

Austin Public Library Director's Report

January 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

Faulk Central Library closing for door re-trofit project:

The Faulk Central Library will be closed from March 2-April 15. Interim service for collection retrieval and reference assistance will take place out of the Austin History Center Reception room during the normal operating hours of the Faulk Central Library. See below Facilities service report for detail information.

Literature Live presents:

In celebration of Black History Month through the month of February APL's Literature Live presents Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock, a shadow puppet show. See upcoming program schedule at the end of the report for dates and locations.

Let's Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness In The Light Of Death: Register Now to Participate.

The University Hills Branch received a grant to host a five-part reading and discussion series, takes place the fourth Thursday of the month beginning on January 22. Managing librarian, Frank Schmitzer is signing up 25 individuals to participate in the group. The series explores the themes of love and forgiveness in everyday life through classic and contemporary literature. Please call 929-0551 if you are interested in participating.

January 22 Paula by Isabel Allende

February 26 Disgrace by J.M.Coetzee

March 26 Jazz by Toni Morrison

April 23 The Death of Ivan Ilych by Leo Tolstoy

May 28 The Dead by James Joyce

FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION

New Central Library Project: On Thursday, December 11, 2008, the Austin City Council chose the design team of Lake/Flato Architects and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott – Joint Venture to provide consultant services for the New Central Library Project on a 6 -1 vote. City staff members are now engaged in negotiating a Professional Services Agreement with the design team selected by Council. It should be noted that the No-Contact Period for City solicitations is defined by municipal ordinance as the period of time from the date of issuance of a solicitation until such time as a contract is executed. If during the No-Contact Period, a respondent to a City solicitation makes a representation to a member of the City Council, a member of a City board, or any other official, employee, or agent of the City, other than to the authorized contact person for the solicitation, the respondent will be disqualified from further consideration of contract award. The prohibition of a representation during the No-Contact Period applies to a representation initiated by the respondent as well as

to a representation made in response to a communication initiated by a member of the City Council, member of a City board, or any other official, employee, or agent of the City other than the authorized contact persons. In order not to endanger a successful and timely execution of the consultant contract for the New Central Library Project, it is important that all City employees and other agents of the City, except for the contact persons authorized to carry out negotiations, refrain from communicating with the selected respondent until the requisite contract is finalized. It is presently anticipated that this architectural/engineering consultant contract will be in place by the end of May, 2009, at which time the planned charrettes to allow for citizen input to the design process will be initiated. The working schedule for the New Central Library now stands as follows:

February, 2009 ~ Construction Manager at Risk Solicitation issued

May, 2009 ~ Consultant contract finalized

June, 2009 ~ Citizen input process initiated

July, 2009 ~ Design Phase initiated

August, 2009 ~ Construction Manager at Risk hired

Winter, 2009 ~ Schematic Design completed

Summer, 2010 ~ Design Development completed

Summer, 2011 ~ Design phase completed

Spring, 2012 ~ Construction begins

Winter, 2013 ~ Construction completed

Summer, 2014 ~ Grand Opening

North Village Branch Library Replacement Project: It is now anticipated that the punch list inspection of the project will be made on or about February 6, 2009. That impending deadline means that the new North Village Branch Library site is now a very hectic and nerve-racking site for contractors, consultant architects and engineers, and City project management staff alike. By way of explanation, a punch list is the list of items within a project, prepared by the owner and his representatives, and confirmed by the contractor, which remain to be replaced or completed in accordance with the requirements of the contract for construction at the time of substantial completion. In preparation for the punch list inspection, the contractors, consultants and involved City staff have in the last few weeks discussed and dealt with hundreds of diverse project details, both large and small, ranging from site drainage concerns and the structural suspension of ceiling panels to the correct PVC pipe to use for air conditioning condensate lines and the exact location of interior informational signage. Other scheduling issues that the project management team is busy dealing with at the moment include the installation of the Art In Public Places stained glass panels at the meeting

