



## San Antonio Public Library Director's Report January 2020

Library Director, Ramiro Salazar, addresses community members at the launch of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual The Holocaust Learn and Remember series on January 6, 2020. The Holocaust: Learn and Remember is a partnership between in the San Antonio Public Library and the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. This year's theme is "Women in the Holocaust."

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# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar continued to remain engaged at the national level in the e-book discussion related to the recent purchasing structure change by book publisher Macmillan.

On November 17, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Board Meeting and delivered a presentation on behalf of the Library. Additionally, on January 9, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with the Executive Committee of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library.

Serving in the capacity of President of the Public Library Association, a division of the American Library Association, Library Director Salazar participated in several meeting with executive staff of the Public Library Association.

On November 19, the San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees and the San Antonio Public Library hosted a farewell celebration at the Central Library for Tracey Bennett, Library Foundation Executive Director.

On November 20, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the annual meeting of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Board and delivered a presentation on behalf of the Library.

The Central Library served as the venue for the Digital Divide Assessment Launch on December 2 and featured remarks from San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg; Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff; San Antonio District 8 Councilmember Manny Pelaez and Bexar County Precinct 2 Commissioner Justin Rodriguez; San Antonio Public Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar and City of San Antonio Chief Innovation Officer Brian Dillard.

A delegation of International Youth Leaders from Mexico and associated with the ULinks Foundation toured the Central Library on December 11 as part of an international tour aimed at engagement with different institutions and organizations in order to build bridges between the younger generations of Mexico and the United States.

As a member of the Local Government Hispanic Network Board, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar participated in a monthly board meeting on January 3.

On January 6, the San Antonio Public Library, in partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, held an opening reception for The Holocaust: Learn & Remember program series. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg; San Antonio District 9 City Councilmember John Courage; San Antonio Public Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar and Community Leader Howie Nestel were among the speakers during the event. The theme for 2020 is Women in the Holocaust and programs will take place in various Library locations throughout January 2020.

# MARKETING

Top media hits for the past month:

- The Express News referenced the Library's LEARN at SAPL Citizenship Preparation class in an article focused on US Citizenship.



- On Monday, December 2, the City's Innovation Department launched the CoSA Digital Assessment initiative at Central Library. Library Director, Ramiro Salazar, along with Mayor Nirenberg, Councilman Pelaez, Judge Wolff, Commissioner Justin Rodriguez and Brian Dillard, Chief Innovation Officer kicked-off the event with a speaking program discussing the initiative. The launch was picked up by several leading news stations including: KSAT, Rivard Report, San Antonio Business Journal, Fox News, News 4 and TPR.
- The Learn and Remember Opening Reception took place on Monday, January 6. In addition to being a great turnout, it also had a lineup of media stations that covered the Learn & Remember series/Opening Reception. This included Spectrum News, KSAT12, KFYO-AM, News4, and Fox News.
- American Libraries featured San Antonio Public Library's Zine Fest in their print and online publications.

# On the Zine Scene

Libraries partner with festivals for community expression

By Diana Panuncial | January 2, 2020



San Antonio Public Library hosted the third annual San Anto Zine Fest in October. In 2018, the fest welcomed more than 1,000 attendees.

- IJNET (International Journalists' Network) published an article listing 6 examples of newsroom and library collaboration. SAPL's partnership with NowCast was included in this list as one of the leading partnerships between libraries and broadcasters.

Social Media fun facts for the reporting period:

- SAPL's social media following base grew by 224 new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts 7,123 times.

Social Media statistics for the month:

- Twitter: 4,919 followers
- Facebook: 18,631 fans

- Instagram: 4,356 followers



### Graphics Highlights

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including materials for the Holocaust Learn & Remember series, Landa closure signage and materials, the 2020 SAPL Fiesta medal, DreamWeek, LEARN@SAPL at Johnston, and the upcoming Symphony at SAPL series.

## DIGITAL SERVICES

On December 9, Digital Services Coordinator Adam Spana, Digital Library Services Supervisor Rolf Laun, Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson, Digital Library Services Specialist Brian Douglass and Digital Library Services Assistant Dan Garcia met one last time with their respective Employee Engagement workgroups and presented their findings to Organizational Health Manager Roberta Sparks and Public Services Administrator Haley Holmes.

Mr. Spana learned on January 7 that he was accepted into the City of San Antonio's Management Development Institute (MDI). MDI was established to develop the leadership skills of the City's mid-level managers.

## LITTLE READ WAGON

### Play & Learn

Little Read Wagon, with additional support from branch library staff members, has concluded Play & Learn at Walker Ranch Park. While some of the dates were cold and windy, we always had participants ready to play outdoors. Thanksgiving week saw our biggest crowd, 137 children and their grownups.

### Services to Pregnant and Parenting Teens

Clair Larkin and staff hosted Harlandale ISD school age parents at Walker Ranch Play & Learn and then met students at Central Library where they toured the library and learned about services. Ms. Larkin visited with students at Southwest High School, LEE High School, Tejeda Academy, Harlandale High School, Churchill High School, Stevens High School, Holmes High School, and Sam Houston High School.

### Workshops for Parents

Julia Lazarin visited a C4NC Family Socialization, Knox Early Childhood Center, Carroll Early Childhood Center, Boone Elementary, and Gonzalez Early Childhood Center. Crescencia Huff visited Big Country Elementary, Hernandez Head Start, J.T. Brackenridge Elementary, and John Glenn Elementary. Ms.

Lazarin and Ms. Larkin made a holiday visit with families at Casa Mia, a home for mothers recovering from opioid addiction, where mothers made sensory bottles and talked about early literacy skills.

### **Workshops for Professionals**

Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Larkin presented the fifth “Make Way for Play!” workshop for early childhood teachers on January 11. A key part of the workshop is time set aside for teachers to settle in and engage in their own exploration of play. Then the group gathers to reflect on the experience and share their thoughts on how it might apply to play opportunities provided for the children in their care.

### **System-wide Support**

Little Read Wagon continues to be a source of materials to loan, a space to collaborate on ideas for play and to build early literacy proficiency with colleagues across the San Antonio Public Library system.

### **Building Connections**

Ms. Huff and Ms. Larkin were invited to participate in the National League of Cities (NLC) Summit by NLC’s Early Childhood Success Program. They took Play & Learn materials and set up in the booth in the exhibit hall at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center complete with turf to lend and outdoor feel. They spoke with mayors and city representatives from across the country about how SAPL early literacy outreach operates.

### **Reading Village**

Ms. Lazarin brought the Reading Village to Early Childhood Education Centers including Knox Early Childhood Center, the Pre-K Academy at West Avenue, Pecan Valley Elementary Head Start and Carroll Early Childhood Center’s Winter Literacy Fair.

## **CHILDREN’S (SYSTEM-WIDE)**

### **Children’s Programming**

The system-wide rotation of Play & Learn: Let’s Go to the Grocery Store concluded in December. Several work groups have prepared new programs for winter and spring, including:

- Dragon Appreciation Day
- Census 2020: Every Child Counts!
- Spring Play & Learn: Woodlands and Fairies

The Little Read Wagon team has been hard at work coordinating with partners for Baby Day. Central Library will be the San Antonio venue for the February 15 state-wide celebration.

Coordinator of Children’s Services, Cresencia Huff, presented early literacy workshops at three Head Start Centers and represented SAPL at Big Country Elementary School’s Literacy Night. Ms. Huff also continued to assist with Story Time program coverage at Johnston Branch Library, along with Arlene Richardson, Amy Roberts, and Christine Deffendall.

Children’s Services was grateful to receive a donation of brand new Arte Kids books from the Library Foundation’s Born to Read initiative. Books were distributed through Baby Time, Toddler Time, Story Time, and outreach programs in December.



### **Professional Learning**

Dance educator and choreographer, Jennifer Edmonds-Jones, provided a 90-minute workshop during the December Children’s Services team meeting. The workshop focused on movement activities easily

incorporated into a regular children's program or expanded to be their own event. Ms. Jones also shared dance and movement-related vocabulary.

### **Community Connections**

The Children's Services team took on a new project with Harlandale and San Antonio Independent School Districts and the City-Wide Battle of the Bluebonnets. The team was approached about sorting questions for the different levels of competition (campus, district, and city-wide). Several Children's Librarians have taken up the challenge of reading multiple titles and reviewing the questions submitted by school librarians. Campus and district-level competitions begin in March. The City-Wide competition will be held May 2.

- Ms. Huff attended two Cave Bexar gatherings of library coordinators, including a visit to the Judson High School and San Antonio College libraries.
- Ms. Huff and Clair Larkin (Little Read Wagon) represented SAPL at the National League of Cities City Summit. They set up a mini-Play & Learn in partnership with the Early Childhood Success team in the Expo Hall.
- Ms. Huff also attended the SA2020 Partner Preview, Born to Read committee December and January monthly meetings, quarterly meeting of the Ready Children Impact Council, and City of San Antonio Head Start Education Advisory Committee.

### **Staffing**

The Children's Services team is very happy to welcome Teague Shosh (Parman), Lisa Taylor (Parman), Monica Huerta (Pan American), Lucy Humphrey (Pruitt), and Megan Cruz (Little Read Wagon).

## **TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)**

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Off-site Service—Teen Services was invited to represent the San Antonio Public Library at Fiesta Youth's NOH8 Photo Shoot campaign on November 18 and YUMiCON on November 30; at both events, teens and their families learned about teen services and programs throughout the system. Attendees also experienced off-site service activities such as browsing through a sampling of Fiesta Youth's donation of LGBTQ Young Adult Collection materials and making personalized pronoun buttons at the NOH8 Photo Shoot, as well as playing "Super Smash Bros. Ultimate" and taking photos with the Simple Booth at YUMiCON. Thanks to Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central), Ami Sarabia (Teen Outreach Specialist), and Daniella Toll (Teen Services Librarian/Assistant Manager, Collins Garden) for representing the Library at these events.

Ami Sarabia represented the SAPL at the Longfellow Middle School Literacy Night on December 10. She spoke to teens and their parents about upcoming SAPL events for teens, including the Young Pegasus poetry competition. Teens at the event made buttons based on their favorite Anime character. Ami also assisted Georgina Garcia (Teen Services Librarian II / Assistant Manager, Bazan) at Tafolla Middle School for Literacy Night on December 12.

Teen Services was invited to participate in the Avenida Guadalupe's annual *Pictures with Santa* event on December 18. Ami Sarabia and Matthew Loaiza attended and distributed Young Adult books to teens and provided live homework help and other information about the Library's digital resources to over 100 attendees.

Programming—The annual Teen Arts Fest event took place at the Central Library on November 16, with over 900 in attendance. J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) and a committee consisting of staff from around the system planned the event for several months, conducting numerous

outreach visits to schools and other youth-serving organizations to recruit teen artists and promote the event.

Professional Development—Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central) continues to serve on the SAPL project team for the Talent Modernization Study.

Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) graduated from the 2019 Alexander Briseño Leadership Development Program (ABLDP) on December 6. Although the program is over, Loaiza and his fellow team members from the 2019 ABLDP Arts & Culture Action Team are currently working with the San Antonio Public Library and multiple arts and culture institutions in the city on a developing project that will increase accessibility to these institutions.

System-wide Support—Teen Library @ Central staff members, Kathleen Fordyce (Manager), Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager), and Regina Almanza (Library Assistant) joined SAPL staff in volunteering at Elf Louise in December.

J.D. Elizondo continues to participate as a member of the SAPL podcast team at the Central Library.

## ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

In November, the Library hosted numerous events to recognize Native American Heritage Month. Several branch locations, including McCreless and Pan American hosted a presentation by Mickey Killian. Mr. Killian provided information about how origin and evolutionary history of the Native American groups who inhabited the Missions of San Antonio and where they are today. Native American Heritage Month was also celebrated through programs such as a cooking program highlighting Native American cuisine.

In celebration of the Winter Holidays, a group of staff members coordinated a series of DIY craft programs in December. These programs provided patrons at seven locations the opportunity to make a holiday wreath with supplies such as a wreath form, ornaments, and flowers. Each of the sessions were very well attended and provided participants an opportunity to create a decoration for their home while engaging with their community.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Library hosted a program in celebration of the Winter Holidays. Staff members Cynthia deLeon, Freddy Hudson, and Angelina Cortes organized a program featuring two components. The first component was an upcycled gift wrapping and card-making workshop facilitated by SpareParts SA. Participants learned how to use and repurpose recycled materials to create gift wrapping and holiday cards. This workshop was followed by an Ugly Holiday Sweater Fashion Show. Staff and community members were encouraged to show off their creative or tacky holiday sweaters – with prizes being awarded based on a number of criteria and categories. The event helped participants feel festive and have a positive, engaging experience at the Library.

The Library is hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Holocaust Learn and Remember series of programs in January. This initiative is a partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, and was co-founded by Director Ramiro Salazar and Howie Nestel in 2013. This year's theme is Women in the Holocaust, which focuses on women's unique experiences in persisting through and surviving the Holocaust. Events that have occurred during this reporting period include:

- The Opening Reception for Holocaust Learn and Remember was hosted on January 6<sup>th</sup> at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. This event was covered widely by local media, and featured remarks from Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Councilman John Courage, Ramiro Salazar, co-founder Howie Nestel, CEO of Jewish Federation Ronit Sherwin, and guest speaker Anna Grace Mako.
- The Central Gallery exhibit, Letters to Sala, opened on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit uses postcards and photographs to tell the story of Sala Garncarz Kirschner, who survived five years in Nazi

slave labor camps. Originally curated for the New York Public Library by Jill Vexler, the traveling version of the exhibition is on a five-year tour of the United States.

- Three programs have been hosted at locations throughout the system including a presentation about San Antonio Holocaust Survivors, a readers theater performance of the play Letters to Sala, and a presentation about Miep Gies

Holocaust Learn and Remember programs continue through January 31<sup>st</sup>.

At the beginning of January, LEARN@SAPL services were relocated from Cortez Branch Library to Johnston Branch Library. Services at Cortez ended on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and services at Johnston began on January 10<sup>th</sup>. The LEARN@SAPL at Johnston Branch Library, with its proximity to Lackland Air Force Base, has the opportunity to serve the educational needs of active military members, retirees, their families and the surrounding community. LEARN@SAPL locations at Bazan, Carver, Johnston, and Westfall provide adult educational support on a variety of topics including assistance with computers and technology, job applications and resume assistance, English as a Second Language, and GED.

## CENTRAL LIBRARY CHILDREN



Central Children's Winterfest was the highlight of the season. Organized by Librarian Olivia Escovedo, the party featured activities for all ages. Babies and infants enjoyed the extra-large sensory bin full of snow-like material while older children got creative with a collaborative art activity and an ugly sweater collage! Every child reveled in the extensive artic animal "cave" made from cardboard boxes and tables, as well as the slime and baking soda "snow" station.

Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin enhanced one of her Toddler Time programs by coordinating special guests and giveaways! She invited Caitlin Cowart, Community and Public Relations Manager, and Victoria Villarreal, Public Information Officer, to appear as “Book Fairies” and hand out board books donated by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation to the children. After this special experience, toddlers played with a light table and learned the “Snowky Pokey” dance.

Parents from area Avance centers visited the Central Library in a series of tours led by Librarians Ashley Stubbs and Ms. Seglin. Ms. Escovedo led a tour in Spanish as well. Parents were oriented to the resources available at the library and received parent education from the librarians, the early childhood experts.

Elementary school outreach was priority this month as Ms. Seglin and Ms. Escovedo visited two schools for extensive interactions with the students. They led four story time sessions for Kindergarteners at Bonham Elementary. At the Robert B. Green Elementary Career Day, they talked to many groups of students about being a librarian and library services. Their station was a big hit due to the puppets and books they shared!

## TEENS

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. A group of boys in a band schedule the studio to practice every week.

Tuesdays with Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager): Throughout the reporting period, teens continued to enjoy gaming of all varieties, including video games, board games, and card games. Teens were able to work together with their peers in cooperative-style games while also improving their own skills during competitive-style games. During the winter break, new teens frequently visited the Teen Library; those interested in gaming were immediately invited by regular teens to join, which highlights how these gaming environments naturally build interpersonal competencies within teens.

