

Austin Public Library Commission
Director's Report
March 24, 2008

Highlighted Events

NEW Exhibit at AHC:

History By Hand: Selections from the Papers of Governor Elisha M. and Lucadia Pease, an Austin History Center exhibit. February 21-July 20, 2008. The AHCA is sponsoring a reading on March 26. This event, "Portrait of a Marriage," takes place at the Austin Woman's Club (710 San Antonio) at 7:00 pm. State Senator Kirk Watson and Catherine Robb will perform dramatic readings of the letters between Governor E.M. Pease and his wife Lucadia.

Manchaca to Re-open

Manchaca Road Branch re-opens after remodeling and renovation project. Open house celebration on Saturday, March 29 at 10a.m. See Facility Services for more information about the opening.

FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION

New Central Library Project:

On March 6, 2008, the Austin City Council unanimously approved of using Construction Manager at Risk as the construction delivery method for the New Central Library Project. On March 20, 2008, staff briefed Council regarding the design team selection process being proposed to secure the necessary architectural/engineering consultant services for the New Central Library Project. The proposed, three phase process first calls for a standard Request For Qualifications to be issued, with the resulting responses from design teams to be scored by a staff panel against a modified set of RFQ Evaluation Criteria. The modified criteria will be based on the standard Consultation Selection Matrix with the addition of an evaluated position of "Central Library Consultant" and an increased emphasis placed on the design team's experience with Austin issues. From the thirty or more responses anticipated, the staff panel will short-list approximately five teams to interview. From the teams interviewed, the staff panel will select approximately three teams to give presentations to City Council in a public meeting. For two weeks, those presentations and presentation materials will be made available to the public for their inspection and comment. Council will then select the design team for award of contract.

If this proposed design team selection process is approved by Council on March 27, 2008, as currently scheduled, the timeline for the New Central Library Project would follow roughly in this manner:

- April 2008 - Requests For Qualifications released
- May 2008 - Statements of Qualifications due to the City of Austin
- August 2008 - Evaluation and interviews completed
- October 2008 - Design Team Presentations made to Council
- November 2008 - Council award of consultant contract
- March 2009 - Consultant contract finalized
- April 2009 - Citizen input process conducted
- May 2009 - Design phase initiated

- Summer 2009 - Construction Manager at Risk hired
- Fall 2009 - Schematic Design completed
- Spring 2010 - Design Development completed
- Spring 2011 - Design phase completed
- Winter 2011 - Construction begins
- Fall 2013 - Construction completed

Manchaca Road Branch Library Improvements Project:

After almost two years of extensive renovations, the "like-new" Manchaca Road Branch Library will reopen to serve its community on Saturday, March 29, 2008, at 10:00 AM. The painstaking renovations carried out included but were not restricted to the replacement of all worn interior finishes, a mechanical, electrical, and plumbing retrofit, a complete asbestos abatement, and construction of a Telecommunication Room, Wired For Youth Area and a new ADA compliant entrance vestibule. The provision of additional shelving, furniture, computer equipment, telephones, art, and landscaping modifications likewise constituted a portion of the total improvements accomplished by this essential infrastructure renewal project. An open house celebration will be hosted by the Library Department to mark the happy occasion, with festivities including a reading by noted author David Rice, music provided by the Austin Jazz Workshop, and at 11:00 AM, a traditional puppet show presentation of "Why Cowboys Sing in Texas".

North Village Branch Library Replacement Project:

A veritable host of construction activities are currently in progress at the ever changing North Village Branch Library site. The millwork sub-contractors and the architects are working out the details of the color and finish palette for the project's casework, while the electrician is preparing to install the ductwork in the floor recesses as the metal studs are being installed but before the walls are closed up. The steel erector, meanwhile, is working on the punch list for his particular trade while completing the entrance porch. Our plumbing sub-contractor is close to finishing his rough-in work, which calls for installing the concealed portion of the plumbing to the point of connection for fixtures. On March 6, 2008, an Irrigation/Landscaping Pre-installation meeting was held, with much of the discussion revolving around the operational details of the rainwater collection tank, or cistern. On March 11, 2008, a very successful Roofing/Air Barriers Pre-installation Meeting was conducted with the new roofing sub-contractor so that they could begin to make the building weather tight, and a precautionary pre-installation meeting for the mechanical ductwork is presently being coordinated with the MEP engineer and the installation sub-contractor since the ductwork must be coordinated with so many other interior elements, especially in the General User Area of the facility. With such a flurry of ongoing sub-contractor activities underway, the project management team foresees no reason why this new branch library cannot be made ready to open to the public as scheduled in January, 2009.

