



San Antonio  
Public Library

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 2014

January 14, 2013 – February 13, 2014

# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

On Tuesday, January 14, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended a reception hosted by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation and The San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at the Briscoe Western Art Museum.

On January 15, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Board Meeting and delivered a report about the Library. Children's Coordinator, Viki Ash delivered a presentation about Children's Services at the San Antonio Public Library. That afternoon, Ramiro Salazar; Ignacio Albarracin, Digital Services Coordinator and Dianna Morganti, interim Library Services Administrator delivered a presentation to the City Council during their work session regarding technology in Libraries now and in the future.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar delivered a presentation to the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library during their Annual Board Meeting on Sunday, January 19. The presentation primarily focused on goals achieved in 2013, plans for 2014 and incorporating technology at the San Antonio Public library.

As a continuation effort to further collaborate with the Southwest School of Art and other downtown stakeholders, Library Director Ramiro Salazar brought together leadership from the Southwest School of Art, Centro San Antonio, San Antonio Police Department along with Library Staff to continue the work of the Taskforce created to address short and long term solutions with security of the Central Plaza area.

On January 28, Library Director Ramiro Salazar delivered a brief presentation to the City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee regarding recent communication with Joint Base San Antonio and the availability of library services to Joint Base San Antonio personnel.

With the assistance of Mayor Castro and Councilwoman Taylor (D2), the Library's new literacy initiative, Valero Roaming Online Outreach Mobile (V.R.O.O.M) was unveiled to the East Side Promise Neighborhood during a kick-off celebration on February 12. The event was held at Wheatly Middle School and students from the school participated in the kick-off. Mayor Castro and Councilwoman Taylor delivered remarks during the event along with Ramiro Salazar and a representative from the Valero Foundation, funding partners secured by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Both Valentine's and Black History were on the minds of children's staff this month.

- Valentine celebrations were hosted at ten library locations with activities that ranged from come & go card creation to wildly energetic preschool dance parties!
- Black History Month was a less energetic, but no less important observance marked by the creation of an online guide to the work of outstanding African American illustrators. Many of the featured illustrators have received the Coretta Scott King Award which is given annually to honor books that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values. The guide is available at: <http://guides.mysapl.org/AfricanAmericanIllustrators>

Children's Coordinator Viki Ash participated in COSA Head Start's Self-Assessment in February. This assessment is required of all Head Start grantees by the Department of Education. Viki also participated in Family Literacy Nights at Bowden and Cameron Elementary schools and in the Child Care Resource Fair sponsored by Voices for Children and State Senator Donna Campbell. Held at St. Mary's University, the Resource Fair provides local child care providers opportunities for free continuing education credits as required by the Texas Department of Human Services.

The Young Pegasus Judges' Panel completes its work in late February, allowing the library to move one step closer to publishing this year's anthology. Over 1900 poems were submitted for consideration this

year and once again, the anthology promises to be a highlight of the city's spring poetry celebration.

## LITTLE READ WAGON

No matter the weather, Little Read Wagon has been busy! Little Read Wagon staff offered several more full-day workshops at the following sites: Pre-K 4 SA North, Knox Head Start, Tynan Head Start, and Woodlawn Elementary. A full-day workshop series at Carvajal Head Start had to be rescheduled for late March since the school closed due to inclement weather. Workshop participants have been very pleased with the opportunity to make materials to support their children's early literacy development. Participants also appreciated the depth of library and early literacy information that the full-day format allows them to receive. Although Little Read Wagon staff is at each site all day long, parents and caregivers can choose to attend just one, two, three or four sessions based on their individual schedules and interests. Each session is also available in English and Spanish.

Workshops for teen parents were presented at Burbank, Edison, Lee, O'Conner, San Antonio Can, Taft, Navarro, Brackenridge, Stevens, and Healy Murphy high schools. Several of these campuses will receive multiple visits, allowing the teen parents more opportunities to make items and learn how to support their children's early literacy development. Repeated visits also help to build rapport with the teens, resulting in even more effective workshops.

The City Council District 5 Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair, held January 18 at St. Mary's University, had more than 200 teachers registered. Viki Ash represented SAPL with an information table and distributed Every Child Ready to Read posters along with other library information. In the afternoon, Cresencia Huff presented a break-out session on early literacy to a full-capacity group of 30 teachers. Earlier in the day, Little Read Wagon hosted the usual monthly workshop on math, science and early literacy at Central Library. In addition to the child care teachers that typically attend, a few PPCD (Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities) teachers participated in the workshop and added more perspectives to the discussion.

The Play & Learn series at The Park at Sutton Oaks concluded on February 5. The series consistently had a very small attendance that included families traveling from as far as Converse and Schertz. Only one family from the immediate area of The Park at Sutton Oaks participated. On January 22 the program was held entirely outdoors at Woodard Park. The weather that day was only a little chilly and the families enjoyed exploring the playground as well as the activities provided by Little Read Wagon. On February 4 Little Read Wagon returned to the Woodlawn Wi-Fi room and will continue to offer Play & Learn there each Tuesday through March 4. As usual, the programs at the Woodlawn Wi-Fi room have been well-attended.

## TEEN SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

### **Off-Site Service**

The Valero Roving Online Outreach Mobile (VROOM!) was unveiled at Wheatley Middle School on February 12. A press conference was held, and students got an opportunity to use some technology from the van. Details of the press conference and pictures can be found on the San Antonio Public Library's blog: <http://goo.gl/UzaJyp>.

Teen Services Librarian II Kathleen Fordyce continues to go out and speak to new students during her bi-monthly visits to the Academy of Creative Education. During the new student orientation, Kathleen informs the students about the services and resources the Library offers for teens and issues them library cards.

### **Partnerships**

#### Best Buy

Best Buy is supporting Teen Tech Week this year through a partnership with YALSA, in which Best Buy will provide a technology workshop for teens at seven public library locations around the country during Teen Tech Week in March. The San Antonio Public Library was chosen as one of the seven locations, in addition to Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis, and Seattle. According to Deb Morris, Community Relations for Best Buy, the goal of the program is “to inspire teens through technology and encourage them to consider career and educational opportunities in the technology field.” Teens will learn Coding/ 3D printing, using Sketch Up, at Central Teen Services on March 14.

#### Inspire U

Staff involved in the Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program (part of SA2020), met with their “littles” from Edison High School on January 27 at the Central Library. Bigs and Littles had lunch and enjoyed spending time with each other.

#### **System-Wide Support**

Teen Services Librarian I Caroline Mossing assisted Tobin at Oakwell’s Teen Services Librarian I Elizabeth Leitko with a “squishy circuits” tech program on February 4.

#### **Teen Liaison Meeting**

The teen liaisons and librarians met at the Central Library on February 12. Adam Spana (Digital Services), Giselle Weyte (Marketing) and Marcie Hernandez (Marketing) provided the group with a training on how and why to use Trumba. Teen librarians and liaisons then went to the basement to see the Valero Roving Online Outreach Mobile. Afterward, Teen Tech Week promotional materials were distributed to the librarians and liaisons.

## MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Caitlin Cowart and the marketing department remained busy during reporting period. The team has met with its communications partner to review brand concepts. She is currently managing projects including the unveiling of the new outreach van, VROOM!, which included participation by Mayor Castro and District 2 Councilwoman Taylor. She has coordinated all aspects of the District 2 library public input meeting, and the Library’s upcoming public awareness campaign efforts.

Ms. Cowart appeared on KENS to discuss outreach and Take Your Child to the Library Day.

#### **Marketing & Social Media**

Daniel Casillas has continued his monthly routine of building the SAPL newsletter as well as working with Texana to build and distribute its own newsletter, *South Texas Researcher*. Daniel has also continued to translate all materials including the monthly print calendar, BOOKMARKS. He also translated all public policy documents for SAPL. He is currently reviewing the volunteer handbook and coordinating the new VROOM! van’s participation in San Antonio’s Sicloviva.

Joseph Marks supported the Meet the Author: Frederick Williams reading at the Central Library. The event received print media coverage prior to the event date.

He is also busy coordinating 2014 Holocaust Remembrance programs and events with a committee that includes Joel Bangilan, Branch Services Coordinator and members of the SAPLF and Holocaust Museum staffs. Additionally, he is working with Frank Faulkner to write a second op-ed of Texas history for the San Antonio Express-News. He continues his responsibility of writing all of Mr. Salazar’s event remarks.

Mr. Marks is working with Digital Services in the development of a new SAPL website and mobile app, as well as researching ways to expand the Library’s social media presence.

#### **Public Relations**

Marcie Hernandez is managing the Library’s public relations and writing of press releases as well as media monitoring. She secured media interviews for SAPL leadership and program coordinators. Ms.

Hernandez secured an interview for Jennifer Velasquez to appear on News 4 San Antonio Living to discuss VROOM!, the new outreach van.

She has also worked with Ms. Cowart on the production of the SAPL TVSA program, *Cover to Cover*.

SAPL appeared in media coverage a total of 149 times. There are currently 6,433 Facebook followers and 1,697 Twitter followers.

### Graphic Team

Ana and Giselle worked on several projects that received system-wide attention including the February and March Bookmarks print calendar, additional Created Equal and African American Heritage Month programs, promotions, and web banners. Focus for now is on Women's History Month, Overdrive Big Read campaign, Teen Tech Week (March), VROOM! graphic design and promotional materials, Latino Collection materials, etc. The team has also worked on promotions for branch events system-wide and on new and updated marketing materials.

## KUDOS

2/4/2014

*We can't thank you enough for the vast collection of books, in Spanish, on the third floor. I also need to thank **Mrs. Dawn Poses** and **Ms. Mary Fernandez**. They know we are regulars and they always think about us. Today, for example, they gathered and gave us 35 brand new books in Spanish. I also want to acknowledge **Mrs. Nicolasa "Nicky" Bilman**. She is always so gracious and loving towards our 5 year old daughter. It is a pleasure going to the main library, it is an integral part of our lives. ¡Mil gracias!*

**La familia Bernal**



CENTRAL LIBRARY

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Children's Department adjusted the programming schedule for winter after observing an increase in visitors after school and on the weekends. An entirely new weekday afternoon Family Fun program began in January. During this session, children and their parents have worked together, after assembling for stories and songs, on projects such as LEGO® construction, making "tool belts," designing a city out of boxes to leap over as super heroes while wearing masks and capes, creating a ranch scene on the wall of the Story Room while wearing their own cowboy hats and chaps creations, and Valentine's Day also brought excitement to the group as they were able to "bake" cookies together using homemade play dough. Amy Lewis (Librarian I) has ushered in these afternoon activities with great enthusiasm and the response has been fantastic, with new regulars and new faces weekly. Ms. Lewis will continue this programming into the spring.

Family Fun and Tween Team programming continued and was augmented by additional Sunday programming in the form of special events such as a Toddler Dance Party. With playful images projected

on the walls, amazing danceable tunes filling the air, and reads that made everyone want to do a jig, Ms. Lewis, Kate Sandoval (Assistant Manager), and Mary Elizabeth Fernandez (Library Assistant) all made sure that there were no wall flowers at the party. The group joined in dances such as the Limbo and the Hokey Pokey. Children and their parents were exhausted, but exhilarated by the party's end.

Notable Family Fun programming was abundant during the winter session. Ms. Sandoval was inspired by the new children's book, *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*, and developed a program devoted to the book and its unique artistic style. Children and parents used newsprint to make a cityscape similar to the San Antonio skyline outside the Story Room windows, and then painted the gray, drab city with vibrant colors, turning it "wild." More wildness continued when Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Salinas brought nature into the Story Room, with a bird-themed program featuring a collection of real bird nests. Budding naturalists examined the nests with magnifying glasses, noting the differences in nests made by different birds, and then made their own bird houses from paper bags. Central Library celebrated Chinese New Year in a nod to the Institute of Texan Cultures' annual Asian Festival, also held that same day. Families worked together to create paper dragon toys in honor of the "Year of the Horse." The group gathered for a final collaborative project which involved creating a giant paper dragon that came to life as the children paraded him around the floor. Their parents cheered them on and took pictures. More photos were snapped as children and parents enjoyed a Valentine's Shadow Dance Party at Family Fun, in which kids created handmade maracas and danced with each other and their shadows in front of a fun slideshow projection. During all the above mentioned Family Fun programs, tween helpers were actively participating in helping coordinate crafts and activities (such as puppet play) with the younger children; this aspect of Saturday programs has grown considerably in the last two months.

Ms. Salinas conducted visits to Green Acres Child Care Center and also led them in stories and song in the Central Library Story Room. Outreach endeavors were very collaborative, as Ms. Salinas also joined Ms. Fernandez for the monthly visit to San Antonio College's Child Development Center where they teamed up to share animal tales with the Center's groups. Also at San Antonio College, Ms. Sandoval began a new relationship with their Center for New Communities day care. Other recent visits have included Madison Square Child Care, Central Christian Child Care Center, KIPP Un Mundo, and Harmony Hills Elementary all done by members of the Children's Department team.

Ruth Chiego (Manager) and Ms. Sandoval visited the Haven for Hope campus and toured the facilities with Claudea Blythe (Family Support Specialist). The visit was coordinated in order to gain more insight into the needs of Haven for Hope on site services and also opportunities to bring campus residents with children to the Central Library. Currently Ms. Chiego and Ms. Sandoval are working towards scheduling weekend morning visits a few times in the spring to help familiarize their residents with SAPL's *Play & Learn* programming as many of their families have children in the zero to five year old age range. The partnership is being done in an effort to create ties that will bring their community members to the Central Library so that they may enjoy library programming at the Library.

