ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR’S OFFICE
On September 16, Acting Assistant Director for Support Services Ruben Flores and Executive Assistant Jessica Ramos attended the Friends of the Library Board Meeting at the Collins Garden Library.

On September 17, Library Director Ramiro Salazar was the featured speaker at a Hispanic Heritage Month discussion at Texas A&M San Antonio. Ramiro spoke about the Library’s Cantinflas Retro! exhibition taking place during Hispanic Heritage Month. Texas A&M San Antonio served as a gallery venue for Cantinflas posters.

The Opening Reception for the Cantinflas Retro exhibition took place on September 19 at the Central Library. Representatives from the Mario Moreno Foundation were present for the event. Additionally, partners of the Cantinflas Retro exhibition attended and delivered remarks. Approximately 100 attendees participated in the opening reception.

On September 20, Library Director Ramiro Salazar served as emcee for the Ana’s Nook Dedication Ceremony at the Parman Library. Later that evening, Ramiro Salazar attended the Landa Nights event hosted by the Landa Gardens Conservancy on the Landa grounds. The next week, Library Director Salazar attended a meeting organized by the Landa Gardens Conservancy to discuss the possibility of bringing recycled water to the Landa library through the San Antonio Water Systems recycled water program.

The San Antonio Public Library Foundation hosted author Lee Woodruff at the Pearl Stables on September 26 for a discussion of her latest book. The Library Foundation provided a table for Library staff and Library Director Ramiro Salazar and members of the Library Team attended the event.

On September 27, Library Board Chair Jean Brady, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez attended the first in a series of discussions related on Education hosted by the San Antonio Greater Chamber of Commerce. This session featured a representative form the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar was invited to attend an event honoring the legacy of the Museo Alameda on September 30. The Museo Alameda underwent a transition by which Texas A&M University-San Antonio would establish a cultural center in the facility.

On October 1, Library Director Salazar met with Marise McDermott, Executive Director of the Witte Museum to discuss the new projects at the Witte and take a brief tour of the facility. The Witte Museum has introduced new technology into their exhibits and the Library is interested to learn more about their projects as work is underway to finalize the design for the Library’s History Portal at the Briscoe Museum.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez, and Children Services Coordinator Viki Ash attended the Dignowity Hill Education Leadership Meeting on October 8 to provide an update on the outreach initiative planned for the Eastside Promise Neighborhood area. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation secure a grant aware from the Valero Foundation for this initiative.

On October 9, Ramiro Salazar and members of the Library’s Management Team met with representatives from the Scholastics digital division to learn more about the digital services and resources available through Scholastic.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]
Children’s programming for Hispanic Heritage Month 2012 centered on the family. Feeling that the Cantinflas films, which are best known by parents and grandparents, could provide an appropriate backdrop for family stories and family conversations, children’s staff planned and presented 60 branch programs that featured family stories, family trees and family mosaics. Additionally, three large-scale
celebrations, collectively known as Fiesta de Familia, were hosted at Central (September 29), Bazan (October 6) and Thousand Oaks (October 13) these fiestas included performances by Los Inocentes – a local, acoustic ensemble that plays and sings the traditional childhood songs of Mexico. Additionally, Texana staff members were on hand to research the meanings of family names and create certificates capturing that information. Family pictures, refreshments, the distribution of free bilingual picture books and two craft activities rounded out the programs. A total of 279 customers, young and old, participated in the three Fiesta de Familia programs which were underwritten by the Friends of the Library.

While Hispanic Heritage Month officially came to a close on October 15, the library celebration continues on Sunday, October 21 with a family performance by bilingual singer and author José-Luis Orozco. Mr. Orozco’s concert is being sponsored by the SAPL Foundation’s L3 Committee. The singing gets underway at 4:00 on the new Central Library Plaza.

In a final act of generosity and support, the Alamo Area Library System (AALS) secured twenty iPads for dedicated use in service to children. An iPad Planning Team is currently developing the necessary procedures for deploying the devices and investigating applications (apps) that can be used effectively with young children as well as those who have started school. The iPad Planning Team will pilot use of the devices through out the fall with expected deployment to the branches in January 2013.

Children’s staff is currently exploring BookFlix and TrueFlix, two electronic book delivery databases marketed by Scholastic. BookFlix, designed for young children, pairs a picture book with a beginning nonfiction title on the same topic. The picture books in the pairing are selections from the Weston Woods Studios – a company that has long been recognized as the leader in translating quality books into quality films/video. The easy-to-read nonfiction titles are from Scholastic’s extensive backlist. TrueFlix, designed for a slightly older reader, features nonfiction books from the Scholastic's True Books series. This product includes video introductions to the books, followed by a word-by-word reading, links to further background information and a variety of engaging game-like exercises to reinforce the book’s topic. If purchased, these two products would provide SAPL’s young customers with ready access to quality literature in an electronic format.

LITTLE READ WAGON
Little Read Wagon is now offering multiple early literacy programs to interested groups. Increased staffing has made it possible to schedule presentation series, allowing parents and caregivers a more in-depth discussion of early literacy practices. Making multiple visits to a group also builds relationships, resulting in more meaningful conversations about getting children ready to read.

Head Start programs are receiving a new kind of program from Little Read Wagon. Parents now have the opportunity to learn how to prepare their children for reading by staying a few minutes after picking up their children and making a batch of play dough together. The experience of making the play dough with their children while connecting the activity with pre-reading skills has been very well received.

Play & Learn is currently offered at the Carver and Igo branch libraries. Due to anticipated group sizes, registration in advance was required for the Igo Play & Learn programs, which filled to capacity within a few days of posting the events on Trumba. The group meeting for Play & Learn at the Carver branch library is just right for the available space. Due to construction, the back patio is no longer available for outside activities.

On Saturday, September 15, Cresencia Huff presented a session on early literacy at the Council District 1 Early Childhood Training while Viki Ash represented the library at the Resource Fair. The September 28 Congress on Children was attended by four Little Read Wagon team members: Julia Lazarin, Martha Wichy, Laura Sanchez and Cresencia Huff. Break-out session topics included child abuse prevention, parent advocacy, creativity, and childhood obesity. Many partner organizations were represented at this event.
MARKETING
This continues to be a busy time for the entire marketing team. Projects include the next phase of the SAPL re-brand, and CPPW events at both Tobin and Memorial branch libraries. Beth, Joseph, Esther, Giselle, and Ana all participated in the Univision Fiestas Patrias family event in September.

Joseph and Erick continued to work with the Director’s Office and partners to coordinate Cantinflas Retro activities – especially the kick-off event on September 19 that included a visit from the Mario Moreno family from Mexico City.

Erick and Joseph each did several media interviews and coverage continues. To date, stories about the Cantinflas Retro have appeared in more than 290 English and Spanish media outlets in both the U.S. and Mexico.

Planning is currently under way for the closing event, Cantinflas Merienda, to be held on November 4. The Moreno family will return and Mario E. Moreno Laparade, nephew of Cantinflas will discuss his uncle’s famous life and career.

Erick, Giselle, and Ana continue to work on major projects for several departments including the following:
- SAPL holiday card
- November Bookmarks
- Library Wellness/CPPW map
- Updates to Check it Out/Welcome brochure
- Updates to Digital Services page on mysapl.org
- Express Collection materials
- Jose-Luis Orozco poster
- Library Champions awards
- Tamalada materials
- Board note cards
- Grass Fight brochure
- Board parting gifts
- Little Read Wagon tote bags in progress
- Fiesta medal design

Beth continues to coordinate all aspects of the SAPL re-brand including team meetings, and next steps. She has also focused on the Library Champions Awards call for nominations and program which will take place on October 24 following the regular board meeting.

Joseph continues to promote SAPL events and programs through media communications and manages all aspects of social media communications.

Current social media followers:
Twitter: 1,089
Facebook: 3,686

TEEN SERVICES [SYSTEM-WIDE]
Off-Site Service
In response to the library director’s letter to principals, Brooke and the Academic Dean of Taft High School organized a school-wide outreach to the school over a 3-week period. With the help of all Teen Services staff (Kathleen Fordyce, Victoria Tijerina, J.D. Elizondo and Regina Almanza), nearly 3,000 Taft (and Communication Arts) High School students learned about Live Homework Help and other library services for teens at SAPL and obtained library cards.

On October 2, Brooke participated in a National Night Out event at the new Westside Girl Scouts Center. While there, Brooke spoke to a crowd of nearly 250 children, teens and adults regarding library card sign-
up and SAPL services. The same day, Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez attended the ribbon-cutting of the Girl Scouts Center.

On October 10, Jennifer represented SAPL at the “Attendance Improvement Educational Forum” at Lanier High School, hosted by the COSA Municipal Court. The objective of the event was to address the graduation and attendance rate of Lanier students and to “help prepare them for success in their higher education endeavors and/or the workforce.”