Twin Oaks Branch Library Replacement Project:

Construction is also proceeding very well at the location of the new Twin Oaks Branch Library. Grading the ground surface to the specified contour is the most important ongoing task at the moment in preparation for the installation of the underground site utilities

and upcoming concrete work. The Watershed Protection Department has generously offered to route a television camera through the existing storm drain on site to verify its fit condition for continued use to carry away storm water. As soon as the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning submittal is approved by the project consultants, the general contractor will schedule a Pre-construction Commissioning meeting with the project's commissioning agent and the appropriate sub-contractors. By way of explanation, commissioning is a systematic process of ensuring that all building systems perform interactively according to the contract documents, the design intent and the owner's operational needs. Building commissioning ensures that a new building begins its life cycle at optimal productivity, and improves the likelihood that the building will maintain this level of performance. Other details being worked out between the project management team and the construction contractors involve the structural steel, ceramic tile flooring, book drops, security camera installation and trench safety, to name but a few. At this time, the Library Department knows of no reason why the scheduled opening of this new facility by the end of August, 2009, cannot be met.

Cesar Chavez Commemorative Art Project:

On March 20, 2008, Council approved the selection of Connie Arismendi and Laura Garanzuay to design and fabricate the Cesar Chavez Memorial sculpture to be located on the grounds of the Terrazas Branch Library. The project is a result of a 2006 Council Resolution, sponsored by then Council Member Raul Alvarez, to allocate Holly Power Plant Mitigation Funds for a statue honoring Cesar Chavez. On November 16, 2007, a selection panel and advisors met to review 36 proposals from professional artists from Texas, California, New Mexico and Arizona for the Cesar Chavez Memorial public art project. The Arts Commission approved the recommendation by the Project Selection Panel and Art In Public Places Panel of the artist team of Connie Arismendi and Laura Garanzuay for the project, with artist Cindy Debold as an alternate.

The recommended proposal calls for the creation of a 30 foot tall sculpture of stone, cast concrete, chrome, steel and aluminum to serve as a symbolic beacon, illustrating Cesar Chavez's positive spirit, ideas and philosophy. It incorporates an image of the Aztec Eagle (logo for the United Farm Workers Union founded by Cesar Chavez) atop a fluted, inverted cone shape and lit with LED lights at night. Metal plaques inscribed with quotes by Chavez will be inlaid in the sidewalk approaches to the statue.

Connie Arismendi is a nationally recognized artist whose works can be found in major public and private collections throughout the United States and Mexico. Most recently, she completed the Art In Public Places portion of the Terrazas Branch Library Expansion Project, and she has been commissioned for the Trail of Tejano Legends Art in Public Places Project. Laura Garanzuay creates fine art, architectural installations, furniture and lighting, and is an architectural engineer by profession. Her industrial design products have been featured in catalogues including Pottery Barn and Crate and Barrel. The two artists work collaboratively and together have received public art commissions for a major suspended sculpture for the 360 Building, now under construction in downtown Austin, as well as a kinetic light sculpture for the Fort Worth Art In Public Places Radio Tower Project.

Cepeda Music Garden Project: To facilitate the start of

the design process for this project, a complete set of 1998 construction plans for the Cepeda Branch Library/Zaragoza Warehouse site has been provided to Cotera + Reed Architects by the Library Department, while the original survey, environmental study and geo-technical report for the site will be transmitted to the consultants as soon as these documents can be pulled from files currently still archived. A meeting will be scheduled shortly between Library Facilities Services staff and the principal from Cotera + Reed Architects to arrive at a solution which will permit the consultants to provide construction management services as needed for the project. At this time, the Capital Improvement Program project budget only funds construction costs while consultant services are funded through the auspices of the Austin Public Library Foundation. However, both the Library and Cotera + Reed Architects are confident that a satisfactory agreement for consultant construction management services can be reached.

New Monster Book Store Project: Schematic Design plans for the new Friends of the Library book store/Austin Public Library Foundation offices at 5335 Burnet Road have been received from the design consultants by Library Facilities Services and reviewed with the end users of the facility. Comments from the various reviewers are now being compiled into a comprehensive, owner's response and will be returned to the consultants shortly so that they may proceed with Design Development Phase documents. In the meantime, all lease agreement issues appear to have been resolved between the City of Austin and the owners of the shopping center property at 5335 Burnet Road, and a finalized contract between the parties is anticipated to be signed shortly. It is still believed that the Monster Book Store can be made ready for occupancy during June of the present year.

Faulk Central Library Automated Doors Retrofit Project: At the present, the consultants for this pressing infrastructure renewal project are preparing 100% Complete Construction Documents so that the work may be advertised for bids from qualified contractors. Library Facilities Services staff are continuing to meet with the Budget Office of the Financial Services Department to secure sufficient funding for all the accessibility modifications now identified as being needed at the Faulk Central Library main entrance. An updated probable estimate of cost for the project is currently being compiled by consultants and staff to assist in this inter-departmental endeavor to make improvements at our existing main library. In an associated development, it now appears that the Communication Technology Management Department will fund the installation of security cameras throughout the Faulk Central Library, a project is expected to profoundly alleviate the problems of theft and vandalism at our flagship location.

Marketing/Communications:

We've hired a Public Information Specialist to work with the marketing/communications division. Kanya Lyons will begin on April 14 and she will be focusing on media outreach and publicity with an emphasis on Spanish media.

