San Antonio Public Library Director’s Report
January 2019

Latino Collection and Resource Center’s Lucha Library program at the Central Library, December 14, 2018
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DIRECTOR’S OFFICE

On Monday, January 7, 2019, Mayor Nirenberg delivered remarks during an opening reception for the Holocaust: Learn and Remember program series. Through the month of January 2019, the Library and the San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum have partnered together to offer public programs on the Holocaust within the theme of Resistance with a focus on the many forms of resistance took under the Nazi regime. The reception took place at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Interim TCI Director Razi Hosseini met with Councilwoman Ana Sandoval on Thursday, January 3, 2019 to discuss the upcoming 2017 Bond Community Input Meeting at the Forest Hills Branch Library. The Library is coordinating with Councilwoman Sandoval’s Office on the logistics for the community input meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the Forest Hills Branch Library.

Four Library locations will serve as an Early Voting site for the Special Election for the Texas House District 125, vacated by newly appointed County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez. Early Voting is scheduled to begin on Monday, January 28 through Friday, February 8, 2019. Election Day is February 12, 2019. The libraries serving as Early Voting sites are: Great Northwest Branch Library, Las Palmas Branch Library, Maverick Branch Library and Memorial Branch Library.

MARKETING

Top media hits for the past month:

- SAPL Holocaust Learn and Remember Opening Reception drew an audience of 35 people and also attention from media, including Spectrum News, News4, Telemundo, 1200 WOIA News and NowCast. Express News highlighted this program by making it the centerpiece cover for their Faith section which appeared in print on Sunday 1/13/18. Texas Public Radio also invited the SAPL Team to join them on their daily one-hour call-in talk show: “The Source” to be aired on January 17.
- Express News featured an article about SAPL’s 6th million digital download and digital resources which ran in print on December 25. SAPL Marketing shared the news on Facebook and can report overall positive feedback and support from the community with 57 shares, 16,685 users reached and had 270 user reactions (likes and loves).
- Luchas Libros had impressive media coverage with live news appearances on KABB and WOAI totaling six on air appearances and mentions; 12 online new mentions and stories including TPR (plus online video coverage); Yule Ball was live news appearances on KABB and WOAI; 9 online news mentions including a KSAT story.

The design team created materials to prepare for several programs, events and other design support: LiBEERy Trivia night materials; Gil Dominguez author events materials; Valentine / SAPL statistics campaign; Martin Luther King Jr. digital displays; Black History Month materials; December and January newsletters; Dream Week materials; 6 million OverDrive downloads campaign graphics; Pop Con event materials; Mini Maker Faire event materials; Mission City Film Festival materials; McCreless, Forest Hills and Las Palmas bond meeting materials; Every Child Ready to Read brochure and posters; DIY U
materials; Symphony at SAPL materials; Texana sign for MLK parade; The Holocaust Learn and Remember: Resistance gallery display and event series materials; Stan Lee social media graphics; Lucha Libros event materials and signage; Yule Ball event materials and signage; Meet the Author and Artist David Martin & Hector Garza graphics; and Play and Learn: Zoo Animals graphics.

The Team is currently planning for the Forest Hills and Las Palmas Community Informational Meetings, PopCon 2019, and Mini-Maker Faire.

Social Media fun facts for the reporting period:

- SAPL Marketing Team promoted the Yule Ball event through social media channels and were able to reach more than 71,000 users. This resulted in having over 550 guests attend the Yule Ball event held at Central library.
- SAPL Marketing Team promoted the Lucha Libros through social media and were able to reach more than 18,000 users and drew more than 460 attendees to the event.
- ALA shared and congratulated our Marketing team through Twitter – showcasing both SAPL and SAPL Marketing as industry leaders across their 183,000 follower base. Their tweet received 25 likes and 16 retweets.
- SAPL Marketing launched their first Instagram stories campaign for #StanLeeDay (12/28) which focused on our Marvel collection throughout Library branches. This campaign was seen by 371 Instagram users. SAPL Marketing strategically geared our users to the PopCon LibGuide, which spiked traffic to the page and event information.

Social Media statistics for the month:

1. Facebook: 16,859 fans
2. Twitter: 4,581 followers
3. Instagram: 3,146 followers

DIGITAL SERVICES

Digital Library Services Assistant Andrea Silva has recently resigned from the City of San Antonio. The Library and Digital Services specifically, greatly appreciate Miss Silva’s work and dedication. Andrea was a champion of the Library, reflecting its mission and vision every day she was an employee. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

The new public catalog experience, BiblioCore, is in its final development phase and staff training begins on January 23. BiblioCore provides an intuitive, user centric experience that modernizes how Library users interact with the Library’s collection of both physical and digital content. BiblioCore also provides an enhanced ability for staff to connect with users through a modern, social networking platform.

Digital Services staff has been actively involved in vendor demonstrations as part of the procurement process for the Library’s new Integrated Library System. Digital Services Coordinator, Ron Suszek along with Digital Library Services Supervisor Rolf Laun and Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson also worked to develop the script used by the vendors for the demonstrations.

Digital Services, in cooperation with the City’s Information Technology Services Department, will begin providing system wide digital scanning service next week. This service will be offered at no direct cost to users and will expand the Library’s ability to meet the growing and adapting needs of the community. A pilot implementation of fax service at select locations will follow shortly.
Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parent— In spite of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Little Read Wagon was able to fit in visits to several schools. Every Child Ready to Read workshops for parents were presented at the following elementary schools: Madison, Armstrong, Elolf, Huppertz, Woodlawn Hills, Harmony Hills, Southwest, Las Lomas, Hirsch, Foster, and Indian Creek. The Lackland Village Head Start and Bailey’s Babies Early Head Start centers also invited Little Read Wagon to present. A total of four presentations were made at Carroll Early Childhood Education Center. Administrators requested two topics presented in concurrent sessions in English and Spanish.

Services to Pregnant and Parenting Teens— Clair Larkin coordinated a field trip for Harlandale Independent School District school age parents. The excursion including a visit to Northridge Park for Play & Learn, a tour of Central Library with assistance from Kate Sandoval and JD Elizondo, and a make-and-take workshop in the Latino Collection and Resource Center. The teens were especially excited about the Teen Library and the possibility of bringing their babies to Play & Learn at the Harlandale Community Center.

Workshops were also presented at the following high schools: O’Connor, Jefferson, Churchill, Jay, Burbank, Excel Academy, Marshall, and Roosevelt.

Outreach story time programs continued at Navarro Early Learning Center. Nurturing Hearts Early Learning Center received final visits by Little Read Wagon team members. The center has been served for several years, beginning before the Potranco Branch Library opened. Short-term story time visits were made to Inman Christian Center, St. John Bosco Child Develop Center, Carmelite Learning Center, and World of Knowledge.

Play & Learn— The Play & Learn series at Northridge Park was very well-attended, with additional families joining from the neighborhood and a Fit for Mom group. The start time for the series was delayed to 10:30AM to allow the exercise group to participate and take advantage of slightly warmer late morning temperatures.

Harlandale Community Center invited Little Read Wagon to offer an indoor Play & Learn series, which began January 8. The late afternoon series is convenient for families who have children in pre-k or other early learning programs. Activities have been modified or added to welcome older siblings. The first session was very energetic!

The Reading Village appeared for four afternoons at Nelson Early Childhood Education Center.

Workshops for Professionals— Elizabeth Huber presented at the November 17 Early Childhood Training hosted by VOICES for Children at Texas A&M San Antonio. Ms. Huber made her final presentation at the December 8 “Why? Using non-fiction books in early childhood settings” workshop. The Little Read Wagon team will miss her but wish her the best.

Julia Lazarin, with assistance from Mary Grace Moreno, presented another Early Literacy Basics workshop on January 5. On January 12 Ms. Larkin, Megan Cruz, and Cresencia Huff presented the “Why?” workshop, revised to reflect the change in presenters. Feedback received was very positive and included lots of enthusiasm for Library resources.

Building Connections— Ms. Larkin recorded a podcast for the Public Library Association as a follow-up to her recent Quick Reads digital publication, Teaching Early Literacy to Teen Parents. She
was interviewed about Little Read Wagon’s work with pregnant and parenting teens. FYI: The public libraries podcast is available on Soundcloud and iTunes.

System-wide support— December 8 was very busy for Central Library and the San Antonio Public Library system. Several Little Read Wagon team members were working to present the “Why?” workshop. The workshop was held in the auditorium, which already was decorated from the staff art show held the previous evening and in partial preparation for the Yule Ball. A Yule Ball committee member came to the team in search of a chalice for a crucial part of the celebration. While no ready-made chalice was available, the team worked quickly to craft a convincing stand-in using materials on hand.

Ms. Lazarin presented an abbreviated version of Early Literacy Basics for the Children’s Services team at their January meeting. The presentation was exceptionally well done and appreciated.

CHILDREN’S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Special Event: Middle East Book Awards— On Saturday, November 17 the winners of the 2018 Middle East Book Awards were announced at a public reception held at the Mission Branch Library. Children’s Services Coordinator Viki Ash worked with the Mission staff and the Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC) to host the event. In keeping with ongoing efforts to increase awareness of both the quality and diversity of literature available to children and teens, SAPL created a guide that includes current and previous winners of the Middle East Book Award.

Special Event: Plaza Guadalupe Community Christmas—On Wednesday, December 19 SAPL teamed with SAHA to distribute books at the Plaza Guadalupe Christmas event. Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez and Children’s Services Coordinator Viki Ash distributed free books to children waiting in line to visit with Santa. The books were provided by SAHA as part of their ongoing efforts to provide book-rich environments for children and teens living in subsidized housing.

Special Event: Symphony at SAPL—2019 marks the fifth year that SAPL has partnered with the San Antonio Symphony to bring a musician to each branch location during the winter and spring months. Since 2015, these programs have been held on Saturdays at 2:00 pm on a rotating schedule. The sessions expose library customers, young and old, to the sounds of classical music as well as the routines and requirements of professional musicianship. SAPL offers a sincere thank you to Jeremy Brimhall Director of Education and Community Engagement for the San Antonio Symphony for his continued support of this programming effort. A complete schedule of the Symphony at SAPL programs, which kicked off on Saturday, January 12, is available on the SAPL events calendar.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

SAHA Partnership—In partnership with the San Antonio Housing Authority and the U.S. Department of Housing’s "Book Rich Environment" initiative, Jennifer Velasquez (Teen Service Coordinator) and Viki Ash (Children’s Services Coordinator) distributed free books to children and teens at the annual "Pictures With Santa" event held by the Avenida Guadalupe Association in Plaza Guadalupe. More than 500 young people were thrilled to select a free YA or Children’s title provided through the SAHA/SAPL/HUD partnership. Sweetly, many of the children opted to proudly "show off" their new book in their picture with Santa.
Fiesta Youth/Partnership Programming—During the reporting period, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) met with Fiesta Youth teens at their weekly meetings to decorate holiday ornaments, host an open mic night, and create 2019 vision boards. Loaiza also met with Erica Alcocer (Youth Facilitator, Fiesta Youth) to continue discussions of partnership programming between the San Antonio Public Library and Fiesta Youth in 2019.

Fiesta Youth/Partnership Outreach—While partnership programs at library locations and Fiesta Youth meetings will remain a prominent focus, Loaiza and Alcocer are also investigating ways for Teen Services and Fiesta Youth to support each other at citywide outreach events throughout the year. During DreamWeek 2019, Fiesta Youth hosted the NOH8 Campaign Photo Shoot on January 12 and invited Teen Services to join them at the event as part of a community resource fair. Loaiza, Julia Pouliot (Teen Services Librarian, Encino), and Georgina Salinas (Teen Services Librarian/Assistant Manager, Bazan) spoke with teens and their families not only about teen services and programs, but also about the unique aspects of the partnership between Fiesta Youth and the San Antonio Public Library—such as the recent book donation from Fiesta Youth and past partner programs at libraries.

Teen Arts Fest Partnerships—During the reporting period, J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) visited directors at the McNay Museum and Say Si to discuss partnership opportunities with Teen Services for Teen Arts Fest 2019.

Off-Site Service—On November 17, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central), Emily Young (Teen Services Librarian I, Mission), and Cassandra Garza (Teen Services Liaison, Pan American) hosted two “Super Smash Bros.” Free Play booths for PokéFest SA. Teens and their families were able to stop by the booth to play and take a break from the convention, while also learning about teen programs, events, and services throughout the system.

Professional Development/System-wide Support—Led by Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central), the Teen Services Shared Resources (TSSR) Workgroup met virtually on November 26 to finalize details for the TSSR Request System project in order to meet the deadline of launching the project by the end of 2018. This project will help streamline requests for shared resources by Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons throughout the system. A big thank you goes out to Amy Rae Weaver (Teen Services Librarian I, Cody), Brian Douglass (Teen Services Liaison, Semmes), and Rebekah Corley (Teen Services Liaison, Landa) for their work on the TSSR project; as well as the many Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons who also helped pilot the program in its various iterations.

Once the TSSR Request System project became stable and usable, Loaiza met with Jennifer Velasquez (Coordinator of Teen Services) to discuss the integration of TSSR Request System project into a larger project—the creation of an online guide to provide assistance and support for Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons throughout the system. This guide provides a wealth of knowledge to assist Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons as they serve and advocate for teens throughout the city. Using a draft version of the guide that was created by other Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons, Loaiza updated or removed old content, added new and relevant content, incorporated easy access to important information such as upcoming meetings and workgroup assignments, and integrated the TSSR Request System. Loaiza will continue to work with Velasquez, as well as other Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons, to keep the guide up-to-date with the changing trends in Teen Services as well as provide static information regarding system-specific information. Another big thank you goes out to Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library...
@ Central), Mary S. Naylor (Manager, Forest Hills), Julia Pouliot (Teen Services Librarian, Encino), and Rebekah Corley (Teen Services Liaison, Landa) for their work on the guide.

Professional Development—Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons met on December 12 in the Teen Library @ Central for their annual holiday potluck meeting. Also during the reporting period, Teen Services Librarians met at Bazan Library on January 9 for their regularly scheduled professional development meeting. Georgina Salinas (Assistant Manager/Teen Services Librarian II, Bazan) provided a tour of the library for the group before the training and business meeting began.

During the reporting period, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) served on an interview panel for a Teen Services Librarian position.

System-wide Support—In preparation for the San Antonio Public Library’s second Pop Con event, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) met with Brandon Nelson (Founder, Bits to Bytes Gaming and Computer History Museum) to finalize plans for the Retro Game Museum. Loaiza gave Nelson a tour of the Latino Collection and Resource Center, which will house the Museum during Pop Con, and discussed various configurations for the gaming area as well as the museum area. Loaiza also worked with Angelus Delacroix (CEO/Founder, Hebi Studios) to finalize plans for the Indie Gaming area at Pop Con.

ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Author David Martin Davies and Artist Hector Garcia discussed their new comic “San Antonio: Secret History” in the LCRC at the Central Library. The book includes stories about protests, strikes, school walkouts, acts of unconscionable repression and bold cultural rebellion. David Martin Davies is a journalist and host of “The Source” on KSTX. Hector Garza is a San Antonio artist and fine arts instructor.

The Yule Ball was hosted at the Central Library on Saturday December 8 from 6 to 9pm. The Harry Potter inspired Yule Ball drew a crowd of close to 600 adults. They enjoyed live owls and other live animals, music and dancing, crafts, an escape room, and green screen photo op. Staff from across the system gathered at Central to make the program a success. Most patrons came dressed in Harry Potter robes and regalia or in formal wear.

The 7th annual Holocaust Learn and Remember series of programs started with a press conference at the Holocaust Museum of San Antonio. Mayor Ron Niremburg spoke as well as second generation Holocaust survivor Varda Ratner. Programs are scheduled throughout January and early February in almost every library location including lectures, musical performances, book discussion, and film screenings as well as an exhibit in the Central Gallery.

Emily Flores, Bazan Branch Learn Training Officer, has been chosen as the 2019 NTEN Digital Inclusion Fellow for San Antonio. Ms. Flores will travel to Portland for orientation and develop a project that will benefit Library patrons as part of the fellowship.

Coordinator of Services to Adult Haley Holmes gave a presentation to City of San Antonio retirees highlighting library services. Ms. Holmes also led a staff committee to organize the annual staff art show and reception in December.
Library Assistants Mary Elizabeth Fernandez, Judy Slaughter, and Ana Sandoval enchanted children and families with a Winter Wonderland party and décor for the Children’s Department. The story room was illuminated by blue light filled with icicles, arctic animals on the walls and even some playing in icebergs. Children got to feel the chill of winter while they played with white fluffy flakey pretend snow. Families made their own ugly sweaters and hung them above the fire place. The highlight of the party was the pretend snowball fight.

The Unit enjoyed holiday performances by two different youth musical groups in December. The children’s choir from Regency Elementary School made an appearance as part of their downtown singing tour. They spread holiday cheer to visiting library patrons and the larger community as the performance was featured on SAPL’s Facebook page. Their songs were enjoyed by the Facilities team as the performance coincided with their holiday party taking place in the Story Room. Musicians from the San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble shared holiday classics and information about their instruments with families on a busy Saturday. This special holiday treat was part of their one day musical tour of several other libraries around town.

Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin presented engaging Play & Learn and Toddler Time programs this month. Children experienced dramatic play with construction hats, tools, and building blocks of various sizes. The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse and Walter’s Wonderful Web were enjoyed by children as they learned about colors and shapes. A process art collaborative with die cut shapes and different mediums such as foil, Saran wrap, wax paper, and parchment paper was a big hit. Glittery grape play dough with rolling pins and different shaped cookie cutters delighted the senses. The highlight of the season was a wintery snowy cave with Arctic animal puppets. Pretend snow delighted children and got them in the holiday spirit. Jingle Bells could be heard and seen as families paraded around the floor in celebration of the season.

Ms. Cubillas presented Bilingual Storytimes to a preschool audience. Children listened to bilingual stories about recycling. Using recycled materials children collaborated on a process art mural, made collages with newspaper and magazine scraps, and built structures from cardboard boxes. In honor of the holidays children celebrated family and decorated cards with glitter, markers and stamps before putting them in a mailbox. Together they decorated a cardboard gingerbread house and made play dough cookies. In conjunction with the Lucha Libros events at the Central Library Ms. Cubillas read stories about luchadores (Mexican professional wrestlers). Children enjoyed decorating masks and participating in a pretend obstacle course with dumbbells. In addition to these programs Ms. Cubillas helped the Cortez branch, who is currently without a children’s librarian, and presented two Toddler Times. Children listened to stories about ocean life and dragons and knights and participated in songs and finger play rhymes to develop counting skills.

TEENS

TEEN LIBRARY @ CENTRAL
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. For the “eclectic” part of the programming, J.D. facilitated the Providence Page Turners book club meeting. Teens discussed the very popular, The Hate U Give, on November 26. J.D. is also working with a group of Teen Library “regulars” that are interested in taking the Improv programs that have been featured in the weekly Eclectic Electric activities into a showcase setting. J.D. is working with these teens and networking with other groups to make their wishes a reality.

Holijam (Saturday, December 15): J.D. facilitated a special holiday concert in the Central Auditorium called “Holijam” that developed from teens involved in the annual Rock the Plaza and Teen Arts Fest music events at Central. These teens expressed to J.D. they wanted to participate in a Christmas show. Thanks to Jonathan Lopez (Library Aide, Central Shelving) for assisting J.D. with event logistics and sound.

Tuesdays with Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager): In early December, teens finally were able to play one of the most anticipated games of the year—“Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” on the Nintendo Switch! The fighting game continues its reputation of being the most requested game by teens, and teens have excitedly worked together to unlock all available characters in the game as quickly as possible. Because of its various game modes and recognizable characters, the game consistently attracts teens—whether they have played the game in the past or it’s their very first time. With impromptu tournaments, team battles, or the always-popular “8-Player Smash”, teens constantly make the game feel fresh and inviting to their peers, no matter their skill level. With other new games on the horizon of being released, Loaiza continues to work with teens to ensure that their requests for game-specific programs and events become a reality at the Teen Library.

Wednesdays with Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT): Every Wednesday evening, Ciana facilitates technology programming in 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.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): With the approaching holiday season, teens requested activities that highlighted nutritional habits, fun with food, new hands-on skills and very specific holiday favorites, planning nights where holiday met craft and food night, all with peer-to-peer encouragement and an accommodating staff. With an interest in decorating Teen Library for the holiday season, teens gleefully took out the great big white Christmas tree, decorating it with the supply of ornaments and also making new ones. Using a clear glass ball, teens removed the cap, filling it with drops of ink and blowing throw a straw to create a stained glass effect, each unique and colorful. Afterwards, in a no-fuss food craft, teens dipped green apples in melted caramel, sprinkling it with peanuts and chocolate-covered sunflower seeds.

In what could be considered one of the oddest foods ever to explain, reindeer hot dogs takes the cake. Having unlimited questions of whether the hot dog would be made of actual reindeer, teens realized the shape of the hot dog would be reindeer and made of foods they had consumed before. Using crescent dough to create antlers and wrapping the hot dog to create a Rudolph-style nose, teens ate some of the most interesting and suspect reindeer crescent hot dogs ever (and these guys have made “boars in a blanket” before).
In a non-edible food craft, teens used ground cinnamon, applesauce and glue to make cookie shaped ornaments. Making actual edible cookies was also one of the teens’ expectations. Using a basic sugar cookie dough, teens cut out Halloween and Christmas shapes, decorating them with colorful frostings. One of the best things about the holidays, according to one teen, is warm drinks. Being as she had never tasted a popular coffee company’s most popular drinks, she and her peers attempted a peppermint mocha. Mixing a hot chocolate concoction with peppermint syrup and the optional instant espresso and topping it with a dollop of cream, teens enjoyed it immensely, using candy canes as stirrers. Also, some teens and staff wore onesies on the night, building up momentum as the day drew closer to create a Onesie Party, a very colorful, exciting, casual night of unicorns, a penguin, and a donkey.

In anticipation of a following day’s program, a huge shout out goes to Teen Library volunteers Hailey, Felicia, Natalie and future volunteer Brianna who tackled a tough gingerbread cookie dough to roll out and cut walls, roofs, and doors for gingerbread construction.

To fulfill a nutritional lesson requirement set by the San Antonio Food Bank, teens created veggie shish kebabs with tofu. Most of the teens, having never tried tofu before, enjoyed it, but as new food introductions sometimes go, it might take time for them to request it voluntarily. Perfect for winter, teens also enjoyed making S’mores, using the toaster oven to toast marshmallows.

During teens’ holiday break, keeping the day unscheduled led to some fun impromptu moments such as raiding the fridge to use up any leftover supplies, which resulted in a stuffed mushrooms demonstration while watching movies one week and, due to a funny slip up of words, led to the discovery of corn nuggets the next week. While the recipe teens used proved too bland, it required a new technique for one teen who conquered something she thought she feared: cooking with hot oil. Teens also used different shaped molds, fragrance oils, spray bottles and a cornstarch mixture to make bath bombs.

After most Thursday night food and craft times, teens request a gaming system, where they engage in some friendly competition. Pictures of Thursday night programs at Teen Library (photos by staff as well as teen participants), as well as other fantastic system-wide teen programs, can be found at http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary and also http://www.instagram.com/210teenlibrary.

Henry Ford Academy Internship—Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and Regina Almanza (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) started working with two student interns from the Henry Ford Academy. Aside from various duties around the Teen Library—such as creating...
displays and weeding books—the two interns are also assisting Loiza and Almanza with an organizational project for the craft supplies closet/areas in the Teen Library.

**Team-Building**—On December 14, the Teen Library staff celebrated the holidays with a “Fancy Holiday Party.” Everyone dressed up and brought food for a brisket potluck.

**Tours and Groups**

Several community centers brought groups of teens to the Teen Library to use computers and participate in teen library programming. Groups of teens from the Selena Center, George Gervin, Seton Home, and Roy Maas made regular visits during the reporting period.

In collaboration with the Children’s Department, Reference, and Texana, the Teen Library hosted 3 groups of middle school students from East Central ISD on November 30, December 5 and 7. The students visited the library to perform research for their History Fair projects.

On December 7, a group of ESL students from Fox Tech High School visited the Teen Library for a tour and receive library cards. The teens participated in a craft activity afterward.

On December 19, two groups of students from Fox Tech visited the library for a tour of the Teen Library, followed by a visit to Texana, in which the manager of the department, Heather Ferguson, spoke to the students about the history of Fox Tech and showed them resources in Texana.

On December 29, a “Lucy’s Leaders” group scheduled a morning to use a space in the Teen Library to create vision boards for a project. “Lucy’s Leaders is a program under Forward in Fitness that creates healthy civic-minded leaders who give back to their communities and achieve higher education. Our vision is to build thriving communities by developing young men and women who are prepared to not only compete academically, but be recognized leaders and genuine good citizens” (from https://www.givepulse.com/group/216135-Lucys-Leaders). The teens created vision boards for their 2019 goals, visions, and dreams.

**REFERENCE**

Reference staff organized Classical Dance: Bharatanatyam for Diwali Festival of Lights this past November. Diwali is a Hindu fall festival that symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair. In celebration, beautifully costumed dancers from the Kaveri Natya Yoga Group told stories through music and movement.

Central Cinema screenings in November and December included Solo: A Star Wars Story, a movie depicting the origin of the Star Wars hero, Han Solo. Reactions to the big action scenes and grand special effects broke the usual theater-silence. Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom, shown in December, is the fifth installment in the Jurassic Park film series. Attendees enjoyed the non-stop action and special effects, sharing many positive comments. The last film presentation of the year, Marvel’s Ant-Man & the
Wasp was a comic book-style, slugfest filled with snarky humor. Central Cinema regulars also expressed great interest and anticipation over the coming year's movies.

In December, Librarian Vicky Villalobos hosted a DIY Lucha Libre Mask program in preparation for the big Lucha Libros event the following week. Library volunteer and seamstress, Laurel Bodinus taught basics, helping attendees (including fathers) with the sewing machines. The children designed their masks with accent pieces and enjoyed an impromptu storytime with Ms. Villalobos.

Ms. Villalobos and Librarian, Cynthia de León contributed to the Lucha Libros program and to complementary programs throughout the System. The main event featured talent from River City Wrestling. Attendees were able to take pictures with their favorite wrestlers and cheered as “Wrestling Librarian - Page Turner” pinned her opponent down, scoring a triumphant win for books and libraries. One teen who attended revealed a wish to become a librarian and a wrestler.

Library Assistants, Brianna Glass and Daniel Gonzalez were featured in Art Sparks: San Antonio Public Library Staff Art Show. Ms. Glass’s submission titled “The place where you used to sit now I sit indefinitely (The Green Room)” was inspired by Matisse’s “The Red Room.” Ms. Glass wanted to paint her own picturesque room suggesting the recurring objects that come to symbolize the people encountered in those spaces. “The place where you used to sit…” was inspired when Ms. Glass sat reading about a long distance relationship. Mr. Gonzalez appreciated the opportunity to be a part of an artistic dialog, to see how others think and create, and to collaborate in a meaningful way.

LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER

On Saturday, December 8th the Latino Collection and Resource Center hosted a DIY Lucha Libre mask making activity that drew 8 adults and 9 children. This event was part of the Lucha Libros program series.

On Saturday, December 8th the Latino Collection and Resource Center headed to Market Square and participated in the annual Gran Tamalada. Activities included cultural crafts, story time, Library Loteria and Tamal Education with Chef Arturo Fernandez. Overall, the event drew 8,000 attendees throughout the day.

On Friday, December 14th from 6PM-8PM the Latino Collection and Resource Center hosted Lucha Libros and transformed the Central Library into a high-flying show. 460 attendees enjoyed live matches, crafts, met outrageous luchadores and experienced the loco side of the library. Showcasing Lucha Libre allowed families the opportunity to learn more about the Mexican style of wrestling that has transcended the language barrier as evidenced by its appearance in movies, television and pop culture at large.
TEXANA/ GENEALOGY

In November the San Antonio Public Library Foundation was awarded an $8,000 Educational Grant from the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation to fund the purchase of archival boxes and shelving for the Texana Resource Center. The funding will support the preservation and storage of San Antonio Theatre Archives collection.

Researching Texas topics in preparation for the 2019 History Fair, over 40 seventh-graders from Heritage Middle School, ECISD visited the Texana/Genealogy service area on December 7 to review subject-specific holdings. Following the student’s visit, their teacher Ms. Cari Garcie stated: “We just cannot thank you enough for everything today! I don’t think any student in San Antonio had a more rich and authentic lesson about research and documents than our students did today! You did that! All the history nerd love for you and your staff!”.

On December 9, Assistant Manager Deborah Countess presented a class on using genealogy database, Ancestry.com. An overview of the different collections was discussed in addition to different research strategies that can be used to locate family members in historical records.

Texana staff hosted a book dedication and signing by author Jean-Pierre Coquat on December 11 featuring his publication In the Shadow of Pecos Bill.

On December 12 Texana staff hosted a Tex-Mex themed volunteer appreciation holiday celebration to recognize and honor 2018 Texana/Genealogy volunteers.

Sylvia Reyna (Librarian I) along with Matt Dewaelsche (Librarian II) and the Friends of Texana staffed a table at Travis Park on December 16 for the 2018 Founder’s Day event, A San Antonio Founder’s Day Christmas. They distributed information about the resources and services available at SAPL for history researchers.

Students from Fox Tech High School toured Texana on December 19. The visiting group included seniors who are enrolled in college courses.

WWI Posters and Prints from the Library’s collection were returned to Texana on December 20 after the traveling exhibit Winds and Words of War: Posters and Prints from the San Antonio Public Library concluded its European tour. The 2017-2018 traveling exhibition schedule included stops in Germany, England, and France. Planning is underway for a spring 2019 display of the collection at the Central Library on the 6th floor.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN
Teen Librarian Georgina Salinas continued to offer teen programs in November and December with a brief hiatus during the holidays. Teens participated in a Harry Potter themed escape room filled with challenging puzzles that tested their Harry Potter knowledge. The teens were given a full hour to escape Harry Potter’s room and runaway with the Weasleys in their muggle flying car. Several photos were uploaded on the 210Teen Flickr page. Mr. Jim LaVilla from Gemini Ink hosted the last Teen Writing Workshop in November for 2018. Teenagers involved in the program continued to expand their creative writing skills. Both the After School Snack program and Teen Hangout resumed after the winter break.

During the winter break, teen volunteers worked to maintain the teen area as a welcoming and interactive space with displays allowing for participation: in late November the teen volunteers placed a What Are You Currently Reading sheet to advocate reading with the teen community and January was updated with an I Recommend sheet soliciting titles.

Ms. Salinas along with Teen Librarian Matthew Loaiza from Central’s Teen Library attended the community resource fair at Woodlawn Point Auditorium on Saturday January 12. The event was hosted by Fiesta Youth to celebrate DreamWeek.

The Bazan branch kicked off the holiday season with a tree lightening event sponsored by Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales’ District 5 office. In addition to providing a spectacular 12 foot artificial tree complete with lights and decorations, the District 5 office also provided hot chocolate and cookies to share with customers who gathered for the program.

The Bazan BrainLift book club continued to meet monthly to discuss thought provoking fiction and non-fiction titles. At the last meeting for the year, the group selected books that they would be reading for the coming year and celebrated the end of the year with refreshments.

Chinatsu Oku, Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator at UTSA, presented a three part series on basic Japanese calligraphy writing at Bazan in December. The classes included hands on step-by-step instruction as well as lessons on the history of the art form. The program was well attended and enjoyed by both children and adults.

On November 24 the Bad Girls Romance Club met to discuss The Wedding Date by Jasmine Guillory. Swag and snacks were provided by the Bazan Friends group and by staff.

On December 12 the Bazan Branch held a Santa’s Workshop program where attendees were invited to make a DIY gift for the holiday season. The Bazan friends group provided craft materials, a craft oven and shrinky dink material to use and have for future programming as well as refreshments. Customers enjoyed making coasters out of tiles, felt ornaments, jewelry shrinky dinks and buttons. The community had a fabulous time and looked forward to another in 2019.

Customers were invited to the library on December 19 to enjoy Cookies with Santa. A holiday themed backdrop was created and everyone was encouraged to take pictures with Santa. Children who attended also received a new book to take home. The program was sponsored by the Bazan Friends.

Children’s Librarian Hope Sonnen hosted the Winter Wonderland program on December 17. Children from the American Sunrise after school program attended and had fun working on snowman crafts while enjoying treats. Ms. Sonnen also welcomed San Antonio Symphony bassoonist Sharon...
Kuster on January 12. Ms. Kuster performed her instrument and discussed the symphony with the audience. Everyone really enjoyed the program.

Ms. Sonnen resumed Book Clubs at three elementary schools where the children welcomed her with excitement at starting a new year of book reading and discussion.

On January 8 Training Officer Emily Flores participated in the Citizenship Action Team meeting held at the Bazan library. The group, led by Tino Gallegos, Immigration Liaison with the Office of the City Manager, discussed future citizenship workshops and public information strategies to encourage individuals to become naturalized citizens.

**BROOK HOLLOW**

Brook Hollow branch hosted extra family passive programming during the Thanksgiving week break in addition to their regular weekly Baby Time and Toddler Time programs. Monday focused on all day Come & Go crafts for children ages zero to twelve years where children made colorful windsocks. On Tuesday morning, Ms. Salinas put out items for a food themed Play & Learn program where children could pretend to shop at a grocery store, cook on a stovetop, and enjoy a food-themed sensory bin. In the afternoon, Legos were put out for older families to drop by and enjoy. On Wednesday, play dough was put out on the tables in the children’s area with accessories so that families could enjoy open-ended play time at the library. Several families expressed surprise and pleasure that the library offered family activities during the week since children were out of school.

In the first week of December, Children’s Librarian Jasmin Salinas put out the Barnyard Buddies Play and Learn kit designed by the Early Literacy Committee on both Tuesday and Thursday instead of her original weekly programs. The Barnyard Buddies Play and Learn focused on farm animal activities with the animal puppets, the play dough stamping, and the corn sensory bin being the biggest hits on both days. Overall, 148 people came to both programs that week with over forty children attending each session. Several parents commented that they really enjoyed the activities provided in the kit and were excited to come to the next Play & Learn at Brook Hollow.

For the last week of Story Time before the holiday break, Ms. Salinas hosted a Winter Wonderland celebration. Families came to enjoy stories about snow and get their hands dirty in some faux snow. There was also a table turned into a cave full of bear puppets to encourage dramatic play and hot drinks stand complete with pretend cash register. The Winter Wonderland art project of tearing icicles from scraps of paper and making a winter scene was a big hit with several children. However, the most fun activity seemed to be the ice fishing where children had to look inside boxes of “ice” to find the fish before catching them on their fishing poles.

For older kids in November and December, Brook Hollow continued to host bimonthly Lego Club, Tween Time, Come & Go Crafts and Read to a Dog after school. In Tween Time, the fourth and fifth graders made shaving cream art and learned a new group card game called “spoons” that they enjoyed so much they asked to play two weeks in a row.

Brook Hollow’s Children’s Librarian kicked off the winter session of programs in January 2019 with a Friday Baby Time and a new Toddler Two program; upping the regular weekly children
program offerings at Brook Hollow to nine programs. Toddler Two, replaced the currently weekly Toddler Time on Thursdays with the aim of focusing on more movement based activities to foster early literacy for older and more active toddlers. Thursdays Baby Time group consistently reached approximately twenty baby and caregiver duos attending and needed to be split to help meet the demand for Baby Time at Brook Hollow. Additionally, Ms. Salinas moved Toddler Time to Friday mornings and focused the program back on the younger toddlers that are just now learning to walk.

In January, Brook Hollow also began to host Lego Time! weekly on Tuesday after school. In the fall, families had requested to have Legos at the library later in the afternoon so that children from a nearby middle school could also participate.

The branch also continues to host weekly Tween Time programs and Come & Go Crafts. Tweens, children ages nine to twelve years, kicked off the start of a new year with a cookie decorating party where they also got to vote on upcoming ideas to help shape the program activities offered in the winter and spring programming sessions.

On Friday, January 11th, the Read to a Dog program kicked back off at Brook Hollow. One of the therapy dogs, Sunny, showed his excitement about being back at Brook Hollow by enthusiastically (and very briefly) standing up at the check-out desk to say “hi” to staff. Several of the families that have come to the Read to a Dog weekly in the fall, showed up again today and waited to greet the two dogs that came today to hear stories with the children.

In December and January, Ms. Salinas continued her outreach visits to Family Services Head Start - Rhapsody center and Heimer Kinder Care. At Kinder Care, Ms. Salinas did five story times for various age groups and was greeted with cheers upon entering and ended up being smothered in hugs at the end of almost all of them. Ms. Salinas also dropped off age-appropriate library books at each site at the request of the teachers to help support upcoming curriculum.

An engaged and enthusiastic group of 11 and 12 year olds have begun an epic Dungeons & Dragons quest. After creating and customizing characters, the intrepid adventurers have begun to explore a cursed land in search of artifacts and knowledge. Playing this game draws on the children’s skills in collaboration, creativity, and cooperation.

During the reporting period, teens at Brook Hollow played video games during Teen Time programs. Super Mario Bros U, Super Smash Bros, and Mario Kart all saw heavy use. Teens honed their skills and customized characters and game rules to maximize fun and ease. Enjoying snacks of popcorn, juice, and cookies, teens engaged in good-natured ribbing and worked together to beat levels and unlock new characters.

Brook Hollow offered two computer classes during the month of December. Daniel Gomez taught Introduction to Excel and Resume Writing. Patrons were very appreciative of the classes and would like to see more offered in the future.
On January 9, Brook Hollow kicked off the winter crafting program series with Drawing 101. Library Assistant Elissa Vura led patrons in learning about basic drawing techniques through a series of exercises aimed at teaching them how to see like an artist. Elissa will also be continuing the series with Pyrography on January 26.

CARVER

Assistant Manager Monty Holcomb hosted six Chess Events which continue to be steadily attended by a variety of patrons.

Mr. Holcomb also hosted six official Teen Time events with the Wii. Mr. Holcomb also continues to facilitate both the weekly Tai Chi program and Easy Yoga program, both of which consistently have high attendance rates.

Mr. Holcomb continued to host the Book Club at the District 2 Senior Center, making five visits during this period. Mr. Holcomb also hosted a special teen program that featured spoken word poet Emanuelee Bean, whose performance was attended by over a dozen enthusiastic youths.

He conducted the Staff Wellness event in which staff—while eating healthy food—performed a team activity in which each staff member shared with the rest of the staff at least one healthy habit that they practice (or at least a healthy habit they are aware of) in hopes that some of these practices would be adopted by fellow staff members in an effort to increase the chances of improving everyone’s health overall.

CODY

Teen Services Librarian Amy Rae Weaver worked with area teens to come up with Teen Time programs for the Cody Library.

Teen Gaming is a popular destination after school on Tuesdays, hitting an average of 19 teens coming by each week in December to socialize over card, board, and video games!

Teen Time, Cody’s evening programming for teens, draws dedicated attendees interested in creating delicious food, playing games, and doing light crafts and art projects. Recent highlights include edible dreidels, beef ramen (back by popular demand!), melted snowman cookies, and mac and cheese.

The Cody Chess Club continues to bring players and observers of all ages into the library each Thursday for games and chess puzzles.

Families attended a Harry Potter Party on Wednesday, November 28th. During the program children were sorted into their Hogwarts houses, made their own wands, created their own Chocolate Frog cards, took part in a trivia contest, played Table Top Quidditch, and worked together to make Polyjuice Potion Slime.
Tweens learned how to decorate cookies using decorator bags during Tween Time on December 3rd.

Children’s Librarian Kristin Yourdon visited Locke Hill Elementary School on December 4th to lead the Locke Hill Writing Wizards afterschool club. Children in the club learned how to write shape poems and worked on a collaborative story.

A new monthly Read to a Dog program began on December 5th. Children took turns reading to a therapy dog named Ollie. The program is designed for struggling readers to gain confidence in reading.

On December 6th children made Hanukkah crafts during a special Come & Go Crafts program. Children made Washi tape Menorahs and decorated dreidels.

During Tween Time on December 10th tweens made winter terrarium ornaments by adding artificial snow, miniature plastic animals, and items that they created out of clay.

Kid's Time on December 12th was all about winter crafts. Kids learned how to make snow dough and then marveled at playing with the cold, moldable material. They made snowman pretzel rods using chocolate and icing. Finally, they decorated paper plate wreaths with a variety of craft materials.

Tweens competed in Winter Minute to Win It Games during Tween Time on December 17th. Tweens used gift wrap boxes to fan ornaments across the room, competed to see how many snowmen they could make by stacking three mini marshmallows, picked up as many candy canes as they could with a candy cane fishing pole, etc.

The Fiesta City Chorus put on their annual performance on December 18th to sing holiday music. Patrons enjoyed cookies and hot cocoa as they listened to some of their holiday favorites.

The Polar Express Party was held on December 20th. Families in attendance played with some new toys purchased by the Friends of the Cody Library, played snowman golf, tossed white pom pom snowballs through a snowman cutout, decorated cookies, took green screen pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, played a jingle bell toss game, had their face painted by the talented Library Assistant Angela Olivarez, and decorated paper trains.

Adult movie hour continues with Music and Lyrics held on November 18th, Wonder Woman on December 2nd, December 23rd Quiet Place, and January 6th Edge of Tomorrow. As in Cody's custom movie snacks were provided.

On December 7th and 11th the Cody branch hosted Financial Literacy workshops presented by Primerica.

January 13th Cody had a successful turn-out for the 1st Hot Tea Day celebration.

Cody’s location also had several presentations from Wellmed on November 16th, 28th and December 11th.
On November 20th to support multiculturalism and diversity the library hosted Ms. Chinatsu Oku, from The East Asia Institute. She presented food culture presentation; rice making and our patrons had a wonderful experience.

Adult Services Librarian Marcella McGowan visited Madison Estates on November 30th to promote their book club. The group is currently reading, All The Light We Cannot See.

Adult Services Librarian is also continuing the effort to bridge the digital gap by creating the following stem classes. On November 27 Online Job Searching, December 5 and 21st Resume Writing, January 2nd and 9th Job Searching Strategies, January 4th Introduction to Google Docs, and January 11st Introduction to MS Word. All of the classes were well received by patrons.

Cody was very excited to have Ms. Marisa Debow, from McCreless present a session on “eBay @ Your Fingertips” on January 10th. This session had a good turnout.

On December 10th, Adult Services Librarian, Marcella McGowan, was proud to host the first of several Stop the Bleed campaigns. This is a nationwide campaign aimed at teaching everyone how to stop bleeding and save lives in an emergency.

On January 12, Adult Services Librarian invited HugMeInc. in which they presented “Xpress Urself” workshop. Approximately 70 parents and children made sock puppets, got faces painted, created vision boards, and painted t-shirts.

### COLLINS GARDEN

#### Adults

Adult coloring, as a stress reliever, is offered once a month with a small following of patrons. Coffee and a Movie features Mexican classic and recent releases had 7 attendees in December. Adult Beading was hosted by library volunteer Rosemary Nino in November with 9 attendees.

#### Children

LegoClub continues to be a popular program. Seventy-five participants attended five Lego programs. Children’s Lego creations are displayed for public enjoyment in the reference area. Children’s Librarian, Gina Brudi hosted six in-house Family Fun programs with Thanksgiving and winter themes. Brudi continues successful early literacy outreach services to Knox Early Childhood Education Center, reading holiday stories to 14 classrooms and delivered 20 classroom book collections. In January, Collins Garden Library hosted the Symphony at SAPL featuring trombonist Steve Peterson.
Peterson delighted children and adults with music and answered questions about the trombone and the symphony.

**Teens**

Weekly Teen program, hosted by Library Assistant Carlos Loera, averages 10 teens a week. Teens play Ping Pong, video games and do crafts.