Also on October 10, Teen Services Librarians Melissa Strasser (Great Northwest), Marisa DeBow (Parman), Stephanie Vazquez (Las Palmas) and Ariel Cummins (Cody) represented SAPL at the 2012 San Antonio Youth Summit at the Alamodome. They signed teens up for library cards and promoted library services and resources for teens.

Partnerships
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce helped facilitate the first Inspire U luncheon at SAPL on September 24. She will continue to serve as the contact for the program and will coordinate the lunches each month. SAPL “Bigs” and their “Littles” enjoyed lunch and on the 3rd-floor terrace of the Central Library, and then searched for information about colleges.

On October 9, Kathleen, Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo, Special Projects Manager Roberta Sparks, Library Assistant Andrea Silva and Librarian I Lilia Perez attended the Inspire U Kick-Off event at St. Mary’s University and got the chance to talk with their “Littles.” Mayor Julian Castro and Graham Weston, CEO of Rackspace, spoke at the event.

KUDOS
Children’s Department Manager, Ruth Chiego, has been working with Librarian Kate Sandoval on a series of Play & Learn programs this fall. They have been very popular and there is a steady group of regulars that attend the weekly program. A parent who attends Play & Learns with her son at both Central and Forest Hills locations posted some blog entries promoting and praising the programs - http://theresmagicoutthere.blogspot.com/.

Hi Reference,

Just wanted to let you know about a very pleasant family that Roland and I were working with. Roland did a great job with the mother and child (they are looking for homeschool resources and books).

I continued to help the husband named Ian up in the JSBC area. Ian’s job search is somewhat unique - he’s an insulator for commercial construction. Jobs for insulators are hired this way: there’s a main contractor on a construction site, who hires a subcontractor to find particular skilled workers. At the subcontractor level, then they hire HVAC insulators and other works. Because of the 3rd tier hiring, it’s extremely hard to find online job listings.

We did a couple job searches on indeed.com (and actually found an insulator position amazingly) then I suggested that networking/cold calling with subcontractors may be the best bet. So, we were looking for opportunities, and I found this professional organization for subcontractors: http://www.asasanantonio.org/

So, if anyone has suggestions on how to help Ian find a Insulator (or Subcontracting) job listing, that would be great. They’re coming back (the whole family) because they said “We moved here 5 days ago, and never realized San Antonio was friendly until now. The library is so great!”

Thanks,
A message from Dianna Morganti | Reference/Government Documents Manager:

In the first week of September, Cindy passed along the story of a Cinema Soledad attendee who stopped to tell her that she left her car at a horrible mechanic’s shop rather than picking it up, because she just couldn’t miss Cinema Soledad – she said it helps her forget about her troubles, and she went out of her way to take the bus just to come to the library. Thanks to Maria Hernandez, Lily, Cindy, and all of you who help make Cinema Soledad happen every two weeks!

A few days later I got a sweet note written in bright purple marker that said “Lily Perez was very helpful. I truly appreciate her. She educated me about Learning Express so I can prepare for the GRE.” It’s really nice when we can make a difference in someone’s education and employability. That’s a change that will last. Thanks Lily!

We’ve become so used to hosting our eReader one-on-ones that we sometimes take for granted what that specialized attention means to a customer. Tricia sent in her “extreme thanks” to Donna Borel, Maria Stroligo, and Roland Casias for covering her time on desk to continue helping out a customer. Tricia says “I couldn’t have done it without this great teamwork!”

Early this month Blanca Hernandez was helping a customer who pulled Julia aside to say “wow – thank you so much, [Blanca] was really really really really really really helpful” (Julia swears that “really” was said 6 times). J

When one customer came with a challenging back-to-work situation, Dan Garcia recommended Goodwill’s Job Training program (with whom we partner) as his perfect solution. The customer stopped to give Dan a big Kudos for that compassionate help.

On that fateful day in early September when all the computers forgot their names, Pat Rodriguez and the other Saturday openers got together to compile them for each other. I sent that out to all staff and got compliments from several branch managers and all the branch coordinators for helping them out. Thanks!

Paula Davis got a thank-you from her Team Leader Julia and coworker Dan for all the help she’s giving everyone on their team. She’s widely known as our most active weeder and is frequently consulted on big projects. Thank you Paula for sharing your expertise and time!

On the 12th of this month, Sally was working hard on a project for the Foundation, and Joe Michael Gonzales offered to take some of her desk hours to give her more time to devote to this last-minute assignment. Sally took a moment to send him a thank-you. Indeed, Joe Michael frequently steps in to relieve desk hours of folks and gets lots of kudos in this area. Thanks Joe Michael!

Pat Rodriguez and Pannaga Prasad were helping a gentleman with some difficult Word document formatting on the 5th floor mid-September. When he was finished he made a point to stop by the desk and compliment them on their helpfulness. Pannaga mentioned he was making double-columns, and that’s one thing that I always have to look up because I need it so rarely – I know exactly how thankful that patron was then. Thanks ladies J

One of our coworkers who lost a beloved mentor this month found solace in our collection of German Literature and sent a thank you to the Fiction Team for maintaining a broad collection of those items. This goes to show that even those areas which aren’t popular in nature still mean something to the patrons who need them – the importance of breadth as a complement to our areas of depth cannot be overstated. Good job Fiction!
A customer stopped by the desk late in the month just to comment Frank Neumann's infinite patience. Frank’s own reply was that the guy must be talking about someone else ;)

Speaking of patience – later that week a customer let Julia know that Paula Davis had been very patient with him helping him restart his computer and resume his work during one of the days that we had lots of computer problems. Patience is a difficult virtue sometimes – good job Paula and Frank!

The highlight of my September were the two very active All Reference meetings. I love it when we get together and chat openly about what's going on and where we want to be heading in the future. Thanks everyone!

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Central Library’s Cantinflas Retro exhibit was the inspiration for the theme of this year’s children’s programs in celebration of Hispanic Heritage. Librarian Kate Sandoval knew that older generations visiting the Library would be talking to their children or grandchildren about Cantinflas and who he was. This exchange was the perfect segue for dialogue about the past, especially family history and stories, so Sandoval came up with the ideas to incorporate all these things into system wide library events for children this year. At Central Library’s big Fiesta de Familia, a celebration for all ages, the Children’s Department staff hosted a performance by a family band, Los Inocentes. They played traditional Spanish songs such as Cielito Lindo and De Colores and used that as an opportunity to teach everyone the refrains which fostered participation and made the event very interactive - with children, parents and grandparents, all singing together. Following the songs, four craft stations were opened where everyone could make Family Trees, Family Mosaics, and two musical instruments (maracas and guiros).

One separate station was a highlight of the Fiesta. Texana’s Debbie Countess and Sylvia Reyna created Genealogy Surname certificates for families which defined the origin and meaning of their surnames. The Central Children’s staff was thrilled to work with Texana staff in this way. Texana’s presence at the event highlighted the importance of family history and the resources SAPL has to assist with genealogical research. Over 175 people attended the Fiesta making it a very lively celebration.

A week of smaller Hispanic Heritage programs preceded the Fiesta. A week long Come & Go Craft where visitors could add a geometric piece to our Family Mosaic wall was incredibly popular. Family relationship words in Spanish such as “padre,” “madre,” “tio,” and “abuela” were used on the pieces, teaching many participants words that were new to them. Many chose to add personal messages of remembrance to loved ones. Toddler Time featured a co-storyteller, Librarian Nohemi Lopez Rosdahl. Rosdahl and Librarian Clair Larkin shared bilingual stories and songs. Many participants were bilingual enough to actively participate throughout the program.

Children’s Department Manager, Ruth Chiego, has been working with Librarian Kate Sandoval on a series of Play & Learn programs this fall. They have been very popular and there is a steady group of regulars that attend the weekly program. A parent who attends Play & Learns with her son at both Central and Forest Hills locations posted some blog entries promoting the programs: http://theresmagicoutthere.blogspot.com/. The Little Read Wagon staff has been instrumental in providing guidance when Chiego and Sandoval prepare for the weekly programs, their expertise, and resources are invaluable!

A bug-themed Read for the Record event had the Story Room abuzz. Children enjoyed life sized pop-up bugs, buggy songs and a ladybug flannel board that proved perfect for counting ladybug dots during free play after the program. One participant noted that her son is still playing with his bug days after the event. The group was also treated to an animated storybook projected on the Story Room wall! The book? Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad by David Soman, which was this year’s selection for Jumpstart’s Read for the Record. This is one day of the year when millions of individuals come together to celebrate literacy
and early childhood education. On October 4, people across the country were encouraged to read the children’s book in support of these efforts.

Toddler Time at Central continues to be well attended. Librarian Clair Larkin has created a song cube, with pictures and words representing six traditional children’s songs. She rolls the cube and the children and parents sing the song that is selected. Free play following the program continues to be popular, with most families staying for the extra half-hour. The extra time gives the group a chance to get to know each other a little better and gives children the opportunity to practice their sharing and clean up skills.