Organizational & Development

During December 2007 OD division delivered three pilot classes of the Crisis Prevention Institute's Prepare Training Foundation course. Management Team members and Security staff attended those sessions. We began providing the classes to each public service location as of February 1, 2008. So far, seven of the "high priority" branches have attended the classes and the other three are scheduled from March 21 through April 2. We just finalized

the scheduling for all other branch locations, the Austin History Center, and the Paging staff at Central (scheduled between April 10 and August 21). New hires who miss their location's training (and newly-hired Security staff) are making up the class by attending at other locations. We are beginning scheduling for Support Services staff for after October 1 (not completed the scheduling yet). Six APL staff members who are certified to teach the CPI course modules team teach the classes (certified in September 2007). The PrepareTraining Foundation module is the prerequisite for all other modules from CPI. The Foundation class is required of all APL staff members. We will schedule the Violence Response Procedures (next level to help employees evade and escape an attack) course during the summer of 2008. We will offer other modules, including one that deals with mental health issues, beginning next fiscal year.

Three librarians who are attending PLA next week are going to serve on an informal panel along with other librarians whose systems are also providing the Crisis Prevention Institute's training. We already have the questions that they will be asked and have provided some information to those individuals (things like what challenges did we have in providing the training, successes, etc.). The managers serving on the panel are from branches that have already received their CPI training (Frank Schmitzer from AUH, Deborah Coronado from AOS, and Michael Abramov from ALW).

Austin History Center

Exhibits

- On February 21, the AHC opened a new exhibit, "History By Hand: Selections from the Papers of Governor E. M. Pease and Lucadia Pease." This exhibit explores lives of the Pease family and the career of Governor Pease. The central theme throughout the exhibit is the written word and how the family communicated and conducted their daily lives. The opening reception co-sponsored by the Austin History Center Association, was the first of a three-part series of programs relating to the Pease family. This program, "Act I: Meet the Family," consisted of a number of speakers and the unveiling of 6 paintings related to the Pease family recently donated to the AHC. Among the speakers were AHC Reference Archivist Mark Lambert, who spoke about one of the paintings, a map drawn by Governor Pease, and Curator of Archives Susan Rittereiser, who spoke about the importance of the Pease papers to the AHC. Acts II and III are scheduled for March and April, respectively. The exhibit runs through July 20, 2008.

Programming & Outreach

- Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung presented a workshop, "Asians in Austin: Uncovering Our History," at the University of Texas Conference Launch 2008 on February 12. Approximately 50 students attended the workshop. Esther also served on a panel for Asian American mental health discussion, sponsored by the Center for Asian American Studies at UT.
- Esther Chung and Exhibits Specialist Steve Schwolert completed the design of a new brochure for Esther to use in her outreach efforts. This brochure is designed specifically for the Asian American community. It is the first of many new brochures planned for the AHC's marketing and outreach efforts.
- Manager Mike Miller gave a presentation for the Travis Association of the Deaf Senior Citizen Project on February 7. Mike presented a talk titled "A Tour Through Nineteenth Century

Austin." Over 75 attended the program, which was held at the South Austin Senior Center.

- African American Neighborhood Liaison Karen Riles worked on a new web project called Austin Black History (www.austinblackhistory.com). Karen contributed content and pictures from the AHC collections. The website redirects visitors to the AHC pages and includes a large banner ad. Most of the content Karen provided came from the pages she had already created for the AHC website, and this was a easy and efficient way to create exposure and draw visitors to the AHC website.

Collections

- Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung acquired 2 additional archival boxes of materials from the R. C. Wong family.
- Staff completed processing the Smoot Carl-Mitchell Papers (AR.1991.055). This collection contains papers created and maintained by Smoot Carl-Mitchell during his tenure as Place 2 Council Member of the Austin City Council from 1985 to 1991. The collection includes materials from Carl-Mitchell's two campaigns; correspondence from constituents; and subject files, including material related to the 1987 referendum on moving the airport, budget material, files regarding development and environmental issues, and files related to health and human services and the arts. Other series in the collection contain applications for admission to city boards and commissions and files on neighborhood councils. Types of documents include correspondence, memoranda, meeting minutes and agendas, reports, press releases, speeches, legal documents, printed materials, clippings, charts, maps, and photographs. This was a processing project begun by student interns from UT.

Process Improvements

- Curator of Archives Susan Rittereiser began an "Archives Coffee Klatch" program to help the entire staff with their processing projects. The "Klatch" is a bimonthly, non-mandatory, meeting where staff gets together to discuss their processing projects and to talk about roadblocks and how to overcome them and talk about their successes. These meetings have been well-received by AHC staff and have improved the team's effectiveness during its Processing Thursdays.