**Other**

Collins Garden Library continues weekly Family Game Night with various board games and Ping Pong for all ages. CGL Manager Jeannette Davies and the entire team worked with District 5 (D5) Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales office manager Dora Galvan to coordinate the D5/CGL Holiday Tree Lighting event. The program featured a soloist who led holiday carols while apple cider and cookies were served. Approximately 25 people attended.

Outreach— In December, CGL Manager Davies played holiday elf, along with District 5, at Collins Garden Elementary School, down the street from the library, and helped deliver presents from D5 and library pouches and pencils. The kids were VERY excited and many of them recognized the elf librarian. Manager was asked to coordinate the event with the school's office manager for the library and Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales and D5 Office Manager Dora Galvan. The CGL Team has developed a valuable connection and working relationship with both COSA District Five Team and the Collins Garden Elementary School staff.

The San Antonio Express News featured patrons using electronic resources at Collins Garden Library in December and Araceli Gonzales, CGL employee Jessica Salas’s daughter, was featured.
CGL Team welcomed new Assistant Manager Tasha Martinez who has a background in public and academic libraries.

CORTEZ

Branch Staff enjoyed themselves during the holiday period with a Christmas luncheon hosted by the Friends as well as a Secret Santa gift exchange on December 10. On January 2 the Branch received a taco breakfast paid for by the Organizational Health Unit as a prize for placing third in the door decorating contest.

On January 2 the staff welcomed Nicole Cubillas who will be conducting Story Times on Wednesday mornings until she clears processing when she will then be the new Librarian II for Children’s Services at Cortez.

The end of November the Branch hosted a food drive for pets and people. Ms. Brantley worked with ACS and the Food Bank to create a display and arrange for donations and each agency received a tub of food items.

On December 12 Ms. Brantley was recognized for 25 years of service at an award ceremony at Central Library. She was again recognized and awarded in front of her peers at the Library Leadership Meeting on December 13.

Children’s Programs

Bilingual Baby Time (Esmeralda Staudt)—Ms. Staudt presented a series of bilingual rhymes and songs in both English and Spanish to babies and their parents. Due to staffing issues and light attendance this program was discontinued after December 2018 but may be revisited in the future.
Toddler Time (Barbaraella Frazier, Valerie Shelley, Nicole Cubillas)—Cortez families were treated to a variety of experiences with a changing cast of Children's Librarians while the Branch waits for a permanent staff member. Many thanks go out to those who came to help out.

Family Fun (Madeline Vasquez, Raquel Rodriguez, Brenda Sanchez)—Three different Cortez circulation staff members stepped up to the challenges and rewards of providing activities for school age children on Wednesday afternoons. Activities included making paper Christmas trees, paper snowmen, playing a game with candy canes, and making paper jellyfish and all events included stories to match the

Teen Program

Teen Time (JoAnn Paredes)—Although attendance is low, the teens still come in. This is their place to relax, play video games, chat with friends or just be alone after school.

Adult Programs

COAST – Cortez Older Adult Social Time (Madeline Vasquez)—Every Tuesday, staff member Madeline Vasquez leads Adult Coloring. This weekly community program features advanced coloring for adults, board games, puzzles and light refreshments.

Getting Crafty Program (JoAnn Paredes)—In the spirit of the holidays Cortez Crafters kept busy making cinnamon ornaments, clay pot snowmen and clay ornaments as well as working on a cookbook to share.

Monster Meet (Madeline Vasquez)—A good-sized crowd was treated to the film Krampus on December 8 and the film Squirm on January 12. This monthly popular event brings regulars as well as new attendees who enjoy anything spooky, scary, or mysterious.

Art Therapy (Madeline Vasquez)—On December 11 and January 10 staff member Madeline Vasquez taught patrons to create a simple, beautiful craft using basic supplies. December’s program featured paper Christmas ornaments and January’s featured Chinese paper lanterns and traditional red gift envelopes. Light refreshments were served.

Healthy Cooking Class (Vince Escobedo, Metro Health)—On November 29, Vince Escobedo led the group in making corn salsa and on December 13, apple-cheddar quesadillas. Patrons helped prepare all the ingredients. After, Mr. Escobedo made the recipes and passed out free samples to all attendees.

College Prep Program—In cooperation with Teen Services on December 4 the Branch hosted one in a series of programs to help High School seniors learn more about applying for, and succeeding in, college.

Community Programs

David Pacheco continues to lead our weekly chess club. He enthusiastically teaches attendees of all ages about chess.
LEARN Center Activities (Melody Ayala)—LEARN@Cortez had eight patrons successfully complete the citizenship class series on December 20 which prepared them for both the citizenship interview and completing the N400. In this reporting period, there were fifteen patrons that applied for a job, in which 2 were hired: one at a retail store, one as a healthcare provider. LEARN will continue to host two classes each month, Intro to computer basics on the second Tuesday of each month, and Intro to Internet and Navigation on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

ENCINO

Encino children were kept busy during their Thanksgiving break with Come and Go crafts available Monday, November 19 through Wednesday, November 21! There was a different Fall-themed craft available each day for the kids to make and take home.

On Monday, December 10, the Encino Branch hosted the Winter Wonderland – Frozen Edition Party! The Snow Queen (Elsa) and Snow Princess (Anna) came to meet and greet the children, and a cutout of Olaf and Sven was also available for photo opportunities. Fun snacks such as “Snowman noses” (carrots), string cheese sticks decorated like snowmen, and “melted snowman” water were served. Children also had lots of fun playing in two bins full of “snow,” making gingerbread men ornaments, painting snowflakes, and making beaded snow wands.

On December 16, Librarians Ann Laird and Julia Pouliot co-hosted the Encino DIY Spa program. At this program, patrons ages 8 and up had the opportunity to make their own lip balm and sugar scrub. We also had stickers and ribbon available for patrons to be able to decorate their items for gifting if they chose to.

Throughout the month of December, Encino branch children participated in a “Snowflake Hunt.” Each week, five hints were placed out, and five sets of laminated paper snowflakes were hidden in the children’s area to correspond with the hints. When the children found all five snowflakes they could turn them in at the Reference Desk to receive a candy reward. 249 children participated in the program, and a couple of parents commented that the program had them coming back to the library on a weekly basis to participate.

To break up the monotony of winter break, Encino Branch offered two Winter Family Movie Programs. The branch offered The Secret Life of Pets on January 3rd and The Lego Ninjago movie on January 6.

The Encino Teen room was busy in the final months of the year with teens coming to visit on both their Thanksgiving and Winter breaks, as well as using the room to study for their final exams. Anime Club featured an array of different shows centering on everything from cells in the human body, to the adventures of a slime blob. We also spent an evening catching up on our K-Pop (Korean Pop) music videos. Our two Teen Board Gaming programs during the session saw lots of friendly competition with spirited games of Unstable Unicorns and Monopoly for Millennials.
Teens were invited to vote on a holiday movie to watch throughout the month of November. The winning movie, The Santa Clause, was shown as December’s Teen Screen pick. Thanks to all who voted! November’s movie, Incredibles 2, had us all feeling nostalgic and laughing along to the antics of the Parr family.

Assistant Manager Mark Hall presented the Encino Table Top Gaming program every Saturday from November 17-December 22. A number of families attended, playing Chess, Settlers of Catan, and the city-building game of Machi Koro.

The Friends of Encino Branch Library met on Sunday, January 13 to induct the new officers for the 2019-2020 year.

FOREST HILLS

December was a month of fun programming for all ages. A DIY gift tag program invited patrons to create their very own personalized gift tags to adorn presents given during the season. Craft materials were purchased with funds from the Friends of the Forest Hills Branch Library. Holiday music performances during the month of December included the Trinity Acabellas, the Handbell Choir from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, the Villarreal School Choir and the SA Youth Wind Ensemble. The sounds of the seasons put everyone in a festive mood.

The San Antonio Astronomical Association hosted a Star Party on the evening of December 17. The members brought large telescopes and positioned them towards the northern sky. Participants were able to gaze at different astronomical wonders through the telescopes.

Learn and Remember Programming kicked on in January with a Paul Klee art display. On January 7, Spare Parts facilitated an art project in which patrons were engaged in recreating a Paul Klee piece titled Castle and Sun. The completed work will be held on display at Forest Hills. On January 13 the adult book club read The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis by David E. Fishman.

Children’s Programming continues with the regular lineup of Story Time, Kids Time, Lego Builders with the addition of Bilingual Story Time. Ms. Menchaca has decided to incorporate the bilingual story time into the rotation of the regular story time, this was done in hopes that attendance to the bilingual story time will improve.

During a Kids Time in December Ms. Menchaca hosted a Winter Wonderland Party. A lot of fun was had by children and by the adults. Ms. Menchaca made fake snow which was a big hit; it was made with baking soda and hair conditioner. Even with the use of a splat mat, there was "snow" everywhere. Luckily it was easily vacuumed and left a very pleasant and cleansing odor. There were also four crafts that were available so that children could go from station to station. Attendance was higher than normal and squeals of laughter and delight were heard throughout the library.

Ms. Menchaca has begun a monthly outreach to PCI Head Start. Ms. Menchaca has been visiting the center once a month. Ms. Menchaca visits three classrooms of three, four, and five year olds, where she talks to the children and also reads them a story. The center does not have many books so
Ms. Menchaca is bringing books to the center. The center is providing Ms. Menchaca with a list of themes that are being studied and then Ms. Menchaca brings books pertinent to those themes. Ms. Menchaca is taking a set of books to each classroom.

In January, Forest Hills hosted Amy Pikler, violist of the San Antonio Symphony. Ms. Pikler delighted the audience with the viola, violin, and the recorder. She played a variety of classical music and spoke about her instruments. She also delighted audiences with contemporary music from films such as Star Wars and Harry Potter.

Ms. Menchaca has been working closely with fellow librarians Karen Braeuler and Cresencia Huff, they will be presenting at the Texas Library Association Conference in April. They will be discussing techniques, resources, and materials that are needed in order to execute an excellent bilingual story time. Their presentation will last an hour; they have been working on the division of the presentation and the content.

Ms. Menchaca visited Woodlawn Hill Elementary to participate in their Literacy Night. Ms. Menchaca took library materials and literacy materials that would be of use to the students but more importantly their parents. Ms. Menchaca also offered the option to sign up for a temporary library card and had a craft available to entice children to visit her table.

Ms. Menchaca was happy to record two stories for Telecuentos, the Dial-A-Story service that is available for Spanish speakers.

In January Ms. Menchaca started to read and evaluate books for the Texas Library Association, Tejas Star List. Ms. Menchaca is a member the Tejas Star Committee and has to be able to contribute thoughtful analysis about 51 books in Spanish in order to see if they qualify to be on the list. She will be voting on the books and then will have to advocate for any books that she feels belongs on the list.

In an effort to continue to improve her programs Ms. Menchaca enrolled in a course offered through the Texas State Library. The class discusses the components that should be included in a story time and why they are important. The curriculum is based on Every Child Ready to Read, which is what SAPL uses and encourages parents to learn and embrace.

GREAT NORTHWEST

The children’s programs at Great Northwest Library were very active during the end of the year. The Story Time program Camp Library focused on themes such as seasons, arctic animals, and gingerbread to celebrate the winter season. These children have already familiarized themselves with the alphabet and now are learning about elements that make up a story. During story time, the group identified the characters, setting, and problem of each book read aloud. Following the readings, they have 10 stations to choose from to participate in learning more about a specific element of the story.

The Toddler Time program ABC Club continues to be a well received and popular program that explores each letter of the alphabet. The toddlers have become skilled in color identification, and so each station allowed students to display their knowledge of both colors and letters. In November and December, they learned how to identify the letters Aa through Nn in upper and lower case. This has benefited not just the children, but some of the adults as well. Several of the branch’s patrons who are expats from other countries shared how grateful they were to have benefited from the program by learning
the letters along with their children. The programs also feature several obstacle courses and pretend play with household objects so that families can incorporate the exercises during daily household activities. Several families expressed their excitement to be able to continue using the ABC Club format at home during the winter break.

In Library Adventures the older kids learned about American Indians and geography during November and December. The program also introduced the kids to a variety of different mediums of art from different tribes. The hands-on learning was well received. The families were also able to check out many different history and social study books affiliated with the tribes and the art styles they studied. This age group continues to explore history in the program Who’s Who of History in January.

Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez worked together with teens in the community to plan and create teen programs for Great Northwest Library. Great Northwest Teens planned Teen Craft and Movie Nights for the fall and winter. In November teens experimented making DIY pop rock candy and beaded jewelry. In December and January teens had the opportunity to make snow globes, decorate ornaments, make perler bead crafts, and mini cheese pizzas.

Great Northwest teens meet every Wednesday afternoon for Teen Video Gaming and other stuff. Ms. Vazquez worked with teen gamers to provide a space for them to compete against other teens who share a common interest in gaming. Teens also had the opportunity to make a variety of crafts and art to display in the teen space of the library or to take home. In November and December teens had the opportunity to make paper crafts, marble art, and watercolor art.

Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Brennan High School on November 28 and December 20 for outreach events where she provided teens the opportunity to sign-up for library cards, make button crafts, and try out the Oculus Go virtual reality head set.

Great Northwest Library partnered with Communication Arts High School students on a Community Cultural Fair on December 1. Students set up tables around the library and presented information about different countries and cultures around the world.

Great Northwest Library partnered with Business Careers High School for a service project. Students visited the library to decorate for the winter holidays. Students created a beautiful bulletin board in the children’s area and other decorations throughout the branch for the winter season.

Great Northwest Library partnered with the San Antonio Food Bank to provide a Cooking Class on January 3. Teens learned about food from Italy and learned about healthy alternatives and basic cooking skills.

Library Assistant Veronica Buendia presented a Holiday Craft on December 19. Participants had the opportunity to make candy cane wreaths and decorate glass ornaments.

Daniel Gomez presented two computer classes and one-on-one technological help at the branch on December 19 and December 20. Patrons appreciated the opportunity to get in-depth computer training at the branch.
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.

GUERRA

The Guerra Chess Club met on Fridays—November 30, December 7, 14, and 21, and January 4 and 11. Community volunteer Ruben Lozano provided lessons, inspiration, and an opportunity for adults, teens, and children to learn about the game and practice chess skills.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman provided music and literature outreach to the Careplex Adult Day Center on Wednesdays—November 21 and 28, December 5, 12, and 19, and January 2 and 9.

Assistant Branch Manager Jernell Williams held adult coloring programs on November 17 and December 15. She presented two outreach book clubs at the Virginia Gill Community Center; on December 7, participants discussed Trickster's Point by William Krueger and on January 4, participants discussed Bring Me Back by B. A. Paris.

Children’s Librarian Arlene Richardson attended SET #5 Compensation. Weekly children’s programs resumed on January 8. She planned and presented five toddler times, five story times, five Lego Clubs, five Little Builders Duplo Clubs, five Art Clubs and one Bilingual story time. On November 30, she conducted outreach at Angelic Smiles Childcare, reprising the program on December 14 (Lil Dragon Den Childcare) and on January 11 (Marbach Christian Church Childcare). On Dec. 7, Arlene attended Career Day at John Glenn Elementary School where she spoke to 88 third graders about her career as a Children's Librarian. On December 8, 9, 10, and 11, families participated in a Come and Go craft in celebration of the holiday season. There were two children's librarians meetings during the reporting period—at the December 13 meeting, she presented a Black History month school age program. She attended the meeting at Collins Gardens on January 10. Arlene designed and installed a Martin Luther King, Jr display.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson moderated the Club de Lectura on November 29. This group discussed Doña Flor y sus dos maridos (Dona Flor and her two husbands) by Jorge Amado. The participants enjoyed discussing this well-known Brazilian classical literature which touched on social details of multiethnic Brazilian society. The next month, on December 20, he moderated the Club de Lectura again discussing El mesías, el niño judío (Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt) by Ann Rice. Participants found that the topic of this fictional work fit well with the Christmas season. On January 11 he presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center emphasizing Martin Luther King, Jr Day and Elvis Presley.

Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry, Teen Liaison held Game-Ra sessions on November 29 and January 10. Guerra held a movie night on December 20 (Christmas Story); holiday refreshments were provided by the Guerra Friends. He planned and presented arts and crafts events on December 6 and 13.

Library Assistant Roxanne Menchaca continued to work on patron contested returns. She planned and presented a Knit and Crochet program on November 20, December 4 and 18.

IGO

Children’s Services
Weekly story times continued as scheduled.

Igo Library hosted a Winter Luau on December 13 in lieu of the Winter Wonderland party. 135 people attended and enjoyed performances from Elvis (local Elvis/Johnny Cash impersonator Michael McMullen), hula dancing led by Tina Negrete, Island-style games of hula hooping and pass the coconut led by Teen Services Librarian Laura Herman, and green-screen photos with a very friendly Santa in Island attire (Igo Branch Manager, Tim Johnson). Customers could get creative while making paper flower leis, grass crowns, visors, and snow globes. For the youngest attendees, sensory bins with rice and sand were attended by Children’s Services Librarian, Carrie Vance. Igo staff used the festive opportunity to take photos for the annual holiday card sent out to all the branches.

On December 18, the branch hosted the Barnyard Buddies Play & Learn. Turnout was great, in spite of the program break and upcoming holidays. Families were encouraged to spend the morning in child-led activities that build early literacy skills. The feed corn sensory bin held the most appeal for the children, as they scooped, poured and filled with different containers.

Teen Services

Teen Time is scheduled for Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30. On 12/5 they had the opportunity to use the Oculus virtual reality and explore different virtual reality scenarios. Teens enjoyed them with use of software and devices to simulate a ‘real world’ environment in which the user feels completely immersed. Teens also experienced sights, sounds and gestures virtually.

Teen Movie Club is now scheduled for the first Monday of the month after talking with some of the teens and asking them what kinds of programs they wanted. This will replace Teen Art Space since it was not well attended. The first movie night was well attended and they watched Aladdin and ate popcorn after school. The second movie night was also well attended as watched The Lion King, which was requested by one of the teens.

Anime/Manga club is scheduled for the second Monday of the month from 5-6. Teens can discuss anime and manga with their peers. Manga books that are in the first of the series are available for the teens to peruse and check out.

Dungeons and Dragons group meets the third Monday of the month and it is open for those who are experienced as well as new adventurers.

A Star Wars Party was held for teens on December 19. They were able to make lightsabers, eat Star Wars themed snacks, play Star Wars trivia and even use Star Wars droids on loan from the Schaefer Library.

Adult Services

Every Sunday, the Writer’s Block writing group and the Stitchery Club met at Igo.
The John Igo Library hosted its first meeting of the Enlighten Book Circle with great success of five attendees on December 12th. The new book club’s mission is to entertain, engage and enlighten; with memoirs, musings and misadventures. Cara Mae Sifuentes (library assistant) leads the group and is focused on sharing some positive and inspiring stories with the community. The Igo Enlighten Book Circle will meet every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

The Igo Stitchery, co-led by Children’s Services Librarian Carrie Vance and Circulation Attendant Elizabeth Garza, has a strong following and continues to grow. Throughout 2018, members worked diligently on different charity projects. In December the group donated 159 red, infant-sized hats to the American Heart Association’s “Little Hats, Big Hearts” campaign to raise awareness of congenital heart defects. These hats will be given to infants in local hospitals. The group also donated 10 scarves to Foster Care to Success’ Red Scarf Project. These scarves will be put in the Valentine’s Day care packages sent to college-going young adults across the country who have aged out of the foster care system. The group is currently deciding what charity projects need attention in 2019.

Senior Services

The Igo Elderberries held its annual Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon on November 16. The theme was San Antonio’s Tricentennial, 1718 – 2018. Twelve flyers with information on a variety of topics on San Antonio history, such as Military, Public Art, Haunted San Antonio, San Pedro Park, Japanese Tea Garden, Blue Hole, etc., were placed on the tables. The attendees then walked around to greet others, as well as to find answers to 10 questions based on the information in the flyers. After a delicious lunch, Elderberries told their own personal stories about San Antonio.

On December 6, the Elderberries held a program on Virtual Reality. Two UTSA graduate students gave a PowerPoint presentation as an introduction to the topic. Then everyone had an opportunity to experience Virtual Reality with the Oculus Go goggles.

On January 10, 2019, the Elderberries held a program on the Canary Islanders, who established the first civil society in San Antonio. Hector Pacheco, himself a Canary Islander, spoke about his new book, Canary Islanders of San Antonio, based on archival records and descendants’ collected oral family traditions.

JOHNSTON

Johnston Library celebrated the long service and retirement of Children’s Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth on December 5. The Friends of the Johnston Library, Johnston Staff and Library Director Ramiro Salazar gathered to bid Ms. Wrigglesworth farewell. During the reporting period, Johnston hosted a Santa Claus double feature film screening of The Santa Clause and Santa Clause 2 on December 28.

Branch Manager Monica Bustillo attended the Holiday party of the Springvale Neighborhood Association on December 4. Ms. Bustillo donated blood at Central Library on December 17 as a part of the City’s Winter Blood Drive initiative. Ms. Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Discussion of The
Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows on December 19. On December 22 Ms. Bustillo volunteered with SAPL’s Organizational Health Unit at the HEB Feast of Sharing event at the Convention Center. On January 8, Ms. Bustillo oversaw the regular Lego Club program in the absence of a Children’s Librarian for Johnston.

The new Adult Services Librarian Cristine Mitchamore is now serving as Volunteer Liaison and Holding’s Editor for the branch. Ms Mitchamore planned a Kindness program for DreamWeek starting January 11 and is coordinating events for February’s Black History Month.

Great Northwest Children’s Librarian Cari Raley organized a special Toddler Time and Story Time theme called “Let’s Pretend! Going Camping” on January 8 where participants pretending to go fishing, hiking and sleeping under the stars with a great book.

Library Assistant Elsy Jackson is teaching a weekly class, Conversational Spanish for Beginners: On Monday, and November 19 and 26, 2018, members learned interactive lessons about Prefijos y Sufijos (Prefixes and Suffixes) and Expresiones Idiomáticas (Sayings) respectively. She also serves as a regular contributor to Telecuentos (Dial-a-Story in English), and she recorded a children’s book for the week of January 7, 2019, La hora de la escuela by Roberto Aliaga.

Library Aide Cynthia Blancas coordinated the weekly Teen Time program on December 5, December 12, December 19 and January 9. Teens made Holiday Cookies in early December and then created Holiday ornaments during a Snoopy Holiday party on December 19.

LANDA

Children

The winter months were slower at Landa for children’s programming; however, Children’s librarian Robin Alcorta had a few successful events worth noting.

In December, Landa hosted a Winter Wonderland Party. Children listened to stories about winter animals. They made holiday hats with die cuts of winter animals, trees, gingerbread men, and other holiday themed shapes. The children played with winter stuffed animals and blocks in the life sized igloo. They dug their hands in a rice filled sensory bin. They had great fun having a pretend snowball fight and wrapping themselves as presents. To wrap up the program, the children made playdough cookies for everyone!

During one of the STEAM Tuesdays this month, children experimented with snowflake science. They used geoboards, marshmallows and toothpicks, and coffee filters and water colors to design their own unique snowflakes.

Teen

Landa Teens spent the beginning of their holiday breaks hanging out and Making in their teen space with Teen Liaison, Rebekah Corley. The group prepared treats and practiced paper crafting for holiday décor, held a game night with both chess and a ping-pong tournament, and had their final Movie & Craft night of 2018. Teen Study Spot continued to provide a dedicated space for teens to study
and socialize afterschool and Drop-In Volunteering had teens building book displays, helping prep for children’s programs, and helping plan teen activities in 2019.

Ms. Corley attended two outreach events at Keystone School, where she was joined by Circulation Attendant Melissa Carrol, and spoke to over 60 5th and 6th graders about SAPL’s Libby app. Ms. Corley will be visiting again in the spring to speak to Keystone’s 8th graders about Libby and Brainfuse.

Adult

Landa Library’s Adult Book Groups are a year-round thing. The holidays won’t stop these folks from reading and attending lively book discussions. Reader’s Ink read the very popular News of the World by Paulette Giles. The December selection was a biography, Born Standing Up, a memoir by comedian Steve Martin. A note to interested readers: this book did not go over well with all members of the book group. Moderator and Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta was unable to secure a copy (the members had them all checked out!) so she listened to the book as an audiobook and thoroughly enjoyed it—probably because it was read by Steve Martin himself. This one gets mixed reviews. Not so January’s selection, Isaac’s Storm, about the 1900 Galveston hurricane which was highly praised by book club members. It is by the popular author, Erik Larson.

Every November and December the Mystery Book Club has to move its meeting from its usual fourth Thursday to the third Thursday, due to the holidays. But it doesn’t deter the members from attending. November’s mystery selection was The Promise, by Robert Crais, a gritty mystery featuring Crais’ beloved characters, Elvis Cole and Joe Pike. And in this story, he brings in Scott James, the LAPD police officer and his working dog, Maggie. This was generally popular with the group—especially the character of Maggie, the dog. She was introduced in Crais’ Suspect. Crais has a talent for expressing Maggie’s thoughts in a realistic manner. For December moderator Karen Sebesta selected a collection of Christmas short stories, The Usual Santas, which included the very light to some that were “holiday noire.” The group enjoyed the stories and had a very animated discussion about their favorites.

The members of the book club at The Village at the Incarnate Word are almost all residents of the independent living facility. There are about seven who come regularly and if they can’t attend, they usually ask another member to pick up a copy of this month’s selection. December’s selection was Skipping Christmas by John Grisham. Very “un-Grisham” in style, this work is a feel-good story with a theme of sharing during the holiday season. In January, they read News of the World by Paulette Jiles and enjoyed it just as much as Reader’s Ink did. Member J. Robert Poole, retired Professor of History from San Antonio College, even caught some historical errors in the book!

Landa is now partnering with Parks and Recreation to host yoga classes on Saturday morning. Volunteer instructor is Vergel Barlow. He is developing a loyal following!

LAS PALMAS

In December, Children’s Librarian Barbaraella Frazier did outreach at Jubilee Lakeview University Prep. Ms. Frazier performed story-time for different classes with children in kindergarten and first grade. Ms. Frazier read many Pirate themed Christmas books such as If You Ever Want To Bring A
During the last weeks of 2018 the Las Palmas library increased passive programing for children who were out of school. Children could do Come and Go crafts and create Christmas collages or create a snowman face using small paper plates. In addition, Las Palmas provided coloring pages and activity sheets for Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza.

On Monday, January 7, 2019 the Las Palmas Branch celebrated Dream Week with a Family Fun entitled “Let your Dreams Fly”. Library Assistant Elvia Ramos had families create collages with pop-out butterflies in which patrons wrote aspirational thoughts and ideas. In addition paying homage to Martin Luther King's message, patrons celebrated winter with “snow”. Children played on a splat with the snow made from baking soda and hair conditioner.

To promote digital literacy, Las Palmas held a series of computer classes from Dec. 4-18. The classes included an introduction to email; one was in English and another one was provided in Spanish. The classes were taught by Daniel Gomez. Librarian II, Rhonda Davila taught Internet Basics to add more to the mix of classes.

Podcasts are form of digital storytelling, and Ms. Davila held an event from the NPR Snap Judgment series entitled “Spooked” on Dec. 5. Coffee, hot coco and cookies were provided by the Las Palmas Friends, which made the event pleasant and enjoyable for the listeners of the podcast.

To help young adults enroll in college, Ms. Davila sponsored an event from “Gear Up” on Dec. 19. Gear Up is a non-profit group from UT Austin. The Gear Up workshop attracted at least 50 patrons and provided in depth information about enrolling in college.

As part of Christmas season programing, Las Palmas held a paper picado class for adults on Dec.19. Some of the completed picado sheets that were made by the patrons were hung in the library as decoration to celebrate the holiday season.

Las Palmas teens broke out the glitter and glue to make felt holiday ornaments December 19 in the Teen Area.

MAVERICK

The Ladies Choice Book Club met on November 17. The South Texas Role Playing Games Group continued meeting on Sundays in November, December and January.

Braun Hollow Homeowners’ Association met on November 28 and Silver Brook Homeowners’ Association met on December 13. A basic Q & A Medicare / Medicaid program was hosted at Maverick.
on Wednesday December 5. Starting in January, District 7 office will be staffed. As a result, District 7 and Maverick’s staff are collaborating on establishing office hours so that District 7 will be available to the public during library hours. The popular Maverick Chess Club met on Monday, November 26 and December 10.

Children’s Librarian, Amy Roberts, attended Career Day at Brauchle Elementary on November 16. She read new books to 5 kindergarten and first grade classes and loved hearing the questions that they asked her about her job as a librarian.

Ms. Roberts had a very successful Winter Wonderland program for preschoolers on December 10. In addition to a book display of all different winter holidays, she had 4 stations for the 40 attendees to create items. Children dot painted a Christmas tree and put stickers on the picture as well, they decorated and ate gingerbread cookies, they made a stocking ornament to put a candy cane in and they used sequins and confetti to decorate their round ornaments. Fun was had by all! After a programming pause, storytimes and Lego Time started back up on Monday January 7!

Ms. Roberts continues to serve on the Children’s Round Table 2x2 Committee via the Texas Library Association. On January 4 and January 5, she was in Houston with her committee to narrow down over 1000 titles provided by publishers, to a final list of 20 books.