Larkin was also appointed to the task force for the YALSA President-elect who begins her term in July 2013. The taskforce will assist with shaping and determining the focus of the upcoming Presidential term.

Family Fun is a weekly Saturday program held at Central. Inspired by an activity Librarian Cari Raley (Great Northwest) shared at the September Children’s Meeting, Librarian Kate Sandoval created a collaborative Community themed experience. Children listened to stories about different types of communities and city life and then created a virtual community out of paper bags decorated as San Antonio buildings. The great view of downtown from the Story Room windows was a nice feature for this project. The kids’ birthdays were then written on Post-It notes and arranged on the wall in a chronology with other dates of significance to San Antonians (Spurs championships, when schools mandated uniforms, etc.). Another collaborative Family Fun craft is scheduled for October as well as lots of other surprises on the third floor!

DIGITAL SERVICES
In mid-September, Ignacio Albarracin was promoted to Digital Services Coordinator, where he oversees the existing work of the Digital Services department and has inaugurated the library’s efforts to digitize parts of the Texana collection.

September 26, Rolf Laun gave a short presentation to the Library Board, highlighting some of the changes and improvements that were made to the Library’s online catalog.

On October 9, Rolf Laun, Adam Spana and Sarah Carolan conducted their second Digital Services Q&A Workshop, where staff was invited to bring technical work questions for peer collaboration and problem solving.

Sarah Carolan provided training to the staff at Westfall and Bazan for the upcoming WiFi Printing system being added later in October.

OUTREACH
On September 19 the bookmobile visited the HEB at 5601 Bandera for their literacy event. On September 25 the bookmobile visited Hallmark College to issue Texshare cards to the students. On September 28 the bookmobile participated in Careers on Wheels Day at Wilshire Elementary.

On October 2, Gamini Haluwana issued library cards at La Trinidad Church’s Texas Night Out. On Oct. 7, Gamini and Julia Selwyn of Central Reference issued cards and distributed information about health resources at Siclovia, while Barbara Celitans issued cards at the National Shrine of the Little Flower’s fall festival.

On October 10-12 Ramona Lucius presented two talks at the Association of Bookmobile and Library Services conference in Richmond, Virginia. Each Wednesday and Thursday, Gamini Haluwana and Outreach intern Cynthia Deleon facilitate ESL book clubs at the Ferrari Center. Attendance runs 11-14 people per meeting, double the attendance of participation in the spring.

TEEN SERVICES
Weekly Programs
Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): During the reporting period, J.D. continued to host his music program, Eclectic Electric, in which teens learn how to play guitars and use iPad apps to play
keyboards and drums. In addition, J.D let the teens decide which video or board games they wanted to play after the music programs. Throughout October, J.D. will assist teens in creating a haunted house, which will open the week of Halloween in Teen Services. The idea was presented by teens.

Tuesdays with Brooke Ballard (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Brooke oversaw the planning of fall, “Teen Science Tuesdays” programs (chosen by teen volunteers). Throughout the fall, teens will be able to make their own soda, create batteries out of lemons, change the color of white flowers, etc. Additionally, teens took part in various gaming events held on Tuesdays as well.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): During the reporting period, teens chose the type of program in which they would like to participate. Teens played video games and board games, with Electronic Pictionary Man being their favorite board game (also one in which they got to exercise their creativity). In addition, teens began watching episodes of the favorite anime shows through Teen Services’ Crunchyroll subscription. San Antonio Food Bank’s nutritionist Matthew Molpus hosted his monthly nutrition lesson on October 3, in which he and the teens made a delicious and healthy pumpkin dip for the fall.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): The last of the Bacon Thursdays, where teens tested the theory if everything tastes better with bacon on it, occurred on September 20 and 27. Teens made Rice Krispies Treats, an easy and favorite recipe, one week and the following week took on a more challenging recipe for peanut butter popcorn balls. On both occasions, teens engaged in peer support and teamwork all in a friendly environment. At Teen Services, all October Thursdays consist of teens engaging in creative activities picking up some new craft skills and enjoying a food craft inspired by most teens' favorite holiday: Halloween. Teens made voodoo string dolls on October 4 using embroidery thread and yarn to create zombies, gladiators, skaters or a design of their own. October 11 was 'spider night' where teens used floral wire and recycled magazines to create spider magnets and afterwards used pretzel sticks and melted chocolate to make a cobweb treat. After each activity, teens requested the use of a video game system, the xBox. Teens competed against in a supportive manner, offering tips to each other when recognizing others might need them. Pictures from all Thursday night activities, as well as excellent system-wide activities can be found at http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary.

Monthly Anime and Manga Club: Two Teen Services volunteers, Megan and Archie, plan and implement a monthly anime and manga club, with Megan taking Monday nights and Archie in charge of Saturdays. Both teens prepare crafts and create promotional materials to market their programs.

TEXANA / GENEALOGY

This reporting period has seen the Texana/Genealogy staff very busy in outreach through a variety of venues. It began on September 15 with Sylvia Reyna presenting a class on “Hispanic Genealogy” to nine people at Great Northwest branch. On September 18, Frank Faulkner was at Igo branch teaching a class on “Organizing Your Family Research” to twenty-four attendees.

On September 24 and 25 Sylvia Reyna and Frank Faulkner were at Palo Alto College as part of their Hispanic Heritage Month presenting classes on “Beginning Genealogy” class and “Hispanic Genealogy” to a total of forty-eight students a faculty.

During the evening, Sylvia Reyna hosted Reuben Perez, local historian, and others at “Tejanos y Herederos de San Antonio” in the Central Library auditorium. Thirty-eight were present.

Matt DeWaelsche was at the Del Webb Community Center on September 26 with twelve genealogists showing them how to use Heritage Quest Online.

Sylvia Reyna presented an “Online Maps” class to six people in the Central Library's Training Room on the 6 of October.

As part of the Saturday Celebreacion Texana/Genealogy staff repeated its “Names Booth” from the Folklife Festival. On September 29 Debbie Countess and Sylvia Reyna set up shop in the children's department
at the Central Library. They printed sixty certificates. The following Saturday, Ms Countess and Clarissa Chavira were at Bazan and printed twenty-six certificates.

On October sixth and seventh Ms Reyna hosted *Las Teseros de San Antonio* with attendance of sixty-three at Central and thirty-nine at Bazan.

Finally, Matt DeWaelsche and Andrew Crews attended the San Antonio Regional Archivists meeting on September 21.

**BRANCH LIBRARIES**

**BAZAN**

Hispanic Heritage Month events were well received: Forty adults and children at *Fiesta de Familia* enjoyed family photos, family music, family history, and family fun! Thanks to Bazan staff Hope Sonnen (Children’s Librarian) & Amada Coronado (Circ. Attendant), Viki Ash (Central), Sheila Acosta (CL, Cody), and Debbie Countess & Clarissa Chavira (Genealogy) for their enthusiasm and assistance. The film presentation of *Las Tesoros de San Antonio: A Westside Story* and discussion by filmmaker Jorge Sandoval gave an appreciative audience the opportunity to remember these performers of San Antonio’s golden era of music.

Librarian II Patricia Soderberg presented weekly *Teen Time* to a small but faithful group, and facilitated both film presentations for Hispanic Heritage month.

Library Assistant Rosemary Lozano organized and presented the Hispanic Heritage Month display, and the 2012 *Banned Books* display for Bazan.

Hope Sonnen continues to present weekly Family Fun & outreach to daycare centers (Avance, Mirasol, Good Samaritan) at Bazan and at Las Palmas, as well as Baby Time at Bazan. She was on hand to promote library programs, Live Homework Help, and other help-with-school programs at Gardendale Elementary School. She was invited to give book talks to 4th and 5th graders at Margil Elementary School and is working with teachers to begin Book Discussion groups.

Representatives of San Antonio’s Office of Cultural Affairs were on hand Wednesday night, October 3, to invite library users to complete the SA Arts & Culture 2020 survey.

Two programs continue at Bazan: PALS (Peer Assistant Leadership Program) student members are on hand each Saturday to provide one-on-one tutoring in general mathematics, pre-Algebra, and Algebra I & II. In its third year, this program continues to be coordinated by high school student Miss Madhuri Venkateswar. Instructors at Academia America are once again presenting Citizenship classes. Registration created a core group of ten students, but with open enrollment, that number is expected to rise.

**BROOK HOLLOW**

The display cylinder in the Brook Hollow foyer continues to be a popular display spot for community groups and projects. In September, Brook Hollow patron Jinnie Perkins showed her decorative egg paintings, which she sells in support of the American Cancer Society. In October The San Antonio Decorative Artists are showing a varied selection of their pieces.