Staffing

- Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung was featured in a recent issue of the online magazine Asian Austin (www.asianaustin.com/news/2007/1228/).
- The AHC hired a new Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison. Gloria Espitia joins the AHC staff, coming to us from the University of Houston-Victoria library. She brings much experience in working with the Mexican American community in Victoria, including organizing an annual symposium on Mexican American issues, and is looking forward to bringing the same enthusiasm to the Austin community. Gloria begins working at the AHC on March 3.
- The colonial Dames in Texas asked African American Neighborhood Liaison Karen Riles to serve on an interpretive plan committee for the Neil-Cochran House Museum. This committee will be looking at ways to improve the visitor experience at the museum.
- Manager Mike Miller contributed 14 entries, including the entry for former Austinite Richard "Night Train" Lane, for the recently

published African American National Biography. This is an 8-volume reference work, published by Oxford University Press, that includes over 4000 biographies of notable African Americans. The project was started by Henry Louis Gates at the W.E.B. DuBois Institute at Harvard University in 2002. In addition to the print volume, this work will be part of Oxford's online product, Oxford African American Studies Center.

Upcoming Events

- March 26: Act II of "The Pease Family in Austin: A Family Legacy," sponsored by the AHCA. This event, "Portrait of a Marriage," takes place at the Austin Woman's Club (710 San Antonio) at 7:00 pm. State Senator Kirk Watson and Catherine Robb will perform dramatic readings of the letters between Governor E.M. Pease and his wife Lucadia.
- April 12: Act III of "The Pease Family in Austin: A Family Legacy," sponsored by the AHCA. This is the Audray Bateman Randle lecture series event and features a lecture by Michelle Mears of the University of North Texas. Tours of Woodlawn, the Pease mansion, and a performance by the Sweet Home Baptist Church choir will also be offered. The event takes place at the Sweet Home Baptist Church (1725 W. 11th St) and begins at noon.

Youth Services Division:

A look at last month, from Austin Public Library Youth Services:

Alison O'Reilly, Teen Librarian at Southeast Community Branch, received a call from a man at the School for the Deaf asking if a movie she was showing would be closed captioned for the hearing impaired. Alison replied that it would be. The two got to talking, and arranged for a special screening of Ratatouille for his students. A few days later, a family of hearing boys and their deaf parents came to Alison's evening storytime. Alison is working to learn more sign language, and incorporate it into her regular programming.

Program Specialist Ambray Gonzalez developed a new Shadow Puppet Show based on the African folktale Ananse and the Moss Covered Rock, and performed it across the city. The kids and caregivers at El Buen Pastor Child Care Center were particularly thrilled with it, and wanted a repeat performance as soon as the first show ended!

Anita Rizley, Youth Program Coordinator, has been busying herself preparing for Summer Reading. Even though it is still only March, there is LOTS of ahead-of-time coordination that needs to go into eight weeks of programs across 20 branches. With every facility open this summer, for the first time since 2001, the task is particularly big right now!

Brazos Price, Teen Librarian at Windsor Park, has had some terrific success of late sharing picture books with an older-than-expected audience. He regularly reads to the pre-teens and teens in the Windsor park Wired for Youth Center, but has traditionally used novels. After reading from two (well-chosen) picture books, and getting a most enthusiastic response, Brazos is rededicating himself to finding the right book for the right reader! Brazos credits the second of Raganathan's Five Laws of Library Science:

- 1) Books are for use.
- 2) Every reader his or her book.
- 3) Every book its reader.
- 4) Save the time of the reader.

5) The Library is a growing organism.
I credit Brazos.

Celia Holm, Children's Librarian at Spicewood Springs, is excited about the established success of her Book Circle program. Spicewood is a community where kids find themselves programmed from dawn to dusk. That a simple book discussion library program registers on their radar, and finds a place in their busy schedules says loads about the quality and commitment of the programming we do.

Debbie Keith, Children's Librarian at Old Quarry Branch, did a "Souper Bowl" storytime at which she and the kids sang the alphabet song forwards, and backwards. At first, little Harrison did not approve of the backwards version, and proclaimed "That's not how it goes!" But the following week, he came in to the storytime (meeting) room, looking for the alphabet written backwards across the dry erase board, as it had been the week before. What a lovely example of the enlightening impact we have on the little minds we encounter!

Devo Carpenter, on the Program Specialist Team, was excited about a recent visit to the Gardner Betts Juvenile Detention Facility by local author Varian Johnson. His program was a great success, for the kids and for him. In fact, he was so enthusiastic about the experience that he expressed interest in conducting a series of writing workshops on a volunteer basis.

Children's Librarian Elizabeth Murphy tells this story about a regular group visiting the Yarborough Branch: "Highland Park Baptist brings in a spirited group of first graders to AYB every month or so, and they are enthusiastic readers, thanks to their teachers, who let the students pick out any 2 books they want to check out. Often the kids choose Harry Potter or Princess Diary or Star Wars, Y novels that are a little above their reading comfort level, and they always ask me for SpongeBob, Scooby Do or Garfield books. Last month one of the teachers asked for a suggestion to read aloud to the class and I handed her The Tale of Despereaux. When the class came in this week, I was surrounded by kids asking to check out Despereaux. We only had one additional copy on the shelf, but the teacher explained that they had just finished reading it in class, that kids loved it, and they wanted to read it AGAIN! She took Harriet the Spy for their next read aloud, and since the students also ask for Spy books every time they come in. I hope they enjoy it too!"