Wednesdays with Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT): Ciana continued to facilitate 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 facilitated use of the Oculus Rift, a Virtual Reality headset loaded with games for teens.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): On Thursdays, teens participate in activities at their library that encourage peer-to-peer assistance, creativity and expressing themselves, all while helping plan or decide the day’s program and the use of the teen space, ranging from showing movies to making tasty snacks to celebrating a holiday low-key to doing crafts in honor of a national month.

## REFERENCE

In November and December Reference staff organized programming that celebrated literature and writing, diverse cultures, and the season's Holidays.

Reference staff hosted two programs for National Novel Writing Month; the *NaNoWriMo – Coffee Fix* programs offered participants the opportunity for “write-ins”. Seasoned and new writers came together to enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee while working on their projects. The writers were eager to share their stories with staff and found the program a positive experience.



*Slammin' in the Stacks*, hosted by Librarian Michael Dunbar-Rodney, provided a venue for local poets to perform their work and have the opportunity to compete for prizes. The slam went in two rounds; the three poets with the highest cumulative scores were the winners. Prizes included a Moleskine notebook, a copy of *Depression and Other magic Tricks*, and two literary pins.

Here are the winners: Chibbi, Jinxx, and Miguel...

Librarian Lorin Flores hosted the *Athenaeum Steampunk Book Club* for the first time in November. Attendees were invited to dress in their finest Steampunk attire, sip tea, and mingle with fellow enthusiasts to discuss works in the Steampunk and Neo-Victorian fiction genres. The book chosen for this first meeting was *Boneshaker* by Cherie Priest. A lively discussion ensued about the book and other related topics. The session was also livestreamed on Twitch.tv. In December the *Athenaeum Book club* met online-only on Twitch.tv. Attendees read and discussed *Infernal Devices*, written in 1987 by K.W. Jeter; it is a core work in the Steampunk canon.

To celebrate World Kindness Day on November 13, Library Assistant Blanca Hernandez hosted *DIY Thank you Cards*. The purpose of World Kindness Day is to create a kinder world by inspiring individuals and nations towards greater kindness. Supplies were provided for the do-it-yourself craft program; participants could choose a beginner's kit, a 3-D card kit, or an advanced kit with gold-leaf. One patron was super excited to have craft activities at Central.



In honor of National Disability Awareness Month Reference staff screened an AD (Audio Descriptive) version of *Avengers: Endgame*. The audio descriptive feature narrates gaps in the action on screen to enhance the experience for all visually impaired moviegoers. Attendees, a few who were employees of Lighthouse for the Blind, enjoyed the narrated film. The narrator, who had an Australian accent, enhanced the experience by including exciting voice over descriptions of the many wordless action scenes.



November, performers from Kaveri Natya Yoga presented *Diwali: Bharatanatyam Classical Dance Performance*. Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights celebrating the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. The Bharatanatyam style of dance tells a story and is characterized by a fixed upper torso, intricate footwork and a vocabulary expressed through gestures of the face, eyes and hands.

The Cinema Terrible series seasonal offering was *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*. Hosted by Ms. Flores, the 1964 movie is considered to be one of the worst ever made and featured Pia Zadora (nominated as the Worst Actress of the 1980's) as a ten-year-old. Staff supported the film as heavy metal heckle elves. Library Assistant J. D. Elizondo also entertained the audience with improv guitar music. After the film attendees enjoyed a round of Cinema terrible Pointless Trivia and a discussion about movies that folks would like to see in the future. Most found the experience a unique, fun event.

To uniquely celebrate the season, Reference staff participated in organizing and hosting *Upcycle Crafts and Ugly Holiday Sweater Fashion Show*. Patrons of all ages joined Audrya Flores from Spare Parts in "upcycling" by making and decorating gift boxes and cards from materials such as used LED lights, cardboard, fabric scraps, and magazine photos. After the craft activity, patrons and staff modeled their sweaters for the *Ugly Holiday Sweater Fashion Show and Contest*. Choosing winners was difficult as the entries were all so creative and original. One sweater featured a realistic rendering in felt of the famous "leg lamp" from beloved holiday movie, *A Christmas Story*. Kaz Sephton from Roy Maas Youth

Alternatives was the announcer for the *Show*, providing witty ad-libbed commentary.



Staff also hosted seasonal program, *DIY U: Holiday Wreath Workshop*. Supplies were provided for participants to design and create their own decorative wreath.



## LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER

On Friday, November 15, Emma Hernandez, LCRC Program Manager led a tour for the Pan American Roundtable women's group. The group of 15 attendees toured the Latino Collection as well as Texana department.

On Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> the Latino Collection and Resource Center was host to the Canary Islanders Association's monthly meeting.

On Saturday, December 7, 2019 the Latino Collection and Resource Center presented *Meet the Author: Vincent Cooper* as a book launch event for *Zarzamora*, a collection of poems in celebration of San Antonio's westside.

Emma Hernandez, LCRC Program Manager, provided a Spanish-language tour of the Latino Collection and Resource Center, as well as Central Library, to a delegation of youth leaders from Mexico on December 11, 2019.

Emma Hernandez, LCRC Program Manager, assisted the San Antonio Public Library Foundation in use of Latino Collection and Resource Center on December 14, 2019 for their strategic planning session, which invited a variety of community stakeholders.

On Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> the Latino Collection and Resource Center presented *Altaring: Latinx Memoir Workshop with Bonnie Cisneros*. This three-part workshop series had participants excavate family histories, dreams, recipes, biographies and more to compose their own *autohistoria-teoria*, or autoethnography, in the form of a three-tiered altar. Participants finalized projects will be exhibited in the Latino Collection and Resource Center in April 2020.

## TEXANA / GENEALOGY

On November 15 Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson welcomed twenty members from the Pan American Round Table for a group tour of the Texana/Genealogy Department. Prior to visiting the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Emma Hernandez, Program Manager of the Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC), provided the group a tour of the LCRC.

On November 16 Librarian I Andy Crews gave a presentation at the monthly meeting of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County demonstrating the resources available in the Texana/Genealogy Department. There was a large turnout and the attendees were enthusiastic. He encouraged them to visit as a group, as we're always willing to give tours of the department.

Ms. Ferguson taught a *Digital Preservation Basics* class at the Semmes Library on November 16. Attendees learned about the fundamentals of digital preservation and discovered the Library's Memory Preservation Lab equipment that can be used for digitizing personal archive collections in multiple formats, including: audio cassettes, VHS cassettes, slides and photographic prints.

On November 22 Mr. Crews presented two sessions for the staff at Forest Hills Branch Library. The topic was utilizing the AccessNewspaper Archive and Ancestry Library Edition databases to find vital statistics (birth/death/marriage records and obituaries) for patrons doing genealogy research.

To celebrate Native American Heritage Month, Librarian I Sylvia Reyna curated an Open House "Come-and-Go" display of Native American Resources in the Texana Department on November 23. Special Collection items on view highlighted the indigenous cultures that thrived, and continue to flourish, in Texas and the United States.

Assistant manager Deborah Countess offered genealogy consultation appointments on December 1, designed to give people one-on-one help and guide them past research roadblocks and brick walls.

On December 4 Ms. Ferguson and Ms. Hernandez led a mini zine workshop for teens at the Pan American Library. Several members from Pan American's all-teen Friends group were in attendance and enthusiastically expressed interest in participating in the next San Anto Zine Fest.

Librarian II Matt De Waelsche taught two Beginning Genealogy classes to support Texana/Genealogy outreach. These classes were hosted at the Memorial Library on December 10 and the Tobin Library on January 7.

On December 14 Mr. De Waelsche hosted a book discussion in the Central Auditorium with Dr. Robert Jacobus, author of "Black Man in the Huddle" on the integration of high school and college football in Texas.

On December 16 Ms. Reyna conducted the class *Beginning Genealogy* at the Las Palmas library. A couple of representatives from the Latter Day Saints congregation attended which led to an interesting conversation on ancestry.

Ms. Reyna participated in SAPL's Christmas holiday outreach at Travis Park on 17 December. Activities included handing out good cheer, informing the public of SAPL resources and goodies via spin the wheel of SAPL.

For in-house staff training on January 7, Ms. Reyna led personnel at Collins Garden Library on *How to do Your House History*. She provided additional historic information on the Collins Garden family and estate.

Ms. Countess presented an Introduction to Genealogy at the Cody Library on January 10. Attendees were given tools and information to help start them down the path to uncovering their family tree. Special attention was given to the various San Antonio Public Library databases dealing with genealogy research.

In conjunction with LCRC and educator Bonnie Cisneros, Ms. Reyna presented training on the importance of utilizing genealogy in building your family history and an autohistoria-teoria altar. Texana staff also assisted attendees with digitizing family photographs. The *Altar-ing Latnix Memoir Workshop* is a three-part series, which started on January 11 and concludes on March 14.

## BRANCH LOCATIONS

### BAZAN

The Bazan branch hosted a three-part introduction to video production entitled *Video Production 101* in December for individuals interested in learning the basics of creating video content for the web. The series introduced aspiring video producers to camera use, sound, lighting, editing and publishing video content online.

The Bazan branch welcomed a new knitting and crocheting group in December. The group is led by a core group of about four members who have many years of combined experience but are eager to teach their craft to anyone wanting to learn how to knit or crochet. The group will meet every Sunday from 1pm-3 pm.

On December 18 Training Officers Emily Flores, Daniel Gomez and Michelle Rickman, along with Adult Services Coordinator Morgan Yohsimura, completed the Texas Health and Human Services Community Partner Program (CPP) / YourTexasBenefits.com training. The training will allow the Training Officers to better serve individuals applying for benefits.

The Bazan branch *Bad Girl's Romance Book Club* met up in November to discuss The Bride Test by Helen Hoang, the follow-up to her first novel, The Kiss Quotient, which the group discussed last year. The group celebrated the holiday festivities as well and had a joint celebration with fan group, the Alamo City Browncoats. Members from the book club also attend the monthly fan group event, Meet-N-Geek which takes place after the book club. Everyone who attended had a great time.

Bazan's newly renovated meeting which includes a state-of-the-art AV system, prompted a new program called *Scary Movie Social*. The movies, which often include seasonal themes, have been drawing in a crowd of at least a dozen or more customers, which include grandparents bringing their grandchildren,

which is pretty cool. Several grandparents thanked the staff for having this free movie event that has just the right amount of scare for everyone to enjoy.

Gemini Ink continued to host *Teen Writing Workshops* at Bazan. Ms. Erica DeLa Rosa, creative writing instructor, had high interest from a creative teen who requested an additional meet up in the teen space to expand on his writing skills. Gemini Ink has been consistent offering teenagers an opportunity to write throughout the year by providing a space every third Saturday of the month.

Teen Librarian Georgina Garcia alongside Ami Sarabia from Central's Teen Library visited Tafolla Middle School to participate in Literacy Night before the winter break. The two librarians gave out young adult books to the students who visited their booth as well as advocating for teen services. After the winter break Ms. Garcia continued hosting the After School Snack program offering free healthy snacks from the SA Food Bank to children under 18 years of age.

## BROOK HOLLOW

Brook Hollow hosted *Spilled Ink* with Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson in both November and December to celebrate *NaPoWriMo* with funding from Children's Services. In November, Vocab joined *Tween Time* and presented an engaging poetry workshop to children aged nine to twelve years. The kids listened to a poem entitled "Ode to Whataburger" by Amir Safi which sparked the children's imaginations. One eleven-year old girl took offense at Whataburger being declared the best hamburgers in Texas and wrote a response poem to its author declaring her devotion to McDonalds. Vocab recorded herself reading the poem and sent it to the author! Our tween was thrilled to have her written words matter and make an impact.

Brook Hollow's early literacy programming increased its attendance in December with more caregivers and their children joining *Baby Time*, *Toddler Two*, and *Toddler Time* after Thanksgiving. In December, the branch hosted a *Winter Wonderland Play and Learn* focused on allowing children the opportunity for free play. Free play at Brook Hollow focused on placing loose parts and materials out for children to choose how they wanted to play with the objects. Children get to move blocks to the play dough table or take toys into a sensory bin if that is how they want to play with the objects put in front of them. Several process art activities were also set out for children to explore. At one art station, a mini-maker space, one parent got in on the fun and made paper picture frames to put up for the holidays. Brook Hollow's Friends of the Library also provided cookies for all attending since it was the last story time of the calendar year.

During a break in children's programming at the end of December, Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas put up a Scavenger Hunt for families to enjoy that she had created. One family spent almost an extra hour at the library because the children were focused on completely and finding all the clues. Ms. Salinas also observed seniors without children taking the time to try out the Scavenger Hunt and enjoying try to solve the puzzle.

In January, Brook Hollow began Children's programming on January second with *Baby Time* and *Toddler Two* storytimes. Caregivers, infants, and toddlers joined in learning new songs and rhymes for the new year. To kick off our Story Time program, Ms. Jasmin Salinas, the Children's Librarian hosted a *Pajama Story Time*. Children attended in sparkly, superhero, dinosaur, and sweet treats PJS and listened to bedtime stories. After stories, children stayed to play with playdough, to create a piece of bedtime "art", and build.

Afterschool programming at Brook Hollow began with a fun, playful *Tween Time* run by Librarian Jasmin Salinas and Library Assistant Elissa Vura. Staff provided newspaper and masking tape and let the tweens decide how they wanted to use the materials. Some Tweens created new things. Others destroyed

newspaper sheets. Whether they worked alone or together the consensus was that they all loved having play time at the library with their library friends.

Elissa Vura also revamped her *Young Artist* program. Attendance for the Young Artists program dwindled in the fall when the focus of the program was aimed at eleven to eighteen year olds. But, in January the program began as a monthly offering with a new focus on tweens. Nine tweens attended the program and sat focused and attentive as Ms. Vura demonstrated water color techniques. The children that attended told Ms. Vura that they were excited to “finally get to do art!”

In January, Brook Hollow also began a Saturday family friendly *Lego Time!* Program. Caregivers and children were invited to use one of the tables in the children’s are to build together for two hours. One family built Legos and read books at the table together with their daughter super excited to see Legos offered in her favorite color – pink!

*Teen Time* at Brook Hollow continues to bring in a crowd of teens Wednesday nights. Teens got into the holiday spirit this reporting period with holiday-themed crafts and snacks including make-your-own snow globes, graham cracker holiday houses, and ornaments made from perler beads. Teens shared their creativity while making pancake art featuring different colors of batter squeezed into shapes. Some of the attempted shapes included a unicorn, a broken heart, and an emoji smiley face. The pancakes looked and tasted delicious.

After a plea from Teen Librarian Julia Pouliot, the Brook Hollow teen section now has a robust display of watercolor art painted by our *Teen Time* attendees. The new exhibit features paintings on upcycled book pages, as well as watercolor paper cut to shapes of the teens’ favorite characters from TV and movies.

Once again Brook Hollow teens got to experience virtual reality with the Oculus Quest system borrowed from Teen Services. The overwhelming favorite game is BeatSaver, a game where players must match the rhythm of popular songs to their movements. Teens took turns playing the game and displayed comradery by cheering on their fellow teens as they played.

## CARVER

Carver Branch Manager DL Grant attended a December 6<sup>th</sup> Career Day at Davis Middle School, where he spoke to students about the library and information science profession and careers in the City of San Antonio. He visited with about 80 young people, helping them to see the many facets of librarianship and how the information profession profoundly influences society.

On Saturday, December 14, Carver Branch partnered with the Friends of Carver Branch to host a visit from Santa. The events attracted 115 people. Children received a free book then took photos with Santa. Children’s Librarian Braulia Carrillo transformed the children’s section into a festive space that featured a winter motif with a shimmering silver backdrop that was perfect for taking memorable snapshots. Mrs. Carrillo hosted some 30 children’s in-house activities for the month of December.

San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble (SAYWE) performed holiday tunes for the customers, adding to the festive atmosphere.

On Saturday, December 28, people turned out for the branch’s observance of Kwanzaa, an annual celebration of African American culture with the sharing of gifts.

January 5, 2020 marked George Washington Carver Day. Staff created a display that boasted a collage of Carver's image from his youth to his adulthood, along with an outline of his contributions to science and technology. An array of Carver biographies completed the exhibit.