In an ongoing effort to improve the presentation of the collection and the feel of the library, Brook Hollow has expanded the shelving for teen books. This area has had intermittent issues with overcrowding, and now the YA fiction and graphic novels are far more browsable and user friendly. Branch manager Beth Schorlemer is working diligently on the Friends Spending Plan to bring even more improvements to the branch, including new park benches for the front of the building.
In a partnership with the Academy of Learning in Retirement, Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell has been teaching a 6-week course on the mystery genre entitled “History of Mystery”. This has been a very successful outreach effort, garnering an incredibly positive response from ALIR members.

**CARVER**

Voter registration was a huge effort at Carver Branch as staff offered customers registration materials and fielded questions about the process. A voter registration drive was held in early October to promote awareness.

National Night Out was observed in neighborhoods throughout the Carver Branch service area, including Springview Homes, where Librarian II DL Grant, Jr. attended a National Night Out party and spoke to residents about library services. About seventy-five residents turned out for the event.

Children’s Librarian Amy Thorne continues to welcome kids and their families for Wednesday night Family Fun. Children helped decorate a wall of the children’s area with trees inspired by the book *Fall is Not Easy*. Kids also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a special family mosaic craft—which decorates another children’s room wall. Other Hispanic Heritage Month activities included a demonstration of the Afro-Brazilian martial art Capoeira. The event attracted thirty patrons.

Carver Branch and community partner Phi Beta Kappa Sorority hosted Hallow-Read-In. Families were invited to share spooky stories read by teen volunteers. The event attracted fifty guests.

The Carver teens continue caring for the garden at the branch—squash, tomatoes and peppers have been produced (some are just now ripening). The herbs have done very well, enabling teens to take home dried and fresh mint and basil. The teens have made some attempts at propagating herbs, too, to plant at home. October has brought on Tim Burton movie month, and between games, movies and plant care, the teens have been keeping busy.

**CODY**

Sheila Acosta, children’s librarian, visited Just Kids Day Care #1 on September 14, and Just Kids Day Care #2 on September 18, where she read to a total of eight groups of children, ages 20 months to 4 years. In addition to reading, Sheila dropped off books for the month for each class.

On September 19, Doc Edwards from the Edwards Aquifer stopped by at Sheila’s story time to talk to boys and girls about ways to keep their drinking water clean. Children and their parents enjoyed a special puppet show that Doc presented with his friend, the Salamander.

Sheila’s outreach this month included Head Start on September 20 where she read to four classes, Kids Campus #1 on Sept. 25, and Chabad Children’s Center on September 27 where she read to a total of five classes.

Cody children enjoyed creating their Word Wall in the children’s area for the *Fiesta de Familia*, an event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Children selected and colored various words, and then taped them to the wall, creating a mosaic during the week of September 24 through October 1. Sheila reported that the children especially liked this come and go craft.

Tweens had a great time constructing a rocket and a tunnel with straws and connectors for their Tween Time event on September 24. Sheila said this proved to be a great team building exercise, as well as high interest and will definitely use these again for the tweens.

Family Stories highlighted the Cody Story Time on October 3 when Sheila commemorated Hispanic Heritage Month’s *Fiesta de Familia*. Following the stories, children, with the assistance of their parents, created a family tree to keep. Over 80 people were in attendance for this event.

Children from school-age to toddlers attended Cody’s *Read for the Record* event on October 4. Sheila read the book selected for this national event, *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad* by David Soman, and
afterwards she demonstrated the three different crafts that the children could make and take. Snacks were served to those in attendance.

On October 9, Sheila visited Kids Campus II and read Halloween stories that the children had requested at last month’s visit, and she visited Just Kids Day Care #2 on October 11 to read and drop off Halloween books.

210Teens@Cody continued to offer a wide variety of programs in September and October. The Anime Club, which was on hiatus for several months, enjoyed a revival in September. Teens enjoyed watching and talking about anime, and excitedly made plans for future meetings.

Cody’s Teen Library Leadership Council allowed teens from local high schools to earn volunteer hours to fulfill volunteer commitments for programs such as AVID, National Honor Society, and STEM. Along with monthly planning meetings, members began posting reviews on the teen services blog and acting as the 210Teens@Cody’s Street Team by promoting teen programs at Cody to their friends and peers by word-of-mouth advertising.

Tuesday evenings continued to offer regular programming for teens, and in September teens were excited to watch Harry Potter movies, make bead sprite figures to use as magnets and key chains, play board and video games, and more. Teens are excited to prepare for Halloween in the remainder of October by making skull stamps and decorating the teen area with spooky decorations.

Library Assistant Kimberly Ammerman and Sheila attended the National Night Out celebration at the Providence at Wall Street apartments across the street from the library. Kimberly and Sheila provided information about Cody events and educational services, including Live Homework Help and Learning Express Library.

On October 4 Cody Library hosted a screening of the classic Mexican cinema film, El Extra, as part of the Cantinflas Retro celebration.

Former New York Times reporter and author, Michael Brick, visited Cody to read from his new book Saving the School the School, the True Story of a Principal, a Teacher, a Coach, a Bunch of Kids and a Year in the Crosshairs of Education Reform. The event sparked a lively discussion about education reform and standardized testing.

On October 6 Cody Library celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a live musical performance by classical guitarist Luis Berrios.

From September 1 to October 9 Cody Library staff handed out 719 English and 52 Spanish language voter registration cards. Reference staff has been very busy fielding questions about how to participate in the upcoming election.

**COLLINS GARDEN**

Read for the Record was celebrated at Collins Garden Branch by a small but enthusiastic group of listeners. Stories were shared and everyone made paper butterflies, which were then displayed on the branch’s glass block wall.

Children’s Librarian, Leigh Bedford, continues to expand her Outreach visits by adding regularly scheduled visits to Gonzalez Elementary in the Eastside school district. Second graders listened to stories and learned about getting library cards and how to use services such as Live Homework Help.
Tween programming is attracting a loyal group of students who like having something to do after school. Every other week they can play on the Wii, and this alternates with a craft program. Although they were initially reluctant to do crafts, they have grown more confident about their abilities and creativity and now consistently request to have their creations displayed.

In late 2011, Mr. Peter Ferrini came to the library because he had recently published his children’s book, *Tootee*, through Xlibris, and wanted to verify the entry in its web site. He was having trouble finding the information needed. Mrs. Yamada-Lokensgard helped him to navigate the Internet and found his book online. He asked her how she found it, so he could ask his son to do the same, and pass the information to other family members. In October of 2012, Mr. Ferrini returned to the library and gave Mrs. Yamada-Lokensgard a signed copy of his book to thank her for her help.

In the spirit of Halloween, teen liaison Enedina Hernandez created a plan to help motivate the teens at Collins Garden Branch Library. Over the span of two weeks, the teens used library resources to craft decorations for the teen area. They artistically drew out tombstones with butcher paper putting the name of a student in their class who recently passed away. They traced bodies for a pretend crime scene unit and made up stories of what happened to the victims. For two weeks they came after school nearly every day to work out the kinks in their projects while doing homework. On October 5 the teen area was blocked off as teens partnered together to decorate their area, involving other teens to participate. Decorations for Halloween were also donated to help make the area spooky. The event and process was about three to four hours long as curious bystanders complimented and encouraged the teens’ progress.

The Banned Books Week display by Circulation Attendant Jessica Salas inspired patrons of all ages to read the books on display and find out the reason behind the banning. Motivated by the success of that display, she created a wall art on Urban Legends based on the San Antonio haunted railroad crossing legend. Ms. Salas, with the help of volunteer Martha Reyna, recruited young patrons to decorate the vehicle with their hands. The little hands represented the children ghosts that push any car across the tracks to prevent an accident. Another successful display is the one celebrating Halloween by library aide Denise Talamantez between the children’s section and teen area. Spiders and bats highlighted the books with vampires, witches, and other creatures of the dark.

**CORTEZ**

On Saturday September 15 Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes represented SAPL at the Harlandale School District Annual Cultural Arts Fair. Jo Ann distributed bookmarks, applications for cards, and brochures. Children’s Librarian Connie Hejl represented the library at Bob Hope Elementary for the ribbon cutting of the new Go Center. The Go Center focuses on college careers for elementary age school kids. Connie is partnering with the Center to speak with parents about library services.

On Tuesday September 25, Carmen Tafolla, San Antonio’s poet laureate, presented a special one-woman theatrical performance, *My Heart Speaks a Different Language*, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

On Wednesday September 26 the Cortez library partnered with SNAP to offer free spay-neuter services for our customer’s pets.

Librarian Jerry Madrigal represented SAPL during Texas Night Out at the Rosemont at University Park Apartments. He distributed library applications, brochures and answered questions about the resources available to members of the library.

Library Aide Madeline Vasquez suggested the theme of this month’s popular book and media display. The display featured movies based on books and books which were made into movies and later in the month we featured a banned book display.

Cortez continued to offer its regular slate of programming for adults: Yoga and ESL. The weekly yoga classes remain extremely popular. Saturday’s ESL classes also have a small, but devout following.
Cortez continued its regular slate of programming for children: Story Time and BeTween time on Wednesdays, and on Tuesdays Family Fun. Children and their families enjoyed these programs and expressed their appreciation for them.

