



## San Antonio Public Library Director's Report April 2015

LEARN at SAPL Job Fair, Cortez Branch Library

# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Meeting with County Clerk - On March 11, Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with Bexar County Clerk Gerald 'Gerry' Rickhoff regarding the County's offer to digitize parts of the Texana collection at the Central Library. The meeting was very productive and both parties agreed to move forward with this project.

Monte Vista Historical Association - Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with the President of the Monte Vista Historical Association, Ernest Ce Parker on March 24 and again on April 6 to discuss the existing agreement between the Monte Vista Historical Association and the San Antonio Public Library. This agreement provides for the Association to use office space at the Landa Branch Library.

Architectural Award - On March 25, Library Director Ramiro Salazar was notified by the American Library Association that the Mission Branch Library was awarded the 2015 AIA/ALA Library Building Award. To encourage excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries, the AIA and the American Library Association/Library Administration and Management Association created this award to distinguish accomplishments in library architecture. The Mission Branch Library was designed by local architects Muñoz & Company. An awards ceremony will be held during the American Library Association Conference, Monday, June 29 in San Francisco. Library Staff and representatives from Munoz & Company are expected to attend.

Proposed Donation of Public Art - Author Sandra Cisneros contacted Library Director Ramiro Salazar to express her wishes to donate for the Mission Branch Library a bench by artist Carlos Cortez. Ms. Cisneros has already commissioned the bench which is currently under construction and should be completed by end of summer 2015. Ms. Cisneros was also advised of the process for the Library Board to accept this gift. The Library Director's Office will work with Ms. Cisneros to facilitate this gift throughout internal processes.

Teen Center – The new Teen Center at the Central Library is scheduled to open on Tuesday, May 12 with a Ribbon Cutting and Media Event – please mark your calendars. Councilman Roberto Trevino, District 1, is scheduled to participate in the ribbon cutting event along with members of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. The San Antonio Public Library is also hosting, for donors, a preview of the new Teen Center space on Friday, May 8 at 11 a.m. Library Trustees interested in participating in this event are asked to RSVP with Jessica Ramos.

Open Records Request – A fourth Open Records Request has been received by the Library related to the existing agreement between the Library and the Monte Vista Historical Association. This agreement allows the Association to use office space at the Landa Branch Library. Library Director Ramiro Salazar will provide a full briefing to the Library Board of Trustees at the April 22, 2015 Library Board Meeting.

New YMCA at the Mission Drive-in – The City Council approved on Thursday, April 16, 2015, a Funding and Lease Agreement with the YMCA for the placement of a YMCA recreational facility at the former Mission Drive-in site. The City's Department of Transportation and Capital Improvements has informed the Library that the City's Center City Development Office will be coordinating a meeting with the YMCA, National Parks Service and the Library to review and discuss a site plan and agree upon the parcel for the YMCA.

Other Items - Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Board Meeting on Sunday, March 15 at the Tobin Library at Oakwell and delivered a report on the Library.

On March 19, Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado and Library Director Ramiro Salazar met with Leilah Powell, Chief of Policy for Mayor Ivy Taylor, to provide a briefing on the status of negotiations with Bexar County for the Interlocal Agreement for Library services.

Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill, Branch Services Coordinator Kate Gray, Community and Public Relations Manager Caitlin Cowart, Executive Assistant Jessica Ramos and other Library staff attended and staffed the public meeting of the Naming Committee regarding the naming of the new District 2 Branch Library on March 21, 2015.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant Directors Kathy Donellan and Dale McNeill participated in the City of San Antonio Executive Retreat on March 26 and March 27.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended and represented the San Antonio Public Library at the REFORMA National Conference on April 1 – April 4, 2015 in San Diego, California. Mr. Salazar was co-chair of prior REFORMA conference.

On April 7, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Library Board Chair Jean Brady, and Assistant City Manager Gloria Hurtado attended the State of Center City address by Councilman Roberto Trevino, District 1.

## REFERENCE

Reference staff entertained, educated and illuminated our community this month through the presentation of a popular film, through a photographer's visual memoir and through outreach to students unfamiliar with Library services.

For the Central Cinema series on March 15, Blanca Hernandez presented "Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1."

On March 25, Tricia Masterson and Cristine Mitchamore presented Library Resources and Services to students participating in UTSA's 'Erlinda's Wish' program. The program was created at the suggestion of Housekeeping staff member, Erlinda Castillo who wished to develop her computer and her English language skills. Lily Perez and Diana Starrett did a presentation in Spanish for the students on April 1. Many students were unaware of what the Library had to offer and were excited to learn more.

On March 29, for Women's History Month, Cynthia de Leon hosted award-winning photographer Patt Blue's "Living on a Dream: A Marriage." In her haunting visual memoir Ms. Blue sought to understand the domestic violence in her family. Attendees remained after the program to mull over the many issues raised in the presentation.

Ms. Perez participated in Cortez Library's Job Fair on March 31.

Ms. Masterson, Ms. Hernandez, and Martha Loewen promoted Library Services "on-the-fly" to attendees of the New Employee Experience at Phil Hardberger Park on April 10.

During the San Antonio Book Festival Adolph Lopez, Bettina Hernandez, Hondo Aguilar, and Ms. Mitchamore took turns working the Connect @ Central tent promoting OverDrive and the Library's other digital services.

Sylvia Reyna and Debbie Countess curated an exhibit in Texana for Women's History Month honoring the local women who participated in SAPL's Texas Women of Influence panel discussion.

Clarissa Chavira and Ms. Countess have begun the very large project of cataloging the Texana/Genealogy periodicals collection, so that holdings for all titles will be searchable through our online catalog.

On March 28, Ms. Reyna spoke on the "Genealogical Resources in Texana," during a genealogy symposium at the Stone Oak Texas Family History Center.

Ms. Reyna led a computer class on the very useful SAPL genealogy database "Access Newspaper Archive" on April 7. Attendees learned how to search and print articles from old San Antonio newspapers dating back to the late 1800's thru the mid 1970's.

## MARKETING

The marketing department continued its ongoing promotion of existing SAPL system-wide and individual branch programs. Additionally, marketing continued the city-wide promotion of the mySAPL app that SAPL introduced in March. Also, the team continues working on the planning of #CelebrateCentral20 events and the Encino Branch Library opening in May.

### Graphic Design

The graphic designers continued working on new materials for the Summer Reading Program, #CelebrateCentral20, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, National Library Week, Small Business Week, the May newsletter and Young Pegasus. Also, design work continued on the Children's Museum Digital Library wallpaper, Central way-finding signage and Low-Vision Room.

### Public Relations

Public Information Officer Marcie Hernandez participated in the third annual San Antonio Book Festival that took place on Saturday, April 11.

Hernandez pitched and secured an interview on Focus on South Texas on Fox 29. The story was about Celebrate Central Day and the new Teen Library at Central. She also pitched and secured a story with the Rivard Report about the opening of the Encino Branch Library and conducted outreach at over 40 local establishments in the Encino Branch Library area.

In her continual media communications work, Hernandez produced and distributed press releases about: National Poetry Month, District 2 Naming Public Input Meetings, National Library Week and the Big Library Read. In addition, she also produced press releases for programs at Landa, Memorial, Mission and Igo.

SAPL received 121 media mentions during the reporting period.

### Social Media

Public Information Officer Joseph Marks continued to promote all programs on social media. Several programs garnered special attention – especially San Antonio Book Festival, National Poetry Month and National Library Week.

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Facebook has 8,135 followers, Twitter has 2,565 and Instagram has 339 followers and its numbers are growing quickly.

Marks wrote several blogs during the reporting period and continued the preparations necessary for the Central Library's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Marks also created the April newsletter and submitted three articles to the City's eConnections electronic newsletter.

### **Marketing**

Marketing Specialist Arturo Gallardo, continued acclimating himself to the marketing functions and the public information functions, including newsletters and social media. Other projects included Spanish translations of marketing materials, administration of surveys for updating the Strategic Plan, creation of a flyer to promote job openings, "This Weekend at SAPL" newsletter and more.

## **CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)**

Spring at the Library means Summer Reading preparation is going into high gear. Thanks to the good work of Ruth Chiego (Central Children's Department) and her hard-working committee the plans for summer Kids Time programs are complete. Children's staff had the chance to preview the various plans at the April 9 Children's meeting. Topics for these summer programs range from Animal Heroes and Tall Tale Heroes to Fairy Tale Heroes. Drawing on the popularity and success of last summer's science programming, all of the 2015 Kids Time programs have a STEM component.

Hakeem Miles, SAPL's Business Relationship Manager, continues to work diligently with ITSD to facilitate public library access to *iStation* and *Think Through Math*, the two computer-based learning programs provided to schools across state by the Texas Education Agency. Children's staff remains hopeful that these resources will be readily available to SAPL's young customers over the summer as a means of maintaining, and even strengthening, their language arts and math skills. To supplement these resources, children's librarians continue work on the language arts, math and science "Summer Learning" guides that will highlight web-based resources, recommended apps and materials from the SAPL collection.

Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash, along with five branch children's librarians participated in the San Antonio Book Festival on April 11. Children's librarians are sought-after volunteers in the children's activity area as their professional experience helps keep things running smoothly. Thanks to Connie Hejl (Cortez), Amy Roberts (Maverick), Katy Brown (McCreless), Leslie Elsasser (Thousand Oaks) and Leigh Bedford (Collins Garden) for lending a hand at the Festival. Viki's responsibilities included hosting the author session presented by Jack Gantos, author of Newbery Award-winning *Dead End in Norvelt* along with more than 40 other books for children and young adults.

## **DIGITAL SERVICES**

Between March 12 and March 19, Rolf Laun presented webinars for Library staff on how to use the new OverDrive Periodicals service. Mr. Laun also conducted a Basic Create Lists class for staff on March 31. Sarah Carolan, also on March 31, trained staff on using the Library's LibGuide System. Ms. Carolan worked during the week of April 6 - 10 on preparing iPads to showcase Library services

at the San Antonio Book Festival. On April 7, Sierra Mendez led the Briscoe Book discussion of the book *Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko. Ms. Mendez also conducted the children's program, Story Time Stampede at the Kampmann Portal on March 28, April 4 and April 11, 2015.

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

### **Off-Site Service**

Teen Services Librarian Caroline Mossing (Central) staffed a table at the annual SAISD Parent Summit, which took place at the Norris Conference Center on March 26. Mossing spoke to over 100 parents about the services, resources and activities the SAPL offers for teens.

Caroline Mossing and Teen Services Librarian Kathleen Fordyce (Central) took the Library's VROOM van out to Brackenridge High School on March 28 to promote Teen Services during the Band Boosters Rummage Sale. Mossing and Fordyce also gave out free books to teens.

### **Partnerships**

J.D. Elizondo met with representatives from the Southwest School of Art and Artpace to further work on developing the Teen Arts Festival in November. Elizondo created a budget for SAPL's part of the festival. Elizondo has procured the teen band Take Note, singer-songwriter Victoria Celestine, and local artist Alex Rubio to participate in the event at SAPL. Elizondo also met with representatives from the Henry Ford Academy (HFA) and Gemini Ink to discuss other upcoming collaborations. Elizondo liaised with the HFA to encourage eight students to appear on the Wells Fargo stagecoach in the Battle of Flowers parade, representing the HFA and Teen Services at the SAPL.

#### **San Antonio Food Bank**

To fulfill one of the Food Bank's Kids Café requirements, Kathleen Fordyce and Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant) rotate their attendance at the monthly nutrition lessons at the San Antonio Food Bank. Teen Services staff incorporates what they learn from these nutrition lessons in teen programming at the Central Library.

#### **Inspire U**

Staff involved in the Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program through Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas (part of SA2020), met with their mentees from Edison High School in the Central Library Auditorium on March 26 for their monthly lunch. Kathleen Fordyce continues to serve as the liaison for this program.

### **Professional Development**

The Teen Services librarians met at the Parman Library on March 18 for their regularly scheduled work group meeting. Teen Services Librarian Marisa Debow provided a tour of the library for the group.

### **Programming**

Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez helped to staff the Connect tent at the San Antonio Book Festival on April 11 at the Central Library. Velasquez also moderated a YA author panel during the event. J.D. Elizondo and Teen Services Librarian Cynthia Cruz (Mission Library) staffed the VROOM van during the event, and teens from Teen Services assisted – one teen even served as DJ!

Elizondo and Kathleen Fordyce attended a CLIFE meeting, planning for the Library's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Elizondo followed up by meeting with Central Reference Librarians Martha Lowen and

Gamini Haluwana and Library Assistant Roland Casias to discuss performing at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. JD and Roland will play guitar and Gamini will sing during one set.