room and the delivery/installation of shelving and furniture by an assortment of vendors. Despite these and other challenges entailed in the completion of this construction project, the target date for the Grand Opening of the new North Village Branch Library remains Saturday, April 25, 2009, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Twin Oaks Branch Library Replacement Project: While construction continues to progress on the new Twin Oaks Branch Library, difficulties in adhering to schedule have been encountered. In the last two months, the general contracting firm has seen fit to replace both their project manager and their job superintendent at this site. Correction of structural steel issues left by the previous, failed steel erecting subcontractor are still being carried out by the new steel erecting subcontractor, and the structural steel standing on the job has yet to pass final inspection. Along the North side of the property, problems have been encountered in constructing a sidewalk completely compliant to ADA standards without damaging the roots of an existing, large Pecan tree. City staff, consultants and contractors are presently working on a solution to that challenge. Work to date and work expected in the upcoming weeks include site work, concrete work, retention pond and irrigation piping, concrete sidewalks, structural steel corrections, steel roof decking installation, steel angle and metal plate connections for the wood trusses, and replacement of the rejected north retaining wall. A Green Building point of interest of the project is that all the timber supplied for the wood trusses and connecting wood beams are recycled Fir timbers reclaimed from a 50 year old barge that once plied the Mississippi River out of New Orleans. Unfortunately, however, and based on a revised construction schedule provided by the general contractor to the City on January 22, 2009, the planned opening of the new Twin Oaks Branch Library on August 8, 2009 no longer appears feasible. The Library Department will therefore closely monitor the future performance of this contractor and target a new opening date for the facility in October, 2009 .

Faulk Central Library Automated Doors Retrofit Project: The revised schedule for the Faulk Central Library Automated Doors Retrofit Project now calls for our main library facility to be closed to the public from Monday, March 1, 2009 until Wednesday, April 15, 2009 so that this important infrastructure renewal work can be carried through to safe completion. By way of background, the existing automated door system at the Faulk Central Library is obsolete and malfunctioning equipment, presenting safety concerns particularly for children and handicapped customers. A new sliding door system with motion detector sensors will be installed to enhance public safety and comply with current Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards. The retrofit of this failing door system will necessitate the replacement of a considerable portion of the building's fixed-glass storefront in order to accommodate installation of the new, in-line automated doors. Floor and other finishes throughout the front entrance area of the main library are expected to be damaged during demolition and will be replaced as well. On Tuesday, January 20, 2009, a staff meeting was held to discuss central library operations during the upcoming building closure, follow on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 with a meeting between central library staff and the project manager to further discuss the impact of construction upon library operations.

Recycled Reads Book Store Project: Good progress has been

made in the last several months towards completing renovations and opening up the Recycled Reads Book Store. On November 20, 2008, the requisite Certificate of Occupancy was issued by the City of Austin for the 5335 Burnet Road facility, documenting that the remodel had successfully passed inspection for compliance to the requirements of the Austin City Building Code. The owner's punch list inspection of the site was performed with all concerned parties on November 21, 2008, and the subcontractors were subsequently instructed to repair or replace all items still needing to be addressed by November 25, 2008. On December 16, 2008, the revamped property likewise passed the Texas Accessibility Standards inspection with no violations noted. Throughout the months of December and January, Library Maintenance staff members were actively engaged in delivering and installing all shelving, furniture and fixtures to the facility, with the Library Delivery Services crew close on their heels with the relocation of the store's inventory of materials to the premises. It now appears possible that a "soft" opening of the store can be scheduled on or about Monday, February 16, 2009, to be followed by a Grand Opening on or about Saturday, February 28, 2009.

Cesar Chavez Commemorative Art Project: On December 11, 2008, the existing, exterior kiosk was removed from the Terrazas Branch Library site by the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association to make way for this Art in Public Places project. Contractors in the employ of the artist team then installed the pier beam for the sculpture piece and poured a concrete pier to support the new information kiosk. To contribute to the successful completion of this project, the Library Department promptly hired contractors to trench from the building to the sculpture site, and Library Maintenance staff members ran metal conduit and pulled the necessary electrical power and data cables needed for the art work. The artist team has informed City staff that they have nearly finished fabrication of the sculpture and new kiosk, and that they plan to start installation of the completed pieces by February 9, 2009. The recommended date for the dedication ceremony for this important work of art is Tuesday, March 31, 2009, the birthday of Cesar Chavez.