Cortez also continued to offer its weekly Teen Time program on Thursdays. Loyal patrons regularly attend this program, which offers teens a chance to play video games, use the Internet on laptops, participate in craft activities, and socialize with friends. The teenagers especially appreciate the snacks and refreshments provided by the Friends of Cortez Library. On average, around 9-12 teenagers attended this program. Library Assistant, Jo Ann Paredes, designed an eye catching display promoting the Teen Summer Reading Program.

FOREST HILLS

Forest Hills continued to host programs for adults like Project Linus and free Artpace classes for kids.

A lot of interest was generated by a quilt display by the Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild and the efforts of some women who were attempting quilts and attending Project Linus. Ms Cecilia Garcia, an experienced quilter, offered to teach some quilting classes, and those quilting classes have now turned into the Forest Hills Quilting Bee.

The Space for Everyone event on September 29 proved to be very successful. Over 300 children and adults came out to participate in the day’s events, despite the strong thunderstorms which plagued the area during the morning hours. Librarian Sandra Griffin played an integral part in reaching out to and coordinating a number of partners who participated in the event. The Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), the UTSA Physics and Astronomy Dept, the Society of Physics Students, the Texas Institute of Educational Robotics; Erik Davila of AXA Advisors, HEB, Bill Miller Bar-B-Q; and the Alamo Rocketeers all came together to present a day full of space related programming. The day commenced with a rocket launch by the Alamo Rocketeers on the grounds of Villarreal Elementary School.

Children’s Services

Children’s Librarian Valerie Shelley hosts weekly events for children including Children’s Story Time every Tuesday morning, Tween Time on Tuesday evenings as well as the bi-monthly Toddler Time on Saturday mornings and monthly Come & Go crafts and Family Fun.

The Come & Go Craft on September 28 revolved around the Space 4 Everyone event. Space Station information was shared and then participants built a newspaper lunar habitat and drew pictures of space crafts they would invent. Space Craft Contest participants had their crafts displayed.

The Little Read Wagon wrapped up the last two weeks of their Play and Learn series on September 20 and 27. The weekly events were a popular destination for many families with small children. The unique activities and interactive play allowed for the children to interact with their caregivers and provided opportunities to socialize with other children. The events also provided opportunities for caregivers to make connections with other each other and many were observed making plans for their children to visit with each other outside of the library.

Teen Services

Library Aide Monica Castillo has been leading a successful weekly Teen Time on Wednesday evenings. Activities include use of laptops, crafts, movies and games (board and electronic). One family of teenagers takes advantage of the time by using laptops to complete homework assignments while a movie plays in the background. The mother of these girls expressed her gratitude for the opportunity for all three of her daughters to be able to use the laptops and not have to share the one computer at home.

Outreach

The Forest Hills Branch was a popular destination for school tours this month. The Great Beginnings Daycare Center brought one class on their very first field trip for a story time and library tour. Esparza Elementary School 2nd Grade classes have an annual tradition of walking to the library from their campus. Over 100 2nd grade students were able to visit the library over a three day period. Many of the students
received their first library card during the tour. Each child was able to check out two books and participated in Read for the Record by reading *The Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad*.

Children's Librarian Ms. Valerie Shelley visited a number of school sites to promote library services. Ms. Shelley visited Villarreal Elementary School's fifth graders to promote library cards, Tween Time and other library programs and promoted library card signup at the Woodlawn Elementary Parent Teacher Association meeting.

Circle North Headstart received its monthly visit on September 24. Books were provided on the topics colors, shapes, and numbers to compliment the October curriculum.

The Children's Summit Learning Center has been added to the list of locations receiving monthly visits and book drop offs. Ms. Shelley introduced books about fall and Halloween on her first visit on September 26.

**GREAT NORTHWEST**

The Great Northwest Branch celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with several events. A book display was created to highlight the various achievements of Hispanic Americans. In addition, a Hispanic Genealogy program was held as well as a screening of a Cantinflas movie. Teens also celebrated Hispanic Heritage month by decorating calavera cookies and talking about how the imagery has influenced their lives.

NISD continued their partnership with this branch with a series of parenting classes called Precious Minds. The partnership enables parents to discover the value of literacy resources in their community.

Children’s programs continue their popularity. Two additional programs geared at small children, Tiny Tots and Book Babies, were launched and continue to gain a following.

Roberto Zapata, Branch Manager, and Patricia Martinez attended the El Sendero HOA National Night Out event. They distributed information to the community. Libro the Lion made an appearance at the event and posed for pictures with families and children throughout the night.

Melissa Strasser, Teen Librarian, spoke to 250 teens and 70 adults about Teen Services and Live Homework Help at the 4th Annual Y.E.L.L. Summit (Youth Engaging in Leadership and Learning). Teens made buttons, played with the Teen Services iPads and photo apps, and learned about Live Homework Help and the Teen Library Leadership Councils forming at their neighborhood branches.

The 7 members of the @GNW Teen Library Leadership Committee discussed the changes they’d like to implement in the @GNW Teen Space and voted on priorities for space upgrade.

Melissa Strasser also met with Joe Tedesco, librarian at Vale MS, to demonstrate Live Homework Help and discuss strategies for spreading the information at VMS. The branch is in the process of distributing Library Cards and Live Homework Help information is now posted on the Library website for VMS.

**GUERRA**

Branch Manager/Librarian III Dexter Katzman attended the Senior Fall Event hosted by District 6 Councilman Ray Lopez and held at the San Antonio Even Center on September 28. He distributed 39 voter registration cards and spoke with about 65 members of the community about library programs and services. He made sure that those with whom he spoke knew about the deadline for voter registration and the dates for early voting at the branch. On October 2, he participated in National Night Out at Cable Elementary School. He talked with about 35 members of the community including District 124 State Representative Jose Menendez and Councilman Ray Lopez. Voter registration, early voting, and November 6 general election were again topics of interest.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo presented two classes for job seekers--"Perfect Your Resume and Ace the Interview" on September 20. She presented an eReader Help session on September 21. On September 25, Monica attended the evening meeting of the Meadow Village Neighborhood Association.
To recognize Banned Books Week (September 30 through October 6), she hosted a presentation by UTSA Senior Lecturer Dr. Karen Dodwell. Dr. Dodwell led a spirited discussion about censorship and aspects of the legal history surrounding banned books; she highlighted several key works, including *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (D. H. Lawrence) and *Bless Me, Ultima* (Rodolfo Anaya). On this same important theme, Monica installed a Banned Books display. She facilitated the Thursday Evening Book Club discussion of the popular Kathryn Stockett novel *The Help* on October 11. Monica created a display case installation to celebrate 50 years of James Bond, including information about the upcoming movie, past movies, copies of Ian Fleming's novels, and regalia.

Children’s Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs designed and installed a promotional display about Curious George in observance of Children’s Author H. A. Rey’s birthday—born September 16, 1898 and died August 26, 1977. On September 18, she attended the Lackland Terrace Neighborhood Association meeting. On September 19, she presented a special story time in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. Children and care-givers listened to stories about family trees and then created their own family trees. On October 3, Arlene presented Toddler Time and Story Time aboard the Scholastic Caravan. Each child received a free book. To encourage patrons to Read for the Record, observed on October 4, she installed a display highlighting the 2012 Read for the Record book—*Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad* by Jacky Davis and David Soman; the display included book-themed activities. In celebration of author R. L. Stine’s birthday (born October 8, 1943), she installed a Goosebumps promotional display. During the reporting period, Arlene presented four Toddler Times, four Story Times and one Discovery Time. This was Arlene’s first attempt at a Discovery Time Program and it was well-attended; both children and parents were enthusiastic and provided positive feedback. Children along with their care-givers were treated to stories, rhymes and songs and participated in early literacy activities. Arlene presented four story times at Temple of Praise Early Childhood Center as part of her outreach efforts.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish language book club) on September 27. The participants discussed *Lituma en los Andes* (*Death in the Andes*) by Mario Vargas Llosa. Stephen attended the September 28 Senior Fall Event hosted by District 6 Councilman Ray Lopez.

Teen Liaison Kenneth Perez planned a Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament to celebrate “Back to School”. The teens competed in a one-on-one card battle against each other for recognition and first-, second- and third-place prize; there were several door prizes and pizza, chips, and drinks. On September 27, Kenneth showed the movie Battleship and treated the teens to popcorn and drinks. On October 4, he and the teens helped the Friends of the Library move and set up books and arrange tables for the semi-annual book sale held on October 5 and 6. On October 11, Kenneth held a video game tournament for the teens in which they competed against one another on the Nintendo Wii and Playstation 3. Certificates were handed out to the first-place winners.

Library Aide Corinna Cabeza presented an eReader Help session on September 23.

**JOHNSTON**

Johnston Staff has settled into fall. The first week of October brought many visitors to pick up voter registration forms. The first week of October over 313 forms were picked up. These numbers may mean a good voter turnout during early voting later in the month.

The playground next to the Library is being upgraded. Work has begun on adding additional sidewalks and fitness equipment.

Children’s Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth has been doing great things with her children’s programming. The two new programs, Baby Time, and Tween Time are bringing new visitors to the library. Five families are attending Baby Time. Tween Time is averaging four per program. Story time and Craft time are averaging fourteen and ten per program. Mrs. Wrigglesworth has visited two Head Start locations at Old Pearsall Road and Valley Hi.

Christina Martinez, Teen Liaison has been keeping her teen group busy. The library’s display case has cameras (of various vintages) Ms. Martinez had the teens start taking pictures to celebrate
FotoSeptiembre and place them in the display case. The teens watched the classic *Wolfman* feature film. The teens celebrated Oktoberfest; they had root beer and sausage and listened to music.

Diane Backhus represented the branch at the Valley Hi Home Owners Association event during National Night Out. She talked with almost 70 people, and handed out information about their local library.

The Johnston Library Friends received a large donation of materials from Air Force Village. Village staff brought over 30 boxes of books that the library will sell.

**IGO**

In September 2012, Igo launched another season of the its adult speaker series; on September 19, 2012 & September 29, 2012, Roger Sobin, author of *The Essential Mystery Lists* presented a two-week workshop discussing the major works of classical mystery writers and on October 7, 2012, the Igo Speaker Series presented Mexico by Touch, an afternoon with Larry Johnson. The event was lively with 32 attendees and lots of laughter

The Igo Seniors Group, the Elderberries, held its monthly meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2012, Fran Hutchins from Bracken Bat Cave and Bat Conservation International presented an interesting power point presentation on the life and habits of bats. He stressed their importance to the environment through their consumption of tons of insects that destroy crops. Without them, many more chemicals would be used to the detriment of the environment. They also provide a service to humans by consuming mosquitoes. While there are many different species of bats, the ones in this area are primarily Mexican Freetail bats, who migrate to Mexico during the winter months. Following the presentation, the group filled bags of treats which will be given out at the Children's Halloween Party; 15 Elderberries were in attendance.

September 21, 2012, The Igo Genealogy Club hosted the Organizing your Genealogy Research program and had 24 attendees. Frank Faulkner presented the information to the enthusiastic group.

In addition to offering the usual weekly story times, Igo added a new Tween time in September the tweens meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the months. The bi-weekly activities for the tweens include engaging in the art of puppetry. The group has 10 lively members between the ages of 9-12.

**LANDA**

On September 15, attendees of the Plants for San Antonio program learned about Native Texas plants and xeroscaping for the yard, and how to save money, save water, and save having to re-plant non-native plants.

On September 20, Landa Library hosted Landa Nights: A Taste under the Stars, a fundraising event held by the Landa Gardens Conservancy.

Landa Library members enjoyed a concert by local guitar singer, Roy Kamin, on September 22. The audience was treated to classic songs as well as original songs, sung and played by Roy using a 4-fingered picking method.

Landa Library offered a Medicare 101 program on October 3. Attendees were educated by an interactive presentation that supplied the knowledge to make informed decisions regarding Medicare.

Landa Library continues to be an increasingly popular location for photographers to do photo shoots, including engagement photos, wedding photos, and modeling photos, both inside the historic building and outside on the beautifully landscaped grounds.

Library Assistant Melissa Carroll created and maintained several eye catching displays during the month, including displays to celebrate FotoSeptiembre, Classical Music Month, National Sewing Month, National Honey Month, National Dog Week, Banned Books Week, and Hispanic Heritage Month.
Landa Teen services has had a resurgence of great programming by teens and facilitated by Bea Canales, Teen Liaison. Landa’s Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) members have met every Sunday for five consecutive weeks to discuss upcoming and current projects. One of the most exciting projects is a free community service called, “Tutoring for Young Children” every Sunday at 2:30pm. Every week, five to eight teen tutors have served a total of 24 children during this reporting period. One of the parents remarked, “Now, my children tell me not to be late for tutoring!” The council has approximately ten teens that are or are in the process of becoming SAPL volunteers.

Landa Teen Scene and the TLLC celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, Banned Books Week and Bully Awareness Month. Teen council member and volunteer, Maddie C., continued to blog about the events for SAPL, writing posts related to Banned Books Week and the Voting Registration push at http://210teenlibrary.wordpress.com/.

Teen Liaison Bea Canales visited Travis Early College High School on September 28 and October 2 to solidify an agreement for more outreach opportunities for Travis. Travis Early College has asked Bea to demonstrate the library’s resources (Learning Express, databases, etc.) to their at-risk students during a “Learning Express Time” starting on October 11 and continuing for three months on a twice monthly basis.

Teen Liaison Bea Canales was interviewed by Ross Brenneman from Education Week magazine about Banned Books Week and Bully Awareness Month and Ross posted this connection on his blog on their website on October 3.

Landa Library children’s programming for fall is well underway. Baby Time and Toddler Time have brought in new faces and welcomed back friends who are just a little bit bigger. The room is always crowded but there’s plenty of space for movement, dancing, singing, and all of the wonderful familiar stories that the children and adults love—and of course, new ones, too. Thursday morning Story Time seems to have new families weekly and the best part is that they come back the next time!

New this year is Family Fun which meets each Tuesday at 3:30. Children of all ages and their families come to enjoy story time programs with a variety of themes, each stressing learning in all areas—science, math, social studies, and the arts. Themes for September and October have included learning some facts about bears and painting a bear craft using the “dot paint” method. Another week, the theme was possums featuring the silly antics of Cajun-inspired Epossumondus stories by Colleen Salley. Each child went home with their very own possum paper sack puppet. A favorite theme this month was cockroaches and the Cuban folktales about Martina the Beautiful Cockroach where children learned to take the good advice of their grandmothers! The cockroach craft was a Texas-sized specimen with crinkly wings and big eyes! The children and adults also learned some fascinating cockroach facts to take home as well. Another favorite topic was an art theme which featured a book about a mouse who creates art for a museum, another about a boy who paints himself until he runs out of paints, and a book in which the reader spots shapes hidden in pictures of famous paintings. After the stories, the children created their own “real” art using the “dot paint” on white construction paper and adding a frame to their masterpiece.

Landa Library’s children also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with books and crafts carrying out the theme “Mi Familia.” The children loved talking about their parents, siblings, and cousins and then doing art projects that featured their family. Landa Library observed Hispanic Heritage Month at Story Time, Family Fun, and at the branch’s monthly Come and Go Crafts activity. Congratulations to the Hispanic Heritage committee for a fantastic series of programs.

**LAS PALMAS**

Patricia Perez put together a very colorful display commemorating Banned Books Week: Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Freedom to Read. Specific classic book titles were chosen and the public who passed by the display area stopped often to ask about the display and its meaning.

Esperanza Sonnen, Children’s Librarian at Bazan, has been presenting story times at Las Palmas since July of this year and has been performing outreach. Her cheerful willingness to assist is very much
appreciated by the Manager and staff of the Las Palmas Branch Library. Special mention should also be made of Mrs. Rebecca Alvarez who as Manager of the Bazan Library has allowed this important teamwork effort to work.

Stephanie Vazquez, Teen Services Librarian, has been hard at work assisting the Manager in learning many of the management responsibilities. Her diligence in informing him on important issues and her quick responses to the needs of customers are to be commended as she continues to develop her career and learn the basics of supervisory management on the job.

Mary Area, library assistant, represented the Las Palmas Library at National Night Out which was held on October 2. This year the Library partnered with H.E.B. at the Castroville Road address and was focusing on literacy. Ms. Area went prepared with library card applications and also a resourceful listing of information on library activities and literature available through the Las Palmas Library. It was a successful evening with Ms. Area talking with 56 adults and 29 children. She was able to gather 29 applications of new library card members.

The Las Palmas Library celebrated the life and achievements of Mario Moreno better know as Cantinflas in Mexican Cinema. The Library showed the movie *El Barrendero* as part of its Hispanic Heritage Celebration contribution. The program was well received as were the books and media supporting the movie. Seven enthusiastic customers were present and enjoyed the movie and the “reposteria” (Mexican sweet bread) that was provided.

Whereas it is well know that computer usage at the Las Palmas Library continues to be an area of high demand, it is not always know what kinds of services customer in our service area are looking for. Customers come in frequently looking for employment information, how to set up an email account, how to find addresses of loved ones and businesses, how to send I-care package to an individual who are incarcerated in the County Jail, how to apply on line for Section 8 housing and many more immediate and individual requests. It does require that my staff be diligent and patient in introducing customers to a world of information that is sometimes daunting and complicated.

**MAVERICK**

During this time period, the Maverick Branch focused on Hispanic Heritage Month programming. Children’s Librarian, Amy Roberts, presented two preschool story times with a total of 81 attendees. Librarian, Ben Longoria showed the Cantinflas version of “Romeo and Juliet” to six attendees. In addition, a Puerto Rican traditional dance group came and performed for over 60 patrons.

In other news, a few more events took place during this time period. The Friends of the Maverick Library had their Fall Book Sale on October 6 and 7. The Ladies Choice Book Club is growing by leaps and bounds, inching up to 18 attendees. Finally, Librarian Pat King did a great display promoting Banned Books Week that was up from September 30 - October 6.

**MCCRELESS**

Four Story Times were held from Sept. 14 - October 11. Children learned about planets, stars, elephants, squirrels, mice and families.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage month, staff presented a Fiesta de la Familia, where participants learned about families, practiced some Spanish and danced to Salsa music.

A Read for the Record event was held on October 4. To help set the national record, children and parents listened to the book “Lady Bug Girl and the Bug Squad” and afterwards, participants made rock bug pets.

McCreless staff also held two outreach sessions for parents of elementary students, one at Highland Hills Elementary and another at Jubilee Academy. 59 parents were present at these two events.

McCreless library hosted four Teen Time programs during the reporting period. During these events teens gathered together to play different video games, socialize and eat snacks. During Teen Time on
September 26, teens were able to create bead sprites by melting plastic together with an iron. On October 3 participants had the option to watch a movie, but instead chose to play video games while enjoying a few bags of microwave popcorn and juice.

McCreless Branch Library hosted a showing of the Cantinflas film, *El Gendarme Desconocido*, on September 29 to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month. Ten patrons were in attendance, including a group of six classic movie aficionados who visited this branch for the first time.

On October 2 Branch Manager Cammie Brantley joined Mission Branch Manager Elma Nieto-Rodriguez for “Texas Night Out” at Harlandale Stadium. The library team personally interacted with at least 250 people including Councilwoman Leticia Ozuna.

McCreless had a huge interest in voter’s registration since the branch is always a polling location. Through the month of September to October 9 they gave out over 450 cards.

Cammie had two book club meetings during this period and met on September 15 and October 6. The title for September was “We the Animals” by Justin Torres as a tie-in with Hispanic Heritage Month.

**MEMORIAL**

The new outdoor fitness center at the Memorial branch had its grand opening on September 22. The event, *Activate your Mind and Energize your Body*, included information on library services, live broadcasts and giveaways from Radio Estéreo Latino 92.9, and free pedometers from Cricket.

The Memorial Branch partnered with three local neighborhood associations to hold a National Night Out celebration October 2. Along with enjoying food, music and getting to know their neighbors, guests were entertained by St. Mary’s University Code Blue dance team, had the opportunity to register to vote with help from the League of Women Voters and received information about the library’s free Live Homework Help service. Thanks to the Memorial Amigos Friends of the Library group for sponsoring the refreshments.

On October 4 a program was held to preview a new eBook for children by author Barbara Renaud Gonzalez. *The Boy Made of Lightning: the story of Willie Velasquez* tells the story of the famous voter rights activist and his work to register Latinos to vote. Texas State Representative, Joaquin Castro, who narrates part of the book, spoke about the importance of voting in the democratic process. To support the voting theme and the Library’s voting initiative, Phyllis Ingram, the President of the League of Women Voters spoke about the overall state of voting in San Antonio.

Teen Tuesdays at Memorial averaged a steady ten participants. As part of a recent volunteer project, many of the teens helped with Memorial’s National Night Out event by serving refreshments and event setup. Plans are currently under way to develop a teen advisory council.

For Hispanic Heritage Month, students from Brackenridge High School exhibited their artwork. Two pieces were especially made for the Willie Velasquez program on voting.

The children and families of Memorial Library celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month during story time and Family Fun by listening to stories and creating family trees and mosaics. Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, attended the Congress on Children at the Oblate Theological Seminary. Representatives from agencies across the city that work with children shared stories and ideas about promoting children's health and early literacy.

Madison Elementary Pre-K students enjoyed stories about families read to them by Ms. Trina. The children of Memorial participated in the national program, *Read for the Record*, sponsored by Jumpstart, where kids from across the nation are counted for reading or listening to a book on the same day Trina Smith participated in Literacy Night at Roy Cisneros and Madison Elementary schools where she spoke to parents about Live Homework Help and other library resources.
MISSION
On September 15 Branch Manager, Elma Nieto-Rodriguez and Library Assistant JoAnn Paredes from the Cortez Branch participated in the 37th Annual Cultural Arts Festival. The event was held at the Harlandale Memorial Stadium and drew a large crowd. The pair provided library information and offered library cards. The event was a success. That same day the library hosted the Scholastic Literacy Van, a Beat the Master gaming tournament, a SA Reads training session, and provided a screening of the Cantinflas film, *Around the World in 80 Days.*

The Trailblazer, a Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering project, drew over 90 participants on Saturday, September 22. District 3 Councilwoman Ozuna was among those who explored the 40ft mobile activity center. Volunteers helped guide visitors through interactive science displays related to the weather, the planets, electricity, and robotics. The event was a success.

Academia America began registering individuals to take citizenship classes at Mission. Registration began September 30. Computer classes for seniors began October 1. The program will run for six weeks.

Members of the Mission and McCreless branches participated in a National Night Out event at the Harlandale Memorial Stadium. The event drew over 1,400 people.


A plaque commemorating Fr. Balthazar Janacek was placed in Mission’s South courtyard on October 5. *Caballero a la Medida* was screened on Saturday, October 6.

Mission welcomed Teen Librarian Sarah Weinblatt to the team.

PAN AMERICAN
Pan American Library hosted a SAWS meeting where members of the community were able to learn about upcoming plans for water management. The meeting room was filled to capacity and the SAWS team was very complimentary of the library and staff.

Pan American continues to host monthly volunteer training sessions for SA Reads, a local nonprofit dedicated to increasing literacy rates in San Antonio.

Central reference librarians Lilia Perez and Maria Stroligo led an informative training session for Pan Am staff on resources available through SAPL’s Jobs and Small Business Center. Staff has already put to use much of the information with our job-seeking customers, especially the database for building resumes.

Teen Time on Monday evenings with Angela Oliveras continues to be popular with offerings of movies, crafts and Wii games. This month, teens especially enjoyed making duct tape wallets and pens as well as grooving to Just Dance.

Children’s librarian Carol Collins has begun offering a second, later Tween Time to better accommodate older children since few children ages 9-12 are at the library between 3 and 4 p.m. The new time is on Wednesdays at 4:30-5:30 p.m.

PARMAN
On September 20, Ana Macias’ birthday, a reception was held to dedicate the Parman children’s area to the local teen that died of bone cancer at the age of 16 last year. Ana’s family and friends raised $30,000 with the help of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation to enhance the children’s area. All new furniture, cd and board book browsers, an Early Literacy computer station, and decorative end panels with a tree design were all purchased. In addition, fabric artist Susie Monday created a three paneled art
quilt which now hangs in the children’s area and has “Ana’s Nook” prominently on it. Ana’s father spoke and a mariachi band played at the reception. Staff has received many compliments on the new children’s area.

McNay curator Lyle Williams gave a presentation at Parman on the history of the museum and Estampas de la Raza, the McNay’s featured fall exhibition. Parman will partner with the McNay for their next Family Day in November, providing bus service between Parman and the McNay.

Children’s Librarian Carrie Vance hosted Parman’s first Toddler Dance Party on September 28. Over 150 attendees came dressed up to dance and play. Mrs. Vance read a story, explained the rules of the dance, gave out instruments, ribbons, and scarves, and then turned the music on. A disco ball and balloons completed the party. The program was so popular that Mrs. Vance is considering holding it once a month.

Parman hosted its own National Night Out celebration. Patrons enjoyed a 50 feet long inflatable obstacle course all day. Other festivities began at 6pm including games, crafts, and fresh popcorn. The House Band from the recently opened School of Rock performed in the amphitheatre. The band members ranged in ages from 13 to 17. National Night Out and the Halloween party planned for October 30 were sponsored by the Friends of the Parman Branch.

PRUITT

Pruitt Library’s adult book clubs are growing. Pruitt Librarian Carolyn Bradley and Library Assistant Loida Paloma lead The DARE to Read ESL book club. This club meets each Friday morning to share great books and practice English conversation. The members of this book club are so happy with the opportunity to read together and share their own stories. The TGIF book club met on Friday, September 28. Pruitt manager Mariya Rodriguez leads this book club. The September meeting had 17 people who attended to hear the guest speaker Dr. Andre Ognibeane who shared his experiences serving as the physician for President Eisenhower. Because of his close friendship with Colonel Bill Simpson, Dr. Ognibeane was able to share inside information about various Allied battles during WWII. This presentation was a great prelude to the book club’s October selection: The Second Objective by Mark Frost.