### **Teen Library**

During the reporting period, J.D. Elizondo conducted informal tours of the new Teen Library at Central. He toured teens that come to Teen Services regularly to begin giving them a sense of ownership of the new location. Elizondo also toured Henry Ford Academy students around the new space when they came to use computers at Teen Services. In addition, Elizondo has sent invitations to representatives of Fox Tech and the Henry Ford Academy inviting teachers to an open house for the new Teen Library. In planning for his recording studio in the Teen Library, Elizondo researched recording equipment with Library Assistant Adolph Lopez's assistance. He has put together a budget for the recording equipment, and it is pending approval.

## **CENTRAL LIBRARY**

### **CHILDREN'S**

The Children's Department Team has been hard at work on a variety of committees, coordinating system-wide initiatives. Even though it's only April, the Children's Services team is hard at work organizing program plans for summer. Manager Ruth Chiego is Chair of the Summer Reading Committee this year and has been working with fellow committee members – Librarians Amy Lewis (Central), Gina Brudi (Las Palmas), Carol Collins (Pan American) and Kathleen Brown (McCreless) – to create a diverse line-up of school age programs supporting the theme of "Every Hero Has A Story." The group has formulated ten distinct programs including topics that feature heroes in the areas of saving the earth, firefighting and fairy tales. Each program also pays close attention to the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills), as set forth by the Texas Education Association, and to STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) tie-ins, which allow children to do a variety of activities that bring these areas of study to life within the framework of dynamic stories. The committee led SAPL's children's librarians through ten stations in a speed-dating style introduction to each of the programs, so that they could select which programs they feature this summer at their respective branches. Instrumental in getting prepared for this hefty undertaking were Library Assistants Judith Slaughter and Mary Elizabeth Fernandez who created a variety of demonstration activities which helped illustrate each activity.

Jasmin Salinas (Librarian I) was Chair of the Early Literacy Committee for the Winter/Spring portions of the year and has led fellow committee members Librarians Amy Roberts (Maverick Library) and Trina Smith (Memorial Library) in creating the "Build It!" *Play & Learn* kits. These kits will make their way through the SAPL system this spring. The program has been wildly popular, inspiring children to create, engineer and have fun with the dynamic stories and sounds of construction. Ms. Salinas was applauded by the children's librarians and also by Children's Coordinator Viki Ash who expressed her appreciation for all the time and care she took with preparing this very engaging program for the system. Ms. Salinas is also currently assisting the Landa branch by providing all their Tuesday programs, which include the very popular Baby Time and Toddler Time sessions. She is enjoying getting to know new families and for the first time is being able to work with the youngest library customers, infants.

Assistant Manager Kate Simpson continues her work as Chair of the Celebrations Committee for Winter/Spring. Librarians Imelda Merino (Westfall Library) and Jodi Miller (Carver Library) worked with Ms. Simpson on creating very adaptable system-wide program options for Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros at the branches with an overall globalism theme, My World/Mi Mundo. The program options encourage children to explore their world and its diversity with stories, flags, maps and other activities.

Amy Lewis was hard at work leading a diverse group of tours this spring including middle school students from George Gervin Academy. The students got a closer look at the art and architecture of the Central Library, and were able to explore the variety of resources available in the both the Children's and Teen Departments. Ms. Lewis incorporated some new features to the spring lineup of Play & Learn by incorporating, with the help of Ms. Salinas, a giant "nest" (made from a wading pool) filled with nesting materials including large "eggs" and the animals that created them! This addition was a big hit at both Toddler Time and at Play & Learn. The staff suspects the "nest" will return again for future programs.

The Children's Team also worked diligently to ensure all collection-related signage was up-to-date and revamped to freshen up the appearance of the third floor in time for the San Antonio Book Festival and the Central Library's Twentieth Anniversary.

Ms. Chiego and Branch Coordinator Joel Bangilan, using generously donated Semmes Foundation funds, are working to create a Low-Vision Reading Room on the third floor. Later this spring the area should be ready, complete with braille and large print titles for children, read-alongs for children, plus a listening center and magnifying station. More details about the project, including the opening date, will be shared soon.

## TEENS

### Weekly Programs

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): Elizondo ran Eclectic Electric with art, music and gaming every Monday. On April 6, Elizondo added live mic poetry to the mix as the teens are gearing up for a teen-suggested Poetry Slam on April 13.

Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Mossing hosted Science & Tech Tuesdays. Teens explored robotics with Lego Mindstorms, and modular robotics sets, discussed and explored current and future uses for quadcopter technology, and delved into computer coding and electronics wiring with Arduino microcontrollers.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): On Wednesday nights, teens pick their favorite video or board game and engage in friendly competition with their peers. In addition, teens have the opportunity to express their creative side by participating in craft or art projects of their choosing. During the reporting period, teens have enjoyed playing the WiiU games, as well as board games like Zombies, Apples to Apples and Bananagrams.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Peer interaction and encouragement, creative expression and friendly competition rank high on Thursday nights. During this reporting period, teens made some tasty snacks. As it sometimes goes, when staff look at blogs for possible library



programs, teens will express interest in what they see, as was the case when a teen suggested making the pink popcorn she saw up on a site. The popcorn resembled cherry blossoms and thus, a cherry blossom program in anticipation of spring was planned. In addition to the popcorn, teens painted branches on paper then dipped water bottles in pink paint and stamped them on the branches to create a unique cherry blossom print. For another spring idea that incorporated a recycle/reuse theme, teens used cleaned, cut water bottle bottoms as Jell-O molds, as it created a flower-shape. They also reused old Styrofoam trays for a cheap and easy printmaking technique, imprinting designs in the Styrofoam, rolling paint on it and stamping on paper. For a Saturday in March, teens suggested the first-ever Mario Kart tournament using the new Mario Kart 8 game. In a moment of pure inspiration, one teen suggested making Mario-themed snacks, specifically using mushrooms and bananas. On the day of the tournament, one teen demonstrated to his peers how to remove mushrooms stems and the recipe for baked stuffed mushrooms. As is usual in Mario Kart, teens hate to encounter the banana, but the frozen blended banana snack they made was delicious. In April, teens debuted the new Xbox One, moving around to Just Dance for some kinetic programming. After a failed attempt the previous week, teens finally mastered the origami rabbit balloon. They used parchment paper, and then carefully squeezed in muffin batter, thus creating their own cute and distinctive wrapper. Many thanks to patient and helpful PT Library Assistant Victoria Tijerina, who made a rare Thursday night appearance and guided teens along through their folds. Teens also played a round of 'candy meltdown,' in which they had to guess candies that had been melted out of their original shape. After most craft programs have concluded, in a non-competitive environment, teens played video games. Pictures from Thursday programs as well as system-wide programs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>. Some nights, photos and mini-videos are also posted to Teen Services' Instagram account: <https://instagram.com/210teenlibrary>.

### **Tours and Groups**

On March 25 and 26, then again on April 6 and 7, classes from the Henry Ford Academy visited Teen Services to use computers for research. A group of students from the San Antonio School of Inquiry and Creativity (SASIC) received a tour of the library and catalog and database instruction from Teen Services staff on March 30. Students from an after-school program at Rhodes Middle School received a tour of the library from Caroline Mossing on April 9. Afterward, the students participated in a library scavenger hunt.

## **LITTLE READ WAGON**

### **Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parents**

Little Read Wagon concluded the workshop series at Tynan and Carroll, and will soon complete workshops at the Burleson Head Start center. A new workshop series will begin at the Fenley Head Start Center on April 22.

Elizabeth Huber, Julia Lazarin and Cresencia Huff made short presentations at several smaller Head Start centers and elementary schools, including: Avance Flanders, Avance Harlandale, Avance Carmen P. Cortez, Bexar County Jail, Barkley/Ruiz, Columbia Heights, Evers, Gilbert, Hirsch, and Rayburn Elementary.

### **Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Teen Parents**

Corinne Sanchez, Elizabeth Huber and Xelena Gonzalez continued offering services at Seton Home. In addition to parent workshops and Story Time, the team is also assembling a set of early literacy kits to be deposited at the Home.

High school campuses served this reporting period include Sam Houston, John Jay, Marshall, MacArthur, Lee, Healy Murphy, East Central, San Antonio Can, Stevens, Taft and Warren.

### **Library Promotion**

Ms. Huff and Beverly Wrigglesworth (Johnston) spoke to 348 children at the South San Independent School District Careers on Wheels event. The April 2 gathering was an opportunity for children in second grade to visit with representatives from several local corporations as well as City departments. Ms. Huff brought the VROOM van and the children especially appreciated the opportunity to sit on the carpets in the shade and listen to Ms. Wrigglesworth read a favorite picture book.

Ms. Lazarin and Liliana Ornelas were scheduled to represent the Library at Avance's Día de la Familia on April 11. However, the agency chose to cancel the event due to anticipated heavy rain. Ms. Huber did join several other Library representatives at Kids' Day in the Park where a steady stream of families visited the booth in spite of the rain.

### **Play & Learn**

A new Play & Learn series began at Villa Coronado Park on April 7. Only one family attended this first program. However, flyers have been distributed throughout the neighborhood, to partner agencies, and at the Community Center.

### **Workshops for Early Childhood Professionals**

Ms. Huber, Ms. Ornelas and Ms. Huff presented *Música y más Movimientos de Alfabetización Temprana* to an enthusiastic group of Spanish-speaking early childhood teachers on March 28. The group was small, with only 21 participants. Registration for the next workshop in English (May 9) is full with a lengthy waiting list. The Friends of the Library generously offered workshop participants a gift certificate for three children's books. Participants were very excited to visit the Book Cellar and make their selections. Many participants made purchases in addition to the free items.

Ms. Gonzalez presented an early literacy workshop at the April 11 East Side Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair. The all-day conference was held at St. Philip's College and promoted specifically to caregivers in the East Side area.

## **BRANCH LOCATIONS**

### **BAZAN**

On April 2, Adult Services Librarian Patti Soderberg and Library Assistant Jennifer Martinez did outreach at Tafolla Middle School, as part of the school's Educational Fun Fair. Over 200 teens and parents were seen at the Bazan branch table. There were lots of questions about library services and many invitations given to stop by the branch and participate in the upcoming programs.

During the month of April, the Bazan branch celebrated National Poetry Month with the program, "Have you picked up your poem today?" Several poems, along with poetry books, were on display and customers selected one or more to take with them.

Book Clubs led by Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen at Crockett, De Zavala, J.T.Brackenridge and Margil elementary schools came to a close this month. The book club experience, a new one for many children, was enjoyable and had many children asking for the program to continue next year. Ms. Sonnen also attended an outreach event at the KIPP Academy where the school held a Health Fair on their campus.

The Bazan branch continued hosting the very popular VITA free tax preparation service; Academia América, citizenship preparation classes; Lunch and Learn, a free continuing education program for City employees; and Metro Health's free drop in health clinics.

## BROOK HOLLOW

This month, the Brook Hollow librarians have been beefing up their professional development. Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera attended Fines & Fees training and a webinar on accessing periodicals via OverDrive. Adult Services Librarian Tapley Trudell attended two readers' advisory webinars. On March 17 she attended Beyond Book Displays: Helping Readers Help Themselves, sponsored by Library Journal and NoveList, and on March 25 she attended Meeting Your Community's Demand for Books, sponsored by NoveList.

April 11 was International TableTop Day, and Brook Hollow celebrated with a full day gaming event. A wide variety of board games, card games, and dice games were available for patrons to play, and staff was on hand to teach unfamiliar games to interested players. This program was made possible by the generous support of the San Pedro Hills Women's Club and the Friends of the Brook Hollow Library.

The Brook Hollow Children's Department completed a thorough weeding of grubby Juvenile Awards books. Consultation with Nohemi Rosdahl lead to a system-wide plan to weed and re-order popular Award books. Ms. Barrera is spearheading the system-wide era.

Brook Hollow is still evaluating its recently added Wednesday afternoon Baby Time. It appears to be more and more successful, with a few extra attendees every week.

## CARVER

Carver has seen an increase in Story Time attendance, since its time was changed from Tuesday afternoons to Wednesday mornings in March. Attendance now attracts as many as 10 people. Children's Librarian Jodi Miller continues to provide outreach to some area entities, such as Tynan Elementary School's Early Childhood Development Center. Ms. Miller has also been offering baby Story Time at the Landa Branch on Wednesday afternoons.

Quilts stitched by artisans from the District 2 Senior Center hung in the Carver meeting room in Celebration of Women's History Month. The branch hosted a reception in honor of quilters on March 28. A guest speaker was on hand and refreshments were provided.

Assistant Branch Manager Monty Holcomb hosted four Teen Time events with the Wii gaming system. Mr. Holcomb also hosted four Chess Events. He also continued the Mayor's Book Club group at the District 2 Senior Center session and during this period facilitated three book club

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meetings. Meanwhile the Teen Life Skills group, which he arranged as a library partnership, has continued to have successful meetings, having four such meetings during this period. Mr. Holcomb also recently attended a Community Meeting concerning the reconstruction of the Commerce Bridge and other renovations being conducted in the area to keep both staff and patrons informed about how this will impact them.