Ms. Sandoval led the creation of content for the Children's Services African American Heritage LibGuide which features prominent African American illustrators of children's books. To highlight the LibGuide Ms. Sandoval created a display now on view in the Children's Department. Interactive displays are visible throughout the children's area, also including a very thoughtfully done three panel display by Ms. Lewis showing the evolution of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. The display features facsimiles of memorabilia and many thought provoking photographs, along with the inspiring words of activists at the time.

All Department librarians have been heavily involved in several Committees. All four librarians are involved in Summer Reading preparations and also in system wide Celebrations throughout the year. Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Chiego have been involved in other system wide endeavors supporting SAPL initiatives for all audiences, including Safety and Security, Southwest School of Art Education Guides (along with Teen Services and Reference), and a new Committee, *Central Is For Everyone*, created by Dale McNeill (Assistant Director of Public Services).

Central Children's Department sent a staff member each week in January and February to the Carver location. The Department prepared *Come & Go Craft* materials to be used at that branch as well as *Boredom Buster* materials for a range of ages in an effort to get to know the children and keep them engaged when they visit the Library.

Ms. Sandoval was applauded for her work in the area of "Community" at the Employee Recognition Awards Breakfast. Her work which has led to the creation of ties to other Departments and to the neighborhood surrounding the Central Library was highlighted in her nominations for the award.

## DIGITAL SERVICES

## REFERENCE

Reference outreach partnerships and resource training sessions have been developed in response to the spectrum of community needs to attain educational goals, find a job, or start a business.

On February 9, Pannaga Prasad and Cynthia de Leon presented a 'Test Preparation' training focused on the GED, SAT, and ACT modules; one patron received assistance for the Spanish-language GED. Blanca Hernandez presented at Goodwill's 'Job Readiness Training' (JRT) program on January 15 and February 12. Gamini Haluwana "shadowed" Ms. Hernandez during the February 12 program; he's being added to the roster of Reference staff who regularly participates in the bi-monthly presentations. Library staff introduces attendees to system-wide Library programs and services; in addition, staff focuses on the more specialized Job and Small Business resources available on the SAPL website. Lily Perez liaises with SCORE, a non-profit organization that supports local entrepreneurs through workshops and mentoring programs. On February 8, the Library hosted one of SCORE's monthly workshops, the topic: 'How to Market your Business'. The well-attended event helped participants understand how to develop a marketing plan to create and maintain customer/client relationships.

## TEEN SERVICES

### Weekly Programs

**Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant):** J.D. continued his weekly Eclectic Electric music program, in which teens learn to play guitar and/or keyboards. Teens can also teach their peers to play. Teens had fun making 3D Valentine's Day cards on February 12.

**Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I):** During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science and Tech Tuesdays. Teens located, downloaded, resized, and printed 3D models from Thingiverse.com on Teen Services' new Makerbot Replicator 2. They learned how to use specialized software to manipulate their chosen objects. Teens began to build a robot using Lego Mindstorms and their own plans. Finally, in celebration of Valentine's Day, teens wrote secret messages using heat-reactive invisible inks. Next month, teens look forward to an introduction to creating original 3D models with SketchUp and Best Buy and navigating a robot through *self-created* challenges.

**Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II):** During the reporting period, teens enjoyed playing video and board games and getting creative with crafts. On February 12, teens made "cubee crafts," a paper craft with a Valentine's theme.

**Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant):** On Thursday nights at Teen Services, teens participate in activities at their library that range from creating to playing to eating. Matthew Molpus from the San Antonio Food Bank made two visits. In January, Matthew showed teens how to prepare whole wheat blueberry pancakes in a healthy and tasty manner. In February, he helped teens prepare a nutritious Valentine's Day snack. Using Post-Its to create 8-bit art and fabric paint to create wall clings, teens decorated the area with Pokémon characters. Teens also participated in teen-suggested crafts: making glitter jars using corn syrup, glitter, water and dye, learning how to make gummy bears, and

bringing back an old favorite, molded chocolate candies. Pictures of most of the Thursday teen programs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.

### Tours and Groups

On February 6, students from the San Antonio School for Inquiry and Creativity were given a tour of the library by JD. Then, Kathleen provided catalog and database instruction for the group, and Caroline talked to the students about the programs the Library offers for teens.

## TEXANA / GENEALOGY

This reporting period has been a busy one for classes by Texana/Genealogy staff. Each Saturday in January, the staff presented a class in what was called "Genealogy 101."

The first was a beginning class. On January 18, Ms. Countess discussed "Using SAPL's Databases" to a group of 25. On January 25, Frank Faulkner introduced a group of 19 to "Getting the Most Out of the Federal Census."

Mr. Faulkner was at Igo on January 21 to discuss WorldCat and other library catalogues with the Genealogy Club.

Connect was used on February 4 for a class on "Ancestry, L.E." by Ms. Countess. 16 people attended.

Beginning on February 11, and continuing through May, Texana/Genealogy staff will be offering a monthly class on Tuesday evenings. The first took place on February 11. It was taught by Matt DeWaelche and discussed "Preserving Family Treasures."

On the evening of February 6, Texana/Genealogy hosted a class from Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The class, Methods of Historical Research, is an upper division class designed to teach students how to use primary sources in researching and writing a lengthy research paper on an historical topic. Materials-maps, photographs, diaries, manuscripts, periodicals, etc. from the Library's collection, were laid on the tables. Each was discussed as to its type, use, and how it could be used to fashion a research paper. Mr. Faulkner selected the materials, and he and Dr. Ed. Westermann discussed them with the class and answered questions.

Finally, O. Richard Pimentel of the *San Antonio Express* requested a set of trivia questions be put together on San Antonio's history for the newspaper. Mr. Faulkner prepared a set based on San Antonio's military history which appeared in the Opinion section on February 2, 2014.



## BRANCH LOCATIONS

## BAZAN

Selrico Services held a job fair at Bazan on January 16. VITA tax advising began on January 22, with waiting lines forming as early as 6:30 a.m. for a noon opening. COSA's Lunch and Learn series resumed offering Tuesday-Thursday classes in public administration. Academia America resumed citizenship

classes on February 3. Librarian Patti Soderberg represented SAPL at a community meeting to discuss open source software.

Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen continued her outreach at Avance and Crockett and Margil elementary schools, and expanded her program to the Blessed Sacrament Learning Center. Teen Time is being held every Wednesday from 4:30-6 PM in the Bazan Branch Library meeting room. Library Assistant/Teen Liaison Jennifer Martinez attended an English and Language Arts Night at Tafolla Middle School and spoke with parents and students about services offered by SAPL. Teen volunteer Leslie Medina continues to offer her assistance to adults who need one-on-one computer training. Patrons sign up to meet with her for 30-minute sessions on Monday nights and Saturday afternoons.

## BROOK HOLLOW

Brook Hollow Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera has added a new program to her regular weekly lineup. Children four to six years old can now attend Discovery Time on Tuesday afternoons to learn basic math and science concepts through stories and activities.

On Fridays, Brook Hollow has been hosting a certified application counselor who assists patrons in navigating the Affordable Care Act. This service is offered in partnership with Cognosante.