On Monday, January 6 branch staff learned of passing of longtime Carver Friends member Shirley Fears Davis who died after a short illness. Most recently, Mrs. Davis served as treasurer. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 11. In happier news, Carver Friend Cathy Bee assumed her new role as president of the group. Shirley Coleman continues as treasurer; and Barbara Maat is the new vice president.

Danielle Capritto has joined the staff as a part-time Library Assistant serving the branch's teen demographic. Ms. Capritto is a native of Lafayette, Louisiana. Daniel Gomez also joined the Carver team as its Learn Center Training Officer. Mr. Gomez previously worked for Pearson before joining the San Antonio Public Library.

## CODY

Children attended a Play & Learn at Cody on November 18th all about the grocery store. Children practiced important pre-literacy skills as they searched for letters, wrote grocery lists, developed their fine motor skills at the playdough table, and sorted grocery items.

There was a lot of movement at Baby Time and Toddler Time during this reporting period. Children's Librarian Kristin Yourdon focused on introducing some fun new songs into the rotation. Children at these programs sang songs and listened to books about a variety of topics, including Thanksgiving, snow, arctic animals, and winter.

Children continued to learn about letters during the Toddler, Two and Story Time programs this reporting period. Children listened to stories based off of the week's letter, practiced making the letter's sound, and completed extension activities to reinforce the lesson. Each week children created a craft to go along with the theme. A favorite craft of the reporting period was on December 11th when the theme was 'M is for Music.' Children used rhythm sticks to paint on paper. This craft allowed children to make music and paint at the same time.

Tween Time continues to offer 9 to 12 year olds an opportunity to gather and socialize on Monday afternoons. During the Turkey Bowl on November 18th tweens competed in various Thanksgiving-themed mini games. Some examples of activities that the tweens enjoyed included making snow slime, competing in winter-themed mini games, and building objects with Straws & Connectors.

Come & Go Crafts are offered twice per month at the Cody Library. On November 21st children decorated a plate with a holiday meal they would share with their family. During the program children talked about the holidays that their families celebrate and about the different kinds of food their families eat. On December 5th children made paper plate wreaths. Some children decorated dreidels to put on their wreath, while others decorated trees.

There were several special events that took place at the Cody Library during this reporting period. Families gathered to watch the movie Toy Story 4 on November 25th and put together and decorated a slinky dog. Families also gathered to attend a Holiday Concert put on by the Fiesta City Chorus on December 17th. Finally, the branch hosted a Frozen Party on December 19th. During this program children and families played with snow dough, competed in a Sven antler toss and ice block sled races, decorated princess or antler headbands, and took pictures with Santa.

Children's Librarian Kristin Yourdon visited Locke Hill Elementary on December 3rd for the Writing Wizards club. Yourdon taught the students in the club a mini lesson on revision. Afterwards children worked on revising the poems they planned to enter into the Young Pegasus competition.

*Teen Gaming* provides teens with opportunities to hang out after school and play video, board, and card games. Current favorite games include Super Smash Bros Ultimate, Just Dance, and a virtual reality Western game on the Oculus Go!

*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 weeks have seen teens experimenting with new kinds of art, including fluffy paint, and returning to old favorites like Perler beads. An old set of ping-pong paddles became a fun new extreme sport, while men's socks from the dollar store transformed into an exciting indoor snowball fight. Teens participated in cooking as well, making their own fun winter-themed snacks and curling up for a holiday movie. When one regular's birthday came around, she made a special request—fruit—and teens enjoyed it in her honor!

The *Cody Chess Club* continues to bring children and teens into the library each Tuesday for games and chess puzzles.

Cody hosted Adult Movie Time showing *Molly's Game* on December 8 and *Starman* on December 22.

Cody hosted eight longstanding book clubs for the months of November, December and January. Library Assistant Luanne Bloom visited with the monthly *Adante Book Club*.

Ms. Katrina Chretien, author of *The Interview Artist, Understanding the Art of Career Development and Interviewing* hosted her last November 2019 workshop. Debbie Countess from Texana held the first in a series of *Beginners Genealogy* class and Cody had 10 patrons that participated.

The Adult Chess Open Play had its last Friday session on November 1st. Cody hosted twenty patrons for a morning of "Tea Time" for adults.

Cody collaborated with the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) to present Medicare Annual Enrollment with Sandra Aviles. Free legal clinics were presented, one on Guardianship and Wills and a second on Tax Issues for Immigrants, and a third on Crime Victims Rights. Alamo Area Rape Crisis Center had a table presentation and Jennifer (JJ) Niño Obledo was on-hand to answer questions on November 18 and December 19. December 6, Move Texas hosted a table to answer questions about voter registration.

Cody is proud to host artist Ilna Colemere as she loaned her "Color Blocks" to be displayed in the meeting room and above the library collection. Her display will be available from December 29 to February 28, with an opening reception on January 10.

Cody partnered with Hug Me Inc. for DreamWeek who hosted the "Xpress Ulrself" workshop in which 75 patrons participated, creating books and other projects.

Adult Librarian McGowan collaborated with other staff members to provide fun and engaging activities for adults. Library Aide, Olivia Bandalan-Islas and her daughter Luna, presented a series of Adult Hula Hooping classes. Library Assistant Angela Olivarez presented a DIY Leather Tassel Key Chain class on December 11.

## **COLLINS GARDEN**

### **Adults/Community/Family**

November and December events at CGL included Bexar County Election Department's 2019 Early Voting and Election Day. CGL hosted Coffee & a Movie, featuring Mexican Cinema with classic & recent releases and Coloring for Adults. CGL kicked off the holiday season with its third annual Holiday

Community Tree Lighting Ceremony featuring a seven foot holiday tree and the River City Bell Ringers. The Bell Ringers performed holiday songs and offered a bell workshop for children following the performance. CGL hosted tables for the League of Women Voters; census and voter registration at various times during Nov/Dec/Jan, 2020.



### **Children**

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi hosted 78 attendees in six programs for the continuously popular Lego Club. Lego creations are displayed for public enjoyment in the reference area. A grocery-themed Play and Learn November 21 had children pretending to purchase produce at a fruit stand with money, grocery baskets and a cash register. Kids washed fruit and did vegetable stamp art. 18 children attended. During the Come and Go Craft programs for the reporting period, children made Thanksgiving and Christmas crafts. Brudi attended a Nature Smart Libraries Workshop and a Discovering the Genealogy of Your House training. The Girl Scouts of America met at the CGL in Nov and Dec.

### **Manager Happenings**

CGL Manager Jeannette Davies attended SAPL Wellness/Mindful Based Stress Reduction Program at Igo library; District Five Libraries meeting at Memorial Library; SAPL Manager's Luncheon; Davies, along with the entire CGL Team supported the Friends of Collins Garden Library Holiday Craft Fair at CGL Saturday, December 7, 2019.

### **Teens**

Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll hosted weekly Teen Tuesdays. Teens were creative in activities ranging from playing charades and acting out scenes from their favorite movies, to playing the new card game Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza, to creating holiday wreaths for the library.

### **Tween Scene**

CGL hosts Tween Scene Thursday afternoons with a rotating library staff engaging with the tweens via video games & arts/crafts.

## **CORTEZ**

On January 4 Ms. Brantley attended the "Growing Up Wild" workshop at Hardberger Park. This workshop provides a host of ideas for nature-based programs for children and will serve as inspiration as the Branch continues to participate in the Nature Smart Libraries initiative.

Through the winter holiday period the Branch was aglow with decorations, a tree, and four different bulletin boards depicting appropriate seasonal themes. The boards were all done by Circulation Attendant Madeline Vasquez who has a real flair for eye-catching designs.

Branch staff celebrated the season with a gift exchange and potluck on December 12 and by participating in Ugly Sweater Day on December 19.

Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes was recognized at a reception at Central Library on December 4 for her 20 years of service to the City of San Antonio.

### **Children's Programs**

#### **Toddler Time** (Nicole Cubillas, Ana Menchaca)

Toddlers and their caretakers heard more songs and stories on the themes of bubbles, the winter holidays, and winter animals; they prepared relevant crafts, participated in dramatic play, and spent time digging through sensory bins, making music with soft rattles, writing with chalk and building with foam blocks.

#### **Family Fun** (Nicole Cubillas, Madeline Vasquez)

Cortez families heard stories on the themes of winter holidays, winter animals, and bubbles. They collaborated on arts and crafts, and participated in relevant challenges and competitions. On December 12 Ms. Vasquez helped out by leading the Family Fun crowd in the making of paper snow globes after hearing the story "Snow Diamond".

#### **Ready, set, game!** (Nicole Cubillas)

Attending families came together for board games, card games, puzzles, and more.

### **Teen Programs**

#### **Teen Time** (Jo Ann Paredes)

On December 12 teens got to enjoy making Christmas ornaments out of air dry clay and also played video games.

### **Adult Programs**

#### **Adult Coloring and Cortez Older Adult Social Time** (Madeline Vasquez)

There were six sessions of this popular program led by staff member Ms. Vasquez during this reporting period. This community program features advanced coloring for adults, board games, puzzles and light refreshments.

#### **Getting Crafty Program** (JoAnn Paredes)

The crafters enjoyed a Nature Smart Libraries program of making corn husk dolls. They also made crafts for the holidays including Santa hat door hangers, wreaths, Christmas ornaments and decorative Christmas bottles. In January the classes started the new year learning to make stained glass out of hot glue.

#### **Tea Time Crafts (Jo Ann Paredes)**

Tea Time has gotten off to a great start as of November 10. Everyone brings whatever craft they would like to work on and gets to enjoy a nice cup of flavored tea. Several attendees bring in different flavored teas bags from peppermint tea to chai tea, and the group was also introduced to loose leaf tea.

### **Monster Meet** (Madeline Vasquez)

A good-sized crowd was treated to a live speaker who was a paranormal ghost hunter on December 14 and the movie Willard on January 11. This popular monthly program brings regulars as well as new attendees who enjoy anything spooky, scary, or mysterious.

### **Art Therapy** (Madeline Vasquez)

On December 12, patrons were taught how to make Christmas wrapping paper while incorporating things from nature, like leaves and flowers. On January 9, patrons made their own creation with pre-made clay and then decorated using paint, glitter and beads. All supplies were provided.

### **Clay Christmas Ornaments** (Madeline Vasquez)

On December 23, patrons decorated pre-cut clay ornaments to look like ugly Christmas sweaters. Paint, tinsel, glitter, beads, stamps and buttons were provided for patrons to use.

### **Medicare Enrollment** (Alamo Area Council of Governments)

The Alamo Area Council of Governments hosted an information table on November 15 to help patrons learn about their Medicare options and how to enroll.

### **Art Journaling** (Nicole Cubillas)

One Thursday night a month attending families are provided with mixed media supplies and invited to create their own artwork.

### **Free Legal Clinic** (Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid and Caritas Legal Aid)

Local legal aid clinics offered educational presentations about an Immigrant Safety Plan on December 5 and Guardianship and Wills on January 2.

### **Healthy Cooking Class** (Vince Escobedo)

Mr. Escobedo hosted his monthly cooking classes on November 21 and December 12. He taught patrons to make healthy treats out of Thanksgiving leftovers (November) and rosemary chocolate bark with peppermint and pretzels (December).

## **Community Programs**

### **Cortez Chess Club**

Mr. Pacheco continues to lead our weekly chess club every Saturday. He enthusiastically teaches attendees of all ages about chess. Chess sets are provided.

## **LEARN Center Activities**

The LEARN Center including both Adult Education and Financial Counseling components was officially closed at Cortez as of January 2 and moved to the Johnston Branch Library in District 4. Training Officer Daniel Gomez moved to take the same position at the Carver Branch Library in December.

Before Daniel's departure he wrapped up his ESL classes which were taught through December 15 and his learning Spanish for English speakers classes ended on December 1.

# ENCINO

Encino continued to thrive during the holiday season. Fitness in the Park remains a popular activity, drawing a modest group of regulars and occasional new faces each week, especially to Yoga. Libraries and Labyrinths, Encino's home-grown Role-Playing Game program, wound down its exploration of post-Apocalyptic Central Texas and ended the year in a galaxy far, far away as Jedi in a Star Wars game. The game is on hiatus until March.

Hand Bee and the San Antonio Needlework Guild, two popular programs in Encino's Meeting Room, were joined by two adult crafts; sock gnomes in November, and DIY holiday wreaths in December, both of which drew patrons interested in making a bit of holiday fun. More seriously, CARITAS hosted a workshop on Guardianship and Wills, and several computer classes helped patrons learn skills and apply for jobs.

The Encino Branch hosted a Star Wars Countdown program on November 20, in preparation for the new Star Wars movie coming out in December! Kids got to make their own Star Wars themed fortune tellers, paper bag Wookiee puppets, and pencil lightsabers. They also got to snack on "thermal detonators" (cheese balls), "edible ewoks" (Teddy Grahams), and "dihydrogen monoxide."

Grinchmas, on December 9, was a huge hit! Encino hosted the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who, who met and took photos with many of our Encino families. Children also got the opportunity to make glittery Grinch slime, Grinch pompom ornaments, and Christmas puppy crafts. Also a big hit at the party was "indoor snow" which children got to play in, and make some snowballs and mini snowmen with. Families also got to snack on Who Hash, snowman noses, and a special Grinch punch.

From November 17 to December 19 kids got to participate in Holiday Bingo. They picked up a Bingo card with different reading related activities on it, and when they got bingo or a blackout they got small prizes, and a chance to win a gift basket.

Tweens Create has continued to be a popular program. Over the last several sessions tweens have made DIY Lava Lamps, cracked glass necklaces, sock snowmen, scrabble tile ornaments, and mini gingerbread houses. While making the DIY Lava Lamps the tweens learned about the density of liquids, and how the fizzing action of an Alka Seltzer tablet can make a denser liquid rise. The tweens also learned how glass cracks when it gets shocked from going between being very hot (out of the oven) to very cold (into an ice water bath). It was also a lot of fun to sort through 500 scrabble tiles to find all the letters needed for ornaments!

Librarian Katy Dillard led a new program at Encino, Homeschool STEAM, which had its first meeting on January 3. It was very successful, with over 30 children in attendance, and much excitement for future installments of the program!

On January 9 Encino hosted the monthly Children's Services meeting. Librarians from around the city enjoyed visiting the Encino Branch and sharing ideas for the spring.

The Encino Teens program continued with weekly Anime Club and Teen Hangouts. The Anime Club selected to watch My Hero Academia and Black Clover and were provided snacks to enjoy during their Anime time. The Teen Hangout program offered activities such as a Scavenger Hunt, Pancake Night, Elf Movie and Holiday Treat Making, Shrinky Dinks and video gaming. In January, Encino excitedly welcomed a new Teen Librarian, Heather Swindell.

# FOREST HILLS

As a STEM program during Kids Time, Ms. Menchaca boiled purple cabbage to show kids how PH can change through the addition of other substances. In this instance, they were able to see a difference right away because the purple water reacts and changes colors when the PH changes. The other kids times had games, crafts, and building challenges. One family used straws and connectors to make a car that was large enough for a child to go into – Impressive!

A winter party was held at Forest Hills, there was fake snow, crafts, painting, music and healthy snacks. Children were able to move from station to station and partake of winter wonderland fun. Ms. Menchaca was able to have the party thanks to the funds provided by Children's Services.

Ms. Menchaca hosted several Come and Go Crafts this month. She usually hosts them on Mondays and Wednesday for the kids who come to the library every day after school. She provides them with paper, markers, and crayons, and encourages them to use their imagination and make whatever they'd like.

Ms. Menchaca hosted a special program that emphasized free play. The program utilized different materials such as paint, play-dough, and blocks to allow children to play with just their imagination to guide them. Children were allowed to play for one hour and they were able to use the materials provided however they wanted, they were not given any instructions on what to do and parents were encouraged to let their children explore the different play stations.

Northside Independent School District partnered with Forest Hills to present a kinder readiness program. Several parents who attend Storytime have expressed a concern about their children being ready for kindergarten. Ms. Angela Garza for NISD provided information about kinder readiness and gave parents ideas on what they could do with their children at home.

As she does every month, Ms. Menchaca did outreach at PCI Head Start. Ms. Menchaca had some books that she was able to give away to the children. She read "The Good Egg" by Jory John to the children and sang songs with them, and as always she delivered books to the three classrooms.

Lego Builder hour is a weekly hit; children create all kinds of different structures. The creativity that is displayed during this program is impressive.

Bilingual Storytime continues to draw parents and children in for a Storytime that has books, songs, and rhymes in English and Spanish.

Several holiday programs were held in the month of December.

Music performances included the University of Incarnate Word Cardinal singers and the San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble.

DIY programming is always a popular offering at Forest Hills. In December patrons were invited to create their own personalized holiday tags and sugar cubes.

The Fire on the Mountain Cloggers performed on December 4. The energetic group performed a number of routines and engaged patrons in their performance.

A tea tasting was held for adults on December 7. Vanessa Sanchez of "Teanness", offered a sampling of teas that are specially blended for their health benefits and balanced flavors.

Vanessa will spoke about the organic teas she blends using ingredients from small, family owned tea farms.

The Seniors in Play acting group for seniors performed a holiday play on December 18. The Seniors in Play group has been meeting at Forest Hills twice a week. Their holiday performance was a real hit with patrons and generated a lot of laughs. Award winning actor Tony Plana supports this group and was in attendance for the event.

On exhibit for the months of November and December was art by UTSA art professor Humberto Saenz. A print making demo was held in conjunction with the exhibit.

## GREAT NORTHWEST

Christian Aldana has rejoined the San Antonio Public Library as a part-time library assistant at Great Northwest. The branch is glad to have him back at SAPL and helping with children's programming at the branch.

Great Northwest Library hosted the Teen Arts Fest Featured Artist Exhibit during November. The Teen Arts Fest Featured Artist is Rachel Kamata. Ms. Kamata is the 2018 Teen Arts Fest Adjudicated Art Show winner and a Blue Star Contemporary MOSAIC student artist.

Great Northwest teens continue to enjoy Monday night video gaming and virtual reality with teen librarian Desmond London. Teen volunteers used their creative skills to decorate the teen area. Mr. London visited Taft High School on December 18 with video games and the button maker at an outreach event with over 150 students. (Pictures below)

Library assistant Kathleen Marascio hosted the *First Annual Great Northwest Library Spelling Bee*. Six contestants competed in front of an audience for first, second and third place trophies and ribbons. The Spelling Bee word lists were of third – fifth grade level and were sourced from public school word banks using both Random House and Merriam-Webster dictionaries. Word games, puzzles, and a craft table with themed souvenir buttons were available along with refreshments graciously donated by the Great Northwest Friends of the Library.

On January 8 library assistant Jordan Torres hosted a *DIY U: Mini-Zine* program. The program provided adults with a "how-to" instruction guide on making mini-zines while also providing tips, techniques, and a wide array of different topics the format can cover. Families of all ages and adults created unique and personal designs for their own mini-magazines.

Great Northwest Library presented a *Classic Film Series* on November 26 with a screening of Frank Capra's *It Happened One Night*. On December 17 the library screened the Film "Meet Me in St. Louis" and patrons also had the opportunity to make vintage inspired paper ornaments from old holiday cards.

The Great Northwest Saturday Book Club met on December 14 to discuss the book *Transcription* by Kate Atkinson. On January 11 the Saturday Book Club met to discuss the book *I Was Anastasia* by Ariel Lawhon.

The Great Northwest Library hosted *DIY U: Journaling* on December 11. This is a monthly program for adults that provide tips and techniques on how to start a journaling projects.

On December 16 the Great Northwest Library hosted *DIY Holiday Greeting Cards*. This program allowed families to learn some tips and techniques to personalize holiday greeting cards using watercolor and acrylic paints.

Adult services librarian Stephanie Vazquez partnered with the NISD Reddix Center to implement *Library for all: programs for adults with disabilities*. On January 9 Ms. Vazquez provided adult coloring, watercolor art, button making, and Keva plank building activity for students and their caregivers.

The San Antonio Parks and Recreation *Fitness in the Parks* program series continues with Barre Fitness and Core Training on Mondays from 12 pm to 1:30 pm through the new year into 2020.



## GUERRA

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented four Lego Clubs, four Toddler Times, four Story Times and four Art Clubs. At three Come & Go Craft sessions families enjoyed the opportunity to create Thanksgiving and Christmas crafts. Ms. Richardson planned and presented Story Time at Johnston Library on November 26 and December 10. On December 6, she planned and presented holiday story time to toddlers and preschoolers at Greatest Gifts Childcare Center and Angelic Smiles Childcare Centers. On January 10, she planned and presented story time to preschoolers at Lil Dragon Den Childcare. On November 22, Ms. Richardson served as one of the presenters at a Career Day hosted by JB Passmore Elementary School. Here she spoke to children about her career as a Children's Librarian. On December 7, Ms. Richardson planned and presented a DIY holiday cards and movie program for families. Families made personalized cards, watched a holiday movie – *How the Grinch stole Christmas* and enjoyed snacks provided by the Friends of the Guerra Library. Arlene currently serves on the Black History Month Committee. In recognition of Martin Luther King Junior Day, Arlene mounted a display highlighting his life and works.

On December 11, Circulation attendant Allison Fink assisted Arlene with a special holiday Art Club. Allison showed children and their grown-ups how to create book page garlands, ornaments, Christmas trees and angels.

Library Aides Yamilex Rosales and Laura Ocasio assisted Arlene with Lego Club on December 3. They provided the theme for day, supervised the children and ensured that all creations were displayed. Library Aide Santos Jimenez monitored the Friday afternoon Chess Club.

Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry served as a judge for the John Jay Science Fair on Dec. 7.

Assistant Branch Manager Jernell Williams held an outreach book groups at the Virginia Gill Community Center on December 6 and January 3. In December, participants discussed *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel, and *Look Alive Twenty-Five* by Janet Evanovich in January. She held two adult coloring programs on November 30 and December 29 in celebration of the winter holidays and the year 2020.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, moderated the Spanish language book club, Club de Lectura, on November 21 to discuss *En el último minuto* (Published in English with the title *King and Maxwell*) by David Baldacci On December 2, Mr. Jackson recorded *El lobo que quería ser una oveja* (*The wolf who wanted to be a sheep*) by Mario Ramos for dial-a-story in Spanish. On December 13, Mr. Jackson facilitated a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center. This month he emphasized Christmas with some questions about the Christmas holiday and other on holiday films. He moderated another Club de Lectura meeting on December 19 to discuss *La fortaleza digital* (*The digital fortress*) by Dan Brown. He recorded another book for dial-a-story in Spanish on January 6. The title of this book is *El pollo Chiras* (*The rooster named Chiras*) by Victor Eduardo Caro.

Guerra Library welcomed new Branch Manager Diane Backhus on Saturday, Nov. 23. She transferred from the San Pedro Branch Library. She looks forward to working with the Guerra Team.

## IGO

### Children's Services

Igo Branch families were delighted to see the return of the Winter Luau on December 20. Elvis impersonator Mike McMullen entertained the crowd with lively renditions of Elvis and holiday favorites and passed out plenty of tiny teddies to the youngest attendees. Santa Claus came dressed in his favorite Aloha shirt and was available for photos. Crafts included paper flower lei making, chopstick Santas, and tropical-themed potato printing. Families enjoyed games of pass the pineapple and pineapple bowling, but the most popular activity of the day was spending time with the banana-scented playdough. Over 100 people were in attendance.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance visited 3 schools over the reporting period. The Head Start Program at Carnahan Elementary School requested a presentation strictly for parents on the topics of Early Literacy at home and services available through the Library. Rhodes Elementary School needed information about the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition for 7 classrooms. Anne Frank Inspire Academy wanted a refresher for students about Library services.

### Teen Services

During Teen Time, participants could make yarn mandalas, perler bead creations; make Lego creations or word searches, coloring pages and crossword puzzles.

The branch had a Teen Time-Star Wars Party on December 18 in anticipation for the new Star Wars movie opening that week. The teens could watch "The Last Jedi," make nebula jars, galaxy paintings, galaxy bubble magnets or make their own lightsaber.

The teens made pancakes during cooking club December 9. Most of them had never made pancakes or even used a spatula before.

Manga/Anime club had different themes with different activities for each theme. While one anime show was playing they could play bingo related to that anime or make perler bead creations of their favorite anime/manga characters.

The teen librarian visited Brandeis High School before winter break on December 17 to talk to the students about library events, programs and resources.

### **Adult Services**

Igo's Dollars and Sense book club had two meetings during the reporting period. The club's focus is teaching members to be better and more effective stewards of their money by examining a variety of related topics. In December seven members discussed Dan Ariely's Dollars and Sense: How We Misthink Money and How to Spend Smarter. This was the book that inspired the creation of the club. In January, 11 members met and discussed The Investment Answer by Daniel C. Goldie and William S. Murray. Members have expressed the desire to have a second monthly meeting that could be geared towards helping people with less financial experience learn some basic practices that get them on the way to independence. The possibilities for a second tier of the program are currently being explored.

Igo customers had the opportunity to learn a bit of information about Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, and to receive an experiential learning experience on how to Manage Stress Reactions using a basic MBSR practices. The instructor taught a 5 - minute technique that people can use anytime, anywhere to activate the mind and body to de-stress, self-soothe and allow responding vs. reacting to the physical and mental alarms set off by Chronic Stress.

November 23 Igo branch presented a Classical Bharatanatyam Dance for Diwali. Attendees enjoyed beautiful custom from Indian culture that combines music, dance and storytelling.

A Handmade Holiday Cards Craft was arranged at Igo Branch on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. Customers had the opportunity to create beautiful handmade cards for their families as a DIY project. Five customers enjoyed creating cards with the free supplies provided by the library.

Adult Services Librarian of Igo Branch arranged a Holiday Ukulele Music concert on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. 43 people attended the program and Ukulele Ladies & Gents of Saint Andrew played favorite holiday songs.

### **Senior Services**

Level I Hatha Yoga continued every Friday when the meeting rooms were available. The 20+ regular attendees continue to email us their gratitude and satisfaction with this wellness instructional program.

The IGo for Art Club met on December 13 and January 10 to continue work on their art projects and to share information about art happenings around the area.

The Igo Elderberries held their annual Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon on November 22. Nearly 100 people attended and enjoyed the food, fellowship, and the performance of the 30+ OASIS Choir.

On December 5 the University of the Incarnate Word's Extended Run Players gave the Elderberries another great performance. This Reader's Theater was entitled "Ain't Life Grand" and gave some humorous perspectives on aging.

## **JOHNSTON**

Johnston Library hosted The Friends of the San Antonio Public Library's annual meeting November 17 with President Beth Graham leading the meeting. Johnston Library welcomed a new team member on November 18: Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop. On December 12 Johnston staff participated in the Talent Modernization Study for the San Antonio Public Library system.

Branch Manager Monica Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of *The Whisper Network* by Chandler Baker on November 20. On November 22 Ms. Bustillo and Collins Garden Teen Librarian Daniella Toll presented information about Librarianship at the Harris Middle School Career Day event. Ms. Bustillo continues to serve as Secretary for the San Antonio Public Library Toastmasters group which met on December 6 and December 20. Ms. Bustillo volunteered with the City of San Antonio's Government Rocks Water Station for the Rock and Roll Marathon on December 8. Ms. Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of *The Chain* by Adrian McKinty on December 18. Ms. Bustillo organized the December 23 holiday screening of The Polar Express film.

Adult Services Librarian Cristine Mitchamore hosted a Free Legal Clinic about Wills on November 16. A representative from Caritas Legal Services provided general information about writing and filing wills and answered questions about specific situations for patrons. On December 2 Ms. Mitchamore assisted patrons in creating decorations for the holiday season including reindeers using wine corks, snowflakes using buttons and craft sticks and wreaths using greenery and ball ornaments. December 9 Ms. Mitchamore hosted a Healthy Cooking class—the patrons learned about incorporating vegetables into meals and cooked their own veggie-laden chicken quesadillas.

Children's Librarians, Christine Deffendale (Memorial), Arlene Richardson (Great Northwest), and Amy Roberts (Maverick) and Children's Coordinator, Cresencia Huff, hosted six toddler times and six story times based on the theme the ABC's. Using books, songs and play centers, participants learned about letters P-U during these fun-filled programs. The Grocery Store Play and Learn kit was utilized during the December 3 Toddler Time and Storytime much to the delight of the young patrons. Library Aide, Victoria Liendo, assisted with activities during Toddler Time and Story Time and managed the six Lego Times of building, playing and creating unique Lego masterpieces. On December 17 the Lego Time featured a special guest Santa Claus! Patrons were encouraged to write letters to Santa and hot chocolate was provided by the Johnston's Friends Group. Children's Librarian Tiffany Durham returned to Johnston at the beginning of January and started back leading Children's Programming on January 7 Miss Tiffany is excited to be back and is working on creating new programming for Johnston's community.

Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop took the reins with Johnston's weekly Teen Time starting in November. On November 20, the teens worked together to set up and play Wii Sports, emphasizing teamwork and problem solving. December 4, they helped prepare the library's holiday gift tree by wrapping the books in giftwrap. December 11 the teens were involved an experiment with shaving cream and food coloring to create marbled art on paper, as well as a Super Smash Bros tournament on the Wii. December 18 was a holiday party for the teens, with them making cocoa and reindeer ornaments. On January 8, they flexed their skills in baking and in critical thinking, by making brownies in the waffle maker and playing Bananagrams.

Library Assistant Elsy Jackson taught a weekly class, *Conversational Spanish for Beginners*: On Monday, and November 18 and 25 where members learned interactive lessons about el *Día de Accion de Gracias* (Thanksgiving's Day) and *Navidad* (Christmas) with interacting games, reading and songs, respectively. Ms. Jackson served as a contributor to *Telecuentos* (Dial-a-Story in English), and she recorded a children's book for the week of January 25, *Gracias* (Thanks) by Pat Mora and the week of December 2, *El lobo que queria ser una oveja* (The Wolf That Wanted to Be a Sheep) by Mario Ramos. She decorated the Spanish collection area for the holidays and with the help of Library Aid Cynthia Blancas maintained a displays for these special days.

## LANDA

## Teens

The holiday months found Landa Teens more creative and collaborative than ever! The teens first collaborated for their Cooking Club where they made strawberry hand pies. It was the first time one teen had ever “cooked anything” and another was able to showcase tips and tricks they use at home! The group’s second Cooking Club was led by a Teen Club regular, instructing how to make “Not-Quite-Crepes” – an alternative of healthy fruit and nut butter wraps.

After Teen Study Hall (offered three times a week for studying and socializing) , the teens got into the holidays by creating DIY décor for their Teen Space, making DIY ornaments and keychains, and hanging out before leaving for break.

Drop-In Volunteering for Teens, SAPL’s only same-day teen volunteer program, welcomed six new volunteers in November! Two teens even completed the approval process to become regular volunteers at both Landa and the library closer to their home.

## Adults

The Landa book clubs continue to meet and have strong attendance. This past month, the Reader’s Ink Book Club read Erik Larson’s true crime thriller, *Devil in the White City*. They all enjoyed it’s graphic detail and Larson’s impeccable research. The Mystery Book Club read *Dark Sacred Night* by Michael Connally. The popular Connally is a favorite author of most club members and a lively discussion ensued about the merits of this title. In November, they read the psychological thriller *Pieces of Her* by Karin Slaughter. Reviews were mixed!

The Book Club at the Village at the Incarnate Word read *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers* by Maxwell King. Since none of the group had been of an age to see “Mr. Rogers Neighborhood,” they enjoyed reading about this icon of children’s television.

The participants at the Kenwood Senior Center were treated to a craft decorating Christmas stockings, appropriate as Karen’s visit came just before Christmas. In November, they decorated a turkey—a craft that came complete with everything but the glue sticks! Karen and the participants bid a sad farewell to Shanna Dunn, activities director at Kenwood, who left to take a job as a teacher’s aide with a public school.

# LAS PALMAS

It was winter and holiday readings and activities for Toddler Time in December/January. Valerie Shelley, Children’s Librarian, and Elvia Ramos, Librarian Assistant, read about kisses (besos) during Bilingual Stortime in January.

