San Antonio Public Library
Director's Report
January 2018

6th Annual Holocaust: Learn & Remember Opening Program
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Mayor Nirenberg approached the Library to offer a redesigned Mayor’s Book Club initiative which will consist of year-long reading initiative entitled *Our Family Reads: The Mayor’s Book Club*. Every month, from January to November 2018, the Mayor’s Book Club will feature various titles under different themes that were selected by the Mayor and each member of City Council. The Mayor’s Office has coordinated with each Council Member to select a theme for an assigned month. Together, in coordination with the Mayor’s Office, San Antonio Public Library is implementing The Mayor’s Book Club. The Library will promote the program series and will host various programs in Branch Libraries throughout the community.

On Saturday, January 13th at 2pm at the Central Library, Mayor Nirenberg kicked off *Our Family Reads: The Mayor’s Book Club*.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar welcomed Ambassador Reyna Torres Mendivil, Consul General of Mexico to the Central Library on November 15, 2017. Ramiro shared an overview of the San Antonio Public Library and provided a tour of the new Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC) at the Central Library. Both parties expressed an interest in working together and partnering on future collaborations and/or partnership opportunities between the Mexican Consulate in San Antonio and the San Antonio Public Library.

On December 6, 2017, the Library Board of Trustees took action to name the meeting room at the Mission Branch Library in memory of Roberto Anguiano. In accordance with the Library Board’s Naming of Facilities Policy, the Library Board of Trustee’s Naming Committee hosted a public input meeting on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at the Mission Branch Library to provide the community an opportunity provide feedback on a proposal to name the meeting room at the Mission Branch Library (D3) in memory of Roberto Anguiano. Those in attendance overwhelmingly supported the Friends of the Library’s request to the Library Board to consider naming the meeting room in Mr. Anguiano’s memory. Mr. Anguiano was an active community and Library advocate and served as the founding President of the Friends of the Mission Branch Library.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar accepted a nomination to be placed on the Public Library Association’s ballot for President of the Association. If elected, the term of office is three years which includes President-elect (2018-2019), President (2019-2020) and Past-President (2020-2021). Voting will take place throughout the month of March 2018. The Public Library Association (PLA) is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 9,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world.

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez conducted a professional development workshop for 90 SAISD librarians and library staff on Tuesday November 29th at the Central Library. The training focused on library innovation, maker spaces and the development of a "STEM Mindset" for service in the library setting. Following the presentation, a demonstration of 3D printing, virtual reality and robotics offered hand-on opportunities for the school librarians to play with technology and discover application for use with students in the school library setting.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program provides free income tax return preparation taxpayers earning up to $60,000 annually. Trained volunteers from the community help prepare basic, current year tax returns for eligible taxpayers free of charge. Tax returns are prepared by trained and certified volunteers. Each location has a unique schedule, based on volunteer availability and offer assistance on a first-come, first served basis. VITA is sponsored by several community entities.
including the City of San Antonio and the United Way. The Branch Libraries serving as venues for VITA are: Westfall (D1); Thousand Oaks (D10), Mission (D3), Guerra (D6), Forest Hills (D7), Cody (D8), Brook Hollow (D9) and Bazan (D5).

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) San Antonio chapter held Design Awards on November 29, 2017 and the Potranco Branch Library co-located with the Mays Family YMCA received the Community Impact Award. The facility was designed by Marmon Mok Architecture and opened to the public in November 2016.

The Office of Sustainability has awarded the Potranco Branch Library co-located with the Mays Family YMCA with a 2017 SA Tomorrow Sustainability award in the Commercial Retrofit category. The Awards Ceremony is scheduled during the January 10, 2018 City Council meeting.

The San Antonio Public Library’s partnership with NOWCastSA, a local non-profit journalistic organization, was featured in The Aspen Institutes “Five Best Ideas of the Day” email to their members. The Library provides modest office space for NOWCastSA in exchange of broadcasting of certain Library programs.

The Central Library will serve as the venue for a screening of two of the four part HBO’s 15: A QUINCEAÑERA STORY, short documentary films, on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 4 p.m. The screening was coordinated through Center of Gravity Strategies. District 3 Councilwoman Viagran is expected to be in attendance and former District 3 Councilwoman Ozuna’s daughter is featured in the documentary and Former CW Ozuna is also expected to be in attendance. Originally planned for a screening at the Mission Branch Library, interest in the event grew to necessitate moving the screening to a larger venue, the Central Library. The documentary collection debuted on Tuesday, December 19 and follows five Latina girls from different backgrounds as they transition to adulthood, all observing the traditional rite of passage of the quinceañera, a celebration of their 15th birthdays. One of the films revolves around two young women, best friends from San Antonio, who decide to honor their multi-generational Mexican-American heritage by mixing their joint quince with their love of escaramuza, a traditional Mexican horse-dancing display.

MARKETING

Top media hits for the past month include:

- a Latino Collection program with historian Edna Campos Gravenhorst and photographer Al Rendon was featured in La Prensa;
- Latino Collection and Resource Center Coordinator Emma Hernandez was featured on SA Live promoting the Library's involvement in La Gran Tamalada at Market Square;
- San Antonio Public Library and our partnership with NowCastSA was chosen as one of the "Best Ideas of the Day" by The Aspen Institute for highlighting how journalists and libraries can work together;
- San Antonio Public Library’s involvement in La Gran Tamalada at Market Square was featured on MySanAntonio.com and in the Laredo Times online;
- Little Read Wagon employee Clair Larkin was quoted in a Library Journal article titled “NURTURING NEW PARENTS: Reaching out to new and expectant parents can forge connections to last a lifetime”;

Community Connections  STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)  Educational & Learning Opportunities  Employee CORE Values (Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism)  Workforce & Economic Prosperity
• KENS 5 visited Johnston Branch Library and interviewed patrons and staff regarding their “Holiday Cards for Troops” Come and Go craft on Friday, December 15;
• Little Read Wagon Coordinator Cresencia Huff was interviewed on Univision to promote the Library and the children’s book Ferdinand the Bull, ahead of the movie’s release; Local Community News published an article about the history and recent renovations of Landa Branch Library;
• Texas Public Radio aired a story about the Library’s top digital and print check outs for 2017;
• Rivard Report encouraged readers to sign up for a SAPL Library Card, and also featured a list of book recommendations provided by SAPL staff as recommended reading for the Tricentennial;
• The opening of the 6th annual Holocaust Learn and Remember program on Monday, January 8 at the Holocaust Memorial Museum received coverage from Express-News, KSAT 12, KABB, News 4 WOAI, San Antonio Magazine, March Magazine;
• Children’s Librarian Shannon Seglin appeared live on SA Live on KSAT 12 to demonstrate activities and books related to the new Our Family Reads: The Mayor’s Book Club program;
• Potrano Branch Library Manager Cindy Pope appeared live on Where’s Cleto? on Fox 29 January 5 promoting “healthy minds and bodies” in partnership with the Mays Family YMCA at Potranco; and
• Our Family Reads: The Mayor’s Book Club was featured in the Lone Star Literary Life eNewsletter.

The Marketing team supported efforts to organize, publicize, and staff several events during the reporting period including: Artists Among Us: Staff Exhibition and Holiday Party, Thousand Oaks Branch Library anniversary, Igo Branch Library anniversary, USAA Innovation Day, The Holocaust: Learn and Remember Open Reception, and Our Family Reads Kickoff.

The design team has created materials to prepare for several programs, events and other design support as needed: Cody artwork panels, staff part-time pins, Little Read Wagon promotional item sports bottles, facilities’ uniform patch, 2018 Summer Reading Program, February newsletter, Black History Month materials, DreamWeek materials, Pop Con materials, Our Family Reads January and February materials, 2018 Fiesta medal, Staff Transformation Day materials, and branch donor signage.

The team is currently planning for StoryCorps arrival at Central Library, Our Family Reads-District 1 kickoff, San Antonio Book Festival and Staff Transformation Day.

Social Media fun facts for the reporting period:
The Marketing Team responded to 2,100 direct messages through social media during the reporting period.
The National Science Fiction Day tweet reached 11,589 people on Twitter.
Video of the SAPL Book Cart Drill Team performance at the Artists Among Us: Staff Exhibition and Holiday Party was viewed 2,300 times.
The Library Facebook videos were viewed a total of 6,900 times during the reporting period.
#mysapl was used 255 times on Instagram during the reporting period.
Social Media statistics for the month:

1. Facebook: 14,927 page likes
2. Twitter: 4,129 followers
3. Instagram: 2,214 followers
4. Snapchat: 98 followers

DIGITAL SERVICES

- Michael Sheehan has finished migrating the staff web (intranet) content to his newly-developed platform on a new COSA server. The new staff web, which offers a cleaner, more user-friendly interface, should be live in February 2018.

- Andrea Silva provided holiday-related updates to the staff web as well, making the experience very festive and informative, and illustrating how the resource assists in establishing a collaborative and engaged SAPL community.

- Tricia Masterson has been working with branch staff to conduct testing of Pharos and Millennium client load times to identify causes of recently reported slowdowns. The testing produced a satisfactory amount of data which is currently being reviewed by Digital Services and the ITSD support team.

- Ron Suszek worked with COSA Human Resources to promote the vacant Digital Services Specialist position as a COSA Job of the Week. The position closed on January 2, 2018. Initial interviews have been scheduled for later this month.

LITTLE READ WAGON

**Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parents**
One-time presentations for parents were made at the following elementary schools or Head Start Centers: Burke, Indian Creek, Southwest, Inman Christian Center, Nelson Early Childhood Center, Sun Valley, Forbes, Westwood Terrace, Dellview, Gonzales, Fernandez, Collier, Vestal and Oak Grove.

Little Read Wagon was invited to present multiple sessions at the Annual Parent Symposium of Harmony School of Excellence. Unfortunately the conference was very poorly attended. A total of five parents attended the four sessions that were offered.

**Services to School-Age Parents**
Workshops were offered to pregnant and parenting teens at the following high school campuses: Roosevelt, MacArthur, Holmes, Jay, Madison, Legacy, Sam Houston, and the Academy of Creative Education. Legacy is a new high school and Sam Houston is a campus that Little Read Wagon had not been able to visit in recent years.
Outreach Story Time Programs
Outreach story time programs were presented at: Nurturing Hearts, Navarro, St. Philip’s College Child Development Center, Center for New Communities at Stafford Early Childhood Center, Center for New Communities at Tynan Early Childhood Center, Tynan Early Childhood Center, and Burk Elementary.

Reading Tents
Cardenas Early Childhood Center hosted a week of Little Read Wagon reading tents. The school cafeteria, in the heart of the building, provided a central location out of the elements where families could enjoy reading with their children. Since all children are picked up and walked out of the building through this space, participation levels were high and the pace was fast. One family so thoroughly enjoyed the experience that they made a trip to the library to check out books and their child proudly came back later in the week to show off his new library card.

Play & Learn
The Play & Learn series at O.P. Schnabel Park concluded with a frosty gust followed by a historic snow fall! In spite of the chilly temperatures, several families came out to enjoy one more round of early literacy activities before the December holidays. Among those attending was a family from Wisconsin, completely un-phased by the weather. A homeschooling group just happened to have planned to meet up at the park that day, and many of them also joined in the fun. Since then, families have made inquiries about upcoming programs. Little Read Wagon staff has referred them to programs offered at branch libraries until the February 22 kickoff at Woodlawn Lake Park.

Pop-Up Art in the Park programs were offered at Lou Kardon and Rainbow Hills parks. Since pavilions were not reserved, the programs were dependent on good weather and advertised just one day in advance. Each program drew several families who intentionally came out to the events as well as families who happened to be visiting the parks. The Little Read Wagon team had hoped for, but the weather did not permit, programs at Pearsall Park and Highland Park.

Workshops for Teachers
Little Read Wagon presented “Diversity in the Classroom: Building your library with mirrors and windows” on December 9 and January 13. The workshop location returned to Central Library, which made the preparation and presentation much easier. Having the workshop at Central, instead of other community venues, also gives participants an opportunity to visit the Children’s area, get library cards, and browse materials for their personal use.

National News
Clair Larkin was interviewed for an article in Library Journal, “NURTURING NEW PARENTS: Reaching out to new and expectant parents can forge connections to last a lifetime.” Ms. Larkin shared how the San Antonio Public Library serves teen parents by encouraging them to continue the good practices they already have in place and sharing new ideas and materials to support their babies in getting ready to read.

System-wide support
Cresencia Huff and Ms. Larkin have each stepped up to present story time programs at locations where a children's librarian was not available either due to a vacancy or unexpected absence. The Little Read Wagon team continues to offer durable materials for use in early literacy programming. Several Children’s Librarians routinely borrow items such as dramatic play props, manipulatives, and puppets. At the January Children’s Meeting, Ms. Larkin taught the gathering a fun new song, and Julia Lazarin brought a sampling of Little Read Wagon materials to loan out.
CHILDREN’S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

During December, twenty six library locations hosted Winter Wonderland programs for children and families. The events featured some squishy fake snow, made from baking soda and hair conditioner, as well as a variety of snow-related craft activities, stories, and cookie decorating. Although some branches made specific reference to Christmas, the intent going forward is to move away from December holiday-themed parties and to be more respectful and inclusive in light of the diverse audience that the San Antonio Public Library serves.

Over 2,100 poems had been submitted to Young Pegasus Poetry Competition by the December 15 deadline. That deadline was followed quickly by the preparation and distribution of the judges’ packets. Selection of poems for the 2018 Young Pegasus Anthology gets underway on January 18 and continues through February. This year marks the 92nd edition of the annual competition which means the 100th anniversary of Young Pegasus is just around the corner. An index of all the poets published in Young Pegasus throughout the competition is already underway in anticipation of that 100 year milestone.

Children’s staff was pleased to participate in Our Family Reads: The Mayor’s Book Club which kicked off on January 13 at the Central Library. In addition to that kick-off event, Children’s staff are hosting unity-themed programs at ten branches during the month of January. In February, children’s services will be hosting programs related to airplanes and flying at thirteen branches in addition to taking part in the kick-off event at Landa. The mayor’s decision to develop monthly themes, rather than promote one specific book, allows the library to broaden the scope of this initiative by suggesting books and hosting programs that can truly promote family reading, family fun, and family conversation.

Partnership conversations are underway with KLRN to include both children’s and teen components in The Great American Read which airs on PBS this spring and continues through the summer. The Great American Read will provide the library with another vehicle for promoting reading and developing community conversations. Children’s Coordinator Viki Ash and Teen Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez, along with Library Services Administrator Candy Mendoza, met with KLRN staff on January 12 to brainstorm joint opportunities.