Program Specialists Ellen Scott and Karen Carlson revived the old favorite Puppet Show "Why Cowboys Sing in Texas," to rave reviews. In addition to taking the show, complete with the most charming variety of off-key singing, and stampeding cattle with actual dust, to libraries around the city, they performed the show at the grand re-opening of the Little Walnut Creek Branch, and are set to do it again at the re-opening of Manchaca Road later in March. Yee-Haw!

Teen Coordinator Heath Rezabek is excited to see his idea of an Austin Public Library Staff Art Show, submitted to the Staff Association, become a reality. The show goes up on March 17, by the front windows in the John Henry Faulk Central Library. Heath, and a number of other Youth Services Staff, will have works represented. Check it out!

Children's Librarian Heather Valdez has been working on her Spanish language skills. She has a number of regular Spanish-speaking nannies that bring children to the preschool storytime

at Howson, and is enjoying the opportunity to make them feel included and participatory!

Carver Teen Librarian Jenn Freeman will be taking over responsibilities for ordering Teen books and graphic novels during Patti Cook's maternity leave (see below). She is looking forward to the new challenge.

Jean Holland, Children's Librarian at John Henry Faulk Central, had a wonderful experience with a young man pursuing seemingly diverse bibliographic interests: Star Wars and Cook Books. After approaching his requests separately, and coming up with two nice-sized stacks of books, Jean tried something on a whim. When she presented the young man with "The Star Wars Cookbook," he about burst with excitement.

Jenn Hartley, Teen Librarian at the St John Branch, has been busy working on the youth collection, and weeded over 300 items last month. Well done, Jenn.

Joanna Nigrelli, Teen Librarian at Terrazas, is thrilled to have the support of teen volunteer Sonya, who pitches in to assist with Preschool Storytimes. It can be a real job juggling the demands of Teen Librarianship, running a Wired for Youth Center, and providing services to the littlest customers, too, and Joanna appreciates Sonya's dedication and assistance.

Josefina Rodriguez Gibbs, Children's Librarian at Cepeda, is doing double duty, handling her regular programs at Cepeda, and stepping in to cover the busy storytime schedule at Milwood while Kerry Rake is out on maternity leave (see below). Thanks, Josefina!

Kerry Rake, Children's Librarian at Milwood, is currently out on maternity leave. We look forward to her return!

Michelle Beebower, Teen Librarian at University Hills, has put on another completely fabulous Romance Readers Social, complete with chocolate covered strawberries, hot-pink table cloths, romance book exchanges, and read alouds of some particularly "romantic" passages. Way to go Michelle!

Nancy Tays is the Children's Librarian at Central chiefly responsible for selecting books and media for young children. She is currently working on a project to recatalog a number of series titles. They currently have call numbers derived from the author's last name, as is customary. But, because these series are written by different authors, they are spread throughout the fiction section. By recataloging them with call numbers based on the series title, they will all sit together on the shelf, in a way that customers will appreciate.

Patti Cook, nomadic Teen Librarian from Manchaca Road, is excited to finally be back at Manchaca Road, after all of these months "on the road." Alas, her return was to be short, as a few weeks after the branch reopened to staff, Patti took maternity leave, to welcome Charlie Cook into the world. Congratulations Patti!

Rachel Wilson, Teen Librarian at Ruiz, is representing the Youth Services Division on a Human resources Task Force looking at career ladders for professional librarians at the Austin Public Library. With only three of the 30 Youth Services positions having supervisory responsibilities, Youth Services librarians almost always need to leave their specialty (or leave APL!) in order to be

promoted. We're pleased that Rachel will be there to represent.

Sally Miculek, Children's Librarian at Little Walnut Creek, holds the position of Youth Services Weeding Coordinator. As such, she organizes strategic weeding efforts at branches upon their request, and brings in a team of trained Youth Services Librarian weeders to clean up needy collections. Of late she and her team have tackled four big weeds, at Central and Cepeda, and removed a total of 43 boxes of worn, outdated material!

At the Book & Babies program at Pleasant Hill, Children's Librarian Stephanie makes the classic song "Wind the Bobbin" a regular part of the festivities. After a few weeks, one of the parents asked her "What's a bobbin." A few other parents chimed in, also perplexed. One man confessed that he had gone home to Google it. Yet another example of the enlightening power of the public library.

Children's Librarian Suzanne Sanders tells this story about an experience at Oak Hill:

"Giving out stamps at the end of storytime is one of the few times I get to acknowledge children individually. The stamp for my Love Storytime this month had "I love you" on it. When I stamped the children I said "This stamp says 'I love you' because I do - I love you". When I was stamping their hands I tried to look into their faces because I wanted them to know that I meant it - I really do love them. After each program (on both days) the clerks at the desk asked me what I had stamped on their hands. Apparently, they were really excited."

Youth Services Manager Thom Barthelmess traveled to Chicago for an emergency meeting of the Board of the Association for Library Service to children, to discuss the retention of a high-profile national celebration. It was an exhausting, inspiring trip.

Volunteer Services:

A total of 121 volunteers donated their time to APL in the month of January. The value of the hours of service was \$24,246.

