The second Forest Hills Baby Time of the summer at Forest Hills was held on June 20, offering short stories, bouncy rhymes and songs.

On June 23, Ronald McDonald performed at the 11:00 a.m. storytime.

Great Northwest

Summer Reading Club has begun at the Great Northwest Branch Library. The community has come through again this year, providing more than 30 volunteers to help with the children's programs.

Great Northwest provides programs for kids of all ages. The Little Rangers (age 4 and under) are learning about Texas animals. The Texas Treasure Trackers (ages 5 through 7) get all dressed up and track through a different place each week. For example, for "Splash Blast", they dressed in their beach gear, ready for all the beach stories. They played beach volley ball, played in the sand, discovered other beach games, and ended with a splashy puppet show. The Texas Stage Hands (ages 8 through 12) get in their small groups and grab a script and their puppets. They have 30 minutes to race through a fast practice and then when the bell rings...show time! The American Girl Club (ages 8 through 12) is the biggest surprise of the summer. The Monday registrations are filled up before the afternoon is over! Attendance has been more than 70 at each event so far. One of the moms said that her daughter has been talking about the club non-stop from the time the library had come to the school to tell the kids about the summer fun.

Teen events are also well attended. The Library has two programs each week for ages 13 and older. Old School Gaming has been attracting more than 30 teens each week. They play board games and role-playing games. "New School" Gaming includes DDR, Guitar Hero and Wii type games. There is something for everyone here Great Northwest!

Self check-out use has increased, probably because circulation and reference staff are being more proactive in promoting the service to customers. We expect the numbers to continue to increase.

Thanks to the Great Northwest Friends, who donated a sound system, a 50-inch flat screen TV, and a multitude of Ellison die-cuts to enhance the programs at the Great Northwest.

Preliminary planning has begun for the 15th anniversary of Great Northwest Library in October.

Guerra

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman met with Library Board Member Lora Devlon Eckler and Friends of the Guerra Branch Library President Delores Huber several times during the month to continue planning for the branch's Fifth Anniversary scheduled for July 18. The Friends Book and Plant Sale on June 6 and 7 netted about \$1,167.00.

Dexter attended a meeting of the Cable Westwood Association on June 2. Starting June 3, Ronnie J. Guest, Jr., Senior Management Analyst/Extreme Target Sweep Program/ Housing & Neighborhood Services Department will be providing a range of services in the library, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Adult Services Librarian Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard will be leaving Guerra effective June 19 to relocate to Brazil. She will be missed by all here at Guerra and by the larger community. Best wishes to her and her family.

Children's Services Librarian Yanira Vegerano Cruz visited Cable Elementary School on May 29 to promote the Summer Reading Program. Yanira was able to speak to the whole school, a total of approximately 600 students. Throughout the week of June 1 she visited four Northside Independent School District Even Start ESOL sites and presented storytimes. On June 2 she hosted a group of students from Passmore Elementary School. The students were given a tour of the library and then encouraged to sign up for the Summer Reading Program. On June 4, Yanira and Teen Services Liaison Tim Johnson hosted a Summer Reading Program Kickoff Party to encourage patrons to sign up for the children's and teen summer programs. A group of students from the Communities in Schools Program working with Passmore Elementary School visited the library for a tour and special storytime. Throughout this reporting period, Mrs. Cruz continued to provide weekly storytimes for children ages 0-5. During the summer an additional storytime program has been added to serve school-aged children.

The Spanish-language *Club de lectura* (book club) facilitated by Adult Services Librarian Steve Jackson discussed *Doña Perfecta* by Benito Perez Galdós. Seven patrons attended this discussion. This book, which is a social commentary on Spain, led to a lively discussion. The group compared the print version to the movie. Steve provided a major contribution to the Friends Group Book and Plant sale over the weekend of June 6 and 7, donating a large number of plants and providing consultation about how to care for the plants to the purchases. Circulation Attendant Aurora Hernández also donated plants. On June 4, Steve recorded *Bebé Abubé* by Stephanie Blake for the Dial-a-Story/*Telecuentos* program. On June 16 he moderated the Tuesday Evening Book Club, which discussed *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck.