Currently, there are three vacancies for children’s staff at the Librarian II level. These vacancies impact not only children’s services but overall branch operations as well. The current vacancies are at Parman, Carver, and McCreless branch libraries. Every effort is being made to fill the positions in a timely manner but hiring children’s librarians remains challenging, not just here in San Antonio but across the country.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Teen Outreach Specialist Adam Tutor and Megan Coker (Teen Services Librarian I, Tobin), have begun a partnership with Premier High School of San Antonio, a charter school that gives non-traditional students an alternative approach to the conventional public school education systems. The faculty spends their days supporting students that are working to prepare for their GED and college application. The Library’s role in the partnership is to give the students a break from their diligent work efforts, and lead a story time. Adam and Megan spend 30-45 minutes with 3 classes reading a book of their choice, which has to this point been Madeleine L’Engle’s A Wrinkle in Time. The students have fully engaged with the
reading and a strong relationship has been developed with an institution that is often overlooked in the education system of San Antonio.

Working with Lisa Leandro (Library Assistant, Pan American), Adam Tutor joined Ms. Claudia Montoya of McCollum High School to support her Literature Club. Over 20 students from the high school have actively engaged in the poetry community in San Antonio, and are beginning to compete. They were seeking additional support and resources from the Library to guide their efforts. On December 6, Adam shared information on Young Pegasus, and then proceeded to lead an exercise in free writing, around the “15 Questions to Guide Your Purpose” – a series of queries that helps one arise at their mission statement in life. Students were very responsive and came away with a guiding light for their writing.

On December 11, Adam Tutor and Caroline Mossing (Teen Services Librarian II, Brook Hollow) connected with Say Si, a non-profit, non-traditional educational institution for the creative arts, to present opportunities for San Antonio Mini Maker Faire 2018 at the Central Library. Teens were offered the chance to create the new official poster for Mini Maker Faire, and spent time creating an initial design for the endeavor. The teens presented their creations, which will be deliberated upon by the Mini Maker Faire Steering Committee, and a teen will be chosen to create this poster in partnership with SAPL.

SAPL’s role at the USAA Innovation Fair on December 12 was an engagement in partnership among SAPL Teen Services, SAPL Marketing, and the City of San Antonio’s Office of Innovation. Adam Tutor presented tech opportunities available through Teen Services across the SAPL system – primarily the 3D printer and the Makey Makey. Many parents were in attendance and were fascinated to learn of the non-traditional ways teens could interact with the library.

Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and Nicole Cubillas (Central Children’s Services Librarian I) staffed a table at the Tamalada Resource Fair at Advanced Learning Academy. Teen Services and Children’s Services were invited by the school librarian to attend the event to speak to students and parents about the resources the Library offers for children and teens.

A continuation of the successful Smarter Fair at Roosevelt High School continued at a Smarter Fair collaboration with Guerra Library and John Jay Stem Academy for an event on December 19 entitled “Engineering Your Future.” The Smarter Fair was made possible through the San Antonio Public Library Foundation in partnership with Capital One. With a keynote from STEM Ecosystem Chair Dr. Rudy Reyna, the group of 35 teens also met Hanna Santiago of the Office of Innovation and Mitch Hagney of urban agriculture business Local Sprout.

Teens were asked to dream big about their futures in engineering, and then listened to the real-world leaders speak to issues they are facing in their work in San Antonio. After the presentation, students were asked to join one of the speakers in solving this issue. For about an hour, the teens worked closely with the speakers to problem solve and then present their solutions to the greater group. The speakers did an incredible job of engaging with the teens and giving them guidance, but not all the answers. The teens presented their findings as if presenting to a boardroom, and fielded questions in real time to test their mettle.

Overall, it was a day that both speaker and student enjoyed thoroughly, and connections were made that will lead to potential internship opportunities at the most, and indelible impression for future realizations at the very least.
To celebrate the kick-off of the Mayor’s Book Club and the first theme of unity, the Teen Library @ Central offered a friendship bracelet craft for teens on Saturday, January 13. Led by teen volunteer extraordinaire Olivia, teens learned different methods for making friendship bracelets.

On December 13, Teen Services Librarians and Teen Liaisons from around the SAPL system met in the Teen Library @ Central for their annual holiday potluck meeting.

On January 10, Teen Services Librarians met at Mission Library for their regularly scheduled professional workgroup meeting.

**ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)**

Emily Flores, Training Officer at the Bazan Branch Library Learn at SAPL site, was able to experience the success of one of the ESL students, Ms. Manners. Ms. Manners had her work accepted for publication by *The Change Agent*, an adult education publication used in the Advanced ESL class at the Bazan Branch. The magazine is the bi-annual publication of The New England Literacy Resource Center and focuses on social justice issues in the field of Adult Education. The Boston-based editor, Cynthia Peters, remarked that Ms. Manner’s piece is “exactly right for The Change Agent because it speaks from the heart and really grapples with some key social issues.” Ms. Manner’s work explores racism and stereotypes in her native Puerto Rico. She has been attending ESL classes with at the Bazan Branch Library for the past two years.

December was an exciting month for Learn, with the highlight being a “behind the scenes” tour of the Central Library and holiday reception for ESL students, held on Saturday, December 9. A total of 19 students participated from the Westfall and Bazan branches, and with the exception of 3 students, all were first-time visitors to the Central Library. The students provided great feedback, and they were very excited to learn about all the upcoming events and resources available at the Central Library and also to know that they can approach any staff member for help.

The second annual staff art show, Artists Among Us, was a great success with more than 30 participants from throughout the system. To celebrate the show and the holidays, Jingle and Mingle took place at the Central Library on December 1. In addition to the visual art, a talent showcase was held including performances by singers, a pianist, and the SAPL Book Cart Drill Team. The committee who put the event together included Marcie Hernandez (Marketing), Elissa Vura (Brook Hollow), Kimberly King (Brook Hollow), Emily Winkler (Brook Hollow), Valerie Juarez (Central), and Laura Lopez (Maverick).

Coordinator of Services for Adults Haley Holmes attended Igo’s 10th anniversary celebration and enjoyed seeing members of the Friends group and staff she had previously worked with when she was the assistant manager at Igo upon its opening. Ms. Holmes also stopped in at Brook Hollow’s big Star Wars event led by Adult Services Librarian Jenny Borrero. Activities were available for all ages and many staff members pitched in to add to the success of the event. Ms. Holmes attended the Re-think It Conference in Austin in January and enjoyed learning about what other librarians are doing across the country to re-imagine libraries.

The sixth annual Holocaust Learn and Remember series of events kicked off with a news conference at the Holocaust Museum of San Antonio. The month-long series will focus on Art and Survival this year with lectures, film screenings, performances, and a gallery exhibit. Several Adult
Services Librarians provided a craft for adults at the kick-off of Our Family Reads: The Mayor’s Book Club at the Central Library. The “unity coaster” was very popular, and families enjoyed completing the project together.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN’S

The highlight of the December season in the Central Children’s Department was the Winter Wonderland Party. Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin led the team in creating an extravaganza of winter play. She transformed the Story Room into an arctic wonderland, complete with polar animal puppets, magnetic “ice fishing” activities and Styrofoam and cardboard “ice caves” which children worked together to modify and reconstruct. She incorporated sensory play elements with large ice cubes encasing arctic animal figurines and sparkly white play dough with holiday cookie cutters. Families created snowflakes from coffee filters to decorate the space and made “ugly sweater” collages. The festivities were rounded out with a cheery jingle bell parade around the children’s area.

The Central Children’s Department created an array of children’s activities as part of the Our Family Reads: The Mayor’s Book Club Kick Off event under the leadership of Manager Kate Simpson. Families (including Mayor Ron Nirenberg’s family) enjoyed activities highlighting unity, the topic of the Mayor’s inaugural book club. Young children engaged in community helpers themed imaginative play experiences, like driving a cardboard fire truck and caring for animal puppets. Other activities included collaborative art work and acts of kindness exercises. Ms. Seglin promoted the event on KSAT’s SA Live program the week preceding the kick off event. She did an excellent job on live TV highlighting the books and activities that made up the event, which no doubt helped draw in many families to attend.

Children’s programs and picture books were promoted with a massive décor project led by Librarian Lea Ann McDonald. Under her direction and with the assistance of the entire team, the 3rd floor children’s area was buried under decorative “snow drifts.” The staff of busy elves worked hard to transform the displays on the floor into a one big snow scene.

The Play & Learn and Toddler Time early childhood programs this season continued to be the most popular programs with families. Librarian Nicole Cubillas presented Play & Learn programs in December, and incorporated sensory and imaginative play elements into each one. Children dressed up in costumes at the fantasy-themed program, dug for hidden gems in the sensory bin, and manipulated glittery “magic slime.” At the bird-themed Play & Learn, children explored the idea of flight and delighted in wearing elaborate bird wing costumes. The sensory play continued when toddlers and babies searched for jingle bells hidden in “snow,” played with homemade slime, and made snowy scenes with finger paint. Ms. Seglin presented Toddler Time programming and continued Play & Learn in the New Year. She kept the winter fun going with arctic animal imaginative play and play dough “cookie baking” at Toddler Time. With the holidays come lots of naps, so Ms. Seglin made bedtime the theme one week and led toddlers in tucking baby dolls into bed and crafting a sleeping bear from paper to take home. Children learned all about bears in another program when they engaged in imaginative play with hibernating bear puppets and contributed to a collaborative collage using bear pictures from recycled animal magazines. Young children celebrated the New Year by playing with confetti play dough, reenacting the New Year’s Eve
countdown, and tossing confetti into the air in a fun-filled series of programs in January. Dinosaurs were the theme when Ms. Seglin created salt dough “fossils” for budding paleontologists to examine. She also crafted faux dirt play dough from coffee grounds for further excavations.

Family programming was a collaborative endeavor this season as several staff members presented programs in turn. Ms. Seglin developed Family Fun programs about animals. Children crafted hedgehogs from paper plates and made paper bag caves for bears to hibernate in, as well as worked together to create large collaborative art pieces with animal themes. Ms. McDonald developed an engaging Family Fun program focused on fiber arts. She brought in examples of different textiles for children to examine and compare. After an informative slideshow presentation, the group made self-portrait paper dolls and dressed them up in tiny outfits of their own creation. Ms. Cubillas initiated a series of weekly Bilingual Family Fun programs, much to the delight of the families who regularly attended her monthly bilingual events. In celebration of the holidays, Ms. Cubillas led the group in assembling paper poinsettias, snowflake ornaments, and making play dough “tamales!” She focused on a familia theme as well, sharing stories about family and guiding the children through the creation of family puppets and decoration of their family trees.

In a demonstration of teamwork, Ms. McDonald presented Baby Time and Toddler Time at the Igo Branch Library for four weeks when that location was without a Children’s Librarian. Ms. McDonald earned the praise of Igo families and staff alike for her enthusiastic and well-prepared programs for young children. Ms. Seglin also stepped in to assist the Semmes Branch Library by presenting Baby Time there when the branch was short staffed one day.

The Central Children’s Department had a great deal of involvement with the neighboring Advanced Learning Academy at Fox Tech this month. In celebration of the SAPL’s Young Pegasus Poetry Competition, students from the school listened to a presentation by Ms. Simpson about the program, then read their original poetry in the Children’s Story Room on two separate evenings as after school treats for their proud parents, families, and peers. Later, Ms. Cubillas attended the Advance Learning Academy’s holiday Tamalada event along with Teen Library Manager Kathleen Fordyce, where they shared library resources and STEM activities with families.

In partnership with the Southwest School of Art, Viki Ash, Coordinator of Children’s Services, presented two Batik Art Workshops to families at the Central Library in December, with the assistance of Ms. McDonald. Teachers from the art school led the group in the hands on, step-by-step process of creating their own batik masterpieces. The families were delighted with the opportunity to experience this special art medium at the library. Also this month, Ms. Simpson guided a group of 4th grade students from the Southwest School of Art’s education program on a tour of the architectural features of the Central Library.

Ms. Simpson attended the STEM Night at Wright Elementary School, where she presented library resources and a STEM activity to visiting families. Children were encouraged to add to a massive Straws & Connectors structure that grew throughout the evening and made SAPL’s table one of the most popular at the event!

Ms. Seglin presented story times to students at Madison Square Child Development Center on two occasions. Ms. Cubillas brought holiday-themed books to Central Christian Childcare Center. Ms.
McDonald continued her monthly visits to Green Acres Childcare where she shared stories and songs with the preschoolers there.

Ms. Simpson attended a San Antonio history workshop at Ft. Sam Houston facilitated by the Institute for Texan Cultures as part of her research for the Tricentennial Summer Reading Committee, which she chairs.

Ms. Simpson volunteered to wrap gifts at Elf Louise as part of the SAPL Mentor Program. Library Assistant Ana Sandoval’s paintings were featured in the Artists Among Us staff art exhibit.

The Central Children’s Department team came together for a gift exchange and bagel brunch as a special holiday treat. The celebrations continued with surprise congratulatory events for Library Assistant Judith Slaughter in recognition of her 10 years of service with SAPL and Ms. McDonald, acknowledging her graduation from Texas Woman’s University’s Master of Library Science program.

TEENS

The Teen Library staff engaged in team building by celebrating the holidays with a staff cocoa party on December 12. Staff members made homemade pear tarts and brought in cocoa supplies, potluck-style.

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): J.D. continued to facilitate Eclectic Electric music programming in the Teen Library’s recording studio. Teens are invited to play instruments for fun and/or for school practice and record their music if they wish.

Wednesdays with Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT): Every Wednesday evening, Ciana opens up the lab in the Teen Library to assist teens with designing 3D models to print and finding printed models online. She also facilitates use of the Oculus Rift, a virtual reality headset loaded with games for teens.

Wednesdays with Adam Tutor (Library Services Specialist): Adam, the system’s Teen Outreach Specialist, initiated a new program in the Teen Library that utilizes his knowledge and skills as a musician, as well as his connections to community arts organizations. “Adam’s Arts Industry” began its first program on January 10. Adam is utilizing the recording studio to enhance community engagement and provide a space for professional musicians to connect with aspiring teen musicians. During the first week, Adam led a session on an important topic in the creative industry and provided activities to set the tone for the month. Teen leaders were chosen at that time, as well as what type of band/artist teens would like to hear during the month.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): One week after Thanksgiving, teens set the holiday season in motion. Each Thursday teens used created crafts and foods they chose in their informal planning sessions, incorporating Christmas and winter. Teens set up the holiday tree with boxed ornaments as well as with the ornaments they made out of peanuts, plain glass ornaments, fake snow, and paper. Teens also created apple tarts shaped to look like turkeys using pie crust, red and green apples, and apricot jelly. Creating a snowman out of light strings and paper snowflakes for Teen Library’s black tackable surface worked like magic on a night where it did actually snow in San Antonio. After
decorating brownies to look like Christmas trees with candy canes, frosting and sprinkles, and enjoying cocoa, teens checked texts and weather apps as they anticipated snow. When they realized snow had reached the Library, teens walked swiftly outside, some having never seen snow fall before, enjoying the unbelievable moment. Using pretzel rods, white chocolate, and coconut, teens created sweet polar bears. They also decorated pine cones in holiday fashion with confetti, fake snow, and ribbons. The following week, teens created dry snow globes, using jars to set scenes using fake snow, plastic animals, and ribbons. They also baked and decorated sugar cookies.