Cepeda Music Garden Project: The architectural conception of the Cepeda Music Garden Project has always been that the essential formative element of the design was to be expressed by a number of exhibit "niches" ensconced in the stone wall surrounding the garden, each honoring a particular composer, performer or performing group and containing items symbolic of that individual or group. Eventually, as funding permitted, it was hoped that the niches would be electronically connected to a related music collection housed within the Cepeda Branch Library. We are now at a point in the design process where it is becoming increasingly difficult to evolve the design further without having a better idea of the of the make-up of the composers, performers and performing groups to be commemorated. To that end, the Austin Public Library Foundation is now in the process of convening a committee to identify the individuals and groups to be memorialized by the project.

Security Camera Installation Project: By means of this project, security cameras will be installed throughout the building inventory of the Library Department as a multi-dimensional tool to deter crime and assist the Austin Police Department in the apprehension of perpetrators. On October 16, 2008, the Austin City Council authorized the award, negotiation and execution of

a 60-month requirements service contract with TAC of Carrollton, Texas, for an enterprise security access system in an estimated amount not to exceed \$5,693,238. Funding for the contract was identified in the operating and/or capital budgets of the Financial and Administrative Services Department (Communication and Technology Management Division), the Austin Convention Center, Austin Water Utility, Austin Fire Department, and the Austin Public Library. This contract is for the purchase of security access systems on an enterprise-wide level and will include maintenance and support for those systems. This contract will also establish pricing for future security system purchases for other City facilities. The overall goal is to replace end of life, disparate access control, video surveillance, and alarm systems with an integrated enterprise level system. During the week of January 12, 2009, the Library Department submitted to TAC seven Requests for Proposals to install security camera systems at the branch libraries determined to have the highest priority need for this infrastructure improvement. TAC responses to these proposals are expected by mid-February. Preliminary design has been initiated for security camera installation at the seven branch libraries considered second tier in priority importance for these improvements.

Howson Branch Library Reroof Project: Project management responsibilities for the construction of roof replacement at the Howson Branch Library has been assigned to the Library Department's new Building Improvement Coordinator, Heidi Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz is presently working on hiring a roofing consultant for the project from the City's Roofing and Waterproofing Consultant Services Rotation List. During the week of January 19, 2009, Ms. Ruiz inspected the roof of the Howson Branch Library in the company of the prospective roofing consultant and provided his firm with as-built drawings for the facility. Some repair of damaged interiors is included in of the scope of the project.

Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill Hike and Bike Trail: This project, long desired by the community, will construct an eight foot wide trail connecting the Will Hampton Branch Library with neighboring Dick Nichols Park improvements. The Financial Services Department had requested that the project be funded and carried out in the present budget year by the Parks and Recreation Department. However, the Parks and Recreation Department is now reluctant to move forward with the project, due in part to the high cost of making the trail ADA-compliant. A meeting is now being scheduled with construction managers from both the Library Department and the Parks and Recreation Department to attempt to resolve this funding issue.

Austin History Center Programming & Outreach

•On November 15, Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung represented the AHC at the Vietnamese Health Fair. She set up a small exhibit and passed out brochures about the AHC; she estimated about 400 people stopped at her booth during the day.

•On December 1, Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison Gloria Espitia gave a presentation about Mexican Americans on the home front in Austin in World War II. Her presentation was part of a panel presentation at the opening of the "Images of Valor" exhibit at the Terrazas Branch.

•On Thursday, December 4, Manager Mike Miller gave a presentation, with AHCA Board Member Kay Hart, to the Austin

Woman's Club. Mike and Kay gave a presentation on the Pease family and read selected letters from the Pease collection. 65 members of the club were in attendance.