Branch Manager D.L. Grant Jr. was the featured guest speaker for the Family Service Association of United way at S.J. Davis Middle School. He discussed library services and careers in librarianship.

Mr. Grant has been invited to present at the Ninth Annual Conference of African American Librarians which will be held August 4-8, 2015 in St. Louis. The theme is *Meet at the Gateway: Reimagining Communities, Technologies and Libraries*.

## CODY

The Scholastic Literacy Caravan was on site at the Cody Library on March 15. Children and their parents were invited to climb aboard and participate in the numerous literacy activities. Every child received a free book when they left.

Tweens were busy on March 16 challenging one another to games of table tennis for *Tween Time*. In addition to the table tennis, tweens were excited to form teams to win the straw and ping pong ball challenge. After several relay events, Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta announced the first, second and third place teams.

Families came by to participate in the *St. Paddy's Day Arts and Crafts* event on March 17. Sheila had a variety of crafts including shamrock hats and rainbow mobiles.

Tweens learned a new table-top game- *Dixit*. Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw was on hand to teach the tweens this challenging game of pictures and words on March 23 for *Tween Time*. Several other traditional board games were also available for the tweens to play.

*Rain Reign* by Ann Martin was this month's selection for the *Tween Book Club* which met on March 25. Sheila reported that the book, which is getting significant buzz on the publishing front, was well received by the tweens. After the book discussion, the tweens listened to book talks of possible titles for next month's selection, and created "zany" bookmarks to give as gifts for Easter.

Tweens enjoyed food crafts for *Tween Time* on March 30. In celebration of Easter, Acosta brought brownies and various toppings for the tweens to decorate as edible Easter baskets. In addition, tweens also appreciated the experience of coloring big marshmallows to resemble decorative Easter eggs. Acosta remarked that many of the tweens were vying for the most creatively-dyed marshmallow.

On March 31, *Lego Club* fans were excited at the prospect of creating a pirate scene, which was the theme of the month. Acosta said everyone did a great job of working together as a team, and creating unique scenes. First, second, third and fourth place teams were announced and everyone received some sort of pirate prize.

Cody's annual *Easter Egg Coloring Contest* was held March 29 through April 2. Over 45 entries were submitted and exhibited in the children's area. The Friends of the Cody Library judged the entries for each of the three age categories. Winners received a small basket with goodies.

*Story Time* children delighted in an Easter egg hunt on April 1. Luanne Bloom, Library Assistant, hid the eggs as Acosta finished reading a story. Many of the toddlers were novices to this experience, but they learned quickly. The children were asked to place the eggs they found around the room in a basket next to Acosta. Before they left, Sheila presented each child with an egg filled with stickers.

Several families participated in the *Easter Crafts* event on April 2. Sheila provided materials for the children to make Easter egg wreaths, hats with rabbit ears, mobiles with Easter chicks, and bunny gift bags.

On April 6, some of the tweens in attendance learned two new table-top games, *Sushi Go!* and *Forbidden Desert* for Tween Time. Latshaw and Bloom were on hand to teach the new games which involved different strategies. Acosta monitored and participated in other board game play.

Several young readers and their parents attended *Beginner Readers Book Club* on April 10. Each of the beginning readers shared scenes from books they had read. Sheila provided a "We Both Read" book designed for parent and child. Each child and their parent took center stage and read several pages together. Sheila said the children enjoyed having their parents read with them. After the duo readings, Sheila introduced two word games, one involving craft sticks and a plastic cup and the other a word matching game. Both of these games are easy for parents to re-create at home with words and vocabulary that the child is struggling to learn. All of the books that Acosta had on display were checked out by the beginning readers when they left.

Sheila continued her early literacy outreach to the Pineapple School, Kids Campus, Discovery World, and Chabad Gan-Gani Pre-School this month.

A special display was created to support National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Cardboard Kids SA provided two of their cardboard buddies to increase awareness of this serious community issue.

Teen Librarian Kristin Yourdon has continued to focus on ensuring teens have an opportunity to develop planning and leadership skills. Cody Teens are presented with vast opportunities to express their voices and their creative sides. All programs presented were selected and planned by the teens themselves, showing their investment and support through attendance.

On March 17, the teens celebrated St. Patrick's Day by making three-leaf clovers out of pretzels and chocolate. Teens enjoyed playing the game *Sushi Go* while they ate their treats.

On March 24, Cody's Library Leadership Council met. Teen Leaders pitched several ideas, with all teens present being able to suggest programs. All had a voice in choosing what they wanted to do for *Teen Time* in April. Afterwards teens made art with melted crayons by putting crayons in hot glue guns and creating designs on poster board. This program was so popular that the teens requested doing it again.

On March 31, teens held a cupcake decorating contest. Teens worked in groups to come up with a theme. They then decorated cupcakes based on their chosen theme. Teen judges then listened to

each teams' theme, examined the cupcakes and selected the winner. After the contest and the eating of the cupcakes, teens began a competitive game of Uno.

On April 7, teens dyed eggs in a variety of colors and styles. The teens have enjoyed the programs for this reporting period and are looking forward to future programs that they have planned.

With assistance from Richard Garcia from Facilities, Cody staff moved and reorganized the children's Easy shelving at the end of March. The resulting open area is perfect for an alternate programming space and for hosting children's crafts tables.

On April 1, Adam Spana visited the outreach site Adante Senior Living to provide materials for their book club. The Adante Senior Living center also donated a variety of books for the Friends of Cody Library book sale.

On April 11, Cody participated in *International Tabletop Day* which encourages family and friends to come together and have fun through playing tabletop games. Participants enjoyed games such as *Ghost Stories*, *Machi Koro*, *Splendor*, and *Hey! That's My Fish*.

Cody volunteered to become a donation site for San Antonio Youth Literacy's "Book Buddies" program. New and gently used donations are given to at-risk youth, with the idea that ownership of books is the best catalyst for developing a reading habit.

AACOG continues to host a representative at Cody on Tuesdays to assist qualifying individuals with enrolling for health care in the MarketPlace. VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) continues to see strong attendance.

## COLLINS GARDEN

One of the most successful programs Collins Garden has ever offered is *Readings from the Heart* by Gloria Merrill. Ms. Merrill is a retired teacher who offers week-long programs introducing school age children to the culture of foreign countries via crafts, native foods, and art. Offered April 6-10, *Readings from the Heart* was an instant hit with the kids, with good attendance and requests to repeat the program in the future.

Playing with the Xbox, purchased by the Friends of the Collins Garden Branch Library, has become a very popular activity at Tween Time. Some of the tweens bring their own games enabling the kids to dance along to hit songs as well as playing virtual sports.

Collins Garden has completed weeding all juvenile holiday books. All the damaged or less popular holiday books have been removed. And once the branch reopens after its extreme makeover, well-loved titles will be replaced and new titles will be added.

In preparation for the renovation, which will reduce the number of shelves, staff members have weeded the entire Collins Garden collection. Additionally, requests from other locations were submitted to transfer needed items to their collection once the branch has closed to make these more popular items available for circulation. A list of these transferred subjects is being kept to enable Collins Garden staff members to request similar titles once the branch has reopened.

## CORTEZ

The Cortez Branch Library hosted a Job Fair on March 31. Around 120 people visited the branch to meet with prospective employers. The Learn staff assisted over 80 people in signing up for Texas Workforce Commission accounts. They also learned valuable tips from speakers about networking, job interview skills, and resume writing from speakers John Horton, Jesse Wenzlaff and Marissa Garcia. The Learn @ SAPL center is open during regular branch hours Sunday through Thursday. The citizenship class offered in partnership with Academia América continues. Prospective students are encouraged to visit on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. as Academia América continues to sign up potential students for future session of the course. Ms. Vega offers a supplemental English as a Second Language course after the citizenship course.

During Family Fun, Children's Librarian Connie Hejl showed patrons how to create Bunny Bags that were used to collect eggs during a special Awesome Egg Hunt at Story Time the next day. Story Time continues every Wednesday at 11 a.m., Game Time is at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and Family Fun is every Tuesday at 4 p.m. Patrons enjoyed watching *Guardians of the Galaxy* during the monthly Movie Time on the first Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Adult librarian Michelle Ricondo began the inaugural meeting of the new monthly program, Film Club, with introductions and a discussion on the structure and direction of the program. Film buffs are wanted to exchange ideas and opinions at the next meeting on April 25 at 2 p.m. for an in-depth discussion of the cult classic film stylings of *Picnic at Hanging Rock* and *Suspira*.

Patrons who also visit the Willie Cortez Senior Center will recognize Ms. Ricondo as she takes over the weekly book club. Book club participants read the Mayor's Book Club selection *12 Years a Slave* and viewed a screening of the award-winning film.

The Gettin' Crafty Cortez Crafters' Group continues to be a popular program to make interesting creations and socialize. The crafters are now tackling cake decorations and making flowers and insects out of fondant.

The Once Upon a Crime Book Club is investigating the JonBenét Ramsey case.

The English as a Second Language continues weekly on Saturday mornings with loyal attendees.

Teen Time continues to offer a place for teens to hang out with friends, play video games, and grab some snacks. Teens have been experimenting with new crafts such as perler beads and will be trying plush toys and crochet in the future.

Zombie Meet with Madeline Vasquez continues to be a popular program on the second Saturday of the month. At March's meeting, 15 members of the program enjoyed the movie *Ouija* with program leader Madeline Vasquez. They always welcome new members to join their zombie survival team.

## FOREST HILLS

The Forest Hills branch is pleased to announce the creation of a new area designated specifically for teens. This new space offers a reading area with natural lighting from a glass cube wall, two power areas to charge laptops or other devices, and plenty of table space to work on projects or just hang out. The space was defined with the addition of a range of shelving which created a nook specifically reserved for teens 13 – 18 years of age every weekday from 3:00 p.m. until closing, and all day on Saturday and Sunday. This space was created with hopes to encourage teen use of the collection and offer a welcoming space for teens to discover what the library can offer. The space was used by a group of Longfellow Middle School students on April 3. The students were off from school for the day, but were concerned about an upcoming test and needed a place to study in peace during the day. They were very appreciative of the new space created just for teens. The Español collection was also relocated to a higher traffic area of the library. Currently, circulation of all materials in español accounts for 7% of Forest Hills' overall circulation. Staff has already witnessed an increase in popularity, as this section has higher visibility to patrons who are waiting for computer sign up.

On March 20, the Project Linus group celebrated National Blanket Day. On that day, the group invited community members to come and create blankets to be donated to a 1<sup>st</sup> grade class. One of the students in this class has an inoperable brain tumor and the Project Linus is collecting blankets to serve as comfort for him and his classmates as they journey through this traumatic time.

April 1 marked the first meeting of the new book club themed after books which have been recently featured on NPR. For the first meeting, the book *Train to Crystal City* by Jan Jarboe Russell was featured. Participants listened to the original NPR podcast and discussed the unknown history of the WWII internment camp located in Crystal City, Texas. The author, Jan Jarboe Russell will make an appearance at the Forest Hills branch on April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

April is National Poetry Month, and Forest Hills opened the month on April 6 with a poetry reading by poet Lahab Assef Al-Jundi and musician Rick Henderson. This poetry program series is titled Sheer Poetry and will be offered every Monday in April at 6:30 p.m.

Children and their families were invited to participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 7 by creating a blue pinwheel to add to the pin wheel garden on display at the entrance to the library. Librarian Valerie Shelley led the observance of this month through creating a thoughtful display on child abuse and handing out encouraging “fortune cookies” to adults. These paper cookies were given to adults with encouraging phrases inside. Each adult was reminded that happy adults create happy kids.

## **GREAT NORTHWEST**

### **Branch**

Great Northwest Library celebrated National Poetry Month with a fun and easy poetry activity for all ages. All month long patrons are encouraged to make their own Blackout Poem to be displayed in the library during the month of April. Blackout Poetry was created by author Austin Kleon and is poetry created from newspapers or book pages by rearranging words on a printed page and eliminating the words or phrases that are unnecessary to the poem.



A special Star Wars Reads book display celebrating “May the 4th Be With You” is on display at the Great Northwest library until May 4th. Included in the display are adult and juvenile fiction books, books about the making of the movies and the effect the movies have had on Pop culture.

Branch Manager Roberto Zapata met with representatives from the Children’s Shelter to discuss possible programming opportunities at the branch. The group will offer classes to parents. In addition, he met with a pastor from the Westover Hills Church to discuss a partnership between the branch and the church that would include outreach to members of the Spanish speaking congregation and a program based on a popular relationship book.

### **Adult Services**

The Alicia Trevino Senior Center and the Great Northwest Thursday Book Group met to discuss the *GI Brides: The Wartime Girls Who Crossed the Atlantic for Love* by Duncan Barrett on Monday, April 13 and Thursday, April 16.