On May 27 Teen Services Liaison Tim Johnson conducted outreach to students, faculty, staff, and parents at Anson Jones Middle School and Mary Hull, Cable, and Westwood Terrace Elementary Schools about the Summer Reading Program. On May 28, he visited John Jay and John Paul Stevens High Schools and distributed teen Summer Reading Program materials to students, family members, and school staff. He met with the Assistant Principal at Stevens High School to begin planning for a Prep Days program in August. On May 28, he delivered Summer Reading Program materials to incoming sixth-graders from Mary Hull, Cable, and Westwood Terrace Elementary Schools, distributing some 50 packets. The Game-Ra program on May 27 was a Free Play night. On June 4 and 11, the Animangiacs group selected and watched anime and cartoons. Games selected included Rock Band, Guitar Hero World Tour, and Super Smash Brothers Brawl; 35 teens participated. The June 10 program had a Sports Night theme; games included Madden 09, Knock-Out Kings, and others. The Say Sí program provided various arts and crafts projects on May 30, June 6, and June 13. The Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament met on June 3. June 6 saw the premiere of the branch's new Wii; it was a successful launch.

Igo

Children's Services Librarians Cara Waits and Lisa Taylor visited several schools in the area to promote the summer reading program. With the help of Library Aide Nicole Garza, Lisa and Cara presented 17 puppet shows at Aue, Helotes and Scobee Elementary Schools. In addition to the school visits, Cara and Lisa created a video promoting the summer reading program that was distributed to eight elementary schools, enabling the team to reach 5500 children plus their parents. Summer Reading kicked off at Igo with a "come-and-go" craft. More than 100 patrons participated. When summer storytimes began again on June 9, there were record numbers of children attending. Each of the Toddler Times and Storytimes had more than 40 children attending, with parents bringing the program totals up to around 80 attendees. In addition, the Friends of the Igo Branch Library provided the funds to have the Carranza Puppets from Houston present marionette production of *Rumpelstiltskin* on June 11. The puppet show was a success, drawing an audience of 270 children and adults.

In addition to the children's Summer Reading Club, Igo branch is offering a summer reading program for adults. Adults who complete the program will receive a John Igo book bag, provided by the Igo Friends. To date, 101 adults have signed up for the program.

In Celebration of Asian American Heritage Month, on May 30 the library hosted the dance group from the Yoga Center of San Antonio, who performed for an audience of about fifty adults and children.

On May 28 the San Antonio Public Library Foundation hosted a reception on the grounds of the library in recognition of the branch's founding donors and the opening of the new boardwalk and outdoor reading area. Soonalyn and Dan Jacob underwrote the reception and everyone was pleased with the new additions to the grounds.

Johnston

Johnston Branch Library hosted a special program on May 27. Maria Flores from the Family Service Association presented a "Play and Learn" session for caregivers of young children. The focus of the program is to prepare the child to enter school ready to learn.

Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta continued visits to local schools to promote the summer reading program. On May 27, she visited Frank Madla Elementary School and greeted children in the school library throughout the school day. On May 29 she visited Big Country Elementary School, meeting with children in Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5. Branch Manager Diane Backhus took over at noon and made presentations to kindergarteners and first- and second-graders. On June 2, Karen promoted the Summer Reading Program at Lackland City Elementary School. As always, Karen took along her keyboard for some singing, and both Diane and Karen shared some of their favorite books, much to the delight and hilarity of the children and school staff alike. One title, *Little Pea*, by Amy Krause Rosenthal, is always dedicated to the school cafeteria staff. (Read it and you'll understand why!)

Summer Reading 2009 got off to a big start at Johnston with "I Love Monsters and Mayhem!" The children sang favorite songs, heard monster stories (including the hilarious *The Three Cabritos* by Eric Kimmel – a variation on *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* where the troll appears as the Chupacabra) and made a monster-on-a-stick craft. Jason Robertson face-painted many of the young patrons. The next week children were thrilled by the Magik Theatre's presentation of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, based on the book by Laura Numeroff.