Community Outreach came into the library in December. Elvia gave a tour of the services at the library to pre-school parents of Gardendale Elementary School. The tour was conducted in Spanish and the parents were interested in several services we provide. New juvenile Spanish books were offered to the parents to encourage them to read at home. These books were donated with instructions to get them out into the community. Pre-school teacher picked them up in January to distribute to the parents.

Monday evenings continue to be Family Fun nights. Families were offered opportunities to participate in come and go crafts in the new craft area by Valerie’s desk. It was fun to see how the children and families personalized the projects. Puff paint was made and used to paint various pictures. Beads were used to decorate coloring sheets. Hats were made from an elf pattern.

Las Palmas had a community Thanksgiving event that was family fun. A movie was shown in the meeting room and Thankful Turkeys were made that had feathers for the participants to write what they were thankful for.

Las Palmas had a Winter Fest for the community which was well received. Movies were shown in the meeting room and elf hats made. There was a face painter, balloonist, and, of course, Santa Claus.

Lego Time has a steady group of students and parents who participate and create original designs using the blocks. Small lego pieces are used by the elementary students and large legos are provided for pre-school children.

On Mon, Nov 18, Las Palmas hosted the Sixth Sense Paranormal group. Leader, Jeff Sullivan conducted a PowerPoint show; patrons were intrigued with their findings and discussed their own ghost stories. As always, his program was thought-provoking and entertaining. The program was well-attended by adults and teens.

To celebrate the holidays, Las Palmas hosted several craft events. The programs included wreath making on Dec 11, recycled books that were made into Christmas trees and holiday themed *papel picado* on Dec 14. Adult crafting is popular at the branch.

As part of the Dream Week initiative, Las Palmas is having a seed give-away from Jan. 10-25. The program is in partnership with the William R. Sinkin Eco Centro, which is collective of nonprofit groups dedicated to improving the environment. The seed give-away is part of an information series of programs to readily provide patrons information and free seeds.

## MAVERICK

The Ladies Choice Book Club met on November 16 and December 14. The South Texas Role Playing Games Group met on Sundays in November, December and January. And the Maverick Chess Club also met on its routine Mondays up through the end of the year. The knitters group continue meeting at Maverick. Back by popular demand, Don Lovato provided a soothing musical performance December 7. Amanda Blake, an expert on Instagram, provided a basic 101 Instagram program on December 7. And also on December 7, Pat King led a holiday wreath program. Many of the customers enjoyed the craft program since it fit right in with the holiday season.

Maverick hosted a poets group on November 16. The poets shared poetry and held a book signing. Maverick hosted a Medicare/Medicaid Q&A in November and December. Maverick welcomed Vanessa Sanchez for a tea tasting program on November 23. With the cooler temperatures upon the season, the tea tasting program was well received by the public.

Maverick hosted several Homeowners' Associations during the remaining weeks of 2019. Sagewood Homeowner's Association gathered on November 23 and Westchase Village Homeowners' Association met on November 26 and December 12. Tezel Heights met on December 3 and Oaks of French Creek gathered on December 19 and on January 9.

Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, presented a literacy talk for Head Start parents at both Ward and Brauchle Elementary Schools on November 20. The parents and teachers were very appreciative!

Ms. Roberts had a successful "Play & Learn: Food" program with 62 attendees on November 25. Her mother, a retired Kindergarten teacher, helped the kids with using real veggies and fruits to paint their creations. On December 5, students from Kids R Kids daycare attended the 11:00 preschool storytime at

Maverick. Ms. Roberts also continued to do Toddler Storytimes at the Johnston Library on Tuesday, November 26 and Tuesday, December 10.

During the reporting period, Ms. Roberts was able to complete weeding the Juvenile paperbacks, the J 100's and 500's and juvenile magazines. In addition, she completed and presented Planning EPE's for 3 PT Circulation Attendants and 1 PT Library Assistant.

Maverick Teens were in the holiday spirit in November and December; they requested crafts for fall and also asked to make Christmas ornaments. They created votive candle holders with a leaf motif, a sled ornament and painted and decorated acorns to hang on their trees at home. Those who were not as artistically motivated played the Wii U – Mario Kart was the top pick, along with the PlayStation4 Virtual Reality. The portable table tennis set is very popular with some of them as well; if it isn't set up when they arrive they promptly set it up for themselves.

Librarian Assistant Bleichwehl attended the Wash and Learn Initiative (outreach) at the Kwik Wash on Culebra. WALL is a great example of community partnerships and we hope to start seeing regular attendees at this location soon.

## **McCRELESS**

### **Children**

The Children's librarian was very busy presenting Baby Time and Story Time to growing crowds at McCreless! Ms. O'Malley also grew her outreach by developing a holiday program to present to students at Steele Montessori on three different occasions covering Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, reaching over 100 students each time. During Art at the Library, children studied Van Gogh and Ringgold and created magnificent masterpieces. And Try-It Tuesday celebrated the holiday season with cookie decorating for all ages and string-art projects for our Tween age group.

The branches two most successful children's programs were Noon Year's Eve—a countdown to noon where families danced, made noisemakers and hats, and celebrated the New Year with a confetti filled balloon drop; and a robotics class, where Ms. O'Malley introduced families to beginning programming with Ozobots. Both brought in new patrons to the branch! Several patrons asked Ms. O'Malley to repeat the Ozobots program and it will be put on the schedule soon!

### **Teens**

McCreless hosted 8 Dungeons and Dragons sessions which has helped foster a sense of community among the teens as they share in the storytelling and adventures. The monthly Teen Anime Club continues to meet and share their love of anime and Japan, building relationships through communal bonding. Librarian DeBow has partnered with San Antonio Metro Health and their Healthy Neighborhoods program to bring a 6 month Healthy Cooking series to McCreless teens. Thus far, teens have learned how to make a chocolate banana smoothie and a spinach/strawberry salad.

### **Adults**

McCreless Walking Club continues to meet at the Howard Peak Greenway park trail. This 2.5 to 3 mile hike has become a weekly event for patrons. This is due to both the cooler weather and also to help those with New Year resolutions for a more healthy and fit 2020.

The Scrapbook and Art Journal class at McCreless meets on the first Saturday of every month. Patrons are encouraged to make scrapbook pages and free form art journal projects from a wide variety of art supplies. The January Scrapbook and Art Journal class made "Vision Boards" from magazine pictures and scrapbooking materials. The McCreless Book Club met on January 11 to discuss *The Dutch Girl: Audrey Hepburn and World War II* by Robert Matzen. The Metro Health Clinic Van stopped by on January 7 and had nearly 40 participants. McCreless Library also hosted a legal clinic focusing on power of attorney that allowed patrons to discuss one on one their power of attorney interests and concerns.

## MEMORIAL

### Children's' Services

Children's librarian Christine Deffendall coordinated and hosted Andrea "VOCAB" Sanderson on November 16 for a poetry workshop.

Mrs. Deffendall recorded *The New Small Person*, by Lauren Child for the December 9 Dial-a-Story.

Mrs. Deffendall recorded *I'm In Charge!*, by Jeanne Willis, for the November 18 Dial-a-Story. As part of Career Day Mrs. Deffendall visited with 302 students at Cardenas Early Childhood Center.

In contribution to the Children's Services Blog, Mrs. Deffendall wrote the entry for December 17 after she reviewed *Captain Superlative*, by J. S. Puller.

### Teen Services

Minecraft continues to be an enjoyable and very competitive game. Teens look forward to participating by applying finishing touches to buildings that they created and helped each other create their own. The meeting room was filled with laughter as participants gave suggestions and added to buildings being made.

Circulation attendant and teen liaison Adam Capelo introduced a new version of Jenga as part of board game night. A new version of Jenga required trust, coordination, and balance. The core game was the same to move blocks from the bottom and middle of the pile to the top without knocking it over but the blocks were placed on a stand you had to pass around as you played. Mr. Capelo kept up the coordination between players as players tried to keep hands from shaking while passing it around. This new version of Jenga helped to teach teens about structural balance and trust amongst each other.

As part of the Christmas spirit Mr. Capelo coordinated craft night. All teens came up with ornament ideas and used felt and cotton fill to create stuffed ornaments. By using the cotton fill all participants were able to give the ornaments a 3D shape. The finished craft was then hung on the teens Christmas tree in the teen corner.

Teens had a blast making pearl bead designs. Mr. Capelo encouraged teens to create designs of their own interest as these were also used as ornaments on the Christmas tree. These craft activities allowed teens to put their own touch on to the tree giving them a sense of pride.

### Adult Services

Adult services librarian Freddy Hudson coordinated with the San Antonio Calligraphers Guild to host an exhibit from San Antonio Calligraphers' Guild membership. They showcased their work to the awe and wonder of patrons.

Mr. Hudson coordinated a class on the basics of Microsoft Word. The class covered topics like formatting text, saving documents, and printing files.

During the Thanksgiving holidays the branch screened *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*. This Thanksgiving classic provided plenty of laughs at the antics of John Candy and Steve Martin. The branch screened another adult video game night on December 5. Patrons had fun playing *Super Smash Bros*.

Librarian Freddy Hudson serving on the winter holidays committee did a program at the Central library. The program consisted of an upcycle crafts and ugly holiday sweater fashion show. Mr. Hudson collaborated with committee members from Central and the Westfall branch to organize this program. Attendees had a lot of fun.

Mr. Hudson coordinated with the Texana department from Central to sponsor a beginning genealogy program. Led by Matt DeWaelsche from Texana, attendees were instructed on the basic steps and resources in researching a family history. Matt particularly emphasized the Ancestry database and showed patrons how to access the database on computers.

The branch hosted a table to inform patrons about the new VIA goCard. This initiative allows people to load money onto a card and pay for bus rides with it instead of using cash.

In celebration of the upcoming holiday Mr. Hudson hosted two gift wrapping parties during the month of December. Patrons brought their gifts, and the library provided the wrapping paper, scotch tape, ribbon, bows and plenty of space for everyone to get creative in their wrappings.

The branch screened *Elf* to the merriment of all. This holiday classic is always a favorite.

To kick off the New Year, the branch hosted a table by Dress for Success. This organization spoke to patrons about its resources and programs and how it can help people find jobs and become financially independent.

Mr. Hudson participated in the Wash & Learn program on January 7. He spoke with customers about the programs and resources offered by SAPL.

The branch hosted a program featuring the popular podcast *Spooked*. The podcast tells real-life scary stories by those who experienced them. Patrons enjoyed two episodes.

### **Branch Services**

The branch hosted the annual "Lighting of the Tree" ceremony. The program was well attended by children and their parents. Madi Deffendall provided face painting for anyone willing to have a holiday theme painted on their selves. All were entertained by the LBJ ES chorale program. In attendance were Edgewood ISD Superintendent Dr. Eduardo Hernandez who spoke to parents about the district and State Representative Ray Lopez that spoke to all about issues relevant to parents and children. Refreshments were provided by Amigos Friends group of the branch. Cookies, hot chocolate and candy bags were enjoyed by all attendees.

Branch manager Maria Gonzales attended staff training at the Alamodome. This particular training focused on processing staff Notice of Leave notices.

As a member of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) of the Mays Cancer Center Mrs. Gonzales attended a quarterly meeting of the Center. Topics of discussion were purpose and goals of the board. To improve the health status and quality of life for residents of South Texas. The mission discussed was to improve information and access to culturally competent and quality health care through presentation and distribution of health professional workforce in South Texas.

Mrs. Gonzales hosted a meeting of District 5 librarians composed of managers Jimmy Jimenez of Bazan, Jose Ruiz-Alvarez of Las Palmas and Jeannette Davies of Collins Garden. Mr. Jimenez provided a slide presentation of demographics of District 5. The group discussed avenues to improve services to the D5 community.

## **MISSION**

### **Children's**

The children's librarian participated in Career Day at Gilbert Elementary School. Five classes of First and Kinder grade children learned a lot about being a librarian and also about the exciting things the library has to offer them. A group of children and parents from PreK4SA came to the Mission Branch for a fun story time and informational tour. The children's area was colorfully decorated for Fall and Winter. The children's librarian filled in at story times for Pan American Library.

### **Teens**

Teens this month worked collaboratively unlocking new levels and characters on the Nintendo Switch, which was recently purchased with funds generously donated by the Friends of the Mission Branch Library. Teen librarian Emily Young participated in the Harlandale High School career fair, where she discussed current library programming as well as providing resources to help teens with their current academics and their lives beyond high school. Ms. Young also visited the high school during lunch with other members of SAPL staff, where they assisted the teens in learning musical instruments and playing in the student union.

### **Adults**

There was a Neighborhood and Housing meeting facilitated by District 3 mid-December for local business to be aware of new opportunities in the area. Mission Library continues its participation in Metro Health STD screening program; a Metro Health Van parks providing free health screenings for the public. Lastly, organizations have been active promoting voting registration; The League of Women's voters and Turn Out Texas have been present at Mission Library promoting registration.

## **PAN AMERICAN**

On November 16, Pan American library assistant and teen liaison Cassie Garza assisted J.D. Elizondo with the Teen Art Fest event at Central Library. The event showcased teen artistic talent from all around San Antonio. Several school districts were represented in the Art Slam competition. A new art category was added to the event which was fashion. Several San Antonio high schools participated in the Teen Arts Fest's first every fashion show.

On November 17, Ms. Garza facilitated the Pokémon Champions group at Pan American library. The group had a handful of new members and all were excited to share information about Pokémon. The new trading card game set was discussed and new card moves and card art were looked into.

On November 20, Ms. Garza aided the teens with their ongoing video game teen time. Some of the regular teen group has been bringing their own Nintendo Switches for the rest of the group to play with. The teens are working together to help organize a Smash Ultimate tournament at Pan American Library.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Librarian II, Adrian Leal, took the Pan American Branch mobile to the Elvira Cisneros Senior Center. The Senior Center members were able to sign up for library cards and get their SAPL questions answered.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Leal held an Adult Crafting Session at the branch. Attendees were able to paint ceramic turkeys, just in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

On December 1, Ms. Garza continued to support the Pokémon Champions group. A discussion was held during this meeting to discuss new program date and times for 2020. The group decided that meeting once a month for two hours. This new change will take into effect in January 2020.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Leal adult coloring class at the Elvira Cisneros Senior Center. Attendees are able to color all the while enjoying some relaxing tunes.

On December 4, Ms. Garza collaborated with Emma Hernandez and the Zine committee to conduct a teen zine demonstration. The Zine committee showed the teen group how to create zines using copy paper, magazine art and their own art. The Zine committee informed the teens about the Zine Fest held at Central library every year.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Leal held an Adult Crafting Session at the branch. Attendees were able to color their a Holiday Greeting Card that they were able to send off to a special somebody, and keep for themselves. Those that attended were very appreciative of the craft.

On December 9, Ms. Garza attended an outreach event at Leal Middle School. The school librarian requested a STEM demonstration for their makerspace. Ms. Garza demonstrated the Oculus Rift virtual reality system as well as two Oculus GO virtual reality headsets. Each student had a chance to use the Oculus Go headsets to experience virtual reality.

On December 11, Ms. Garza assisted the teens with a do it yourself ugly sweater party during this teen time. Teens were able to decorate a sweater with all kinds of funky art and crafts. Teens were also able to make ramen and hot cocoa.

On December 14, Pan American Branch hosted an Ugly Sweater Party. Patrons were invited to wear their ugliest holiday sweater. There was an ugly sweater contest, snacks, crafts and free pictures with Santa.

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Leal held an Adult Crafting Session at the branch. Attendees were able to construct a 3-D model of a Gingerbread House, Reindeer Stable or Santa Toy Shop.

On December 17, Ms. Garza along with J.D. Elizondo from Teen services at Central attended an outreach at Harlandale High School. The pair was invited to do a music demo for the students during their lunch breaks. J.D. provided two electric guitars and a keyboard for students to play. The group had teens of all musical capabilities come and try out playing the guitars and keyboard. This was the first visit to an ongoing partnership with the school librarian and SAPL.

On December 18, Ms. Garza hosted the teen's ongoing video games and crafts. It was a little chilly during this teen time so the teens opted to make some hot cocoa to keep them toasty. The teen group also

continued to play Smash Ultimate on the Nintendo Switch as the My Hero Academia fight game One Justice.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Leal, took the Pan American Branch mobile to the Elvira Cisneros Senior Center. Senior Center members are able to sign up for library cards and get their SAPL questions answered. They continue to be appreciative of SAPL and the Pan American Branch for bringing mobile services to their center.

There was the Anime Holiday Party on December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019. Drinks and snacks were served, a Japanese music video playlist from YouTube was shown, coloring sheets available, and a green screen set up for pictures was there. There were some paper crafts and DIY squishy toys. This was a onetime program that was for all ages.

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the Branch hosted the San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition Information Session. Attendees were provided tips and information on how attendees could help improve the welfare of feral cats in San Antonio.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Leal provided an adult coloring class at the Elvira Cisneros Senior Center. The center's members are able to enjoy a relaxing and stress-free environment while coloring and listening to some good tunes.

Stephanie hosted the Sketchbook Club on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019, December 20<sup>th</sup> 2019, and January 10<sup>th</sup> 2020. She brings in art books, books with photographs, and items for participants to draw. Stephanie discusses ideas, feedback on work, and creativity with participants. The program is open to teens and adults.

On January 8, Ms. Garza assisted J.D. Elizondo from Central Teen Services with an outreach opportunity at Providence high school. The Providence librarian requested an informational session about databases, digital collections as well as teen events going on at the San Antonio Public library.

On January 8, Ms. Garza assisted teens with the rock painting teen time. Pan American library has three large concrete planters outside the library with a bunch of rocks. The teens worked together to decorate rocks to spruce up these planters with unique and beautiful art of their own.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> is the J-pop & Idol club. Popular and recent Japanese is played and discussed. There are paper crafts available. The program is open to teens and adults.

## PARMAN

Parman rang in the winter season with its annual Multicultural Winter Festival, an event where participants were invited to celebrate the cultures and winter holidays of countries all around the world. Volunteers from the Stone Oak community represented 18 countries, educating attendees about the wide variety of these countries' winter holiday traditions whilst offering them delicious global treats that are shared during this time of year. This well attended event also included 2 dragon dances by members of the Chinese Culture Club and several colorful performances from different Indian regions. This year was perhaps more special than any other because for the first time the festival was joined by the migrant refugee teens from the Southwest Key nonprofit organization. These teens are from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. It brought these kids such joy to share with the community all that is special to them about where they come from. The event represented what the Parman Library is to the Stone Oak community; a gathering place and cornerstone of family, cultural and civic life; a place that honors and celebrates diversity.

T'was the season for upcycling at the Parman Library this past December thanks to Parman's resident artist/Circulation Attendant Maria Trevino. The library featured not one but two crafting programs that taught patrons how to make seasonal decorations by upcycling used books. Using no more than the folded pages of a book, glitter, ribbon and imagination Maria taught patrons how to create paper 3-D angels and Christmas trees. Refreshments were served and the festive atmosphere brought joy to all who attended. The resulting paper angels and trees made beautiful and unique homemade gifts. Parman Library received such a good response from these programs that they will continue for the months to come.

On December 18, Parman hosted yearly Winterfest. This popular event geared toward kids ages 0-5 included winter-themed games, crafts and a chance to visit with Santa! Children enjoyed fishing for candy canes, pinning carrots on the snowman, snowman bowling, and a snowball toss. At the craft table, participants decorated paper gingerbread houses, made candy canes out of beads, created their own stick snowmen, and decorated paper reindeer antlers to wear on their heads. When children needed a break from games and crafts, they could head over to the winter sensory bin or grab a tray of peppermint scented play-doh to enjoy. The biggest hit by far was the huge pile of "snow" placed in one corner. Listening to the squeals of joy as children tossed the shredded paper into the air put smiles on the faces of all in attendance!

A long time ago, in a galaxy, far, far away... The Rise of Skywalker and Baby Yoda brought the Force to the Parman Library this December. In celebration and in anticipation of all things Star Wars the library held a great event that featured futuristic tech, trivia, and even some most beloved droids. Participants learned how to print their own Baby Yoda using the library's 3D printer while watching droids BB8 and R2D2 roll past their feet. After that there was a short language class where everyone learned how to write their name in Aurebesh (Star Wars alphabet) and then the true Jedi emerged when their knowledge of the Force was tested in a trivia contest. The program was prepared and delivered by Barbara and Monty.

Teen Librarian Chris Castillo helped facilitate Parman's weekly Teen Time. Teens have been making new friends and expanding their social circle. As always, teens actively participate in the selection, development, and/or implementation of our programs and activities by talking through their weekly experiences at their school, their friends and family-life, and give an idea of what they would like to do the following week. Teens from the Southwest Key are now regular visitors to Parman's Teen Time. As native-Spanish speakers, they have gravitated to and appreciate our available Spanish-language materials including books, graphic novels, and movies. The teens have enjoyed using the Oculus Quest for their very first times experiencing virtual reality. This population of teens has also never used fusible beads before and enjoys creating artworks in small scale that they can take with them. Teens also attended and helped prepare crafts for attendees of Parman's annual Multicultural Winter Festival.

## **POTRANCO**

### **Potranco Book Club**

During the reporting period November 15, 2019 – January 12, 2020, Potranco continued its monthly meetings of the Potranco Book Club (PBC). Selections for both months had a seasonal/holiday/Christmas theme: November's selection was Dickens' A Christmas Carol and December's selection was Nikolai Gogol's The Night before Christmas, a devilish novella based upon a Ukrainian folk tale. Attendance for both these meetings was high and generated a great deal of discussion.

January's book selection is Paulette Jiles' *News of the World*, a novel that should have some local interest, as well as its simply being a very fine novel in its own right. The story involves the return of a young girl kidnapped by Kiowa warriors and then returned to her family in Castroville, Texas.

### Children's

Potranco's Part time Children's Librarian, Jacqueline Gonzales, moderates the Family Fun Program on Saturdays. She created an Ocean themed family fun program for November 16, 2019.



### Description:

Held a Family Fun Program with the theme Ocean. Read *A Home for Leo* by Vin Vogel. Families could make with their children a paper bowl jelly fish. Paint, sequins, Balloon Ribbon, and other baubles were provided for the children to decorate their jelly fish to their desire.

Ms. Gonzales attended the Cookies with Santa YMCA program on December 7, 2019.



Description:

YMCA held Cookies with Santa Event. They asked the Potranco Library to have a table with simple activity. Holiday/Winter themed coloring sheets were provided with a large box of colors for children to use.

Ms. Gonzales created the Come & Go Craft: Paper Plate Unicorn for January 4, 2020.



Description:

Come & Go Craft was held while supplies lasted. Children and families were welcomed to create their very own paper plate unicorn. Paper plates, sequins, crayons, yarn, hole punchers, and more were provided for patrons to craft the very own unicorn.

Ms. Gonzales created the Come & Go Craft: Paper Octopus for January 11, 2020.



Description:

Come & Go craft was provided while supplies lasted. Children and families could create their very own paper octopus. Colorful construction paper, sequins, crayons, glue, scissors, and a stapler were provided so patrons could make their paper octopus to their desire.

### **Outreach**

Cindy Moreno, Interim Branch Manager, moderated the Alicia Trevino Senior Center book group meeting on December 9. The group shared poetry, book suggestions and enjoyed each other's company as they recapped the 2019 book titles.

### **Potranco Writer's Group**

Given the holidays in November and December, during the reporting period November 15, 2019 – January 12, 2020, the Potranco Writers Group (PWG) met only once each month, rather than the usual twice monthly meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Twice monthly meetings reconvened in January. Attendance during this period has continued to be modest, though consistently attended by writers very committed to the group's goals and process.

## **PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS**

The adults had a busy holiday season with the regularly scheduled Basic ESL Class, Come & Go Adult Puzzle, Loom Knitting, Citizenship Class, TGIF Book Club, SNAP, and Quilting Bee. December wrapped up Family Chess Night with the Rackspace Community Chess Tournament. The New Year brought a new schedule for ESL, so it is now presented on both Sundays and Mondays.

Library Assistant Destiny Saenz-Taplin created 3 Dream Week programs for adults. The first was a virtual Black History Museum which the adults appreciated with its use of technology to learn about the impact that history has had on our Black community members and their positive impact on American history. Destiny has two other activities for Dream Week, but they are in the coming weekends.

Cool Out With Cocoa gave teens an opportunity to unwind and chill after a long day. We had cocoa, got in a little coloring, and began getting into the holiday spirit. Pop Up Gaming is one of the ongoing activities enjoyed by Pruitt Teens. They used the Switch, Wii, and we introduced the Oculus-Go which we borrowed from Central. It proved to be a hit. After a slow start - December's Teen Yoga had the best turnout ever. Pruitt Teens partnered with COSA Healthy Neighborhoods to explore the health benefits of yoga. Teen Manga had a resurgence of sorts. We are considering revamping the program to include drawing and other forms of manga creation. Holiday Hat Making went really well. We held multiple sessions over the Winter break when teens could come in and learn to loom knit a hat.

In observance of Hour of Code, Pruitt Teens participated both "unplugged" (we created binary bracelets) and "plugged" (Code Your Own Dance Party) activities. Gingerbread House Making was a HUGE hit with Pruitt Teens. Using graham crackers, frosting, and other candy and food items, teens designed and built their own creations.

The children's programs came to a busy end this December with Children's Librarian Cynthia Saenz's retirement. The end of the year brought to close the 35.5 years of Cynthia's career as both a teacher and a librarian. During her tenure, she saw many children grow to become adults and bring their children to the library. The staff is happy for her, and we hope to see her when she brings her grandchildren to our library to meet the new Children's Librarian. Our new Children's Librarian is Lucina Humphrey. The kids will get to know Ms. Lucy very quickly. She is warm and friendly and to top it all off, she loves to introduce kids to technology. So, this year will bring new technology programming for the children.

# SAN PEDRO

## Children and Tween Services

Children's Librarian Karen Braeuler started a Sunday Baby Time, the only one on a weekend. It has been well received by families who are not able to attend on a weekday. Many parents relayed that they found out about the Baby Time from the SAPL Events website.

Outreach to schools continued with the three SAISD school book clubs: Cotton Academy (3<sup>rd</sup> graders), Hawthorne Academy (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders), and Mark Twain Dual Language Academy (3<sup>rd</sup> graders).

Families and children celebrated the Thanksgiving and winter holiday season with several events: 1) A Family Fun Thanksgiving craft time invited families to make colorful turkeys whose feathers reflected things for which they were thankful. 2) Another Family Fun activity during December allowed family members to use their creativity on a torn art element of the season such as a tree or candle. 3) Winter Fest offered families the opportunity to have fun at six different activity stations: making crafts, playing with "snow," learning about winter animals and playing with puppets, learning to play the dreidel game and enjoying refreshments.

Outreach continued to a nearby neighbor, the San Antonio College Early Childhood Center. This is a day care center for students with children – allowing the students to attend classes. Mrs. Braeuler presented a story time for the 2 classrooms and checks out books for the classes to keep for the month. She also distributed a copy to each child of the SAPLF gift book [Outside Todo el Dia](#).

Monte Vista Montessori School students visit San Pedro Library as a group on an almost weekly basis. This multi-age group receives a brief library lesson and students check out up to three books each with their own library cards.

# SCHAEFER

Schaefer's Symphony at SAPL event took place Jan. 11. San Antonio Symphony violinist Christine Wang played songs, talked to the audience about music, and answered questions. One three-year old child in the audience was very excited to share that she also has a violin at home.

Children's librarian Leslie Elsasser was invited to join the Salado Site Base Committee by the principal of Salado Elementary School. The first meeting was December 16.

Weekly children's programs started the week of Jan. 12 after a two-week holiday break. Schaefer is starting off the new year with these weekly programs: Read to a Dog, Toddler Time, Story Time, Baby Time and LEGO Time.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Librarian Maria Adams hosted an hour of tech help for seniors and the District 2 Senior Center. Attendees brought their personal devices in for assistance. A demonstration on how to transfer photos from a smartphone to a USB flash drive was presented.

Also, on November 20<sup>th</sup>, Librarian Maria Adams hosted the monthly program, Adult Craft Night. Seven participants created a waterless snow globe decorated for the holidays.

Zumba Gold was hosted in the meeting room, led by an instructor from SA Parks and Recreation on Friday, November 22.

The Schaefer Skimmer book club met on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Circulation Attendant, Dominique Preyor-Johnson let the group in a lively discussion of the book, *How to Walk Away* by Katherine Center.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Librarian Maria Adams hosted The Great Loose Leaf Tea Experience at the branch. Participants listened to a guest speaker discuss organic teas and they sampled teas from blends using ingredients from small, family-owned tea farms.

On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Librarian Maria Adams hosted a DIY U Holiday Wreath Making workshop. 18 participants were provided with all the materials needed to make a festive holiday wreath to take home.

On Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, Librarian Maria Adams hosted the last Adult Craft Night for the year. Participants made chalkboards out of ceramic plates and wooden trays.

Schaefer branch library continues its partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank with a yearlong series of healthy cooking classes focusing on food from around the world. This month recipes from Far East were prepared by participants led by a chef from the Food Bank.

On Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, the branch hosted in observance of the Holocaust: Learn and Remember observance: Extended Run Players from UIW present a reader's theatre performance of Letters to Sala.

Fitness in the Park: Yoga continued every Friday lead by an instructor from Parks and Recreation

On Sunday, Jan. 5th, Library Assistant BlancaSilvia Hernandez hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> program of the new monthly Sunday Cinema Program for families. The movie screened was OverComer, 9 patrons (5 Adults, 2 teens and 2 children) enjoyed themselves and were appreciative of the program and popcorn.

## SEMMES

On Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, Children's Librarian Randi Jones hosted a special "Let's Go to the Grocery Store" Play and Learn. Children were invited to talk, sing, read, write and play about grocery shopping. 27 kids and their grownups played pretend and explored together about this important household job.

Interim Librarian II Kassandra Vela-Laosa started a new program at Semmes during the month of November. Every Friday, she hosts a Coloring Therapy hour for adults. Patrons are invited to de-stress while listening to relaxing music and having fun coloring a beautiful image.

Pokémon Go Community Days continue to be a popular branch program. Branch staff hosted programs on November 16 and December 14. Both programs were well attended and participants enjoyed making the Pokémon craft and picking out a free button.

Flash Christmas Crafts, hosted by Circulation Attendant Mary Pena on December 17 was a big success. Patrons enjoyed making a paper towel wreath, paper flowers, cardboard stockings and a cereal box reindeer.

## THOUSAND OAKS

Thousand Oaks Children's hosted a special Play & Learn program called *Let's Go Grocery Shopping!* Children and their caregivers enjoyed the immersive and imaginary play that included writing shopping lists, washing produce, running an imaginary store and listening to specially selected stories about grocery shopping.

The Children's Winter Wonderland Celebration was held on December 9. Families participated in STEM activities including snow play, and frozen polar animals as well as painting a snowy tree, fishing for candy

canes, creating a large polar animal habitat poster and adding their dreams to the wishing tree. There were over 90 people in attendance. Children's Programming resumed on January 8 with a movie night for children and families.

The Thousand Oaks Teens had a busy few meetings as fall wound down. Librarian Kimberly King hosted the event on Wednesday evenings. Art was the theme for most of the sessions. Teens made various art projects, they either did painting, collage making, or made things out of clay, for two of their meetings and concentrated on painting during the week of Thanksgiving. In another session they made clay designs and watched a movie. During the last get together before the holidays the teens had a holiday party where much food and drink was consumed, fun had, and Scrooged watched.

The North East Senior Center Book Club and the Thursday Book Group held a joint meeting December 18. Members discussed books they'd read throughout the year highlighting top titles and those that weren't favorites. The discussion was lively and energetic. This is the last book club meeting for departing leader Theresa Garza as she moves to the Cody Branch as their manager. Kimberly King will take over as leader of the North East Senior Center book club in January. Each group was excited to receive the first book for calendar year 2020.

## TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

The Joss Whedon Fan Club meets once or twice a month on Sunday afternoon. This club watches various television series by the producer like *Agents of Shield* or movies, *The Avengers*, and *Avengers: Age of Ultron*.

A small group of adults attended the Adult Craft – Bench Block Metal Stamping on December 10. Clever metal charms were created by hammering letters and designs into small metal pieces.

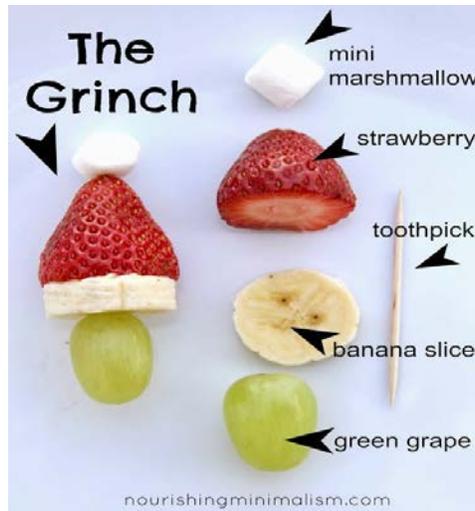
Children's Librarian, Barbaraella Frazier, incorporated bells and winter themed crafts during weekly Toddler and Story Time programs in December. She continues co-hosting the Bilingual Story Time the third Friday of each month. Circulation Attendant, Maria Taylor, assisted on November 15 for the first time.

Valerie Carroll, Children's Librarian, prepared the branch's first Family Fun program on Saturday, December 16 with a "Grinch-Mas Party". Grinch-themed treats, crafts, and activities were enjoyed by patrons of all ages. Ms. Carroll plans to continue a weekend Family Fun program in the coming months.

Read to a Dog continues twice monthly with dog handler, Margaret Rivera, and therapy dog, Angel. Children can practice developing their literacy skills by reading to Angel with Ms. Rivera's assistance. Great for reluctant and pre-readers, as well as some middle school students enjoy reading too. Ms. Carroll and Library Assistant, Terry Verner coordinate these programs as well as the popular once a month Lego club that happened on December 11.

Led by Choir Director, Kimberly Mendez, Garner's Middle School Choir performed holiday tunes for all library patrons on December 16. Afterwards the singers savored healthy raspberry apple juice and snack bars.

Teen Librarian, Karah Garcia, shared calorie counts for holiday cookies and stressed portion control on December 18 for the monthly nutrition lesson. The kids made Healthy Grinch Snacks as pictured below and quickly devoured them. These lessons are required in order for the branch to continue to receive free snacks from the San Antonio Food Bank. The healthy snacks are served after school to approximately 55 students each school day.



Other activities the students enjoy after school are ping pong, board games and creating things like yarn hat ornaments, clay figures, shrinky dinks, and tile art. Thanks to Teen Services at Central loaning the Oculus Goggles, there was a wait list many days to play with this cool virtual reality game.

Library Assistant, Andrew Charltonjones, has engaged quite a few new teen participants at the weekly Thursday night Dungeon and Dragon role playing game. Attendance is now averaging 12 teens a week.

## WESTFALL

During November- January, 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.

On Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup>, Westfall hosted “Our Voices, Our Lives: San Antonio Women of the Holocaust Remembered” as part of the Holocaust Learn and Remember Series. Our Voices, Our Lives is a project of recorded interviews of twenty local Holocaust survivors compiled into a book. Becky Hoag and Jeanette Pierce, two of the co-authors, presented the stories of a selected number of women in San Antonio who survived the Holocaust.

Starting in the New Year, The Westfall branch in partnership with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society began hosting weekly gentle adaptive yoga for MS. The program is free and open to those with MS and caretakers. The instructor, Cheryl Alexander has been teaching and practicing yoga since 1974. Having the class at the branch has allowed for better building access and greater participation from the community.

Teen Services Librarian, Cindy Cruz, assisted at the Teen Arts Fest on November 16th. The event brought in over 800 teens to Central to display their art and to find out about art education opportunities in San Antonio. She also created a survey through Project Outcome for teens to provide feedback on their experience of the event. Cindy also attended a Literacy Night at Whittier Middle School (SAISD) where she signed up students for library cards and talked to parents about homework help resources.

In addition to regular Teen Time programs, Westfall hosted a Food Bank Class that focused on healthy holiday cooking and eating. The class encouraged teens to work collaboratively in small groups to learn how to follow a recipe while learning new cooking techniques.

High school tutors continue to work with children and adolescents in the Westfall teen space every Saturday afternoon. Tutors also decorated their Teen Space for the Winter holidays.

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.

The Westfall Branch Library continued to host the "Stranger than Fiction" and "Third Thursday" book clubs. Books read this month included "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones and "The Second Mountain" by David Brooks. Both book clubs draw small but dedicated groups that enjoy discussing the themes of the books as well as other issues of the day.

This month the SAPL LEARN centers invested in community partnerships. At the beginning of the month, Training Officers from Westfall and Bazan joined up with JSBC volunteers to represent the library at the annual Workforce Solutions Job Fair at the Freeman Coliseum. SAPL staff spoke to hundreds of job-seekers about resume and application assistance available at the libraries. At the end of the month, SAPL LEARN staff finalized plans to partner with tutoring agency Each One Teach One, with a plan to present library services and basic computer skills to each incoming class of distance learners.

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

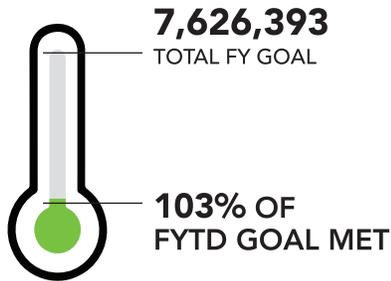
# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY KEY INDICATORS

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

# DECEMBER 2019

FY 2020

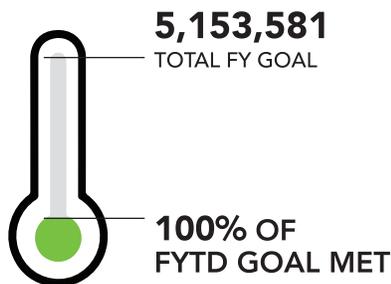
## CIRCULATION: GOAL



## CIRCULATION: FISCAL YEAR 2020



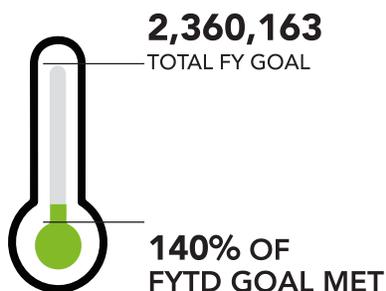
## LIBRARY VISITS: GOAL



## LIBRARY VISITS: FISCAL YEAR 2020



## DIGITAL ACCESS: GOAL



## DIGITAL ACCESS: FISCAL YEAR 2020



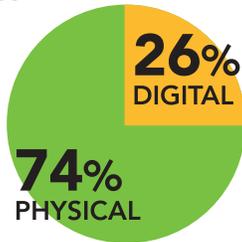
**761,921**

TOTAL HOURS OF  
COMPUTER & WI-FI USE

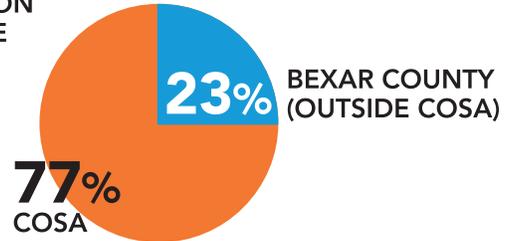
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS  
**DECEMBER 2019** (CONTINUED)

USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2020

CIRCULATION  
BY TYPE



CIRCULATION  
BY SERVICE  
AREA



VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2020



**554,601**  
MYSAPL.ORG  
VISITS

**310,497**  
MYSAPL  
APP SESSIONS

**321,073**  
OVERDRIVE  
SITE VISITS

**890,575**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
IMPRESSIONS

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2020



**80,644**  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE

**14,417**  
ADULT PROGRAMS

**12,148**  
TEEN PROGRAMS

**54,079**  
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

DECEMBER MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



# San Antonio Public Library

## December 2019 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use	Computers - Hours of Use	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
Bazan	3,871	6,080	7,506	1,070	6,436
Brook Hollow	20,947	14,202	8,992	1,113	7,879
Carver	3,109	6,294	5,651	1,125	4,526
Central	18,530	41,902	62,956	10,190	52,766
Cody	25,723	15,784	10,387	1,169	9,218
Collins Garden	4,139	5,351	6,529	1,035	5,494
Cortez	4,427	6,768	4,853	758	4,096
Encino	12,232	8,968	6,528	335	6,193
Forest Hills	5,418	5,104	5,016	747	4,270
Great Northwest	18,745	10,574	8,024	1,125	6,899
Guerra	7,744	6,883	8,605	1,507	7,098
Igo	22,737	18,089	10,593	965	9,628
Johnston	8,229	6,768	5,321	770	4,551
Landa	10,894	9,688	3,437	482	2,955
Las Palmas	4,521	8,324	5,770	1,086	4,684
Maverick	17,237	8,798	6,943	1,179	5,765
McCreless	7,949	9,472	6,833	1,181	5,652
Memorial	5,019	6,386	6,095	789	5,306
Mission	10,247	13,053	9,112	1,617	7,495
Pan American	4,607	5,035	3,837	721	3,116
Parman	21,686	25,810	7,027	466	6,561
Potranco	12,739	10,217	20,092	692	19,400
Pruitt	5,358	15,161	3,658	656	3,002
San Pedro	2,681	5,108	4,201	505	3,696
Schaefer	6,832	7,860	8,009	806	7,203
Semmes	18,387	12,698	8,908	1,316	7,592
Thousand Oaks	6,517	6,974	6,854	1,063	5,791
Tobin	14,389	13,885	7,202	1,280	5,922
Westfall	11,280	10,058	8,868	1,890	6,978
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	1,505	358	N/A	358
Interlibrary Loan Lending	576	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	104,884	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	163,521	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>585,175</b>	<b>322,799</b>	<b>268,163</b>	<b>37,636</b>	<b>230,528</b>

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

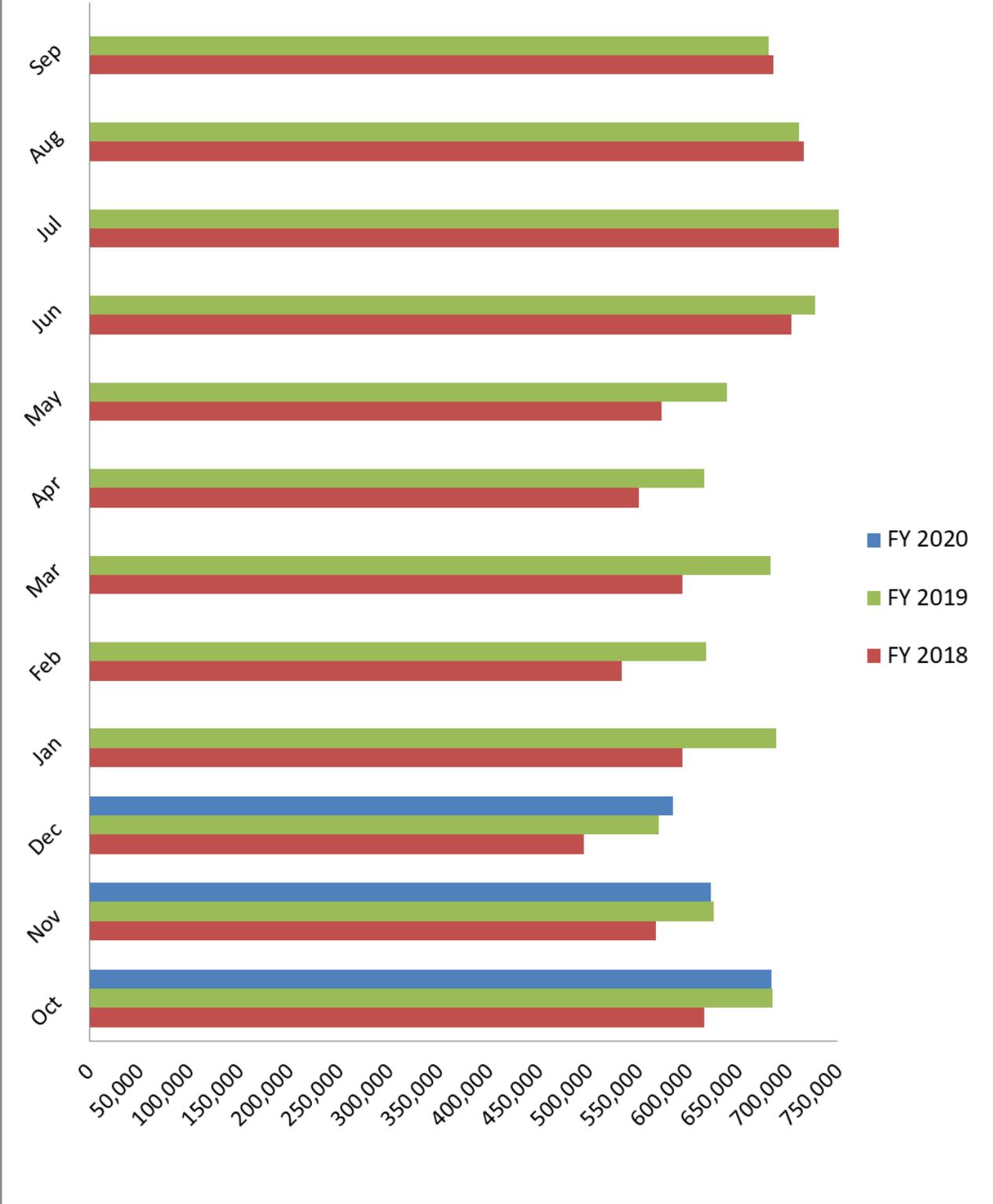
# San Antonio Public Library

## December 2019 Programs and Attendance

Location	Total Programs	Number of Programs			Total Program Attendance	Adult Program Attendance	Teen Program Attendance	Children's Program Attendance
		Adult	Teen	Children's				
<b>Bazan</b>	39	27	2	10	227	113	49	65
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	26	5	3	18	679	47	37	595
<b>Carver</b>	23	13	5	5	416	146	92	178
<b>Central</b>	98	13	67	18	1,119	98	713	308
<b>Cody</b>	44	12	9	23	797	65	129	603
<b>Collins Garden</b>	15	4	3	8	117	41	19	57
<b>Cortez</b>	63	53	3	7	225	157	3	65
<b>Encino</b>	56	21	5	30	770	78	14	678
<b>Forest Hills</b>	38	17	1	20	250	115	5	130
<b>Great Northwest</b>	29	18	6	5	575	103	176	296
<b>Guerra</b>	24	7	3	14	316	67	10	239
<b>Igo</b>	55	19	7	29	1,569	232	188	1,149
<b>Johnston</b>	17	4	3	10	246	71	7	168
<b>Landa</b>	44	4	24	16	420	52	37	331
<b>Las Palmas</b>	35	20	4	11	282	129	13	140
<b>Maverick</b>	23	9	4	10	413	68	55	290
<b>McCreless</b>	46	11	9	26	631	20	78	533
<b>Memorial</b>	31	11	3	17	265	63	15	187
<b>Mission</b>	50	29	8	13	688	351	65	272
<b>Pan American</b>	37	25	8	4	478	290	157	31
<b>Parman</b>	66	28	3	35	1,397	248	39	1,110
<b>Potranco</b>	18	4	2	12	619	28	4	587
<b>Pruitt</b>	66	20	24	22	1,240	132	404	704
<b>San Pedro</b>	16	2	0	14	141	1	0	140
<b>Schaefer</b>	25	7	2	16	310	40	6	264
<b>Semmes</b>	54	24	6	24	627	134	69	424
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	16	2	3	11	256	13	22	221
<b>Tobin</b>	38	6	12	21	1,023	36	395	592
<b>Westfall</b>	31	7	8	16	284	78	106	100
<b>Kampmann Library Portal</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	20	N/A	N/A	20	346	N/A	N/A	346
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,143	422	237	485	16,726	3,016	2,907	10,803