### **Teen Services**

Great Northwest Library has a teen video gaming program every Wednesday evening where teens can bring their own controllers and games and play the Wii U and Play Station 3. During this period, four events were held on Wednesday evenings. Teens interested in gaming played games with each other and exchanged techniques and other pieces of useful gaming information in a fun environment.

Great Northwest Library celebrated National Something on a Stick Day by inviting teens to the library to make different foods on a stick. Teens enjoyed making breakfast on a stick, hamburgers on a stick, and strawberry shortcake on a stick. The event was a fun and delicious way for teens to learn how to make new snacks.

### **Children’s Services**

Great Northwest had many customers enjoying the library programs. On Tuesdays, there are two Story Times and on Thursdays, there are 2 older toddler programs and several special programs during the month.

On Tuesday, March 17, 201 children and parents attended two Story Time programs. The children enjoyed learning about the letter Ww. The Watermelon Seed puppet presentation was one of the highlights. The children also explored counting with water beads. They expanded their vocabulary by experimenting with what would absorb or repel water. They also enjoyed the writing lab which gave them each a chance to write the letter with play-do worms, with wagon wheel pasta, with wooden blocks, among others.

On Thursday, March 19, 114 attended the two Toddler programs. Using the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf theme, the children heard and participated in the story and built houses with several different materials.

On Friday, March 20, Library Assistant Theresa Brader visited Lil Peas & Sprouts Childcare Center and presented stories to the children.

On Saturday, March 21, Great Northwest customers enjoyed the Symphony at SAPL program. There were 76 in attendance.

On Monday, March 23, Great Northwest Library had a Tween Book Group as well as a Night Time Story Time.

On Tuesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 26, Great Northwest hosted 4 elephant themed children's programs in which 292 attended. The highlight of each of the programs was the elephant puppet show presented by Kimberly Wygant and Misty Raley. It was enjoyed by all.

On Tuesday, March 31, there were two Story Times with a total attendance of 183. The theme was the letter Xx. The highlight of the program was surprisingly their print awareness activity in which they made an x-ray of their hand. Many stories of broken bones were shared during this project. It seemed that everyone knew someone that had experienced an x-ray.

On Thursday, April 2, the Toddler program theme was X is for Fox. Several fox stories and songs were shared. The children also learned the word excavate as they dug in the rice bins looking for their alphabet.

On April 7, the Letter Yy Story Time was offered. 143 attended the two programs. The children enjoyed learning how to measure and compare using yarn. For many, these were new words and concepts. The highlight of the program was experimenting with yo-yo balloons.

The younger groups met on Thursday, April 9 and had an attendance of 129 for the two groups. The theme was yellow. The highlight was the book called Charlie Chick by Nick Denchfield. The children then colored and painted with yellow, explored in yellow pasta to find yellow items, sorted different yellow items and built with yellow materials. The children were so busy that many protested loudly when it was time to go home, which is a great sign for the library that the program was a success.

## GUERRA

The VITA program provided assistance to about 575 members of the community during the reporting period. The branch was a polling place for early voting— March 16 through 27, with Election Day on March 31. A staff meeting was held on April 10.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman provided an outreach on March 24 at Cable Elementary School, providing information about library programs and services. He attended the Safety/Security meeting on April 1 and the managers meeting the next day at Cortez. On April 7, he presented a program with books and music to about 35 disabled adults at the Careplex Senior Day Center. On Friday, April 10, he provided a bilingual outreach at Westwood Terrace Elementary school; the focus was on the Summer Reading Program and library services in general to parents and staff. He continued his planning activities with the local Work Force office.

Assistant Branch Manager Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard designed a "One Poem a Day" to celebrate National Poetry Month. The Thursday Evening discussed *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron on April 9.

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs planned and presented eleven in-house programs-- one Play and Learn, four Kids Times, three Toddler Times, and three Story Times. On March 25,

she attended a webinar "Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Early Childhood Setting" presented by Early Childhood Investigations. On April 9, she represented the branch at an outreach event at Castleridge Apartment playground where she spoke to children and parents about services at the library and the upcoming 2015 Summer Reading program. On April 10, Arlene visited Greatest Gifts daycare where she presented Story Time to 56 toddlers and Angelic Smiles Daycare where she read stories to 75 toddlers. Children got the opportunity to read to Foxie and Chico during two Read to a Dog programs on March 19 and April 2. Arlene installed a Mighty Girls display, highlighting books that empower girls. To celebrate National Poetry month, Arlene created a poetry gallery and a poetry book display with the goal of having children to share their favorite poems. Poems will be displayed during the entire month of April.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish book club) on March 20. The club discussed *El Arroyo de la Llorona y otros cuentos cortos (The Woman from Hollering Creek and Other Short Stories)* by local author Sandra Cisneros. March 23, he recorded *Cosita Linda (Little Beauty)* by Anthony Browne for the dial-a-story in Spanish. The next day, he gave a Spanish presentation to students of Cable Elementary School. He attended the quarterly volunteer liaison meeting on April 7.

Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra sessions on March 19 and 26 and April 2 and 9; total attendance was 28.

Circulation Attendant David Alvarez trained Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl in the use of the DLA and gave her more information about lists.

Circulation Attendant Corinna Cabeza created a display for National Autism Awareness Month and created an Autism Spectrum Disorders LibGuide.

Library Aides Celicia De Los Santos and Chloe Parham designed and installed a Fiesta display.

## IGO

With colors of the wildflowers abounding in the natural meadow surrounding the library, spring has certainly sprung at the John Igo Library. Due to the pleasant temperatures and the family-friendly park sharing its grounds, the branch has become a meet-up destination for families with young children and readers of all ages. For this reporting period children's staff have presented 37 programs and served over 1,700 children and their caregivers.

Notable children's events include a second visit to Tween Time by local bird experts, Patsy and Tom Inglet, for a bird watching field experience on the library grounds. Other offerings of note include the weekly Friday Come & Go Craft and the monthly Wednesday afternoon Discovery Time: Math and Science for Preschoolers.

On March 24, tween birding enthusiasts, under the guidance of the Inglets, spotted and logged several native birds in their first extended outing. Species included the common house finch, white-winged dove, northern mockingbird, and a special appearance by a black-chinned hummingbird.

The weekly Friday Come & Go Craft is proving to be a hit with children of all ages. Projects have included a paper plate and crepe paper toucan to support the San Antonio Botanical Garden's Rainforest Maze Adventure, a blooming flower pot craft in honor of spring, and a peeking Easter holiday bunny craft. These simple craft ideas are hitting just the right note with guest seeking opportunities for family fun at the library.

Lastly, this month's Discovery Time session on April 11 was all about building and construction. Preschoolers and their caregivers were invited to build together with straws and connectors and a variety other recycled materials. Building tall structures, cardboard and paper cup bridges, as well as, measuring, assembling, and decorating bird houses provided numerous opportunities for investigation, math enrichment, and fun.

### **Teen Services**

The last of the mini M.E.G.A. camp sessions were completed in March and finished by focusing on robotics! The hands on demonstrations of Lego Mindstorms robotics meant that these already fully registered classes exploded with tweens who were fascinated by the process. Teens from the Igo Library Teen Leadership Council instructed kids on how robotics worked, how they could get involved in local robotics clubs and compete and how robotics made a difference in the real world.

Teen Tech Week at Igo Library was also a huge hit as the branch hosted four days of learning about various programming languages including Java, C++ and C#. The programs were so successful that a core group of 10 students wanted to learn more and several impromptu instruction sessions were held the following week during the reporting period. Again, these courses were instructed by a teen from the Igo Library Teen Leadership Council along with mentorship from a local university professor.

On March 18, teens were invited to participate in an Insurgent release party where there was Divergent trivia contests, personality and character tests, discussion of the books and movies, cake and popcorn and book giveaways. Over 30 teens enjoyed this special event.

Also, Teen Services Librarian Barbara Kwiatkowski received a promotion and will begin working at Encino Library once it opens. Teens had a lovely few last session with Ms. Kwiatkowski as they reflected over the years they spent working together on various projects and the bright future ahead for all.

### **Adult Services**

The adult clubs have continued to grow, with one new member joining the Mystery Club, two new members joining the Romance Readers Book Club and three new members joining the Genealogy Club. The Film Club saw *To Kill a Mockingbird* on March 23. On April 1, the Mystery Club discussed *The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches*. On April 17, the Afternoon Book Club discussed *The End of Your Life Book Club*, while Allene Mandry presented "Writing Your Family History" to the Genealogy Club.

In partnership with the Igo Branch Library, the San Antonio Romance Authors provided a panel presentation on body language and writing for all interested community members.

Mayor Ivy Taylor visited on March 25 for one of her Meet the Mayor sessions where she spoke with members of the community in a one-on-one format. Over 40 community members came to meet the Mayor that evening, with many parents who enjoyed taking pictures of their children with her.

The Igo Library Tablet and Tech Help sessions that involve meeting one-on-one with patrons to help them download digital content from the library continue to remain successful with approximately 15 appointments a month.

The Igo Elderberries program meeting was on April 2. Thirty attendees participated in a lively discussion of Marlene Richardson's presentation on her book, *Leon Springs, Texas: From Prussia to Persia*. The April Elderberries newsletter, *The Elderberry Vine*, presented information about the Texas Senior Games being held in San Antonio in April. Library Assistant Irene Scharf attended and presented library information at the Holistic Health Fair on March 15.

Lastly, the American Association of Retired Persons offered in partnership with Igo Library two tablet learning courses for seniors as part of their AARP Tek Workshops. There were two sessions – one focusing on “Tablets – Beyond the Basics” and another “Tablets and Social Media.” These workshops let over 60 seniors use an iPad during the class to learn more about how to use a tablet and had eight instructors present so that attendees could learn at their pace in smaller groups. Both workshops for April 11 at Igo were filled to capacity and after the sessions were over, floods of program attendees came into the library to get library cards for the first time and wanted to learn how to use OverDrive. The partnership was very successful, indeed! There will be two more days of AARP Tek Workshops at Igo on different topics later in the year.

## JOHNSTON

Johnston Library embraced April Fools' Day, by posting funny signs and book displays around the library. The community seemed to enjoy the humor, especially the teens. Johnston Library also created displays for April's National Poetry Month. Besides book displays, the library created a passive “magnetic poetry” program setting up areas for customers to get involved and craft their own poetry.

On Saturday, April 11, Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo coordinated a “Feast of Thrones” party to celebrate the season 5 premiere of HBO's *Game of Thrones* (based on the book series by George R.R. Martin). Posters of each of the “houses” were hung in the meeting room and patrons could take a quick quiz to see which house they would belong. There were also ornate snowflake templates that patrons could cut out (because winter is coming) as well as Aria's lemon cakes and a big pot of Bowl of Brown stew to sample.

Johnston's circulation continues to increase over last year. In March, circulation was more than 5% higher than March of 2014. Staff keeps all sections of the collection weeded and the shelves clean. Staff also worked hard on displays for Easter, Poetry month, child abuse prevention, paperback romance, Texas history, gardening and Women's History.

Children's Librarian Beverly Wigglesworth provided weekly baby time, Story Time and family time.

Library Assistant/Teen Liaison Christina Martinez continued to provide weekly programming for the teens in the area. During this reporting period she provided events such as movie making with iMovie, Xbox, a movie, and hosted an “Insurgent” party for the premiere of the movie based on the popular books by Veronica Roth. Five tables were set up representing the five factions from the book. Each table had a game activity. Food and prizes such as t-shirts made the event memorable.

Adult Services Librarian Ms. Bustillo, collaborated with Cortez Librarian Michelle Ricondo on outreach services for the Department of Human Services Willie Cortez Senior Center. Ms. Bustillo also attended the Heather's Cove Neighborhood Association and the Springvale Neighborhood Association meetings to discuss library services available to the community.

Ms. Bustillo continues to promote the Mayor's Book Club selection of *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup. She facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of the Mayor's Book Club title.

Ms. Bustillo facilitated a Teen Time in April, which included Book Club icebreaker questions such as "Favorite Childhood book?" and "What book do you re-read again and again."

Meetings Ms. Bustillo attended: Adult Summer Reading Committee, Quarterly Volunteer Liaison, and Live Smart, Learn Well: Adult Education Subcommittee.

Ms. Bustillo took advantage of several educational opportunities this month. She attended the Webjunction webinar, "The Pursuit of Happiness...Through Libraries"; an in-house webinar presented by Rolf Laun of Digital Services, "Overdrive Periodicals"; and the circulation training, "Patron Accounts: Accurate Data and Why it Matters" presented by Laura Villanueva of Central Circulation.