Pruitt’s weekly eReaderU Tutorial sessions continue to grow. Each week, four to six people schedule meetings to learn how to utilize the downloadables. Additionally, customers have also been scheduling individual appointments to learn how to utilize some of the advanced features of the new catalog, learn how to create resumes with the various library resources, and more. Customers are relishing the one-on-one or small group assistance and are so proud to return to show off their products and let staff know about their new job offers. Because this is such a need in the Pruitt community, staff has continued to offer regular classes about various digital resources. In the coming weeks, Pruitt Librarians Kimberly Wygant and Troy Lawrence will be hosting classes about the new catalog and about SAPL genealogy resources, respectively.

Teens continue to flock to Isshoni Anime Society’s regular Wednesday anime showings. They are having a great time hanging out with friends. This month, Library Assistant Amanda Chaves helped each teen to make a button with a favorite character as they watched various anime shorts. Teens also have weekly opportunity to show off their artistic abilities in Pruitt’s art-centered teen times. Teen Chess instruction and practice sessions also draw a faithful number of attendees each week. In October, Pruitt Librarian began hosting guitar demos featuring musician Kerry Kassel. Several teens have made Monday’s their favorite hangout time as Kerry teaches them techniques from classic rock. Also new this month, teen Emeritus Carter has begun hosting a weekly program called “Keep It Lady-Like”. This group assisted by Manager Mariya Rodriguez and Librarian Carolyn Bradley is designed to encourage teen young women to take pride in themselves and not give in to peer pressure to act, dress, and talk in ways that lower their standards.

Pruitt Librarian Troy Lawrence led a tour of GED classes through the location on September 18. More than twenty-five adults learned all about the Learning Express Library, Live Homework Help, and signed up for librarian cards and registered to vote.

On October 2, Pruitt Library hosted National Night Out in the library and in conjunction with Roosevelt High School and Rackspace Hosting. A fun time with crafts and face painting was enjoyed by more than seventy kids and caregivers.
On October 3, Pruitt Library staff partnered with the group from Project Connect to create a fun time of games and more with these at-risk students being sponsored by this program. They had a great time and even signed up for library cards. Manager Mariya Rodríguez did two outreaches this month. On October 8, Mariya visited the PK4 class and the 3 year-old class at St, Thomas Moore Catholic School to do an autumn story time and craft. On October 10, Mariya visited the 4-year-old class at Cherished Child Day Care.

SAN PEDRO
Monty Holcomb, Librarian I and teen liaison, completed the training of San Pedro staff in the use of the Kindle and Nook.

Branch Manager, Dan Stanford represented the library at the Lavaca Neighborhood Association National Night Out celebration. This was a big event and a picture of the party made the front page of the Metro Section the next day.

The San Pedro Branch gave out over 300 voter registration cards during the last two months.

SEMMES
Local author, Wanda Littles, did a reading and book signing for her book Preacha! on Saturday, September 22. Everyone who attended enjoyed the reading and learning a little bit about how the book publishing process works.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the Order of Granaderos y Damas De Galvez presented a program on Saturday, September 29. This Spanish Colonial Drum and Fife Corps played several patriotic songs and gave an historical lecture. The mission of the organization is to inform the public about Spain’s substantial, although generally little known, contributions to the success of the American Revolution.

In conjunction with the Friends of Comanche Lookout Park, Semmes Library hosted National Night Out on Tuesday, October 2. The Comanche Friends gave away free white elephant items and roasted marshmallows on the patio. Many families came out to enjoy the event.

Tuesday, October 9, Semmes Library hosted “Don’t Leave Home without these Documents-Medical Directives & More”. Attorney John M. Battiato, presented key information on medical directives and related documents, which are critical to medical care and estate planning. Mr. Battiato covered the basics of medical directives and explained how they work and who needs one.

THOUSAND OAKS
Book Groups
On September 20 the Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group had a thought-provoking discussion about their latest read, Gentlemen and Players by Joanne Harris, a literary suspense novel about murder and revenge at an English prep school. Though they found the story somewhat implausible, they agreed that the intricate plot, well-developed characters, and quality writing elevated the novel above the level of most thrillers.

On October 3, the Monday Evening Book Group discussed the classic horror novel The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson. Overall, the group enjoyed the book, though they agreed that the horror aspects of the story were more psychological in nature than supernatural.

Teen Time
Thousand Oaks teens made some beautiful marbleized papers on September 19 using basic ingredients from the grocery store and craft store. On September 26, they enjoyed a screening of the summer blockbuster film The Avengers.

In October, the teens made a delicious Halloween version of Dirt Cake with pudding, cookie crumbs, and gummy worms. On October 10, Thousand Oaks Teens experimented with the Teen Services iPads, utilizing art, photography, and moviemaking applications.
**Children's Activities**

Children’s Librarian Leslie Elsasser presented some fun and popular story times in September and October. Children made their own chef's hats at the pizza-themed story time on September 20; learned about camping at the September 27 story time; made artistic trees with finger paints during the October 4 story time; and read stories about families at the Hispanic Heritage story time on October 11.

Thousand Oaks child patrons also had a visit from the Scholastic Literacy Caravan September 27, where patrons enjoyed crafts, games, literacy activities and lots of free books for young readers.

**Special Events**

Art in the Library

On October 6, local artist Michelle Belto gave a presentation of her work with a demonstration on how she creates her beautiful and unique two-dimensional multimedia art pieces, created from handmade paper, paint, and molten beeswax. This presentation was part of the Art in the Library series, and the branch was pleased Ms. Belto was available to visit and talk to patrons.

Thousand Oaks staff members continue to conduct eReader training for patrons. It’s been interesting for staff conducting these trainings, as the wide array of eReader devices patrons now owned by patrons can make for a challenging training session. Last week Branch Manager Troy Hoyles got a first crack at the new Google Nexus 7 tablet; after some initial hiccups, the patron left the library with the ability to download ebooks in two different formats (Adobe and Kindle), and was most pleased at how easy it all was to utilize this feature of the library.

**Training**

On Monday, September 17 Thousand Oaks Circulation Attendant Brenda Ramos attended the CPR training held in the Thousand Oaks Branch meeting room.

On September 27, Children’s Librarian Leslie Elsasser attended Patron Assistance Overdrive Training, at which she expanded her knowledge of various E-reader devices.

**TOBIN**

Tobin Library welcomed new Adult Librarian – Assistant Manager, Keri Moczygemba, from Semmes Library in mid September. Kimbra Cook, moved from Oregon to join the Tobin team as the new Children’s Librarian. Staff sadly said farewell to circulation attendant, Misty Sweet, who transferred to another city department, but everyone is hopeful she will return to the library soon.

Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated with a lively performance by Ballet Folklorico de San Antonio. Despite heavy rains lots of folks came to enjoy kids of all ages perform in full costume with dances of Mexican and Spanish folklore. The Yucatan’ dance was quite entertaining with dancers balancing a bottle on their head while performing. A gathering of kids and adults watched a Cantinflas film while snacking on pan dulce on October 6 as part of the heritage month’s programming.

Eisenhower Baptist Church took a special fieldtrip to Tobin Library on September 28. First through sixth graders learned about where to locate items and what the library’s website has to offer by participating in a scavenger hunt that Librarian, Keri Moczygemba devised.

October book selections include Erik Larson’s, *In the Garden of Beasts*, for the Interesting Book group which continues to have solid attendance and enthusiasm. The suspense group is delving into Arturo Perez-Reverte’s, *The Cavalier in the Yellow Doublet*. Displays this period highlight musician – John Cage, Hispanic Heritage Month, fall themes and the ever popular banned book week. Library Assistant, Terry Verner, has prohibited items set ablaze with paper flames. Gradually major portions of the Tobin collection are being shifted and re-located with one of the goals being to move Juvenile Non-Fiction closer to Juvenile Fiction. All juvenile media is on one wall at the front of the branch to promote easier browsing of all formats. Adult fiction genres are being transferred to closer proximity of each other as well.
Teen Librarian, David Gallin-Parisi, had a very successful outreach at MacArthur High School on September 24 for Brahma Bucks Night. He was able to inform lots of parents and kids about the library’s Live Homework Help and Tobin’s teen services.

WESTFALL
Librarians have been busy conducting outreach. Children’s Librarian Imelda Merino visited Whittier Academy, Colonial Hills Elementary, Maverick Elementary and Olmos Elementary. At each school she discussed library services and promoted Free Homework Help. On October 2, Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin attended the Dellview Area Neighborhood Association’s Texas Night Out and talked about library events and services.

Patrons visiting the library on October 6 were greeted by lots of four-legged friends. Animal Care Services brought their Mobile Adoption van to Westfall. Library Assistant Darin Spelber organized the event and ACS adopted out four cats and five dogs.

Library Assistant Theresa Garza Ybarra made badges for staff to wear during celebrate Banned Books Week. The badges were small-scale versions of the American Library Association’s promotional posters. Manager Hardin put together a display featuring many of the books that have been banned during the past 30 years. The display was near the Reference Desk so patrons browsing the shelf were able to ask questions and discuss the titles with staff.