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation

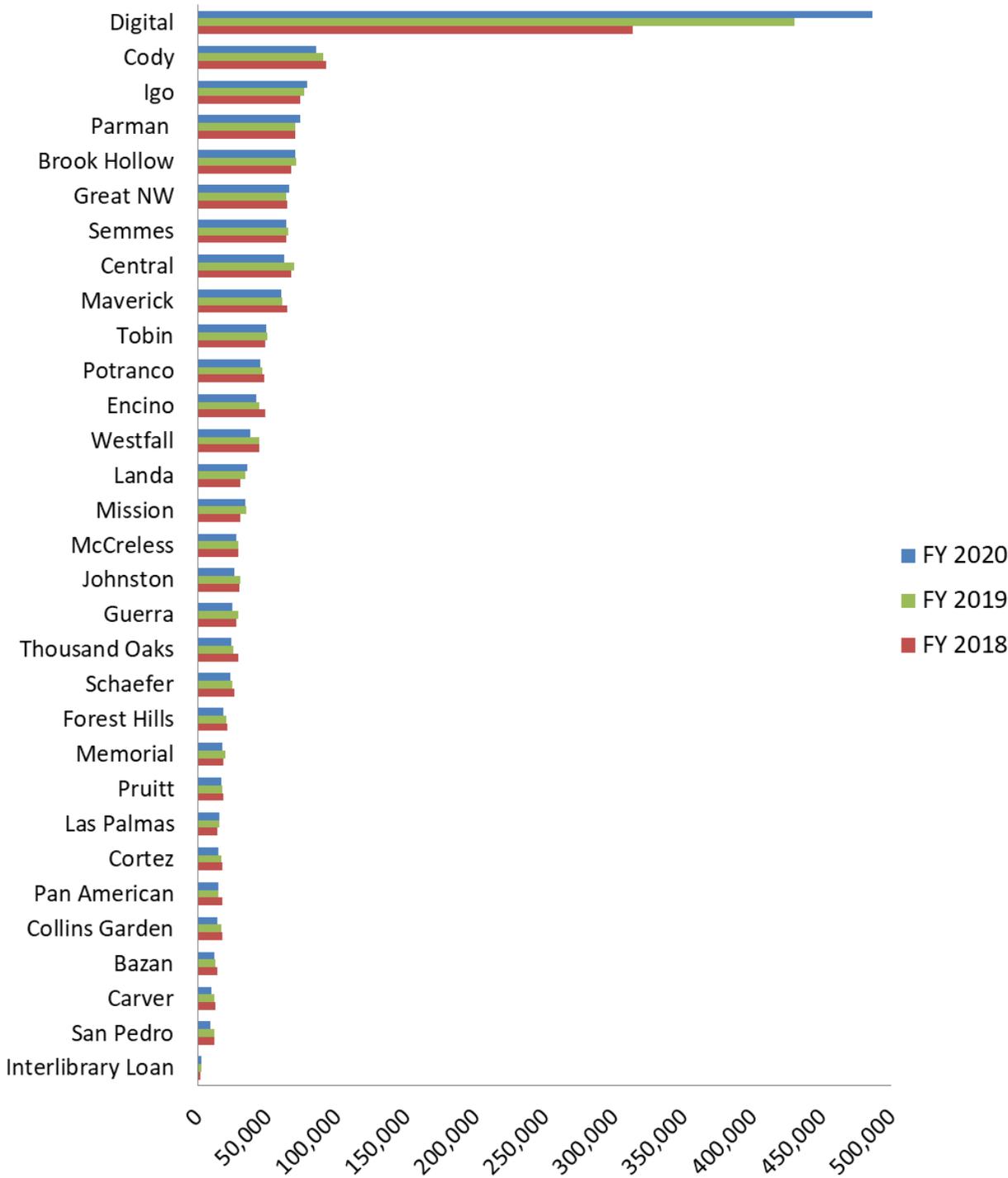


Location Closures  
 FY 20: Central Oct 26 at 1pm  
 FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm, Great Northwest Apr15-May 5, Semmes May 1-26  
 FY 18: Central Oct 28 at 3pm, SAPL System Jan 16-Weather, Staff Transformation Day-Feb 19, Cody May 3-13, Pan American Jun 18-Jul 3 & Sep 24-30, Thousand Oaks Jun 25-Jul 5

01/14/2020

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Dec 2019

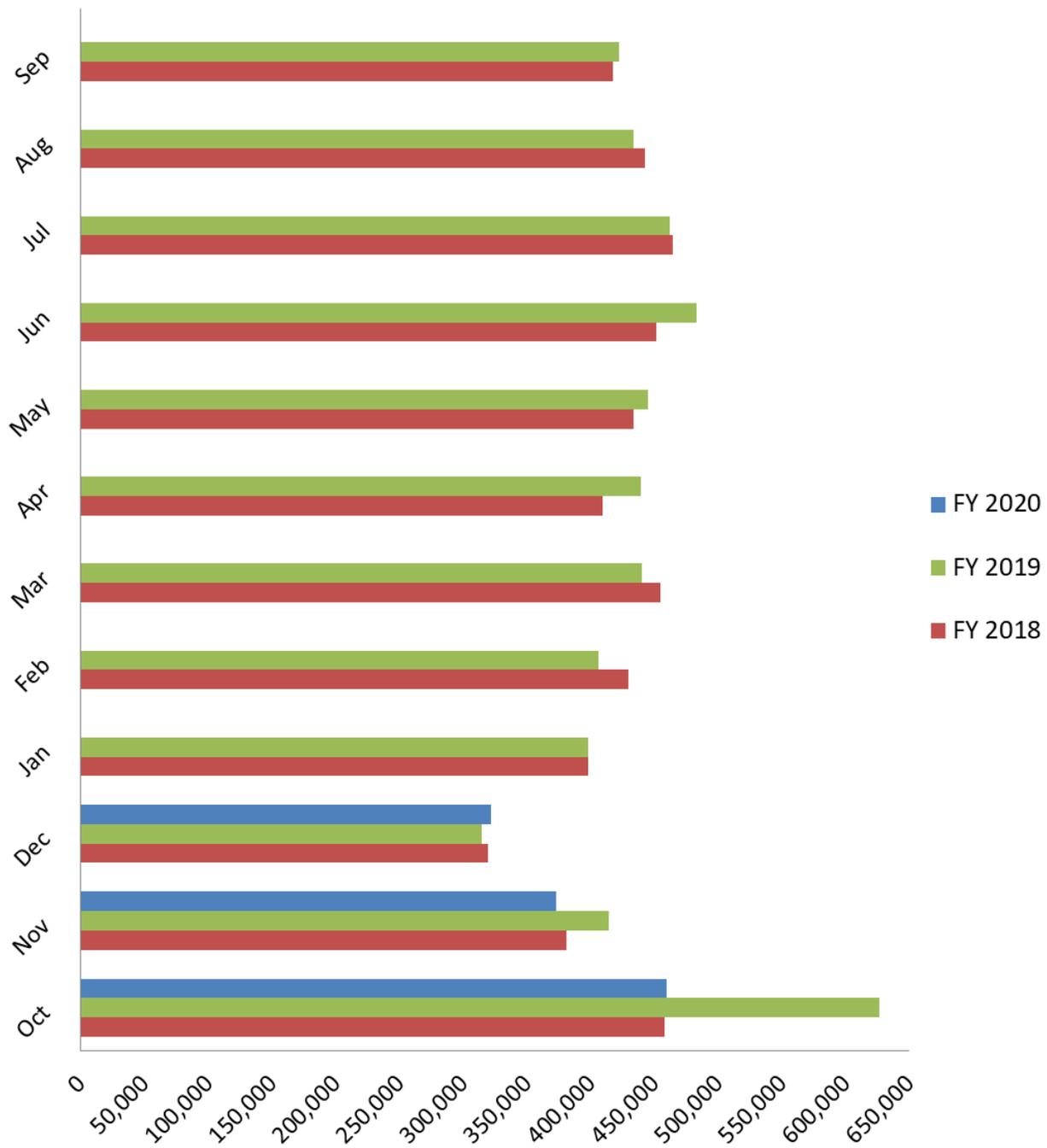


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01/14/2020

# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits



Location Closures

01/14/2020

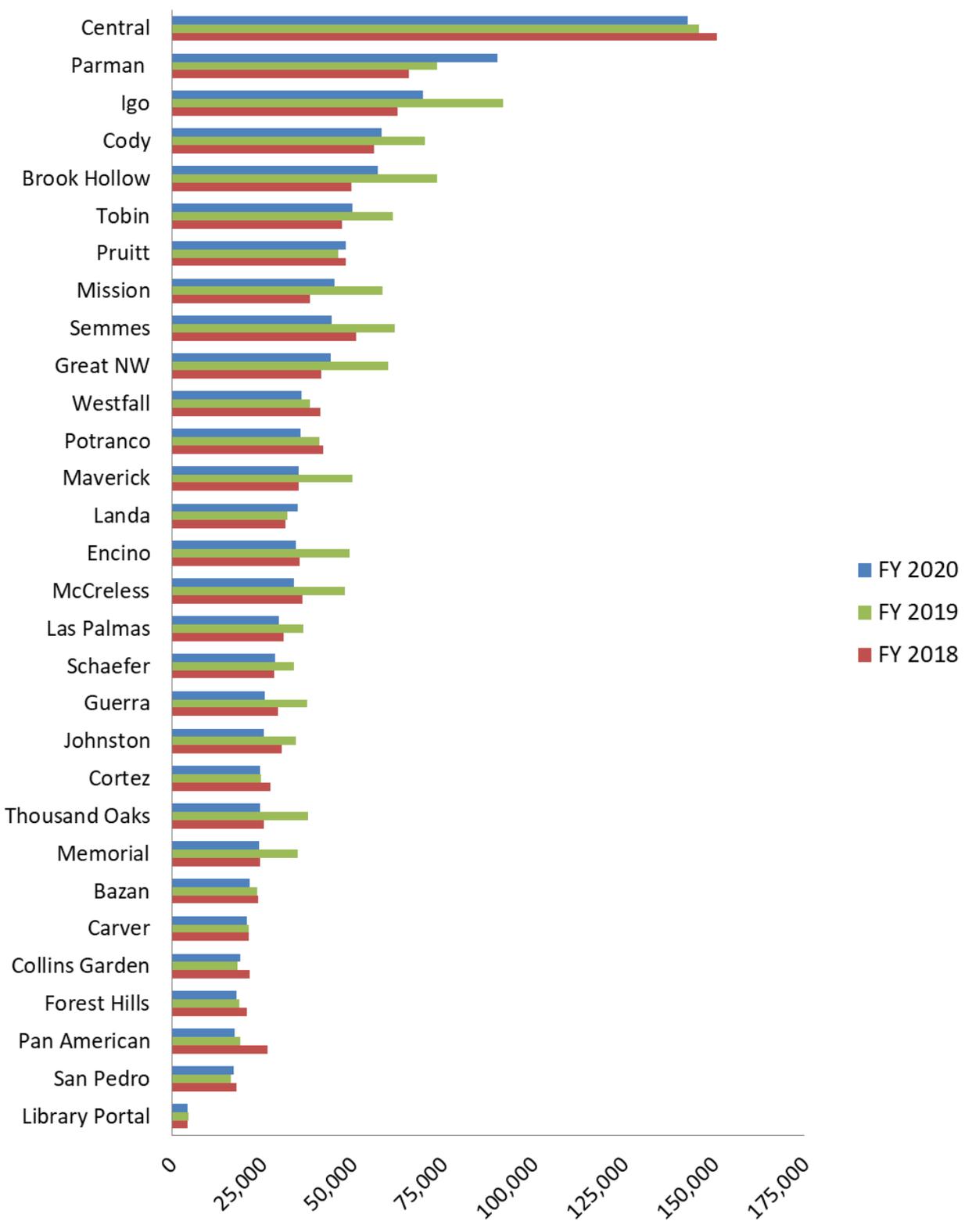
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# San Antonio Public Library

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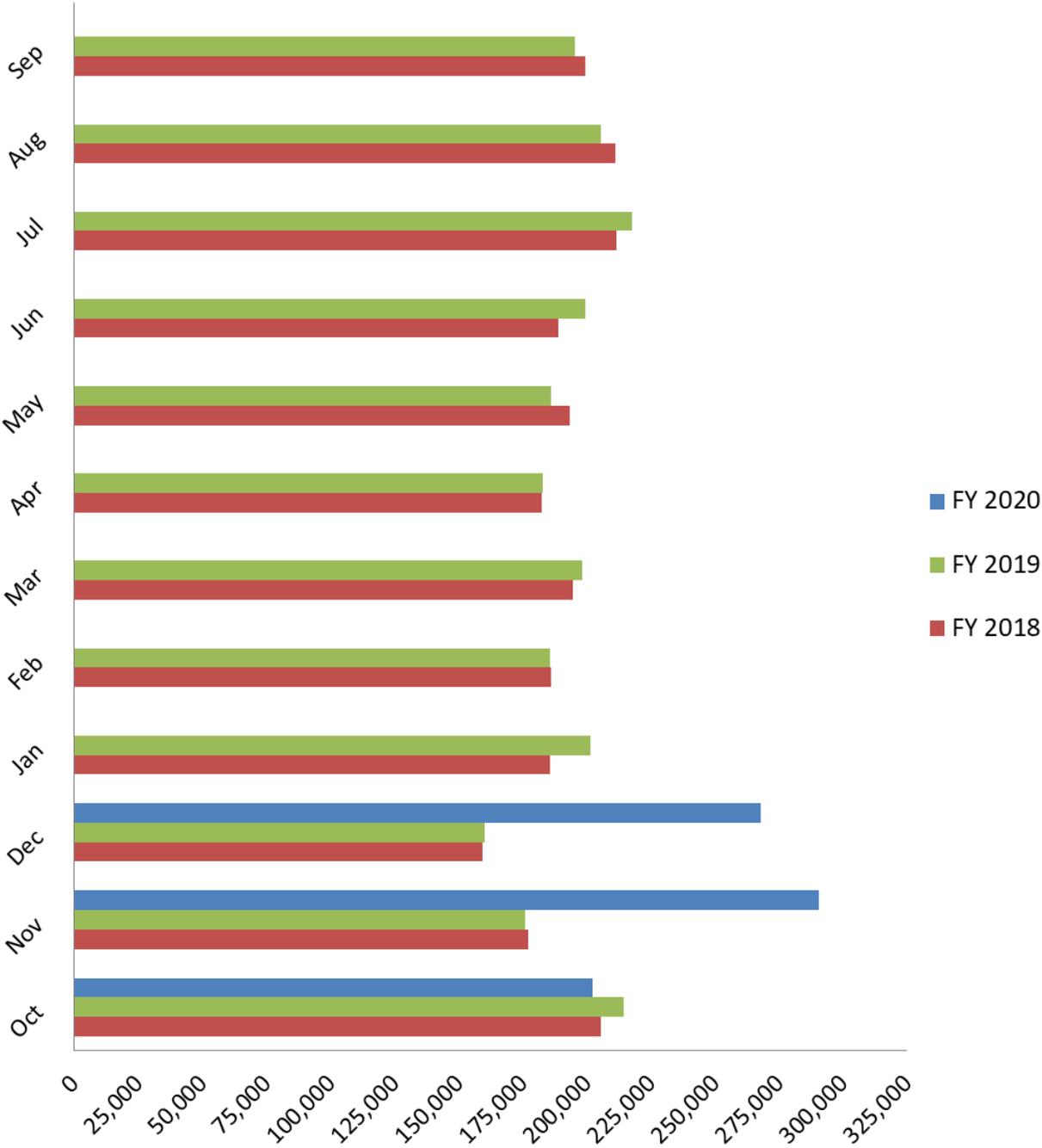


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01/14/2020

# San Antonio Public Library

## Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use



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

1) Beginning December 12, 2018 - unlimited time on public computers when no one is waiting

2) Beginning October 31, 2019 - change in "User Idle Timeout" for Wi-Fi from 45 minutes to 4 hours

Location Closures

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FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm, Great Northwest Apr 15-May 5, Semmes May 1-26

FY 18: Central Oct 28 at 3pm, SAPL System Jan 16-Weather, Staff Transformation Day-Feb 19, Cody May 3-13, Pan American Jun 18-Jul 3 & Sep 24-30, Thousand Oaks Jun 25-Jul 5

01/14/2020