•On December 16, Manager Mike Miller gave a presentation about Austin history to a group of home-school students. Eight children, ages 3-8, and their mothers attended and learned about how Austin has changed through the years as well as learning about archives and how the AHC preserves Austin's history. The kids especially liked looking at the old maps, and one boy wrote a thank you letter stating, "Thank you for talking to us about maps and history. I liked looking at the old maps of Austin. Thank you for the work you do. You have an important job."

Collections

□AHC Staff and volunteers have finished processing many collections to close out the new year. The following collections were completed by December:

□Open Forum Club Records (AR.1994.023). The Open Forum Club began in 1922 with the motto, "Nothing Human is Foreign to Us." It was comprised of elected members of important women in the Austin community and met monthly for luncheons and talks.

□Let the People Speak Video Collection (AR.2007.027). Let the People Speak was a local show produced by Trella Laughlin on Public Access TV. The show explored a number of social justice issues.

□Bobo (Carolyn) Papers (AR.2002.034). Correspondence, photographs, videotapes, broadsides, artifacts, printed material, creative materials, and legal documents (569 items) document the University of Texas athletics and student organizations, the University Interscholastic League, Sidney Lanier High School, and Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, Texas during the late 1950s to 2002.

□Austin Revitalization Authority Records (AR.2008.003). The majority of this collection consists of photos taken by Grace McEvoy related to the work of the Austin Revitalization Authority (ARA). There is also a limited amount of printed material that document ARA projects.

□Elliott (O.H. and Thelma) Papers (AR.2007.017). Ora Herman "O. H." Elliott (1906-1984) and Thelma Mitchell Elliott (1912-1998), both leaders in the African-American community, were involved in Texas and national politics as well as community and civic organizations in Austin.

□Camacho Papers (AR.1997.004). Daniel and Lorraine Castro Camacho were well known and respected members of their East Austin (Texas) community. Both were active in politics and promoting equal education for all in Austin from the 1960s until the late 1990s.

□Simpson (Grover) Papers (AR.2006.026). The Grover Simpson Papers documents the life and work of Grover Simpson, a game warden stationed primarily in Travis County. The collection includes journals, photographs, news clippings, magazines, manuscript material and funeral items from Grover and his wife Melba. Also included are the draft and reference materials of his daughter, Sharon Simpson Anderson, for the book on Grover Simpson.

□Hamner Family Papers (AR.2008.007). Photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, financial and property records, scrapbooks and genealogical information that document four generations of the Hamner family from 1827 to 2007.

□The AHC made the first installment purchase from the Governor Pease Papers collection being sold. On December 17, AHC Manager picked up 269 letters, documents, and other items related to Pease. These items will eventually be added to the existing Pease collection. This first purchase was for \$52500, and the funds came from a variety of sources, including a grant from

the Summerlee Foundation, and private donation to the Austin History Center Association, and City funds. There is still \$150,000 left to purchase, and the AHCA continues to raise funds for this important acquisition.

□ In December, Gloria Espitia received a donation of photographs and other materials documenting the Montopolis neighborhood. This donation was a direct result of the 40th Anniversary celebration at the Ruiz branch on 11/15/08 and contacts she made at that event.

Staffing

• With much regret, the AHC lost the services of Karen Riles, our African American Neighborhood Liaison, after almost 9 years of service. She decided to pursue her dreams of working in radio and producing documentary films. Her last day was December 12

• At the December meeting of the Archivists of Central Texas (ACT), Photo Curator Daniel Alonzo was elected Vice-president/President-elect of ACT, a 2-year term.

Photos used in Publications

• Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in books to be published by Yale University Press (Urban Slave Space in Texas), McGraw-Hill (American Democracy Now), and Pearson Education (The American Journey). Also, images from our collections will be used in an upcoming episode of American Experience ("A Class Apart") on PBS, KLRU's "Downtown" series, and an exhibit at Austin Community College about their history.

Exhibits

• Work is underway for the next exhibit at the AHC, "Vietnam to Austin: Restoring Community," scheduled to open on February 21. This exhibit, in partnership with the Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation, will explore many of the different journeys Vietnamese immigrants took to Austin and how this community has impacted Travis County.

Upcoming Events

• March 7, 2-3 pm. Opening Reception for "Vietnam to Austin" exhibit at the AHC.

• May 14, 6-9 pm. Arts Crawl at the AHC. The AHC is partnering with other Austin museums for an immigration related arts crawl on this evening. Speaker TBD.

Media Relations

A total of 18 media releases were initiated by the library in December resulting in a value of over \$3500.00

Web 2.0 Technology:

The marketing/communications division has initiated the implementation of several networking tools to help promote and publicize the Austin Public Library. Presently APL is connected on FaceBook, 2-systemwide Myspace pages, Twitter, 2 -blogs, and an email subscriber list. Over 2000 people (and growing) are connected to the library and receive information on an ongoing and regular basis.

Grants

Great Stories CLUB – Breaking Boundaries

The Round II book awards include the Austin Public Library Second Chance Books program designed for the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center. The books selected contain

stories about teens who have overcome the boundaries in their lives. This award includes the award winning books

- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie, 2006
- Black and White by Paul Volponi, 2005
- Luna by Julie Ann Peters, 2006

Acquisition of Governor Pease Archival Papers-

The Austin City Council accepted the grant agreement with Summerlee Foundation in the amount of \$7,500 for purchase of a portion of the Governor Pease Archival Papers. The Austin Community Foundation has notified the Austin Public Library Foundation that it is granting \$5,000 toward the purchase of the papers.

The International Year of Astronomy Great Observatories Image Unveiling

The Austin Public Library has been selected as a participant in February celebrations for the 2009 International Year of Astronomy during the month of Galileo's birth (1564). The unveiling will feature a large display provided as part of the celebration. The Library will be displaying the large images in several locations before it ends up in its permanent location. The Austin Nature and Science Center and several planetariums and universities in Texas are also participating.

Central Library Services

Bonnie Brzozowski, Librarian I in Central Library Services, completed research for a request by the City's Integrity Office. The Integrity Office wanted to link to Library resources about ethics in the workplace from its website so that City of Austin employees can read about the topic. Bonnie not only found books in the Library's collection but also included pertinent databases and even located some articles on the topic.

During the entire month of January, the Central Library is displaying a Waller Creek Tunnel Model for the Tunnel Project that is to begin in 2010. This gives citizens a great opportunity to view this development which is projected to be completed in 2014.

Volunteer Services:

DECEMBER 2008 – STATISTICS

DEC – APL volunteer web visits 370

of volunteers 94

DEC – volunteer hours 1231.25

Volunteer value \$19 Total \$24,021.69

Youth Services Division:

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

In a time of change, the Youth Services Staff continues to provide outstanding customer service throughout the Austin Public Library system. Here are some of the highlights from Youth Services staff:

One highlight for Youth Services this January was the Mock Newbery Discussion. Alison O'Reilly and members of the Literature Committee carried out a tremendously successful meeting, skillfully facilitating a lively discussion. More than two dozen Youth Services staff, and several others from around the system, came to join in examining the contenders for the Newbery Award in the coming year. After discussion, we each voted on our picks and allotted points in the same way as the official committee does. The meeting was filled with surprises and insights. Alison hopes over the next year to diversify these mock discussion meetings and create even more opportunities for staff to gain insight into how these awards are discussed and decided.

Program Specialists

Literature Live! the Youth Services theatrical troupe continues to impact thousands of children and their family members by bringing literature to life through puppetry. In December, 2008 The Nutcracker holiday puppet show presentations reached a total audience of over 1500 people. In January, 2009 the Black History Celebration puppet show Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock was launched. Ellen Scott, Children's Program Specialist says: "The audience was totally mesmerized by the color, music and action of this unique form of puppetry". Suzanne Sanders, Youth Librarian commented on the puppet show presented at Howson Branch. She said, "I just wanted to tell you that I am very VERY impressed with Literature Live's Anansi program. The discussion of African culture, dance and arts that precede the program is exactly right - it hits all the right notes with the kids - movement, music, etc. The puppet show is wonderful! I had a group of toddlers with a few preschoolers in it - but every single one of those children was enthralled. The pacing, puppetry, the audience participation, the music - all perfect! Thank you for the continuing superlative programming!"