## LANDA

### Children's Services

March was a busy month for Children's programs at Landa! In addition to weekly programs including Baby Time, Toddler Time and Story Time, Landa hosted Lego Club and Come n' Go Crafts. Landa has been very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers from all over the library system to help cover children's programs during Children's Librarian Clair Larkin's absence. On Tuesdays Central Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas hosted Landa's popular Baby Time and Toddler Time. Carver Children's Librarian Jodi Miller presented Baby Time on Wednesdays and Landa's Assistant Branch Manager Karen Sebesta presented a weekly boisterous Story Time featuring singing and keyboard music every Thursday. On March 19, Landa Branch Manager Heidi Novotny hosted a Lego Club, which had the highest turnout yet of any of Landa's previous Lego events. Participants at Landa's monthly Come n' Go Craft program, presented by Landa Circulation Attendant Melissa Carroll, celebrated Fiesta by creating sparkly crowns decorated with colored tin foil and stars. Ms. Larkin will return in June.

### Teen Services

Landa Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC) continued to do great things this month. They worked together to create cardboard kids for the Child Safe campaign #cardboardkidssa. These cardboard cutouts were placed inside Landa for viewing and a blog post was written on the Teen Services Wordpress site <http://wp.me/pnROx-3bw>. Landa TLLC held weekly meetings with agendas that included: Tutor Presentations, Science Demonstration run-through activities, and Cardboard Kids campaign ideas.

On April 8 Landa's International Teen Club celebrated Sweden by making Swedish-inspired pancakes and enjoyed learning about the country through SAPL online resources. To illustrate how important it is for teens to create their own programming, Landa's Cool Teens Club created their own "Scrabble"-inspired game using just colored paper, dictionary and the floor.

### **Adult Services**

Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta concluded her "March Mondays @ Landa" series with three creative and informational programs. Three human and two canines from Service Dogs Express, an organization that trains service dogs and handlers, presented a program describing their work with civilian and military handlers who have PTSD and other psychological needs. The March 23 program featured a return visit from Scott Duncan, assisted by Kim MacKenzie, who entertained a large group with original selections for guitar, voice and fiddle. On March 30, organist/music director/composer Donald Sebesta held a hand bell session for beginners. It brought out the musician in all of those who attended and the new ringers left with a request for an intermediate session. Karen would like to thank the Landa Branch Friends for their support for this program series.

On Friday, March 27, Tom and Patsy Inglet returned with a box full of binoculars for an outdoor birding session. A small but very enthusiastic group of birders followed Tom and Patsy around the Landa grounds spotting both rare and common Texas birds. The group was surprised when a toddler named Etta approached them to point out a pair of doves protecting their nest in a tree near the Landa entrance!

The regular monthly adult programs continue to attract both new and returning members. The Senior's Mystery Book Club had its largest group ever for discussion of the excellent who-dun-it, *The Lighthouse*, by P. D. James. This month's Silver Screens Classic Movie was the inimitable *High Noon* with Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly. Reader's Ink members observed poetry month with *Poems That Make Grown Men Cry: 100 Men on the Poems that Move Them*, a collection of poetry and commentary. Karen also helped the Incarnate Word Nursing Home attendees celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a trivia game followed by a St. Patrick's Day craft.

Journey to Inspired Art Quilting Bee is in partnership with Landa Adult Programming and holds a monthly meeting at Landa. They invite both new and experienced quilters to expand their skills through exchange of ideas and acquiring new quilting techniques.

## **LAS PALMAS**

On Saturday March 28, a small but enthusiastic group asked a wide variety of questions of San Antonio Symphony musician David Mollenaur. Visitors enjoyed his beautiful cello playing. Anne Schuette has developed a partnership with Academia América to offer U.S. Citizenship classes in Spanish. Classes begin Friday April 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the Las Palmas meeting room and continue every Friday through June 19. Several people have already registered. The instructor will allow students to begin classes past the first day and they can continue the course during the future class dates. Las Palmas hopes to provide the same class in English. Visitors have expressed interest in that course when it becomes available.

Teen Services Librarian Marco De Leon has continued to promote Teen Night at Las Palmas. The Super Cool Awesome Teen Gaming Block 3000 is popular. Teens are given the option of choosing their entertainment. Video games, board games, movies, and dance night are all offered as options.

Mr. De Leon also provided outreach at KIPP Academy to promote Teen Service programming and to establish partnerships with the school librarians and counselors.

Bilingual Story Time participants celebrated St. Patrick's Day by decorating gold bag with paper shamrocks. Preschoolers continued to expand their vocabulary during bilingual Story Time. This month the children learned about animals. Ms. Patricia Perez presented a total of five bilingual Story Times.

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi continues to visit Advance, Madonna, and Good Samaritan early literacy centers with story times and outreach collections. Ms. Brudi attended the Carvajal Early Literacy Parent Meeting. She read to children and talked about services that the library offers.

## **MAVERICK**

The Maverick Branch had many programs during the reporting period. On March 21, Guitar SA came and performed for 48 patrons. The Ladies' Choice Book Club had 13 participants on March 28. Also, on March 28 Library Aides Raina Oster and Cetta Dae Poore, former Library Aide Elizabeth Santos, and Circulation Attendant Sarah Borque performed 2 of the now famous "Gerald and Piggie" puppet shows, with 39 people attending the program. They also had a craft and a treat to eat! Teen programs, conducted by Library Assistant Lucy Villa, included making ice cream in a bag, paper airplanes, and Fiesta Flower wreaths.

For the first time since Maverick opened, the Scholastic Literacy Van visited during preschool Story Times! The 48 children enjoyed the hands-on activities, stories and receiving a free book!

The fun continued during preschool Story Times on April 6, with Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, presenting a "Build It!" Play & Learn. Children of all ages loved the sand sensory bin, cars, magnet board and other construction activities. Sixty-two people attended the Play & Learn program and many asked when it would be offered again. On April 10 at noon, a patron will be offering a free chess program. Librarian I Pat King will start a new program every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday called "Maverick Book Review" starting April 11.

In other news, Librarian II Ben Longoria attended the "Jobs and Small Business" committee meeting on March 31. Ms. Roberts attended a Children's Librarians meeting on April 9 and volunteered at the SA Book Festival at Central on April 11. During a staff meeting in March, Branch Manager Jef Martin had the staff take the "color" test. It was very interesting and informative to see what the top 2 colors of each staff member were!

## **McCRELESS**



Children learned about rabbits, eggs, pigs and clouds during the four Story Times. Paper umbrellas, confetti eggs, bunny puppets and pig collages were created as part of the lessons. Children also had opportunities to sing and dance, play and write.

Four Family Fun programs were held. Families celebrated spring and St. Patrick's Day. Children also had the opportunity to Read to a Dog and to try out their construction skills with a variety of building materials.

A Play and Learn event, Build It!, was also held. Participants were very excited about the activities available for the children to experience.

St. Margaret Mary's PreK3 class visited the library for a special Story Time. The children participated in stories, rhymes, songs and play time.

During the San Antonio Book Festival, Children's Librarian Kathleen Brown assisted with children's activities.

On Sunday April 5 Manager Cammie Brantley met three Friends of McCreless at the Library for a "garden party." The foursome spent a couple of hours digging, planting and mulching a variety of plants paid for by McCreless Friends. The recent rains will help settle them all in to a happy and colorful future.

The Adult Book Club met on April 11 for a discussion of Nicholas Sparks' first novel *The Notebook*.

Saturday April 11 the San Antonio Feral Cats Coalition presented another highly successful "Trap-Neutr-Release" program in anticipation of spring kitten season.

## MEMORIAL

Children at Memorial Library celebrated St. Patrick's Day by decorating large shamrocks to hang up or wear during our Family Fun program. Preschoolers had a blast for St. Patrick's Day too as they sang songs, listened to stories, and made crafts for the celebration. They also made paper bag bird nests after singing songs and listening to stories about birds and the sounds they make. Children's Librarian Trina Smith volunteered at the Edgewood ISD Texas Bluebonnet Book Award competition, where students from ten elementary schools participated to win the award for the school with the highest score. Trina, along with the children's librarians from Bazan and Las Palmas branches, formulated the questions for the event. The branch libraries within District 5 celebrated Cesar Chavez Day at Memorial Library where Trina served as chairperson for the Children's committee for the event.

Trina also created a display for the month of April to acknowledge Child Abuse Prevention Month, with books, brochures and blue pinwheels, the symbol for child abuse, and pinwheels for children to make.

On March 28, Cesar Chavez Day was celebrated on the grounds of the Memorial Branch Library. The District 5 library event included poetry readings about peace and justice by adults and children, a musical performance by Los Inocentes musical group, face painting and arts and crafts for children and teens. Inside the library, patrons watched a wonderful performance by the Edgewood Fine Arts Academy Ballet Folklorico group. Dancers performed in an array of colorful ethnic costumes that drew

a crowd of about 50 customers. The performance reflected the rich heritage and culture of the dance.

The Amigos, Memorial's Friends group, held a successful book sale while the event took place. The group, which was a sponsor of the Cesar Chavez Day program, has worked all year long to help raise funds for library programming and materials. A Sincere thanks is extended to all of the volunteers for their hard work and support of the library.

Teen Tuesday at Memorial continued to be well attended. Several teens volunteered to help with Chavez day's events and also enjoyed the fun and refreshments.

## MISSION

Table tennis for adults, Cult and Classic movies, Trivia Game night, the Chess Club, and an Embroidery and Craft Group continue at Mission. VITA provided free tax service. The library continues to partner with Fitness in the Park, Familias en Accion, and the San Antonio Film Community. An exciting new partnership began on April 4. The Central Texas Drone Users Group met at Mission. The group plans to have drone challenges on site on Saturdays.

Academica Southwest conducted surveys regarding the Play-Scape for Brooks Park and University of Incarnate Word Pharmaceutical students provided free health screenings for the public on March 22.

Manager Elma Nieto-Rodriguez and Teen Librarian Cynthia Cruz met with Harlandale's STEM Coordinator Anthony Khosravi. Mr. Khosravi was provided a tour and discussion was held over the possibility of having joint programming over the course of the summer. The meeting ended favorably and plans were made to continue to work together.

Mission has partnered with instructors who provide educational sessions to young men who have been court ordered to undergo leadership training. A series of six sessions will be provided at Mission. For the first session students were required to get their library cards and read *Buried Onions* by Gary Soto. Students will write a report and discuss the book at their next meeting.

Planning meetings for a Harlandale Back-to-School event continue at Mission. The annual event which is led by Harlandale Board Member Mr. Juan Mancha along with other community organizations serves 600 students. Mission Library participates during these events.

On April 11, a farmer's market was held at the adjacent Mission Marquee. Staff members noted that the event drew new visitors to the library. A DCCD initiative, the farmer's market will be held twice a month.

Mission Teen Services had a total of 8 programs with 110 in attendance for the reporting period. The Teen Librarian also took part in East Central's Community Resource Fair and spoke to 35 students, educators, and parents. In addition, teen volunteers contributed 12 hours of service by helping other teens with homework and assisting with programming and displays. Gaming activities which included Dungeons and Dragons, YuGiOh, board games, and video gaming continue to be a draw for teens at the branch.

Spring has proven to be a busy time for the Mission Children's Department. Attendance at programs is increasing rapidly. For instance, on April 8 Baby Time had 27 attendees and Toddler Time had 58

kids and adults. A special construction themed Play and Learn was enjoyed by 30 kids and their adults.

Children's Librarian Jane Miller had an opportunity to provide a story time for 80 enthusiastic four and five year olds at PreK 4SA and will be returning for another story time next month.

Tween Time has picked up with the addition of ping pong to the regular activities. Several tweens are eagerly learning how to play, while others are engrossed in video games, legos, laptops and board games.

## PAN AMERICAN

The Pan American Branch Library continued to hold weekly health and wellness classes for the south side community. These included Gentle Stretch Yoga on Mondays and the popular Tai Chi, Easy on Friday mornings. Additionally, Adult Services Librarian Cindy Pope held a "Keeping it Real" non-fiction book club where participants were given the opportunity to discuss any non-fiction book recently read. On April 11, Ms. Pope and Nathaniel Laubner visited the South Park Mall to talk with shoppers about the Pan American Branch Library. Mall guests were also given a chance to win a prize by spinning the prize wheel.

On March 21, the branch hosted violinist Sarah Silver from the San Antonio Symphony. Families were delighted and introduced to the beauty of symphony music. On March 24, third and fourth graders from the Alamo Leadership Academy toured the branch and were shown how to use the online catalog to search for library resources. Children's Services Librarian Carol Collins also visited six daycares to hold Story Times and deliver books.

Teens at Pan American were given the opportunity to create images with words designed in it. The teens chose from a variety of images and then imbedded their favorite words, names, song lyrics, quotes to form the image. Once created, Teen Liaison Angela Olivarez printed the designs onto iron on paper. Teens were given a pillow case to iron on their art work or use their own T-shirt.

## PARMAN

The Spring Semester of Parman Library's DIY U continued with the following classes: Essential Oils taught by Natchez Lee, arranged by Circulation Attendant Cara Garcia, Waffle Iron Cooking taught by Circulation Attendant Elissa Vura, Doll Making taught by Branch Manager Haley Holmes, and two sessions of Spanish 101 taught by Library Assistant Eva Banda. An exciting upcoming class is Beer Brewing which will be hosted by the Cerveceros, a local home brew club, to be held on April 18.

Mayor Ivy Taylor visited Parman on March 26 as part of the Mayor's Roadshow. Parman patrons and other constituents enjoyed one-on-one time with the mayor, and many families had their picture taken with her. At the end of the session, Parman library staff gathered for a picture with the mayor and she spoke with staff about their current reading materials.

Another successful Teddy Bear Sleepover was held in March and a Wee Wiggle Toddler Dance Party in April. Children's Librarian Carrie Vance gave tours of the library to 2 Cub Scout groups. She

also represented the library at Kids Day in the Park where library staff talked to over 400 people about our services.

On April 1, Parman hosted the second annual Spring Egg Hunt. This year the age groups were split into 0-3 and 4-9 age groups. The 0-3 hunt took place in the morning and because of rain was held in the children's area in the library. Luckily, the rain cleared up and the afternoon hunt was held on the Ince trail. There were about 250 people at each of the events. Patrons donated all of the 2400 plastic eggs and the Friends of the Parman Library donated candy and prizes to fill the eggs.

Library Assistant Christina Hess will be helping out every Wednesday at the Kampmann Portal at the Briscoe Museum. Manager Haley Holmes worked with local poets Janice Campbell and Toni Falls to present a poetry event, *Braided Stream: A Poetry Duet*, for National Poetry Month.

## PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

The recent children's programming at the Pruitt Library has comprised of a wide variety of activities for kids of all ages from babies on up to tweens.

This month's selection for the Family Circle Book Club was the popular and award-winning novel *One Crazy Summer*, by Rita Williams-Garcia. Parents and tweens enjoyed a lively discussion, and the kids were very interested in finding out more about the Civil Rights Movement from the 1960's. Reading this historical-fiction novel not only entertained our young readers, but also provided them with the chance to learn about an important event in U.S. history. During our Tween Time held after school on Mondays, kids enjoyed making buttons for St. Patrick's Day as well as an origami fold-and-tell Story Time, featuring the flapping bird as a symbol of hope and possibilities.

During Kids' Time, children heard a story about the significance of St. Patrick's Day and participated in a craft activity where they made leprechauns. For Women's History Month, children listened to the story about Maria Merian and her findings in the 1700's about butterflies and metamorphosis. Children then showed their creativity by painting and creating symmetrical butterflies. Kids celebrated Cesar Chavez Day by listening to stories detailing his life and contributions. Afterwards, they created and enjoyed a game of "Frutas y Verduras". For Poetry Month, children were treated to some poetry about spring and kites. They created their own "Bag Kites" and had a great time flying them outside in the courtyard.

The science topic for this month's SPARK program was "animal tracks". Children and parents studied tracks produced by a variety of animals. Children were excited to have the opportunity to produce their own "footprint" tracks made of Plaster of Paris as a take-home craft.

Toddlers very much enjoyed our Build It! Play and Learn held recently. Parents and children participated in all types of activities centered on construction involving talking, singing, reading, writing and playing.

Pruitt teens participated in a Poetry Slam. They had their poems published, displayed and presented in a fun and welcoming environment. Young Adults can also select a variety of poems for themselves from the Pick a Poem and Put It in Your Pocket display. Teen Librarian Rae Downen and School Librarian Mary Jane McClendon have created a fun display of books for patrons. They have created stacks of read alike books around a popular title. This has been very popular for

patrons seeking books with like themes. For National Library Month teens are given tickets according to the number of books they check out. There will be a drawing for fabulous prizes at the end of April.

Branch Manager Troy Lawrence was elected as Chair Elect for the Children's Round Table for the Texas Library Association. His tenure will begin after the conference in April. He has also been selected to serve on Texas Library Association's Lariat List. The annual list of Lariat award winners calls attention to outstanding fiction published during the year that merit special attention from adult readers. The main criterion for selecting books for the Lariat List is that they are "a pleasure to read."

## SAN PEDRO

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presented monthly Story Times to children at Educare Child Care Center (two classes), Study Hall Learning Center (two classes), and Monte Vista Montessori (two classes). Fifteen books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month. She also presented a monthly Story Time to two groups of children (each group was a combination of two classes) at Respite Care, a child care facility for developmentally disabled children. Books were left for each of five classes. In addition, she presents a special weekly Story Time at the library for some of the children who live at Respite Care's shelter facility.

On April 1, a group of children enjoyed creating with LEGOs on LEGO Day at the Library. Betsy challenged them to build a garden for an imaginary or actual item. The children really rose to the challenge; there was a mystical garden with ghouls and goblins, a zombies and plants garden, a hanging garden reminiscent of the gardens of ancient Babylon, a human garden, and others!

On Sunday March 29, children and their grownups enjoyed a special Family Time celebrating spring. The ever popular outdoor event held in San Pedro Park featured planting flowers, painting dandelions and daisies, and making birdfeeders with Cheerios™.

Ms. Betsy presents a weekly Kids Time for Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Often the program was held outdoors in the park to enjoy the fine Spring weather! During one Kids Time the children went on an alphabet scavenger hunt to find letters of the alphabet formed in nature!

During this period, Ms. Betsy facilitated monthly books discussions at Montevista Montessori (4<sup>th</sup>) and Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th grades) book clubs. The book clubs have 12-13 members each. The book clubs meet during the students' lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed. In addition, Ms. Betsy also facilitates the Great Hearts 4<sup>th</sup> grade book club which meets monthly at the library. The children discussed the format of the graphic novel they read and compared it to other graphic novels, noting the color, the type face, etc. The children then created their own graphic strip. They used various instructional books and also other graphic novels as references and colored pencils as the medium. One of the "new" graphic novels featured a discussion between a snake and a cat over the merits of chocolate!

Monte Vista Montessori brings approximately 50 students once a month to the library. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades 2 through 8. When the class comes to the library, the Children's Librarian spends approximately thirty minutes with the students, suggesting

books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials.

Manager Diane Backhus has been working on starting a Friends of the Library group for the branch. She and other staff, particularly Carmen Roja, have been telling customers about the great benefits of having our own support group. The response from customers has been very positive! Email invitations have also been sent to at least eighteen frequent users. Staff hopes to know soon that a branch group will be organized!

## SEMMES

On March 17, Librarian Randi Jones visited the NE Senior Service Center and led a book discussion on the Mayor's Book Club selection, *12 Years a Slave*. This was the first visit to the center for Ms. Jones and she thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Staff appreciates Tobin Branch Manager Tracey Knouse for setting up and organizing the event.

A new program was held on March 28. The Fourth Saturday Game Club is dedicated to Tabletop gaming. The Gameexpo group is providing the games and volunteers for the program. Eleven people attended the first session and received instructions on how to play Dominion. There was also an opportunity to explore many other board games. Each month the group will be focusing on a different game.

The Monarch Academy at Morgan's Wonderland stopped by the branch for a tour on April 10. 5 students and 2 teachers were given a tour of the branch and were able to learn about all of the job/volunteer opportunities the library has to offer. The students were allowed to vote on where they would like to take a field trip and the library was the unanimous winner!

## THOUSAND OAKS

### Children's Activities

A member of the Thousand Oaks Friends group generously donated money to purchase Lego minifigures for Lego Time! The children who attended Lego Time April 2 were very excited about the minifigures and spent most of the hour putting them together. Other fun children's activities included Toddler Time and Story Time: themes for the month included duck stories, and the kids made handprint ducks with white paint; spring stories and the kids painted tulips with forks; bunny stories and the kids had a number of fun bunny-related activities! On April 4, children at the library decorated eggs with colorful tissue paper for the Come and Go Craft. Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser presented three Story Time programs about chickens at the Little Engine Learning Center April 8.

### Teen's Activities

Library Assistant Theresa Garza Ybarra and Circulation Attendant Zaneta Taylor continue to bring exciting programs to teens at Thousand Oaks. Teens celebrated the release of the new movie *Insurgent* on March 18 by watching *Divergent* and making various crafts related to each faction in

the Divergent world. The teens planted herbs, made mini books, gave themselves temporary tattoos, drank “truth serum” then answered questions, and created their own art using the button maker borrowed from Teen Services. They got creative making bottle cap magnets the next week, adding sequins and nail polish to the bottle caps. On April 1, Teens had fun eating chocolate chips and marshmallows while playing Bingo! Teens requested the movie *The Maze Runner* on April 8 and enjoyed the movie with the ever present snack of popcorn.

### **Book Group**

The Thursday Afternoon Book Club met on March 19 to discuss the book, *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss. Circulation Attendant Brenda Ramos led a very lively discussion about the twists and turns of the novel. Some were very disappointed in the ending which did not wrap things up neatly. Cake was enjoyed nonetheless by the 9 attendees.

### **Programming/Events**

Rhonda Woolhouse, Assistant Manager at Tobin at Oakwell, presented “A Feast of Thrones” event at the Thousand Oaks Branch on April 11. It was a fun and exciting event with plenty of food and games in celebration of the Season 5 *Game of Thrones* premier. The “Feast of Thrones” menu included various delicacies from across the seven kingdoms and beyond. The Aveda Institute of San Antonio provided *Game of Thrones* inspired hairstyles which were enjoyed by many.

### **Services**

VITA was in full swing these last couple of weeks. Large crowds have been gathering in hopes of filling their taxes before the upcoming deadline. The last day for VITA at the branch is April 14. Staff is planning a potluck party on April 15.

Vital Records sales have been up during this period due to Kinder Round-up throughout NEISD. The branch was visited by many excited soon to be kindergarteners and parents who are feeling a bit anxious and sad to see their little ones go off to school.

## **TOBIN AT OAKWELL**

All staff and customers congratulate Librarian Keri Moczygemba as the new manager at Encino Library, as Keri officially started working at Encino. Joining Keri is the Teen Librarian Matthew Loaiza who leaves Tobin to be Encino’s new Teen Librarian. Fortunately, new Assistant Manager Rhonda Woolhouse has transitioned and started quickly at Tobin. Ms. Woolhouse brings a wealth of creative adult programming, as she very active with both branch and system wide programming. Ms. Woolhouse continues avid participation on the Arts and Cultural Adult Program committee.

Shannon Seglin, Children’s Librarian from Semmes branch, has seen attendance grow and maintain during Toddler Time on Wednesday. Book Bundles, featured authors, beginner readers and rainy days, spring and National Health days were displays featured in both Juvenile and Español areas. All reference staff participated in planning and helping kids and adults make crafts daily during Spring Break through St. Patrick’s Day which were very well attended.

Teen Librarian Matthew Loaiza continued with modified outside sport versions of volleyball, soccer and 4 square. For National Poetry Month, some teens cut out phrases and pictures from donated

books to create poems. Many others wrote their own verses and have them all on display on the Teen room windows for everyone to peruse.

The Interesting Book group has steady participation with recent selections of Chris Bohjalian's, *The Light in the Ruins*, and Chimamanda Ngozie Adiche's, *Americanah* being read and discussed. Displays highlighted at Tobin include *The Walking Dead*, Young Adult new titles, Fairy Tales, National Poetry Month, Veg Out SA and gardening. The non-fiction area focal wall incorporates Texas History, financial planning and crafts.

## WESTFALL

A Westfall Branch Library staff member joined a member of Cody Branch Library to discuss services at the Low Vision Fair sponsored by Colonial Hills United Methodist Church. Westfall Circulation Attendant Abbigail de la Garza and Cody Library Assistant Luanne Bloom talked with more than 200 people about electronic resources and other services for the visually challenged.

Training Officer Deborah Carter, Department of Human Services Social Worker Lindsay Minarovic and DHS Intern Eva Pesta from the Learn Center made presentations on library resources to approximately 70 adult refugees and 10 refugee teachers and administrators at House of Prayer Lutheran Church. The refugees are from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nepal, Burma, Somalia, Burundi and Eritrea. The trio also stopped by St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Gethsemane Lutheran Church and Wal-Mart to let staff know about the availability of Learn Center resources. Learn staff also met with Abbey Gonzalez, director for Alamo Colleges Empowerment Center, nine DHS staff members and 12 job seekers currently enrolled in DHS services.

More than 90 people participated in Learn Center classes, including writing, reading, English conversation, English as a second language game night, basic computers, grammar and Tech Sunday.

Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin assisted with the Job Fair at Cortez Branch Library where more than 120 job seekers registered to meet with potential employers.

