

# Austin Public Library Director's Report April 2010

## Highlights

- The Library is moving forward on the installation of security cameras.
- The Library is in the process of putting together the 2010-2011 budget which is due June 7. The Library is planning to meet with the Library Commission to share the financial forecast information.
- The Library Commission is invited to attend the APL Employee Appreciation Event May 14, 11am - 1pm at the Norris Center to help honor the winners of the annual APL awards.
- The Reception and Finale of the 2010 Mayor's Book Club is Friday, April 30, 6 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall
- On April 27, the AHC will open a new photo exhibit. "Pioneers from the East: First Chinese Families in Austin," co-sponsored by the Texas Asian Chamber of Commerce, highlights the history of some of the first Chinese individuals and families who settled in Austin. To commemorate the exhibit and to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a reception will take place at the Austin History Center on Wednesday, May 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A short program and tour will begin at 6:30 p.m.
- Twin Oaks will close to the public on Monday, May 31, 2010 to prepare for the move to the new facility.

## Facilities Services

**New Central Library Project:** Throughout the month of April, Austin Public Library and Public Works staff worked with the consultant design team of Lake/Flato Architects and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott to balance the New Central Library Building Program with the project's approved budget. At this time, it appears that the New Central Library Building Program will not be ready for presentation to the City Council and the Library Commission before June of this year. Adjacent to the New Central Library site, the City is pursuing design and construction of the Seaholm Substation wall as a public art project, a novel approach of creating art as infrastructure rather than the more usual provision of infrastructure with applied art. On Tuesday, June 2, 2010, a selection panel will convene, with a representative from each of the surrounding redevelopment projects – Seaholm Power Plant, Energy Control Center, Green Water Treatment Plant and the New Central Library –to review and evaluate the artist/engineer submissions received in order to select finalists for the substation wall contract award. The schedule for the New Central Library currently stands as follows:

- June 2010 ~ Building Program presented to Council
- June 2010 ~ Building Program presented to Library Commission
- July 2010 ~ Council Award of Construction Manager at Risk Contract
- July 2010 ~ Commissioning Agent Contract Executed
- September 2010 ~ Construction Manager at Risk Contract Executed
- Late Fall 2010 ~ Schematic Design Completed (30% Complete Design Package Delivered)
- Library Commission Briefed

- Council Approval Sought
- Spring 2011 ~ Design Development Completed (60% Complete Design Package Delivered)
- Library Commission Briefed
- Council Approval Sought
- Fall 2011 ~ Guaranteed Maximum Price Determined and Approved by Council
- Late Fall 2011 ~ Design Phase Completed
- Spring 2012 ~ Guaranteed Maximum Price Finalized and Approved by Council
- Spring 2012 ~ Building Permits Received
- Spring 2012 ~ Ground Breaking Ceremony Conducted
- Summer 2012 ~ Construction Begins
- Spring 2014 ~ Construction Completed
- Fall 2014 ~ Grand Opening Celebrated

**Twin Oaks Branch Library Replacement Project:** Although the contractor still has site work corrections to make along with interior and exterior punch list tasks to complete at the new Twin Oaks Branch Library location, the Library Department has established a schedule for closing the lease space Twin Oaks Branch Library at 2301 S. Congress and then reopening the library to the public in its permanent home at 1800 South Fifth Street:

- Monday, May 3, 2010** ~ Begin advertising to the community that the Twin Oaks lease space branch library will close to the public on Monday, May 31, 2010, and reopen at its new, permanent location on Saturday, August 21, 2010, at 10:00 AM
- Tuesday, June 1, 2010** ~ Close the Twin Oaks lease space library and begin boxing the collection for relocation
- June, July & August** ~ Work to turn the building into an operable, fully equipped and furnished library
- Saturday, August 21, 2010** ~ Celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Twin Oaks Branch Library with all due fanfare

**Howson Branch Library Reroof Project:** The Howson Branch Library reopened its doors to the community on Saturday, April 10, 2010, after eleven months of major renovation work was completed on the facility. The renovations, with a project budget of \$238,000, included a total roof replacement, a comprehensive asbestos abatement, installation of a moisture barrier on the foundation slab, all new interior finishes as well as a new furniture/shelving layout, or space plan. Roughly a thousand customers of all ages attended the event, sampling the Brazilian pastries, having their faces painted into glittering butterflies and other beasts, preparing bug collection jars or simply relaxing to the cool music of the Austin Jazz Workshop. Many of our customers arrived well before the 10:00 AM opening and waited in line to be the first to check out the latest fiction, reserve the meeting room for their monthly community meetings, participate in the free arts and crafts offered, inquire about all of the just installed sustainable features, or just to get the first glimpse of the new interiors. There was literally something for everyone at the event. Particularly successful was the revolving art wall, now featuring the art of twelve Casis Elementary School students, all with the single theme of African Animals. Many of the artists attended the reopening event and could be seen posing proudly

next to their artwork for the perfect photo opportunity. All in all, Tarrytown residents appeared to be thrilled to have “their girlfriend back”, as one happy library customer in attendance was heard to exclaim. Area children wrote “Welcome Back” with chalk on the sidewalks surrounding Howson as colorful testaments to how much the community supports and embraces their library. The Howson Branch Library Reopening was also featured on Austin Fox News with segments which aired on Tuesday, April 13th and Wednesday, April 14th, focusing on the sustainable features of the renovation project and the vital importance of libraries in the Age of Technology.

**Cepeda Music Garden Project:** This art garden project is envisioned to serve as a tribute to East Austin’s rich and diverse musical history. Designed by Austin’s own, renowned architect, Juan Cotera of Cotera+ Reed Architects, this project will be located adjacent to the Cepeda Branch Library, on a prominent intersection along the East Seventh Street Corridor – the major gateway to the City of Austin. Visitors will be invited to access this unique and wonderfully landscaped garden through an undulating entrance at the corner of East Seventh Street and Pleasant Valley Road. They will be able to seek refuge from the Texas sun under a playful trellis constructed from recycled oil drilling pipes which mimic the horizontal lines and spaces of written musical scores. Embedded in the brick walls will be found glass cases featuring artifacts from the careers of various Eastside musicians, whose recorded music can be heard by the mere push of a button. The Cepeda Music Garden is the Library Department’s largest cultural art project to date and is deemed by the community to be a fitting effort to recognize the significant contributors to East Austin’s musical heritage. At this time, the Austin Public Library Department is seeking a Capital Budget appropriation in Financial Year 2010-2011 so that this project may be carried through the Construction Phase to successful completion.

**Security Camera Installation Project:** The Library Department’s Security Camera Installation Project is now moving forward. A highly qualified project manager from the Communications and Technology Management Department has volunteered to work with the Library project team to insure that security cameras are soon installed throughout the Library’s inventory of properties in order to provide enhanced safety for customers and staff. The project manager has set a preliminary scheduling meeting with Library Department representatives on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, prior to her scheduling a Project Kick-off Meeting.

**Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Suppression Sprinkler System Upgrade Project:** Due to the shortfall between the current estimated cost of this retrofit and the amount of funding available for the work at hand, Library Facilities Services will seek additional funding in the upcoming FY 2010-2011 Capital Budget process to permit completion of the project. When sufficient funding is received, Library Facilities Services will then expedite finishing the project’s Design and Construction Phases. This sorely needed retrofit will bring the existing fire suppression sprinkler system at the Zaragoza Warehouse into compliance with current building code by converting it from a dry-pipe to a wet-pipe system. The renovation project will likewise allow the existing pallet rack layout to be retained, as it is required to enable full warehousing services to be provided for the Library Department. In addition, the wet-pipe system will better protect the wood-built warehouse from potential fire damage through the elimination of the delayed response time inherent with all dry-pipe systems.

**Austin History Center Wheelchair Lift Retrofit Project:** On

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 95% complete construction documents for the project were received by the Library Department from the architectural consultants. Those drawings and documents are now being reviewed and corrected by Library Facilities Services staff and will be returned shortly with comments to the consultants.

## Austin History Center

### Programming & Outreach

- African American Neighborhood Liaison Christie Campbell had a booth at the March 14 screening of *A Raisin in the Sun* at the City Theater.
- Photo Curator Daniel Alonzo made a couple of presentations. On March 10 he was a guest lecturer at the Survey of Digitization class at UT, and on March 30, he gave a presentation about photo preservation to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

### Publications

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in the Austin American Statesman, an upcoming book on the centennial of the UT graduate school, *Changing the World: Stories Celebrating 100 Years of Graduate Education*, and an upcoming documentary film on the celebration of Halloween on 6th Street.

### Collections

- Archives staff finished processing 11 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO website. These collections include the Jacob Fontaine Papers (see next entry), Stubbs Family Papers, Women Equality Day Papers, the Merritt, Shaeffer & Brown records, and many others. The finding aids are available online at: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse\\_ahc1.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html).
- African American Neighborhood Liaison Christie Campbell has been working on a project to document the historic churches founded by the Rev. Jacob Fontaine. Christie, along with photographer Grace McEvoy have visited 4 of the churches to capture contemporary images of the churches, most which still meet in their 19th century churches.
- Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung began a project to document the UT 10 and the creation of the Center for Asian American Studies (CAAS). The project includes collecting multiple oral histories of those students and professors who fought for the creation of this program.

### Exhibits

- On April 27, the AHC will open a new photo exhibit in the photo gallery of the David Earl Holt Reception Room. “Pioneers from the East: First Chinese Families in Austin,” co-sponsored by the Texas Asian Chamber of Commerce, highlights the history of some of the first Chinese individuals and families who settled in Austin. All of the photographs are part of the Asian American archival collection at the Austin History Center. To commemorate the exhibit and to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a reception will take place in the Holt Reception Room of the Austin History Center on Wednesday, May 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A short program and tour will begin at 6:30 p.m.

## Central Library Services

Austin Public Library now offers online access to Value Line Investment Survey Plus Edition. This includes the Value Line Investment Survey and the Small and Mid-Cap edition (formerly

known as the Expanded Edition). There is a link to Value Line on the Database home page, the A-Z list, and on the Business & Investment subject page.

To manage the cost, the database manager reduced the number of print editions from 13 to 5, so only 5 Library locations carry the print, but now anyone with a Library card can access Value Line from home. This is a good example of how APL is now having to implement and manage solutions to effectively provide online access to e-resources, as more and more publishers are providing electronic access to publications more cheaply and with improved access to customers, or are ceasing print publication altogether.

## Teen Services

March was a busy month for Teen Services. We completed the hiring process for our new Mobile Media Interns, the first of their kind, and began orienting them on the Teen Services program, as well as training them to offer multimedia and creative programming throughout the APL system. We also received clearance to post a Teen Services Librarian position which has been open for some months. Filling this position will better allow us to serve the customers in the northeast quadrant of the city. Also we will be bidding farewell to one of our longest running Teen Services librarians, Joanna Nigrelli, will end her tenure with us in June.

## Program Services

March has been an exciting month for Program Services. Literature LIVE! delighted audiences with a spring show offering of the traditional puppet show The Vain Cuckoo Bird. The show toured multiple APL locations in March, including additional shows for the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum and the Austin Museum of Art. This Latin-American folktale will continue to tour through the month of April.

## Children's Services

March was a busy month for Children's services. Several locations had special Spring Break programming, as regular storytimes and afternoon activities were on hiatus for the week. Many children's librarians also used the brief lull in programming activities to do some much-needed weeding in their collections.

## Grants

The Austin Public Library is pleased that the Texas Book Festival selected two libraries to receive \$2500 each for funding book purchases; Oak Springs Branch Library and St. John Branch Library.

Deborah Coronado at the Oak Springs Branch Library has partnered with the Austin Community College to provide first GED classes taught by instructors from the community college and then last year, daily classes in English as a Second Language (ESL). This Texas Book Festival Award will augment the Branch Library's materials budget to provide appropriate materials to support what these students learn in their classes and all library customers who want to improve their literacy.

With these funds, the Library will purchase 117 items to supplement the collection and help people gain the skills they

need to communicate and succeed. Oak Springs staff will introduce the materials in the Oak Springs Library GED and ESL classrooms, inform the ACC Coordinators of all ESL and GED instructors and ask that information be conveyed in all classrooms across the city. In addition, Oak Springs staff will contact the Booker T. Washington Collaboration of Service Providers, to inform others about what all of the member organizations are doing to serve this community, and explore ways to support one another in their missions.

Specifically to:

- a. Inform the group of the Library's new collection and request that announcements be made at appropriate programs in the housing authority areas of the neighborhood and
- b. Request publication in the housing authority neighborhood newsletter of a small article about the new collection.

Finally, fliers in English and Spanish will be prepared for the Library, the Housing Authority public areas, and the Rosewood Public Health Clinic. Each school principal in the area schools will also receive the flier.

The requested \$2500 Texas Book Festival Award funding provided to St. John Branch Library will be used to: (1) replace worn copies of Spanish language books for youth and (2) add new Spanish language titles of interest to children to the collection in the St. John Branch Library. One hundred and fifty eight books will be purchased. The Branch demonstrated a need for this funding using data from a December 2009 collection assessment survey where 25% of the Juvenile Spanish language collection was found to be in poor and close to unusable condition. Thirty percent of the collection is in fair condition meaning the items are well used, but not overly-deteriorated. Twenty five percent were in good condition and 20% in excellent condition.

The St. John community is known as a gateway for new immigrants coming from Mexico and Central America to our community. Hispanic residents are now the largest ethnic group in the St. John community. While the 2000 Census data show the population of Austin is 30.5% Hispanic, the data collected by the Austin Independent School District indicates that J.J. Pickle Elementary School population is 87.1% Hispanic, and 12.2% African American, with the remainder in Caucasian, Asian, and Native American categories. This is evident in the ratio of bilingual classrooms at the school with 4 bilingual Pre-Kindergarten classrooms and 2 English Pre-Kindergarten.

Branch staff plans to use the new materials in youth programming, prominently display them particularly during October 2010, and promote them to parents targeting two group meetings:

- (1) English as a Second Language classes offered to Spanish-speaking parents and (2) ADVANCE meetings. [ADVANCE works to strengthen communities through parent education and support in at-risk communities]. In both of the parent-centered opportunities, the Library staff will speak in English and Spanish about the importance of reading and the fun opportunities available to them and their children at the St. John Branch library. Sarah Cronin will be encouraging children age eight and older to create video booktalks about the new books they have read and with parental permission, the video booktalks will be "aired" on the Library Connected Youth web site.

## Recycled Reads

March revenue for Recycled Reads was over \$11,600 and over 3,300, people visited the store. We received donations from over

100 people.

More than twenty volunteers on average donate over 320 hours of their time to the bookstore. The volunteers range from high school students to senior citizens, and folks from various professions and walks-of-life including mother/daughter teams from the National Charity League and students from the UT Information School. Over 40 pallets of materials were processed from the warehouse and approximately 12 pallets worth of donations. Books Beyond Borders continues to keep pace with us, picking up 9 pallets of discarded materials per week. We have been able to streamline our discard process since Books Beyond Borders has provided Recycled Reads with wire book pens that roll onto their truck, eliminating the need to re-box and palletize books.