During the reporting period, Ms. Roberts was able to complete weeding the Juvenile Easy Collection, the Board Books and the Juvenile Magazine collection. In addition, she completed and presented EPE’s for 2 PT Circulation Attendants and 1 PT Library Assistant.

Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl facilitated eight Teen Time programs during the reporting period, assisted by Library Aide Sarina Hackworth. Ms. Hackworth has become a valuable member of the team at Maverick and was vital when Bleichwehl was out sick. Teens are building relationships with each other and library staff; several make Teen Time @ Maverick a priority in their weekly schedule.

Teens at Maverick relish their snacks. They enjoy choosing, preparing, creating and have become accustomed to wearing the gloves. During this reporting period, they made edible cookie dough, regular cookie dough, pizzas, Raman noodles and mac & cheese and Raman noodles. They allowed the creativity flow when they decorated cookies and made snowmen from marshmallows & white chocolate.

McCRELESS

Children

Rozanna Bennett, Children’s Librarian, has been doing a weekly Toddler Time program. Each week’s program is a unique theme, and includes stories, songs and crafts.
In November, Librarian Bennett began to include a weekly Tween Time, where youth ages nine through twelve do various activities including, games and crafts. Also in November, Librarian Bennett hosted a Harry Potter Program. This was quite fun. There was a green screen for pictures, several beverages and snacks that were appropriately themed, wandmaking, and muggle studies!

In December Librarian Bennett hosted a Winter Wonderland program! There was snowman building, reindeer making, snow, and bingo games!

Teens

During this reporting period, Librarian DeBow has continued working with the McCreless teens to bring fun and exciting activities. Teens have enjoyed painting and decorating wooden ornaments, making buttons, and playing with the Oculus Go, checked out from Teen Services for the month. The teens decided they wanted a Holiday Party. Cupcakes and chips were brought by teens and Librarian DeBow provided sugar cookie dough and sprinkles. It was fun for the teens to roll out the dough, pick their cookie cutter, bake and decorate their cookies. Dinosaurs and cats were the favored shapes. Additionally, teens had use of the cotton candy machine from Adult Services. It was a sweet, sticky, goofy fun time for all!

Adults

McCreless Walking Club, facilitate by Library Assistant Al Chavez, continues to meet twice monthly for short walks through the Salado Creek South green belt. The walk from Southside Lions East to Comanche Park and back is a great way to strive towards patron's health goals. McCreless Walking Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.

The ongoing Scrapbooking and Art Journaling Classes, lead by Library Assistant Al Chavez and Circulation Attendant Maria (Krys) Hernandez, at McCreless are proving to be a popular program for our patrons. The monthly class is proving to be a popular program with McCreless area patrons and will be extended through Spring 2019 as a featured D.I.Y. program for adults. At the classes, participants are provided materials to work on various scrapbooking projects as well as provided instruction on various techniques. Classes are on the first Saturday of each month.

In December, the branch hosted a series of computer classes facilitated by Daniel Gomez. Mr. Gomez provided classes on the topics of Computer Basics, Internet Basics, and Online Job Searching. The small class sizes allowed Mr. Gomez to give each participant more individualized attention. The branch also appreciated Mr. Gomez providing technology assistance throughout the day on the days that he facilitated classes.

MEMORIAL

Children’s’ Services

During the school break for the holidays the branch screened several films. Incredibles 2 and Captain Underpants were enjoyed by young patrons visiting the branch.
**Teen Services**

Library assistant Rene Leija visited Jefferson High School to talk to students about library services. He also distributed library card applications to students who did not have a library card.

Teen Time: Liaison Michelangelo Sosa has led the group to keep steadily growing upwards in numbers through word of mouth. The group has been diversifying their interests from competitive racing and fighting games, like Super Smash Bros. Brawl and Mario Kart to making perler beads. This group is growing through friendship.

TolTech Academy is the youth engineering program at Memorial High School; every Thursday since November this group of students led by Teen liaison Michelangelo Sosa has been meeting with Youth Code Jam mentors and a teen coordinator from SAPL in order to create a game that displays the ‘pain-point’ of redaction. The group has passed the ideation phase of the engineer design process and has moved into development with the third milestone.

**Adult Services**

The branch continued its series of healthcare programs. In November, there were three: bone health, Medicare, and options for veterans. In December, the final healthcare class was on skin conditions. Thanks to WellMed for partnering with the library.

The branch also launched a series of computer instruction classes. The first was on November 26, and it focused on Internet basics. There were two more in December, about online job searching and computer basics. Thanks to Daniel Gomez for leading the classes and being at Memorial all day to help patrons with computer questions.

Adult services librarian Freddy Hudson attended the CPI Safety Training Class on December 4. It focused on techniques for de-escalating conflict both personally and professionally.

In celebrating the Christmas holiday, the branch had a gift wrapping party. Patrons could bring their gifts, and the library provided the wrapping paper, bows, ribbon, and other supplies for them to wrap their presents.

On January 9, Adult services librarian Freddy Hudson attended a refresher training on preparing the planning EPEs, where he learned about creating SMART goals.

**Branch Services**

Special thanks to staff of council woman Shirley Gonzalez for providing a Christmas tree and decorations for the branch. Her office also provided doughnuts for everyone to celebrate the Lighting of the Tree ceremony. Branch Manager Maria Gonzales supplemented the celebrating by making Mexican
Hot Chocolate to go along with the doughnuts. Children’s librarian Christine Deffendall read a story to children as they gathered and sat around the tree. All patrons enjoyed the delicious snack and drink.

The branch continues to promote literature and an interest in authors that craft literature. During the month of December the selected author was award winning author, poet and educator Guadalupe Garcia McCall. Ms Garcia McCall is a Dreamer whose parents brought her into the United States at the age of six years. After receiving her certification in secondary education she started her career teaching English at Lytle Independent School District. She continued her studies and received her MFA while teaching. She is currently and Assistant Professor of English at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon. Her books have generated a lot of interest and it is difficult to keep the display stocked with her works.

MISSION

Adults

For National Novel Writing Month Mission Library hosted two NaNoWriMo events.

The San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble performed holiday music standards at Mission branch library

On December 7th, Mission hosted an English/Spanish Conversation Group. Mission gave tours in both English and Spanish to parents of children enrolled in AVANCE and also gave a tour to new staff member of Palo Alto College.

In December, Mission hosted a Computer Basics class.

On January 4th and January 11th, Mission hosted the first instances of a Dominoes program; it will be a weekly recurring program

On the first week of the New Year, a 3D Printer was set on display for customers to be introduced to the technology and observe in-person, how this exciting new technology works.

 Teens

Teens at Mission Branch celebrated the holidays in style. Mission Branch hosted a Pizza Party for teens with Gingerbread House Making, and winter-themed games. Teens this month also enjoyed an array of fun snacks during our Teen Cooking Class, which allowed teens to participate in a hot chocolate bar, grilled cheese, and pancake making. K-Pop and Anime Club was a hit this month, as many teens came into the library for the event. Teens also enjoyed gaming during the holiday break, using the opportunity of a break from school to game regularly during this time.

Children’s
Mission participated in Career Day at Gilbert Elementary to visit with some very enthusiastic 1st and 2nd year olds. A visit to Wright Elementary for STEAM night was a lot of fun. The children “engineered” an eight foot tower.

The Winter Wonderland program was well attended and the “snow” the kids helped concoct was very exciting and fun for children who have never seen snow.

PAN AMERICAN

Pan American branch hosted several tech related training courses. Volunteer Daniel Gomez hosted Introduction to Computer basics class, in both English and Spanish. A program on the Introduction to 3D printed was presented by Eric Haddad, Chief Problem Solver from DiFi3D printing in Boerne. Those in attendance were given a basic rundown of what is involved with 3D printing and were able to create their own model to be printed.

Pan American put on a holiday themed escape room. Participants were given 30 minutes to solve a series of riddles to “escape” the Pan American meeting room and save the holidays. Participants had a great time deciphering clues and working together to find their way out. The escape room was set up for an entire weekend. Due to the popularity of the program, it was re-run a couple of weeks later.

The branch hosted two different movie screenings. The monthly “Pan Am Pix Flix”, our patron driven movie screening, has some Thanksgiving film offerings. A screening of the animated movie, “Free Birds” was shown with popcorn and cranberry punch served as refreshments. A Holiday Movie Marathon was put on in December with several different holiday movies screened from open until close.

The staff of the Pan American library held an after-hours Holiday dinner at Willie’s Ice House. The staff was able to let loose and enjoy each other’s company outside of the work environment to celebrate the holidays with each other.

Pan American Branch continues to hold 3D printing demonstrations. On average, 10-15 patrons per day stop to watch and inquire about the 3D printer. Small key chains are printed to show the how the printer works and for patrons to have a small trinket to take home with them.

Outreach filled the schedule for the Children’s Librarian, Valerie Shelley. There were visits at a Day Care facility and many visits at elementary schools. The Day Care facility had story-time and book exchange. Valerie takes in books from the collection each month and changes them for different books the next month. She coordinates the book topics with the monthly curriculum at the center.

Outreach for the elementary schools included a Community Fair, Literacy Nights and STEM Nights.
Valerie also substituted at Cortez Library for a Toddler Time and created a Winter Wonderland for children with snowflakes, ornament decorating and lots of glitter. There was even fake snow to play with that was cold to the touch.

On November 16, library assistant and teen liaison Cassie Garza attended TigerFest at Scobee Middle School. This is the second year San Antonio Public library has been involved with this school wide event. Ms. Garza set up a table and had participants create button pins using the teen services button maker. Ms. Garza also promoted system wide events and services.

On December 4, Ms. Garza attended the Kingsbourgh middle school literary night to promote library events. At the information table, we set up a bookmark craft that was very popular with the students. All supplies were exhausted by the end of the event.

Wednesdays in December and January are dedicated for teen times at Pan American Library. Ms. Garza facilitates teen programming incorporating teen crafts ideas into monthly programs. In December, teens crafted gingerbread houses, decorated sugar cookies and played various board games. In January, teens crafted bottle caps into key chains of their favorite icons and characters. On January 9, teens learned how to make brownies in a waffle maker. Several of the teens loved the idea of cooking food with a waffle maker and have suggested other food items to try to make.

On December 20, Ms. Garza and Stephanie Vazquez from Great Northwest conducted a library outreach at Brennan High school. During the lunch periods at Brennan high school, students visit the school library to unwind. We had an oculus go demonstration for students as well a button maker craft.

Every other Sunday at Pan American library is for the Pokémon Champions program. For the past month, Pokémon trainers have been working on their trading card deck building skills. The group has watch several of the top Pokémon trading card players and have been inspired to replicate some of the those decks.

Parman kicked off the month of December with its annual Multicultural Winter Festival, a holiday extravaganza that celebrates the diverse cultures and holiday traditions of different countries around the world. Teen volunteers from the community provided attendees within information and insight from their chosen country as well as henna tattoos in traditional designed and in some cases taste of local cuisine. Whilst people enjoyed stories and beautiful costumes from Iran to Singapore a mariachi band entertained the crowd. Students from Johnson High School presented several Christmas classics. Some of them have been covered countless times over the decades, but this six-member a capella group conduced and lead by Library Aide Connor Cooksey, separated from the pack with mesmerizing vocal harmonies that made the audience feel all warm and fuzzy inside. They were very well received and had all participants singing with them. Japanese dances presented by students from UTSA got a standing ovation. Even Santa was in attendance handing out candy canes to all the boys and girls and officially announcing the
lighting of the Parman Winter Walk. As always the event celebrated Parman’s diverse community and for the second year in a row was the library’s most popular winter event.

Building on a longstanding tradition of lighting up the Panther Springs Park trail that runs the length of the library Parman staff outdid themselves yet again this holiday season. More than 10,000 lights lit the forest behind the library, guiding visitors between whimsical displays featuring such favorites as Dr. Seuss’s the Grinch, Frosty the Snowman, and many more. This year the walk was even dotted with lighted inflatables as well as ornaments hung from almost every tree. So bright was the display that it could be seen from the road. Several patrons commented that they look forward to Parman’s winter walk every year and this year was the best it’s ever been. The light display is a standing achievement of Parman’s excellent staff and teamwork.

On December 14, 2018 Parman Children’s Services held a two hour Winter Wonderland special Story Time event. Fun was had by all while children participated in a pretend snowball fight, Snowman craft, pictures with Santa, a toddler sized locomotive train, mounds of paper snow, winter themed coloring pages, holiday play dough, and snacks that resembled snow and ice. As holiday music played, children and their caregivers moved from station to station playing and creating.

In January 2019, Parman’s Tween/Pre-Teen Program began a new exciting line-up of programming offerings. This group of 9-12 year olds was invited to partake in activities such as competing in an emoji game, duct tape wallet design, and real-life Angry Birds gaming. This program is held at the same time as the Kid’s Discovery Time (for ages 5-8), so that families with different aged kids can attend age-appropriate programming.

Kid’s Discovery Time (program for kids aged 5-9) continues to grow with activities like growing crystal snowflakes, penny water tension experiment, and plastic cup snowflake launchers and more. One particular fun evening on December 6th, children built craft stick catapults and took on the challenge of how far they could launch their pom poms. Using problem solving, playing with angles and pressure on the catapult, plus lots of trial and error, the children aimed for buckets and cups to see if they could land one in a target. The sight of brightly colored pom poms flying through the air was a magical beauty.

Parman’s Friday Toddler Two program presented by Library Assistant Melissa Moser is one of the most well attended recurring children’s storytime. To meet the increasing popularity of the program the manager and children’s librarian II decided an additional time slot was needed. As such, Toddler Two is now being offered at both 10:15 AM and 11:15 AM on Fridays. It is the hope that as word spreads of the growing numbers from the 10:15 program. Parman is proud to have a problem of having too many people want to attend its weekly programs.

Parman staff celebrated the holidays with cookie and socks exchange. It was a really fun and creative way to exchange gifts. Staff loved it so much we decided to make this our new annual tradition. It is a great alternative for the traditional white elephant gift exchange. As far as cookies - at some point we had over 300 cookies to choose from. Yoga classes are planned for January.

POTRANCO
Children and Tweens

The Potranco Branch hosted a Winter Wonderland Party where community members were able to jingle, jangle, and mingle. Children’s librarian, Angela Bilbe, observed children playing and learning while building Santa’s toy shop with blocks, and listening to Holiday stories. Children were able to identify the number of Santa’s reindeer, and Rudolph’s red nose. Toddlers were exploring their senses with red peppermint sensory stations. School aged children were focused and motivated with STEAM holiday crafts, and tweens found inspiration in building and tinkering with circuit trees. The Winter Wonderland party was a great way that allowed staff members, patrons, and their family members to mingle and have a jolly time!