Fulfilling the nutrition lesson for the month (for the San Antonio Food Bank’s sponsorship requirements), teens learned about and roasted cauliflower. Some—having never cooked with or tasted the vegetable—left with a newfound way to appreciate it. Afterwards, teens used cookie dough and marshmallows to create melted snowpeople and snowzombies. Teens requested use of the ping pong table as well, giving them some indoor activity fun.

The first Thursday of 2018 had teens making mini-notebooks with paper, needle, and thread and also making adorable panda and lucky cat macarons. Teens requested a new craft, scrape painting, which involves using drops of paint scraped across the paper with used gift cards, to create spectacular backgrounds. Stencils are provided as well to paint over in contrasting colors. Churros became a quick and easy new favorite as well. Pictures from these Thursday programs as well as other teen services program can be found at http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary and at http://www.instagram.com/210teenlibrary.

Classes from the new CAST Tech High School (the Centers for Applied Science and Technology) visited the Teen Library @ Central on November 29 and 30. Staff introduced the students to the Teen Library and a Teen Library “regular” and longtime teen volunteer Esteban gave his classmates a tour of the space.

Several community centers brought groups of teens to the Teen Library to use computers and participate in programming. Groups of teens from the George Gervin Center and the Juvenile Detention Center made regular visits during the reporting period.

Classes from the Henry Ford Academy made regular visits to the Teen Library to use the computers and hang out in the space during the reporting period.

A large class from John Jay High School visited the Teen Library to utilize the space on January 5. Also on January 5, a class from Kipp San Antonio visited the Teen Library to hold a class discussion in the space.

REFERENCE

Pannaga Prasad hosted “Classical Bharatanatyam Dance for Diwali Festival of Lights” on November 29. The attendees appreciated the music and the meanings or stories associated with the different dances.

On December 12, Ms. Prasad promoted and hosted “EnrollSA – DCSSA @ Libraries.” The event was presented by the Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio. Although there were few available appointments, attendees received informative brochures and had the opportunity to ask questions.
A “Japanese Origami and Folktale Telling” program was also hosted by Ms. Prasad on December 12. The presenter shared a folktale and demonstrated how to make holiday-themed origami.

On November 28 and 30, Cristine Mitchamore advised students from Wayland Baptist University on effective and efficient research methods using library resources.

Ms. Mitchamore hosted the Scifi & Fantasy Book Club on December 10. The book under discussion was *Range of Ghosts* by Elizabeth Bear. Attendees spent a surprisingly long time discussing how difficult geography and mapmaking must be in a world where the sun rises in the east in one kingdom only to set in the east in the next. The author explores a fascinating idea by describing a world where the sky reflects the predominant belief system of each kingdom, empire, or state.

On December 3, Blanca Hernandez hosted Central Cinema’s presentation of *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. This second Spider-Man film re-boot (and the sixteenth film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe) was enthusiastically received by film attendees; favorable comments include: “great job”; “great movie”; and, “the movie did not lag”.

**TEXANA/GENEALOGY**

Texana Staff came together for another “Vault Day,” an ongoing team-building project. The group focuses on re-cataloging and organizing various collections within the unit to improve the customer experience when working with staff in accessing collection items or related information in the Vault.

The colorful history of San Antonio came alive in photographs and print as authors Edna Campos Gravenhorst and Al Rendon spoke on “Mercado y Mas: A History of San Antonio.” Gravenhorst’s book *San Antonio’s Historic Market Square* and Rendon’s *San Antonio – A Photographic Portrait* were the backdrop for their presentation on our unique city. This program was hosted and prepared by Librarian Sylvia Reyna.

Ms. Reyna presented, in Spanish, a class on researching Hispanic Genealogy to Irving Middle School’s Advanced Spanish class. The class was excited to learn about the resources available at their public library and to be able to practice their Spanish in a new and different area of research.

A “Using Census Records in Genealogical Research” presentation was shared by Assistant Manager Matt De Waelsche. Census records were examined to see how they could be used to enhance family history research and gathering more information.

Librarian Andy Crews presented an internet class on “Finding Family Bible Records”. The class focused on where to locate Bible records online and the different ways to target searches in order to achieve the best results.
BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN

Children’s Librarian Hope Sonnen resumed regular programs after the winter break including Family Fun, LEGO’s, and Come & Go Crafts as well as book clubs at four schools and outreach to two early learning centers. Ms. Sonnen attended the workshop “Diversity in the Classroom Building your Library with mirrors ad windows” on January 13.

Teen Time at Bazan continued to occur every Monday evening throughout the holiday season. During the winter break, teens continued visiting with Teen librarian Gina Salinas and spending time in the teen space. To celebrate the holiday season, teens held a small party centered on gaming and discussing winter break plans.

The Bazan branch spread some holiday cheer by hosting a family holiday party on December 20. Everyone had fun making winter crafts, listing to holiday music, and coloring while watching A Charlie Brown Christmas. Library assistant Enedina Prater donned a Santa Claus outfit provided by her mother-in-law and posed for pictures with customers, incorporating holiday-themed green screen backgrounds. Snacks were provided by the Bazan Branch Friends Group. Library volunteers Noel Sandoval and Selena Flores assisted with the festivities by helping set up the program and by being Santa’s helpers. The community appreciated the opportunity to spend time together and one customer pleasantly suggested that the program be a yearly tradition.

The Coloring for Grown-Ups program at Bazan celebrated its one year anniversary on December 27 with a holiday edition coloring program. Regular attendees brought in goodies and enjoyed New Year-themed coloring sheets while listening to music and chatting. Another Coloring for Grown-Ups program was held on January 10 to help customers kick off the New Year stress free.

The Bad Girls Romance Book Club resumed on January 6 after a short hiatus and continued to attract a good number of attendees. Two books by author Jojo Moyes, Me Before You and After You, were discussed. Library Assistant Enedina Prater made goodie/swag bags and other members brought refreshments for all to enjoy.

On January 10, the Learn Center at the Bazan Branch Library began a 12-week cycle of GED subject classes designed to prepare students to pass the science portion of the GED exam. This follows the recently concluded GED math prep classes.

Training Officers Emily Flores from the Bazan Branch and Michelle Rickman from Westfall organized a “behind the scenes” tour of the Central Library and holiday reception for ESL students on December 9. A total of 19 students participated from the Westfall and Bazan branches and, with the exception of three students, all were first-time visitors to the Central Library. A special thank you to the following Central staff members for sharing their expertise with students: Bianca Gonzalez, Matt Dewaelsche, Lea Ann McDonald, Regina Almanza, Cynthia DeLeon, and Emma Hernandez. Thanks also go to Coordinator of Services to Adults Haley Holmes for her invaluable assistance in facilitating the event.

On Saturday, December 16, Lucy Ortega of The Partners Resource Network (“Empowering Parents through Education”) provided a bilingual presentation to the Bazan Branch ESL students regarding school district resources for parents of children with disabilities.
Long-time Bazan ESL student Lessette Manners had her work accepted for publication by *The Change Agent*, an adult education publication that is used as an instructional aide in the Advanced ESL class. The magazine is the bi-annual publication of The New England Literacy Resource Center and focuses on social justice issues in the field of Adult Education. The Boston-based editor Cynthia Peters remarked that Ms. Manners' piece is "exactly right for *The Change Agent* because it speaks from the heart and really grapples with some key social issues." Ms. Manners' work explores racism and stereotypes in her native Puerto Rico. She has been attending ESL classes with Training Officer Emily Flores at the Bazan Branch Library for the past two years, during which time her English skills have markedly improved and she has shown a talent and inclination toward writing.

On December 21, the Bazan Branch hosted the monthly Barrio Network meeting. The Barrio Network is a collaborative group of social service organizations that work to strengthen neighborhood and community bonds and integrate and promote services on the West Side.

**BROOK HOLLOW**

Brook Hollow Library said goodbye to Library Assistant Anne Schuette who retired after 12 years of service at the end of December. Ms. Schuette was an active participant in system-wide programming initiatives and most recently organized an event at the Central Library, *Maria Tallchief American Indian Prima Ballerina*, on November 4 in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

On January 6, Brook Hollow welcomed team member Library Assistant Elissa Vura. Ms. Vura joins the team after having worked most recently at the Potranco Branch Library.

Children’s Librarian Rachael Barrera and Library Assistant Jennifer Olivarez continued an ongoing program. Every week, the bulletin board has different changes, as the season changes. If children can notice the difference, they are invited to tell a staff member and they will receive a small prize each week (i.e.: a sticker, pencil, button, etc.)

On Tuesday, December 5, Ms. Barrera presented *Play and Learn: Winter!* where children and their caregivers learned with the five early literacy practices of talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing.

On Wednesday, December 8 and Wednesday, January 10, Ms. Barrera attended her monthly school year outreach visits to Rhapsody Head Start. She provided a story time for each of five classes. In addition, she provided books for each classroom to support each class’ monthly curriculum.

On Tuesday, December 8, Ms. Barrera attended monthly outreach at Heimer Kindercare. She provided a story time for each Pre-K classroom and provided books to four classrooms to support their curriculum.

On Tuesday, December 19, the branch hosted a *Winter Wonderland* party for preschoolers. Eighty-nine people attended for a special story time, games, snacks provided by the Friends of the Brook Hollow Library, and a craft provided by Councilman John Courage, District 9.
During the reporting period, teens at Brook Hollow played games, made buttons, crafted designs out of Perler beads, and had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a virtual reality experience with the Oculus Rift. At the branch Star Wars event, teen volunteers helped facilitate activities, including an LED lightsaber paper circuit craft.

On November 27, Brook Hollow hosted the second Beginning Hatha Yoga Class instructed by Belinda Kovach. Several patrons attended and really liked that the library was offering yoga classes. Due to instructor availability and Brook Hollow being a VITA site, yoga ended on January 2, but the branch plans to continue the program sometime in the future.

On December 2, Circulation Attendant Kimberly King held a Folded Holiday Tree craft. Adults and families came and enjoyed making a craft from discarded books. Some of the same patrons that came for the Recycled Book Creature craft during the summer came back to do more crafting. The group of 19 had lots of fun and said they look forward to more crafting opportunities.

On December 16, Brook Hollow hosted its first pop culture program, Star Wars: The Last Jedi Release Party. Activities included Star Wars trivia, Jedi training, Empire bowling, Star Wars cookie decorating station, lightsaber bookmark, costume parade, Star Wars virtual reality, and Quest For Yoda. Brook Hollow screened Star Wars: The Force Awakens to close the program. Fun snacks were also offered such as Edible Ewoks (Teddy Grahams), Princess Leia Buns (Honey Buns), Yoda Soda (Sprite and Lime Sherbet), Wookie Cookies (Chocolate Chip Cookies), and Princess Lays (Potato chips). Families really enjoyed the program and kids loved the pool noodle lightsabers they were able to keep after completing Jedi training.

The Mystery Book Group met on January 4 to discuss Missing, Presumed by Susie Steiner. They also selected books to read for 2018. One of the regular members brought a delicious spice crumb cake for the group and library staff.

CARVER

Dr. Isaac Hampton, Command Historian for U.S. Army South, was the guest speaker at a solemn ceremony on December 2 marking the 100th anniversary of the Camp Logan tragedy in Houston. In that event, a group of African American soldiers stationed at the installation were accused of taking part in what would become known as the Houston Riot of 1917, a protest against police brutality. According to historians, many of the accused were innocent and had not taken part in the uprising. They were transported to San Antonio, court martialed, and hanged on the banks of Salado Creek at Fort Sam Houston.

Each of the nine students who enrolled in Carver’s High School Completion Program realized their dream of receiving a diploma. Most of them participated in a commencement ceremony with Broady Academy students on Saturday, December 9, at Antioch Baptist Church. Guest speaker for the event was Carver Training Officer Jeanne Johnson. Some 200 friends and family gathered to congratulate the new graduates. According to Ms. Johnson, all the students who completed her program have plans to further their education in college or trade schools.
DreamWeek activities here closed with the branch’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture. This year’s speaker was Minister Nuri Muhammad of the Nation of Islam, visiting from Indiana. Included in the celebration was the premiere of *A Walk on the River: A Black History of the Alamo City*, a documentary by local filmmakers Aundar Martin and Born Logic, tracing the history of African Americans in San Antonio.

On January 13, representatives of Travis Early College visited the branch to recruit East Side students interested in the program. Students enrolled graduate with an associate’s degree in liberal arts. The program is free.

**CODY**

Tweens learned about rockets during a hands-on demonstration on January 27. They created film canister rockets and did an experiment to see if alka-seltzers and water or vinegar and baking soda would give their rockets a better launch.

Children’s Librarian Kristin Yourdon visited the Gan Gani Preschool on November 28 to read stories with the students.

The Lego Club met on November 30 to create Lego creations. Children worked together in teams to create scenes of what they would do on a snow day.

Tweens participated in the National Hour of Code on December 4. Tweens worked together in pairs and groups to complete the Minecraft Hour of Code tutorial.

Children and families gathered on December 7 for a Winter Come & Go Crafts program. Children decorated holiday wreaths with a variety of craft materials.

Tweens participated in a Holiday Escape Room on December 18. Tweens had to race to solve the clues and find Santa’s keys to his sled. Along with the keys, tweens found holiday treats. Tweens had to use their problem-solving and cooperation skills in order to solve the puzzles and find the keys.

The Fiesta City Chorus performed holiday songs at the Cody Library on December 19. One enthusiastic young boy even got to join in with the chorus on a song!

Yourdon visited the Blue Roof School on December 21 to put on a *Polar Express* story time. The school decorated one of their hallways to look like the polar express, and children got to sit on the train while Yourdon read the beloved holiday story.

The branch hosted a Winter Wonderland Celebration on December 21. During this program children were delighted to learn how to make snow dough. Children also decorated cookies, played games, and completed crafts. Children painted winter skies with watercolors and then sprinkled salt on top.
Tweens competed in a life-sized board game on January 8. During the game, tweens got to roll giant dice, answer trivia questions about popular books, and compete in mini challenges to advance through the life-sized board.

During Kid’s Time on January 10, kids learned about various bridge designs. Then kids were given craft sticks and glue and had the opportunity to create their own bridges. In a future program, kids will test the strength of their bridge.

**COLLINS GARDEN**

Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi presented six Family Fun programs during the reporting period which included a winter celebration with crafts, stories, and homemade snow.

During the reporting period, Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi hosted six Lego Club programs with an attendance of 60. Lego creations are displayed on the shelves in the reference area for customers to view.

Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi presented 24 outreach story times during the reporting period at Kelly Field Education Center and Knox Early Literacy Center. On December 6, she hosted a Play and Learn Food Program where children made play dough pizzas and completed a science experiment with baking soda.

The weekly Teen program, hosted by Library Assistant Carlos Loera, is averaging 6-8 teens a week. During this reporting period teens made Christmas crafts and helped to decorate the teen area.

On December 17, Assistant Manager Sophie Smith presented a hands-on program making *Last Minute Gifts*.

Beginning in January, Assistant Manager Sophie Smith offered weekly drop-in technology help to the community. Topics covered in this reporting period included assistance with accessing files on a cell phone, finding events through the Parks and Recreation website, and an introduction to genealogy research through Ancestry.com.

During the reporting period, Artist Rosemary Niño presented two classes on beading with a combined attendance of 15. Participants made Christmas earrings in December and rainbow earrings in January.

Coffee and a Movie is an increasingly popular program presented by Library Assistant Carlos Loera, in which citizens enjoy a featured movie once a month from the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema. There were six attendees during this reporting period.
Photographer Jaime Garcia hosted Photography 101: How to Buy a Camera. There were four attendees. His program series will continue through the spring.

On December 1, Assistant Manager Sophie Smith led a festive holiday tree lighting with support from Collins Garden staff and District Five Councilwoman Shirley Gonzalez’s office. Over 45 people attended to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with the library. Smith and Library Assistant Carlos Loera created a fireplace complete with streaming video of a roaring fire and crackling logs. Many patrons complimented the work and took family photos in front of the fireplace.

The Friends of Collins Garden Library had a successful book sale on December 2 and 3, earning money to help support ongoing programming at the branch.

Circulation Attendant Charlotte Espinoza and Library Aide Denise Talamantez attended the North Pole Village at Divine Grace United Methodist Church across the street. With Branch Manager Jeannette Davies, they built an outreach station and connected with over 90 children and adults during this annual holiday event.

Collins Garden Library joined with the District Five Councilwoman Shirley Gonzalez’s field office to hold a staff holiday party.

On December 21, the branch hosted students from Collins Garden Elementary School who sang holiday songs. They requested to come back in the spring to partner with us again.

Two chess sets in the library’s public areas are occupied with patrons of all ages strategizing their moves, with an average of 10 players daily.

Collins Garden Library is continuing weekly Family Game Night this winter with various board games for all ages, averaging eight participants a week.

CORTEZ

During this period of holidays and celebrations the Cortez staff had a couple of special occasions worth mentioning. December 9, the Friends of Cortez treated staff to dinner at Don Pedro Mexican Restaurant. Tuesday, December 19, all staff were present for a holiday celebration including food, games, a gift exchange, and crafts.

Branch Manager Cammie Brantley continued her efforts to build a Book Club with meetings in both December and January. Attendance is still small but the conversation is good and the books are checking out well.

Under the leadership and artistic abilities of Circulation Attendant Madeline Vasquez, the Branch looked cheerful and bright through the period with multiple eye-catching bulletin boards and with the meeting room doors decorated like an entrance to Candyland.
December 14, the Branch hosted District 4 Councilman Rey Saldaña and his staff in an information session and discussion of public art projects in the district. There were 35 citizens in attendance and staff stayed an hour after closing to accommodate the very successful event.

For the sixth consecutive month branch staff is pleased to report that Cortez has exceeded the circulation goals set by Administration.

Cortez staff is participating in weekly health events and have enjoyed everything from walking and yoga to writing poetry together. Staff has also enjoyed presentations by Blue Cross and Blue Shield Health Coach Keith Thibodeaux on health coaching available to employees and a session with Vicente Escobedo from Metro Health and Healthy Neighborhoods on how to hydrate without the sugar in most popular sodas.

**Bilingual Baby Time** (Kathy Armbruster and Esmy Staudt)- Baby Time is back after a short winter break. Since the original Baby Time was attracting so few, it was suggested that a bilingual Baby Time be offered. Library Aide Esmy Staudt assists Children’s Librarian Kathy Armbruster with a session of songs, rhymes, and advice on how to share books with infants. New flyers were placed at the local health clinic and branch staff continues to invite parents to this new program offering at Cortez.

**Toddler Time** (Kathy Armbruster) - Toddler Time follows Baby Time on Wednesdays and seems to attract new attendees each week. Toddlers listen to a brief story and sing songs and have movement activities before heading to the meeting room where several hands-on play options are available.

**Family Fun** (Kathy Armbruster) - Family Fun offers a variety of activities to children and their families at Cortez. A Winter Party was hosted offering cookie decorating, a penguin walk race relay game, and several craft activities. Lego building and family yoga sessions are offered each month as well.

**Tween Time** (Kathy Armbruster)- Tween Time is held on Wednesdays at Cortez. Tweens always enjoy basic video games and board games. Cookie decorating was a popular pre-holiday activity and an open-ended crafts table was popular with those who enjoy a chance to be creative.

**Come and Go Crafts** (Kathy Armbruster) - Open-ended craft sessions are offered on Thursday afternoons. This program will be offered approximately once a month during the winter program season.

**Read to a Dog** (Alan Schuminsky and Sunny) - Mr. Schuminsky has graciously offered to have Sunny come to several branches to actively listen to young readers practice their skills. Sunny will be visiting Cortez on the first Saturday of the month.

**Passive Sessions – Games and Puzzles** (Kathy Armbruster and Cortez Branch Staff) - Passive sessions are offered when we have available staff to offer an activity and some children in need of a diversion! Puzzles and paper and pencil/crayon games are offered as well.
**Teen Time** (JoAnn Paredes) - With the holidays in season, many of the teen time program dates got cancelled, but we still had a good turnout. There were 24 in attendance for the three programs in late 2017, and with word of mouth from the teens to their friends, we hope to have many more for 2018. The teens enjoy playing video games, cards, sitting around and just hanging out with their friends at the library after school. If it were up to them, they would stay in teen time until we closed. That’s a good feeling.

**Adult Coloring and Cortez Older Adult Social Time aka COAST** (Brooke Mjolsness, Madeline Vasquez and Shantel Buggs, volunteer) - Every Tuesday an adult and senior program is held to encourage meeting other members of the community. Games, puzzles, adult coloring supplies and light refreshments are provided to patrons while they chat and socialize. Attendance has been regular at this popular program.

**Essential Oils Make and Take** (Brooke Mjolsness) - Local resource and Cortez patron Mary Ann Schott hosted a make-and-take essential oils program. She discussed the uses and benefits of essential oils for health and beauty, suggested essential oils brands to use, and then had attendees make essential oils products to take home, specifically a sugar scrub and bath soak powder. Ms. Schott returned to lead another essential oils program and discussed ways to include essential oils in cleaning products in an effort to reduce/eliminate harmful toxins in the home.

**Eat Well, Feel Great Healthy Cooking** (Vicente Escobedo, Metro Health and Healthy Neighborhoods) - Mr. Escobedo provided tips and tricks to help people learn long-term healthy eating habits and gave each participant a healthy recipe booklet. Free samples of a strawberry salad with walnuts, grilled chicken, fresh bell peppers, and vinaigrette were sampled by each attendee. They all enthusiastically participated in Vicente’s discussion on healthy foods and shared advice with each other.

**Getting Crafty Program** (JoAnn Paredes) - The crafting group has been busy crocheting ornaments, sewing aprons, and working on patchwork animals. The apron project used two sewing machines that were donated to the branch. Getting Crafty is a popular program at Cortez and it is hoped that it will continue to attract new participants!

**Monster Meet** (Madeline Vasquez) - Monster Meet held two sessions during this reporting period. December’s meeting introduced members to an audio podcast called *Snap Judgment-Spooked* that features scary and surreal stories that purportedly happened to the storytellers themselves. The January meeting was a screening of the recently released Stephen King film, *It*.

**Community Chess Program** (Brooke Mjolsness and David Pacheco, volunteer) - Volunteer David Pacheco began leading a weekly chess club for Cortez. The first session was well attended and patrons seem highly interested in future programs. This program is for all ages.

**Community Program: Our Family Reads: Unity** (Cortez Staff) - A passive, month-long program was held for the Mayor’s Book Club in January called a Unity Tree. It began as a leafless tree on an open space of wall. People would then sign their names on handprint cutouts and attach them to the tree as leaves to show how each of them is an individual that helps make a whole. Children’s Services is also offering a Come and Go Craft day to add more to the Unity Tree landscape.

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**ENCINO**

- Community Connections
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- Educational & Learning Opportunities
- Employee CORE Values (Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism)
- Workforce & Economic Prosperity
Encino Adult Services Librarian Michelle Ricondo was named Interim Branch Manager on December 1 after the separation of the dynamic branch manager Keri Moczygemba from the San Antonio Public Library System. Ms. Ricondo is a 20 year veteran of the City of San Antonio and the library system and brings a wealth of experience with her to her new position, which she eagerly accepted.

Encino’s Collaborate space was used by outside groups 36 times during the reporting period. Use of Collaborate included governmental agency security clearance interviews, Japanese language tutoring, employment interviews, book club meetings, STEM tutoring via Skype, game play therapy for an autistic student, HOA Board meetings, and tutoring/study groups. The Mondopads in Collaborate are used about 40% of the time, and most users of the space utilize their own devices connected to the library’s WiFi. Encino’s WiFi-enabled patio space continues to serve as a supplemental study and meeting space for the community, both during and outside business hours. Examples of patio use include Girl Scout and Boy Scout groups holding meetings, group study sessions, Indian culture dance practice, and birthday parties.

Encino teens celebrated the final months of 2017 and the beginning of 2018 with lots of fun in the Encino Teen room. Teen Board Gaming featured a marathon game of Monopoly with holiday music in the background spurring on the competitive spirit. In Teen Club, teens made glittery slime, decorated cookies, went into virtual reality with the Oculus Rift, and upcycled old books to make word-poetry bookmarks. Teen Anime Club continues to see an increase in attendance with new and old faces joining together to watch more than five different animes throughout the reporting period.

The Encino Teen Room welcomed partners Fiesta Youth for the last installment of their “Lit: Out of the Closet” library tour in December. The theme for the program was Festive Fairness: Ornaments for Equality and Beyond. Teens, Teen Librarian Julia Pouliot, and facilitators from Fiesta Youth made gingerbread houses and snow globes with lots of glitter and holiday characters. Teens were interested in hearing about Fiesta Youth’s work with LGBTQ teens in our community, and hope that we get to host this awesome organization again in the coming year. Ms. Pouliot would like to thank Marco and his team for collaborating on this fun and engaging program!

Encino Adult Services Librarian and Interim Branch Manager Michelle Ricondo offered the Sounds of the Season Holiday Music Series and it was a rousing success! The River City Ringers rang in the holiday season on November 29, with patrons from different parts of town coming to Encino to enjoy the music. Local folk musician Kelli King brought her vocal talents for a Holiday Carol Sing-Along on December 6. On the final day of the music series, December 13, the branch offered the collaborative Encino Craft Creations holiday program to both children and adults, followed by the Madison Avenue Choir from Madison High School. Patrons enjoyed the different holiday music styles and parents and children enhanced their creativity with the Encino Craft Creations program.

Adult Services Librarian Michelle Ricondo resumed the Monday evening Art Journaling 101 program on November 27, much to the delight of the dedicated group of attendees. The Mondopad in the meeting room is used to explore new techniques in art journaling and the group enjoys taking a new approach each week. The group has grown by 60% and we hope to attract more creative people in the coming months.
Children’s programming at Encino continues to be successful, and new programs are in the works for the Spring. The collaborative effort of Encino Craft Creations by Children’s Librarians Nicki Weaver and Adult Services Librarian Michelle Ricondo was a success, with further plans for collaboration in the future. Despite the unpredictable weather, the Encino families were enthusiastic and enjoyed educational and entertaining Winter Holiday story times, including crafts and interactive activities like making a snowman. Storytime, Toddler Time, and Baby Time resumed on January 9 with regular patrons and new families enjoying the fun. Children and caregivers are led through fingerplays, interactive songs, and stories during these events, with motor and literacy skills practiced each week. Read to a Dog and Saturday Come & Go Crafts are also popular among Encino’s families.

FOREST HILLS

Currently, two art collections are on exhibit at the Forest Hills Branch Library. In celebration of Dream Week 2018, mandalas created by Laura Schultz are currently on display. Ms. Schultz created delicate “mandalas” of hand-dyed paper and placed them on the walls of the Library. Also on display in the meeting room is an exhibit titled Natural Impulse by Sabra Booth. In this mixed-media show, the work call to mind the gently swaying forms of sea creatures.

Forest Hills patrons were treated to a number of holiday music performances during the month of December. This list of performers included Trinity’s Acabellas, the Villarreal Elementary School Choir, The Brownies of Troop 973, and the San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble.

Children’s Librarian Ana Menchaca hosted Play and Learn: Food Glorious Food, where children were able to play with a variety of toys related to food. The children in attendance really enjoyed the opportunity to participate in this dramatic playtime.

Winterfest was hosted on December 15. Children’s Librarian Ana Menchaca provided cake decorating tools so that children could decorate holiday cookies. Additionally, she made snow (out of hair conditioner and baking soda), winter slime, and provided materials for crafts. Every child had the opportunity to take home slime and snow.

A special Story Time was held that featured the color blue. Various sensory activities were provided. A kiddie pool was filled with water and children were asked to fish out blue objects using nets. Ms. Menchaca made blue play dough. A sensory bin with blue objects including blue rice, blocks, and rhythm sticks was available so that children could play. Blue and white paper in different shades was provided along with markers, pastels, and crayons in blues and white. Children had a lot of fun and some of them did not want story time to end.

Ms. Menchaca had various come and go activities during the winter break so that children could come to the library and be creative. Several of the crafts that were produced by the children are on display.
A passive program was offered during all of December. A Winter Village was erected in the middle of the Children’s Area. Patrons were invited to make gingerbread houses out of milk cartons, snow globes out of paper, and snowmen out of toilet paper rolls.

Ms. Menchaca began to offer a Bilingual Story Time once a month. The children that attended the first Story Time read a book about cold weather, sang songs in Spanish, and did rhymes in English with Ms. Menchaca.

Lego Builders and Kids Time continue to draw a crowd form the neighborhood kids. Kids Time is becoming more popular as puzzles and board games are proving quite the challenge to some of Forest Hills’ younger patrons. Some children are staying after Kids Time ends so they can complete their puzzle.

DreamWeek was celebrated at the branch in the month of January with a sushi demonstration. Patrons from across the city came out to participate in this featured event. Chinatsu Oku, Japan Outreach Coordinator from the East Asia Institute of UTSA, provided information about Japanese culture and then led patrons in creating their own sushi rolls. Due to the popularity of the program, the branch will be exploring more options for offering demonstrations such as this.

On January 8, Ms. Demi Asvestas taught an introduction to childbirth class where basic anatomy, the stages of labor, hospital interventions, and breastfeeding were discussed. Ms. Asvestas is a Methodist Hospital Childbirth Educator and a birth doula. She attends births with women to support them both physically and emotionally.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Great Northwest Library thanks Library Assistant Jose Jimenez for spending this fall leading The Lab, the tween homeschool program which gave kids an opportunity to experience science hands-on. His program was deeply appreciated. Misty Gassaway began the Choose Your Adventure Program for the tweens which shows how people have stepped up when real-life problems need to be solved.

Club 7 has explored three of the continents so far: Europe, North America, and South America. Children and their adults have learned about the Eiffel Tower, windmills, and castles. The kids have just begun learning about Africa by exploring the city of Fez, fez hats, and the camels of northern Africa.

On December 15, Children’s Librarian Cari Raley visited Zachry Middle School for Career Day. Ms. Raley shared her experience with sixth graders, who, when given a chance, had many questions that were surprisingly difficult to answer, mostly because the questions were not what was expected. It was an enjoyable, and sometimes humorous, time for all involved.

Children and adults visiting the toddler program Stories and Shapes have learned about circles, squares, triangles, and ovals. They read books about eggs and watermelon seeds, danced with egg-shaped shakers, pretended to be a racecar and raced along an oval track, and played volleyball with oval-shaped balloons. The toddlers were having so much fun that many tears were shed when it was time to leave!
Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez worked together with teens in the community to plan and create teen programs for Great Northwest Branch Library. Great Northwest Teens held **Craft and Movie Nights** on Monday evenings. On November 27, teens watched *Beauty and the Beast*, made string art projects, and displayed their art work in the teen space of the library. Teens took a vote to determine which holiday films to watch in December and planned **Greeting Card Craft Night**. On December 18, teens held **Elf Pancake Movie Night**. Teens watched the movie *Elf* and made pancake art and cubee paper crafts.

Teens meet monthly for **Anime Night** to engage in a variety of activities and interact with other teens who share their interest in Anime and Manga culture. On December 11, teens made a variety of crafts including Perler bead sprites, buttons, and cubee paper crafts. On January 8, teens planned **Cookie Baking Night** and tried out some cookie recipes.

Great Northwest teen gamers meet every Wednesday afternoon for a **Teen Video Game** program. Ms. Vazquez worked with teen video gamers to provide a space for them to compete against other teens who share a common interest in gaming. Teens also have the opportunity to make a variety of crafts and art to display in the teen space of the library or to take home.

Great Northwest Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Taft High School on December 20 for an outreach event where teens had the opportunity to sign-up for library cards, make button crafts, compete in a video competition, paint ornaments, or create an ugly sweater green screen picture for the holidays.

Ms. Vazquez was asked to be a professional mentor to an NISD student enrolled in Independent Study Mentorship at Communication Arts High School. Ms. Vazquez meets with her mentee once a month to answer questions and provide the mentee with hands-on experience while he shadows her in the workplace.

Volunteers from the community work together with Great Northwest Library in a variety of ways to ensure the best service is provided to the community. Volunteers help staff with daily library tasks and assist library staff with programs including puppet shows, story time, and teen programs.

A representative from the Daughters of Charity visited the branch on Mondays to assist patrons with signing up for insurance through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace.

Branch manager Cate Prazak helped staff the San Antonio Public Library’s booth at the PAX South gaming convention on Saturday, January 13. Visitors to the booth made pixel art with Perler beads and received a D20 (or 20-side die) if they showed off their library card. Attendees were surprised and happy to learn of the services and programs the library offers for free at all branches!

Cindy Moreno, Adult Services Librarian, met with the Alicia Trevino Book Group on December 11. Instead of the regular book group meeting, they met to exchange pleasantries and pastries while watching the movie *The Girl on the Train*. The group met again on Monday, January 8 at noon to discuss the novel *The Circle* by Dave Eggers. Next month’s selection is *Austenland* by Shannon Hale.

GUERRA
The Anson Jones Middle School Choir was at Guerra for seasonal songs on December 12. Iris Bobren-Diaz, Library Assistant, resigned from her position prior to her relocation to Pensacola, Florida on January 5. Assistant Branch Manager/Librarian II accepted a temporary reassignment to help out at the Johnston Branch starting on January 20. Guerra Chess Club met on December 6, 13, and 20 and on January 5 and 12.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman attended a New Employee Experience session on December 12 where he shared information about the Employee Management Committee (EMC). He attended an EMC meeting on January 10. He provided literature and music outreach to the Careplex Adult Daycare Center on December 7, 14, and 21 and on January 3 and 10.

Assistant Branch Manager Jernell Williams held a movie night on December 7. The selected film was Doctor Strange. On January 14, the Branch celebrated social diversity with a screening of the film The Soloist. The screening was followed by a discussion of the social issues portrayed in the film. Refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Guerra Library.

Children’s Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented five toddler times, five story times, three Lego Clubs, and three After School Craft programs. In January, Arlene introduced two new programs for children-- Art Club and Learn All About! Learn & Create; both are after school programs. She planned and presented one Art Club and one Read All About It! Learn & Create program. School age children read to therapy dog Foxie on December 7. Arlene hosted a “Farewell to Foxie” party for the children to celebrate Foxie’s retirement from the Read to a Dog program. On December 10 and 11, families enjoyed holiday crafts at Come & Go Craft programs. On December 8, she visited Angelic Smiles Childcare Center and Greatest Gifts Childcare Center where she shared Christmas stories, songs, and rhymes with the children. She did the same at Marbach Christian Church Child Care Center on December 12. On December 9, Arlene hosted a Winter Wonderland program for families. Children and their grownups decorated cookies, made snowmen crafts, enjoyed holiday music, and played a game of Pin the Nose on Frosty. Arlene mounted a “Focus on Non-Fiction” book display highlighting new non-fiction books for children. She designed and mounted a Martin Luther King, Jr. display for children. On January 5, she resumed outreach to childcare centers in the community. She visited Lil Dragon Den Childcare and presented story times to four groups. On January 5, Arlene held her monthly staff meeting with the four Library Aides under her supervision.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center on December 13. He moderated Club de Lectura, (Spanish book club) on December 14. Participants discussed Tan lejos de Dios (So far from God) by Ana Castillo. On December 29, he recorded the chapter “El Río que quería mudarse (El Río Bravo) [The river that wanted to move]” from the book Stories Brownsville Told its Children: a child’s history of Brownsville by Milo Kearney for Dial-a-Story in Spanish. On January 14, he presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center, with a focus on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Library Assistant and Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra sessions on November 30, December 7, 14, 28 and January 4. The teens watched Elf on December 21 and refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Guerra Library. Guerra Library sponsored the Smarter Fair. Edward joined students from the John Jay Science and Engineering programs at an engineering career fair.

IGO

On December 16, Igo celebrated its 10th anniversary with cake, cocoa, cupcakes, and coffee. Celebrating along with the staff and the public were guest speakers Dale McNeill, Councilman Manny.
Pelaez, John Igo’s cousin Bill Woller, and library board member Juspreet Kaur. State Representative Diana Arevalo presented the branch with a commendation. Since the event also celebrated the multicultural Winterfest, dance and music performances by the following groups were held: Ballet Folklorico de San Antonio; Hula Halau Ohana Elikapeka; Bharathanatiyam Dance by Kaveri Natya Yoga; International Folk Dance Group from the OLLU; and Confucius Institute Small Dance. An appearance by Santa concluded the activities.

Igo manager Tim Johnson has been temporarily assigned to serve as a Public Service Administrator. Maverick manager Jef Martin will be filling in for him at Igo. The Igo staff welcomes Jef back and thank him for his leadership.

Weekly story times took a holiday hiatus, and then resumed as scheduled in January.

Lego Club continues to be a success and is well attended by school-aged kids.

Teen Club met the first three Wednesdays of December. Teens were able to relax and take their minds off finals while playing games, eating snacks, and discussing new program ideas for 2018.

Teen Time events took place every Wednesday evening.

The Writers’ Block creative writing group met each Sunday afternoon at Igo to discuss their writing projects.

PoeTree, a group of readers and writers of poems, met on December 4 and December 18.

The Mystery Club met on December 6 to discuss Hide Away and on January 3 to discuss A Fatal Winter.

On December 19, the Genealogy Club held its annual holiday potluck. The Friends of Igo Library provided turkey, gravy, and stuffing for the meal.

On December 18 and 22, Igo encouraged patrons to think about the question of why there are so few women in leadership positions. For the program on the December 18, three TED Talks were shown: “Why We Have Too Few Women Leaders,” “How Movies Teach Manhood” and “Bring on the Female Superheroes.” On December 22, the movie Wonder Woman was shown.

On January 8, in connection with DreamWeek, a TED Talk, “Four Pillars of College Success in Science,” was shown and discussed. The lecture presents ideas for encouraging minority students to study science and technology.

On December 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, the Extended Run Players from the University of the Incarnate Word gave an oral, visual, and musical preformation (Reader’s Theater) on the men and
women from the San Antonio area who served in World War II. It was a historical and moving commemoration.

Beginning Hatha Yoga classes continued on every Friday during this period.

JOHNSTON

Johnston Branch Library celebrated the holiday season with several events and an ongoing Cards for Soldiers mailbox for participants to wish our troops seasons greetings. KENS 5 ran a story highlighting the library’s spirit on December 15.

Branch Manager Monica Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of Riley Sager’s Final Girls on December 20. Ms. Bustillo organized several Friday Films including Cars 3, Polar Express, The Santa Clause and Despicable Me 3. Ms. Bustillo coordinated the Holocaust Rememberance screening of The Rape of Europa on January 12 along with assistance from Library Aide Victoria Liendo.

Story Time themes during this period included “Shapes and Sizes”, “Gingerbread”, “Christmas”, “Dragons”, and “Fairies.” On December 1, Children’s Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth took books and read stories to toddlers and pre-school children at the Southwest High School PCI. On December 19, Johnston Library had a very good turnout for the “Winter Wonderland” program. Most of the staff pitched in to assist with this program. Activities included snow slime, salt dough ornaments, and a candy cane bead craft. Several items were raffled off to participants. Children and adults had the opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa Claus and Ms. Claus (played by volunteers) in front of the green screen. The Friends of the Johnston Library provided funds for the refreshments and the candy cane bead craft.

On November 29 and December 27, Johnston teens conducted their monthly video games and craft program. The group developed a design and turned it into button art. Some of the teens have played a video game that another teen has been kind enough to bring for the group. The teens played video games and learned to self-monitor and share tips on how to conquer a certain level with each other’s assistance.

On December 3 and December 17, the Pokémon Champions group met up with a great turn out. A majority of the group played the card game and new participants learned how to play from several of the regular group members. The goal of the group is to become tournament-ready by the end of 2018.

On December 6, Ms. Garza facilitated a teen-developed program. The teen volunteers at Johnston created S’more pops using ingredients to make s’mores but using pie crust instead of graham crackers. The food demonstration was very hands-on and the teens had a blast making this new twist on a classic recipe.

On December 20, Ms. Garza introduced a technology demo using a free online gif creator program named Piskel. The teens learned how small colored pixels could be used to create a small and quick animation. One teen created a gif version of their cat and used Piskel to animate it to wink and smile. This teen created their gif in less than thirty minutes. Most of the teens used the program to animate their names.
On December 9 and December 23, Ms. Garza, with the assistance of Library Aide Cynthia Blancas, facilitated the Teen Anime and Video Game time. December 23 was the last meeting for the Teen Anime and Video game group.

On December 20, Ms. Garza assisted at an outreach event at Taft High School. Students decorated salt dough ornaments, took green screen pictures, and made buttons using a button maker.

On January 3, Ms. Garza incorporated the use of the young adult book selection for an art and craft program. The teens were given craft googly eyes to place on the covers of young adult books or inanimate objects located in the teen area of the library. The teens unlocked their creativity to come up with some hilarious googly eye young adult book covers.

On January 10, Johnston teens recreated last year’s teen time top treat. Rolo cracker treats are simple to make using only two ingredients, Rolo chocolates and Ritz crackers.


LANDA

The holiday months found Landa Teens more creative and collaborative than ever! With a continued interest in learning life skills, the teens chose these months to host two elaborate cooking sessions just in time to show off their skills at any of their own gatherings at home. With facilitator and Teen Liaison Rebekah Corley, two teens separately led demonstrations to a group of twice as many as usual to create accessible and fun dishes that their peers can do on their own.

Additional interest was put on the group themselves, with yet another volunteer joining the group, ready to revamp and refocus on upcoming goals for the gang. The first order of business? Adding additional volunteer opportunities for those who have other engagements on Wednesday evenings, collaborating on a new moniker for the group that promotes interest and inclusiveness (voting results tba), and of course, spending time with their friends at Landa. As one teen volunteer put it, "It's pretty neat that we can literally do anything here; that we can choose."

The Early Music Players, directed by Madalyn Blanchett, presented a holiday program at Landa just before the winter vacation. This group plays on replicas of Medieval and Renaissance instruments—some of which look and sound very unusual!

Another great program Landa hosted was "Kickstarting Your Entrepreneurial Future" led by Washington Navarro. This was an ideal opportunity for young adults to get ideas for building their start-ups. The conversation was lively and the group requested more such events. Thank you Samantha Gordano for securing this program!
Landa’s regular programs met in December and January. The Reader’s Ink Book Club read *American Ulysses* by Ronald White. Landa Adult Services Coordinator Karen Sebesta was on vacation at this time and the session was ably conducted by guest leader Jane Cavazos, an expert on the topic of General Ulysses S. Grant. Since the book is over 800 pages long, the members decided to divide discussion into two months—December and January. Jane reported that the December session was an energetic “Grant love-fest,” and was excited to come back and finish the book with members. The January session was equally as lively.

The Mystery Book Club has grown to about sixteen members. They met the third Thursday in December (rather than their usual 4th Thursday) due to the holidays. Their selection for the month was *A Fine Summer’s Day* by Charles Todd, part of the Inspector Rutledge series set in the World War I era.

Karen continues to do her two outreaches. The Book Club at the Village of the Incarnate Word read *Widow’s Tears* by Susan Wittig Albert, a book with more than a little of the paranormal, set during the 1900 Galveston hurricane. Her Kenwood Community Center folks did a selection of several adult coloring pages chosen for the holiday season.

October continued with the regular weekly Baby Time, Toddler Time and Story Time programs offered by Children’s Librarian Jasmin Salinas. Baby Time and Toddler Time are offered on Fridays as a second session during the week, and attendance continues to rise. Baby Time especially continues to be popular as parents sing with their babies and listen to stories.

On October 17, Landa Library’s Tween Time began again with ten children between ages nine through twelve. The program was led by Library Assistant Rebekah Corely as they watched a movie, hung out, and did crafts together. Tween Time is a bimonthly program aimed at older kids and continues to draw regular, repeated attendance from several families.