Central Library Services

Manager of Central Library Services toured the new Budget Analyst, Kelli Marshall, around the John Henry Faulk Central Library. Kelli is new to the City and wanted to find out more about Library operations. This should be beneficial to the Library as she saw some of the budgetary needs of the system.

Branch Services

Little Walnut Branch Library reopened February 23 at 10:00 a.m. after being closed since March 5, 2007.

The new carpet, expanded parking lot, fresh paint and museum quality hvac system are the elements customers see and appreciate. Months of hard work went in to making this day possible. Little Walnut staff is thrilled to be back serving customers in the Rundberg/Lamar sector of town.

Manchaca Branch reopens March 29th at 10:00 a.m. In addition to the complete renovation of the facility, an inventory and weeding of the collection was done by Cataloging and Support staff as well as the Manchaca Branch staff. The carpet is medium blue with some accent areas in red. The Charles Eames chairs were cleaned and will be reused throughout the library as well as new washable mesh and plastic chairs for

some reading areas. The new separate Wired for Youth area is has a partial glass wall enabling visibility from the circulation desk. Signage will be produced when funds become available in the new budget year.

The Mayor's Reading Club choice, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, was announced February 26. Our first program will be at Yarborough, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. Toyin Falola, a UT Professor and leading scholar of West African history will lead the book discussion. The second program will be held at the Carver Branch on April 10 at 7:00 p.m. UT Professor of English, Barbara Harlow, will lead this discussion. Professor Harlow specialized in the literature of human rights and in Middle Eastern and African studies. The third branch program will be at the newly reopened Manchaca Branch Library on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. The book discussion will be led by UT Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Jemima Pierre. Professor Pierre is an affiliate of the Center for African and African American Studies and a specialist in the African diaspora.

March Madness - Karen Baker, Diane Palan, Michael Abramov, Deborah Coronado, Patti Fowler, DJ Harris, Frank Schmitzer, Bonita Snyder-Jones and Eric Travis (from Branch Services) will attend the Public Library Association Convention in Minneapolis March 24-30th. John Gillum, Yolanda McKnight, Nancy Byrd and Cindy Beno will also attend. As I type this I am pondering how much snow will still be on the ground when we land Monday!

Circulation Notes: The Customer Service Office has extended their hours past 5:00 p.m. Also, if a customer wishes to pay for their fines with a credit card they are now able to do so over the phone by calling the Customer Service Office at 974-7475. They may also pay in person using a credit card at Spicewood, Oak Hill, and Milwood and Central.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March

- March 24: 7:00 p.m., Austin History Center, Library Commission Meeting Scheduled March 25 – 29: ALA/PLD (Minneapolis)
- March 25: 10:30 a.m., Milwood Branch, Why Cowboys Sing in Texas!: Literature LIVE!
- March 25: 7:00 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch Library, Southeast Talk Time, Talk Time is a fun and informal program to give individuals a comfortable and non-threatening place to practice speaking English.
- March 26: 3:30 p.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch, Wonder Wagon: A theme based after school program for kids ages 5 and over, including books, games, movies, and hands on activities.
- March 26: AHC, Portrait of a Marriage – Act 2 of the Pease Family in Austin: A Lasting Legacy
- March 27: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery Book Club, Still Life by Louise Penny and Fatal Grace by Louise Penny
- March 27: 3:30 p.m., Yarborough Branch, Why Cowboys Sing in Texas!: Literature LIVE!
- March 27: 5:30 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch WFY Center, TAG (Teen Advisory Group)
- March 27: 7:00 p.m., Carver Branch Library - Author & Photographer Patsy Cravens, Texas Author of "Leavin' A

Testimony: Portraits from Rural Texas" Patsy Cravens talk about her book and photography. More information about this event...

- March 28: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry TalkTime. An informal English conversation practice for those who wish to improve their English skills!
- March 31: 6:30 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch, Cinemagic: All-Star Family Film Festival: Ratatouille (G)
- March 31: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch - Meet Author William Holman, William Holman, author of "The Orphans' Nine Commandments: A Memoir" will read and talk about his book.
- March 31: 7:00 p.m., Milwood Adventure Travel Series: Croatia, How a communist country was transformed to modern democracy, and became one of the biggest tourist attractions in Europe. Presented by Irena Klaic