At the June 25 BACK Pack program, Lt. Col. Dane Horstmann, a jet pilot from neighboring Lackland Air Force Base, delighted the children by reading to them and answering questions about what it's like to be a pilot! His visit fit in perfectly with the day's BACK Pack theme, "I Love Parties and Piñatas" because having Lt. Col. Horstmann as a celebrity reader made it a *real* party for everyone!

The Teen Summer Program got off to a great start with a visit from local Star Wars enactors. *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* was screened as part of the event. The next week, kids enjoyed the new Wii as well as a make-and-take Father's Day Card craft.

The Johnston Branch Library was presented with a Community Partner Award by the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas as a thank-you for allowing them to use the branch meeting room and other library facilities. Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta represented Johnston at a reception held on June 9 at the Sally Cheever Girl Scout Leadership Center. The event gave Karen an opportunity to network with community leaders, including Anna Maria Chávez, new CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. Ms. Chávez comes from Phoenix, where she served in the office of then-Governor Janet Napolitano, current U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. She also knows San Antonio's City Manager Sheryl Scully, and was thrilled to be back in the same town with her. It appears that a wonderful opportunity for partnerships exists.

A series of ten computer classes was held at the branch during May and June, taught by Kim Galván from the Department of Community Initiatives.

The Friends of Johnston Branch Library had their meeting on June 11 and set an October date for the branch book sale. They have offered to support a Summer Reading prize for Johnston Library teens, and agreed to purchase a cart for Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta to use to transport her equipment for outreach programs. The branch staff would also like to acknowledge the new book display case built by Marshall Mundorff, which allows the ever-expanding and very popular Young Adult collection some much needed space.

Adult Services Librarian Rich Fields put together a book and media display featuring monsters, chiefly of the Hollywood variety. The display features such perennial favorites as Frankenstein's monster, Dracula, and the Wolfman, and includes children's books as well, which are great browsing materials.

Landa

I love Landa Library! That's the way Summer Reading Program kicked off on June 6. More than 55 children signed up and put their faces in a giant box decorated with a heart inside the shape of Texas surrounded by a field of flowers and had their pictures taken. This fabulous face cut-out is the work of Blanca Morales, Department Systems Aide. For a better idea go to the Flickr page and check out the pictures posted there. Children also drew on the sidewalk with chalk to express what they loved best. Landa Branch has been wall-to-wall children and teens so far and everyone is in love with reading and the library. The Magik Theatre made 2 visits to Landa Library this month. They made use of Landa's beautiful pavilion, and even though it was hot everyone loved the *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. At the end of May 200 first graders from Cambridge Elementary visited Landa on May 28 and 29, just in time to hear all about Summer Reading.

The branch celebrated Pride Month by screening the recent DVD release of *Milk* on June 13. This was the first time the branch's new projector and projection screen had been used. On June 18 Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan conducted a panel discussion called "Coming Out Stories."

As of June 9 Landa Branch already had 44 teens signed up. There were 13 of those teens at the Wii Rock Band program on June 9. They also used the event as an opportunity to celebrate one girl's birthday. Kids brought presents and brownies, and Teen Services Liaison Brooke Ballard brought cookies, more brownies, juice and popcorn. The birthday girl wrote everyone thank-you notes ahead of time, and Brooke's included a set of cute little drawings. Afterwards, all teens helped with cleanup and went outside "to play."

The Landa Gardens Conservancy had another successful program in the Community Garden on June 6. It was a presentation by a local gardener about herbs and drew a good crowd out in the pavilion and the garden as he discussed what to use in cooking and around the home.

The Green Space Alliance of South Texas will be having their gala on October 8, 2009 with an estimated attendance of 200 – 300 people.

Las Palmas

Las Palmas was a voting site for the District 5 run-off election. Volunteers for both candidates were vocal and supportive, while adhering to the distance marker. Las Palmas was also a voting site on Election Day, June 13.

Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan met informally with staff on May 20 at Las Palmas. Staff on duty had the opportunity to chat with Mr. Bangilan on various library-related topics.

Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi completed the City of San Antonio Supervisor Basics class, and Library Assistant Beatrice Canales completed the University of North Texas Lifelong Education @ Desktop self-paced Reaching Teenagers class.

As part of the "Be One In A Million" sign-up campaign, Cenizo Park Elementary School submitted 74 applications for processing, with only one week left in the school year. Kudos to Las Palmas staff members Lisa Díaz, Patricia Pérez, Luis Ramírez and Beatrice Canales! They processed all the applications in three days, just in time for Summer Reading! In addition to their cards, students

received an All About Your Library Account brochure (in Spanish, if needed) and a McDonald's apple dippers coupon.

Gina visited Gardendale Elementary School's grades Pre-K to fourth to share story hour and the Summer Reading Program with 480 students. She continued her outreach with preschoolers at the Good Samaritan Center, Madonna, and Mirasol Centers (9 visits, 130 children). Two Family Fun sessions drew a total audience of 69. Gina also assisted at the Young Pegasus Poetry Awards ceremony.

One teen Wii program was presented (11 attending) before suspension due to early voting.

Maverick

Summer Reading has arrived at Maverick! The branch has been a busy place in May and June.

On May 30, Teen Services Librarian Derika Bailey showed the movie *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* to 65 children, teens and parents. In addition, Derika has started a new adult book club. They started out reading Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones* and Philippa Gregory's *The Other Boleyn Girl*.

Adult Services Librarian Alice DeCristoforo had a Latin Dance session on June 3. This program has become so popular that now a group of adults meets to practice the dances they have learned! She also invited a human resources specialist to present a "networking for jobs" program on May 28, with nine people in attendance. On June 20, the San Pedro Playhouse offered a dramatic reading from the play *Take Me Out*. This program is one the library events celebrating Pride Month.

Children's Services Librarians Amy Roberts and Stacy Bosquez had their Summer Reading Kick-Off party on June 8 with more than 200 in attendance. Special thanks go to the Friends of the Maverick Branch Library for funding the party. Reservation tickets were given out to more than 200 people, and the Magik Theatre's *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* was a huge hit on June 10! The Children's Services Librarians were also busy going out to KinderCare daycare for storytimes and offering a tour and storytime at Maverick for Protégé Learning Center.

McCreless

The end of the school year was marked by visits from staff to area schools to drum up excitement about Summer Reading Program. Children's Services Librarian Beverly Bixler made presentations to 997 students! Teen Services Liaison Tricia Masterson visited eight schools and talked about the teen summer program to more than 200 students.

Beverly's first summer storytime on June 9 was a big success, with dynamic readings about dragons to an attendance of 46. The afternoon backpack program the same day was even bigger with a reading from *Tale of Desperaux* and a craft that had a whopping 67 children and their parents involved and entertained. Coming soon the branch will enjoy visits from "Spikey Mikey" the magician and Magik Theater's *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*.

Beverly has also committed to weekly outreach with the Bode Community Center where she will visit each Wednesday morning through the summer and read for an hour to the children there.

The Teen summer activities have also started strong with almost 100 total attendees for the three programs this month.

The branch saw some big changes in the location of different book collections. Thanks to the efforts – both physical and organizational – of Adult Services Librarian Ben Longoria and Library Assistant Tricia Masterson several collections were rearranged to make the best use of available shelving. The result is enhanced access, as well as a more attractive presentation of materials. Kudos!

Memorial

Memorial Branch Library kicked off the start of the summer with a very successful end-of-the-school-year celebration on June 2. Children's Services Librarian Trina Smith read stories and encouraged everyone to sign up for the Summer Reading Program. The crowd was wowed by a special performance by teen yo-yo master Yo-Yo Steve, who performed both classic tricks like "Walk the Dog" and "Around the World" and some new "extreme" tricks.