The Potranco branch hosted Kids Time, which consisted of arts and crafts focusing on celebrating Native Americans. Children’s librarian, Angela Bilbe, read stories that highlighted and authentically displayed Native American culture. The children created collages made of beans, and corn that depicted the different dwellings of various tribes. Bilbe observed children asking questions about the various heritages, and discussing the diversity of tribal nations. The program provided resources which helped children to explore the rich cultures and traditions of Native Americans in the United States.

Teens

Library Assistant Lisa Leandro has begun a partnership with the YMCA for a monthly outreach for teens.

Library Assistant Lisa Leandro and Librarian I Raishell Williams hosted a Kick-Off Saturday Sundae Social to generate buzz for the 2019 programing. At least 40 community members were in attendance.

Adults

Potranco continued our monthly meetings of the Potranco Book Club. On December 6, 2018 the baton for the club’s facilitation was passed from Circulation Attendant Miranda O’Neill to Circulation Attendant Paschal Booker. O’Neill has done an excellent job of sustaining and growing interest in the club, through her selections, her networking and promotion, and her use of online technology to allow club members to access meetings in a virtual format. With Booker in the role of facilitator, members are interested in co-creating the year’s reading list, which is a welcome development. The Potranco Book Club will continue to alternate months between fiction and nonfiction memoir. Selections for the coming months are San Antonio-based John Phillip Santos’s memoir Places Left Unfinished at the Time of Creation and Jennifer Egan’s novel Manhattan Beach. Potranco’s primary goal going forward is to explore new ways to grow our monthly attendance. Booker will be exploring additional outreach in the community, as well as initiating dialogue with other book club facilitators in the SAPL system for their sense of best practices in their patron communities.

Potranco continued Sunday morning I Heart Vinyl series, curated and deejayed by Paschal Booker, with the continuing able assistance and suggestions from the entire Potranco staff. Audio lineups included such themes as Texas, Blues, Hip-Hop, Glam, Psychedelia, Women’s Voices, Celebratory Music, Soundtracks, and Americana. Awareness of the series in the Potranco Library community continues to grow, as reflected by the ownership of the enterprise by all Potranco staff members, who enthusiastically make their own suggestions for Sunday themes; their ownership of the series increases the awareness of the series across the entire Potranco community. Potranco Team Members have also seen the increased occurrence of patrons coming into the library on Sunday mornings for the precise purpose of listening to the day’s selections. Some patrons have even spoken of vinyl collections that they have in their homes, even though they do not have the equipment upon which to play them. We have offered them the
opportunity of bringing their records to the branch on Sunday mornings, so they can listen to what they have in their possession.

Potranco Branch Library's Circulation Attendant Miranda O'Neill has developed a new crocheting program. O'Neill christened the group, The Twisted Stitches. In addition to community members joining in the fun, O'Neill even got a co-worker to learn how to crochet. O'Neill reports a diverse set of patron's attending, including a mix of both men, women, and children. O'Neill had hoped to see the group filled with all ages. The Team at Potranco is rooting for O'Neill and program to expand and grow!

Interim Assistant Branch Manager Cindy Moreno visited Alicia Trevino Senior Center on Monday, December 10, 2018 to discuss the book The House of Broken Angels by Luis Alberto Urrea. The book group had a special meeting and celebrated the holidays by sharing pastries with each other and discussing literature.

Potranco Teamwork

Potranco welcomes Librarian I, Raishell Williams to the team! Williams is an Army Veteran, wife, and mother to two young boys joining San Antonio Public Library system by way of University Of Texas San Antonio libraries. Williams has earned a B.A. in Historical and Political Science from Chaminade University of Honolulu, a M.L.S. from Texas Woman's University. Williams is currently working on an A.A.S. in Business Management through Alamo Community Colleges. Expect to see exciting things from Williams in Teen Services!

Potranco welcomes Interim Assistant Branch Manager Cindy Moreno to the team from Great Northwest Branch Library. The team has been very impressed with the skill in which Moreno eased in perfectly without missing a beat!

Library Assistant Lisa Leandro created a digitized supply ordering survey which should streamline the ordering process. The team at Potranco is proud to be paperless at yet another routine responsibility.

Interim Assistant Branch Manager Cindy Moreno has tasked the library aides with helping pull weeds and duplicate items. This will keep the collection at Potranco relevant as well as providing professional development and increased responsibility to the Aides.

PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

During Thanksgiving break, children and families at Pruitt Library participated in a Fall Come-and-Go event involving the creation of attractive “leaf rubbings”. This involved the placement of white paper over a variety of leaves and rubbing over the paper with oil pastels, crayons, or chalk of beautiful fall colors. Afterwards, the completed drawings were used in the preparation of holiday cards, placemats, or pictures.

Toddlers and parents attended another fun-filled play and learn event where children had the opportunity to practice early literacy skills, as well as, small and large motor skills. Barnyard Buddies incorporated several activities such as singing, read-alouds, “egg gathering” dramatic play, “Old
MacDonald” puppet play, and barn-building with blocks. The most popular stations were the playdough word-building with letter stamps and the sensory bin filled with deer corn and farm animals.

Roosevelt Science teacher Misty Belmontes offered another exciting, monthly SPARK lesson. Children eagerly listened to Dana Meachen Rau’s *Sniff, Sniff: A Book about Smell*. Afterwards, they took part in a smell distance challenge experiment involving a variety of smells like lemon, cinnamon, chocolate, orange, onion, rose, watermelon, vanilla, dill, and vinegar. Participants look forward to future programs where they will learn about buoyancy, levers, and pulleys. Pruitt staff and parents are grateful for Ms. Belmontes and the Roosevelt AVID students for their hard work and dedication in making this program possible for the past five years.

Members of the Tween Family Circle Book Club are looking forward to the upcoming meeting where they will discuss Pablo Cartaya’s Pura Belpré Author Honor Book *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*. Members are sure to be delighted as they discuss the funny and touching novel while enjoying a snack of “churros”, a favorite snack of the narrator’s.

Mindful Monday programming for teens got off to an awesome start. This weekly program definitely came in handy during December as many high school students get anxious about grades, midterm finals, and being separated from school friends over the holiday break. By guiding them through exercises and activities, a community certified mindfulness facilitator was able to give participants techniques for slowing down, visualizing, and being intentional about how they process their reactions to situations in the classroom and in their lives outside of school.

Pruitt Teen Services had the privilege of partnering with the Rough Rider Inn, a culinary class at Roosevelt High School for our Teen Time Gingerbread House Hangout. During this packed-to-capacity event, students from the Rough Rider Inn along with their instructor not only prepared the icing which held the gingerbread houses together, but also facilitated the activity for community teens by giving instruction and assisting patrons with their culinary creations. They even provided chef’s hats to get everyone in the spirit.

Our final Teen Time event of the year was a Charlie Brown Bash. Participants had a great time. In the spirit of the Charlie Brown Christmas, teens decorated the pitiful tree, had some snacks, and just for fun, ended with a little holiday karaoke.

Holiday break programming for teens included loom knitting. During this supercool event, participants learned how to knit a beanie hat in the color of their choice, make a brim if they wanted, and even make a pompom to finish the whole thing off.

On Nov 21st, the students in the Citizenship classes were finishing up the lessons about Thanksgiving, so a Thanksgiving feast was held. Traditional food from Bill Miller’s was provided by the library. The women from Afghanistan insisted on bringing food, too. The food was not only delicious, but beautiful to look at, too.

The branch has a wonderful patron Ms. Mary Ann Johnson, who bakes cookies and pastries for the employees every two weeks. However, if her plate is not returned, “Sorry no cookies for you!” The
employees search high and low. Aside from her baking skills, she is a paper crafter. On Dec 2nd an adult paper crafting come-and-go program was held. The patrons could make 4 cards, decorate 2 gift bags and learn how to make a do-si-do book. A do-si-do is like two books in one and is excellent for dual purposes, like drawings and notes, or double themes like opposites or pairs. A do-si-do book makes a meaningful, handmade gift. Ms. Johnson put in many hours to prepare for this class and the students raved about how beautiful their books turn out.

With the bags and cards that they made in the previous activity, they have the needed supplies to gift their handmade creations they concocted in Aromatherapy DIY. The participants used epsom salts, baking soda, citric acid, rosemary oil, eucalyptus oil, peppermint oil, lavender oil, and other oils, lavender petals, rose buds and rose petals, and other flower petals, rose water, sage water. They made their signature-scented bath salts, bath bombs, foot scrubs, and stress putty. They are looking forward to the next Aromatherapy DIY.

The TGIF Book Club has been meeting here regularly for the past nine years. The members are very well-read; therefore, finding books for them has been a challenge. They do not prefer novels that are sad, horror, animals dying, and non-fiction. Branch manager Rae Downen chose The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit by Michael Finkel, a nonfiction book. She was pleasantly surprised because they enjoyed the book because the author’s storytelling captivated them.

Loom Knit-a-Hat DIY was a big success. The participants learned how to start a hat, learned how to make a brim, learned how to make a pompom, and learned how to finish a hat. Patrons helped their neighbors when help was needed. They learn all of this in one class, but the catch is that they have to come back and finish it at the library. They come in, check out their loom and work for a few hours. Then we re-teach them how to finish the hat and how to make a pompom. They really enjoy this activity, so another class is scheduled at the end of January.

The New Year started up with a new session of Ebru lessons with master Ebru painter, Nihal Sönmez, on Jan 6th. Ebru, Turkish water marbling is one of the oldest Turkish paper decoration arts. Ebru is the art of creating colorful patterns by sprinkling and brushing color pigments on a pan of water and then transforming this pattern to paper. Classes are held Sundays through February.

SAN PEDRO

Outreach Story Time Programs—Ms. Dalton presented monthly story times to children at Respite Care (four classes), Monte Vista Montessori (two classes) and Laurel Heights Weekday School (one class). Fifteen to twenty books were also delivered to Monte Vista and Laurel Heights for their use during the month. Three teachers from Monte Vista Montessori and one teacher from 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. Thematic books were also delivered to ten Will Smith Zoo School classes.

Kids Time Programs—Minecraft Monday continues and Kids Time on Wednesdays has been converted to a weekly LEGO® Club. Attendance at both programs has increased.
Toddler Time Programs—This program continued during this reporting period with a small but very loyal group.

Family Fun—During the Thanksgiving Break, Come and Go Crafts were offered to children and their families.

The week before the schools let out for their Winter Break, Ms. Dalton hosted a Winter Wonderland party, in which the children and parents made glittery snowflakes, and other fun holiday crafts.

Outreach School Age Book Club Facilitation—Ms. Dalton hosted six book clubs for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. These schools include St. Anthony’s School, and 2 SAISD schools: Hawthorne Academy and Twain Dual Language Academy.

Class Enrichment At the request of two of the teachers at the Advanced Learning Academy she also brings at least 25-30 books per class on themes requested by the teachers.

Adult Services Librarian Diana Starrett visited two SAHA residences: Parkview and College Park. One reason for the visits was to invite residents to come to the Library for the Family Coloring Club.

The San Pedro Library Friends met on Tuesday, January 8. One of their goals for this year is to explore some new fundraising ideas. One idea is a Library Friends “Tote” bag!

SCHAEFER

On Nov. 20, Schaefer offered the Barnyard Buddies Play & Learn for children five and younger. There were a variety of fun barnyard-themed activities, including mud painting pigs, a farm sensory bin and building with blocks and farm animals.

Winter Wonderland, the winter party for children, took place on Dec. 18. Children played in snow made from baking soda and conditioner, frosted cookies, tossed snowball bean bags at a snowman made from boxes, and painted snowflakes. There was also a dance party with a bubble machine, and library aide Susie Criado dressed up as a snow queen and the kids took pictures with her. Library assistant Sara Ramirez, library aide Monica Macias and children's librarian Leslie Elsasser planned and staffed the party.

Leslie Elsasser went to the Evelyn King PCI to read to two groups of children in December and January. She visits this childcare center each month.

Weekly children’s programs include Toddler Time, Story Time, Baby Time and LEGO Time. These programs continued through the mid-December 2018, and then took a short hiatus during the holiday season. The programs started again Jan. 2 and will continue through May.

Circulation attendant Noah Reese created a gingerbread house out of paper to hang up in the children's area in December. Throughout the month, children could decorate a either a snowman or a gingerbread and then hang it up on the fun and festive display.
Library Assistant Sara Ramirez hosted three Science Time programs during the reporting period. On November 20, children learned about animal scat and tracks. Children were able to make their own take-home track out of modeling clay and created a group mural with many different types of animal tracks. On December 4, children completed engineering challenges at four separate stations. The stations included a sugar cube and water challenge, shaving cream and foam blocks, straws and connectors, and masking tape and newspaper rolls. On January 8, Science Time investigated polar bear adaptations. Children tried the blubber glove experiment to learn about the insulating properties of blubber in arctic animals.

November's Saturday movie was “Hotel Transylvania 3” with special guest performance by locally renowned storyteller, Miss Anastasia! Miss A read stories about monsters and friendship, and had the audience participate by singing songs and acting out parts of the books.

The Skimmers met in November to discuss “The Year of Less” by Cait Flanders. Most Skimmers liked the non-fiction book about minimalist living, and linked it to similar past cultural trends. The first Saturday Movie in December was classic Christmas cartoons! Library Assistant Sheridan Richardson showed How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966), Pink Panther (1978), and Yogi Bear (1980). Staff was pleasantly surprised at the large turnout, and patrons enjoyed snacking from Schaefer’s new, professional popcorn machine. The second December Saturday Movie was “Incredibles 2” with special guest appearances by Mr. and Mrs. Incredible themselves! Library Assistants Susie Criado and Dillon Martinez graciously volunteered to dress-up as the famous crime-fighting couple and take pictures with attendees using Schaefer’s green screen. Patrons got to choose between backdrops featuring burning buildings, city sky-lines, outer space, and even the Incredibles’ house! Many thanks to Library Circulation Attendant Reuben Duron (AKA Edna Mode) for supplying the costumes.

The Learn Computer Class in December was Coding for Beginners. Library Assistant Sheridan Richardson created a google slide show with information on coding, and attendees started out by playing beginner coding games on Tynker. At the end of class, participants were challenged to code a pong game on Ohio State’s physics website.

Miss Anastasia visited Schaefer again on December 19th to read stories about snow, and help kids color ice skates. The kids loved the interactive story time, and were excited to take pictures in front of the green screen that featured backgrounds like Disney’s Frozen, snowmen, snow angels, and snowy landscapes.

The Skimmers met in December to discuss “The Calculating Stars” by Mary Robinette Kowal. The group was split on the likability of the novel, but all agreed the historical and research components of the story were incredible. A few of the members went on to read the sequel, and are excited to report back in January.