Landa continues to offer bimonthly Lego and Art Time programs afterschool on Thursdays for families. Lego Time challenges have asked kids to build their own aliens or make something for their favorite superhero. Art Time still continues to develop, offering book illustrations, artists, and art styles as an inspiration point and letting the children and their parents have free time to just create together. Library Assistant Rebekah Corely led a recent Art Time where the children created paper sculptures that were particularly popular with families.

In October, Children’s Librarian Jasmin Salinas also attended the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children conference. Ms. Salinas attended several workshops to help build skills and develop ideas for enhancing her library programming. The best workshop she attended included some hands-on activities stressing how important play was for early childhood education.

Landa Boo 2 occurred on the Landa Library Grounds on Monday, October 30, to celebrate Halloween in a family fun style. Landa Library partnered with the Monte Vista Historical Association, the Landa Gardens Conservancy, and the Landa Friends of the Library to host the program. At the event there was an area for babies to play with toys, several activities for toddlers, and then multiple craft and sensory stations for school-aged children. This year we also added carnival games for the older kids and a puppet show put on by staff. Special performances included two magic shows by
Illusions by Blake and live music. Librarian Jasmin Salinas planned all the activities and crafts for the families with children. All the Landa staff helped run the event, but additional San Antonio Public Library Children's Librarians also helped at the event including Amy Roberts (Maverick), Carrie Vance (McCreless), Christine Deffendall (Memorial), Clair Larkin (Little Read Wagon), Crescencia Huff (Little Read Wagon), and Viki Ash. Around 275 people attended the event, and staff received positive feedback from both partners and families attending the event. One family, even as late as the week of Thanksgiving, was raving about the Landa Boo to her friends at the library talking about what a fun event with lots of great activities for families to do together.

Throughout November, Children’s program continued with weekly Baby, Toddler, and Story Times for children ages 0 to 5. Also, during the week of Thanksgiving, Landa hosted special programs including Come and Go Crafts, the Fall Play and Learn: All about Food, and Lego Time. Families really enjoyed having activities for children to do while not in school. Over fifty children and their grownups attended the Play and Learn event with the popular activities including the playdough pizza baking station and a baking soda and vinegar baking soda experiment.

Also in November, Children’s Librarian Jasmin Salinas and Circulation Attendant Guadalupe Rodriguez attended an Early Literacy Night at nearby Gonzalez Early Childhood Education Center. Thirty-five families stopped by to talk to us about the library events, early literacy tips, and to sign up for library cards.

In December, Ms. Salinas continued with programs including a special Winter Wonderland story time party. The children pretended to make and bake cookies, sell warm hot chocolate, build a snowman, and play in faux snow. While program attendance was light on the day it snowed in San Antonio, three families made it out to Baby Time at Landa where we read books about snow together. During the last two weeks of December, Ms. Salinas continued special programming for children outside of school with Lego Clubs, a Board Game Family Time, Come & Go Crafts, and a Playdough Family Fun.

In January, programs began again with Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Story Time every week. Lego Time continues to be a staple bimonthly with new challenges every week. Tween Time continues to be small, but with a community of tweens that really enjoy coming to the library to hang out together. The New Year kicked off with a craft project led by Library Assistant Rebekah Corely.

Ms. Salinas also will regularly offer Come & Go Crafts for families on Friday afternoons for the Winter Session. Also in January, Ms. Salinas began Minecraft Club for kids again with great success. Ms. Corely led the kids in a Minecraft building challenge that saw parents and their children working together to conquer. As a new Early Literacy program, Ms. Salinas designated some Wednesday afternoon drop-in play times for families to enjoy at Landa. The first focused on Things that Go with children building bridges and tunnels and hospitals/cityscapes. The next week focused primarily on building with multiple building materials offered. Children enjoyed building the tallest structure possible and knocking it down.

LAS PALMAS
On November 27, Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier had a tree-themed Family Fun. Librarian Frazier read children stories about trees and discussed the different types of trees. Children and their families painted tree crafts and created a tree collage.

On Wednesday, November 29, Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier went to Wrenn Middle School during Literacy Night to promote tween and teen programs at the Las Palmas Library.

On Monday, December 4, Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier had a Touch and Feel sensory-themed Family Fun. Children and their families made slime and learned some of the scientific principles behind slime’s structure. In addition, children and their families did challenges with play dough, kinetic sand like material, Legos, and slime. Children enjoyed taking home the slime and kinetic sand projects.

On Saturday, December 8, Las Palmas celebrated the upcoming Star Wars movie release with the program Star Wars: The Library Awakens for all ages. It began with a screening of Star Wars: The Force Awakens, followed by multiple Star Wars crafts, including paper bag puppets of BB-8, Chewbacca, and Yoda as well as Star Wars landscapes, all coordinated by Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier. Teen Librarian Connie Hejl had multiple games in the meeting room, including a Storm Trooper shooting range and Star Wars Wii games. Library Assistant Elvia Ramos created Star Wars themed buttons for all participants in the events. Star Wars themed treats were provided with the generous support of the Las Palmas Friends. Patrons dressed up in Star Wars costumes and as themselves, and posed before a green screen to have their pictures taken with a variety of Star Wars backgrounds. The Library had approximately 50 patrons attend the event.

On Wednesday, December 13, Las Palmas Library celebrated winter Polar Express style. The Family Fun night started with every patron getting a gold Polar Express sticker ticket. Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier read The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg and afterwards the Polar Express movie was shown. Other activities included crafts such as making snowflakes with coffee filters, making snowflake ornaments with sequins, and creating artificial snow balls and snow men. The children also made ornaments of snow men, trees, and stars using sequins, glitter, glue, craft sticks, and markers. While children watched the movie or participated in other actives they could receive a hot chocolate with marshmallows, complemented by cookies they themselves decorated with icing and sprinkles. Children and their families enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus. Teen Librarian Connie Hejl set up the green screen so the families could take pictures with Santa Claus. Forty-seven people enjoyed this event.

During the final weeks of December 2017, Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier set out additional Come & Crafts in the children’s area. The crafts provided activities for the multiple school holidays and the children who came at different times throughout the day. Crafts included paper bag puppets, winter collage trees, snowflakes, and glitter ornaments.

On Thursday, January 4, Las Palmas Library welcomed children from the A2Z Learning Center. The children came in two groups with older and younger children. Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier and Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez gave a tour of the Children’s Area, helped them find

Community Connections  STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)  Educational & Learning Opportunities  Employee CORE Values (Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism)  Workforce & Economic Prosperity
books and other material, and showed them how to use the children’s computers. The children learned how to get a library card and different ways that they could use the library. The children also did a craft of creating snowmen faces. Children were told they could come back to the library to a similar Come & Go Craft on Friday.

On Monday, January 8, families came for Family Fun: Paint Night. Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier helped children used different mediums (tempera paint, water color paint, construction paper, butcher paper, craft paper, paint brushes, sponges, and rollers) to create art projects. In addition to creating their own artwork, children learned about different artists and art techniques. Children were able to mix colors with sensory color bottles as well as mixing colors through their art projects. Children made paintings as large as four feet long.

The Children’s Department at Las Palmas Library is participating in Our Family Reads: The Mayor’s Book Club. The theme for January 2018 is unity and children and their families are helping to create a mural to display in the Children’s Area. The Mayor’s Book Club is promoted in January’s children’s programs though such activities as a Lego challenge during Lego Time, a craft in Bilingual Story Time, and an art challenge during Family Fun.

Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier has started to weed the Children’s Area. Weeding of the children’s collection has not been done for more than a year. Library Assistant Elvia Ramos created a list of easy books that have not circulated in more than three years. The weeded books have been declared missing, discarded because of condition, are in the process of being distributed to other SAPL branches, and the remaining items are going to the Central Library’s Book Cellar.

Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier did outreach and was asked to be one of the judges for the Spelling Bee at Las Palmas Elementary, in which 16 children competed. The audience included all classes from the 4th and 5th grades.

On December 16, Las Palmas patrons were treated to the sounds of the season with the choir from San Juan De Los Lagos. Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez coordinated the annual holiday concert.

On December 21, San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble performed holiday music for brass instruments for those present at Las Palmas.

MAVERICK

The Ladies’ Choice Book Club met on Saturday December 16. The Lady Mav’s Book Club met on Tuesday, January 9.

Country Commons Homeowners Association met at Maverick Library on Thursday, December 7.

The Maverick Chess Club met on every Monday afternoon. On Tuesday December 5, a basic financial workshop and a Medicare Q&A program were both provided. On Wednesday, December 13, a
basic dental hygiene program was available. A harmonious harp and flute performance was held on Saturday, December 9. Amy Roberts, Laura Lopez, and Elise Garcia organized a great puppet show on Saturday, December 9.

Children’s Librarian Amy Roberts continues to do three additional story times a week at the Igo Library, in the absence of a children’s librarian at that location. Ms. Roberts appreciates the Igo staff that helps her set up and hand out tickets for programs.

During November and December, Ms. Roberts conducted some special programs at the Maverick Library. On November 27, Ms. Roberts conducted the Food Play & Learn early literacy program for 52 parents and children. Ms. Roberts was part of the committee that created this successful program. On December 11, Ms. Roberts conducted a Winter Wonderland party for her preschool story times. The kids loved the “snow” sensory station and also enjoyed frosting cookies.

Ms. Roberts continues to serve on the Children’s Round Table 2x2 Committee via the Texas Library Association. On January 5 and 6, she was in Houston with her committee to narrow down hundreds of books to the 20 that will be on the final list.

During the reporting period, Ms. Roberts was able to complete weeding the Juvenile Fiction collection and the Juvenile Magazine collection. In addition, she completed and presented EPE’s for three part-time circulation attendants and one part-time library assistant.

Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl coordinated seven Teen Time programs and welcomed a new TLLC volunteer during the reporting period. Maverick Teens made gingerbread houses, tile coasters, 3D snowflakes and sang karaoke. They played several board games and spontaneously created their own Pictionary game. Maverick Friends of the Library generously provided the ingredients for hot dogs, fresh baked cookies, grilled cheese, chips, salsa & bean dip, hot chocolate, popcorn, and pancakes.

Librarian Pat King and Ms. Bleichwehl assembled a tribute display after the passing of beloved author Sue Grafton.

McCRELESS

Families visiting McCreless Library during December had two passive programs to choose from in the children’s area: Librarians Carrie Vance and Ashley Stubbs created an art board for patrons to decorate run-away gingerbread men and other characters from books based on that tale; and the second option was a dramatic play Cookie Shop where patrons of all ages baked, decorated, and sold their creations to willing participants. Children loved this so much, that the cookie shop is enjoying a longer stay at McCreless with plans for other pretend food sale shops underway.

Teens at McCreless have enjoyed their weekly Teen Time. Library Assistant J.D. Elizondo assisted during the month by bringing his Eclectic Electric music program. Teens had fun playing with the musical instruments. In addition, various crafts such as paper snowflakes, paper airplanes, and...
bookmarks were offered by Librarian Marisa DeBow for those teens not interested in the music or gaming.

On December 11, Library Assistant Al Chavez presented a workshop on decorative origami boxes. Participants learned to fold beautiful decorative origami boxes that can be used for small gifts and Christmas tree ornaments.

The branch’s monthly book club met in both December and January. New faces joined the discussion in December and returned in January. In December, the book *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez was discussed, which prompted a lively discussion on the topic of immigration. In January, the discussion was lighter as participants read and discussed *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett.

Beginning on January 7, Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales is offering Tech Help and eReader Clinics for two hours on Sunday mornings. Patrons can sign up for thirty minute sessions to get one-on-one help with their mobile or eReader devices. Mr. Gonzales helps patrons learn to use their mobile device, tablet, or new laptop in conjunction with downloading digital content (such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, and movies) from SAPL.

On January 13, Forester’s Financial presented a workshop on credit and debt management. Participants learned about topics such as what is credit, what is a credit report, what is the difference between good and bad credit, avoiding bad credit, and rebuilding credit.

Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales continues to facilitate McCreless’s monthly movie time on Sunday afternoons. This program is highly enjoyed by those that participate.

MEMORIAL

Children’s Librarian Christine Deffendall attended and completed coursework for the Spanish Level I class at UNAM where she earned a grade of 94.5%.

Mrs. Deffendall narrated a Dial-A-Story for the week of December 4. Her selection was *I took the Moon for a Walk* by Carolyn Curtis.

During the winter break for Edgewood ISD and SAISD Mrs. Deffendall screened a number of movies.

Mrs. Deffendall assisted Johnston Branch by providing LIC services on January 12.

Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Davila coordinated enrollment services for ACA, Medicare and Chip services on four consecutive weekends at the branch.

Ms. Davila assisted with hosting an information table in the public area from UT Health San Antonio for the prevention of cancer.

The branch held Hour of Code during the month of December. The Hour of Code is a global event and the branch’s meeting room was filled to capacity with both adults and teens in attendance. Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Davila made the arrangements and Circulation Attendant Michelangelo Sosa conducted the event.
Ms. Davila promoted the SAPL wellness program by attending an outreach program at Woodlawn Gym where she did shadow training for a boot camp class.

Ms. Davila coordinated and assisted Central library with the presentation of Dr. Westermann in observance of the Holocaust: Learn and Remember programs.

Ms. Davila arranged hosting the photography exhibit of Ms. Madeline Hernandez. The artists’ works are currently on display around the library.

On December 21, Memorial Branch was represented by Teen liaison Rene Leija at the 2018 planning meeting with Barrio Network.

Mr. Leija coordinated board games in the Teen area during the holiday season.

Mr. Leija arranged the screening of the movie Krampus. Teen patrons enjoyed the movie.

Mr. Leija screened the movie Captain America, The First Avenger for teens to enjoy.

Circulation Attendant Michelangelo Sosa screened the movie The 100 for teens to enjoy due to early release by EISD.

Amigos Friends of the Memorial Branch Library treated staff to a holiday luncheon with Bill Miller providing the meal.

The Branch continues to offer Adult Coloring to ease stress and just enjoy the coloring process. Patrons enjoy sitting in the open area and contribute to the pages already on display by coloring them and either taking them home or leaving them for display purposes.

Branch Manager Maria Gonzales attended the LLT luncheon and farewell reception for retiring PSA Kate Gray at Spaghetti Warehouse.

The Branch Manager attended an Excel Training class as part of SAPL training opportunities.

The branch hosted a “Lighting of the Tree” ceremony held inside the library. The tree, chocolate chip cookies, and hot chocolate were provided courtesy of City of San Antonio Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales.

In observance of the Holocaust: Learn and Remember, the branch screened the movie The Monuments Men.

MISSION
For this period, Mission Library continued with children’s programming guided by Megan Feeley in the absence of a children’s librarian.

Mission Library has recently added a K-Pop program for teens, in which teens can listen to Korean Pop music and make K-Pop inspired crafts. The branch continued with its 14 monthly teen activities, including Teen Time, Video Game Club, Anime Club, and cooking and art classes. This month, Mission teens participated in arts projects to celebrate the winter holidays including paper snowflake making, ornament decorating, and dreidel making.

On the first Saturday of December, Mission Library had a San Antonio Public Library naming committee public hearing for the Mission Library meeting rooms.

Mission Library provided meeting room space for a three-day National Park Service Regional Managers’ meeting. At the end of the three days, as a sign of goodwill, the NPS managers donated a box of books related to parks and nature to the branch.

Mission Library had a very well-attended Table Tennis Winter tournament where participants got to exercise and have fun for a few hours. Medals were awarded to the best players.

The San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble was at Mission Library on December 21 to perform holiday classics for library patrons. Their performance was the highlight of the day.

PAN AMERICAN

Children’s Librarian Valerie Shelley kept busy with outreach to area schools for STEAM and Literacy nights. She got caught in the snowfall returning from one school. Valerie also makes monthly visits to daycare centers and holds Toddler Time at the branch.

The Branch hosted a Winter Wonderland program, with a mariachi group from Harlandale and Leal middle schools playing festive music and delighting the crowd with quips about why they joined the mariachi group. After the music, everyone enjoyed hot chocolate, donuts, and cookies. Children were treated to snow made from baking soda and hair conditioner. The snow was actually cold and looked like real snow. Teen liaison Lisa Leandro had a games set up for older kids. More than 85 people attended the program.

In January, Valerie hosted the monthly meeting of children’s librarians at Pan American.

Kids and grownups got ready for the holiday season by making holiday cards. Circulation Attendant Patricia Severson facilitated the event.

SAPL Trustee Margarita DeLeon met with Pan American staff to talk about how the branch has changed over the years and what can be done to prepare for the future. Ms. DeLeon toured the facility and learned about the upcoming renovations.
Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin kicked off the New Year by offering an adult coloring program. Intricate coloring sheets were handed out and colored pens and pencils were available. All the while, soft music played in the background. Sherrie will offer the program on the second Tuesday of the month through May.

Lisa met with 14 McCollum High School students when she made an outreach visit to the school. Valerie talked to 96 children when she participated in Vestal Elementary School’s Literacy Night.

Pan American has a new visitor, Sunny; a mixed breed dog that will stop by the library once a month so children can read to him. Sunny replaces Roxie, who retired late last year, and who was very popular with young readers.

The Branch has been a good place to catch a free movie, too. Several holiday stories were viewed in December, and in January, Pan American showed *The Monuments Men* as part of SAPL’s Holocaust: Learn & Remember.

PARMAN

During the reporting period, all weekly programs for children, teens, and adults at Parman continued as scheduled with steady attendance.

In December, Branch Manager Barbara Kwiatkowski was able to create a new partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation as part of its Fitness in the Park program and brought yoga and Pilates classes to Parman. The first class was attended by 25 participants.

On December 2, Parman hosted its first Multicultural Winter Festival - a community celebration of the winter holidays around the world. This program, presented mostly by local teens and young adults, was a huge success! Nineteen countries were represented, sharing traditions, crafts, and entertainment. Over 750 people visited the event. Brad Parman and his family and Library Board Trustee Marcie Ince also enjoyed the festivities. The official opening of the annual Parman Winter Walk also took place during the festival.

The Friends of Parman Library held a re-invigoration meeting on December 9. New members were introduced and new officers (president, secretary and treasurer) were elected. Parman Branch Library is looking forward to working with the Friends group.

On December 14, Parman hosted Winter Wonderland! Presenters of all children’s programs, with the help of the whole team and volunteers, created an unforgettable annual event for kids age 0 to 12. Children were able to play games, do crafts, visit with Santa Clause, and enjoy wintery snacks! Games included a snowman stacking activity, a bean-bag toss, a snow-shoveling and jingle bells sensory bin, and a snowball fight using huge pompom balls. Children completed three crafts, including a snowman pompom launcher, a wintery headband, and a fun three-dimensional Christmas tree. Almost all participants of weekly story times attended the event which received rave reviews from all attendees.
On December 19, Parman hosted a holiday ukulele concert with music performed by the Ladies & Gents Ukulele Group from the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center. This delightful event was organized by Assistant Manager Gamini Haluwana.

The Parman Library held a reception for the Margo Gonzalez exhibit, “The New Beginning”, on January 13. The event attracted over 100 people. Ms. Gonzalez’ art was brought to the library by Barbara Kwiatkowski, and Parman will be hosting the exhibit until mid-February.

POTRANCO

With the help of the entire Team, Children’s Librarian Robin Alcorta designed and implemented Potranco's community holiday celebration. More than 100 children and adults turned up on December 9 to enjoy activities and fun. The event celebrated the idea of snowshoes, ice skates, fast sleds, and warm mittens. The program not only brought out community members, Potranco Friends of the Library members and a few Teen volunteers also came in to help ensure success.

In January, Ms. Alcorta launched a new STEAM Time program in which kids learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math through scientific demonstrations and hands-on exploration. Thirty five attendees stopped by to check out the new program series. Everyone expects this to gain attention since the folks present had only good things to say about the idea.

Potranco Librarian Kassandra Vela-Laosa who oversees programming for local Tweens has developed a strong relationship with Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) coordinator Chinatsu Oku. JOI, based at UTSA’s East Asia Institute, visited the kids at Tween Time and taught Japanese calligraphy. Tweens learned basic strokes and how to write their names in Japanese calligraphy. Since then, Ms. Vela-Laosa negotiated more programming for the kids with Chinatsu Oku. She finds that American Tweens and their Japanese counterparts enjoy many of the same toys and games. The activities Oku and Ms. Vela-Laosa are designing have been embraced by the children and have completely captivated their attention.

After hearing parents fret about the lack of cursive handwriting training in schools, Ms. Vela-Laosa was inspired to host a “Learn Cursive!” program in January. Tweens used fountain pens, which tend to require less pressure, and therefore are easier than pencils or ballpoint pens to practice cursive lettering.

More than 30 community members attended Forester Elementary’ s Literacy Night in December. Librarian Kassandra Vela-Laosa was there to ensure everyone was reminded how easy and important it is to obtain San Antonio Public Library cards. Many card applications were taken and many questions were answered. Potranco Branch is happy to bring the Library to the people when the people can’t get to the Library.

Potranco Branch Manager Cindy Pope hosted First Thursday Book Club to a growing group of adults. In December, attendees of the club read and discussed *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold. When
the club met again in January for a discussion of Yes Please by Amy Poehler the crowd had doubled in size.

On January 2, Circulation Attendant Raquel Reyes stepped up to host Game Night for the local grownups when the person scheduled to host the program fell ill. It was a small crowd but Ms. Reyes made sure the adults in the community knew we are committed making sure programs stay in place.

Library Aide Alexander Cantrell put his talents into high gear during the holidays. In addition to the eye-catching displays he typically makes every month, Mr. Cantrell agreed to help train two new teen volunteers. Mr. Cantrell schooled the new volunteers in the art of shelf reading. Shelf reading is an exercise to ensure books are in proper Dewey Decimal or alphabetical order. Potranco has an impressive circulation count for a branch its size. There are bound to be a few mistakes when so many materials come and go. The new volunteers have helped the Potranco team ensure any innocent mistakes are caught and items are put in perfect order! Expect to see Alex Cantrell’s name in future reports. Mr. Cantrell has been working with Potranco Branch Manager Cindy Pope to develop programming for college-aged community members.

If Potranco were to have a monthly MVP award it surely would have gone to Circulation Attendant Raquel Reyes. Regularly, Ms. Reyes ensures the Potranco Flickr page is supplied with photos of the community enjoying a program or resource at the library. She designs colorful relevant displays that most often engage the creativity of the entire Potranco staff. She often brainstorms program ideas and is always on the lookout for opportunities. During this past month, a beloved regular patron told the team she would be moving out of the area. The patron offered to donate some craft supplies. Little did the team know, Potranco Branch Library would be receiving more than ten boxes of fun do-dads and bobbles. Ms. Reyes sorted through every box, organizing and inventorying the new treasures. As she sifted through the goods, she brought specific items to the attention of Potranco programming personnel with suggestions on how the items could be used for the different age groups. Ms. Reyes was even inspired during the large task to collect a few items to put aside for team building activities. Potranco Branch Manager Cindy Pope liked the ideas so much that Ms. Reyes was tasked with prepping the first exercise for the team’s next monthly meeting. Among all of Raquel Reyes’ contributions during the past month, the most impressive was her participation at the Staff Art and Talent Show. Ms. Reyes submitted two charming photographs for display. She also danced with the Book Cart Drill Team which was a big hit with audience members.

The New Year brought the installation of a Friends of the Potranco Branch Library book sale cart. Friends of the Potranco Branch Library President Cheryl Whelan and her committed group worked together to bring quality new and used books to the Potranco community at an affordable price. The Potranco Team is very thankful to have this group of people advocating for the Library.

PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

Children’s Librarian Cynthia Saenz and the school librarian from Camelot Elementary collaborated to provide another successful book club meeting with a group of eager fourth graders. Club-Read-a-Lot members offered up a variety of opinions and viewpoints while discussing Jack Gantos’
popular selection *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. The students also enjoyed a gingerbread cookie treat made with molasses similar to the molasses pie discussed in the book.

During December’s meeting of the tween’s Family Circle Book Club, members expressed how very much they enjoyed reading the Newbery Medal selection *The War that Saved My Life*, a deeply moving story about a young girl experiencing many hardships during World War II. What a rewarding experience, to take part in a book club comprised of three generations – daughters, mothers, and a grandmother all sharing their love of reading!

Children and families visiting during the winter break had a great time making all kinds of Christmas, New Year’s, and winter crafts. Kids and parents joined in on the fun making ornaments, twirling snowmen, and 2018 New Year’s hats. Families also went away with books from the displays so that children could continue reading during the winter school break.

Kids attending Kids’ Time on Tuesdays look forward to celebrating National Hat Day in January with a reading of Andrea Beaty’s *Happy Birthday Madame Chapeau* about a famous hat maker who makes one-of-a-kind hats. Children will also have an opportunity to construct their own, original hat.

Teen patrons ended 2017 by making traditional and non-traditional ornaments using Perler beads and an iron. Most teens followed the patterns or templates provided, such as Christmas trees and stockings, while others made designs from scratch. The finished ornaments included unicorns, monsters, video game characters, and more. During the final teen program of the year, teens enjoyed watching *The Charlie Brown Christmas Special* while sipping on cocoa and nibbling on Christmas tree-shaped Little Debbie cakes. This program has become an annual tradition at the branch.

The New Year means “new teens”-- new teen library volunteers that is. Teen Library Volunteer Orientation took place the first week in January, and six teens attended. Before the teens can assume their volunteer duties in the library, they must pass all eleven levels of the sorting and shelving game hosted on the University of Texas at Austin’s School of Information’s website.

The TGIF Book Group for Adults met twice in December. The first reading selection was the bestseller *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult, a fictional story focusing on the issues of racial prejudice and social justice in America. During the second meeting, patrons shared a wide variety of self-selected books they had recently read. Librarian Dee Dee Davenport took notes during the discussion and compiled an annotated bibliography to share at the next book group meeting.

A dozen patrons attended a Wednesday Evening Cinema screening of *Selma*, a historical drama chronicling the 1965 voting rights marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other influential figures of the civil rights movement. Some attendees told staff the movie inspired them to find out more about the movement. Additional resources were available to all patrons via a book and movie display about Dr. King’s life and legacy.

In response to patron interest, Pruitt Branch added new adult crafting sessions to the program calendar. In one recent program, attendees created beautiful gift bags for holidays and other special occasions. Patrons were inspired to mix and match a variety of materials such as doilies, buttons, and
washi tape to customize the gift bags for family and friends. In another session called Hats for Cats (and Dogs, too!), participants learned how to use round looms, crochet picks, and yarn to make pet hats in honor of Dress Up Your Pet Day on January 14. Twenty people and three service dogs attended this four-hour come-and-go craft session.

Thirty-eight children, teens, and adults competed in the Pruitt Community Chess Tournament sponsored by the Rackspace Foundation. The foundation generously provided lunches, trophies, and medals. The tournament was an exciting four-round competition that drew dozens of spectators.

SAN PEDRO

Children’s Librarian Betsy Dalton presented monthly story times to children at Educare Child Care Center (two classes), Monte Vista Montessori (two classes), and Laurel Heights Weekday School (two classes). Fifteen to twenty books were also delivered to each child care/preschool class for their use during the month. Monte Vista and Laurel Heights request thematic books for topics they will be discussing in their respective classes and the teachers are very appreciative to this enrichment to their curriculum.

Minecraft Monday continues and Kids Time on Wednesdays has been converted to a weekly LEGO® Club. Attendance at both programs has increased.

Toddler Time continued during this reporting time with a small but very loyal group.

Ms. Dalton hosted nine book clubs for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. These schools include Monte Vista Montessori, Kipp Poder, St. Anthony’s School, and two SAISD schools: Hawthorne Academy and Beacon Hill Elementary. She also assists the facilitator of the book club at the Advanced Learning Academy by helping her select and obtain appropriate books.

Branch staff also facilitated Come and Go craft programs during the winter holidays. Patrons were also able to play with floor puzzles and board games. Staff was happy to host twenty-eight patrons for the programs!

SCHAEFER

For the Hour of Code week in December, Schaefer Library had a coding program for kids presented by Youth Code Jam. Participants learned to code their own Google Doodles!

The fall session of children’s programs concluded in mid-December. Story Time and Toddler Time participants heard stories and sang songs about owl, cars, and bears.

Children’s Librarian Leslie Elsasser visited the Evelyn King Headstart on December 10 and January 6, and the Little Engine Learning Center on December 13 for her monthly outreach visits.

The Winter Wonderland party took place on December 19 for kids and their families. Kids had a variety of winter-themed activities to keep them busy during the two-hour party. A highlight of the party
was the snow – conditioner and baking soda mixed together – and the kids had a blast digging, building snowmen, and making snowballs. Library Assistant Sara Ramirez made an igloo out of cardboard boxes for the party, and the kids also played inside it with foam blocks. There were also two crafts and bean bag toss games. For a special treat, kids frosted cookies.

Science Time continued to offer STEAM exploration of new topics every other week. During the reporting period, Science Time had three meetings. On December 7, the Schaefer meeting room was transformed into a winter sensory lab. Budding scientists explored the five senses through interactive activity stations. They used their sense of sight to make holiday cards with white crayons and watercolors. They used their sense of smell to play a matching game with holiday scent bottles. Kids painted with sound using blindfolds and jingle bell paintbrushes. The sense of touch was explored through a sensory-friendly obstacle course with lots of different textures to touch and crawl through, such as bubble wrap, shredded paper, and sensory beads. Lastly, kids enjoyed the senses of smell and taste by baking some yummy holiday cookies.