On January 13, Dr. Angela Velez, from the University of Texas Health Science Center, presented a program on the science of sleep, entitled "Why Do I Feel So Tired?"

On February 8, the Feral Cat Coalition offered a Trap – Neuter – Return (TNR) workshop to those interested in helping to reduce San Antonio's feral cat population in a humane way.

In honor of African American Heritage Month, Brook Hollow is featuring a wide-ranging display of relevant library materials, including an extensive printed bibliography for patrons to take home.

The Brook Hollow Teen Titans are branching into book discussion. The group's first pick is *Notes from a Midnight Driver* by Jordan Sonnenblick. The Titans have also had a creative month designing sidewalk chalk art, making bubble and bottle cap magnets, constructing projects with donated CDs, and making their own wearable statements with a button maker.

## CARVER

Public Service Manager Ronnie Delgado retired from Carver Branch in January, ending a 35-year career with San Antonio Public Library. His send-off included celebrations at the branch as well as Central Library.

Librarian II DL Grant conducted outreach visits at schools, promoting SAPL's African-American History Month programs. The occasion here was kicked off with a display that honored the achievements of the African-American in the United States. Among the programs the branch offered were *Slavery by Another Name*, which was presented through a partnership between the library and the Smithsonian Institution. Professor Frederick Williams served as moderator of the presentation. Jerelyne Castleberry Williams, author of *The Brackenridge Colored School*, delivered an insightful lecture on the Underground Railroad and the Abolitionist Movement in the United States.

February also signaled the arrival of the most romantic day of the year. Leading up to St. Valentine's Day, the branch promoted its first Date With a Book campaign, tempting curious customers to take chance on falling in love with a book whose title they would only learn after checking it out then unwrapping it.

Sunday Come and Go craft activities were popular with youngsters during the reporting period. Outgoing children's services librarians took turns visiting the branch to make sure services targeting young people did not suffer after former children's librarian Amy Thorne moved away. Their interest in the children and families in the Carver Branch service area paid off in a huge way.

## CODY

Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw attended the January 22 Vance Jackson Neighborhood Association Meeting. Hayley spoke to attendees about SAPL's Digital Library as well as Cody's programming and services for patrons of all ages.

LEGO® enthusiasts showed their creative talents on January 14 for LEGO® Club Night. Eighteen kids, ranging in ages from 6-13, formed teams for the monthly LEGO® contest. LEGO® team creations were displayed in the New Book section.

The very first meeting of the Cody Tween Book Club was held on January 15. Fourteen children attended this organizational meeting to discuss types of books they would like to read as part of this new book club. Sheila Acosta, children's librarian, surveyed the tweens to find out their favorite genres, and then presented some book talks on possible book selections. Ms. Acosta took a vote, and the tweens selected their first book for the Tween Book Club.

Ms. Acosta attended a community outreach at the Pre-K 4SA (Medical center) in conjunction with a Little Read Wagon workshop. She spoke to the parents about children's events, regular programming and services for children currently offered at the Cody Library.

Also on January 30, children of various ages joined in the celebration of the Chinese New Year by making Chinese lanterns, and horse puppets in recognition of the Year of the Horse. Popular with the children were the horse hats. Sheila said many parents are very supportive of the cultural arts and crafts events held at Cody.

From January 16 - 29, Sheila visited four early childhood sites for outreach, Kids Campus I and II, Head Start on Rhapsody, and Chabad.

For the month of February, Hobby Middle School students will be displaying their artwork -Georgia O'Keefe inspired pastel art pieces - in the children's section. Art instructor Jeremy Nemec coordinated this project with Sheila.

"Healthy Snacks, Healthy Hearts" was the topic of the family event held on February 5 for Heart Month. Ms. Acosta invited the Food Bank to visit for the fourth year in a row, and they were gracious to bring lots of information for family members to take home as well as samples for creating healthy snacks for the whole family.

LEGO® lovers met on February 10 for the monthly LEGO® Club program. After forming teams, and deciding on team names, the Lego builders were instructed to create something that would say, "Love those LEGO@s!" A Cody staff member judged all four entries, and the winning teams were announced. Ms. Acosta said this event was the best example of teamwork that she has observed.

Valentine's Day arts and crafts were held for Cody children and families on February 11. Children created flowers out of cupcake liners, butterfly valentines, and personalized Valentine cards.

The Beginner Readers Club members met on February 12 for their monthly meeting. Ms. Acosta invited the children to build sentences with Valentine pictures and words, and then had them play a quick game of Valentine bingo with their new words. The members also created book reviews that began with ‘I LOVE this book because...’

Children wore their favorite superhero costume or attire to the annual superheroes event held on February 13. After Ms. Acosta read a couple of “superhero” stories, children played “superhero” games, created “superhero” crafts , and enjoyed refreshments at the end. Ms. Acosta said the children were extremely excited about this event, and loved wearing their costumes!

Teen happenings at Cody involved after-school teen programs along with teen leaders doing programs on Sundays. Teen Leaders had their first ever *Sherlock* party, which involved being the biggest fans in San Antonio of the new BBC *Sherlock* series. One result of this event was the teen leaders getting training how to use the laptop, projector, and sound system for library events. That audio visual training session happened during the teen leaders’ monthly meeting, along with planning other upcoming programs.

After school programs involved gaming, taking photographs for the new 210teenlibrary Instagram account, and making art projects. The teens always enjoy playing their own music during teen programs and January featured bumping programs with a fun vibe and atmosphere. The after school teen program often happened in a different space than the usual meeting room. The teens willingly offered their assistance moving stuff around and demonstrated flexibility in using the library space(s).

Teen volunteers continued assisting with library functions and doing teen-centric projects. One project two teens have been working on is recording a music podcast. They used an iPad, a free computer program called Audacity, Dropbox, and the library’s massive music collection to record a mix show. The whole process was a learning experience and the teens will record again, making another rocking and hilarious radio show podcast.

Library Assistant Kimberly Ammerman joined Igo Branch Manager Rudy Rodela at Councilman Ron Nirenberg’s State of District 8 event at Phil Hardberger Park on Saturday February 15. Kimberly and Rudy helped promote library services including the library’s digital collection and tutor.com to attendees of the event.

## COLLINS GARDEN

Although challenging, Collins Garden Branch Library has managed to celebrate every single holiday and civic event acknowledged by the City of San Antonio in mid-winter. The branch has celebrated Martin Luther King Day with both a display and activities. Valentine’s Day is a popular holiday and the library is decorated with red and pink cupids and hearts. The rodeo has come to town, and the library has a comprehensive selection of materials to celebrate in true Texas-Rodeo style.

The Express Collection is a wonderful new service Collins Garden being offered to customers, and it is growing every day. Both new titles and high demand classics are proudly offered and this special collection nicely complements the floating collection titles.

Staff members have been using Millennium’s Create List function to analyze the collection to update and refresh it, as well as making it more responsive to our customers’ needs.

