

**San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
October 28, 2009**

Administration

Director's Office

Library capital projects were high on the agenda the past month. Library Director Ramiro Salazar participated on a committee consisting of the City Architect, representatives from the City Capital Improvements Management Services Department, and representatives from other City departments to evaluate Statements of Qualifications for contractors on the Mission Drive-in marquee project. He met with the City Architect for an update on scheduling of work for the Central Library Weatherization project, and participated in capital projects-related meetings throughout the month of October.

The following is a sample of those meetings: Ramiro met with John Montford from the National Western Art Foundation Board and City Manager Sheryl Sculley to discuss the status of the Briscoe Art Museum and the Library History Portal project in the former Hertzberg Building. On September 29, he had a follow-up meeting with the City Architect and others to interview short-listed contractors for the Mission Drive-in marquee project. On October 21, Ramiro joined Library Foundation CEO Kaye Lenox and District 9 Board Trustee Loyce Ince to make a presentation about the Parman Branch Library capital campaign to a luncheon for the Stone Oak Business Association.

Ramiro met with District 1 City Council Representative Mary Alice Cisneros on September 28 to update her on the Central Library Weatherization project. He accompanied Library Board Chair Jean Brady to a meeting with District 10 Council Representative John Clamp on October 13 to discuss options for sustainable funding for the Library. On October 14 District 9 Library Trustee Loyce Ince and Ramiro met with District 9 Council Representative Elisa Chan to give her an update on the Parman Branch Library project.

The Roosevelt Library partnership – now called the Molly Pruitt Public Library at Roosevelt High School – celebrated its grand opening on October 10. Assistant Library Director for Public Service Kendra Trachta represented the Director's office at that event, which was attended by District 2 City Council Representative Ivy Taylor.

On October 12, the entire Library met at the Municipal Auditorium for Staff Development Day. Ramiro gave an update on the state of the Library, and later answered staff questions in a "Town Hall" format, with input from other members of the Management Team. City Manager Sheryl Sculley opened the day with remarks to the staff, and the keynote speaker was Luís Herrera, San Francisco City Librarian.

On October 16 Ramiro and Kaye Lenox met with Mari Aguirre from Rackspace to discuss partnership opportunities.

On October 21, Ramiro met with Assistant City Manager Sharon de la Garza, the City Manager's new management oversight liaison for the Library Department.

Interim Assistant Library Director for Support Services Kathy Donellan represented the Director's Office at the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Arts and Letters Awards on October 25.

Children's Services System-wide

Children's Services enjoyed a very successful set of Hispanic Heritage programs during the first half of October. Young children across the city enjoyed a Latino-flavored version of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff* entitled *The Three Cabritos* and then made poster board guitars. These guitars were vital to efforts to knock the chupacabra off the bridge that connects Texas and Mexico! Older children took a photo-tour of the murals of our city and then created murals of their own using colored tape as their artistic medium. Special thanks to Children's Services Librarians Esperanza Sonnen and Raissa Marking for working on the 2009 Hispanic Heritage Committee and developing these highly engaging programs.

Sadly, three Children's Services Librarians have left or are about to leave the system. Elspeth Blakeman (Great Northwest) will be retiring at the end of the month after serving the citizens of San Antonio for twenty-eight years. Both Lisa Taylor (Igo) and Raissa Marking (Pan American) have resigned for personal reasons. All three of these librarians will be missed by the Children's Services Team.

Digital Services

Digital Services Manager Rolf Laun redesigned the Intranet to incorporate employee photos in the staff directory section. A team of individuals including Juanita Lopez, Tricia Masterson, and Hondo Aguilar worked to reformat the employee photos to support this project. This will allow staff to an online utility for recognizing fellow employees with which they do business.

The Digital Services Department created a utility to broadcast email notifications for past due library accounts. This allowed for immediate communication to patrons so that they could arrange to make a payment at their nearest library location. As part of a partnership agreement with SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business, the department worked to implement a new SCORE calendar on the public internet. This calendar is automatically generated based on a predefined availability schedule of a SCORE representative to offer business counsel Library patrons.

As an improvement to the public internet, Juanita López has been working on assembling branch information documents that can be posted on the public internet branch location pages. This will allow patrons to access additional information about a branch library building, collection, name and other interesting notes.

On October 1 and 2 Librarians Adam Spana (Digital Services) and Sally Bauer (Central Reference) and Forest Hills Branch Manager Elma Nieto-Rodríguez attended the Health Collaborative's 5 Annual San Antonio Health Literacy Conference to present the results and methodologies of their project "*Promotoras* and Libraries: Advancing Online Health Information in San Antonio's Underserved Communities," funded by the National Library of Medicine.

On October 8 Adam taught a "Library Services Online" class at the OASIS adult education center.

On October 12, Adam and Central Reference Librarian Julia Selwyn presented the training seminar "Libguides and Reference Databases" to 40 of their colleagues at Staff Development Day.

Public Relations

The PR and Graphics Department spent much of late September and early October working to provide publicity for new initiatives associated with the FY 2010 budget. Graphic Designers Ana Farr and Tiffanie Wilson designed and coordinated production of bookmarks and signs to inform the public about new branch library public service hours and to provide advance notice of the implementation of the Unique Management Services materials retention contract. A special edition of the "Bookmarks" calendar was also printed and distributed to reflect the new branch service hours. News releases were also sent to all local media with information on the various new initiatives. Additionally, the PR and Graphics staff assisted with individual communications to all library cardholders who might receive notification from Unique Management under the contract – all customers with accounts potentially in arrears were notified by e-mail, telephone or U.S. Mail that their accounts might be referred for collection under the new contract.

A new partnership with the San Antonio Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America was instituted to offer classes for library customers on how to use social media (Facebook, Twitter, youtube, etc.) to promote their businesses, and to train them on the use of Library resources for business. The first round of sessions, held in September and covering Twitter, drew a total of 44 participants and a number of positive evaluations. The next presentation, on Facebook, is scheduled for November.

Public Relations Manager Beth Graham coordinated the grand opening of the Pruitt Public Library at Roosevelt High School with school and NEISD staff. The grand opening, held on October 10, was attended by District 2 City Council Representative Ivy Taylor, Library Board Chair Jean Brady, District 2 Library Board Trustee Gloria Malone, and Assistant Library Director for Public Service Kendra Trachta. The Library Bookmobile, the Scholastic Literacy Caravan, and Libro the Lion also put in appearances.

Ana and Tiffanie supported Staff Development Day by designing and printing signage for the day's schedule and break-out sessions.

The Library received 21 media mentions in the past month.

Teen Services System-wide

The reorganized teen services liaison group met for an orientation on October 14. The Teen Liaison group is made up of a variety of staff members from branch managers to circulation attendants who present teen programming at their respective branch locations and serve as liaisons to the greater teen services workgroup. Many of the liaisons are new to this role so the orientation covered the basics with more professional development to follow in the coming year. Planning is underway for a new event schedule for teen programming which will be implemented in the winter.

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velásquez attended the September 21 Project WORTH press conference where it was formally announced that funding had been restored to Project WORTH's budget for FY 2010. Library Teen Services has a strong partnership with Project WORTH and wanted to be present to demonstrate support.

Central Teen Services Librarian Violeta Garza won a San Antonio Library Service Award (SALSA) during Staff Development Day on October 12. Violeta's "professional dedication to and talent for serving teens" earned her the recognition of the Outstanding Service Award. She was also nominated for Outstanding Overall Contribution, making her the only staff member to be nominated more than once in the individual award category this year.

Central Teen Services Librarian Kathleen Fordyce has served as the library liaison for SAPL's partnership with SAY Sí, which is concluding in October. As part of their Project ABC Neighborhood Arts Program, SAY Sí has presented grant-funded weekly art programs for teens in grades 7 through 12th since January 2009. Trained SAY Sí instructors facilitated workshops at Carver, Guerra, Memorial and Pan American. There will be an exhibit of the teens' artwork in the winter. The Library greatly appreciates SAY Sí's collaboration and efforts.

Kudos to staff - Customer comments

[please see next page]

Matthew J. Wright
195 Doorack Lane
Kirkwood, MO 63122
September 23, 2009

Ramiro Salazar
Director
San Antonio Public Library
600 Soledad St
San Antonio, TX 78205-1200

Dear Mr. Salazar:

I am writing to inform you of the wonderful service that Andy Crews provided me. I contacted the library, after an unsuccessful attempt to obtain genealogical information from the Bexar County recorder of deeds. Mr. Crews not only found information that heretofore was readily unattainable to me, he went above and beyond the call of duty. He helped me identify the final resting place of my grandfather's great-grandfather. After learning that I live in St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Crews took it upon him self to go out to the cemetery during his lunch break to photograph the tombstone. When he sent me the pictures, I was amazed and delightfully surprised that a member of your staff is so dedicated to serving his customers. I wish that you have many more like Andy on your team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Wright", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Wright

Antoinette V. Franklin
550 Crestway Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78239-2002

Ramiro S. Salazar
600 Soledad St.
San Antonio, TX 78204

Dear Ramiro S. Salazar:

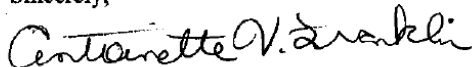
I am writing this to express gratitude for the hard working staff at the Carver Library. I have been teaching a creative writing workshop the third Saturday of each month since October 2008. The staff is terrific and very professional. I wish to thank the staff for their patience and assistance.

I had hoped you would have allowed Melanie to stay at the Carver Library we will be lost without her assistance and professionalism. Whenever asked for assistance she provided excellent service. The remaining staff are as helpful and professional, especially D. L. Grant, Rose Marie, Edna, Ronnie, De Anna, Paul, Alma and the custodian.

I hate to see any of these fine people leave the Carver Library. This library is my favorite and I try to come in often. The Carver staff has done such an outstanding job. If the staff has to be sent to other facilities, I hope that they will be able to return to the Carver since they have provided outstanding assistance.

I am a poet, author and educator. I have served as a Pegasus Judge 192-1994. I thank D. L. Grant for allowing my dream to become a reality I have held two book signings introducing R. L. Sloan, author of Embellish and my new book A Legacy to Leave Our Youth. This book features John "Mule" Miles, former Negro League Baseball Player and Tuskegee Airman ground crewman. We have had Kwanzaa Celebration workshop, Black Heritage Celebration, Open House, Celebration of Poetry Month, A celebration of Some of San Antonio's African American Artists. We have established a Carver Literary Arts Society that reads various types of literature. I am striving to make my community better. I encourage other people to visit this fine facility as well.

Sincerely,


Antoinette V. Franklin poet, author, educator

Central Library

Alamo Area Library Systems

AALS had several successful meetings in September and October. The 62 participants at the Fall Membership Meeting attended programs on the new digital audio reader from the state library's Talking Books program and the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program from Palo Alto College for 62 attendees. The CAPS (collections, advocacy and public services) committee discussed grant applications for future projects and the CAC (communication access) committee is working on technical issues within the AALS libraries.

Children's Department

The staff of the Central Children's Department were happy to welcome three new colleagues on October 1. Librarian Carrie Vance and Library Assistants Amanda Hernández and Lisa Hernández were all reassigned to Central Children's Services, where they have quickly become invaluable and hardworking members of the team.

With the addition of these new staff members, the watchword for the department is now "Outreach, Outreach, Outreach." In addition to providing service to area child care centers, staff has recommitted to developing meaningful relationships with both public and private schools in the service area and expanding the library's relationship with area Head Start centers.

Circulation Department

The San Antonio Public Library officially kicked off the partnership with TexShare on September 21. TexShare is a reciprocal borrowing program allowing users from other institutions to borrow material from participating libraries. Central Circulation Manager Laura Villanueva offered TexShare training to more than 25 staff members who then became TexShare liaisons for their respective branches or units. To date, SAPL has issued six cards to TexShare cardholders from surrounding counties who might not have otherwise had the opportunity to borrow SAPL materials.

The materials retention contract with Unique Management Services was effective beginning October 1. Unique will be responsible for sending out holds and other notices to patrons who prefer written communication, and prompting patrons to return past due materials and bring their library accounts current. Together with Unique customer service representative Cary Luckert, Laura Villanueva and Contract Coordinator Michael Howdyshell presented two training sessions in order to help staff understand the process of patron notification. This training was offered to 60 branch and Central staff so they can better assist patrons who are requesting information about the new service. Additionally, all library cardholders whose accounts could be referred to Unique Management were individually notified via telephone, e-mail, or U.S. Mail, depending on their preferences. The first letters of notification regarding overdue accounts are scheduled to be mailed by Unique Management Services on December 1.

Circulation was pleased to welcome Andrea Silva, Kimberly Wygant, and Monica Flores to Central Circulation. Andrea has filled the position of the much needed Senior Circulation Attendant, while Kimberly and Monica are easing into their roles as Circulation Attendants in a new location. Andrea quickly accepted the role and has shared new ideas and perspectives with the Circulation Manager. Andrea has already proven to be an asset to this unit in a short period of time and looks forward to other projects.

Circulation Attendant Leticia Guerra presented a Library Cards 101 presentation for Staff Development Day, along with Laura Villanueva. Together they presented to a class of 62 staff members. The class was well received and Leticia plans to continue the presentation throughout the year.

The circulation staff put together a “*Tradiciones*” display to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Staff focused on the quinceañera tradition and the game of lotería. Circulation Attendant (and artist) Gina Peachy created Library lotería cards such as *La biblioteca*, *El libro* and *La tarjeta* for the display.

Outreach Services

September brought to a close a long chapter in the bookmobile’s history, as the Windcrest stop closed after more than 30 years of service. The closing was good news, however, as Windcrest now has its own branch library. In keeping with its mission, the bookmobile will seek new frontiers to which to bring library service. Beginning in January, the bookmobile’s schedule will include the Audie Murphy Veterans Memorial Hospital (Monday 2:00-4:00), the Kirby Senior Center (Thursday 1:00-2:00), and the Ferrari Family Center (Wednesday 2:30-4:30). The Audie Murphy and the Ferrari stops will bring the bookmobile to two population groups who have difficulty reaching a branch library: disabled veterans and new immigrants.

The Outreach staff celebrated its first anniversary with numerous road trips throughout this month, registering new cardholders at the District 125 Health & Community Resources Fair, Castle Point Apartments’ Texas Night Out, the Air Force Property Agency, and the Archdiocese of San Antonio’s Health Fair. Library Mascot Libro the Lion welcomed the youngsters attending AccessAbility Fest.

Outreach staff also taught a workshop, “Lions, Tigers and Fairs,” at Staff Development Day. The workshop offered advice on how to prepare for appearances at community events.

Little Read Wagon

Little Read Wagon is fully back into the school year routine. During this reporting period Little Read Wagon staff has made 37 presentations to parents of pre-k/kindergarten students, teen parents, and several local organizations. The Play and Learn programs at Miller’s Pond Community Center concluded well with several new families participating in the last two events. Hopefully transportation concerns will not prevent them from joining new programs again at other locations.

Teacher workshops have also been well attended. It seems that when school starts again child care providers are more motivated to receive additional training. Registration for both the September 26 and October 10 workshops filled within a few hours of opening. Teachers have also done a better job of calling to cancel when their plans change so that people on the waiting list have the opportunity to attend. Little Read Wagon is currently planning and preparing for the 2010 series of teacher workshops. The focus of the initial series will be narrative skills and vocabulary.

Little Read Wagon’s School Readiness grant from the Department of Community Initiatives was renewed for fiscal year 2010. This generous funding supports the bulk of Little Read Wagon’s work: Play and Learn programs, presentations at schools and other organizations, and teacher workshops. Participation in the School Readiness initiative facilitates partnerships with other delegate agencies such as Avance, Family Service Association, Positive Beginnings, YWCA, KLRN and Northside Independent School District.

Thanks to the work of the Library Foundation, Little Read Wagon will have the opportunity to explore a new form of programming. The Foundation acquired a grant from JPMorgan Chase to fund a series of early literacy toy-making classes and round table “cafés”. The toy-making classes will allow caregivers to create some of the materials they enjoy with their children during Play and Learn programs. The “cafés” are structured conversations between caregivers focused on early literacy topics. Little Read Wagon staff is excited about this new venture.

Reference/Government Documents Department

With the beginning of the Central Library weatherization project, Reference Staff have conducted their final building tours for a while. Cynthia de León gave a tour to Mongolian business executives

visiting San Antonio as guests of St. Mary's University. Julia Selwyn gave a tour to a group of foreign military personnel who are in San Antonio to learn English.

Starting October 1, five new staff members have come into the department. Training and integration of this many people at one time has been an interesting process. The new staff members bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and are already proving to be an asset to the department.

The shifting of collections has begun. The 900's have begun to be shifted from the sixth floor to the second floor. The process of rearranging many of the collections in the building will take a lot of work but should make the building more user-friendly.

Reference Manager Dan Stanford and Library Assistant Lyle Rosdahl represented the library at the annual Accessibility Fest at the Institute of Texas Cultures. Attendance was a bit low this year but the library resources were appreciated by those who did stop by the SAPL table.

Programming during this time has focused on education. Reference staff presented a program to high-school students on preparation for college entrance exams. A class was also offered to train educators about library databases and how they can help both students and teachers.

During Staff Development Day Reference staff were active in teaching classes. Librarian Cristine Mitchamore was one of three Readers Advisory instructors. Librarian Julia Selwyn partnered with Adam Spana from Digital Services for a Reference training session, and Librarian Stephanie Hatch presented a book repair class.

Teen Services Department

Weekly Programs

Mondays with Librarian Violeta Garza: On September 21, teens played the video game Super Smash Brothers: Brawl. As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, teens played traditional game of Lotería on September 28. Afterwards, they were able to play Brawl once more. October 5 was the first day of the tournament for Super Smash Brothers: Brawl.

Wednesdays with Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano: Sylvia hosted "Wii Wednesdays." Teens played Madden '09 on September 23 and 30. In addition, those who participated in "Ms. Sylvia's League", a teen fantasy football league, compared their stats for Week 2 and made their selections for Week 3. Given the popularity of vampires, Sylvia has developed a vampire interest group for teens. This club will discuss teens' fascination with vampires and other supernatural entities through popular vampire book titles and movies. Topics of discussion and activities will be developed by teens. On September 30, Sylvia asked teens to brainstorm names for the group. Through votes on SAPL's teen blog, teens selected "Teen Fang Club". On October 7 and October 14, teens selected their picks for the teen fantasy league for Weeks 4 and 5 of the NFL.

Thursdays with Library Assistant Regina Almanza: Keeping in mind the Blood and Chocolate theme for Teen Hispanic Heritage Month, teens were invited to re-create Aztec and Mayan symbols in chocolate on September 17. Using piping bags, teens placed pictures underneath wax paper and traced the image with the chocolate. The results were cultural, fun and tasty. On September 24, teens folded Starburst candy wrappers to make paper chain bracelets. They then played Super Smash Bros: Brawl. In what is becoming a very popular craft here, teens made plushies on October 1. To make the plushies, teens used felt, needle and thread, and pillow stuffing to create cute unique plush toys. On October 8, teens decorated Teen Services for Halloween. They made yarn spiders, pipe cleaner creatures, and skeletons to add to the crepe paper streamers hanging wall-to-wall. To wrap up Teen Hispanic Heritage Month, teens made hot chocolate Mayan-style on October 15 and enjoyed it with some cookies. For pictures of the chocolate symbols, plushies and the Halloween decorations, visit www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary.

On Saturday, October 3, Violeta Garza hosted the anime/manga club, Baka Onigiri con Ost. Attendees participated in a nail-biting anime trivia quiz. Winners won small plastic signs that came all the way from Japan. Afterwards, they were able to watch the anime *Moon Phase*, provided by Funimation.

Outreach, Tours and Groups

On September 25, students from Castle Hills Baptist School received catalog and database instruction from Librarian Kathleen Fordyce. They came to the library to do research for their science fair projects. On October 6 Library Assistant Sylvia Pachecano provided catalog and database instruction to students in the "Gateway to College" program. These students were also researching current events. In addition, Sylvia provided a library tour and catalog and database instruction to students from the Healy Murphy Learning Center.

On September 30, Kathleen went to SAY Sí to sign up teens attending an after-school program for library cards. She also demonstrated Live Homework Help and Learning Express to the students. On October 10, Kathleen participated in the grand opening of the Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School. She helped teens make buttons that displayed the Library's Teen Myspace and Wordpress Blog addresses.

Texana/Genealogy Department

On 19 September the Friends of Texana/Genealogy met to hear a presentation by Jim Peet, who discussed his ancestor, the first mayor of San Antonio, John W. Smith.

Students from the Higgs-Carter-King School visited on September 22 and 23 and were given a tour of the department.

On October 3 the African American Genealogical and Historical Society met in the Texana/Genealogy Department, and Los Bexareños met in the Central Library auditorium.

Also on October 3 Librarian Sylvia Reyna presented an "Introduction to Hispanic Genealogy" workshop to 31 participants.

Librarian Matt DeWaelsche taught thirteen class participants the ins and outs of "Ancestry, Library Edition" on October 5.

Two new displays have been created in the Texana/Genealogy Department. Theresa Gold, local historian and a member of the Bexar County Historical Commission, brought many of her personal items to create a German Texan heritage display. Materials from "The Rebirth of Latino Traditions" project relating to the quinceañera tradition are also on display.

Danelle Crowley has been assisting Texana/Genealogy by re-cataloging a number of Texana books that had been dropped from the catalogue in the transition to Millennium. Texana's staff and patrons appreciate her assistance.

Branch Libraries

Bannwolf Public Library at Reagan High School

The Bannwolf Library has had an abundance of activities during the last month. Librarians Hugues Caby and Joan Dyer-Westacott have worked hard to have successful programs for all ages and interest levels. Library practicum students have also contributed to this month's programming.

Adults participating in the Latin Dance program have enjoyed a month of dance instruction provided by Richard Alvarado. Participants gathered just outside the library in the Reagan foyer to dance on the smooth cement floor. They learned many different steps associated with Latin dancing.

Teens were treated to several programs during the past month. The ComiX Relief Club met each Tuesday during the month to discuss popular graphic novels and brainstorm ideas they want for

programs. Fifteen teens enjoyed an Anime movie, *Final Fantasy*, on September 29. Gaming was also offered on October 6 for teens to play various Nintendo Wii games, some borrowed from Teen Services. On October 13, teens watched the Anime movie, *Resident Evil*.

Children had the opportunity to attend a variety of events. B.A.C.K. Pack participants were treated each Tuesday to a unique craft. The Bannwolf Book Club for Kids, which meets on the first Thursday of the month, had fun discussing books. For seven different times during the evening of October 8, kids joined Ms. Dyer-Westacott for readings of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Participants also had the opportunity to make a caterpillar craft. Since this day was "Read for the Record" the number of students attending added to the count. On October 15, kids enjoyed the program, Wild Things in the Library. They had fun as Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* was read followed by a craft where kids created their own wild thing. This wild rumpus was in anticipation of the release of the movie.

On October 10, the Chinese Club from Reagan High School presented storytime and prepared crafts for kids and their families. The theme for storytime was the Chinese Moon Festival and Chinese folktales were read to the children. Following the story, families made Chinese lanterns to take home.

All age groups enjoyed the Banned Book Week display during the week of September 26. Books were pulled from the shelves and placed on display along with information about banned books. Patrons were allowed to check books out from the display.

Mr. Caby provided several "How To" sessions on how to use your library card. All customers recently receiving a SAPL library card or those wanting to know more about their library card were invited to participate in a session on all the great resources available with their library card. Most popular with attendees were Live Homework Help, digital downloads, and placing holds.

The Bannwolf Library has three interns working in the library to complete their library practicum. These students have created fantastic bulletin boards and display cases.

The library has received a set of display cubes. These cubes will be used to create attractive displays in the library.

Bazan

On October 10 the Bazan Branch Library participated in a book giveaway sponsored by Boy Scouts who gathered books from their neighborhoods and brought them to the branch library to be given away to the general public. Most of the books were in excellent condition and included many popular non-fiction subject areas and some fiction as well. Although not heavily publicized, the project headed by Scout David Basset was a great success and a welcome surprise to patrons using the library that day. David's intention was to provide free books to patrons living in disadvantaged areas. The scouts brought thirty-five hundred books and left only six hundred behind for the Bazan Branch Library, which will be used in a future book sale.

The Bazan Branch Library welcomed two new staff members. Rene Leija, formerly a Library Assistant at the Memorial Library, is now a Circulation Attendant at the Bazan Library. His skills and positive attitude are a welcome addition to the Bazan staff. Along with him Amanda Coronado is welcome as a new Library Aide. Amanda was formerly part of the Las Palmas staff. The Library is happy to have her as well.

The Branch Manager would like to commend Rhonda Davila for her dedicated participation in the Hispanic Heritage Committee. From the very start Ms Davila focused on promoting a successful campaign to bring information to the general public about the prominence of the quinceañera tradition in the San Antonio community. Her perseverance in searching for information and her extra efforts to locate photos and invite fellow co-workers to submit their personal photos all worked toward a very successful Hispanic Heritage Month.

Children's Services Librarian Hope Sonnen should be recognized for her perseverance in promoting services to children in the near Westside Communities. Her involvement with local organizations ensures

that the promotion of Library services reaches as many potential library patrons as possible. Her skills will hopefully bring in more parents and children to use the many resources available.

Branch Manager Raymond Villarreal participated in this year's National Night Out at the Cassiano Homes on October 6. He distributed Library card applications and bookmarks publicizing the change in branch library service hours of Library's operation. There were a lot of questions on how to get a Library card. Attendance at the event was approximately 300.

Brook Hollow

In remembrance of September 11, Brook Hollow screened *The Guys*, a film about a fire captain who lost eight men in the collapse of the World Trade Center. The showing was a special request from a patron who brought friends with him to create a last-minute program. The Hispanic Heritage book display was popular and was made even more visible by the attractive quinceañera banner displayed with it. Brook Hollow's Banned Book Display was also popular. The Brook Hollow Friends held another successful book sale to jump-start the month of October. Some of the proceeds will help buy additional plants for the expanding landscape project.

Library Assistant Katie Ryan and Librarian Tapley Trudell both gave tours to Cub Scout troops working on their badges. Circulation Attendant Kimberly King was part of the Library's Disability Awareness Committee and helped to set up system-wide programming. She also created a display for the branch. Tapley Trudell gave a presentation at Staff Development Day titled, "Readers Advisory SAPL: Overview featuring Tools & Tips: Speed-Reading." Branch Manager Beth Schorlemer became the branch's new Teen Services Liaison.

Carver

Hispanic Heritage Month activities drew favorable responses about the branch programs and Library Assistant Rosemarie Rodriguez's display of artifacts and reading material that honored the culture and contributions of Latinos. It was widely agreed that the branch's quinceañera banner was the perfect complement for the display.

Customers were also given the opportunity to reflect on the freedom to read after seeing Children's Services Librarian Amy Thorne's provocative display of materials celebrating Banned Books Week. Amy's concept consisted of caution tape, challenged books and a banner announcing the observance. Librarians were delighted to discuss it. They found that many customers were surprised to know that some of their favorite books had been challenged.

Carver Library staff, responding to the plight of many customers in their service area seeking employment, held a Résumé and Dress for Success Workshop on September 17 that attracted a sizeable number of job seekers.

The San Antonio Ethnic Artists Society met at Carver Library for their quarterly business meeting and fell in love with the branch. They are working with Adult Services Librarian D.L. Grant to develop programs for Carver centering on the arts.

College Day was observed at Carver on September 19 when Nova Southeastern University representative Dr. Anita Krull visited and discussed the advantages of obtaining a college degree and learning by means of the distance format.

Amy has continued with her regular storytimes and outreach. A Halloween display of spooky books, from picture books to novels, has also proved popular. The book club at Wheatley Middle School had its first meeting since starting its first selection on October 14; Amy was on hand to hear the students share their thoughts on the book so far. The teen Anime Club celebrated its one-year anniversary on September 17 with a pizza party, and has marked Hispanic Heritage Month with button making, sugar skull painting and Aztec-style hot chocolate. The members recently decided to try out having a regular book club-style meeting; a title has been selected, and the first discussion will be held in November.

Cody

On September 21 it was ice cream “spaghetti” and strawberry “meatballs” at Cody’s celebration of *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. After Children’s Services Librarian Sheila Acosta read the story to a most attentive audience, children and their parents enjoyed their bowls of ice cream “spaghetti” with their choice of toppings, which included the strawberry meatballs and various flavored sprinkles. Children also created spaghetti and meatball hats which they wore throughout the library. Parents and children enjoyed the program so much they were asking if we would be doing this EVERY WEEK!

On September 23 Cody’s young artists enjoyed *Rocky Pals*, a unique creative adventure for school-aged children, combining arts, crafts and books. The young artists examined books of their favorite animals, and painted a facsimile out of rocks they were given. Each animal came with its own birth certificate and the students were given an opportunity to create original stories about their animals.

Sheila assisted students in grades one through three from the Montessori School House when they visited Cody for their tour and books. In addition to reading a couple of stories, she assisted some of the students with their first self-checkouts on their new cards. Self-checkout was a big hit with these young readers!

Cody participated in Read for the Record on October 8. Librarians Connie Hejl and Sheila Acosta and Library Assistant Kimberly Ammerman read to various children throughout the afternoon. A caterpillar craft was available for “make and take” after the readings.

Sheila visited the first-graders at the Eleanor Kolitz School on October 6. After reading several stories, she named some popular authors and works for them to check out and read on their own.

Sheila volunteered to work the SAPL area at the Library Foundation’s Children’s Book and Author luncheon on October 3, encouraging several children to sign up for library cards.

Local children’s author and illustrator Xavier Garza spoke to guests on October 15 at the Cody Library about the stories and legends behind some of his works. His book *Creepy Creatures and other Cucuys* is popular with young readers. This event was made possible by the Cody Friends group.

Teen Mad Mondays continue to be popular after school. Video games are the most popular event. The film *Monsters vs. Aliens* shown on October 5 was a hit with both adults and kids.

Connie is making progress on forming a new anime club. The first anime meeting was sparsely attended, but a Cody partnership with the ACES anime club hopes to bring in more teens.

Baby Time at Cody has added a new day and time to its schedule. Connie kicked off the first new Baby Time held on October 13 at 1:30 p.m. with rhymes and fingerplays about rain and frogs.

Film and book clubs held their normally scheduled meetings. Titles included *Silent in the Sanctuary* by Deanna Raybourn, *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson, *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton, and the film *Born Yesterday*.

Cody celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with several programs. On September 26 approximately 65 people participated in a Hispanic Heritage program and enjoyed activities on the Scholastic Literacy Caravan. Children created murals and decorated guitars to display in the children’s area of the library. All of the attendees were serenaded by one of Cody’s young adults attending the Communication Arts school – Miss Dyanira, who sang “*De Colores*.”

Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl held a successful lotería event for Hispanic Heritage Month. The teens enjoyed competing for candy and correcting Connie on her Spanish pronunciation.

The Hispanic Heritage program “Scrapbooking your Quinceañera” was a big hit, with 15 participants learning practical tips and tricks to preserve the memory of their quinceañera.

The Friends of the Cody Library book sale held on October 10 and 11 was a huge success. The Friends collected more than \$3,600, which will be used to purchase much-needed meeting room tables. Staff are extremely appreciative of the hard work and support that the Cody Friends offer.

On October 1 Cody welcomed several new staff members: Adult Services Librarian Jody Hampton and Library Assistants Luanne Bloom and Veronica Franco. All three have excellent customer service skills and are a welcome addition to the Cody team. Staff are adjusting to the new hours and how to best handle workloads. Hopefully, patterns will emerge over the next few weeks and staff will be able to settle into regular routines.

At Staff Development Day, held on October 12, staff members attended several classes that focused on library services, such as floating collections, creative programming, and RFID. At the end of the day, the Cody team met for a fun hour of games and team-building. Former Cody Department Systems Aide Valerie Cruz won the "Innovator" SALSA, acknowledging her moral-boosting skills and her role as a staff motivator. Jody Hampton won the "Outstanding Overall Contribution" SALSA, recognizing his commitment to service and his involvement in several enterprises that supported SAPL's mission. Jody was also part of the team that won a SALSA for their efforts on the "23 Things" team which enabled staff members to learn about Web 2.0 through a self-paced curriculum.

Collins Garden

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month five local Chicano poets read excerpts from their work and four area residents also read some of their poems. Fifty-three people, among them a class from Edison High School, enjoyed listening to the poets reading their own work.

The National Night Out celebration at Collins Garden Branch Library, co-sponsored by the library and the Collins Garden Neighborhood Association, had a great turnout. The San Antonio Marching Band, comprised of former school musicians, entertained attendees with familiar marching tunes. There was also free food, visiting mascots, a bouncy castle, and face painting. City Councilman David Medina also spoke to the crowd and District 5 Library Board Member Laurie Gruenbeck was also in attendance. Former staff members Elma Nieto-Rodriguez, now the Forest Hills Branch Manager, and Carlos Loera, now a Library Assistant at Memorial, returned to organize a hug of the branch. They were able to get enough people to hug about half of the building. Thanks to Elma and Carlos!

Librarian Heidi Novotny hosted her first weekly gaming event for teens on October 6. The event, featuring "Guitar Hero," Wii Sports, and board games, attracted an audience of 25 teens.

Children's Services Librarian Leigh Bedford reports that outreach continues to various daycares whose children are enjoying stories, fingerplays and songs. The AWE Early Learning computer is proving so popular that time is now limited to fifteen minutes per child. The Hispanic Heritage Month programs have also proved popular, albeit not quite as expected. It was actually the older students who liked the *música* craft and had a blast making guitars and then putting the decorated guitars on the display wall.

Carlos Loera offered a cooking demonstration, teaching participants how to make banana and tortilla desserts. The program was well attended and reviews of the program all seemed to involve the words "Yum!" or "Tasty!"

The staff members of the Collins Garden Branch Library were honored to receive the SALSA for Outstanding Branch Library during the 2009 Staff Development Day Awards Ceremony.

Cortez

Author Diane Gonzales Bertrand conducted a writer's workshop at the branch on October 2, one of three programs held at the Cortez Branch Library in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Several students from the Conjunto Heritage Taller presented a recital of accordion music to an appreciative audience on September 26. The age of the students ranged from teen through senior citizen. The branch displayed a beautiful quinceañera banner along with a book and media display. The proud parents of the young lady

featured in the banner visited the library to see their daughter's photo. Six episodes of the PBS documentary *Visiones* were shown on October 10 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The interest in computer classes is always high, and this month was no exception. All four computer classes taught by DCI at the Cortez Branch were full. Due to the elimination of the Department Systems Aide position at branches, Cortez's Department Systems Aid Sonia Cruz presented her last series of computer classes in Spanish for the public. The classes were extremely popular and patrons wanted to know when she would teach the classes again. She will be sorely missed. Adult Services Librarian Jerry Madrigal taught the class "How to Use the Library Catalog" in Spanish in Sonia's absence. English for Speakers of Other Languages classes continue to be a popular program offered to our patrons every Saturday. The partnership with Solid Waste Management resulted in a well-attended program on October 15.

Evening storytimes have been a huge success at Cortez. Each Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. Children's Services Librarian Carol Collins presents storytime to an average of 16 to 20 people, and the numbers continue to grow. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month children created a colorful mural on October 7. The mural is now on display in the children's section of the library.

Branch Manager Rebecca Johnson participated in the Lago Vista National Night Out event on October 6. She spoke with 75 residents in the community park about library services and created library cards for ten residents. Many of the parents were interested in the homework help services offered by Tutor.com through the library website.

The Cortez Branch patrons seem to be responding well to the new hours.

Forest Hills

Former Collins Garden Adult Services Librarian Elma Nieto-Rodríguez is now the Forest Hills Branch Manager, and former Brook Hollow Librarian I and Teen Services Liaison Mary M. Smith joined the Forest Hills Team on Thursday, October 1. Both are pleased to be working with their new team and look forward to making connections with the Forest Hills community soon.

Staff attended Staff Development Day on October 12. A staff meeting at the end of the day proved to be positive and productive.

Forest Hills Branch Library was visited by enthusiastic second-graders from Esparza Elementary School at the end of September and beginning of October. Children's Services Librarian Cindy Moreno read them a story and provided them library cards and a tour of the branch.

Cindy also attended a Conflict Management class on September 25 and a poetry workshop by Naomi Shihab Nye on October 15 at the Central Library.

Storytime on October 13 was especially fun because the children enjoyed listening to the book *Where the Wild Things Are*. They made a monster craft and also got a *Where the Wild Things Are* crown and poster.

A teen gaming session was held on Wednesday, October 14. The library's projector proved to be a great way to enhance the event. Teens and visiting patrons were all able to watch the action on the screen.

Great Northwest

Children's programming continued to enjoy large numbers. At the end of September, a total of 1,264 children had been served through the various programs, special programs and outreach initiatives.

The Great Northwest Branch Library was happy to welcome Circulation Attendant Michelle Vinarskai, who transferred from Semmes.

Branch Manager Roberto Zapata attended a training session conducted by the Lighthouse for the Blind on September 23. In addition, he attended an outreach at the Northside Independent School District Friends of the Library meeting. On October 6, for National Night Out, he and Children's Services Librarian Elspeth Blakeman and Library Aide Jennifer Wright attended the El Sendero Homeowners Association festivities. They set up an information table and, thanks to Jennifer, Libro the Lion made an appearance at the event.

Families enjoyed Great Northwest's Family Fun with Cupcake Decorating on September 19. A group of 43 applied their creative skills with cupcakes, as well as receiving information on the Culinary Institute and catering careers.

Librarian Tracey Knouse received training on September 30 for making brochures and flyers faster with Word. On October 7, Library Assistant Michelle Vinarskai and Librarian Tracey Knouse attended Unique Management Services' training session. The information gained will be shared with staff at October's branch meeting.

HR Specialist Bridget Lewis McKinney conducted a "True Colors" exercise with all staff during the teambuilding time slot at Staff Development Day. This exercise proved quite popular as staff gained understanding of their different personality types and how to improve communication between the "color" types.

Guerra

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman met with Friends of Guerra Branch Library President Delores Huber on September 17. He attended the Night Out activity at the Arroyo Vista Community Park on October 6. He attended a regular meeting of the Guerra Friends on October 14. He spent four hours at the Northwest Vista College Volunteer Recruitment Fair on October 15, meeting with 35 students, eight of whom expressed interest in the library's volunteer program.

Children's Services Librarian Yanira C. Vegerano planned and presented lap-sit programs and regular storytimes on September 23 and 30 and October 7 and 14; average attendance at the lap-sit programs was ten; for the storytimes, it was 35. During the week of October 5, she conducted marketing and outreach visits to Westwood Terrace, Passmore, and Leon Valley Elementary Schools. The program provided storytimes to the children of adults enrolled in the "English for Speakers of Other Languages" program. On October 14, she presented a storytime to a GED "Even Start" workshop. She attended the Fall Professional Development workshop on October 15 which featured Naomi Shihab Nye.

Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Blow hosted weekly Sustainable Living programs presented by Doderick Evans; average attendance was 15. The program gave participants valuable information about community-based agriculture. She visited several senior day care facilities in the branch's service area, delivering DVDs, CDs, and books.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson planned and helped present a Hispanic music event that demonstrated librarian talent. The program was held on September 17. He was joined by Robert Ayala and Elsie Jackson; the focus was on Hispanic songs from the 70s. Stephen and Elsie sang and Robert provided instrumental accompaniment. Some 23 patrons attended. Stephen held his monthly Spanish language book group on September 24. The book selected was *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. On September 26, the title was *El secreto está al fondo de la olla*, a book covering the Hispanic culinary tradition. Participants shared various Latin American dishes. On October 4, the program was "Pictures + *Palabras* = Stories/*Historias*" presented by Diane Gonzalez Bertrand. The group discussed biographical sketches of memorable events in the lives of their ancestors and extended families. On October 13, his Tuesday Evening Book Club discussed *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* by Alison Weir.

Teen Services Liaison/Library Assistant Tim Johnson attended Create Lists training on September 17 and Digital Library Assistant training on September 30. He planned and presented several events throughout the month. Chess clinics offered on September 26 and October 4 had ten and fifteen participants respectively. He coordinated four SAY Sí art workshops; some six youngsters attended each event. His Game-Ra video game club had two well-attended events – September 29, 33 participants, and October 13, 47 participants. The monthly Yu-Gi-Oh/Board Game night had 22 participants. Finally, the three Wii Play Saturdays at Guerra hosted 34, 41, and 31 youngsters. Total attendance for Guerra teen events for the month was 334 people. Tim is currently working on organizing a graphic novel club.

Igo

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month Igo Branch Library presented several programs. Kathleen Trenchard of Cut it Out Studios demonstrated authentic *papel picado* (paper lace) techniques on September 19. At the end of the demonstration attendees made a *papel picado* to take with them. Six adults and children attended the program and went home with a *papel picado*. Also in keeping with the theme of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Kazamba Drum and Dance group performed on October 10. Forty adults and children enjoyed the dynamic percussion and dance ensemble, specializing in Brazilian, African and Caribbean rhythms.

On October 17 the Brandeis High School drama department presented two plays, *Round the World Tales* and *Ming Lee and the Magic Tree*. This is the second year that Igo Branch Library has partnered with Brandeis High School drama department to perform at the branch, and both plays were well attended.

Johnston

The branch hosted *Fotofronteras, Photography by Immigrant Youth* in September and October, with a small reception opening the exhibit on September 21. The photos were taken by young people in detention and emergency shelters. This program was developed by Dianne Monroe and Fadela Castro of Healing Arts, a collaborative effort of Jump-Start Performance Company. The photos are “sad, striking, and humorous: clouds drifting over a high fence, a small plant growing out of parched and cracked soil, a hand pressed against a window...” The program, made possible by a generous grant from the City’s Neighborhood Arts Program, is considered a vocational opportunity that gives young people skills they can use in their home countries.

Children’s Services at the Johnston Branch continues to offer the new B.A.C.K. Pack every Tuesday afternoon and has attracted a group of faithful kids and moms.

Library Aide Lupe Claypole substituted for vacationing Children’s Services Librarian Karen Sebesta on September 24 with a storytime and craft all about apples, including everyone’s favorite, Johnny Appleseed. Lupe has LOTS of experience entertaining children since she’s a retired kindergarten teacher from the Southwest School District. And, by the way, she is also an absolutely super shelver and lucky Guerra Branch is getting her!

On September 29 Branch Manager Diane Backhus dusted off her Children’s Services training to take over the group while Karen was out. She really pulled out all the stops with a paint-your-own-tote event. Everyone left with a craft that they can carry along everywhere they go! Then she was back at it again on October 1, when she read several of her favorite frog story books, including Keith Faulkner’s *The Wide-Mouthed Frog*. The children took home a frog finger puppet.

On October 8 Johnston celebrated Read for the Record with hourly readings of Eric Carle’s *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Branch Manager Diane Backhus did the lion’s share of the reading, since the Children’s Services Librarian was conducting preschool storytime or attending the Children’s Services meeting most of that time. The absolutely wonderful craft was a twisty caterpillar made using two colors of construction paper, with marker-painted faces, and bedecked with tiny paper antennae.

Both B.A.C.K. Pack and the preschool storytime celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month during the week of October 12. The hands-down favorite book was *The Three Cabritos* by Eric Kimmel, and the make-your-own-guitar craft was a definite keeper.

Teen Mondays are about to take on a new look in the person of new Library Assistant Robert Ayala, who will be assisting Karen. They'll divide the duties with Robert presiding over the Wii activities and Karen providing crafts for the artsy types. When word got out to the kids that Robert was going to be sharing in the teen fun, they eagerly sought him out and, from the grins and body language, we'd say they were impressed with the new guy.

The Friends of Johnston Library had their fall book sale pm October 2 and 3. The proceeds will be used to purchase a new display sign and a waterproof cover for the outside book drop carts, among other much-needed items. Friends member Marshall Mundorff was asked by several other Library Friends groups to build donation boxes for their ongoing book sales.

The branch said goodbye to Department Systems Aide Danny Alvarez, who transferred to the Aviation Department; Custodian Jesse Sosa, who transferred to the Central Library and to Guadalupe Claypole, who transferred to Guerra. Library Assistant Carol Flores retired after nearly 25 years of service to the Library. Circulation Attendant Geri Carrillo also left the library after five years. The branch welcomed new Library Assistants Sherrie Bossart from San Pedro and Robert Ayala from Guerra.

The staff participated in Staff Development Day on October 12. During the branch meeting at the end of the day, staff shared their impressions about the sessions they had attended, and noted that it had been a good training day.

Landa

Landa Branch Library is working harder than ever. Patrons and staff have been adjusting to the changes in the schedules and staff are still offering top-notch service to everyone who walks through the door.

To begin Hispanic Heritage Month, Luis Berrios offered a concert of Spanish guitar music that delighted everyone in the building on September 19. He played music from South America, Cuba and the Caribbean. The building echoed with the strains of his lovely tunes. More than 25 people stopped in to listen.

On September 26 Landa Branch hosted Chandra Murthy to present "College Application & Financial Aid Made Easy." This seminar drew 27 young people and parents who are interested in learning how to fund their higher education.

On October 10, the Monte Vista Historical Society had its annual membership meeting and picnic that afternoon. Luckily, the sun had come out and the grounds had dried up some since they had already rescheduled once because of the rain. The Landa Gardens Conservancy threw a party on October 11 to thank all the volunteers who watered the gardens during the summer. The party had to be moved to the terrace because of rain, but there was still a good turnout and the rain was celebrated.

A group of 71 children from the Monticello Academy visited Landa in September, touring the children's area, hearing stories and singing songs with Children's Services Librarian Ginger Payne, then playing and picnicking in the gardens.

The Cub Scouts came to visit on the evening of October 14. A lively group of nine boys and their dads used the children's computers to research the day they were born and look at books of folk tales and tall tales. They would have stayed for hours!

Las Palmas

Manager Becky Alvarez represented Las Palmas at the October 6 at the Olga Madrid YWCA National Night Out Against Crime. In addition to library services information, the 77 participants that stopped by picked up information on cyber safety.

Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi represented the branch at the Library Foundation's Children's Book and Author event held October 3 at the Pearl Stable. She worked with Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash and other Children's Services Librarians to organize and present the children's activities.

In addition to participating as a committee member on the 2010 Big Read team, Branch Manager Becky Alvarez will now also be serving as the Teen Services liaison.

Prior to her move to Collins Garden as the Adult Services Librarian, Teen Services librarian Heidi Novotny presented a Wii program to 3 persons, a skull button craft to 16 participants, and a special College Application and Financial Aid Made Easy program to 30 attendees.

Training classes attended by staff included a City Documentation and Evaluation session, Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi; Teen Liaison Training and the City's 12 Danger Zones, Branch Manager Becky Alvarez; and collection agency training, Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi, Adult Services Librarian Karen Michaelson, Library Assistant Mary Area and Circulation Attendants Lisa Díaz, Patricia Pérez and Luís Ramírez.

Branch Manager Becky Alvarez was asked to serve on the selection panel responsible for reviewing nominees that have applied to serve on the Kelly Restoration Advisory Board. The main purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide an opportunity for stakeholder involvement in the environmental restoration process at the former Kelly Air Force Base. Las Palmas serves as a repository for various documents issued by the Board.

Children's Services Librarian Gina Brudi and Circulation Attendant Luís Ramírez attended the PCI Early Head Start Literacy Night event; 15 parents and children stopped by to find out where Las Palmas is located, and to learn more about the programs that the library offers.

In addition to family fun time (2 programs, 11 attending), Gina continued outreach to Madonna (2 visits, 40 children) and Good Samaritan (3 visits, 28 children). A group of nine attended the Hispanic Heritage Month *Música* program.

Staff took advantage of the "Back to Basics" theme to attend Staff Development Day training on RFID, correctly creating a library card, reader's advisory, databases, and teen services; all in all, a good day!

Feel-good story: a Las Palmas customer reported that when he lost his job, he came to the library to use its resources to create a résumé and cover letters and to apply for a job on-line. He appreciated staff assistance, and dropped by to say that he was hired over 15 other applicants!

Maverick

Maverick has been busy with programming during September and October. On September 19, Children's Services Librarian Amy Roberts had a "Fancy Nancy" tea party, based on the *Fancy Nancy* books. Thirty-one mothers, daughters and grandmothers came to make crafts, hear stories and decorate cookies with pink frosting. More than one adult suggested that this become a yearly tradition!

Frequent presenter Lou Thomas offered conversational Spanish classes on September 17 and 24, and October 1, garnering 35 total participants. Other outside performers, primarily related to

Hispanic Heritage Month, also came to Maverick. On September 20, the San Antonio Contra Dancers appeared. Following a short performance, they invited the audience of 20 people to join in! On October 3, the Conjunto Heritage Taller Music School came for an accordion concert attended by 50 people! Finally, patrons are getting a taste from "First Steps" dance instructor Richard Alvarado with the addition of Tejano dance classes on October 6 , 13 and 15.

Maverick staff members are also doing programming for Hispanic Heritage month. On September 30, Circulation Attendant J.D. Elizondo and Library Assistant David Canales hosted Lotería night with 14 attendees. Special thanks go to the generous staff members who loaned their Lotería sets for the evening. Librarian Stacy Bosquez had 43 preschool storytime attendees make guitars during *Música*, one of the children's Hispanic Heritage programs this year.

Maverick's storytime schedule changed October 5. Patrons are slowly getting used to the new schedule and attendance has been great thus far.

The Friends of the Maverick Library had a successful fall book sale, making more than \$2,200 on October 10 and October 11.

McCreless

On September 30 the McCreless staff said farewell to three employees who were part of the reduction in force cost-saving initiative. There was a potluck lunch and almost everyone was able to attend. The Friends donated gift cards to the three employees. Fortunately, there was also something to celebrate as the staff incorporated a wedding shower for Library Assistant Rachel Carter (soon to be Rachel Stone) into the event.

On October 1 the staff welcomed Brooke Ballard as a transfer from Landa. Though her job title changed she will still be able to use her enthusiasm for teen services at her new home. She hosted her first program on October 7 and it was a success with 23 attendees playing games and making "anatomically correct" chocolate heart cookies for Hispanic Heritage month.

The weekend of September 26 and 27 the Friends hosted another successful book sale, bringing in almost \$1,000 despite tropical conditions from a broken air-conditioning system.

Book displays for the month included one for Breast Cancer Awareness and another for Hispanic Heritage.

Storytimes for this month averaged 18 attendees. On October 13 Children's Services Librarian Beverly Bixler hosted 40 second-grade students for a special Hispanic Heritage storytime.

On October 3 Beverly helped out with a special craft activity at the annual Children's Book and Author Event held at Pearl Stables.

On October 15 Beverly attended a workshop with local poet Naomi Shihab Nye at the Central Library.

On Saturday October 3 Adult Services Librarian Ben Longoria screened a film for Hispanic Heritage Month and there were nine appreciative attendees that afternoon.

Memorial

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, students and instructors from Conjunto Heritage Taller, a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving traditional conjunto music played with the button accordion and *bajo sexto* guitar, performed a number of musical works for Memorial library patrons. Hispanic Heritage Month programming also included games of Lotería which were also enjoyed by many. The children from

Memorial celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with *Música y Murales* (music and murals), as they created beautiful murals for display and their very own guitars.

On September 19 the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition presented a workshop to educate the public about the plight of stray and feral cats and the need to spay or neuter pets.

A 30-minute “*charla*” on the basics of the immigration process, options for gaining legal status, including citizenship, and how to prepare for a probable change in the immigration law was held on October 15.

Children's Services Librarian Trina Smith invited children to listen to stories, sing songs, and make crafts on various themes such as apples, pirates, bears, pumpkins, and pizza. The children also celebrated National Popcorn Month by making crafts, performing action rhymes, listening to stories, and – their favorite – eating popcorn.

Radiance Academy of Learning Charter School listened to a reading of *Cloudy with A Chance of Meatballs* by Judy Barrett before touring the library and checking out books. Memorial participated in Jumpstart's National Read for the Record Campaign on October 8 to promote early literacy. Several children from the branch, along with thousands nationwide, read or listened to the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.

Branch Manager Jimmy Jimenéz and Trina Smith hosted a discussion for the school librarians of San Antonio ISD and Edgewood ISD titled, *Our Kids, Our Community*. Information about the library's services and programs were shared as a way to better serve the families in the branch's immediate community.

As a member of the Texas Bluebonnet Committee, Trina Smith participated in the voting and selection of children's books for the 2010-2011 Master List.

Finally, the Memorial library received a new entrance sidewalk. The old sidewalk had buckled and shifted considerably over the summer due to the extreme dry conditions. The new entrance provides smooth access to the building.

Pan American

Pan American Library hosted two dance events for Hispanic Heritage Month. On September 28, the Ballet Folklórico del Cielo was featured. On October 3, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center gave a dance presentation. Both presentations were enthusiastically received. The programs attracted about 100 customers.

On September 27, the movie *Bedtime Stories* was shown to an audience of 23.

Teen programs and SAY Sí continued throughout this reporting period. The Tuesday afternoon teen program continues to draw about 15 teens per week for Wii and Guitar Hero.

The Gowri Krishna Foundation presented a program about financial aid for students to a group of 15.

Outside groups using the meeting room included One-On-One Learning and Diabetes Education. The Tai Chi classes expanded to Monday and Thursday.

Family fun and children's storytime continued on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children's Services Librarians Susan Francis-Maldonado and Rachael Pensiero from Central are helping Pan American with children's activities.

Pruitt Public Library at Roosevelt High School

The Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School, a partnership with San Antonio Public Library, officially opened October 1. Leading up to this event, however, the staff was heavily engaged in providing outreach to the community to build excitement about this opening. Branch Manager Mariya Rodríguez attended the Ed White Middle School Back-to-School Community Fair and spoke with more than 250

families in attendance at the event. Mariya was also the guest speaker at the Windcrest Methodist Brown Bag Luncheon where she spoke about the upcoming community library. This luncheon was attended by 48 Windcrest residents and by Randy Bristow, member of the Northeast Independent School District School Board.

The Windcrest Lions hosted another outreach event on September 22, where Mariya shared information about the upcoming library with another 36 members of the community. She attended the Roosevelt High School Cluster Principals' Breakfast meeting on September 24 to share information about the opening of Pruitt Library with these elementary and middle school principals.

Mariya also attended the Ed White Middle School Open House on September 28, spoke with hundreds of parents, and gave out library card applications and information about the Pruitt Library.

Adult and Teen Services Librarian Troy Lawrence did outreach at East Terrill Hills Elementary School with NEISD librarian Marissa Crippen on September 28. He created a MovieMaker movie for kids about everything they would find waiting for them at the Molly Pruitt Library. He spoke to 140 students and distributed library card applications to students.

Children's Services Librarian Carolyn Bradley attended the Camelot Elementary School Parent Night on September 28. She spoke with several families and distributed library card applications. Approximately thirty people completed library card applications that night.

October 6, the Pruitt Library opened for tours during the Roosevelt High School and Rackspace National Night Out program. A total of 538 people came to tour the space and learn about everything that the library had to offer. Several people completed library card applications during this event.

Mariya was also invited to be part of a guest panel at New Creation Christian Fellowship on September 30 to talk about Communities in Action, where she spoke about the opportunities for partnerships that would be created with the new public library venture. Approximately 125 people attended this evening event.

On October 6, Mariya met with the TriSun Care Center Assistant Director of Recreational Activities to discuss possibilities for outreach with nursing home residents by the Pruitt Library. Plans are in the works to create a Wii Bowling League and recruit teams from TriSun residents, Pruitt public patrons, and Roosevelt High School students.

Librarians Troy Lawrence and Carolyn Bradley took the opportunity to partner with area schools for a Read for the Record event on October 8. Troy, Carolyn, and Mariya planned with each team of teachers on Tuesday, October 6, and then presented lessons to kindergarten, first grade, and second grade that focused on Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. They spent four hours at the David M. Copeland campus and reached 277 students. Each of these students created a caterpillar magnetic memo holder to hold a bookmark about the library's grand opening. Mariya, Carolyn and Troy then returned to Roosevelt High School and conducted a Read for the Record event for teacher Christen Masten's teen parenting class of 18 students and their children. These students brought their young children to the library's children's reading room, read the Eric Carle story, and learned about the importance of early literacy with young children. Library staff stressed the importance of parents creating the habit of reading themselves so they could be good literacy role models to their children. The teacher was thrilled with the event and has already made plans to do conduct monthly programs in the library with these teen parents and their children.

October 10 was the dedication and grand opening celebration of the Pruitt Library. Assistant Library Director Kendra Trachta and Library Board of Trustees Chair Jean Brady each spoke about the significance of this partnership and its role in revitalizing the Walzem community by becoming a community gathering place. Also in attendance were several San Antonio Public Library employees, as well as Library Board Member Gloria Malone and District 2 City Council Representative Ivy Taylor. That day 1,047 people visited the library. The day was full of family-friendly activities that focused on Hispanic

Heritage. Young children got to make pig finger puppets and sing “*Los cochinitos*,” and they made *guiros* [shakers] and learned a Spanish song about different musical instruments. School-age children made their *murales* with family and friends and tin-inspired picture frames, getting their pictures taken to put in the frames. Families were delighted with this memento of their time together. Teens made bilingual READ/LEER woven bracelets and spent the day gaming in one of the programming rooms. The face painter from LisaLoo Creations also did a fantastic job of transforming faces into beautiful works of art.

October 12, Troy, Carolyn, and Mariya attended Staff Development Day and had a fantastic branch meeting afterwards. They celebrated all that had been accomplished so far and what their plans are to continue to provide outreach in the community and quality customer service in-house. Kendra stopped by this meeting and the librarians were able to thank her and all of the SAPL organization members for their incredible work and tireless support. They raved about the new Pruitt collection created by Margo Guzmán and her team, as well as expressing their gratitude to all the branches that welcomed them to provide training, including the Tobin Library at Oakwell, Semmes and Thousand Oaks. A special debt of gratitude goes to the Bannwolf Library staff and Manager Kathy Shaw for providing week-long training sessions for the Pruitt staff. Also, the Pruitt librarians expressed thankfulness for the incredible amount of support from Kate Gray and Ray Fraga, both of whom have championed the Pruitt Library through some technology and construction issues, and to Beth Graham and staff for putting together a symbolic and successful grand opening event with support from the Bookmobile staff and to Cori Sánchez from Little Red Wagon, as well as staff from the Library’s Bookmobile and the Scholastic Literacy Caravan.

Based on information gathered so far, the Pruitt Library has an average of 461 customers each day of service. As of October 13, the total number of customers through the door during the eleven days of service to the public has been 6,471.

San Pedro

Children’s Services Librarian Betsy Dalton presented storytimes to 120 children at several different child-care facilities, including the VIA Child Development Center, Educare Child Care, a preschool class at the Circle School, and the SAC Child Development Center. Fifteen books were also delivered to each child-care class for their use during the month. In addition, on September 15 Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz gave a presentation on SAPL databases and delivered applications and other information to a Literature for Children class of 26 at San Antonio College.

Reading Rocks!, San Pedro’s onsite book club for second- and third-graders, held its monthly meeting on September 26. Participants read and discussed *The Earth Dragon Awakes* by Laurence Yep, a work of historical fiction about the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Following the discussion, the children did several experiments using Legos, sand, and water and determined that it was NOT safe to be near power lines during an earthquake and used Oreo cookies to demonstrate the effect of subduction!

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

Several programs were also presented at San Pedro during this period. On October 3, Betsy, assisted by Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernández, hosted an “October is Fire Prevention Month” event. Firefighters from the local fire station brought a fire truck, fire engine, and Sparky the Firedog! The kids enjoyed trying on the big boots and heavy coat and hat and learned that the color of the hat designates rank. Everyone wanted to wear the captain’s white helmet. Several of the children got behind the wheel of the fire truck. Forty-one children and their parents enjoyed talking with the firefighters and getting their junior firefighter badges.

Betsy presented four storytimes and four B.A.C.K. Pack programs. In recognition of the importance and value of the diverse cultures that are present in San Antonio and around the world, Betsy, Mary Elizabeth

and Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz presented storytimes and BACKPack sessions themed around Rosh Hashanah and Diwali, a festival of lights celebrated annually in India.

Hispanic Heritage month was celebrated during storytime, BACKPack and a family fun event where murals were made using colored tape, including one bright yellow and red one of Ironman! The murals varied wildly by color and theme. Twenty-four people enjoyed this program. Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz arranged for classical guitarist Luis Berrios to come to San Pedro Branch Library on September 26 and entertain approximately 20 patrons with Latin American music. She also arranged for the publicity of the event through the *Express-News*, Texas Public Radio, the *San Antonio Current*, and distributed flyers at local restaurants, coffee shops, and community centers.

In connection with the JumpStart Read for the Record program, Betsy, assisted by Mary Elizabeth, read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle in hopes of helping to break the record of the number of people reading the same book on the same day.

New San Pedro Branch Manager Haley Holmes and Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz participated in National Night Out by taking card applications to the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association party held on the lawn of one resident.

San Pedro teens met four times during this period. They play Guitar Hero or Wii on the first meeting of the month. Librarian Monty Holcomb facilitates this and other weekly teen programs, where crafts, activities, and games are presented.

The Chess Club continues to meet on Thursday evenings. Monty now facilitates these events and sets up a display of chess-related books, periodicals, and media items. This summer's Monday Chess Night has continued into autumn.

Recognizing that ongoing training is essential to serving library patrons, staff members took advantage of various training opportunities. On September 21, Library Assistant Cynthia Cruz attended a day-long Readers' Advisory training held at the Maverick Branch Library. Early in October, Betsy Dalton, Monty Holcomb, Cynthia Cruz, and James Sontag attended the Materials Recovery training.

San Pedro staffers continue to serve on various library committees. Betsy Dalton serves on the Children's Cataloging Committee, and Cynthia Cruz, Library Assistant, serves on the African American Heritage subcommittee of the Adult Programming and the Explore More Card Committee.

Semmes

The branch's final five computer classes were very well attended. All of the students appreciated Adult Services Librarian Oscar González's teaching expertise and patience. Demand is high for the classes and Semmes patrons are eagerly awaiting the next round of classes.

The Semmes staff is happy to welcome Library Assistant Melody Smith, who previously worked at the Carver Branch.

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held a book sale on October 3. Between the preview sale on Friday and the regular sale on Saturday, the Friends made more than \$2,400.00. The Friends also provided the refreshments for one of the branch's Hispanic Heritage Month events, a performance on October 3 by the musical trio *Los Tres*. *Los Tres* is made up of Semmes' own Circulation Attendant John Segura, John's brother Daniel, and David Villanueva. The trio was really terrific. Semmes' musical weekend continued on Sunday with a Spanish classical guitar performance by Luís Berrios. This program was also well received by the library's patrons.

The library was well represented at this year's National Night Out celebrations on October 6. Circulation Attendant Melissa Bustos and Library Aide Ashlee Uhl attended the El Chaparral/Fertile Valley Neighborhood Association event. Melissa went the extra mile by dressing up as Libro the Lion

and walking in the parade. Oscar González attended the North East Crime Watchers event and Branch Manager Jamie Flowers attended the Fox Run Homeowner's event.

Staff Development Day on October 12 was enjoyed by all staff members. Especially nice was the opportunity to meet together as a branch and discuss the day and have the opportunity to do some fun team-building activities.

Thousand Oaks

Adult Services Librarian Jorge Chávez started a résumés and job hunting program in October, to be offered every Wednesday from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. The program has been very popular so far, with many patrons coming to work on résumés and apply for jobs.

The storytime crowd celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on October 1. The theme this year was *Música y Murales*, and the children listened to the story *The Three Cabritos* by Eric Kimmel and made a guitar for their craft. Books celebrating the Hispanic culture were also displayed prominently in the library.

Branch Manager Chris Palmer and Librarian Jorge Chavez each attended National Night Out events in local neighborhoods. Chris attended the Hills of Park North neighborhood event with about 100 residents and many city officials, including the mayor, police chief, and city manager, in attendance. Jorge went to the Valencia neighborhood event, joining residents to dine on hotdogs and hamburgers.

To commemorate President Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize win, a special book display about him has been created.

The staff at Thousand Oaks is adjusting to the new branch hours. It has definitely been busy in the afternoons and the evenings that the branch is open until 8:00 p.m.

Toddler Time and storytime have continued to draw crowds. Since Thousand Oaks is open Thursday mornings, and Semmes is no longer open on Thursday mornings, many Semmes patrons are coming to these programs. The teen program on Wednesday is also popular. Teen Services Liaison Barbara Kwiatkowski plans a variety of activities to interest all participants.

The Thousand Oaks exterior sign is under construction. The staff is very excited to have the sign to bring more visibility and attention to the library.

Thousand Oaks said goodbye to two valued staff members who were reassigned to other city departments. Dora Fariás is now a maintenance worker at the Central Library. Former Department Systems Aide Ernie Vera Cruz is now working at the airport. Megan Feeley has returned to Thousand Oaks as a Library Aide. She previously worked at Thousand Oaks and then transferred to Igo.

The book club has a new night and time, the first Monday of the month at 6:30. October 5 was the first night of the change, and the group read *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson.

The Tobin Library at Oakwell

Tobin participated in Read for the Record: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* on October 8. Thirty-five happy readers read the story in English and Spanish. Parents, children, and middle-schoolers then made caterpillar crafts and put together caterpillar and butterfly puzzles.

Tobin also celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with programs and displays for all ages. Parents and children had fun singing, dancing, and decorating guitars at the *Música Música* Hispanic Heritage storytime. Books in the display flew off the shelves, and the amazing quinceañera poster was coveted by many patrons (one even wanting to take it home!)

Librarian Sherrie Langston Hardin also created a Banned Books Week poster and book display that generated a lot of interest. Many of the display books were checked out. Patrons stopped to read quotes

about why books such as *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The American Heritage Dictionary* were banned or challenged in some cities.

Since September, teen programs hosted by Caroline Rush have been attracting an average of 18 teens each Wednesday. Every first Wednesday of the month she hosts First Wednesday Wii, and the other weekly programs involve playing Rockband, watching movies that play into the teen themes or Library events, and crafts. To celebrate the start of school, the Tobin teens held a notebook decorating event. The library supplied teens with notebooks, glue, scissors, markers, glitter, and magazines to deconstruct for making collages. They embraced this activity as they explored their creativity through art, and each notebook embodied its maker's individuality – some were covered with flowers, while others were covered in pictures of Megan Fox.

Two of the most successful teen programs have been notebook decorating and the teen Halloween Party (scheduled early to avoid conflict with voting). At the Halloween Party there was a "mummy wrapping", Halloween feely boxes, and mask decorating with glow-in-the-dark puff paint. These events encourage teens to work as a team, stretch their imaginations, and exercise critical thinking skills outside of a classroom environment.

Finally, the Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell held a very successful book sale on October 9 and 10. Branch staff are looking forward to working with the Friends to use their proceeds to improve the library and its services.

Westfall

The past month has brought many changes to Westfall, as it has to the system as a whole. New hours have been met with mixed feelings by the public, who, while saying they are pleased to hear the branch will now be open on Sundays, also express dismay about the shortened days. The branch is experiencing quite a few patrons who are coming at the normal opening time only to find that they have to come back in an hour or three. Until the public becomes more fully aware of our new schedule, it is expected that the 30 or so people who are lining up daily outside the doors to wait for opening will continue.

Along with these changes, Westfall staff said goodbye to its long-term part-time maintenance worker Mary Alice Martinez and Department Systems Aide Andrea Silva. Both are sorely missed. With this loss, though, come the additions of Library Assistant Marisa Sparks, who is excitedly taking over the role of Teen Services Liaison at the branch and Circulation Attendant Nicole Garza. A hearty welcome goes out to both of them!

Some of the noteworthy events that occurred during this past month included three celebrations (something for everyone!) for Hispanic Heritage Month planned by Library Assistant Theresa Ybarra, a member of the Hispanic Heritage Planning Committee; a writing workshop for adults presented by author Diane Gonzales Bertrand; a *papel picado* craft class for families; a teen sugar skulls program with Library Assistant Marisa Sparks; a back-to-school fair planned by Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo for adults thinking about returning to college; and the normal schedule of programs: two literary book discussions, one of Michel Faber's *The Crimson Petal and the White*, and another of Carlos Ruiz's *The Shadow of the Wind*, both facilitated by Branch Manager Cheryl Sheehan; a Mystery Book Club discussion of *Pleas of Insanity* by Juliane Hoffman; the Westfall Crafters both led by Theresa; several movie showings; and storytimes and special craft programs led by Children's Services Librarian Imelda Merino.

Branch Manager Cheryl Sheehan participated in the Dellview Neighborhood Association celebration of National Night Out. She was able to meet with over 100 local residents, issue library cards, speak with several local community representatives including District 1 City Council Representative Mary Alice Cisneros, and offer a storytime for the children. It was a fruitful and pleasurable event. Library Assistant Theresa Ybarra lent a hand at the successful Quinceañera Fashion Show held at Central.

Thanks to the support of the Library Friends, the entire staff benefited from the workshops offered at the annual Staff Development Day. Children's Services Librarian Imelda Merino was also able to attend the presentation and book signing by author and poet Naomi Shihab Nye.

Branch Coordinator Joel Bangilan spent an afternoon at the branch assisting staff with shelving, reference and circulation. Thanks, Joel!