April

- April 1: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Beginning Poetry Workshop
- April 2: 11:00 a.m., Twin Oaks Branch, Why do Cowboys Sing in Texas!: Literature LIVE!
- April 2: 3:30 p.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch, Wonder Wagon: A theme based after school program for kids ages 5 and over, including books, games, movies, and hands on activities.
- April 4: 10:30 am, AOQ – Talk Time – Asian Focus
- April 5: 7:00 p.m., Hampton Branch at Oak Hill presents All-Star Family Film Festival ; Angels in the Outfield (PG)
- April 5: 2:00 p.m., Hampton Branch at Oak Hill, Cinemagic: All-Star Family Film Festival:
- April 7: 7:00 p.m., North Village Branch Library-FACT BookClub, FACT Science Fiction/Fantasy Reading Group Discussing speculative fiction in Austin since 1994. Monday April 7 "The Fourth Bear" by Jasper Fforde.
- April 7: 7:00 p.m., Yarborough Branch, Book discussion led by UT Professor of History Toyin Falola. Professor Falola is a leading scholar of West African history and the author and editor of numerous books, including *The Power of African Cultures and Christianity and Social Change in Africa*.
- April 8: 7 pm, AOQ – Old Quarry Book Club: Reading Lolita in Tehran
- April 8: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Book Club. The Windsor Park Book Club will be discussing Gilead by Marilynne Robinson. April 12: Sweet Home Church - Pease Family and Clarksville – Act 3 of the Pease Family in Austin: A Lasting Legacy
- April 8: Southeast Austin Community Branch, Southeast Talk Time, Talk Time is a fun and informal program to give individuals a comfortable and non-threatening place to practice speaking English.
- April 9: 3:30 p.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch, Wonder Wagon: A theme based after school program for kids ages 5 and over, including books, games, movies, and hands on activities.
- April 9: 6:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Cinemagic: All-Star Family Film Festival:
- April 10: 10:15 a.m., Cepeda Branch, Why Cowboys Sing in Texas!: Literature LIVE!
- April 10: 7:00 p.m., Carver Branch, Book discussion let by UT Professor of English Barbara Harlow. Professor Harlow specializes in the literature of human rights and in Middle Eastern and African Studies. Her authored and edited books include *Resistance Literature, African Writers and Their Readers*, and *Archives of Empire: The Scramble for Africa*.

- April 10: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch, University Hills Branch book club discussion of A Long Way Gone
 - April 11: 10:30 a.m., University Hills Branch, Why Cowboys Sing in Texas!: Literature LIVE!
 - April 16: 11:30 am, AHC - AHCA Board Meeting
 - April 11: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry Talk Time. An informal English conversation practice for those who wish to improve their English skills !
 - April 12: Sweet Home Church – Pease Family and Clarksville – Act 3 of the Pease Family in Austin: A Lasting Legacy
 - April 12: 2:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch, Celebrations @ APL: Family Fun Time
 - April 13-19th, 2008, National Library Week
 - 50th Anniversary of National Library Week
 - April 15: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Book Club, Falling Leaves by Adeline Yen Mah
 - April 15: 7:00 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch Library, Southeast Talk Time, Talk Time is a fun and informal program to give individuals a comfortable place to practice speaking English. April 16: 11:30 a.m., AHC – AHCA Board Meeting
 - o April 16: 3:30 p.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch, Wonder Wagon: A theme based after school program for kids ages 5 and over, including books, games, movies, and hands on activities.
 - April 17: 7:00 p.m., Hampton Branch @ Oak Hill presents “A World Lit. The Flame of Literature Book Club.” “A Long Way Gone,” by Ishmael Beah
 - April 18: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry Talk Time. An informal English conversation practice for those who wish to improve their English skills!
 - April 21: 7:00 p.m., Alamo Drafthouse, Free screening of Cry Freetown and What’s Going On, documentaries on child soldiers and the conflict in Sierra Leone, followed by panel discussion and Q & A featuring academic and community leaders. Event hosted and introduced by Mayor Will Wynn.
 - April 22: 7:00 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch Library, Southeast Talk Time, Talk Time is a fun and informal program to give individuals a comfortable place to practice speaking English.
 - April 23: 10:30 a.m., Manchaca Road Branch, Why Cowboys Sing in Texas!: Literature LIVE!
 - April 23: 3:30 p.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch, Wonder Wagon: A theme based after school program for kids ages 5 and over, including books, games, movies, and hands on activities.
 - April 23: 7:00 p.m., Manchaca Branch. Book discussion led by UT Assistant Professor of Anthropology Jemima Pierre. Professor Pierre is an affiliate of the Center for African and African American Studies and a specialist in the African diaspora.
 - April 24: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery Book Club, title(s) to be announced
 - April 25: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry TalkTime. An informal English conversation practice for those who wish to improve their English skills !
 - April 25: 6:00 p.m., Meet the Author with Mayor Will Wynn City Hall Atrium and Council Chambers. Author Reception with live music, refreshments, and book signing
 - April 25: 7:00 p.m., Meet the Author with Mayor Will Wynn City Hall Atrium and Council Chambers. A conversation and Q & A with author Ishmael Beah, hosted and moderated by UT Dean of Undergraduate Studies Paul Woodruff. Dean Woodruff is a professor of philosophy and the author of many books that explore issues of ethics and aesthetics from the ancient Greeks to the modern world, including Thucydides on Justice, Power, and Human Nature, and Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue.
 - April 28: 7:00 p.m., Ruiz Branch, Library Commission Meeting Scheduled
 - April 28: 6:30 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch, Cinemagic: All-Star Family Film Festival: Brother Bear (G)
 - April 29: 6:30 p.m., Austin History Center Program:”Asian Texans - Our Histories Our Lives.” A presentation by the author Irwin Tang “Asian Texans
 - April 29: 6:30 p.m., Austin History Center Program:”Asian Texans - Our Histories Our Lives.” A presentation by the author Irwin Tang “Asian Texans
 - April 30: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry Branch, Why Cowboys Sing in Texas!: Literature LIVE!
 - April 30: 3:30 p.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch, Wonder Wagon, A theme based after school program for kids ages 5 and over, including books, games, movies, and hands on activities.
- May**
- May 2: 10:30 a.m., AOQ – Talk Time – Asian Focus
 - May 3 -- Hampton Branch at Oak Hill presents All-Star Family Film Festival ; 7p.m.Space Jam (PG).
 - May 5: 7:00 p.m., North Village Branch Library, FACT Science Fiction/Fantasy Reading Group. Discussing speculative fiction in Austin since 1994. Monday May 5 “Bridge of Birds” by Barry Hughart.
 - May 6: April 1: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Beginning Poetry Workshop
 - May 6: 7:00 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch Library, Southeast Talk Time, Talk Time is a fun and informal program to give individuals a comfortable place to practice speaking English.
 - May 8: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Science Fiction Reader’s Book Club
 - May 9: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry TalkTime. An informal English conversation practice for those who wish to improve their English skills!
 - May 10: 2:00 p.m., Howson Documentary Series - Tintin and I
 - May 13: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month’s selection for discussion is ALICE IN WONDERLAND.
 - May 13: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Book Club. The Windsor Park Book Club will be discussing The Black Swan by Nassim Nicholas Taleb.
 - May 15: 5:30 p.m., Riverside Drive Branch WFY Center, TAG (Teen Advisory Group)
 - May 16: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry TalkTime. An informal English conversation practice for those who wish to improve their English skills!
 - May 19: 6:30 p.m., AHC – Booktalk and signing: Dorothy Blodgett, Terrell Blodgett and David L. Scott – The Land, The Law, and the Lord: The Life of Pat Neff
 - May 19: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Library Commission Meeting Scheduled
 - May 20: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Book Club, Twist at the Endy by Steven Saylor
 - May 22: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Science Fiction Reader’s Book Club
 - May 22: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery Book Club, title(s) to be announced
 - May 22: 5:30 p.m., St. John Branch WFY Center, TAG (Teen Advisory Group)
 - May 23: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry TalkTime. An informal English conversation practice for those who wish to improve their English skills!