The first Saturday Movie in January was “Teen Titans Go to the Movies!” Schaefer had one family that were especially excited about the showing, and brought blankets and lunch in anticipation of watching Robin and crew try to scheme their way on to the big screen.

Teen Services Librarian, Cindy Cruz, visited Heritage Middle School for their Author Night. Cindy provided information on resources and programs to parents and teens at this event celebrating books and literacy. Community Connections
Teen Space

STEM

During the reporting period, the Teen Space had the Arakawa art hanging system installed which allows for teen art work to be displayed in the space. Teen art is currently on display with plans to showcase art from students at local schools in the area. Community Connections

Adult Crafternoons continue at the Schaefer Library. On December 2, Librarian Maria L Adams hosted an ugly holiday sweater craft session for the upcoming holiday season. A hands on demonstration of the Cricut cutting machine, generously donated by the Schaefer Friends group, was led by Library Aide Monica Macias. Participants were able to see the cutting machine in action as it make felt cutouts of snowman, reindeer, and Christmas light bulbs. The designs were used by patrons to adorn their ugly sweaters.

Librarian Maria L Adams visited the District 2 Senior Center and hosted an adult coloring program on December 11. Holiday themed coloring sheets were provided to the seniors attending the program.

The January Adult Crafternoon program; led by Librarian Maria L Adams, was held on Sunday, January 6. This month crafters worked on a paper quilling project.

Another outreach by Librarian Maria L Adams was held at the District 2 Senior Center on January 8 for an adult coloring program. Valentine’s Day coloring sheets were provided to celebrate the upcoming holiday.

Every other Thursday afternoon, Schaefer hosts the Kid’s Gaming Program. School age children gather 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. Library Assistant Mason Matthews offers instruction and mediation.

Two Saturdays each month at Schaefer Branch Library, Patrons gather for Zumba! Zumba Instructor, Angelica Guzman, leads an hour long session of enthusiastic dance to a lively soundtrack. Patrons shed stress and calories in the air conditioned comfort of the Mays Family Community Flex Space.

Monday & Wednesday evenings at Schaefer Branch Library, patrons can attended GED prep classes. ESC-20 (Region-20) provides instruction and materials for local adults in ten week course increments. Classes take place in the H.E.B Collaborate Space. Classes Concluded December 12th.

On January 6th 2019, patrons gathered at Schaefer Library’s H-E-B Collaborate Room to participate in a cooperative storytelling experience. For three hours, patrons designed characters and participated in a fantasy roleplaying game led by Library Assistant Mason Matthews.

SEMMES
On Wednesday, January 2, Randi Jones hosted a Magic Show at the branch. 95 people came and enjoyed this fun show full of amazing tricks. Because of the popularity of the program, she hopes to schedule another magic show soon.

The monthly Pokémon Go programs in December and January continued to be very popular. Over 100 people came by the library’s program in the park. In December, attendees had the opportunity to make a hat, as well as enjoy some free water, a charging station for their mobile device and get a free button. In January, attendees were able to make a Totodile craft in addition to our regular offerings.

Adult Services Librarian, Megan Stanley, arranged a workshop for Saturday, December 22. The Loving You Loving Life: Tapping the Well Within program was hosted by ElizaBeth Coira. Participants came for a loving, creative approach to self-discovery, goal-planning, and authentic artistic self-expression. Nine people came and enjoyed this workshop.

Mary Pena, Circulation Attendant, hosted a fun Holiday Slapdash crafts on Sunday, December 23. Christmas procrastinators were invited to come and make some cool holiday crafts, including a wine cork reindeer, a cereal box donkey and a paper towel wreath. 11 people came and made some really cute projects.

A new all-ages program has started on Tuesday afternoons. Megan Stanley is hosting a Build It! Program. Patrons are invited to come and build things out of Lego, Duplos and Straws and Connectors. The first session on January 8 was very successful.

THOUSAND OAKS

Families gathered at the Thousand Oaks Branch on December 10 to celebrate a Winter Wonderland. The branch was decorated in the theme of the Polar Express where children played in “snow”, decorated snowball cookies, fished for candy canes, and enjoyed hot chocolate.

Thousand Oaks hosted District 10’s Our Family Reads: Mayor’s Book Club on December 8. The theme was Military. Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Former District 10 Councilman Mike Gallagher were on hand to make remarks concerning the importance of reading. There was a book display as well as fun come and go crafts. Children had a choice of making their own dog tags, creating a military man, and crafting a patriotic wind sock.

The Thousand Oaks teens had a busy few weeks even with the holiday closures! They attempted to learn the card game Unstable Unicorns and decided that they needed more time to learn it. The teens also played rounds of Super Smash Bros, baked cookie creations, held a TV theme song trivia game via YouTube, made bottle cap magnets, and watched Howl’s Moving Castle while eating popcorn. They also had a very rowdy Christmas party on December 19.

Adult crafters at Thousand Oaks created a Santa wreath on November 18 to decorate their holiday doors. Librarian Theresa Garza lead the group in creating individualized wreaths using simple
materials like tulle and Santa hats. Crafters enjoyed hot cocoa and holiday music while exploring their creativity at Sunday Crafternoon.

The December edition of Sunday Crafternoon at Thousand Oaks saw adults try their hands at wood burning. Using a kit from Adult Services, Librarian Theresa Garza demonstrated how to burn a design onto wooden forks and spoons for personalized gifts. The tools took some practice, but attendees left with custom gifts for family members.

Readers at the Northeast Senior Center discussed Alternate Side, by Anna Quindlen on November 27. Many members felt the “slice of life” story lacked action and the portrayal of the marriage was lackluster while at the same time, too close to reality. Facilitated by Librarian Theresa Garza, the group really did not identify with the upper class, New York lifestyle.

Still Life by Louise Penny was the November selection for the Thursday Book Group. The group thoroughly enjoyed reading and discussing this mystery title. Even though the location is fictitious Ms. Penny was able to bring to life this little Canadian town. This is the debut novel in a series featuring detective Armand Gamache. He’s methodical and observant. The plot was well developed and the writing was clear and concise. Its twists and turns made the revelation of the murderer a complete surprise. The members of the group highly recommend Ms. Penny’s series.

The Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group and the Northeast Senior Center Book Club joined for the 3rd annual Joint Book Club meeting on December 12. Hosted by librarians Theresa Garza and Troy Lawrence, the two groups met to talk about and share books read outside of the group. Members enjoyed a dessert buffet and everyone left with books added to their To Be Read book list.

Thousand Oaks hosted computer instructor Daniel Gomez for four sessions in late November into December. Learners enjoyed individual instruction on creating email, writing a resume, searching for jobs online, and an introduction to Microsoft Word. Reference staff members have continued the one-on-one style classes on Thursdays throughout January, giving patrons an opportunity for in depth instruction.

As part of The Holocaust: Learn & Remember Film Series, Thousand Oaks screened the movie Defiance, starring Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber, on Jan 13. The movie, based on true events, tells the story of two Jewish brothers in Eastern Europe who join Russian resistance fighters in 1941.

As a team building project, staff at Thousand Oaks created Christmas trees, angels, and other holiday decorations by altering donated Reader’s Digest Condensed Books. Patrons voted throughout December for their top three recycled book decorations. Over 150 votes were tallied, naming a Christmas tree, a candle, and an angel the top three submissions.

TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

Adult Librarian and Assistant Manager, Rhonda Woolhouse, was one of the key committee members to plan and host the very successful Yule Ball held downtown at Central Library on December 8. The program was based on the Harry Potter series and was well attended by adults, many dressed quite nicely for the event or in costume.
Ms. Woolhouse created Tobin at Oakwell’s first every Ugly Sweater Contest on December 11. Only some people showed up in their ugly sweaters but all loved making the ribbon bracelet with beads and a bell for themselves or a gift. Hot cocoa and cookies were served to all attendees and all visitors at the library during the program.

Teen Librarian, Karah Garcia has partnered with the S.A. Food Bank to host a Cooking Around the World teen program once a month. On January 11, teens learned about France’s culture and food. They then helped cook ratatouille and canapés. This partnership and program will continue through May with a different area of the world each month. Of course the teens love eating the delicious food too.

Ms. Garcia, and Library Assistant, Auriel Pinales, continue to plan and facilitate After School Fun Time and Otaku, the branch’s anime manga club. At After School Fun Time, some of the popular activities this period were decorating holiday cookies, creating fuzzy holiday critters and little yarn hats, mixing up some colorful slime, and building Earthquake proof marshmallow and toothpick structures. This program is geared for middle school kids and averages 50 – 65 kids each school day.

Children’s Librarian, Karen Braeuler, has such popular toddler times she initiated a second Toddler Two program in January. Older toddlers, ages 24-36 months, attend the first session and then toddlers 16-24 months attend a second Toddler Time. Other programs Ms. Braeuler continues with are Story Time on Friday’s with Baby Time, 1st Saturday Baby Time, Lego Club and Read to a Dog. A bilingual Story Time is held once a month with Ms. Garcia helping speak and translate in Spanish.

Ms. Braeuler conducted outreach for a Beginner Book Club geared toward early readers at Southwest Preparatory Charter School. Sessions were once a week for four weeks in November and December.

In November, Lauren Jennings began working as a Circulation Attendant. Ms. Jennings returns to SAPL as years ago she worked at Thousand Oaks in the same capacity so she has quickly learned new procedures.

WESTFALL

During the winter months, the Westfall Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services to the community. There were weekly programs for all ages and a wide range of topics. In addition to many events hosted at the branch, the staff was also able to offer off site services as well as outreach.

As part of International Holocaust Remembrance- Learn and Remember series, the Westfall branch hosted Dr. Roger Barnes from the University of Incarnate Word who gave a presentation titled “Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto”. The talk was about the one month uprising in 1943 by Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto. It was the single largest act of Jewish resistance during WW II. They knew their efforts were doomed, but Jewish fighters held out with few weapons in their battle against the Nazis.
During the reporting period, Children’s Librarian, Imelda Merino, visited daycares in the service areas and brought the children a variety of books to read. Additionally, Ms. Merino held weekly children’s programs such as story time, kids and toddler times. The programs consisted of some stories and fun activities to wrap up the day.

On Saturday, December 15th, Children’s Librarian Imelda Merino and Teen Librarian Daniella Toll hosted Westfall’s Winter Wonderland Party. It started with a lovely violin and viola concert performed by three teen volunteers from Health Careers High School. Children and their parents then enjoyed a short picture book reading, refreshments, and holiday crafts.

On Fridays, the Westfall Branch continued to host students from the One for Autism Academy located in the neighborhood. The students visited the branch to check out library books as well as participate in an activity. Teen Librarian, Daniella Toll has been working with the students since the beginning of the school year.

Teen Librarian, Daniella Toll continued to host math tutoring on Saturdays from 1-3pm at Westfall. Three 10th and 11th grade volunteers from Health Careers help mostly middle school students with math up to algebra II. Additionally, the branch has Teen Time every Wednesday from 5-7pm, where young adults participate in fun activities and games.

The Westfall Branch Library continued to host the “Stranger than Fiction” and “Third Thursday” book clubs. Books read this month included “The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: and Their Race to Save the World’s Most Precious Manuscripts” by Joshua Hammer and “Portable Veblen” by Elizabeth McKenzie. Both book clubs draw small but dedicated groups that enjoy discussing the themes of the books as well as other issues of the day.

In December the LEARN @ SAPL staff celebrated the compilation of a second LEARN anthology, “In Our Words: Heroes Among Us” written by our ESL students. Teachers, students and families all gathered together for a wonderful reception at the LCRC. The best part of the night by far was seeing our brave students sharing their experiences in English in front of a crowd. The students took great pride in their accomplishment, complimenting each other after the readings, and even asking for author signatures. It was a great night, and an important reminder of why the ESL program at LEARN matters.

In January, the Westfall branch staff welcomed new Assistant Branch Manager, Angelina Cortes to the team. Ms. Cortes hails from Everett, Washington where worked as an Adult Reference Librarian at the Sno-Isle Libraries system. In addition to her assistant manager responsibilities, Ms. Cortes will also oversee programs and services for adults. The Westfall staff is excited to start the New Year with a new team member and looks forward to working with her in 2019.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY
KEY INDICATORS

Presented below are key indicators that align with the Library’s Strategic Plan.

**CIRCULATION: GOAL**

- **7,383,981** TOTAL FY GOAL
- **109% OF FYTD GOAL MET**

**CIRCULATION: FISCAL YEAR 2019**

- **1,882,288** ITEMS BORROWED

**LIBRARY VISITS: GOAL**

- **5,353,581** TOTAL FY GOAL
- **103% OF FYTD GOAL MET**

**LIBRARY VISITS: FISCAL YEAR 2019**

- **1,357,579** VISITS

**DIGITAL ACCESS: GOAL**

- **2,353,104** TOTAL FY GOAL
- **101% OF FYTD GOAL MET**

**DIGITAL ACCESS: FISCAL YEAR 2019**

- **130,876** COMPUTER HOURS
- **420,703** HOURS OF WI-FI USE
- **551,579** TOTAL HOURS OF COMPUTER & WI-FI USE
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS
DECEMBER 2018 (continued)

USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2019

CIRCULATION BY TYPE
- 22% DIGITAL
- 78% PHYSICAL

CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA
- 23% BEXAR COUNTY (OUTSIDE COSA)
- 77% COSA

VIRTUAL VISITS: FISCAL YEAR 2019

- 594,098 MYSAWL.ORG VISITS
- 241,512 MYSAPL APP SESSIONS
- 383,687 SANANTONIO.OVERDRIVE.COM VISITS

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2019

- 91,192 TOTAL ATTENDANCE
- 22,365 ADULT PROGRAMS
- 18,766 TEEN PROGRAMS
- 50,061 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

DECEMBER MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Memorial Bond Community Informational Meeting
Lucha Libros at Central
San Antonio Public Library  
Dec 2018 Key Indicators

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Circulation includes Digital (OneClick and Overdrive) and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt

01/11/2019
## San Antonio Public Library
### Dec 2018 Programs and Attendance

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San Antonio Public Library

Location Closures

FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm
FY 17: Landa Jun 5-Sep 20, SAPL System Aug 26-27, Cortez Sep 16 * Openings: Potranco Nov 4, Schaefer Mar 25
San Antonio Public Library

Location Closures

FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm
FY 17: Landa Jun 5-Sep 20, SAPL System Aug 26-27, Cortez Sep 16 * Openings: Potranco Nov 4, Schaefer Mar 25

Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Dec 2018

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

Legend:
- FY 2019
- FY 2018
- FY 2017
San Antonio Public Library

Visits

Location Closures
FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm
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San Antonio Public Library

Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Dec 2018

Location Closures
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San Antonio Public Library

Location Closures

2019/01/11

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

Location Closures
FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm
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