December 31 was the unveiling of a new routine Carpe Librum: Seize the Book! by the BIBLIOFILES Book Cart Drill Team. They marched in the First Night Austin 2009 Procession promoting Austin Public Library and our many services available to the community. Thousands of Austinites lined the street and 2500 received "KEEP AUSTIN READING" magnets given out by APL staff. Anita Rizley, Youth Program and Outreach Coordinator appeared on Channel 8 television morning show to promote the First Night festivities and the importance of library service to Austin.

In December, 2008 the Storytime Connection Program ended another successful semester of programming through the Austin Community College partnership. One student said in his final report to the class, "The Storytime Connection experience saved my life. Recently back from serving in Iraq I am struggling with life issues that are difficult. Just knowing that the children at the child care center are counting on me to come and share stories every Friday morning made a difference in my outlook on life." In January the Storytime Connection Program begins another season of volunteer based programming for the community. The Austin Community College partnership has expanded to include two Speech Communication classes for this semester.

The Second Chance Books Project continues to deliver stellar service to incarcerated teens. Book Club discussion groups were held in December and January with both Boy and Girl Units at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Detention Center. In a letter of support written by Laura Rodriguez, Travis County Juvenile Probation Department Director of Residential Services, she states: "Illiteracy is such a profound common denominator among our residents and the Second Chance Books program has become an integral part of our literacy development and educational services. I stand in amazement at the continued and unwavering dedication of the Second Chance Staff and their commitment to providing such a remarkable opportunity for our kids." In addition, In December, 2008 the Second Chance Books Program was awarded the Great Stories Club grant from the American Library Association (ALA). The Great Stories Club is organized by the ALA Public Programs Office, in cooperation with the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA).

Teen Services

Patti Cook says: "I Helped a woman and her grandson for almost an hour and a half find out information about color and heat absorption. They were looking for information for his project about how different colored balloons would absorb heat energy. I found information both in books and online about color and heat absorption (an interesting tidbit on polar bears and how their fur is actually transparent, white and their skin is black and how that information is being used to develop new solar power from one of our new YNF titles), thermal energy, etc. They left extremely satisfied. When I asked if they had everything they needed the grandson responded with a huge smile, "I'd say we almost have too much!" Very satisfying."

Rachel Wilson says: "We had about 80 people show up for the event on Wednesday, January 21st. The school provided snacks for the families attending, gave away new bike helmets for the first 20 students, and also had a donated Gamecube system to raffle off. The crowd was most enthusiastic and I feel like we reached a great part of the community who would otherwise be unaware of our services. We signed up 41 people for library cards!"

Jenn Hartley says: "Since I started doing Cosplay Group at AUH, Marina and Dusty have become very attached. Every time I go to AUH, they talk with me and we argue the merits of various manga, anime, and video games. This is why I became a Teen Services Librarian!"

Brazos Price says: "My tentpole (and best attended) program, the read-in/read aloud continues to be a successful vector for the love of reading. I always read, display and suggest books/short stories/poems that are of interest to the youth that are attending the program. This often results in youth continuing reading a magazine or story that was suggested/showed to them during a previous read-in."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

2009 January

oJanuary 20: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Mystery Book Club, The Pleasant Hill Mystery Book Club will be reading "The Last

King of Texas” by Rick Riordan

oJanuary 22: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, “Paula” by Isabel Allende, will be the first book discussed in the University Hills “Let’s Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness in the Light of Death” series Moderated by Dr. Margaret Izutsu.

oJanuary 24: 2:00 p.m., Twin Oaks Branch, Meet Author Joe Nick Patoski, at the Twin Oaks Branch. His book “Willie Nelson: An Epic Life” will be available for purchase and signing.

oJanuary 26: 7:00 p.m., Carver Branch, Library Commission Meeting

oJanuary 28: 7:00 p.m., Howson Branch, Lutheran Social Services will offer at the Howson Branch Library, a presentation on the benefits of being a foster parent and what it takes to become one.