## CORTEZ

Children's Librarian Connie Hejl designed colorful and informative displays about events and programs in celebration of Valentine's Day. The displays included beautiful artwork by Library Aide Madeline Vasquez and by Connie Hejl. They also designed a very popular combination arts and crafts display located in the children's section with the theme of hearts and books.

Library assistant Jo Ann Paredes also designed a huge window display celebrating Valentine's Day and reading. She also designed an eye catching teen display with the theme of "Falling in Love with Books". Patrons and staff are anticipating the displays for this coming year.

The library's book and media displays featured Martin Luther King and African American Heritage Month.

On January 8, the branch began circulating its Express Collection. Library Aide Madeline Vasquez shifted its Adult Large Print, Adult Audio Books, Adult Biographies and 900s to accommodate the new and popular collection.

Zombie Meet, hosted by Library Aide Madeline Vasquez, continues to be a very popular monthly program.

The Friends group started selling books on a daily basis at the library. They have a self-serve book display with a lock box to accept payment for books. The response by patrons has been very positive and lucrative.

Cortez 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 Young Adult reading.

Cortez continues to co-sponsor a weekly ESL class. The classes remain popular as evidenced by the steadily climbing attendance figures. Classes resumed in January.

Cortez continued its regular slate of programming for children including offering two new popular monthly programs for children and teens. Our Children's Librarian Connie Hejl hosted the LEGO club and the Anime club.

## FOREST HILLS

### **Childrens Services**

The Forest Hills Storytime has been immersed in fairytales over the past month. The children were introduced to tales of wolves, foxes, pigs, and children who don't do as their parents advise. The children enjoyed hearing different versions of the tales and discovered that the same story could be told in different ways. Valerie Shelley, the Children's Librarian, provided tales told in Spanish to compliment the Fairy Tale Storytime emphasis.

Ms. Shelley also visited the Powell Elementary School Career Day where she donned her cap and gown and told the students about how she became a librarian. She also told them there are books for everyone and if they haven't found one yet to ask a librarian.

Ms. Shelley provided school librarians with the Dial-A-Story phone number and received great reviews of the service.

“Thank you sharing this phone number! Everyone who has called loves it!  
Liza M. Mireles, MLS, McAndrew Elementary Librarian”

Tween time continues to be a popular program with the tween-aged boys that frequent the library after school. They provide a lot of input into the design of the program and like to see their ideas come to life.

### **Adult Programs**

Sandra Griffin coordinated the Caring with Respect event held on February 11. This free workshop, especially for caregivers of family members or clients with Alzheimer's, provided information to help attendees better understand the disease and equipped them with practical ideas for preventing and managing behavioral problems associated with Alzheimer's. Other City departments such as SAPD referred staff members to attend due to the relevance of the information to their job duties in interacting with the public.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has been a popular service since its opening on January 22. Many community residents have taken advantage of the service to file their taxes for free. Tax forms are also available to individuals who might not qualify for the free service.

## GREAT NORTHWEST

### **Adult**

Roberto Zapata, Library Manager, conducted an ipad workshop at the Alicia Trevino Senior Center. This is an ongoing outreach with the center. Seniors are enjoying the workshops and some come in to the library specifically for more ipad training.

For January, the Great Northwest Thursday Book Group discussed the Neil Gaiman's novel *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*.

### **Children**

Regardless of the extreme changes in weather, the Children's programs are doing quite well and have gained more popularity with children and parents. Cari Raley, the Children's Librarian, has been actively finding new activities for them to do.

### **Events**

The American Sewing Guild conducted a workshop and is planning future workshops at the branch.

## GUERRA

VITA provided services to approximately 625 members of the community during the reporting period. A quarterly branch staff meeting was held on February 6. Branch Services Coordinator Kate Gray attended. Kate provided updates on SAPL developments and answered questions about personnel changes.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman provided Tech Friday computer training on February 7 (one participant) and February 14 (three participants). He attended the monthly meeting of the Safety Security Work Group on February 5. He joined central and branch managers at a retreat on February 11 at Mission. On February 13, he attended the evening book club. Three group members joined him for a discussion of *The Lincoln Deception* by David O. Stewart.

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs continued her regular weekly programs. She planned and presented five Toddler Times and five Story Times--January 15, 22, 29 and February 5 and 12. She presented Friday Come and Go Crafts, with a special activity on Valentine's Day.

With help from Library Assistant Leticia Guerra, she planned and presented one Family Fun event on January 25. Children and their parents enjoyed making paper snowflakes. On January 29, Arlene participated in a Webinar---Fizz, Boom, and Ready for Summer Reading. On January 31, she presented three Story Times to 65 at Greatest Gifts Daycare. On February 7 she presented three Story Times to 51 at Lil Dragon Den Daycare. On February 14 she presented three Story Times to 62 at Angelic Smiles Daycare. Lil Dragon Daycare and Angelic Smiles Daycare are new additions to her outreach calendar. The directors of these two centers expressed an interest in her story times on a monthly basis. During the reporting period, she designed and installed two displays for children---Valentine's Day and President's Day.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson was a member of a personnel interview panel to fill three Part Time Circulation Attendant vacancies; the panel conducted interview on February 23 and 24. On February 27, he moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish language book club). Participants met for a discussion of *La llamada de la selva* (*The Call of the Wild*) by Jack London.

Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held movie nights on January 16, 23, and 30. February 6 was a Game-Ra night.

## IGO

### **Children's Services**

The Igo Branch Library children's service staff presented 23 programs in this month. In addition to the regular children's program schedule, children's librarian Nancy Rodriguez invited area families to participate in a Valentine's Day Card "Come & Go" craft on February 8, and Sunday, February 9. Pre-cut heart cards were available for participants to decorate with holiday themed foam stickers, markers and crayons, and other embellishments. During the two day event, over 100 cards were created by young visitors and their caregivers.

In addition to the holiday card craft, the Igo Branch hosted a special Valentine's Day Story Time during the regular Tuesday preschool story time for children ages 3-5 years old. Story time guests were treated to a reading of favorite Valentine stories followed by a foam heart craft and treats. Love is in the air at the Igo Branch with Valentine's wishes for all!

### **Teen Services**

Teen Services at Igo presented four programs with attended by 128 teens. Teens are using the Digi-Lab, making short movies and interviews with the green screen and software available.

A member of the Igo Teen Leadership Council started a "Dungeons and Dragons" role play club, which already has seven players.

The Anime group "Igo Otaku" is preparing for 4th Igo Annual Anime Festival, tentatively scheduled for late spring.

### **Adult Services**

On January 21, the Igo Genealogy Club sponsored the workshop *Forgotten Genealogy Resources: World Cat and Library Catalogs* presented by Frank Faulkner of the Texana Department. 14 attendees were present and the Genealogy club added five new members.

Participation at the Igo Book Clubs is on the increase. The Afternoon Book Club discussed *The Light between Oceans* by ML Stedman on January 21. Two new members joined, bringing membership to 12 members. On January 22, the "Crime Etc. Book Club" met for a rousing discussion of *Lost Girls* by Robert Kolker. On February 5, the Mystery Book Club gathered to debate the finer points of *Skinny Dip* by Carl Hiaasen. 9 members in total were in attendance. And the "Crime Etc." club met again on February 12, to discuss *The Raw Truth!* by William McKinney. All together, these clubs served 42 library patrons.

## JOHNSTON

Johnston kept busy with many different activities for kids, teens, and families. Staff decided to make use of the big screen TV on the floor by showing movies to customers waiting for their computer session. The TV is also being used as a moving bulletin board highlighting library programming. The Scholastic Library Van visited the Johnston parking lot on Wednesday, February 5.

Teen Liaison Christina Martinez created interesting programs for the teens – they had an opportunity to watch movies, use the Library laptops, and create stain glass pictures on wax paper using marking pens. She also visited the students at Shepard Middle School. Ms. Martinez also worked on several major projects.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo has been busy attending multiple training sessions. She attended the Webinar “Exploring the (Literary) Elements: The 2014 Texas Summer Reading Adult Program. The Branch is doing preliminary planning for a great Adult Summer Reading program. Ms. Bustillo has met with Volunteer Services Coordinator Veronica Anderson to start the responsibilities of Volunteer Coordinator for the branch. Several volunteers have recently started, including Laura Ortega, who will be doing an internship for her school Library Technician program. Ms. Bustillo has also been facilitating eReader tutorials.

The new parking lot project is well underway! The new lot is almost finished, and should be ready in time for the Early Voting period. The rest of the project will be completed after Early Voting.

## LANDA

Teens at Landa had fruitful experiences during this reporting period. Landa’s Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) members created weekly agendas to illustrate their intention to model leadership and accountability during their meetings. Landa’s TLLC members have volunteered to lead gaming, video, and podcast editing workshops during Spring Break’s Teen Tech Week.

The Tutoring for Young Children program continue to grow with the added program, “Science Experiments Live!,” February’s science topic was on Acids and Bases. Here is a teen blog post of this program <http://wp.me/pnROx-2JZ>. On January 22, Landa’s International Teen Club and the Teen Radio Landa merged programs by learning another culture, England, and using their interviewing skills by interviewing a teen member who is from England. See their YouTube video <http://goo.gl/bwQse3>. Finally, here is the link to Landa’s TLLC recent write-up in the Local Lowdown Newspaper for February [http://issuu.com/salocal/docs/local\\_zone1\\_feb2014](http://issuu.com/salocal/docs/local_zone1_feb2014).

Landa Adult Programming continues to draw audiences and participants to its wide variety of offerings. The Silver Screens Classic Movies for Seniors featured Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney in *Babes in Arms*, a delightful musical famous for the line “I’ve got a barn. Let’s put on a show!” The Landa Senior Mystery Book Club read San Antonio author Rick Riordan’s *The Last King of Texas*, the third in his adult Très Navarre series. Adult Services librarian Karen Sebesta continues her outreach at the Incarnate Word DeMatel Nursing Home.

On February 15, Landa hosted singer/songwriter Scott Duncan. He was accompanied by fiddle and mandolin player Kim MacKenzie. This was Scott’s third program at Landa over the last few years and judging from the large and appreciative crowd, it won’t be his last.

## LAS PALMAS

Memorial branch staff is assisting at Las Palmas, providing coverage on a weekly basis on two critical days. Librarian II Rhonda Davilla is the LIC on Tuesday mornings, allowing Children’s Librarian Gina

Brudi the opportunity to present outreach. Library Assistant Carlos Loera plans and presents Wednesday's *Teen Nite*. We appreciate their teamwork in assisting our community.

In December and January, staff members from Central Circulation, Bazan, Brookhollow, Cody, Igo, Landa, & McCreless have assisted at various times at Las Palmas, enabling staff to attend Vital Records training, mandatory meetings, and most importantly, provide library services to our community—many thanks!

Ms. Brudi continued her monthly outreach to the Good Samaritan, *Avance Mirasol* & Castroville, and Madonna day care centers, presenting story hour and delivering classroom collections. *Family Fun* continues on a weekly basis. As a guest at Gardendale Elementary School, she interacted with a small but enthusiastic group students and parents, speaking to them of the library's free services.

In January, Las Palmas processed a total of 189 Vital Records (151 birth certificates & 38 Immunization records). Customers continue to express their appreciation for the convenience of this service.

The Book Club met to discuss the non-fiction title *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death & Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Pulitzer award winner Katherine Boo.

The *Express Collection* opened on January 21. The *New Books* collection has been moved to the same area, so as to expand the variety of reading options.

Circulation Attendants Lisa Diaz & Melissa Carroll (Landa), along with Administrative Assistant Melissa Perez, worked as a team to assist a tourist in locating her towed vehicle. Ms. Pan & her small daughter were given the wrong address-the taxi brought her to 515 instead of to 5151 Castroville Road. She didn't know the name of the towing company; Internet searches and telephone calls by Melissa and Lisa were unable to yield information. Tapping into her Community Link contacts, Melissa Perez pinpointed the private towing company; she contacted them to verify that the rental vehicle was on site. Lisa called for a cab, and Ms. Pan and her daughter were soon on their way.

Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez helped a patron with a few items that were causing trouble in the printing process. She was able to guide the mother & daughter through the troubleshooting to get the items printed. As the mother was leaving she stopped at the reference desk and said "I don't know who her manager is, but would you tell the manager that she [Patricia] is amazing! She was so helpful and solved the printing problem, please let the manager know that she [Patricia] is great!" Kudos, Patricia!

## MAVERICK

Maverick had programs with excellent attendance during this time period. On January 18, Library Aides Raina Oster, Elizabeth Santos, and Sarah Borque had another puppet show and craft for 47 participants. They presented 2 stories; one by Mo Willems and also *Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great* by Bob Shea. The Lady Mav's Book Club had 9 attendees on January 14. Eighteen people attended the Ladies' Choice Book Club. On February 8, 23 patrons joined a panel to watch and talk about the film "Loving Story", an African American Heritage Month program.

In other news, Maverick is now displaying its Express Collection. It is very popular with patrons of all ages. The Maverick Friends of the Library purchased a new music CD cabinet for the branch, which was immediately put to good use.

## McCRELESS

Five Story Times and three Family Fun events were held at McCreless during this time period.

Preschoolers learned about opposites, trucks, clouds, and friendship. They also enjoyed stories, songs and crafts - creating an opposite book, various pictures and a see-through heart sun-catcher. Playtime with books, blocks and other fun stuff followed the stories and crafts.

McCreless patrons had the opportunity to attend three Family Fun events. Despite the cold temperatures and drizzly weather, families still gathered to make craft projects and share some snacks. At the McCreless Valentine celebration, eighteen people attended, making valentines and enjoying valentine sweets.

The Teen Time group is growing and honing their Dance Dance Revolution skills as Teen Liaison Sara Harrison continues to try new ways of engaging this friendly bunch.