On December 21, kids had a snowball fight with artificial snow made of coconut hair conditioner and baking soda. Kids also made ornaments and other trinkets out of Perler beads.

On January 11, kids transformed the meeting room into a robot racing obstacle course. Kids took turns learning how to navigate the Ollie robots, which are controlled using an app that can be downloaded to a tablet or smartphone. Kids utilized many different types of materials including blocks, straws and connectors, stuffed animals, and foam mats to create obstacles for the robots to travel through or knock over. At the end of the session, kids took turns racing their Ollie robots against each other.

Schaefer Library offered a variety of programs for children during their winter break from school. The programs included two days of Come & Go Crafts – one craft was a handmade thank you note and the other craft was a process-driven activity where kids could make anything they wanted out of the supplies provided. Two family-friendly movies were also shown – *Cars 3* and *The Emoji Movie*. Schaefer staff had also been collecting all shapes and sizes for about a month for a Box Building Bonanza. This program was offered on two days, and the kids had a great time building castles, houses, towers, tunnels, and anything else they could imagine with the boxes.

Winter programs for kids began in January with Toddler Time, Story Time, LEGO Time, Science Time, and Gaming for Kids as the weekly programs.

Teen Time activities were varied and included several themes throughout the reporting period. Anime Night found teens creating Perler bead accessories such as Pokémon key chains. For Tech Night, Youth Code Jam taught teens how to code Maker Bits. Teens used simple Java script blocks to code a rock, paper, scissors game on the Maker Bit circuit board. Teen Time also included a cooking program where teens baked sugar cookies using cookie cutters made with the 3D printer. Green screen holiday pics were also a part of the program. Teens also sang karaoke, participated in a Minute to Win It challenge, and had a fake snow ball fight in the teen room with cotton balls.

Youth Code Jam has agreed to continue their partnership with Schaefer Library. They facilitated two programs for teens during Winter break. A teen app lab and a Sphero robot coding program offered opportunities for teens to learn coding at the library.
Teen Services Librarian Cindy Cruz continues visiting STEM Early College High School’s afterschool program and presented to 40 teens in December. Students from STEM H.S. made bottle cap magnets and buttons during their monthly program.

For the first Teen Time of the year, Chinatsu Oku from UTSA’s East Asia Institute presented information on Japanese culture, school life, and food to 14 interested teens. Chinatsu then taught all Schaefer teens how to make sushi in this fun, interactive program.

On December 6, the Schaefer staff participated in a complimentary training courtesy of Forester’s Financial on Financial Wellness- a very hot topic as we approached the holiday season.

On December 23, the Schaefer branch hosted a family holiday movie showing of Almost Christmas with a full cookie buffet for all our customers. People of all ages joined us to share the holiday calories!

Monday nights at Schaefer, patrons gather for Chess Club. From 6 – 7:30 p.m., children and adults play friendly games of chess in Schaefer’s Community Flex Space. Patrons solve chess puzzles, observe historic chess matches, and learn the basics of strategy with Library Assistant Mason Matthews. Chess sets were provided by a generous donation from Dollar General.

Every other Thursday afternoon, Schaefer hosts the Kids Gaming Program. School-aged children gathered in the Mays Family Community Flex Space to play Wii U and Nintendo Switch games in an environment which promotes teamwork, friendly competition, and social interaction.

SEMMES

Kids and their grownups had a great time at the November 27 Play & Learn – Food, Glorious Food program. The 44 attendees enjoyed hearing stories and participating in activities about a favorite subject, food!

In December, Children’s Librarians Randi Jones and Brian Douglass presented the regular story times and Tween activities all month long.

Tuesday Teen Time has been seeing steady attendance from the same core group of teens. The teens enjoy playing both video games and board games during Teen Time.

The Semmes Yu-Gi-Oh! card game and trading group is still going strong. The group meets the first and third Sunday of each month. Participants enjoy playing the game and trading cards with other players.

The Classic Book group that meets at Semmes each month has decided to become The Classic Book and Film group. Starting in 2018, the group will read a classic novel and then watch the film adaptation. The group will discuss both the book and the film.
Library Assistant Melody Smith is now running the outreach book club at The Waterford senior living community on Thousand Oaks. Each month she visits the Waterford and the group discusses a book over lunch.

A new stitching group has started at Semmes. The Semmes Sunday Stitchers will meet every other Sunday. Anyone who does any sort of needlework is invited to come and join the group.

THOUSAND OAKS


Friday, December 8, the Thousand Oaks branch hosted the Food – Glorious Food! Play and Learn activity. It was followed on Monday, December 11, with Thousand Oaks’ Winter Wonderland festivities. The meeting room was decorated festively and kids got to play in “snow,” make winter hat and snowman cup crafts, decorate cookies with icing and sprinkles, and play a “snowball toss” game. There were also festive snacks served including hot cocoa, a “melted snowman” water station, Christmas cookies, and snowmen donuts.

During Christmas break, the Branch hosted three Family Holiday Movie programs – showing How the Grinch Stole Christmas, a double feature of Jack Frost and Rudolph’s Shiny New Year, and last but not least, Frozen.

Teens at Thousand Oaks discovered a new game that let them test their drawing and interpretation skills. Librarian Theresa Ybarra introduced the teens to a homemade version of the game Telestrations. The teens had so much fun playing it that they requested an encore night the next week. Teen favorites Perler beads and cookie decorating kept teens in the holiday spirit. To start the New Year, teens requested a session of creative expression, using water colors, markers, and glitter to create colorful collages of 2018 resolutions and aspirations.

For the month of December, the North East Senior Center and the Thursday Book Group held a joint meeting. The group met at the North East Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. for lunch then discussed a favorite or recent book each person had read. The titles read were varied and quite interesting. Each of the attendees had the opportunity to create their own beaded bookmark. Refreshments were provided.

Thousand Oaks hosted its 30th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. San Antonio Public Library Director Ramiro Salazar lead the celebration followed by the presentation of colors by the Boy Scouts. District 10 Councilman Clayton Perry and District 10 Library Board Member Linda Nairn also spoke. There were pastries, hot chocolate, and cake provided. The Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library set up a table featuring the items they have provided for the branch. Come and Go crafts were available for families to complete and take with them. Crafts included a decorated book mark, cozy winter hat, and commemorative tree. Teen Librarian JD Elizondo provided musical entertainment as did two carolers provided by the Marketing Department.

Community Connections ✅ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) ✅ Educational & Learning Opportunities ✅ Employee CORE Values (Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism) ✅ Workforce & Economic Prosperity
Thousand Oaks Library hosted a Holiday Movie Marathon on December 23. The Branch provided hot chocolate and popcorn to those that stopped in to watch one of the several holiday movies. The branch started the year by stoking nostalgia with a Saturday Morning Cartoon program. Patrons were treated to several different cereals and Pop Tarts while they watched cartoons from the 80’s and 90’s.

TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

Tobin Library celebrated the holidays with a family program called Tobin’s Winter Wonderland. Activities included ice fishing, snow, an ice castle, and cookie decorating. Activities were spread across the entire library with patrons of all ages joining in.

The Botanical Gardens requested that Librarian Karen Braeuler partner with them to have a library booth at their winter party. The booth proved to be very popular and had many visitors.

Children’s Librarian Karen Braeuler and Circulation Attendant Carmen Zarate worked together to hold a bilingual story time. The story time was very popular and those who attended enjoyed the program, so they will continue to have more in the future.

The weekly children’s Yoga Story Time continues to draw a crowd. Kids can hear a story and learn some basic yoga poses.

It was a musical holiday season at Tobin with both the Garner School Choir and the SA Youth Ensemble performing holiday music at the branch.

Tween programming by Librarian Kimberly Wygant included programs such as Gaming Time, Explorer’s Club, Cooking Club, and Wildcard Day. The tweens are really enjoying the programming and look forward to each week’s activity.

Tobin Library celebrated National Cocoa Day by offering hot chocolate to patrons who stopped by the reference desk.

Teen Librarian Megan Coker has been hosting Tobin Tofu, the anime manga group, once a month along with weekly teen events. Attendance was a little slow over the holidays but has picked back up since school has started again.

For the holidays, the teens had an ‘Unwrap a Good Book’ display where they could choose a wrapped book to take home to read. There was also a snowflake scavenger hunt. If the teens found a snowflake hidden in a book they could bring it to the desk for a treat.

Tobin provided assistance to the outreach effort for PAX South with Librarian Megan Coker attending to help with the booth.
The adult collection was weeded and shifted to keep the collection relevant and in good shape and to make more room for DVDs. Since they are the best circulating items, it is hoped this will help increase circulation.

Monthly adult programs such as the Cosplay Confab, the Tobin Writers Group, the Joss Whedon Fan Club, Voices de la Luna, and the Interesting Book Club continue to be popular, with the book club having its highest attendance ever in December.

Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse held a series of four holiday craft programs that were very popular. Even the weather got in on the action with the snow San Antonio received coinciding with the snowflake craft.

A series of monthly meditation classes taught by Liesl Schott began in January. There was good attendance for the first meeting and it is hoped that this will continue to grow.

WESTFALL

During January, Westfall Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services to the community. Many programs were holiday-themed and offered to all ages. In addition to many events hosted at the branch, the staff was also able to offer off-site services as well as outreach.

Children’s Librarian Imelda Merino planned and held a variety of children’s programs during the reporting period. Ms. Merino had a variety of holiday books on display for the children about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Additionally, Ms. Merino visited the Kinder Care Learning Center and took books themed on “Things that Go”. On December 9, Ms. Merino also attended a Christmas Festival at the Immaculate Conception church. The Children’s and Teen Librarians teamed up to hold a Winter Wonderland Party for children, parents, and teens on December 16. Everyone got to make a holiday-themed craft and hear some stories.

As always, the Westfall Branch offered weekly programs such as story time, baby time and toddler time. Additionally, the Branch hosted family fun on Saturdays. Ms. Merino always had an engaging story and fun activities for parents and children.

On December 13, Teen Librarian Daniella Toll hosted a speaker from Café College to talk to the teens about the services provided by the organization. Additionally, Ms. Toll visited the Whittier Middle School to promote upcoming programs and services at the Westfall Branch Library. To keep teens interested in reading while on holiday break, Ms. Toll created a “Winter Reads” display, highlighting various themed books for young adults.

As part of DreamWeek, Westfall Branch hosted a “New American Stories” program. The community was invited to tell and listen to stories of becoming an American and what it means to be a U.S. citizen.
During December, navigators for the Affordable Care Act were at Westfall to assist patrons with their insurance needs. To help branch staff keep those resolutions, Health Coaches from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas will be stopping by Westfall in January. The program meets for six weeks on every Wednesday and teaches staff more about nutrition and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The Westfall LEARN @ SAPL Center continued to be busy throughout the year. Over 200 people have stopped by the center for assistance with résumé writing, online job applications, and educational support. The English as a Second Language (ESL) class held every Saturday afternoon continued to be popular with the community and well attended. In November, LEARN @ SAPL offered a variety of computer classes that included Microsoft Word, Excel, online searching, and email basics.

Westfall Branch Manager Nathaniel Laubner continued to visit the Madonna SAHA apartments to deliver and pick up books for the residents. Mr. Laubner brought books in English, Spanish, and Russian. The Russian residents are the most avid readers and are always asking for new materials. We hope to one day have more foreign language titles in the collection, but until then we continue to search for other items.

During January, Circulation Attendant Priscilla Medina received a 25 years of service award. Ashley Cortinez, Library Aide, also received an award for five years of service with SAPL. Bo Craig, part time Library Assistant, was presented with an award for Professionalism and Customer Service by the Library Director. Ms. Craig was nominated for this award by a patron who was grateful for her outstanding customer service.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY
KEY INDICATORS

DECEMBER 2017
FY 2018

Presented below are key indicators that align with the Library’s Strategic Plan, with a comparison to FY 2017.

**CIRCULATION: GOAL**

7,340,000
TOTAL FY GOAL

FYTD GOAL 97% OF FYTD GOAL MET

**CIRCULATION: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

1,679,804
ITEMS BORROWED
↓ 2%

**LIBRARY VISITS: GOAL**

5,600,000
TOTAL FY GOAL

FYTD GOAL 88% OF FYTD GOAL MET

**LIBRARY VISITS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

1,160,572
VISITS
↓ 22%*

*Presidential election last fiscal year

**DIGITAL ACCESS: GOAL**

2,500,000
TOTAL FY GOAL

FYTD GOAL 91% OF FYTD GOAL MET

**DIGITAL ACCESS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

137,423
COMPUTER HOURS

405,651
HOURS OF WI-FI USE

543,074
TOTAL HOURS OF COMPUTER & WI-FI USE
↓ 10%
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS
DECEMBER 2017 (continued)

USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

CIRCULATION BY TYPE
- DIGITAL: 19%
- PHYSICAL: 81%

CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA
- COSA: 78%
- BEXAR COUNTY (OUTSIDE COSA): 22%

VIRTUAL VISITS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

- MYSAPl.ORG VISITS: 612,379
- MYSAPL APP SESSIONS: 206,657
- SANANTONIO.OVERDRIVE.COM VISITS: 420,763

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

- TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 85,879
- ADULT PROGRAMS: 18,993
- TEEN PROGRAMS: 11,615
- CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS: 55,271

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

FALL 2018 PLAY & LEARN “FOOD, GLORIOUS, FOOD!”

- PROGRAMS: 30
- ATTENDEES: 868
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Circulation includes Digital (OneClick and Overdrive) and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt.
## November 2017 Key Indicators

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Circulation includes Digital (OneClick and Overdrive) and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt.
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1/17/2018
## San Antonio Public Library
### November 2017 Programs and Attendance

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**TOTAL**                   | **1,383**       | **376** 249 758   | **24,313** 4,146 4,188 | **15,979**               |                         |                               |
San Antonio Public Library

Location Closures

FY 18: Central Oct 28 at 3pm
FY 17: Landa Jun 5 – Sep 20, SAPL System Aug 26-27, Cortez Sep 16 * Openings: Potranco Nov 4, Schaefer Mar 25
FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1 - Jan 12

Circulation

01/17/2018
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San Antonio Public Library

Visits

Location Closures

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FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1 - Jan 12
San Antonio Public Library

Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Dec 2017

Central
Parman
Igo
Cody
Semmes
Brook Hollow
Pruitt
Tobin
Potranco
Great NW
Westfall
Mission
McCreless
Encino
Maverick
Landa
Las Palmas
Johnston
Guerra
Schaefer
Cortez
Pan American
Thousand Oaks
Memorial
Bazan
Collins Garden
Carver
Forest Hills
San Pedro
Library Portal

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*Combined measure of Public Computers Hours of Use and Wi-Fi Hours of Use

Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use