Children's Librarian Imelda Merino worked with more than 100 children and adults who attended Story Time, BabyTime and Family Fun. Ms. Imelda also hosted a class of 10 students and two teachers from the Discovery School and also provided books for eight students at KinderCare.

Librarian II Jernell Williams facilitated the Third Thursday Book Group as they discussed *Ghostman* by Roger Hobbs, and Librarian I Karen Sagun led the discussion of *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* by Sheri Fink for the Stranger Than Fiction Book Group.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES



San Antonio Public Library  
Fiscal Year-to-Date Comparisons  
Mar 2015 (50% of FY Completed)

Performance Measures	FYTD 15	FYTD 14	% Chg	FY 15 Goal	% of Goal Achieved	FY 15 Status
Total Circulation	3,476,045	3,451,095	0.7%	7,313,500	47.5%	✓
- Physical Circulation	3,043,484	3,165,592	-3.9%	6,471,500	47.0%	✓
- Digital Circulation	432,561	285,503	51.5%	842,000	51.4%	✓
Visits	2,597,091	2,598,600	-0.1%	5,390,000	48.2%	✓
Program Attendance	149,370	136,702	9.3%	302,450	49.4%	✓
- Adult's Program Attendance	22,730	17,178	32.3%	39,000	58.3%	✓
- Teen's Program Attendance	24,703	22,157	11.5%	43,450	56.9%	✓
- Children's Program Attendance	101,937	97,367	4.7%	219,000	46.5%	✓
Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use	1,151,675	1,041,093	10.6%	2,202,000	52.3%	✓
Website Visits	1,626,549	1,792,299	-9.2%	3,400,000	47.8%	✓
Bexar County (Outside the City of San Antonio)			Customer Satisfaction*			
% of Circulation	FYTD 15	FYTD 14	2014	2012		
Total Circulation	19.3%	18.7%	96%	94%		
- Physical Circulation	18.4%	18.3%				
- Digital Circulation	25.3%	24.1%				

Goal Status    ✓ = On Target    ♦ = Monitor    ⛔ = Not on Target

FYTD 15 Renovations/Closures:

FY 14 Renovation/Closures: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-31, Carver Sep 2-28

\* From the Biennial City of San Antonio Community Survey

# San Antonio Public Library

## March 2015 Usage

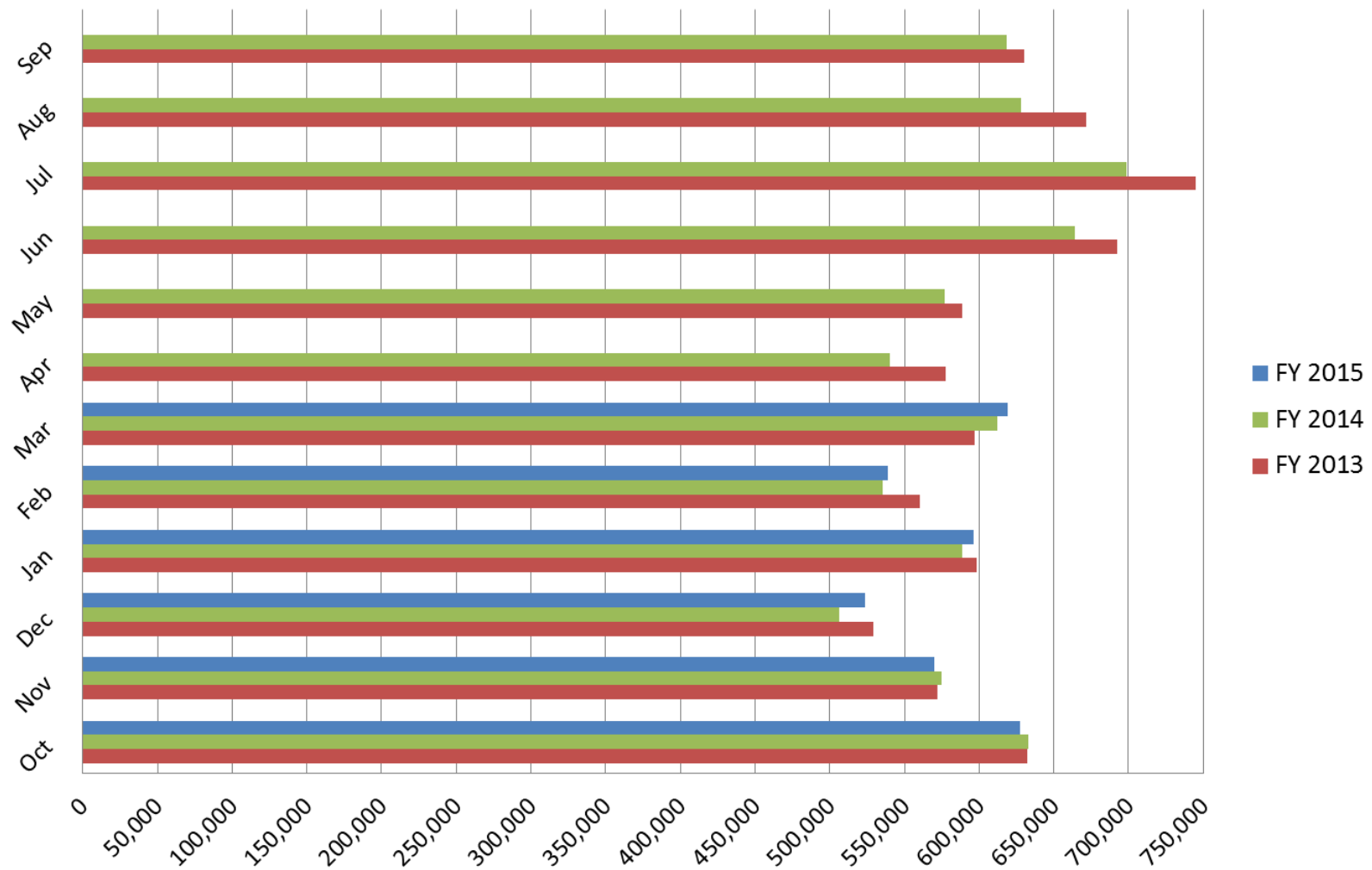
Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Total Programs	Number of Programs			Total Program Attendance	Adult Programs	Teen Programs	Children's Programs	Hours of Computer / Wi-Fi Use	Computers - Hours of Use	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
Bazan	5,351	12,530	56.5	32	4	21	998	862	12	124	6,569	1,949	4,621
Brook Hollow	31,298	18,987	48.0	13	5	30	1,067	159	13	895	6,222	1,543	4,679
Carver	5,040	10,575	54.0	18	12	24	721	287	94	340	5,112	2,114	2,999
Central	31,246	63,718	329.0	36	124	169	4,763	287	1,324	3,152	49,321	15,496	33,825
Cody	39,022	24,656	50.0	8	5	37	1,649	171	69	1,409	7,687	1,795	5,892
Collins Garden	6,546	9,178	24.0	7	0	17	225	22	0	203	4,278	1,530	2,747
Cortez	6,969	12,974	140.0	99	5	36	1,000	348	45	607	5,292	1,897	3,395
Encino*	0	0	1.0	0	0	1	337	0	0	337	0	0	0
Forest Hills	9,059	9,872	37.0	7	5	25	414	60	30	324	4,717	1,291	3,426
Great Northwest	34,281	23,569	37.0	9	6	22	1,892	132	35	1,725	6,943	2,168	4,775
Guerra	14,361	15,747	30.0	5	4	21	556	15	20	521	6,848	2,124	4,724
Igo	29,358	22,820	67.0	13	17	37	2,128	89	257	1,782	5,388	1,647	3,742
Johnston	11,452	11,773	30.0	7	5	18	535	103	199	233	6,892	1,554	5,338
Landa	12,341	12,262	50.0	14	15	21	1,005	112	119	774	2,133	909	1,224
Las Palmas	6,267	11,677	44.5	1	6	38	386	5	32	349	6,310	2,033	4,277
Maverick	29,001	14,753	26.0	7		19	859	217		642	6,626	2,359	4,267
McCreless	14,946	16,688	19.0	4	4	11	356	25	47	284	6,184	1,958	4,226
Memorial	7,326	11,409	28.0	6	4	18	800	260	31	509	6,188	1,917	4,271
Mission	12,985	22,539	59.0	23	9	27	753	208	151	394	10,191	3,435	6,756
Pan American	7,401	11,043	53.0	15	6	32	458	139	6	313	5,884	2,393	3,492
Parman	37,856	28,178	94.0	36	6	52	2,040	582	76	1,382	5,063	924	4,139
Pruitt	7,009	12,544	76.0	21	25	30	1,216	207	392	617	6,399	1,488	4,911
San Pedro	4,435	7,337	32.0	6	0	26	422	55	0	367	2,260	667	1,593
Semmes	28,034	20,194	57.0	5	7	45	1,104	23	60	1,021	6,563	2,440	4,123
Thousand Oaks	13,361	12,533	30.0	7	4	19	338	30	31	277	5,695	1,302	4,394
Tobin	19,060	10,469	37.0	9	10	18	830	59	174	597	5,480	1,993	3,487
Westfall	18,606	17,341	55.0	40	0	15	522	347	0	175	7,589	2,432	5,157
Library Portal	N/A	1,699	3.0	N/A	N/A	3	26	N/A	N/A	26	443	N/A	443
Interlibrary Loan Lending	1,289	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	91,614	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	83,878	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>619,392</b>	<b>447,065</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>27,400</b>	<b>4,804</b>	<b>3,217</b>	<b>19,379</b>	<b>198,280</b>	<b>61,357</b>	<b>136,923</b>

Circulation includes Digital (Freegal, Overdrive, Hoopla, Zinio) and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt

\* Encino projected opening April 30,2015

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation



Location Closures

FY 15:

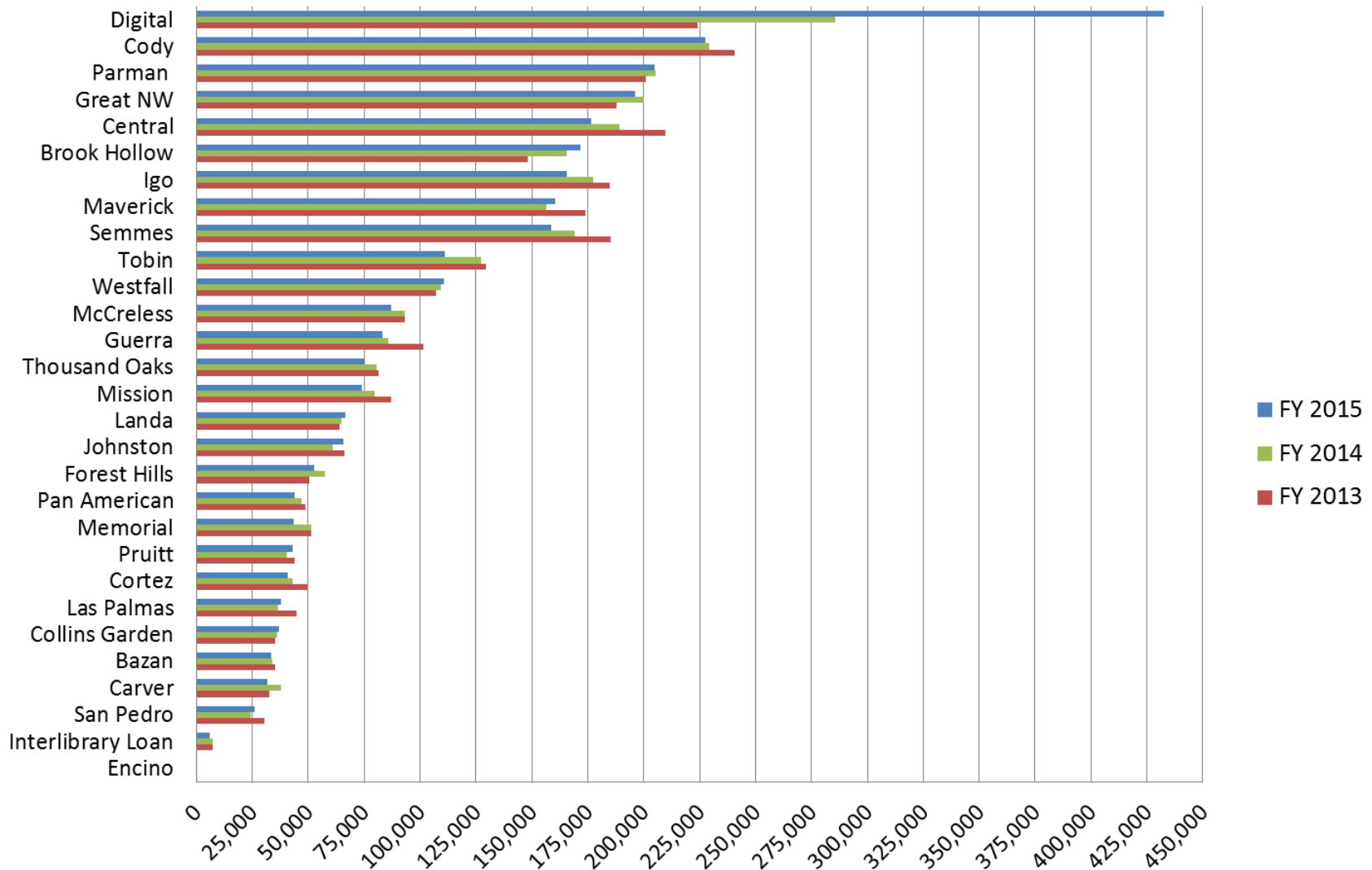
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FY 13: Forest Hills Dec 3–16, Thousand Oaks Jan 21–Feb 3, Brook Hollow Feb 25-Mar 15, Guerra Aug 5-25, Johnston Aug 5-Sep 22

04/14/2015

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Mar



Location Closures

FY 15:

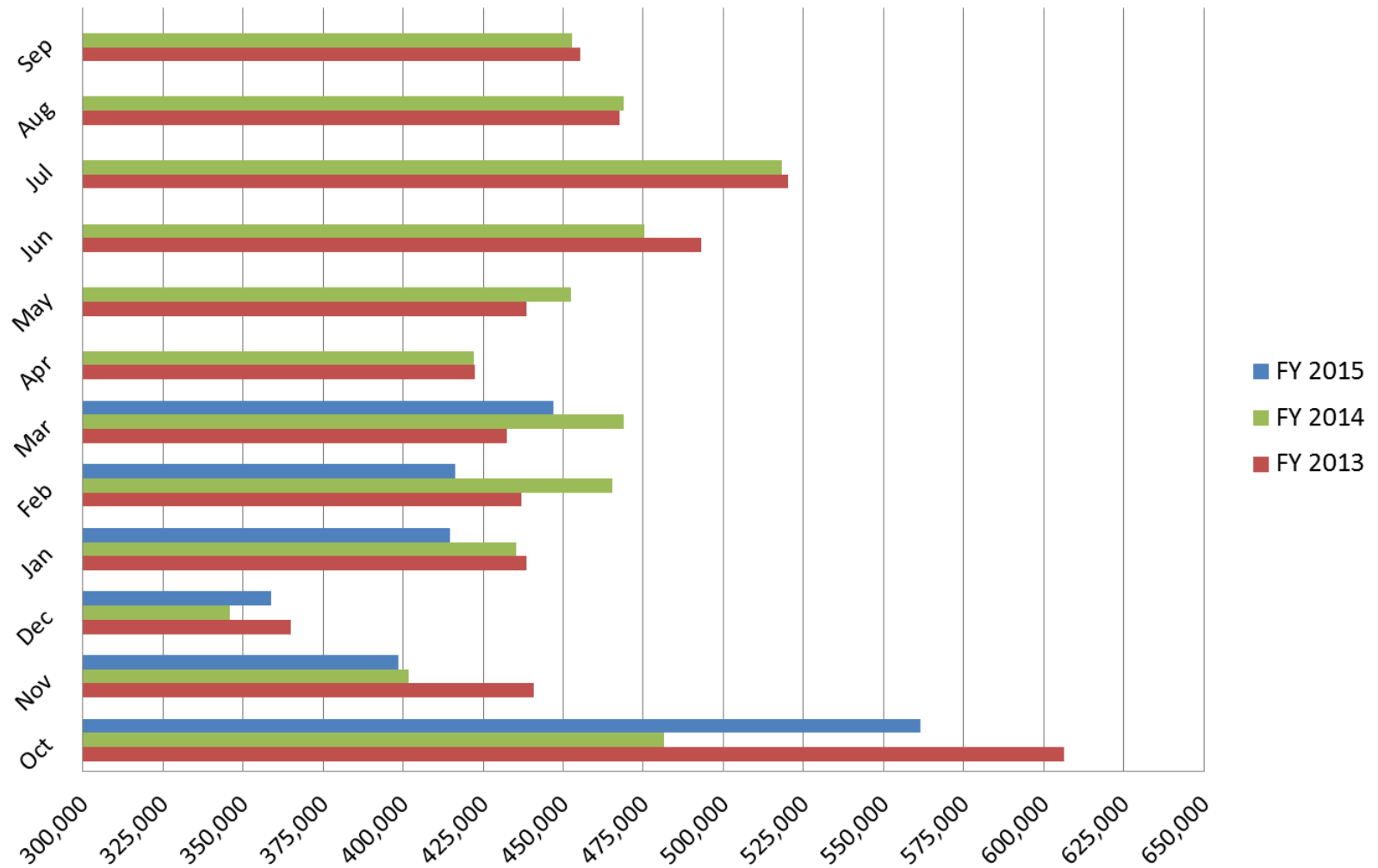
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04/14/2015

# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits



Location Closures

FY 15:

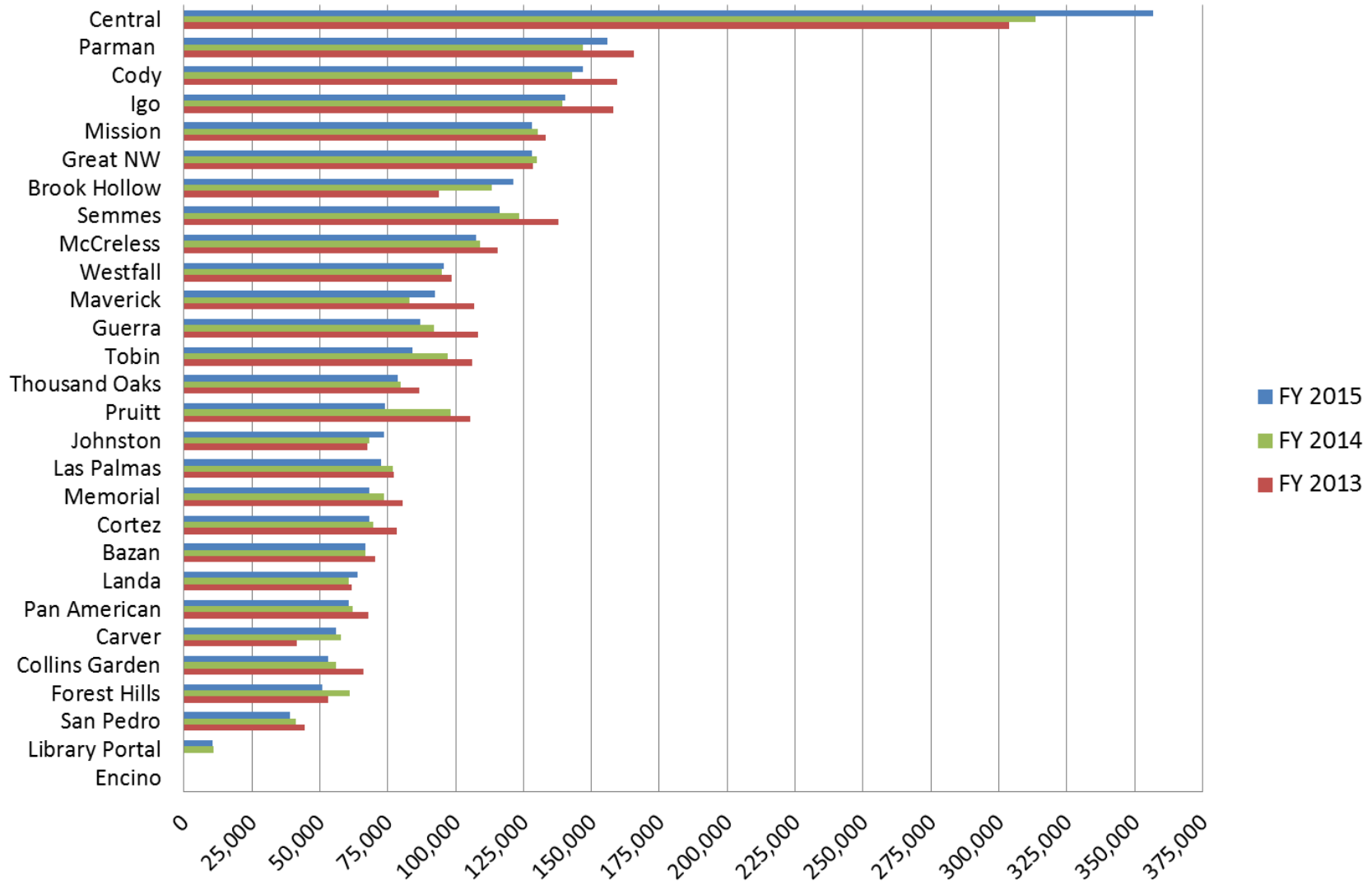
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04/14/2015

# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Mar



Location Closures

FY 15:

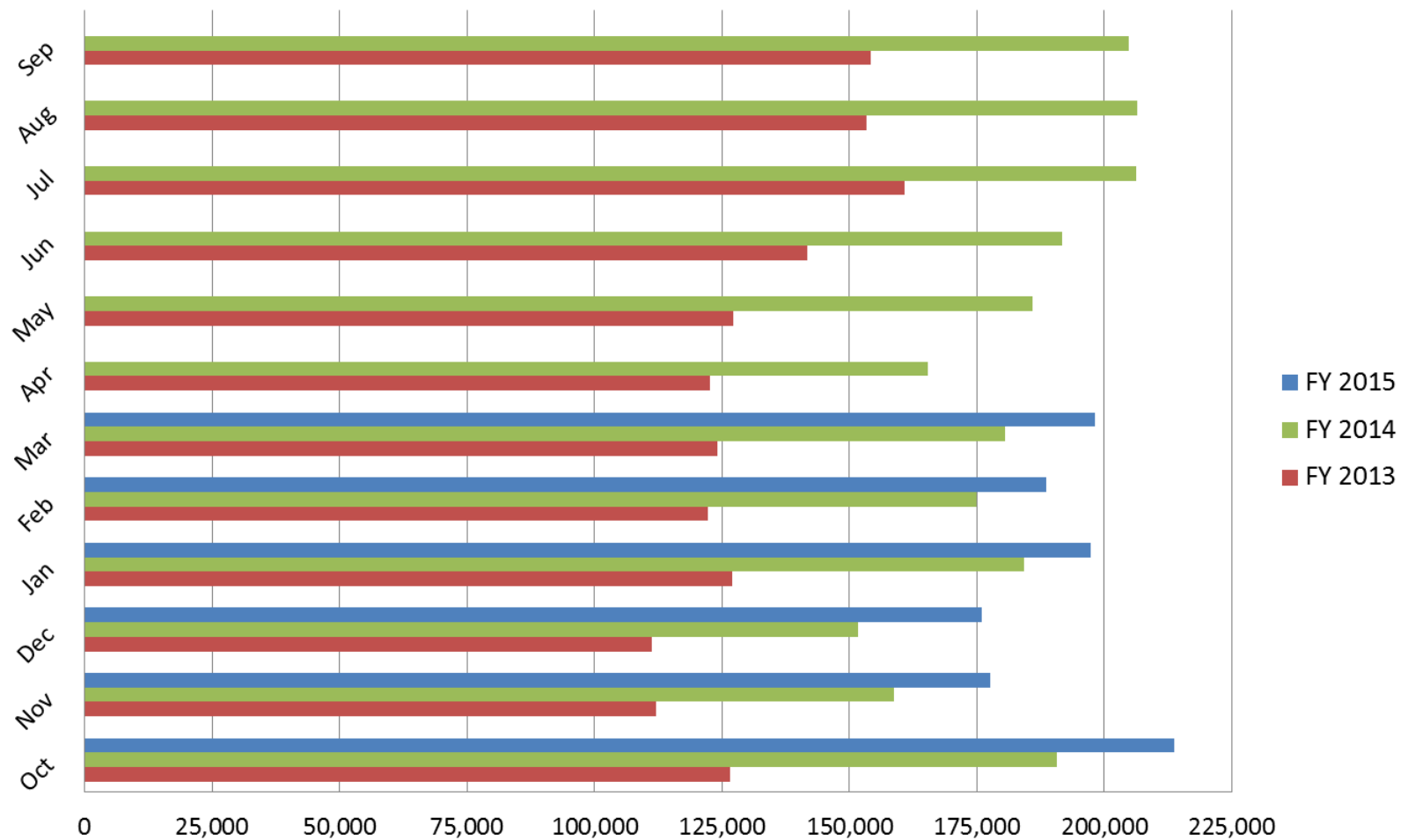
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04/14/2015

# San Antonio Public Library

## Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use



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

Location Closures

FY 15:

FY 14: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28–Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-Aug 31, Carver Sep 9-28

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04/14/2015