February 9, the McCreless Friends celebrated their 20 years in existence with a nice party. They had cake, door prizes and drinks. Among the attendees were County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, former Councilwoman Debra Guerrero, former Councilwoman Linda Billa Burke, former Branch Manager Addie Armstrong and 45 other Friends and neighbors.

The branch began their checkout of Express materials on January 6 and by the end of January had increased the collection and engaged the interest of their patrons who quickly caught on to the new potential for getting high-demand items.

February 11 the staff attended training on the checkout and check-in of the new Google Nexus tablets. McCreless will be one of the pilot locations for this project beginning February 24.

Branch Manager Cammie Brantley hosted her book club on February 1 with a lively discussion of *Cold Mountain* including biscuits and coffee to fit the mood and the weather.

## MEMORIAL

Memorial Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, visited Madison Elementary School where she read stories to preschoolers. She also participated in Roosevelt and Huppertz elementary school's Family Literacy Night, parent meeting, and Family Math and Science Night.

During Family Fun programming, children enjoyed creating amazing structures with LEGO® building blocks and on January 21, Memorial branch Circulation Attendant and origami enthusiast, Adam Capelo, introduced families to the art of paper folding. The program was a nice Asian segue to celebrating the Chinese New Year. Many families participated in holiday and event theme-related activities including creating crafts, writing activities, and selecting books from displays as part of Memorial's new passive programming offering. This type of continuous program, where children and adults voluntarily participate in activities that do not require direct staff interaction, has been very successful among Memorial's customers. So far, results show high program participation and overall increase in circulation and in-house counts.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Memorial library presented a PowerPoint show along with a DVD recounting his life and work advancing civil rights. The multi-media presentations offered insights into Dr. King's legacy, his life story and convictions to achieve civil rights for all people.

On January 30, Adult Services Librarian, Rhonda Davila, visited St. Mary's University's Blume Library to promote SAPL downloadable services. Several students learned how to use the website to download books, indie films and how to retrieve their personal account information. Ms. Davila plans to return in late February.

To meet the high demand for one-on-one assistance to sign-up for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Memorial library requested and received additional help from SRA, International, Inc. Along with an ACOG Navigator, both organizations were available for customers several days each week. SRA, International, Inc. is a government agency that facilitates federally funded programs; there is no cost to the library. Many patrons expressed their gratitude for the assistance.

## MISSION

VITA tax service is in full swing at the Mission Branch Library. Long lines were noted from the service's onset. The library has also received a significant increase in incoming calls to the library related to the service.

Vital Records service continues to be a popular. Those seeking to obtain birth certificates for their children are pleased with the ease of access the library provides. Many are newcomers to the Mission location. The new patron visits offer the team the opportunity to promote library services. New parents have obtained library cards after receiving birth certificates.

Baby Time has several new families. Their participation began after seeing the event on the library's mysapl.org event calendar. These families are coming every week and telling friends.

Toddlers are very enthusiastic about the programs and crafts every week. Several of the children have "graduated" from Baby Time and are doing well. Almost three years after opening Mission Library, many of the same families continue to come and grow into the various children's programs. One recent program focused on the rodeo and cowboys. The kids had a great time making and wearing paper cowboy hats.

Tweens programs continue to be very popular. Since VITA occupies the space normally used, staff members have created programs that are suitable for a different, smaller space and the Tweens are responding well.

The teens at Mission enjoyed several meetings in January. Among other programs the teens made several crafts including a cubeecraft, where the teens cut out and assembled three dimensional figures from paper. At the suggestion of one of the teens fun loom bracelets were also made. The bracelets were a hit.

On January 31, the Friends of the Mission Library awarded Academy Sports and Outdoors Manager David Cherry with a plaque thanking him for Academy's donation of two tennis tables to the Mission Branch Library. The tennis tables have been used during Teen and Tween Time programming and have become a popular addition. A group of seniors preparing for table tennis tournament also enjoyed the tables.

## PAN AMERICAN

Angela Oliveras completed several excellent displays: one was a "Staff Favorite Reads", kind of what they used to do at BlockBuster video rental store. She also picked out sports books to commemorate the Olympics. Finally, she got a bushel basket and filled it with foliage and books, with the words, "Sweet Picks" on the basket. Angela also had her teen programming every week, with movies and popcorn.

Carol Collins did all her usual programs for newborns, toddlers, and tweens.

## PARMAN

Assistant Manager Tim Johnson was honored with a staff recognition award for Leadership for the last quarter of 2013. The award was presented to him by Ramiro, and it was evident that Tim was surprised and touched by the recognition. Four Parman staff members attended the Staff Recognition breakfast

held in January honoring the 2013 awardees. Children's Librarian Carrie Vance received the award for Community, Library Assistant Eva Banda for Customer Service, and Branch Manager Haley Holmes and Assistant Manager Tim Johnson for Leadership.

The Parman volunteers make a big difference in the special projects Parman staff are able to offer. In January over 20 active volunteers put in 150 hours of service. The volunteers are coordinated by Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow, and she is the reason the branch can accommodate so many volunteers. She is always accepting and training new volunteers, many of them teens, so staff can continue focusing on bringing more to the public. Volunteers help with craft preparation, crowd control, and at many of our special events.

The February branch manager's meeting was held at Parman. Staff treated the attendees to freshly made waffles, special coffees, and Valentines treats. Branch Manager Haley Holmes made a magnet for each branch manager in honor of Valentines' Day.

Staff continue to hold their monthly book discussion. February's pick was *Poke the Box* by Seth Godin. The discussion focused on how Parman staff are already putting many of the author's ideas into practice. Ms. Holmes presented the Vision Board idea to staff (which was introduced at the Branch Manager's Retreat). Parman staff will be creating a Vision Board about Innovation (one of the City of San Antonio's Core Values) to be an example to the rest of the system.

A Valentines' Toddler Dance Party was held on February 14, and 156 patrons attended the event. The Toddler Dance Party is one of the branch's most popular events and will be held quarterly.

The staff submitted their ideas for the upcoming DIY U (Do It Yourself University), and the course catalog is now available. The semester will run March through May and 25 classes will be offered for adults. Some of the topics include Bookmaking, Woodcarving, Couponing, Prepper Hacks, and Coffee Brewing. Many staff members are teaching classes as well as community members and Texana. The staff has received a lot of interest since the catalog was published, and classes are starting to fill up.

## PRUITT

Adults at the Molly Pruitt Library have been reading up a storm. The TGIF book club held a lively discussion of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. The Springhill book club discussed Jodi Piccoult's *My Sister's Keeper*. On February 15 Councilwoman Ivy Taylor held her book club at the library. 23 participants contemplated and discussed Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. The library began its express collection circulation on January 24.

Teen news includes the success of the Teen Library Leadership Committee (TLLC). The TLLC has been meeting monthly and their dedication and planning has built a highly successful Teen Time. At the last Teen Time on February 11 teens made duct tape flower pens and a record number of teens attended. During the three lunches, a total of 110 teens participated. Girls Inc. has begun a series of self-awareness classes in collaboration with the library. This is a series of six classes geared toward teen girls. Patrons have expressed an interest in this type of program for girls ages 6 - 12. The Social Studies department of the school is partnering with the library this month to support its 2014 Olympics Extra Credit Project. A book display and an online electronic resource list have been created for students.

Children's Librarian Cynthia Saenz has begun conducting Bilingual Kids' Time programs once a month. Outreach continues at St. Thomas More Catholic School.

## SAN PEDRO

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presented monthly storytimes to children at the VIA Child Development Center, Educare Child Care Center, and Monte Vista Montessori. Fifteen books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month.

During this period, Ms. Dalton facilitated monthly book discussions at Monte Vista Montessori and Hawthorne Academy book clubs. The book clubs have 12 members each. The book clubs meet during the students' lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed.

Monte Vista Montessori brings 25 students on a biweekly basis to the library. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades 2 through 8. When the classes visit the library, the Children's Librarian 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.

Ms. Dalton presents a weekly Kids Time for Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.

On February 5, the LEGO® club members built creatures from outer space at their monthly meeting. On January 16, Ms. Dalton led a tour of the library for 80 fifth-graders from Kipp Aspire. On February 12, Ms. Dalton hosted a Valentine's party for the Kids Time attendees.

Monty Holcomb, Librarian I and teen liaison, hosted five informal Tuesday chess events. Mr. Holcomb also held four Tuesday teen events in the afternoon using the Wii.

Mr. Holcomb also conducted interviews along with his colleagues on a panel responsible for hiring the part-time circulation attendants.

## SEMMES

In honor of African American Heritage Month, Semmes Library hosted a program entitled, "The Abolitionists" on February 1, 2014. An excerpt from the PBS documentary was shown, followed by a poetry reading of poems from the era. Fifteen people came out and enjoyed the event. Refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Semmes Branch Library. Special thanks to Oscar Gonzalez from Mission and Gamini Haluwana from Central Reference for coordinating and facilitating the event.

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held their quarterly meeting on February 5, 2014. During the meeting it was decided that their next book sale would be held on March 15, 2014. They plan to hold a preview sale for Friends members on March 14, 2014.

Storytimes at Semmes continue to be very popular with library customers. The Monday Toddler Time with Ms. Randi Jones is drawing 40-85 people each week. Ms. Shannon Seglin's Baby Time on Wednesdays is so popular that another session is going to be added in March. Currently, there are 20-30 attendees each week.

## THOUSAND OAKS

### **Children's Activities**

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser had a number of interesting activities for the young ones who visit Thousand Oaks. Topics for the weekly Toddler Time and Story Time included winter fun, outer space, penguins, rodeo, and Valentine's Day. One of the highlights of the month was the "snow event" that the kids got to play on the January 16 Story Time, which was a huge success.

The rodeo theme was also incorporated by Ms. Elsasser in a Come & Go craft event in February. Finally, LEGO® Time was a smashing success, with a roomful of happy kids creating all kinds of interesting things.

### **Teen Time**

Wednesday evening Teen Times at Thousand Oaks resumed after the holiday break. This month's programs included singing along with Dr. Horrible's Sing-a-Long Blog, directed by the ever-popular Joss Whedon, making a winter salad for the Library Cuisine program, and creating various animals, vegetables, and minerals out of felt. Librarian I Rhonda Woolhouse continues to come up with interesting new ideas and activities for the teens of Thousand Oaks.

## **VITA**

VITA service was provided beginning January 24. The lines for the service so far have been extensive, as this service is hugely popular. VITA will be at Thousand Oaks through the close of tax season, and the service is provided five days a week, including Saturdays and Sundays, for a total of 30 hours per week.

## **Vital Records**

Thousand Oaks continues to experience a great deal of interest when it comes to the issuing of Vital Records. The branch sold over 400 records in January, with 395 birth certificate sales alone. February's totals will not be that high, but the branch has still been averaging over 17 birth certificate sales a day for the first two weeks of the month. The customers who utilize this service consistently express their approval of it, often commenting on how thankful they are that they can obtain these records at Thousand Oaks.

## **TOBIN**

Based on customer requests, Librarian, Keri Moczygemba, started a once a month adult craft program in February named "Tuesday Crafters". Ms. Moczygemba utilizes collection materials for ideas and had attendees make shadow frames out of recycled donated books at the first session. San Antonio Ferrel Cat Coalition held a successful workshop in January. Similarly, over 20 people came to hear UTHSC Professor Donald Ruben speak about Human Motor Performance and brain imaging on February 8.

Children's Librarian, Ariel Cummins continues with lively programs and themes of colors during her Toddler and Story times. Ms. Cummins enthusiastically helped Brookhollow Library for Baby and Toddler Time on January 30. Ongoing creative play is now another service Tobin is offering to young children with blocks available for free play anytime.

Thanks to funding by Friends of the Tobin Library, teens and tweens enjoyed the new Ping Pong and Velcro Dart Ball game sets, along with snap art from rubber bands and beading and Legos day. The Friends of The Tobin Library at Oakwell also hosted their annual meeting on February 15. Dale McNeill, Assistant Director for Public Services at San Antonio Public Library, was the guest speaker.

Extensive weeding of all adult fiction genres, along with shifting will soon allow a row of shelving to be removed and additional seating to be relocated to the area for reading pleasure and laptop usage. Popular displays this period were What Change Would you like to make for the New Year and Trivia Day, Tuesday Crafters, MLK and African American Month and Love is in the Air, by Ms. Moczygemba. While Teen Librarian Elizabeth Leitko featured an Eyeball Display with titles that all had eyes on the covers along with Heart Aches for Valentine's Day.

Library Assistant, Terry Verner and Ms. Leitko entertained seniors with trivia questions at the local City of San Antonio Senior Center on January 18. Ms. Leitko also initiated once a month outreach during MacArthur High School's lunch periods. Ms. Leitko's outreach and Tobin Teen Time were featured in Northeast Independent School Districts online community newsletter.

## **WESTFALL**

On February 8, District 1 Councilman Diego Bernal used Westfall Branch Library's parking lot to host Animal Care Services' free rabies vaccination clinic. Free vaccines and city licenses were provided to the first 250 participants. The event was held as part of the Comprehensive Neighborhood Sweeps Initiative,

which brings education, pet clinics and enhanced enforcement to target areas with the highest volume of calls for ACS service.

The branch began preparing to be a test site for checking out Google Nexus 7 tablets. The staff underwent training to learn how to use the tablets and how to prepare the tablets for checkout.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino conducted several outreach visits. She twice visited Woodlawn Elementary School, Discovery School and Career Point Daycare. Mrs. Merino also participated in the Olmos Elementary Literacy Night on February 4 and Parents' Night on February 6 at Neal Elementary School.

The Third Thursday Book Discussion group facilitated by Librarian II Jernell Williams read *San Miguel* by T.C. Boyle. The branch's newest book group, *Stranger Than Fiction*, read *The Monster of Florence* by Douglas Preston. Librarian I Karen Sagun facilitates that group.