- May 29: 5:30 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch WFY Center, TAG (Teen Advisory Group)
- May 30: 10:30 a.m., Old Quarry TalkTime. An informal English conversation practice for those who wish to improve their English skills!
- June
- June 2: 7:00 p.m., North Village Branch Library-BOOK CLUB, FACT Science Fiction/Fantasy Reading Group, Discussing speculative fiction in Austin since 1994. Monday June 2 "Mainspring" by Jay Lake.
- June 3: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Beginning Poetry Workshop
- June 10: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is J.D. Salinger's THE CATCHER IN THE RYE.
- June 10: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Book Club. The Windsor Park Book Club will be discussing A Thousand Pleasant Suns by Khaled Hosseini.
- June 12: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Science Fiction Reader's Book Club
- June 17: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Book Club, Liars Club by Mary Karr
- June 23: 7:00 p.m., Austin History Center, Library Commission Meeting Scheduled
- June 26: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery Book Club, title(s) to be announced
- o June 26: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Science Fiction Reader's Book Club
- July
- July 7: 7:00 p.m., North Village Branch Library-Book Club, FACT Science Fiction/Fantasy Reading Group, Discussing speculative fiction in Austin since 1994. Monday July 7 "The Yiddish Policemen's Union" by M
- July 8: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is Sinclair Lewis' MAIN STREET.
- July 14: 6:30 p.m., Austin History Center Program: "Historic Hotels of Texas: A Traveler's Guide" with author Liz Carmack. Liz Carmack will be conducting a presentation featuring the historic Driskill and Stephen F. Austin hotels in Austin, and how she came to write the book "Historic Hotels of Texas: A Traveler's Guide". A book signing will follow.
- July 15: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Book Club, Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See
- July 20: 6:00 p.m., Austin History Center Exhibit: "History By Hand: Selections from Papers of Governor E.M. and Lucadia Pease"
- July 24: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery Book Club, title(s) to be announced
- July 28: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry Branch, Library Commission Meeting Scheduled

August

- August 4: North Village lease space library closes to relocate to new facility
- August 12: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is Edith Wharton's THE AGE OF INNOCENCE.
- August 4: North Village lease space library closes to relocate to new facility.
- August 12: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is Edith Wharton's THE AGE OF INNOCENCE.
- August 19: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Book Club, Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
- August 28: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery

Book Club, title(s) to be announced

September

September 9: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is Albert Camus' THE STRANGER.

October

October 14: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is Wilkie Collins' THE MOONSTONE.

2009

- January, 2009: Grand Opening of new North Village Branch, 2505 Steck Avenue (tentative)
- July 2009: Grand Opening of the new Twin Oaks Branch, 1806 S. 5th Street (tentative)

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries



