

Austin Public Library Director's Report

March 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

Faulk Central Library to Reopen April 15

Customers are using the reserve system to get the materials they need. JHF staff is processing 400-600 requests a day.

Recycled Reads Bookstore Opening

1,200 people attended the grand opening of the APL Recycled Reads Bookstore on February 28. 28 dedicated volunteers keep the store well stocked. The bookstore averages 100-150 customers per day. 400-500 customers shop on Saturdays. The store made approximately \$11,000 during the first week of operation.

The New Teen Card to be launched March 30

Teens helped select the design for the new teen card that will be launched March 30. Thanks to a grant by the Susan and Michael Dell Foundation laptops will be available for checkout by teens on March 30 at the Carver and Ruiz Branches using these teen cards.

TLA Conference

The TLA Annual Conference will be held in Houston March 31-April 3. Go to www.tsla.org for more information.

North Village Grand Opening Postponed

Due to contractor delays the North Village Branch Grand Opening has been postponed to May 30 (tentative date). See below for more details.

FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION

New Central Library Project: At the present time, staff members from the departments of Law, Public Works, Contract and Land Management, and the Library are continuing to work toward finalizing a Professional Services Agreement with the joint venture design team of Lake/Flato Architects with Shipley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott for the New Central Library Project. In related project developments, City of Austin staff members are also working to issue concurrent Requests for Qualifications to secure the necessary services of a Construction Manager at Risk as well as those of a Commissioning Agent for the pending design and construction work of the project. The tentative schedule for the New Central Library Project presently stands as follows:

April, 2009 ~ Construction Manager at Risk Solicitation Issued

April, 2009 ~ Commissioning Agent Solicitation Issued

May, 2009 ~ Design Team Consultant contract finalized

June, 2009 ~ Citizen input process initiated

July, 2009 ~ Design Phase initiated

October, 2009 ~ Construction Manager at Risk hired

October, 2009 ~ Commissioning Agent 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:

The Grand Opening of the North Village Branch Library has been rescheduled from Saturday, April 25, 2009 to Saturday, May 30, 2009, as the general contractor has yet to reach substantial completion of the project. At this time, the contractor is engaged in replacing the previous concrete on the site, as it failed inspection, and is working toward completion of the owner's punch list of items remaining to be installed, replaced or repaired according to the terms of the construction contract. The contractor is also working to redress a list of items identified by the building inspector as needing correction before a Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. The Library Department is closely monitoring the contractor's progress toward completion and stands ready to begin moving furniture, equipment and collections into the facility as soon as it is legally able to do so.

Twin Oaks Branch Library Replacement Project:

Construction progress at the Twin Oaks Branch Library site has increased significantly over the last month as the general contractor has implemented a schedule recovery plan for the project at the instruction of the City of Austin. The general contractor is now manning the project site seven days a week and is committed to adding

more manpower and/or craftsmen at the site as needed. Ongoing activities include sidewalk construction, framing, and installation of the roof deck. The Library Department remains committed to opening the Twin Oaks Branch Library to the public in October, 2009.

Faulk Central Library Automated Doors Retrofit

Project: The Faulk Central Library closed to the public on Monday, March 2, 2009 to allow the obsolete and malfunctioning automated doors at the front entrance/exit to be replaced with a modern and safe sliding door system controlled by motion detector sensors. Demolition of the existing doors and the surrounding fixed-glass storefront structure proceeded well, as is the present construction phase of the project. At this time, the new storefront framing has been roughed-in and is expected to be finished within the week, while the replacement of damaged interior finishes, principally flooring, is an ongoing activity at the site. The only mishap suffered by the project thus far has been due to an act of vandalism which occurred at night shortly after the building closed for renovation. Approximately a dozen windows on the first floor of the Faulk Central Library were damaged, apparently by shots from a high-powered pellet gun, and will need to be replaced. Despite the work involved in recovering from this unfortunate incident, it is expected that the Faulk Central Library can and will be made ready to reopen to the public, as scheduled, on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Recycled Reads Book Store Project. From 12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM on Saturday, February 28, 2009, the Austin Public Library celebrated the Grand Opening of its used book store at the recently remodeled location at 5335 Burnet Road. The festive occasion was well attended and deemed by all to be a complete success with live music, refreshments and thousands of books, videos and assorted media available for either a dollar or two dollars each. The used book store will now be open year round, operated in large part by volunteers and stocked with materials withdrawn for library collections and from private donations. All proceeds from sales will be used to purchase supplies, equipment and materials for the Austin Public Library, thereby augmenting its annual operating budget. Additionally, the Recycled Reads Book Store has helped to further establish the Austin Public Library as a truly "green operation" by devising a plan to ensure that none of our collection items will end up in a landfill. Weeded or donated books and audio-visual materials which cannot be sold will be taken to Books Beyond Borders to be distributed to schools and libraries in third world countries or recycled into building materials in an environmentally friendly way.

Cesar Chavez Commemorative Art Project: Due to unforeseen delays in the manufacture of this sculpture and its associated kiosk, it proved necessary to reschedule the installation date for this Art in Public Places Project at the Terrazas Branch Library site to March 26, 2009. Once the art work and the kiosk have been successfully installed,

Library Facilities Services will develop a small garden of native plants around the installation to further enhance its welcoming ambience for the community. The current plan of the Art in Public Places Division of the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Department calls for the dedication ceremony for this significant artwork to be conducted in May of 2009, but an exact date and time for the event has yet to be established.

Cepeda Music Garden Project: The Design and Documentation Phase for the Cepeda Music Garden Project is approximately 40% complete at this time. A prototypical base design for an exhibit wall niche has been developed, and the consultants, Cotera and Reed Architects, will be meeting now with the Library Friends Foundation Project Committee to review the foundation's guidelines for the selection of performers/composers to be commemorated by the project. Once the characteristics of the selected performers/composers are better defined, Cotera and Reed Architects will complete their design of a prototype niche which can successfully serve multiple artist selection types. The existing Cepeda Branch Library Site Development Permit remains open and a new permit will not be required for this project to move forward into the Construction Phase, as the project's civil engineers, the Urban Design Group, will be able to red line changes to the existing permit drawings filed with the City of Austin. Under the conditions of the unique private-public partnership for this particular project, the contracted Scope of Services for Cotera and Reed Architects with the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation will extend through the 100% complete Construction Document Phase. For the Construction Phase of the project to follow, the construction administration agreement for the services of Cotera & Reed Architects will be with the City of Austin/Library Department.

Security Camera Installation Project: All on-site inspections of branch locations by involved Library staff have been completed in order to formulate and submit Requests for Proposals for security camera installations to the City's contracted security system vendor, TAC. TAC will now perform site visits of each library location in the process of finalizing their cost proposals for the labor, materials and equipment necessary to carry out the project. While awaiting the requisite cost proposals from TAC, the Library Department will proceed with completing asbestos surveys needed at four of its facilities before the security camera installations can begin. In like fashion, Library Facilities Services intends to complete construction this month of a room at the Faulk Central Library that will serve to house the monitoring station for the departmental security camera system now underway.

Howson Branch Library Reroof Project: Design of the new roof for the Howson Branch Library is judged to be 95% complete at this time. It is anticipated that by March 27, 2009, the roofing consultants will finish the specifications and final drawings for the project, which

will include a number of sustainable elements intended to improve energy and water conservation. A "Cool Roof" with high reflectivity and a "Rain Water Harvesting System" for irrigation are but two of the Green Building provisions to be incorporated into the scope of the project. In related project developments, the Library Facilities Services Division has hired an asbestos abatement contractor to perform the necessary asbestos remediation which must precede the renovation of the facility. Asbestos abatement will include the removal and disposal of 500 square feet of drywall and 5,380 square feet of flooring. The building will need to be sealed and closed to allow a negative pressure zone to be created the abatement process. Asbestos abatement and construction of the roof replacement will proceed concurrently as a minor amount of asbestos has been found in the flashing of one roof vent. Following completion of the roof replacement, an interior remodel of the facility will be carried out to include new finishes, a new furniture/shelving layout, additional electrical circuits, mechanical improvements, provision of an automated door to enhance accessibility and the construction of a secure Telecommunications room. The tentative schedule established for this project is as follows:

April 6, 2009 ~ Library staff to meet with the Western Neighborhood Association Group to discuss the project

May 18, 2009 ~ Howson Branch Library to close so that all its collections, furniture and equipment may be relocated to storage elsewhere

June 15, 2009 ~ Asbestos abatement and roofing contractors will start work. No Library staff will be allowed in the building during this phase of the project.

July 6, 2009 ~ Roofing and asbestos abatement expected to be complete, allowing the renovation of interiors to proceed.

October 5, 2009 ~ Facilities Services will re-install shelving, equipment and furniture while the IT network and voice equipment is installed by the Communication Technology Management Department. Library staff will then unpack and organize the collections throughout the new shelving layout.

November 2, 2009 ~ The reopening of the Howson Branch Library will be celebrated.

Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill Hike and Bike Trail: Over the course of the last several months, it has become apparent in meetings of Library Department and Parks and Recreation Department representatives that the Parks and Recreation Department is not able to fund the design and construction of this neighborhood-requested amenity, as the Financial Services Department had originally hoped. Therefore, the Library Department

is now working with the Public Works Department to arrive at an appropriate project budget to create a hike and bike trail connecting the Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill with nearby Dick Nichols Park. It is the intention of the Library Department to then submit this project for Capital Budget funding consideration in Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

AHC Exhibit Opening a Huge Success

Over 400 people attended the opening reception and were treated to not only a spectacular exhibit created by Exhibits Coordinator Steve Schwolert, Photographer Grace McEvoy, and Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung, but also an engaging program that included a traditional Vietnamese Dragon Dance performed by students from Summit Elementary School, a City Proclamation read by Councilwoman Laura Morrison, and a number of speeches, including the keynote address by State Representative Hubert Vo.

Austin History Center

Programming & Outreach

- Reference Archivist Katie Causier gave a tour and orientation of the Reading Room to a group of 15 architecture students from UT on February 21. These students are taking an urban planning class and working on projects related to minority use of downtown space in Austin.
- Photo Curator Daniel Alonzo was a guest speaker at the Introduction to Archives class at UT and lectured about museum archives (Daniel worked in a museum archives prior to coming to the AHC).
- Manager Mike Miller, along with AHCA Board Member Kay Hart, gave a presentation called "The Austin History Center and Governor E. M. Pease" to the UT Retired Faculty/Staff Association on February 25. Twenty people attended the presentation.

Staffing/Staff News

- Reference Archivist Katie Causier created a staff wiki for the AHC staff to better communicate and to track ongoing projects. It has been very well received by AHC staff that are all busily adding to and editing the wiki. This is still a work in progress, but it is already being used to track processing projects in the archives unit and to share reference tips for use in the Reading Room.
- Photo Curator Daniel Alonzo represented the AHC at the annual Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative (THDI) annual meeting in Lubbock where he spoke about the TexTreasures grant to digitize the Jones Glass Plates collection. Manager Mike Miller continues to serve on the THDI Steering Committee and chair their Standards Working Group.

Photos used in Publications

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in the CNN series "How We Got Started," a website on the Austin music community, and the 7th edition of "Government and Politics in Texas" published by McGraw-Hill.

Exhibits

- "Vietnam to Austin: Restoring Community" opened on February 17, and an opening reception was held on Saturday, March 7. Over 400 people attended the opening reception and were treated to not only a spectacular exhibit created by Exhibits Coordinator Steve Schwolert, Photographer Grace McEvoy, and Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung, but also an

engaging program that included a traditional Vietnamese Dragon Dance performed by students from Summit Elementary School, a City Proclamation read by Councilwoman Laura Morrison, and a number of speeches, including the keynote address by State Representative Hubert Vo. The Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation, the AHC's partner on this project, provided a delicious array of traditional Vietnamese food. This exhibit is a landmark exhibit for the AHC, believed to be the first exhibit of its kind in the country.

•The Austin History Center loaned multiple exhibits recently. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) displayed 2 exhibits, "Black Community Builders" & "Blacks in Austin," for use in their Black History Month programs on 2/20 and 2/25. The staff from the TWDB said this year's events were the best attended ever, thanks in part to the exhibits. The Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) borrowed panels from "The Avenue" (Congress Avenue) for display during their Congress Avenue Task Force meeting on February 26.

AHCA News

•The AHCA just received a \$100,000 donation from long time board member Nancy Bowman. Nancy has been a tireless and energetic supported of the Austin History Center and the Association for quite some time. The AHCA Board is meeting with Nancy to discuss how these funds are to be used.

•The AHCA also announced the receipt of a \$25,000 Challenge Grant from the Still Water Foundation to use towards the purchase of the Pease Papers collection the AHC is purchasing. This grant, if the AHCA is able to raise the challenge amount, will take the Pease project past the halfway point.

Upcoming Events

•Gloria Espitia, Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison, is planning an oral history training workshop to be held on April 18, 10am – 3pm, at the Ruiz Branch Library. The event is free but limited to 40 participants; reservations can be sent to gloria.espitia@ci.austin.tx.us. This event is the first step in her "Preserving the voices of Austin and Travis County Mexican American elderly residents: Oral History Month Campaign" that is taking place throughout the month of May. The project culminates in a program at the Mexican American Cultural Center on May 14, 2009: "Memorias Mexicano Americano en Austin y el condado de Travis: a panel discussion" at 7:00 pm.

•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.

Central Library Services

Central Library Services librarian, Bonnie Brzozowski, was awarded a PLD scholarship to pay for expenses to attend the TLA Conference in Houston this year.

Carolyn Rogers, Managing Librarian from ACLS, created a very informative research guide called Consumer Help for the Economic Downturn. The guide is linked from the Library's homepage and has links to information about the downturn, personal finance, job searching, consumer information, and services that the Library offers that can help.

John Henry Faulk Central Library closed for minor renovation on March 2, 2009 and will reopen April 15, 2009. Central Library Services is providing limited services in the Austin History Center's Reception Room such as reserve pick up, reference help and a small offering of periodicals and reference materials.

Marketing Communications

February was a productive month for public awareness opportunities for the library. The Marketing division initiated 14 media releases resulting in a value of over \$60,000. A majority of the media stories resulted in the downturn in the economy and the role and value the library serves in these times. Stories appeared in the Austin American-Statesman, KVUE TV, KXAN, KEYE, NEWS 8 Austin, KUT radio, Ahora Si. Additionally, stories on the grand opening of the Recycled Reads bookstore appeared on KGSR Radio, KUT, and News 8,

Video Testimonial:

Kanya Lyons, Public Info. Specialist for the library created and produced a short video on a participant success story of the library's Talk Time program, as a way to promote the program to other non-English speakers. The video can be viewed on the Talk Time website at http://www.austinlibrary.com/newip/index.cfm?action=i_talktime

and also can be seen on APL Youtube channel.

Volunteer Services:

February 2009– STATISTICS

Web hits	503
# of volunteers	101
Volunteer Hours	1277.25
Volunteer Value	\$24,919.14

Youth Services Division:

February 2009 was another busy month for The Austin Public Library Youth Services Division. Here are some of our activities and stories from our branches:

Alison O'Reilly, Teen Services Librarian at the John Henry Faulk Central Library was shadowed by a Mathews Elementary School sixth grader on Friday, February 6. Here's what she writes of the experience:

Adina job-shadowed with me. I felt the morning was a tremendous success partly because the role highlighted some of my personal character strengths, but also because Adina was so well-placed at the library. She is naturally drawn to library service, and seemed really thrilled with her experience. It is my hope that Adina will become more involved with the library's developing Connected Youth program, as she was our first video book talk participant! Her mother, who was also excited about Adina's visit, followed up with a phone call and a visit to drop off the media release form. Adina's video book talk can be found featured on the Library's new Connected Youth website, here: http://www.connectedyouth.org/flv_play.cfm?flv_file=CY_Adina_Witch_Catcher_020609.flv&flv_title=Adina%20reviews%20Witch%20Catcher

Patti Cook, Teen Services Librarian at the Manchaca Road Branch invites youth to write book reviews and share them with her. She brings us these honest evaluations of some favorite (and not-so-favorite) titles:

- From a 17 year old boy: "I recently read Twilight and when I finished reading it, I became fascinated with mystery and wonder."
- A review about a biology book: "It's good. It's scientific!"
- A review of A Tale of Two cities: "Maybe a little too complex for my reading abilities. Or you know what...too boring!"
- A review of Cat in the Hat: "Very original and delightful. The book would make me say the rhymes over and over again even when

I'm not reading it."

Jenn Freeman is one of our Teen Services Librarians sharing her time between two branches. In February, she worked hard to address some collection issues at the Oak Springs branch. She writes that she was able to examine and weed almost the entire E Fiction section at the branch, and plans to finish during the month of March.

Jenn Hartley, Teen Services Librarian at the Southeast Austin Communities Branch writes this of her first experience offering a gaming program at that location:

My first freeplay gaming event at ASE was a huge success and everyone had a great time. The kids were lined up at the door to go in and often sat reading while waiting for their turn at one of the consoles. I definitely want to continue gaming as a part of programming at ASE.

Jean Holland, Children's Services librarian at the Cepeda Branch, has been building up a group of youth participants in after-school library activities. She has been offering simple craft projects in the Library's public area on Wednesday afternoons while VICTORY tutoring occurs in the branch's meeting room. She has built up a small but loyal following of youth aged 4-9 for these afternoon activities.

Celia Holm is the Children's Librarian at the Spicewood Springs Branch. She is also the Spring season's featured youth librarian in the "Youth Librarian Spotlight" section of the new Youth Services Newsletter, the YS Press. Of her newfound fame, Celia writes:

The little article I wrote for YS Press has created a stir. I've had so many people coming up and asking me about NYC and my experiences and that's been a lot of fun. I even had a little boy come up and tell me I'm 'famous' And apparently I'm featured on many a fridge door! Who knew?

In January, 2009 Kathleen Houlihan, Outreach Librarian launched a new semester of the Storytime Connection programming through the Austin Community College (ACC) partnership. The ACC partnership has expanded to include two Speech Communication classes for this semester. Anita Rizley, Youth Program and Outreach Coordinator, Devo Carpenter and Ellen Scott, Ambassadors of the Arts joined Kathleen to roll out the program with multiple training sessions and community child care facility matches. Library mentors were assigned to each ACC volunteer presentation team. In addition, the community volunteer portion of the Storytime Connection project is up and running with the first training session scheduled for March.

Debbie Keith has this to say of a recent discovery opportunity during her storytime program at the Old Quarry Branch:
At Preschool Storytime I was reading the Big Book The Lion and the Mouse, retold by Gare Thompson. Early on in the story Colton made the following comment, "Oh, it's the zoo." It was a jungle scene. I explained that it might look like a zoo and that it was a jungle where the animals are free. I was reminded once again of books opening new vistas of space and vocabulary, that we are seeking to expand the boundaries of children's knowledge and thinking.

Elizabeth Murphy, Children's Librarian at the Yarborough Branch, enjoys providing various programs for her teen-aged customers each month. This month, she had a breakthrough moment just before the start of her Teen Book Club:

Five minutes before the start of Teen Book Club, one of the teen's cell phone rang. She answered it and said, "I can't talk now. I'm at Book Club." Not "the library" or "a book club," but "Book Club" with capital letters! Minor, but gratifying.

Joanna Nigrelli, Teen Services Librarian at the Terrazas Branch, has been selected as one of ten honorees for the 2009 Dewey Winburne Community Service Award. She will be honored at a SXSW event in Mid-March. Congratulations, Joanna!

Brazos Price is the Teen Services Librarian at the Windsor Park Branch. There, he's been offering a Read-in/Read-Aloud program for several months. He writes this wonderful anecdote about what happens when the participants become the presenters:

This month I had an experience that to me perfectly encapsulates why the Read-in/Read Aloud is my tent pole program at Windsor Park. Early during the program I read the picture book by Oliver Jeffers; one of the youth that is a big participator in the program (age ~9) really enjoyed the book and grabbed another by the same author called the Way Back Home and began reading it loud. As he started reading it other kids (age ~7-9) began to scoot forward and listen. He read the words and turned the book so that the other kids could see the picture, if he struggled with a word one of the older kids in Elementary or Middle would help him. Occasionally I would as well. It was a great moment and one that I think illustrates why this program is so important; it germinates the love of reading and sharing the love reading.

Josefina Rodriguez-Gibbs has been presenting a Spanish-only storytime at the Milwood Branch for a growing audience. Though some of the participants in this program are Spanish speakers, many speak English as their first and often only language. She writes this of her experience presenting a program in a language unknown to many of the participants:

I'd just like to share how impressed I am with the English-speaking parents that bring their children to the Spanish storytime. Since I began the storytime in September some people (English speakers) have maybe come once or twice but then stop coming. But there is a group of about 3 or 4 families that come regularly. One Mom in particular doesn't know Spanish and her three boys don't know Spanish either, but she wants them exposed to the language. Anyway, what impresses me about these boys (ages 2, 4, 5) is that they are attentive, even though they don't understand anything, and they are actually now starting to follow along with some of the songs. Of course, to me, it just confirms what we know of children's capacity and willingness to learn when they are this young. It's a wonderful thing.

Aubrey Sanders is a new addition to the Youth Services Division team. She will be the Children's Librarian at the new North Village location when the building opens in April. While she has been without the regular duties and obligations associated with serving in an open branch, Aubrey has been making a tour of the many programs and services offered by the Youth Services Division throughout the Library system. She has also been meeting members of the public she'll be serving when the new North Village is open for business. Here's what she has to say of her February experiences:

Not two days after I went to Jenn's [Australia-themed] Caravan at ASE, a lady came into ASR wanting to find books on Australian crafts, it was downright spooky! I helped her reserve some titles about world crafts and told her about the things we had done at ASE. She loved it.

It has been nice talking to folks about my new position and how I'm waiting happily for ANV to open. They all seem very friendly and enthusiastic. All the patrons are very aware of the library as an asset in the community. Nice to know that they do notice and appreciate us!

One little girl at Baby Time @ APH laughed every single time Suzanne did peek-a-boo. This little girl cracked up at least twenty times, each one as hilarious as the last. Great stuff!

Suzanne Sanders enjoys receiving and sharing new materials for youth at the Pleasant Hill Branch. She shares this story of a particularly effective book display at that branch:

I had just put a lot of new picture books up on the top of our picture book shelves when a mom and her three children came in. The middle child, about 8 years old squealed – a long squeal – when she saw all the new books lined up on display for her. Her eyes were HUGE! Mom said, "I guess I know what you will be doing while we are here!" And, sure enough, she started at end and worked her way to the other end, browsing the new books. It reminded me of when I was a child and my librarian used to do the same thing with the books on the tables. What fun to create that memory for another person!

Stephanie Shipman continues to help at the Little Walnut Creek Branch in addition to her work at the Twin Oaks Branch. In February, she hosted a series of tours for the Pre-kindergarten classes from Barrington Elementary. Many of the children in these classes speak Spanish as their primary language, but still enjoyed the storytime. The teachers are interested in bringing classes to puppet shows at Little Walnut, and will be staying in touch!

Heather Valdez continues to serve at the very busy Hampton Branch at Oak Hill. In February, she hosted her first puppet show at the branch, and received 150 audience members for the Anansi puppet show presented by the Library's own Literature Live! program. Heather offers high praise to Library Ambassadors of the Arts Ambray Gonzales and Ellen Scott for presenting such a kid-friendly show that kept the large audience entertained!

Rachel Wilson offers this lovely series of connected vignettes highlighting young readers learning to use and enjoy Library tools and resources: are 2 6th-grade boys who have been coming in regularly to use the computers. Early in the month, they asked me about The Graveyard Book and I explained that we had it, but there is a long wait for it (their teacher is reading it to them in school). They found the OPAC on their own and one of the boys figured out how to place a hold on the book, which he did. Once I realized they are readers, I have casually been suggesting books, or else they come to me asking for specific titles. One day they asked for anything else by Neil Gaiman and I was able to show them a J FIC we had. Last week, I was showing one of the boys the Rick Riordan Percy Jackson series, and he said, "You know, I just started reading chapter books." It has been really great to see them get so interested in books in such a little time!

Devo Carpenter, Ambassador of the Arts completed a six month pilot project with The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. The mission of the project was to bring storytime to the museum and to train museum volunteers in the art of reading books and sharing stories with children and their families. Weekly storytimes were presented at the museum and APL Storytime Training was presented by Devo Carpenter and Ellen Scott, also an Ambassador of the Arts. The Outreach Team is looking forward to

a quarterly or seasonal programming partnership to continue with the museum.

The Austin Public Library unveiled two prints of the spiral galaxy Messier 101 during the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2009. These beautiful images were obtained by the Hubble Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, and Chandra X-ray Observatory. The annual AE event celebrates the Austin Independent School District students who have won their schools' science fairs. This year's event, held at the Palmer Auditorium, highlighted over 1700 elementary students, who presented their winning exhibits to a team of judges. During the event, these students and their families visited the Austin Public Library's information booth. Heath Rezabek, Teen Coordinator wowed the crowd with an ongoing demonstration of the open source 3d planetarium, Celestia. Sally Miculek, Children's Coordinator assisted the crowd with library information. Sally says, "Several of the families from outside of Austin were excited to hear that we offer cards to any resident of Texas. The Databases flyer was particularly popular, and I was really excited to get to tell people about the new federated search. This feature makes our databases so much more accessible to parents and students. They learned about the galaxy and the International Year of Astronomy and took home bibliographies of the library's science resources plus astronomy activities and pictures generously provided by our friends at NASA." Nancy Tays, Youth Librarian created the Astronomy Bibliography. Karen Carlson, Ambassador of the Arts coordinated the entire unveiling and Ambray Gonzales, Ambassador of the Arts was instrumental in the mounting and display of the large images. In addition, Timur Sahin, post doc UT student discussed the marvels of astronomy and the ways astronomers are studying the universe today. He sparked kids' and parents' imaginations!! It was a great day for all involved.

The Second Chance Books Project continues to deliver stellar service to incarcerated teens at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Detention Center. In February, 2009 the ALA Great Stories Book Club discussion groups kicked off with the title The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. The Second Chance Books Project Team consists of Youth Services staff members: Kathleen Houlihan, Devo Carpenter, Brazos Price, Michelle Beebower, Jennifer Hartley, Ellen Scott, Sarah Fowlie, Anita Rizley, and Heath Rezabek. All committee team members were allotted the opportunity to tour the Gardner Betts facility in early March.

The Paramount Theater partnered with APL Youth Service in a literacy outreach in conjunction with the children's theater production of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, presented at the theater on March 8. Elizabeth Murphy, Youth Librarian created a bibliography to use in conjunction with the production. All youth services librarians promoted the collection through book displays at the library featuring the Paramount poster and like genre selections for the public to check-out.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

2009

MARCH

- March 23: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, Library Commission Meeting
- March 23: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Pleasant Hill Library Presents Salsa Dancing for Beginners. Come join Raul Ramirez for salsa dancing for beginners. This is a fun introductory salsa class.
- March 26: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Pleasant Hill

Library presents "Green Building". Join Anne Johnson as she presents the latest information on building in an environmentally friendly manner. This is the fourth program in our six-part series on "Let's Go Green."

- 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
- March 30: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Come join Raul Ramirez as he presents Salsa dancing for beginners. This is a fun introductory Salsa class.
- **April**
- April 2: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Pleasant Hill Library presents "Water Conservation". Join David Turnage as he presents the latest information on this important topic. This is the 5th program on our six-part series "Let's Go Green."
- April 7: 6:30 p.m., Howson Branch, The Junto In Austin group will be discussing "The Next 100 Years" a book by local author George Friedman.
- April 8: Ruiz Branch: will be showing "Ben X", a film by Nic Balthazar in its Reel Independents film series
- April 9: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Library presents "Water Quality." Join Chris Herrington as he presents valuable information on this important topic. This is the sixth and final program in our series "Let's Go Green."
- April 14: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- 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 15: 6:30 p.m., Manchaca Road Branch, Manchaca Road Branch Book Club, The selection for April is "Septembers of Shiraz" by Dalia Sofer.
- April 18: 5:00 p.m., St. John Branch, Family Movie Night, Bring the whole family to our Family Movie Nights. We'll be highlighting entertaining documentaries and movies on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 5 p. m. (The branch closes at 4 pm on Saturdays, but on this day we re-open at 5 for the movie only). Tonight we will be showing: Camp Rock [G]
- 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 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 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, Sen. Kirk Watson's office and other community groups.
- April 23: 6:30 p.m., Yarbrough 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 27: 7:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch, Library Commission Meeting
- April 30: 7:00 p.m., Austin History Center, co-presentation, Transformative Journeys, A Symposium, Transformative Journeys: A Symposium Thursday, April 30, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Spirit Theater, ADMISSION FREE, Reservations Required: (512) 936-4649 Join artists Lordy Rodriguez, Liliana Wilson, Tien Nguyen, Eduardo Xavier Garcia, and Terrence Moline as they discuss how their experience of immigration and place has informed their identities and work. The symposium is presented by the Austin Museum of Art, the Mexican American Cultural Center, the Austin History Center, Mexic-Arte Museum, The George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, and the Texas State History Museum in conjunction with the exhibit Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island on view at TSHM.
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- **May**
- TBD Grand Opening of new North Village Branch, 2505 Steck Avenue (tentative)
- 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 Srđan Golubovic
- May 14: 6:00 p.m., Austin History Center, co-presentation, Arts on the Move, Six cultural institutions in Austin invite you to an arts crawl that explores immigrant artist experiences. Participating cultural organizations and exhibitions include: Texas State History Museum (www.thestoryoftexas.com), Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island Austin Museum of Modern Art (www.amoa.org), Lordy Rodriguez: The States of America Austin History Center (www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/), Vietnam to Austin: Restoring Community Mexic-Arte Museum (www.mexic-artemuseum.org), 25th Anniversary Permanent Collection Exhibition Mexican American Cultural Center (www.ci.austin.tx.us/macc/), Right Now From Far Away (featuring the work of Liliana Wilson and Cecilia Sanchez Duarte) The George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center (www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver/), Katrina's Children.
- May 16: 5:00 p.m., St. John Branch, Family Movie Night, Bring the whole family to our Family Movie Nights. We'll be highlighting entertaining documentaries and movies on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 5 p. m. (The branch closes at 4 pm on Saturdays, but on this day we re-open at 5 for the movie only). Tonight we will be showing: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13)
- 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., Yarbrough Branch, Library Commission Meeting
- May 20: 6:30 p.m., Manchaca Road Branch, Manchaca Road Branch Book Club. In May we will discuss "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver.
- 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 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

