

Austin Public Library

Director's Report

November 2009

Highlights

The 8th Annual Mayor's Book Club kicks off at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, on Wednesday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m. with Mayor Lee Leffingwell's announcement of the 2010 book selection. For the first time in the history of the Mayor's Book Club, the author will attend the announcement. Austin Public Library Director Brenda Branch and University of Texas Humanities Institute Director Pauline Strong will also be on hand to make remarks.

The New Central Library Project has been at the center of public attention as the most high-profile project currently being carried out by the City of Austin. From October 27th through November 12th, five public design input meetings were widely advertised and conducted, one in each quadrant of the City and one in the downtown area to provide an opportunity for Austin's citizens to share their visions and ideas for the New Central Library with the project architects. On November 11th, a well attended and informative teen focus group was also held at Austin High School to allow those important stakeholders a chance to give their input on the project.

Celebrate the holidays with the Austin Public Library:

- Saturday, December 5 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Holiday Open House @ Pleasant Hill Branch. Bring the whole family to the Holiday Open House for fun holiday crafts and games, a live harpist, and refreshments.
- Wednesday, December 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Christmas Extravaganza @ Oak Springs Branch. Bring the family for food, fun, entertainment, children's activities, and Santa Claus.
- Saturday, December 12 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 9th Annual Lighting of the Peace Tree @ University Hills Branch. Celebrate the holiday season with music, poetry, dance, and tree decorating.
- Saturday, December 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Holiday Open House @ Hampton Branch at Oak Hill. The Hampton Branch at Oak Hill invites you to make merry at the Holiday Open House featuring Austin Classical Guitar Duo Thales and Matthew, arts and crafts, and storytelling.
- Tuesday, December 29 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Annual Kwanzaa Celebration @ Carver Branch. African native and educator Elizabeth Kahura will bring Kwanzaa to life with storytelling, music, and art for all ages. Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration with a focus on family values.

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: On November 2nd and 3rd, Lake/Flato Architects and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott conducted a sustainable design charette with all their sub-consultants to better develop a strategy for implementing the City of Austin's commitment to sustainable design for the New Central Library Project. Throughout the week of November 9th, the consultants continued to meet with various Library staff groups in an effort to compile all known space requirements for the New Central Library Building Program now being drafted. In related New Central Library Project developments, the three engineering firms short-listed for the project's Commissioning Agent contract

were interviewed at length by staff evaluators on Monday, November 9th, and on Monday, November 16th, the Kick-Off Meeting for the Phase II New Central Library Construction Manager at Risk was conducted. The schedule for the New Central Library Project now stands as follows:

- November, 2009 ~ Programming & Citizen/Stakeholder Input Process Completed
- November, 2009 ~ Design Phase Initiated
- December, 2009 ~ Council Award of Commissioning Agent Contract
- January, 2010 ~ Council Award of Construction Manager at Risk Contract
- March, 2010 ~ Commissioning Agent Contract Executed
- April, 2010 ~ Construction Manager at Risk Contract Executed
- Spring, 2010 ~ Schematic Design Completed (30% Complete Design Package Delivered)
 - Library Commission Briefed
 - Council Approval Sought
- Early Fall, 2010 ~ Design Development Completed (60% Complete Design Package Delivered)
 - Library Commission Briefed
 - Council Approval Sought
- Late Spring/Early Summer, 2011 ~ Guaranteed Maximum Price Determined and Approved by Council
- Summer, 2011 ~ Design Phase Completed
- Fall, 2011 ~ Guaranteed Maximum Price Finalized and Approved by Council
- Fall, 2011 ~ Building Permits Received
- Fall, 2011 ~ Ground Breaking Ceremony Conducted
- Winter, 2011 ~ Construction Begins
- Fall, 2013 ~ Construction Completed
- Spring, 2014 ~ Grand Opening Celebrated

Twin Oaks Branch Library Replacement Project: Construction of the new Twin Oaks Branch Library building is fast approaching substantial completion. Interior climate control has been established in large part, allowing carpet and other finishes to be installed throughout the facility. In the next few days, it is hoped that final inspections can be requested for the fire detection and alarm system, plumbing, and the building envelope. A punch list has been generated by the general contractor and shared with the owner's representatives of items remaining to be completed in accordance with the requirements of the contract for construction. Prior to the end of this month, a Stocking Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) will be sought for the project by the general contractor with assistance of the owner's representatives. If the TCO can be secured according to schedule, it will allow shipments of shelving and furniture now in storage to be delivered and installed in the new Twin Oaks Branch Library building throughout the month of December. Unfortunately, the complete Certificate of Occupancy needed for the Twin Oaks Branch Library to open to the public will not be obtainable until all the site's drainage work is finished, including the Dry Creek Bed now under construction. The Library Department will closely monitor the contractor's progress towards completing construction so that the Twin Oaks lease space library may be closed at an optimal date to allow the collection to be relocated to the new facility. Based on the

latest contractor schedule received, which shows the Dry Creek Bed being finished at the end of March, it may not prove feasible to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Twin Oaks Branch Library until sometime near the end of April, 2010, under the best of circumstances.

Howson Branch Library Reroof Project: During the last several weeks, the Library Facilities Services Division has made significant progress towards completing this important branch library renovation project. At the time of the Final Electrical Inspection, the City of Austin determined that the building should be retrofitted with a main electrical service disconnect switch, and by October 26th, this upgrade had been implemented and activated. This improvement has brought the 1960 Howson Branch Library into complete compliance with current City of Austin electrical code requirements. Within this time period, the Library Facilities Services has also successfully negotiated and executed a contract to redress the moisture intrusion in the building's foundation, a discovered problem which has delayed the reopening of the facility to the public. On November 16th, Library Facilities Services and the general contractor began working closely on the arduous process of protecting the foundation slab from moisture penetration as well as with the overall weatherization of the building envelope. Precautionary steps such as removing excess landscaping and leveling the soil around the building were initiated before November 16th to pave the way for the comprehensive weatherization of the building now underway. The Library Department and other entities working on this project understand the importance of the Howson Branch Library to the surrounding community and are fully aware that the project's delay due to the need to redress a previously hidden condition has greatly inconvenienced our customers. The Library Department appreciates the patience exhibited by its many supporters in the area while the Howson Branch Library is made ready to celebrate reopening in April, 2010. At the time of reopening, we are confident that the revamped Howson Branch Library will stand as an exemplary model of the City of Austin's commitment to sustainable building practices while retaining the charm and character of the community it serves.

Cepeda Music Garden Project: On October 28th, Cotera & Reed Architects presented their completed design for the Cepeda Music Garden Project to representatives from the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation, the Austin Public Library Department as well as to a number of key stakeholders. The design is marked by thoughtful integrations of various East Austin musicians' work as an expandable exhibit incorporated in the walls of the gardens. Likewise noteworthy is the articulation of the trellis above the pathways symbolizing notes from musical scores; the trellis, itself, is planned to be artfully construed from reused oil rig drilling pipes in keeping with the City of Austin's sustainability initiatives. An 80% complete set of project drawings, for pricing purposes, was submitted to the Friends Foundation and the Library Department at the October 28th meeting. The Austin Public Library Friends Foundation, in alliance with a number of stakeholder groups, is currently considering a number of avenues for raising additional funding for the work at hand in hopes that the entire scope of the project might be carried through to completion at this time, rather than staging it in successive phases of construction spread over a number of years.

Security Camera Installation Project: The Communications and Technology Management Department has now paid its vendor, TAC Systems Integration Group (TAC), for the delivery of all the cameras needed for the Austin Public Library's

Security Camera Installation Project. The Communications and Technology Department (CTM) along with the Austin Public Library Department (APL) are now awaiting shipment of the other various equipment parts, such as brackets and adapters, needed to physically mount security cameras in the planned locations throughout the Austin Public Library's inventory of properties. It is worrisome that TAC is reported to have missed several opportunities recently on other City projects regarding key deliverables. However, CTM has now initiated an escalation review process for TAC's performance and the management of TAC has demonstrated an active interest in complying with their contract requirements. It is now hoped that all of the ordered video surveillance equipment will be delivered to the City of Austin prior the end of the current calendar year so that The Austin Public Library Security Camera Installation Project may soon be carried through to successful completion.

Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Suppression Sprinkler System Upgrade Project: The Library Department received the final PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) for the existing fire suppression sprinkler system at the Zaragoza Warehouse on Monday, October 19, 2009. It was subsequently determined that the least expensive option recommended by the engineering consultants still exceeds the funding currently allocated for the project. A commissioning agent's input has been sought to identify any tasks which might be possible to address by in-house work forces, as well as any existing conditions which are exempt from corrective actions as they were deemed within compliance to building codes at the time of original construction. The Library Department will analyze the commissioning agent's report with the intention of balancing the scope of the project with the available budgetary resources in order that the engineers may then be directed to move forward with the design and construction phases of providing an upgraded fire suppression sprinkler system for the Zaragoza Warehouse.

Austin History Center Wheelchair Lift Retrofit Project: The Library Department's architectural consultant for this project has delivered completed Construction Drawings and Specification Manuals as per schedule, and Library Facilities Services personnel are now reviewing these documents for accuracy before advertising the work for contractor proposals. Installation of this ramp will greatly enhance accessibility to the Austin History Center building, itself, while creating handicapped parking spaces closer to the facility as well, specific improvements which have both been long requested by the handicapped community in Austin.

Media Relations

A total of 15 news releases were initiated in October.

Central Library Services

The Austin Public Library is glad to announce a new service— Personal Picks. Customers can find Personal Picks on the Good Reads page. Customers can fill out a short online form to get personalized book suggestions based on what books they have enjoyed. Customers provide as much (or as little) information that they would like about their reading interests and Faulk Central librarians will email a list of three titles with active links to the catalog. The list will take a couple of days, but only because the librarians are working hard to find great books.
<http://www.austinlibrary.com/advice/>

Austin History Center

Programming & Outreach

- Photo Curator Daniel Alonzo gave a presentation about the projects to digitize the Jones Glass Plates collection and the Neal Douglass Collection at the TLA District meeting on October 16.
- The AHC hosted a successful Archives Clinic on Saturday, October 31. 27 people brought in their questions and/or personal archives and consulted with 17 area archivists and archives students. This event was the culmination of a week's worth of activities to celebrate Archives Week in Austin. On October 15, Councilmember Chris Riley read a Mayor Proclamation designating this week as Archives Week.
- Video Archivist Tim Hamblin played an AHC music archives "sampler" at the October Music Commission meeting, which was broadcasted on Channel 6, and received some great feedback from the Commission and the public.
- Manager Mike Miller gave a tour of the AHC to 11 Girl Scouts on Thursday, October 29. The girls enjoyed the current exhibit, "Not a Museum," looking at old maps of Austin, and reading through the file on "Ghosts." They asked many questions about Austin history and how Archives in general, and the AHC specifically, work.

Reference

- During October staff responded to 1136 reference inquiries. Staff provided assistance and access to architectural drawings to Travis County as they prepare for a renovation of the Heman Sweatt Courthouse next spring as well as worked with folks producing a documentary on Blaze Foley.

Collections

- Archives staff encoded a number of archival finding aids into Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and place them on the Internet at the TARO website. Collections placed online include: AR.2009.045 Whitney Milam Video Collection, AR.2007.024 Gordon and Josephine Bailey Papers, AR.2009.069 Noel P. Amstead Papers, AR.2009.060 Austin (Tex.). City Council. Mark Spaeth Records, AR.2005.039 Rev. Bruno C. Schmidt Papers, AR.2009.061 Austin (Tex.). City Council. Ronney Reynolds Records, AR.2007.025 E. H. Yeiser Papers, and AR.O.004 American History Club Records. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html
- Once again, the AHC is hosting students taking the Archival Enterprise class at the University of Texas. The AHC has 3 student groups working on projects processing AR.2009.051 Peggy Brown Papers, AR.2008.001 Business Success Center Records, and AR.2000.008 Austin Women's Club.
- Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung acquired 2 new archival collections. She received a donation from Foo Swasdee, a local Thai businesswoman, and from Joe Lung, Jr., including many original photographs of the Lung family and Joe Lung Café.

Publications

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for publication in an upcoming fundraising calendar for the French Legation Museum, an upcoming publication of the Young Men's Business League, and as client gifts for Abaustin.com.

Exhibits

- The AHC opened a new photo exhibit in the Reception Room. This new exhibit includes prints from the newly digitized Jones Glass Plates collection, documenting Austin 1880-1900. The images will be up until April 2010.

Volunteer Services

In October the Austin Public Library had 162 volunteers that accounted for 1,621.75 work hours.

Youth Services

In October, Children's Services staff members continued our

fall programming season, and got ready for November's Austin Children's Book Week as well as the new systemwide Leaf for a Leaf program. Here are some of the highlights for the month: Debbie Keith has a glowing account of the Kids In Space! Program she hosted at AOQ on October 13. She thanked the many people who helped install the beautiful satellite imagery that will take up permanent residence in AOQ's meeting room, as well as everyone who helped put on the program, including: Patrick Hughey, Floyd Hodge, Crystal Pirone, Pat Campbell, Heath Rezabek, Ambray Gonzales, Karen Carlson, Sarah Cronin, and Elizabeth Murphy. About the program, Debbie wrote that everyone in attendance created art, many enjoyed the Celestia program demonstration from Heath Rezabek, and the robot demonstrations Karen had arranged for with some students from UT were quite popular. The program was attended by 55 young people, which is a very high number for an afternoon activity, and speaks to the interest in the program itself.

In addition to being a wonderful early literacy opportunity for children and caregivers, storytime is often the training ground for many other life lessons, including the generosity on demonstration in this story: Celia Holm is the children's librarian at ALW, and spends her Tuesdays working at ASR, as part of that branch's Youth Team. In her storytimes, Celia likes to pass out stickers to participants at the end of the program, as an alternative to the stamps often applied to little hands after a storytime program at APL. One morning in October, as she was preparing to pass out stickers at the end of a program, a young participant presented Celia with a brand new sheet of stickers, which she and her mother indicated were to be passed out in addition to the stickers Celia already had. As Celia says, "What a sweet gesture!" We are taking the threat of flu seriously in ACYS this fall, and we hope that our vigilance will pay off in as few absences as possible. In testament of this fact is Elizabeth Murphy, children's librarian at AYB. She got her first-ever flu shot this year, and writes that "the only thing that hurt was removing the bandage."

Despite our efforts to keep everyone healthy, we have noticed a slight uptick in absences due to employees' or their families' illnesses. One week in October, we had four of the 9 Children's librarians out for some part of the week. Stephanie Shipman, Children's Librarian at ATO, was asked to present a bilingual Spanish storytime, and writes: "I was a little intimidated, but it went well. The parents and kids were very forgiving and helpful." While we hope not to have to make last-minute substitutions for our programs, we are glad to have such a capable and willing staff.

Heather Valdez, at the AOK branch, is excited about the upcoming Royal Bank of Canada Bluewater Grant the branch is receiving. The branch will be offering MP-3 tours of the watershed area behind the building for customers to use.

Aubrey Sanders, Children's Librarian at the North Village Branch, enjoyed having the opportunity to visit the Lucy Read preschool's literacy night. She writes: "I'm really happy about the Lucy Read Night, it was the biggest outreach I've been to. I got to use some of my Spanish (limited though it is) to communicate and invite folks to the branch."

Many of the youth librarians use bubbles after storytimes, especially after Lapsit programs for babies.

Suzanne Sanders, children's librarian at APH, has this wonderful story about a first experience at her lapsit program: "At lapsit, I was blowing bubbles and as bubbles were raining down on the babies, one little guy (Sergio) tried to catch a bubble in his mouth. Wonder of wonders – he caught one! But then...the expression on his little face was one of complete horror! I could almost see his little mind thinking, "But...wait a minute! That was horrid!"

After some deep thought (I could see his little brow furrowing) he decided he needed another taste - just to make sure – and opened his mouth to the heavens for another bubble bite. His mother and I laughed so hard!”

Program Services

The BiblioFiles Book Cart Drill Team is gearing up for an appearance in the First Night Austin 2010 procession that walks down Congress Avenue, past City Hall and over the 1st Street Bridge between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. on December 31, 2009. The theme for this year's event is Illumination. Library staff, volunteers and family members are invited to join us in the procession. Contact Anita Joye Rizley, Bibliofile Captain if you are interested in participating. Anita can be reached at 512. 974.9824 or email at anita.rizley@ci.austin.tx.us .

The Literature LIVE! theater troupe is currently performing Winter Tales and Tunes at all library locations. The program has garnered numerous positive comments from the public indicating their love of stories and songs. This is a great holiday program for families. Featured presenters are Karen Carlson, Ambray Gonzales and Kathleen Houlihan.

Anita Joye Rizley, Youth Program Coordinator is attending a Mental Health First Aid Training program and will complete the certification course in December.

Devo Carpenter and Ellen Scott, Youth Program Specialists attended the 2nd Annual HACA Parent Leader Summit in November. Devo and Ellen provided a library resource table and they presented a storytime program for children in attendance. The event was sponsored by Family Connections.

Kathleen Houlihan, Youth Program Librarian attended the Texas Library Association D3 meeting featuring sessions on Health Information for Youth, Productivity Software, and Music for Children.

Kathleen Houlihan, Youth Program Librarian has been asked to serve on the Texas Teens Read Advisory Committee (TTRAC). This committee advises the Texas State Library and Archives Commission on Texas Teens Read, an annual statewide summer reading program for young adults. The Advisory Committee gives input into the theme, authors for the program manual, illustrators for artwork, promotional items, and other aspects of the teen summer reading program.

Teen Services

In October, Teen Services continued its fall programming for teens and tweens across the system. We celebrated Teen Read Week (October 17-24) with the theme “Read Beyond Reality” and several special events, including a fashion show and book trailer moviemaking class. We began working with the architects for the New Central Library, and scheduled a special input session with teens at Austin High School. (This session will be a highlight of our November events).

Here are some anecdotes from Teen Services staff for September: Brazos Price - My number one success this month was helping Devo Carpenter do a library tour at ACE with 3 boys who were at the Leadership Academy. Devo turned them over to me for a portion of their tour and I did a brief Database presentation on the Connected Youth Laptops and talked to the boys about the library and the types of materials that they had. One of the boys recognized me and we talked a bit about books that he had read that I had recommended. It was customer service success story! In the aforementioned success there was a mini part of the program where I asked the boys to find something out using a traditional web based search. They didn't have any luck finding it and I was able to explain at a surface level the concept of the dark web. This was really interesting and it's something that I'm hoping to do more of in the future.

Sarah Cronin - My read alouds were very successful this month. I

had about 4 youth that attended all of them, and often had about 6 attendees. On 10/30, I did a Halloween craft and one of the girls asked if I would read a story and commented on how much she liked that I read them stories. The non-fiction book club was also a good success. One boy read a book about aliens ahead of time and we discussed that book, and we read aloud about aliens for an extra 10 minutes because the attendees were so interested in the topic.

Jenn Hartley - Excitement was very high for Southeast's first Tunnels of Terror this month. Kids and teens begged me to keep time for them so that they could earn tickets to the event. I took 400 tickets over to Widen Elementary and the librarian came over for 150 more later that week. I also took tickets to Langford Elementary and had a teacher call to confirm that more tickets could be earned at the event. With the help of my fabulous colleagues (Patti, Suzanne, Nicole, Elva, and Sandy Pence) as well as advice and assistance from the AUH staff (including Michelle), we created amazing tunnels and had a wonderful event. The branch staff was very supportive and excited about the event. The kids are already looking forward to next year.

Rachel Wilson - For the first time, I invited the storytime kids to wear their Halloween costumes for the storytime on the 29th. I advertised each Thursday at storytime in October. When the 29th rolled around, I put on my own witch costume (I couldn't ask them to come in costume and then not have one myself!) and waited for the kids to come. Everyone was about 5 minutes late and I started thinking for whatever reason, I wouldn't have anyone show up. Suddenly, Dora the Explorer walked in. She was soon followed by a woman and the group of kids she watches. She told me that costumes would have been too much to get the kids dressed and out the door (she usually has 4-5 kids), so she had painted their faces. I could see they were all animals and then she said “But guess which animals they are!” Turns out she had painted each of them as characters from books; there was a lion from “Dear Zoo”, a leopard from “Put Me in the Zoo” and a few others. It was quite the fun storytime!

Alison O'Reilly - I had to present at the Training Committee meeting about some of the challenges with the Expert/Apprentice program the way it's currently set up. It's always challenging to report on unsuccessful results, but I feel I presented the challenges accurately and in such a way that opened discussion and paved the way for positive changes. I worked on October 31st – the day of the Texas Book Festival – and right after the Bluebonnet list was announced, a mother and daughter came to Faulk to look for the books. I was very excited to see we had most of the books in our collection, and the young girl was kind enough to let me make a copy of her list. She left with a pile of books in her hands and a big smile on her face.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- November 25: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up.
- November 25: 6:00 p.m., University Hills Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- November 26: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Espanol offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with learners under the guidance of a Spanish speaking facilitator.
- November 28: 11:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Espanol offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with learners under the guidance of a Spanish speaking facilitator.
- November 28: 2:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.

- November 28: 3:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- November 30: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- November 30: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 1: 6:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practice and learn Spanish as a foreign or second language with ¡Qué me cuentas! Through reading and discussion of Latin-American cuentos, or short stories, the class offers a unique way to learn and practice Spanish. 40% proficiency in Spanish is preferred, but if you feel you are not yet at this level, join us and we will help you.
- December 1: 6:30 p.m., Windsor Park Branch. Lights. Camera. Austin. screens Sweethearts of the Prison Rodeo.
- December 1: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch. The Adult Poetry Circle Meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., December 1. This is a safe environment, intended to nurture creativity. Participants will be encouraged to share and workshop creative work, but individual comfort levels will be respected. Please bring poems you've written. Beginning and advanced poets welcome.
- December 1: 7:30 p.m., Milwood Branch. Books to Movies Club
- December 2: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up.
- December 2: 6:00 p.m., University Hills Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 2: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 3: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Espanol offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with learners under the guidance of a Spanish speaking facilitator.
- December 5: 11:00 a.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Espanol offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with learners under the guidance of a Spanish speaking facilitator.
- December 5: 2 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Holiday Open House
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- December 7: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 7: 6:30 p.m., Manchaca Branch Road. Classic Western Films. Hitch up your wagon and head to the Manchaca Rd. Branch for Classic Western Films at 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of the month, October through December. December 7th - Appaloosa (2008) ***made possible in part by a grant from the 2009 Texas Book Festival.
- December 7: 6:30 p.m., Hampton Branch at Oak Hill. The Breathing Life Into Words writing series presents Mining Words from Life.
- December 7: 7:00 p.m., North Village Branch. FACT Science Fiction/Fantasy Reading Group
- December 8: 5:30 p.m., Austin History Center. Behind These Walls Tour. Tours are held on the second Tuesday of every month, starting in the O.Henry Room at 5:30pm. Tours are open to the public but must be booked in advance by calling 512-974-7499.
- December 8: 6:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practice and learn Spanish as a foreign or second language with ¡Qué me cuentas! Through reading and discussion of Latin-American cuentos, or short stories, the class offers a unique way to learn and practice Spanish. 40% proficiency in Spanish is preferred, but if you feel you are not yet at this level, join us and we will help you.
- December 8: 6:30 p.m., Milwood Branch. Books to Movies Club
- December 8: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Branch. Windsor Park Branch Book Club
- December 9: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up.
- December 9: 6:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. Christmas Extravaganza for food, fun and entertainment.
- December 9: 6:00 p.m., University Hills Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 9: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 10: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Espanol offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with learners under the guidance of a Spanish speaking facilitator.
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- December 12: 11:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Espanol offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with learners under the guidance of a Spanish speaking facilitator.
- December 12: 1:00 p.m., Hampton Branch at Oak Hill. Holiday Open House featuring Austin Classical Guitar Duo Thales and Matthew, arts and crafts, and storytelling.
- December 12: 2:00 p.m., University Hills Branch. The 9th Annual Lighting of the Peace Tree and celebration.
- December 12: 2:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 12: 3:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 16: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up.
- December 16: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch. Club de Lectura (Spanish Language Book Club)
- December 17: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Espanol offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with learners under the guidance of a Spanish speaking facilitator.
- December 19: 10:30 a.m., Hampton Branch. Conversation Café. Hungry for conversation? Drop in for open, public dialogue on a variety of topics and add to the diversity of perspectives. Conversation Café will be open the third Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the large meeting room of the Hampton Branch at Oak Hill, 5125 Convict Hill Rd. The discussion will be led by Jo Virgil, Community Outreach and Information Coordinator in the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. Jo was formerly the Community Relations Manager for Barnes and Noble. She has also been a feature writer, reporter, and columnist for the Fort Worth Star -Telegram
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- December 21: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 21: 7:00 p.m., Hampton Branch. A World Lit: The Flame of Literature Book Club
- December 21: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- December 23: 6:00 p.m., University Hills Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
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Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries



