



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

Administration

Director's Office

Library Director Ramiro Salazar has accompanied Board of Trustees Chair Jean Brady and the respective District Library Board Trustees to meetings with City Council Representatives to update them on library issues. Meetings have been held with District 8 Councilman Reed Williams (June 30), District 5 Councilman David Medina (July 2), and District 9 Councilwoman Elisa Chan (July 8).

Meetings have also been held with members of the Mayor's staff: June 25, with Jeanne Russell (Education Policy), and July 16 with Robbie Greenblum (Chief of Staff).

At the request of County Judge Nelson Wolff, Ramiro met with the Judge and Virginia Nichols, Chair of the Bexar County Historical Commission, to discuss possible space in the Library for the County archives. As a result of the meeting, it was determined that the County would house those records, rather considering other locations such as the Library.

Library Board Chair Jean Brady and Ramiro met with members of the Library Management Team on July 8 to discuss the Community Needs Assessment. Jean agreed to approach community leaders to invite them to serve on the steering committee for this project.

On July 9, Ramiro met with District 3 Council Representative Jennifer Ramos, Assistant City Manager Frances González, City Architect Betty Feldman and Capital Improvements Management Services Director Mike Frisbie for an update on the Mission Branch Library project.

Ramiro attended the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago July 10 through July 14. During the conference, Library Board Chair Jean Brady received the Urban Player Award from the Urban Libraries Council. Additionally, the Trejo Foundation Librarian of the Year Award was presented by REFORMA, the association to promote library services to the Spanish-speaking. Ramiro had served as chair of the Librarian of the Year selection committee.

On July 16 Library staff met with the city Manager, her staff, and the City Budget Department to review the budget outlook for the Library for Fiscal Year 2010, and to discuss budget reduction scenarios.

Library Foundation President and CEO Kaye Lenox has informed Ramiro that the Foundation, in cooperation with the Parman family, is initiating a capital campaign to support development of a master site plan for the Parman Library, as well as possible enhancements to the project.

Library Administration has been notified by the Linda Pace Foundation of their intent to commission a new public artwork by San Antonio artist Jesse Amado. This special art piece is expected to be unveiled at the San Antonio Central Library in 2010 to celebrate the birthday of ArtPace founder Linda Pace.

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The meeting room at the Guerra Branch Library was formally dedicated as the Enrique M. Barrera Community Meeting Room on July 18. Members of the Barrera family were joined by District 6 Council Representative Ray López, former District 6 Councilwoman Delicia Herrera, and City and Library officials, including Board Chair Jean Brady District 6 Trustee Lora Eckler, and Library Director Ramiro Salazar, for the event.

On July 16 Ramiro was interviewed by KWEX-TV/Univision for a story about the Food Bank Summer Lunch Program, which provides lunches during the week for teens and children under the age of 18. This program, which is offered at the Central Library and the Memorial Branch Library, is intended to assist students who depend on their school lunch programs, which are not available during the summer.

Ramiro represented the Library Administration and staff at the Friends of the San Antonio Branch Library Board meeting on July 19. He gave an update on the budget process and various Library initiatives.

Children's Services

Children's Services staff are enjoying a particularly busy summer. Summer Reading registration has topped 21,000, and program attendance is up as well. It appears that the economy is the primary cause. As money gets tight, parents are looking for free things to do with their children and, happily, the library comes to mind.

Children's staffers in various locations have developed means of dealing with the programming crowds. Some are using tickets while others are lining up potential attendees well ahead of the program time to assure that the first to arrive are the first to be seated. Unfortunately, there have been some unhappy parents and disappointed children when the crowds have exceeded room capacity. The staff has agreed to look at a variety of possible solutions for next summer. The intent is to let summer reading customers know about potential crowding well in advance, and in writing via the summer calendar.

SummerFest is next on the Children's Services agenda. This annual end-of-summer programming party is scheduled for Saturday, August 1, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Local McDonald's restaurants are one of the event sponsors this year. Thanks to Beth Graham, McDonald's is providing "apple dipper" snacks for all SummerFest attendees. In addition to this healthy snack the event will feature a variety of crafts and activities as well as the two final performances of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Magik Theatre.

Public Relations

Public Relations Manager Beth Graham has been working on a special back-to-school Library card sign-up blitz at local shopping centers, scheduled for Tax-Free Weekend, August 21-22. Response from the centers has been positive, with the majority of them agreeing to host the Library. The Bookmobile will make a two-hour appearance at each participating shopping center to issue library cards. Thanks to funding provided by the Library Foundation, JACK-FM Radio will advertise the event the first three weeks of August. Huebner Oaks Shopping Center has agreed to promote the Library appearance in their customer newsletter that month.

The Library received 16 media mentions in the past month.

Teen Services

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez and Teen Services Librarian Violeta Garza, both from the Central Library, attended the American Library Association Conference in Chicago in July. Violeta serves the Outreach to Young Adults with Special Needs Committee in association with the

Young Adult Library Services Association. During the conference, she also represented San Antonio's REFORMA chapter, La Estrella de Tejas.

The Teen Hispanic Heritage Committee, Teen Read Week Committee and the General Teen Fall Committee all met in June to plan fall teen events.

Kudos to staff - Customer comments

"Several weeks ago I attended an employment fair at Sunset Station where Dan Stanford and Lyle Rosdahl were representatives of the San Antonio Public Library. Because of the perfect positioning of their table, one could not help but be curious why they were in attendance. After speaking with them, I left with not only valuable knowledge in exploring new venues for employment, but learned of small business resources and other activities the library offers.

"As a nonprofit grant writer and business plan developer, creative research is always welcomed. I wanted to express my appreciation to the library, Dan and Lyle for the public relations, excellent communication and community involvement in assisting those in attendance. Kudos to all. Please do not hesitate contact me if further discussion is needed. Have a nice day!" - **Deborah Jiggitts-Hall**, July 15

"I would like to express to you what an outstanding contribution Adam Spana, Librarian, is making to our members at OASIS San Antonio. He has taught them how to access all of the features of the San Antonio Library online in the class we call *Library Services Online*. This past summer term we had an extensive waiting list for his class and he received excellent reviews from the class participants. We look forward to his class again this fall and want you to know what a wonderful service it is for older adults.

"The mission of our organization is to offer challenging programs to enhance the quality of life for mature adults and the efforts on behalf of the San Antonio Public Library make this a reality. Thank you very much." – **Catherine Ciarrocchi**, June 24

Central Library

Alamo Area Library Systems (AALS)

AALS will be receiving additional funding from the state in September. Staff is planning on a workforce development program that may include online resources and a dedicated career center in member libraries that do not have a Texas Workforce Commission office in their community. Staff is also busy with end-of-year purchasing of family literacy kits and continuing education for SAPL's technical staff.

Children's Services Department

Central Children's staff are pleased to report the second highest number of summer reading registrations in the system! The Great Northwest Branch Library has the greatest number, with more than 2,300 registered as of July 17, and Central coming in second at 1,580. Summer programs at Central are also enjoying a high turnout. Average attendance at Wednesday afternoon B.A.C.K.Pack programs stands at 90, while the average at Saturday Family Fun events stands at 68. Most surprising is the new program introduced this summer, Happy Half Hour. Held on Friday mornings, this is a book talking session for school-age children. Average attendance at Happy Half Hour stands at 16, a number that leads staff to believe that having a time to read and talk about books is appealing to kids of all ages.

Digital Services

As part of a security and support initiative, the Digital Services Team completed the migration of three websites to the City's IT Department. All of the websites were successfully migrated and tested with minimal down time. As a result, the City is now performing web server infrastructure support activities, including Microsoft security patches, scheduled reboots, and information backups.

While continuing customer support, the team is currently working with Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash to learn more about requirements for the Young Pegasus Poetry contest. They are investigating optimal ways of redesigning the user entry form and staff reports, using the .NET and Microsoft Office technologies. In doing so, they hope to minimize the amount of time necessary to manage the data and create poetry documents.

Digital Services Manager Rolf Laun was recently featured on the San Antonio Public Library television show "Cover to Cover." Rolf focused on the benefits of using the Library's new public website www.mysapl.org, and the integrated third-party applications. This was additional public exposure of how the library is working to make up-to-date information available to patrons.

Rolf also attended the American Library Association Annual Conference.

Librarian I Adam Spana was recognized for his contributions on two separate occasions. He received a complimentary letter from OASIS San Antonio for taking time to teach community classes on how to use online library resources. Because of the popularity of this class and his reputation with OASIS, he continues to have an extensive waiting list. Adam also received a thank-you note from fellow coworker Kate Simpson, who extended her appreciation for his outstanding support and troubleshooting efforts to resolve patron computer issues.

Outreach Services

The new bookmobile routes went into effect July 1. The inaugural run to Hopkins Elementary School drew a good crowd, as summer school was in session and the school had helped to promote the bookmobile to the citizens of Kirby. Little Read Wagon also provided two storytimes at the school to help draw a crowd.

The theme for the month for Outreach was corporate service. The bookmobile made special visits to USAA's Child Development Center, where groups of elementary-school age youngsters came on board to examine the collection (and to inform the staff of the need for more Batman books); and to Valero, where 80 employees dropped by (53 of them applied for library cards). Outreach staff participated in Citibank's Pride Month celebration on June 25, registering 27 employees for cards.

Little Read Wagon

Little Read Wagon staff have been visiting the Callaghan, Fredericksburg Road, and Buena Vista WIC nutrition clinics. These visits are excellent opportunities to promote upcoming "Play and Learn" programs, Summer Reading, and early literacy. Staff also issued library cards to dozens of clinic customers.

While Brook Hollow Children's Services Librarian Ruth Turner is out on maternity leave, Cresencia Huff and Julia Lazarin have enjoyed providing programming coverage.

Reference Department

In fulfillment of a grant, Reference Librarian Cole Johnson has been selecting humanities-related DVDs and CDs in the Great Lectures series. Librarian Peter Watts has continued working two days a week in the Collection Development Department. Librarian Didi Morganti is one of the SAPL staff members attending ALA in Chicago, where she also blogged her experience for the benefit of others who could not attend. Reference Manager Dan Stanford is reviewing Reference Services LADs. He

is also working on a recommendation report regarding Playaway audiobooks. The Reference Department has begun an extensive weeding of the cassette audiobook collection.

Technical Services Department

Rolf Laun, Digital Services Manager, assumed the Millennium system administration duties on June 30.

Katie Enright taught a Create Lists class on July 15.

Teen Services Department

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

Mondays with Librarian Violeta Garza: As part of Japanese Bunka Mondays, teens made origami and played Super Smash Brothers: Brawl on June 29. On July 6, teens developed their origami skills by making figurines from the Pokemon world.

Tuesdays with Librarian Kathleen Fordyce: Tuesdays are gaming afternoons for teens, and participants choose which games they would like to play on these days. On June 23 and 30, several enthusiastic teens played Super Smash Bros. Brawl. On July 7, teens formed their own bands and played Guitar Hero World Tour.

Wednesdays with Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano: On June 24 and July 1, Sylvia hosted Wii Wednesdays as part of the Teen Summer Program's daily program for teens. On July 8, the teens elected to play the Gamecube instead of the Wii.

Thursdays with Library Assistant Regina Almanza: On June 25, teens used fabric markers, paints, buttons and stencils to decorate their own shirts. For the first Thursday in July, teens opted to play a very popular Wii game, Super Smash Bros Brawl. On July 9, teens got back to their creative sides and decouped paper boxes. Pictures from the T-shirt and decoupage programs can be found on the Teen Services Flickr page: www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary.

On June 27, Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano attended the San Antonio Film Festival hosted by SA Film, to observe how other film festivals are conducted. Because films for the Saturday screening at the festival had submitted by teen filmmakers, Sylvia contacted festival director Adam Rocha, the festival director, and asked permission to bring fliers for the San Antonio Public Library Teen Film Festival to distribute. Mr. Rocha offered her a table in the exhibit room, where she was able to make contact with teen filmmakers attending the festival and encourage them to submit films to the SAPL Teen Film Festival in Spring 2010.

Central Teen Services was happy to have a Summer Youth Worker from the Family Services Association for June and July. In addition to her regular library duties, she has created displays and made beautiful posters for GameFest in August.

Texana/Genealogy Department

On June 27 Texana/Genealogy sponsored "Texas in World War II, Here and There: Recollections of Texans in World War II." The program was team-taught by William McWhorter, Military Historian/Oral Historian for the Texas Historical Commission, and Elinor Maze of Baylor University's Institute for Oral History. Mr. McWhorter discussed Texas' military and civilian roles during the war, while Mrs. Maze explained the techniques of conducting oral histories. There were thirty participants from around the area, including New Braunfels and Kerrville.

Participants in the workshop had many questions about local participation in the war effort. Texana/Genealogy continues to research topics such as scrap and paper drives, participation by

local companies, local civilian organizations efforts, location of offices created to co-ordinate the war effort locally, and other topics.

Branch Libraries

Bazan

From July 14 through September 1, the Bazan Branch Library is participating in a unique second Summer Reading Program in conjunction with the regular SAPL Summer Reading Program. This program, sponsored by KLRN television, is called "PBS Kids Raising Readers." It is designed to create an opportunity for families who are visiting their local library to experience and explore literacy skill-building activities using multi-media platforms. The federally-funded program targets children between the ages of two and eight.

The branch has reached its goal of registering 500 children for the SAPL Summer Reading Program. This is the first time this has happened at Bazan, and all credit must go to the staff who have worked so hard to encourage children to join this year's program. Along with this Bazan has seen an increase in use of the library, as well as an increase in circulation, which rose 26% in the month of June.

Two Summer Reading Program events drew large enthusiastic audiences. On June 29 singer Azul Barrientos performed to an audience of 40. A week later Magik Theatre presented their version of the Laura Numeroff book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* to 80 people.

Academia América's summer citizenship classes began on June 16. The citizenship classes are presented bilingually for Hispanics planning to take the test for U.S. citizenship.

The Bazan Branch Library is currently exhibiting the work of local artist Victor Tello. The exhibit can be viewed through the first week of August and is free and open to the public.

Brook Hollow

Summer is as busy as ever at Brook Hollow as kids and their families flock to the library for events, crafts and storytimes. The Magik Theatre performance of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* generated a line around the library and seated 145! The Magik Theatre was at Brook Hollow earlier in the month as well, for a Shakespeare Showcase. This performance was enhanced by some of San Antonio's up-and-coming middle and high school actors, whose friends and families were delighted to see them perform. Programming continued with an author visit by María Gabriela Madrid, author of *Entre los surcos del recuerdo*. Ms. Madrid is a local author who writes short stories in both English and Spanish. Her latest book is part of the syllabus for advanced Spanish classes at St. Mary's Hall located here in town. Brook Hollow also participated in SAPL's Pride Month with a reading cosponsored by Gemini Ink. Gay and lesbian authors read from their works to a sizeable crowd. The library also screened the movie *Milk* earlier in the week.

Displays for the month advertised the adults', children's and teens' Summer Reading programs at Brook Hollow. There was also a display advertising Dog Awareness Week which included books on pet care, fiction books featuring dogs, movies featuring dogs, coupons for the Alamo City Dog Show, and a poster advertising Cesar Millan's visit to San Antonio.

In personnel news, Children's Services Librarian Ruth Chiego Turner delivered a happy, healthy baby boy named Taeden. Congratulations, Ruth!

Carver

The Prairie View A & M University Cooperative Extension Program visited the branch on June 23 to present its annual nutritious “Fruit Kabob” making snack to several children.

The Carver Popcorn Club screened the movie *Nick & Norah’s Infinite Playlist* on July 6.

Kids continue to visit Carver for B.A.C.K.Pack on Tuesday mornings. Magik Theatre's performance of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* was thoroughly enjoyed by its 60 attendees on June 30. In crafts programs, many fantastic monsters and excellent pirates’ parrots have been created this month.

Go Center representatives have been visiting Carver regularly with college information for teens and activities for younger children. Young visitors to the branch have been very happy to have the representatives available – one boy was not only inspired to ask his mother for his own library card, but now brings the books he has checked out to Children's Services Librarian Amy Thorne to show her what he's been reading.

Teens are coming out for Wednesday afternoons for a little gaming and craft time. Some attendees of both the Summer Program on Wednesdays and Anime Club on Thursday nights seem to have developed the habit of coming in early in order to browse the books before the program starts.

The Carver staff would like to thank the Carver Friends for their donation of the new microwave oven, which they are thoroughly enjoying.

Carver’s Library Aide Guadalupe Claypool will be transferring to the Johnston Branch. Guadalupe has done a superb job at Carver. The staff will miss her, and wish her all the best at her new branch.

Cody

Branch Services Coordinator Joel Bangilan was the guest storyteller at the Cody Library Toddler Time on June 23. Reading a couple of his favorite stories and joining in the songs and dances, “Mr. Joel” proved to be quite popular with the 95 people who were in attendance.

Family Movie times on Wednesdays have been drawing more numbers of movie goers each week. Most recently, 56 viewers escaped the heat to enjoy a screening of *Bolt*.

Allison Dietz, author of the children’s book *Fundi the Snail*, visited Cody on June 27 to read from her book, and sign copies for patrons.

The Happy Half-Hour on Monday afternoons is proving to be popular with young readers. Tweens and parents who want to catch the first look at many of the new juvenile books hitting the shelves each week are taking advantage of the golden opportunity to preview these books before anyone else.

Game Time Challenge has seen several repeat attendees engaged in fierce game play. On July 6 kids took down the adults in a vicious game of Uno. Apples to Apples, Jr. Edition, has been a weekly hit, with kids creating elaborate explanations and smooth-talking “the judge” into choosing their answers as the best.

It was feathers, bird tracks and skulls at the “Beaks and Eats” program presented by San Antonio Natural Areas. Susan Campbell set up her striking display of bird beaks, skulls, feathers, etc. for the attendees to examine closely. Giant color photographs and bird books from the library completed her display, where young patrons were able to do some hands-on “tracking” and other “fowl” crafts.

Over 125 people traveled with Doc Edwards on his Amazing Aquifer Adventure at Cody Library's Thrilling Thursday event on July 2. Doc Edwards provided each child in attendance with a coloring booklet, bookmark and sticker.

Cody staffers were great sports and participated in "Crazy Hat Day" for the children's Storytime. Supporting the "hat" stories and finger plays, staffers donned their hats throughout the day.

Country Home Summer Camp children were eager to hear stories read by Children's Services Librarian Sheila during their weekly visit to Cody. One of the stories was such a hit, that they asked their leader to read it again before they left!

Finally, it wouldn't be a successful summer at the library without a performance by the Magik Theatre. A record audience of 223 attended Cody's Thrilling Thursday event and were thoroughly entertained with the production of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*.

Teen Tuesday continues its popular run this summer with Wii Smash Brothers Brawl, Guitar Hero and Dance Dance Revolution. The teens have been particularly competitive during Smash Brothers matches.

Attendance was high for the Teen Tuesday July 7 meeting of the Anime Culture Enthusiasts Society. ACES showed three entertaining anime episodes and signed up several new members to its club.

Staff gave Library Assistant Sarah Carolan a fond farewell as she began her new position in the Digital Services unit.

Collins Garden

Dragons were everywhere at Collins Garden as younger children colored Chinese dragons and older kids made egg carton dragons. The crafts were a huge hit with everyone! The craft table was littered with crayons, markers, egg cartons, and art paper remains as the kids marched out, happily cradling their new crafts.

Outreach continues at local community centers. Collins Garden staff members are offering stories and films and each participant is also signed up for summer reading. So far, the most popular stories with the kids are legends and ghost stories. A lively discussion ensues after the stories are told on whether or not the story is true.

The children's area has been undergoing a major weeding project. Branch Manager Pamela Longoria has created a list of shelf sitters and Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford is pulling them to make room for new titles.

Collins Garden offered three family film screenings, gaming sessions, and two adult Dance to be Fit classes. The film screenings and gaming sessions were well attended and met with requests for more. In total, 171 participants attended both the screenings and gaming sessions. The Dance to be Fit sessions had some very enthusiastic participants, who then either checked out a number of exercise materials or placed relevant titles on hold.

The San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind provided a "services to the blind" information workshop on June 23. Community connections were made and staff members were provided with materials for distribution.

Teen Services Liaison Carlos Loera reports that five teen outreach programs – four movie screenings and one gaming session – were held, resulting in a total of 318 participants.

Adult Services Librarian Elma Nieto-Rodríguez is publishing a monthly, one-page calendar of Collins Garden Branch Library activities. It has proved very popular with customers, necessitating frequent reprints.

Kudos to the Collins Garden staff for finishing their long-term project of adding City Council District numbers to all pre-Millennium patron records. While they were adding district numbers, they also cleaned up the patron records by removing extraneous information transferred over from the old system.

Cortez

Construction on the Cortez Branch Library building began on June 15. Patrons are entering and leaving the building through the meeting room, and the library will remain open to the public throughout the project. Although construction activity is moving quickly there has been very little disruption of library services.

The Cortez Book Club has resumed meeting after a brief hiatus, and Library Assistant Stephanie Vásquez was very happy to resume her role as moderator and sponsor. The club had a very lively discussion of the Che Guevara travel memoirs *The Motorcycle Diaries*.

A new session of English as a Second Language classes began on July 18. The ESL classes continue to be a well attended and popular program and a resource for the community.

Book Displays by Library Assistants Amanda Hernández and Stephanie Vásquez included Texas Travel, Grilling and BBQ, Computer 101, and Free Your Inner Geek.

Teen Gaming has been extremely popular at Cortez. Amanda Hernández sets up Guitar Hero and Wii Sports for teens every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. She had a record-breaking attendance of 24 teens on July 8.

The weekly Spanish language storytimes from Library Assistant Amanda Hernández have a dedicated following.

One local summer school program had all 275 students, pre-k through grade 5, register for the summer reading program, complete their reading logs, and choose giveaway books. More 800 children have registered at Cortez.

A total of 77 people enjoyed a wonderful program of music presented by Azul Barrientos on July 8.

Another school group from across town included the Cortez Branch Library on a field trip day to the nearby Toyota Manufacturing Plant.

The *Southside Reporter* has published four articles about summer events at Cortez.

Forest Hills

Forest Hills displays for June and July included Hurricane Season, Great Outdoor Month, Audio Month, Juneteenth/Abraham Lincoln, and July the Fourth. The self-service checkout terminals were installed the middle of June.

Ronald McDonald visited the Storytime group on June 23. Kids of all ages the stories that he read. Department Systems Aide Matthew Deyo made popcorn and the group happily munched on popcorn while waiting in line to take pictures with Ronald McDonald.

Magik Theatre performed their magic on June 29 to an enthusiastic audience of 93.

Children's Services Librarian Cindy Moreno, and Little Read Wagon Manager Cresencia Huff visited the nearby WIC Clinic on July 7. They promoted the library by handing out the SAPL calendar, giving out library cards and presenting a storytime.

On June 26 the Rolling Ridge Neighborhood Association presented the Magic Puppet Show, a live puppet show, attended by 30 persons.

DCI conducted a Web Basics computer class on June 27 attended by 16 patrons, and a Search the Web class for 12 patrons on June 29.

On July 9 the Forest Hills Kit Book Club discussed *The Stranger* by Albert Camus.

Great Northwest

Great Northwest now gives out a monthly calendar when new library cards are issued, as well as with SRP signup. There has been a significant increase in attendance at some programs, including the Chess Club, Knitting Group, the Star Wars Society and movie screenings, which staff believe is related to better communication about events at the library.

Adult Services Librarian Tracey Knouse has been meeting with Lee Besing, a community leader and member of the Friends of the Great Northwest Branch Library Board, to discuss upcoming events and a partnership for publicity.

Great Northwest children's programs are busy, and running at full capacity. The families who participate are giving staff lots of positive feedback by sharing absolutely delightful stories about the encouraging things the programs are doing for their family. One family shared how they enjoy participating in the costume dress-up that the Texas Treasure Trackers have as part of their weekly program. The same family said that they spend the entire week preparing and making their costumes together for the next week's theme. During the American Girl Club, several families have mentioned how much pride they have in the program. Several families have explained how valuable this program has become; strangers have become good friends and have mentioned that they take turns hosting a "scrapbooking" event for the moms on Sunday night, so that at 12:00 midnight they can all sign their girls up for the next Club! And it's not just moms, dads have their share of fun too; dads are taking scheduled vacation just to see their children perform in the Stage Hands Puppet Club. Laughter and fun surround the library daily, as whole families crowd in for the next scheduled program. Great Northwest Library continues to bring families and books together in a creative and entertaining way.

Children's Services Librarian Elspeth Blakeman's daycares and storytimes are enjoying stories about different Texas animals like bats and coyotes, snakes and raccoons each week.

Guerra

New self-check terminals and security gates have been installed. Both the public and staff have expressed their satisfaction with these devices. Branch Manager Dexter Katzman continued to coordinate with Central staff, representatives of the branch Friends group, and others as planning for the 5th Anniversary celebration moved forward. He completed holdings editor training. New Library Assistant Robert Ayala has relocated the reference collection to a more visible area, leaving more shelving space available to the Spanish language materials.

Children's Services Librarian Yanira Vegerano Cruz continued to provide weekly storytimes for children and their parents and grandparents. During the summer an additional storytime program has been added to serve school-age children. Yanira has been kept very busy with the large number

of school children on summer vacation. She has successfully and effectively managed the Summer Reading Program.

Adult Services Librarian Steve Jackson held his Spanish-language *Club de lectura* on June 25. The book discussed was *La Celestina* by Fernando de Rojas. There was a visitor and a new participant who were welcomed to participate in the discussion. Much of the discussion focused on the different personalities exhibited by the characters. The discussion also served as a starting point for a look at the changes in Spanish literary and cultural traditions from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries. On July 7 Stephen recorded a Dial-A-Story reading from the text of *Viaje a la luna (Voyage to the Moon)* by Anna Melbourne.

Library Assistant Tim Johnson presented his Animangiacs program on June 25. Nine teens watched Anime and Naruto episodes. He presented his Game-Ra program on June 24 and July 8.

Igo

Igo's young patrons have been kept busy during the summer. There were 18 storytimes totaling more than 1,000 attendees. Almost 300 of the school-age set were entertained by Magik Theatre's Summer Reading presentation on June 25, and on July 9 more than 130 patrons had a blast watching a dragon puppet show and making a dragon craft. Igo sponsored a "Make and Take" craft program on June 26, and 85 patrons came to enjoy the morning. A Family Storytime was held on June 27 with a group of Igo's teen puppeteers performing a puppet show.

Johnston

The Children's Program at Johnston Branch has been buzzing with activity. Children's summer reading enrollment is up and attendance numbers at all children's programs have increased.

Children's Librarian Karen Sebesta continued her outreach with a visit to Lackland Air Force Base Elementary School on June 24. As always, her trusty electronic keyboard went along. She touted the SAPL Summer Reading Program to children in grades 3-5 as well as to a group of teens who listened with great interest to Karen's reading from Jacqueline Woodson's novel *Miracle's Boys*.

At the June 25 B.A.C.K.Pack program, Lt. Col. Dane Horstmann, a pilot from neighboring Lackland Air Force Base, delighted a room full of children, parents, and grandparents 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 B.A.C.K.Pack theme, "I Love Parties and Piñatas" because having Lt. Col. Horstmann as a celebrity reader made it a *real* party for those in attendance. Several of the parents asked for "photo ops" with the pilot and some children even asked him to autograph their party hat craft.

On July 2, the toddlers in the Thursday morning storytime heard stories about a family of patriotic mice and a Chinese family celebrating Independence Day. Afterward, they and their families made Fourth of July wreaths out of paper plates, crepe paper and stickers.

Singer Azul Barrientos entertained at the July 2 B.A.C.K.Pack program. When she asked the crowd of children how many were enrolled in Summer Reading they all raised their hands, and when she asked how many had completed their reading logs more than half raised their hands. Azul later commented to Karen how impressed she was with this, saying it was more than at any other library she had visited.

On July 9 guest reader Lt. Col. Mike Ratcliff, an Air Force Reserve pilot, wowed the children in attendance with facts about the size of the C-5 transport that he trains other pilots to fly. These huge planes fly over Johnston Branch and the surrounding areas several times a day on training flights, so sight of them is very familiar to the community. The craft for the day was another type of flying creature – brightly colored parrots that the children decorated with markers and feathers.

The Friends of Johnston Branch Library have been very generous to the children's and teen programs, keeping Children's Services Librarian Karen Sebesta supplied with Michael's gift cards for unexpected expenses. They also recently purchased a much-needed folding hand truck to help her carry her keyboard on outreach visits. In addition, they have purchased refreshments for the summer teen program.

Karen is grateful for the assistance of Jacqueline Alaquez, a library student from Texas Women's University. She is learning about library operations at the busiest time and should have a good foundation when she enters the profession.

Rich Fields' latest book/media display focused on Trials of the Century, covering trials fictional (*To Kill a Mockingbird*) and actual, ranging from O.J. Simpson to Sacco and Vanzetti to the Scopes Trial. He has also put together a new display honoring the "King of Rock and Roll," Elvis Presley.

The teen summer program is thriving under the leadership of Department Systems Aide Danny Alvarez. The Children's Services Librarian provides a craft for the artsy set. They are the perfect team as Danny is the tech expert and supervises the teens using the extremely popular Wii games (bowling is tops). And, of course, there are always board games such as Monopoly and Dominoes available.

The Mobile SNAP (Spay-Neuter Assistance Program) van was parked in the Johnston parking lot on July 10. The branch was happy to be invited to serve as a site for this community service.

The Johnston Staff would also like to acknowledge the hard work of teen summer youth workers Arnold Martínez and Michelle Salinas. They are part of the Summer Youth Enhancement Program and work twenty hours per week, supporting children's programs and organizing and shelving all of the materials being returned these busy summer months. The branch also has several other teen volunteers: Tiffany Arriba, Victoria Gonzalez, and Martin Vega. It is wonderful to have the support of our teen community.

Landa Library

Lots of patrons are coming to the library to escape the heat. Landa staff are working hard to try and keep all the hot (and occasionally cranky) patrons happy, and most of the time it works. Children's Services Librarian Ginger Payne has presented a full schedule of programs. The Branch hosted Magik Theater, whose performance of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* delighted an audience of 95 kids and adults. Bilingual kindergarten classes from Howard Early Learning center visited Landa after completing the Summer reading Requirements. They enjoyed stories and songs with Ginger and then selected their award books. On July 8 the branch hosted Spikey Mikey, who performed magic tricks for an audience of 105.

The teens enjoyed making candy sushi on June 30, and the staff loved that they made extra because the leftovers were very tasty. Teen Services Liaison Brooke Ballard has a very dedicated group every Tuesday afternoon.

At the end of June Landa presented its last Pride Month program, Coming Out Stories, which drew a large crowd of 31. It was very well received.

Inside the building Landa re-installed some shelving in the Children's area and moved the hold shelf onto the public floor so customers can pick up their holds directly. The patrons have received it very enthusiastically. The staff has also been pleased at how well it is working out.

The Landa Gardens Conservancy has instituted a program of hand watering to help cover all of the areas of the property during Stage 2 watering restrictions. They have volunteers coming every day to help water the grounds to save the beautiful new landscape so recently planted on the branch's five acres of property.

Las Palmas

Las Palmas hosted its first GO Center AmeriCorps*VISTA event on Friday, June 19. Fifteen teens were on hand to talk to our representative Yvonne Perez regarding planning for college, the college admissions process, and financial aid.

Staff was happy to welcome Librarian Heidi Novotny back to Las Palmas on June 30, after a six-week assignment to Pan American branch.

Las Palmas has four teen volunteers for this summer. With Heidi as their supervisor, they are assisting with shelving, checking the shelves for missing items, shelf reading, pulling titles to be withdrawn, and preparing crafts for B.A.C.K. Pack programs.

Library Assistant Beatrice Canales put to practice what she learned attending the AALS Library Collection Analysis workshop. Using the Millennium program, she created parameters to determine the median age (publication year) of the sciences collection. Working from this list, staff will pull and review the titles that are most outdated.

The Children's Summer Reading kick-off on June 6 drew an audience of 23. Registration has been steady, with both returning readers and new readers collecting their reading logs. Registration for the teen program has also been steady.

Families are discovering how much fun can be had at that "cool" place, their local branch library! Family Fun events have been well-attended, with an audience of 100 enjoying the Magik Theatre's *When You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and 50 enjoying the songs and music of Azul Barrientos. Attendance at the B.A.C.K. pack events has included 50 for "Pirates," 30 for games, and 25 for "S-s-snakes."

Readers at the outreach centers visited by Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi have earned their certificates! In total, 140 children at Mirasol, Madonna, and Good Samaritan were given certificates and their books. Story hours for the centers also continue, with 60 children attending at Madonna and 52 children at Good Samaritan.

Seven members of the Las Palmas Book Club enjoyed reading *Dog on It* by Spencer Quinn.

The weekly teen Wii program resumed on June 9, with five teens attending. On June 23 Department Systems Aide Michael Gutierrez set up the Wii for seven teens to play. Since then, a total of 21 teens have enjoyed playing the Wii system.

Academia América registered a total of 42 students for their summer citizenship session. Thirty students attend the Wednesday night session, and 12 the Monday night session.

Las Palmas hosted the Reader's Advisory 101 & 102 sessions presented on July 24 by Tapley Trudell and Rolf Laun.

Karen Michaelson assisted at the McCreless Branch Library on July 2, serving as the LIC during a staffing emergency.

Maverick

The Maverick Branch Library continues to be a busy place this summer. A total of 165 children created party hats at the first B.A.C.K.Pack craft program on June 24. More than 200 people attended two Spikey Mikey programs on July 1. As of July 6, more than 1200 children had signed up for summer reading.

Teen Services Librarian Derika Bailey held a *Twilight* character contest before showing the *Twilight* movie on June 27 to 42 enthusiastic patrons.

Adult Services Librarian Alice DeCristoforo organized a program with the Image Dance Company on May 31. A crowd of 50 people enjoyed their program of jazz, hip-hop and ballet. On June 20, a cast from the San Pedro Playhouse production of *Take Me Out* did a dramatic reading of the play as one the events for SAPL's observance of Pride Month.

McCreless

Summer programs are in full swing and attendance has been great. The branch is averaging 45 children for the pre-school events, and 110 (!) for the BACKPack programs. Storytime themes included butterflies, the 4th of July, and monsters. The Magik Theater presentation of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* had a record-breaking attendance of 190! On July 7 Children's Services Librarian Beverly Bixler designed the B.A.C.K.Pack program around the *Spiderwick Chronicles* and there were 39 in attendance. Beverly has also been visiting Bode Community Center once a week to offer storytime for 23 children.

Teen programming under the leadership of Tricia Masterson continues to draw large and enthusiastic crowds on Wednesday afternoons. The McCreless Library Teen Time started off with a bang with attendance for the Candy Sushi event on June 17 of a rocking 80 people! Attendance for the "Beat It" beading program on June 24 was 40, while the Cubee Craft program had 30 attendees on July 1. A total of 40 made sun bookmarks on July 8. In addition to crafts projects, video games including Wii Sports and Guitar Hero were enthusiastically played and enjoyed by teens and tweens alike. Snacks and drinks are provided at every program as well.

The branch has been showing movies every other Wednesday night to an average attendance of 40 persons, mostly families with children. The two movies this month were *Bolt* and *The Tale of Despereaux*. Water and candy has been provided courtesy of the Friends of McCreless Branch Library.

The staff had a "Fabulous 4th on the 6th" party on July 6. Almost all of the staff were present to enjoy a wonderful potluck lunch and ice cream sundaes provided by the Friends. It was a good opportunity to relax together yet also catch up on the work from the two-day holiday closure.

The book displays for the month included summer vacation travel information and *Is it Hot Enough For You?* which featured fiction titles paying tribute to the scorching temperatures.

The branch got two new and badly needed air-conditioning units. Though the installation process made for an uncomfortable five days, the improvement is noticeable.

Memorial

Summer fun and summer programming are in full swing at the Memorial Branch. Staff members Valerie Capelo, Maria Stroligo, and Trina Smith performed the puppet show *Big Blue Butterfly and Pretty Pink Princess* for kids of all ages on June 23, to great acclaim.

Magik Theater visited on June 29 and gave a fantastic performance of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, as part of the Summer Reading program's special performances.

The Summer Associates, affiliated with the San Antonio chapter of AmeriCorps, visited on June 30 to perform the puppet show *College Is for Everyone*, and had everyone in the audience chanting "college is good, college is fun, college is for everyone."

On July 7 the Brazilian martial arts group Capoeira San Antonio presented an action-packed demonstration of kicks and dance movements. The audience was invited to join in and show their stuff.

The children at the Kids' Café Nob Hill site of the San Antonio Food Bank enjoyed stories, jokes, and book talks by Children's Services Librarian Trina Smith, and were encouraged to register for the summer reading program.

Families were invited to come in and cool off with a movie at the Kids Movie Club on Thursdays. Movies included favorites such as *Hotel for Dogs*, *Marley and Me*, and *Madagascar 2*.

The students of Camp Edges, a summer program for gifted and talented children, visited the library several times and listened to stories and jokes and signed up for the summer reading program.

Congratulations to Children's Services Librarian Trina Smith, who was a recipient of the American Library Association's REACH 21 Scholarship to attend the Spectrum Leadership Institute in Chicago. Trina was one of only 20 scholars to receive the scholarship. The Institute brings together librarians from across the country to attend leadership classes and professional development workshops.

Pan American

The Pan American Branch Library kicked off Summer Reading with a pizza party which drew 130 guests. Summer Reading continued with Children's Services Librarian Raissa Marking's puppet shows, including "Tricky Monkey" and "Storm is Coming." Attendance at Summer Reading events have numbered around 60 children and adults per event. Folk singer Azul Barrientos serenaded a crowd of 40.

Magik Theater performed *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* to an audience of 70.

Adult Services Librarian Jim La Ferla has taken over branch management duties during the absence of the Branch Manager. Jim and Circulation Attendant Maria Taylor helped staff the SAPL table at Pridefest, a yearly celebration for the LGBT community held at Hemisfair Park. The Pridefest crowd appeared to be extremely appreciative of the Library's presence at the event.

Reagan High School/Bannwolf Library

Bannwolf Library staff are both happy and sad to announce that Children's Services Librarian Marva Allen has accepted a position as librarian at Colonial Hills Elementary School. The staff and customers at Reagan will miss Marva, but are excited for her as she grows in her profession.

The Latin Dance classes offered to adult customers concluded a four-week program on June 30. Eighteen participants learned all about the different dance steps during the weekly hour program. Customers look forward to having the program resume in the fall.

On June 23, teens thoroughly enjoyed entertainment by magician Dwayne Stanton. An audience of 114 had fun learning about magic.

The Magik Theatre presented *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* to more than 300 children and their families on July 7. Many positive comments were made about the program.

San Pedro

San Pedro had a box-office month in June, with every measurable statistic up by an astounding amount! Total monthly circulation is usually around 5,500-5,800; circulation in June was an astonishing 7991. Children's circulation was up 50% over the usual monthly average. Door count averages five to six thousand in a month, but in June 12,064 patrons visited San Pedro Library. The branch hosted three special children's programs in June: Spikey Mikey the magician, who drew 126 patrons; the Magik Theatre production of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, which drew 102 patrons even though it had to be presented outdoors; and folk singer Azul Barrientos, who drew 98 patrons. San Pedro Branch Library is truly becoming a popular neighborhood library. In addition, San Pedro Library has registered 1,285 children and 260 teens for Summer Reading.

Department Systems Aide Alejandro Aguilar created a delightful video of children's activities at San Pedro, set to music. The video can be seen on flickr.

Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton has delivered books to the classes of several neighborhood child cares, including VIA and SAC, for their use during the month.

Groups from Higgs, Carter, King Charter School visited the library weekly. During their visits they received tours of the children's area of the library. The classes ranged from first through sixth grade, and each group numbered around 25 students and two teachers.

Children's Services Librarian Betsy Dalton presented six storytimes and six B.A.C.K. Pack 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. BACKPack is growing – there were 24 attendees at the July 1 meeting, about double the highest number to date! The teen group met three times during this period. They play Guitar Hero or Wii on the first meeting of the month. Betsy also serves as Teen Services Librarian 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 win their free books. Children are invited to come to the library at 3:00 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.

The Reading Rocks! second- and third-grade book club had its inaugural meeting on July 9, where five students had a fun and funny discussion about the first book selection, one of the *Frannie K. Stein, Mad Scientist* series. The kids and Ms. Dalton then went on to make gruesome eyeballs out of vanilla wafers, white icing, and red gel icing!

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 has also expanded to Monday as part of Summer Chess Nights.

Library Assistant Sherrie Bossart attended Readers' Advisory training on June 24.

Semmes

Semmes Branch Library has been really busy this summer. Staff are thankful to have an army of volunteers available to help keep the shelving under control. Patrons seem to be checking out a lot of materials this summer!

Programming is going strong at the branch. Semmes is hosting the KLRN Play and Learn program for the summer. Every Tuesday, adults who care for a child under the age of five in their home are

invited to the library for games and activities. These programs are very well attended and everyone involved has a good time.

Spikey Mikey's magic show on June 26 was a big hit. The audience for the 1:30 p.m. presentation was 200, and 160 attended the 3:30 p.m. show. The children in attendance really had fun.

Adult Services Librarian Oscar González conducted his monthly outreach to the Legacy Senior Living Center. Eight attendees enjoyed a presentation of the movie *Eight Below*. After the film Oscar led a discussion on the real-life events that inspired the movie.

Thousand Oaks

The staff at Thousand Oaks is looking forward to the upcoming remodeling. The building's interior will be painted and new carpet will be installed. A few other improvements will also take place. Thousand Oaks will be closed for two weeks starting July 13, and most of the staff members are all headed to other branches.

The Library Board meeting took place at Thousand Oaks July 24. The Board had not met at Thousand Oaks for a few years, so the staff eagerly anticipated the arrival of SAPL's administration. The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Branch Library provided the refreshments for the meeting.

Adult Services Librarian Jorge Chávez's book club met July 9 to discuss Aryn Kyle's novel *The God of Animals*. The group enjoyed rosemary sugar cookies that Linda Nairn brought in honor of National Sugar Cookie Day.

To celebrate Independence Day, the Friends decorated the library with American flags. There were also book displays for children and adults.

The summer programs for children have continued to draw large numbers. The special performers, Magik Theater, Spikey Mikey, and the Snake Lady were very popular and drew large crowds to the library. The Tuesday afternoon B.A.C.K.Pack program, which is followed by a movie for children usually has more than 50 in attendance. Wednesday morning's B.A.C.K.Pack also has a devoted group of attendees. Toddler Time and Storytime on Thursday mornings are also well-attended. Children have been steadily finishing the Summer Reading Club and turning in their reading logs. When the children turn in the logs, they receive a book, a certificate, and they write their name on a Texas cut-out to tape on the wall.

For teens, Wii Wednesdays are very popular and a lot of fun for the participants. The Thursday night movies are also bringing in the crowds.

Country Home Learning Center has been bringing two groups of children to Thousand Oaks every Monday. Barbara Kwiatkowski, Debra Lindenburg-Morrow and Leslie Elsasser have read to the groups and have chosen books for them to browse. The children have ranged in age from kindergarten to middle school.

Programs are benefiting greatly from the new speakers purchased for all the branches with a Loan Star Libraries grant. Patrons say the speakers have made the meeting room feel like a real movie theater, complete with popcorn.

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

Wednesday afternoons during the summer months have been reserved for teen programs at Tobin. Teen Services Liaison and Librarian Sherrie Langston Hardin has planned a variety of activities, which have been well attended. On June 24, 29 kids played Wii bowling and on July 1, 15 showed up to compete in a character trivia contest. Questions were asked about different fictional characters

such as Harry Potter and Sponge Bob Squarepants and prizes awarded. The prizes ranged from posters to jigsaw puzzles to the grand prize of a \$10.00 gift certificate to Borders. The Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell sponsored the prizes for the game. The movie *Zatchbell* was shown to an audience of 19 on July 8.

June 27 saw 38 contestants show up for a chess tournament organized and supervised by Adult Services Librarian Monty Holcomb. All ages were welcome to participate, and contestants ranged from elementary school children to a 44-year-old adult. The grand prize was a set of chess clocks purchased by the Friends.

Library Assistant Ginny Hurt planned the June 30 storytime around a Fourth of July theme. She borrowed a battalion flag from another staff member, Carlos Martinez, and let the children unfurl it. To the delight of the children it took up a large part of the meeting room. She had patriotic music playing as they made their red, white, and blue flags. After attending this special storytime everyone was in the mood for the holiday.

Magik Theatre presented *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* on July 2 to a standing-room-only audience. There was a lot of laughter and participation by the 200-plus crowd.

Westfall

Whopping attendance continues for all summer programming! More than 200 enjoyed Magik Theatre's first performance of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, and many more are hoping to see the encore presentation later this month. As part of the adult summer reading club, crafters and chefs alike had a great time creating recipe cards with a Stampin' Up! representative. Some adult readers have already picked up their raffle prizes for the club as they record the titles they are enjoying. Westfall "went batty" when Librarian Monica Bustillo secured a spot for the Branch as one of only five libraries nation-wide to host a visit from author Brian Lies' character Blue Bat. Children had a super time learning about these beautiful creatures with an expert on the subject as they listened to stories and made a craft. Patrons of all ages are excited about the new projector at the branch and all the great movies they've been watching as a result of the new equipment. They are begging for more and staff are heeding their requests. Teens were thrilled when members of the Alamo Cosplay group came and gave a fashion show and presentation on their hobby (and many adults learned just what this whole thing is about!).

Westfall's staff continues to work diligently on system-wide projects and training, including Library Assistant Theresa Ybarra's participation in Hispanic Heritage Month and Innovative training; Westfall's hosting seminars for Reader's Advisory, Human Resources, and The Big Read; and staff attending defensive driving classes, online weeding courses, and supervisory training workshops.

Westfall is also proud to boast that it continues to make great strides in making the self-check kiosks an attractive alternative for patrons, with an overwhelming 73% of all check-outs processed in this manner.