February

- February 2: 7:00 p.m., Breathing Life into Words Writing Workshops presents Evelyn Palfrey. Popular novelist Evelyn Palfrey presents “Writing a Romance Novel for Fun and Profit.
- February 2: 6:30 p.m., Manchaca Branch, Small Business Development Program Presents Professionals from the City of Austin’s Small Business Development Program will present information to assist in the in the creation or expansion of a privately-owned small business.
- February 3: 6:30 p.m., Howson Branch, Junto In Austin, the contemporary issues discussion group at the Howson Branch Library will be discussing Thomas Friedman’s new book, “Hot, Flat, and Crowded”
- February 4: 6:30 p.m., St. John Branch will be showing “Grocer’s Son” directed by Eric Guirado as the first film in its series “Reel Independents” which will include a new independent film every first Tuesday of the month.
- February 5: 7:00 p.m., Milwood Branch, The need for foster parents is increasing. Lutheran Social Services will describe the need and explain the benefits of being a foster parent, and what is required.
- February 10: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- February 10: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Branch, Book Club will be reading “Becoming Madame Mao” for its February 10th meeting.
- February 11: 6:30 p.m., Ruiz Branch Library, will be showing the independent film “Grocer’s Son” as the first film in its series of Reel Independents Film Series, every 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- February 17: 7:00 p.m., Hampton Branch at Oak Hill, The Muses are a Celtic music group that will be performing at the Hampton Branch at Oak Hill
- February 17: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, The Pleasant Hill Mystery Book Club will be reading “Local Rules” by Jay Brandon
- February 23: 7:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch, Library Commission Meeting
- February 25: 6:30 p.m., Howson Branch, “Grocer’s Son” as the first film in the “Reel Independents” film series on the last Wed.
- February 26: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, “Disgrace” by J.M. Coetzee will be the second title discussed in the “Let’s Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness In the Light of Death” series lead by Dr. Margaret Izutsu
- February 28: Recycled READS Bookstore opening 12 noon
- **March**
- March 3: 6:30 p.m., Howson Branch, Junto In Austin discussion group will be discussing the book “Omnivore’s

Dilemma”

- March 4: 6:30 p.m., St. John Branch, The second film in the Reel Independents film series at St. John Branch will be “Days and Clouds” an independent film directed by Silvio Soldani
- March 10: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- March 10: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park, Windsor Park Book Club, “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao” by Junot Diaz will be the book discussed at the March meeting of the Windsor Park Book Club
- March 11: 6:30 p.m., Ruiz Branch, “Days and Clouds”, a film directed by Silvio Soldini as the 2nd film in the Reel Independents film series
- March 17: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Mystery Book Club will be reading “A Twist At the End” by Steven Saylor
- March 23: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, Library Commission Meeting
- March 26: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, “Jazz” by Toni Morrison is the third title to be discussed in the “Let’s Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness In the Light of Death” series sponsored by the American Library Association and the Fetzer Institute and lead by Dr. Margaret Izutsu
- **April**
- April 14: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club o April 8: Ruiz Branch: will be showing “Ben X”, a film by Nic Balthazar in its Reel Independents film series
- April 14: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- April 14: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park, “Break, Blow, Burn” by Camille Paglia will be the book discussed by the Windsor Park Book Club
- April 20: 10:00 a.m., St. John Branch, Financial Fitness Teen Program, “How To Open A Bank Account”. The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson’s office, and other community groups.
- April 20: 4:00 p.m., Milwood Branch, Financial Fitness Program, “Teaching Finance to Kids”. The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is sponsored by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson’s office, and other community groups.
- April 20: 7:00 p.m., Ruiz Branch, Financial Fitness Program, “Credit Restoration”. The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is sponsored by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson’s office, and other community groups.
- April 20: 7:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch, Financial Fitness Program, “Feeding the Family Without Starving the Wallet”. The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is sponsored by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson’s office, and other community groups.
- April 21: 3:00 p.m., Howson Branch, Financial Fitness Program, “College Financing”. The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is sponsored by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson’s office, and other community groups.
- April 21: 6:30 p.m., St. John Branch, Financial Fitness Program, “Bouncing Back When Your Income Drops”. The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is sponsored by

- Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office, and other community groups.
- April 21: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park, Financial Fitness Program, "Understanding Credit". The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is sponsored by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office, and other community groups.
- April 21: 7:00 p.m., Carver Branch, Financial Fitness: Credit Restoration, The Financial Fitness Series is sponsored by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, Senator Kirk Watson's office, and A+ Credit Union and others and is a series of programs.
- April 21: 7:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch". Keep It Safe: Your Rights As a Consumer", The Financial Fitness Series is sponsored by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, Senator Kirk Watson's office, and A+ Credit Union and others and is a series of programs.
- April 21: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Mystery Book Club will be reading "Buck Fever" by Ben Rehder
- April 22: 6:00 p.m., Terrazas Branch, Financial Fitness Programs, "Getting Out of Debt", The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office, and other community groups.
- April 22: 7:00 p.m., University Hills, Financial Fitness Program, "To Your Credit: How Your Credit History Will Affect Your Future", The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office, and other community groups.
- April 22: 7:00 p.m., Howson Branch, Financial Fitness Program, "Saving and Investing". The Financial Fitness program series is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin during the week of April 21st and is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office, and other community groups.
- April 22: 7:00 p.m., Manchaca Branch, "Identity Theft". The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is supported by Junior Achievement, Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office, and other community groups.
- April 22: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry Branch, Financial Fitness Program, "Retirement Planning". The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Se. Kirk Watson's office and other community groups.
- April 23: 6:30 p.m., Yarborough Branch, Financial Fitness Program, "10 Steps to Financial Success". The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office, and other community groups.
- April 23: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, "Let's Talk About It" book discussion series, Love and Forgiveness In the Light of Death" discussion series lead by Dr. Margaret Izutsu
- April 23: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Financial Fitness Program, "Getting Out of Debt". The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin and is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office and takes place during the week of April 21st, 2009.
- April 24: 8:30 a.m., Southeast Community, Financial Fitness Program, "Budgeting and Stretching Your Grocery Dollars". The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office, and other community groups.
- April 25: 2:00 p.m., Twin Oaks Branch, Financial Fitness Program, "Identity Theft". The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin which is supported by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office and other community groups.
- April 25: 2:00 p.m., Hampton Branch, Financial Fitness Program, "Creating A Personal Financial Plan". The Financial Fitness series of programs is sponsored by Financial Fitness Greater Austin during the week of April 21st, 2009, with support by Junior Achievement, Financial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, A+ Credit Union, Sen. Kirk Watson's office and a number of other community organizations.
- April 25: Grand Opening of new North Village Branch, 2505 Steck Avenue (tentative)
- April 27: 7:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch, Library Commission Meeting
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- **May**
- May 12: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- May 12: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Branch, Book Club May meeting, "Yonder Stands Your Orphan" by Barry Hannah
- May 13: 6:30 p.m., Ruiz Branch, Reel Independents film series presents "Trap" a film by director Srdan Golubovic
- May 18: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch, Mystery Book Club will host mystery writer Susan Wittig Albert
- May 18: 7:00 p.m., Yarborough Branch, Library Commission Meeting
- May 28: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, "Let's Talk About It". "The Dead" by James Joyce will be the final title discussed in the "Let's Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness In the Light of Death" discussion series lead by Dr. Margaret Izutsu.
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- **June**
- June 9: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Branch, "1776" by David McCollough
- June 22: 7:00 p.m., Austin History Center, Library Commission Meeting
- **July**
- July, 2009: Grand Opening of the new Twin Oaks Branch, 1806 S. 5th Street (tentative)
- July 27: 7:00 p.m., Milwood Branch, Library Commission Meeting
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- **August**
- August 8, 2009: Grand Opening of the new Twin Oaks Branch, 1806 S. 5th Street (tentative)
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- **September**
- o September 28: 7:00 p.m., Manchaca Road, Library Commission Meeting
- **October**
- o October 26: 7:00 p.m., Austin History Center, Library

Commission Meeting

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- Brenda Branch,
Director of Libraries