Trina visited several local schools and daycare centers to promote the Summer Reading Program. Gilda and her border collie Callie Mimi from the Delta Society of San Antonio came out to present StoryTails for all of the kids on June 9. On June 16 Donnabelle the Clown presented her program of stories and games as part of the summer Family Fun series. Many children enjoyed movies such as *Bolt* and *The Tale of Despereaux* as part of the Kids' Movie Club on Thursday afternoons, and Latina singer and guitarist Azul Barrientos performed songs from Mexico and South Texas on June 15 for all to enjoy.

Memorial Branch Library has become a destination to feed both mind and body. Thanks to the San Antonio Food Bank's Summer Nutrition program, children and teens from one to 18 years old will be provided with a free nutritious lunch Monday through Friday throughout the months of June and July.

On June 20 the Memorial Branch Library and the Memorial Amigos/Friends of Memorial Branch Library hosted a summertime book sale where the public was invited to snap up some great deals on books.

The branch celebrated Juneteenth with a performance by percussionist T-Bow Gonzalez. SAPL's very own D.L. Grant from the Carver Library was present to provide a few words on this important date in Texas history. Refreshments, crafts, and games were also offered for everyone to enjoy.

As part of the Extreme Target Sweep that took place in the Memorial Heights Neighborhood, the Housing Department staffed a command post at Memorial throughout the month of June to answer questions from residents about the many services available to them through this program.

Pan American

Teen Night, presented by Melissa Carroll, continued into the summer months, with attendance of about 20 teens each week.

The Summer Reading kickoff pizza party on June 6 had 130 in attendance.

Children's Services Librarian Raissa Marking continued school visits at the end of May and early June. Puppet Parties will be held on Thursdays.

Interim Branch Manager Jim La Ferla worked on Pride Month events, arranging readings at Brook Hollow and helping to make arrangements for a SAPL table at Pridefest.

Computer classes were held during the first part of June.

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

The Bannwolf Library has had a busy month. The library switched from school year hours to summer hours on June 7. Although the new schedule was advertised, patrons were surprised to find that the library opened two hours later on Sunday.

Storytime on Saturday morning continues to have many participants. Some of the themes for June included summer, the beach, and Father's Day. Children attending the programs enjoy stories, finger plays, poems, and crafts.

The Bannwolf Library held their annual Summer Reading kick-off party on June 9. Elementary-school-age children enjoyed hearing a story, making a party hat, breaking two piñatas, and cookies. More than 100 kids attended the event. On June 16 attendees were treated to songs from Mexico and South Texas presented by Azul Barrientos.

The Bannwolf Library kicked off the teen program *A Summer with Character* on June 9 with the help of Candy Rattray, an Independent Stampin' Up! demonstrator. She provided guidance and supplies for children, teens and adults to create their own character portraits. Participants brought pictures of themselves, or the library took a picture for the scrapbook page. More than 40 attended the event and were pleased with their final projects.

Adults kicked off summer with salsa dancing on June 9. Adult customers enjoyed learning all the hottest Latin dances with instruction from a professional instructor. The salsa program continued each Tuesday evening throughout the month of June.

The Bannwolf Library has a new display to promote Summer Reading. Shana Wetzel and her art students at Reagan High School partnered with the library to create an inviting gathering of book characters. These papier-mâché displays include Winnie the Pooh, The Cat in the Hat, Spongebob Squarepants, Curious George, Harry Potter, and Clifford.

San Pedro

Community Outreach

The Hawthorne Book Club had its final meeting of the semester on June 2. These fifth grade students are hoping for a sixth-grade club next school year!

Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton presented storytimes to 120 children at several different child care facilities, including the VIA Child Development Center, Educare Childcare, Monte Vista Montessori, and the SAC Child Development Center. Fifteen books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month.

Betsy also visited and promoted the summer reading club to approximately 600 students at Will Rogers Elementary School and approximately 500 students at St. Anthony's Catholic School.

Tours

On May 26, a group from St. John's School came in with 13 students and 5 adults. Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz gave them a tour of the children's side of the library.

Two schools bring classes to the library on a weekly basis. These schools are Monte Vista Montessori and Kriterion Montessori. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, second through eighth grades. When the classes come to the library, Betsy and other library staff spend approximately 30 minutes with the students, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials. The two schools bring approximately 65 students per week to the San Pedro Library.

Programs

Several programs were also presented at San Pedro during this period. On June 6, Betsy hosted the Summer Reading Club Kick off Party. The children blew bubbles, created chalk art, and took a pencil walk! They also challenged themselves by running through a small obstacle course. Finally, experiments were done to determine which glider form was more aerodynamically sound. Topical

books were available for checkout. Approximately 61 parents and children attended the party. Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz and Department Systems Aide Alejandro Aguilar assisted Betsy at the party.

Betsy presented 5 storytimes and 5 BACKPack programs. Storytime and BACKPack are presented twice weekly, once in the morning and once in the evening in order to make these programs available to the children of working parents. The teens met three times during this period. They play Guitar Hero or Wii on the first meeting of the month. Betsy Dalton also serves as Teen Services Liaison and facilitates other weekly teen programs, where crafts, activities, and games are presented.

Happy (Half) Hour is a new summer program offered Monday through Thursday to encourage reading during the summer so that the children are able to obtain their free books for completing the Summer Reading Program. Children are invited to come to the library at 3:00 p.m. any day Monday through Thursday and join with other kids to chat about books, read, and get to know other children in the area. It is an informal get-together which Betsy hopes will engender more reading and fun at the library!

San Antonio's favorite magician Spikey Mikey performed for an exuberant group of children on June 17, and The Magik Theater presented *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* to an enthusiastic audience on June 20.

San Pedro Cinema Movie Night started up again on June 17 with a screening of *The Birdcage* in honor of Pride Month.

The Chess Club 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. The Chess group also meets on Monday nights as part of Summer Chess Nights.

Cynthia arranged for the Seguir Adelante Community Center to come to San Pedro Library on June 20 to present a Career Explorations Workshop.

The Women's Literature Group met on June 23 to discuss *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See. The group is facilitated by Branch Manager Michael Kaminski and neighborhood patron and UTSA literature instructor Nicole Provencher.

Committees

San Pedro staffers continue to serve on various library 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 and Be One in a Million committees; Library Assistant Sherrie Bossart serves on the Idea Team; and Department Systems Aide Alejandro Aguilar serves on the Staff Development Day Committee.

Mentor

Manager Michael Kaminski is a mentor to IMLS Scholar Cynthia de León.

Semmes

Semmes Branch Library staff has been busy with Summer Reading. The first Summer Reading event was the kick-off party on June 6. Seventy people enjoyed stories, made crafts, played in the bubble machine, ate cookies, drank lemonade, played with sidewalk chalk, and signed up for the Summer Reading program. Special thanks go to Friends of Semmes Branch Library President Judy Wilson for providing and serving the refreshments. Thanks also goes to Children's Services

Librarians Randi Jones and Carrie Vance for running the event and Adult Services Librarian Debbye Nicholl, Library Assistant Julie Ernst and Circulation Attendant Joseph Knight for keeping the rest of the library running during the very busy party.

A new crafts group is meeting at the library. The first meeting was held on June 15. The group is open to all who knit, crochet, cross-stitch, or create any sort of portable craft. Semmes is also hosting an old-time radio enthusiasts group. This group is for people who enjoy listening to and discussing old radio shows.

Storytimes are very busy at the branch. On June 9 about 170 people came to enjoy storytime as well as teen time. Staff expects these weekly programs to continue to be busy throughout the summer. The Magik Theater visited the branch on June 12 to present *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. The parking lot was filled to capacity, and staff estimate that at least 300 people attended the presentations.

Michelle Vinarskai has been promoted from Library Assistant part-time to a full time Library Assistant. Staff look forward to working with Michelle in her new position. In other staff news, Library Aides Sasha Gonzales and Ashlee Uhl both celebrated recent graduations. Ashlee received her Associate's Degree and will now continue studying for her Bachelor's Degree. Sasha graduated from MacArthur High School. Congratulations to both Semmes' graduates!

Thousand Oaks

The Summer Reading kick-off party took place on May 30. About 200 people attended the party! Children made cowboy hats and Texas bookmarks, signed up for the Summer Reading Club, ate snacks, and received a balloon sculpture. Staff members Leslie Elsasser, Debra Lindenburg-Morrow, Jayne Hitzfelder, and Brenda Ramos, performed *Beach Day* for the crowd.

Children's Services Librarian Leslie Elsasser and Library Assistant Debra Lindenburg-Morrow visited Northern Hills Elementary May 29 and spoke to about 600 students to promote the Summer Reading Club and programs. Many of the children at the presentation attended the kick-off party.

The Thousand Oaks Friends group had a book sale on June 6 and raised more than \$1,200! The Thousand Oaks staff members appreciate all the hard work that went into making the book sale a huge success. Patrons donated books until a couple of days before the sale, and there was a large selection of items for customers to select from.

The book club met June 11 to discuss *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld. It was a lively a discussion about fictional characters based on George and Laura Bush.

The feral cat program has been drawing large crowds to Thousand Oaks. The workshop is the first Sunday of the month, and attendees learn how to trap feral cats and where to have them spayed and neutered.

Summer programs have started off strong! The Tuesday afternoon BACK Pack program, which is followed by a family movie is very popular – about 48 people came to the first Tuesday BACK Pack and 50 came to the first movie! The Wednesday morning BACK Pack had about 30 people its first week for the pirate program. Wii Wednesday, an afternoon gaming program, has also been very enthusiastically received by boisterous kids. Every Thursday evening, Thousand Oaks presents a movie, and the *Harry Potter* films are being shown in June.

Congratulations to Ernie Vera Cruz, Department Systems Aide, who got married on June 11!

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

The Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell honored the staff with a lovely dinner at the Barn Door restaurant on June 5. In addition to a great dinner the staff was presented with gift cards to HEB. There was a short meeting accompanying the dinner in which the Friends voted to fund several requests that staff had made to support Summer Reading, such as prizes for a chess tournament, and a special program on snakes. On May 16 the Friends held a book sale that was well attended. The Tobin community is very generous in donating books to the Friends' sale.

Summer Reading Program is in full swing at the branch. Library Assistant Ginny Hurt created an attractive bulletin board where children can display their colorful animal name tags, and the board is quickly filling up. On June 11 magician Spikey Mikey performed to a packed house. He had the crowd laughing and clapping with his jokes and feats of magic. He emphasized the "magic of reading" to the standing room only crowd of 168 kids and parents.

The adult Book Club met Wednesday June 3. The moderator was Wendy Friedman, former Tobin manager, who generously contributes her time and effort to the branch in this manner. The club read and discussed the novel *Ordinary Heroes* by Scott Turow.

Westfall

Summer is in full swing at Westfall with a summer reading club for everyone! Adults, too, are invited to join the Branch's first ever adult Summer Reading club, complete with prizes generously donated by the Friends of Westfall Branch Library. With the theme "Feast on Books," adults also had a variety of food-related programming to choose from in June. The meeting room was standing-room-only when almost 200 children and parents were treated to the magic of Spikey Mikey for the first weekly event for school-age children.

Making use of the new projector obtained through the Loan Star Libraries grant, several movies were shown this month. More than 125 people attended the three films that were shown.

On June 15, Westfall staff were the lucky recipients of a breakfast supplied by KENS 5 TV and McDonald's at KENS' weekly McGrub breakfast promotion. Members of the public also got to share in the goodies live on the station's televised morning show!

Circulation statistics for the branch are up more than 13%, which is a great testament to the value that the community places on its branch. Increases are also seen in visitor counts and computer usage. It is not unusual for users to be on an Internet waiting list that is more than 15 names long! The staff has also done a great job in communication the benefits of using the self-check machines, and more than 65% of all checkouts last month were accomplished using self-service.

Westfall continues its efforts to be noticed in the community by cooperating in several outreach efforts this month. Librarians were present at PrideFest as well as a health fair at a local apartment complex. Staff also set up a booth at a big event sponsored by Wal-Mart in support of recreational activities in the city.