While for the first time since opening in February 2009, Recycled Reads did not host or participate in any programs. Instead planning took place for the following upcoming events: Earth Day at Waller Creek, the Green Living Expo at the Austin Convention Center, One Green Step, the Book and Bike Swap and the Adult Programming Kick-off

## Volunteer Services

### MARCH 2010 - STATISTICS

MAR - APL web visits	1289
Number of Volunteers	200
MAR - Volunteer hours	2,188.00
Volunteer Value	\$20.25
	<b>\$44,307.00</b>

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### April

- o April 26: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o April 26: 7:00 p.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch. Book Club
- o April 26: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o April 27: 10:00 a.m., Faulk Central Library. Computer Classes for Job Seekers. Looking for work? Need some computer guidance? Computer Classes for Job Seekers. Classes take place in room 201 on the 2nd floor. They are free and open to the public. Students may attend one, a few, or all of the classes offered.
- o April 27: 12:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch. BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners/Taller de Computación para Principiantes. Get started with basic computer skills. BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners takes place every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. Learn how to use the internet and email. This class is free and open to the public. Sign up is required.
- o April 27: 2:00 p.m., Hampton Branch. Steeped in Books. Have a book brewing in your head? Straining to let others know what you thought about it? Drop in for informal talk and tea to share your thoughts about what you're reading. Don't know what to read? Here's a perfect opportunity to pick up a few recommendations!
- o April 27: 6:30 p.m., Windsor Park Branch. Polish Films: Squint Your Eyes. The Austin Public Library and the Austin Polish Society present the Polish Cinema Series featuring 16 award winning films from outside the Hollywood paradigm. While Polish films tend towards hard drama and serious themes, this series

covers a range of genres and time periods, including several films with a lighter side.

- o April 28: 10:00 a.m., Terrazas Branch. Beginners Computer Lab/Taller de Computación para Principiantes. The Beginner's Computer Lab is offered every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the Youth Computer Lab at the Terrazas Branch of the Austin Public Library. Bring your questions about basic computer skills, how to use the Internet, and e-mail. Come with general questions about copcomputers, programs such as Microsoft Word, or resume writing. You can also learn how to use computers to find a job. The class is free and open to the public. No sign up is required. THIS IS A BILINGUAL CLASS.
- o April 28: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. Chess Club. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up. Historically women have been underrepresented in the chess world, so we especially encourage women and girls to join in the game.
- o April 28: 6:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. ¡Qué me cuentas! 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.
- o April 29: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.
- o April 30: 6:00 p.m., City Hall–Council Chambers, 301 W. 2nd St., Mayor's Book Club RECEPTION AND FINALE with Oscar Casares and Mayor Leffingwell

### May

- o May 1: 11:00 a.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.
- o May 1: 2:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 2: 2:30 p.m., Carver Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 3: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 3: 6:30 p.m., Manchaca Branch. Polish Films: The Welts. The Austin Public Library and the Austin Polish Society present the Polish Cinema Series featuring 16 award winning films from outside the Hollywood paradigm. While Polish films tend towards hard drama and serious themes, this series covers a range of genres and time periods, including several films with a lighter side.
- o March 3: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 4: 12:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch. . BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners/Taller de Computación para Principiantes. Get started with basic computer skills. BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners takes place every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. Learn how to use the internet and email. This class is free and open to the public. Sign up is required.
- o May 4: 2:00 p.m., Hampton Branch. Steeped in Books.

Have a book brewing in your head? Straining to let others know what you thought about it? Drop in for informal talk and tea to share your thoughts about what you're reading. Don't know what to read? Here's a perfect opportunity to pick up a few recommendations!

- o May 4: 7:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. Book Club
- o May 5: 10:00 a.m., Terrazas Branch. Beginners Computer Lab/Taller de Computación para Principantes. The Beginner's Computer Lab is offered every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the Youth Computer Lab at the Terrazas Branch of the Austin Public Library. Bring your questions about basic computer skills, how to use the Internet, and e-mail. Come with general questions about copmputers, programs such as Microsoft Word, or resume writing. You can also learn how to use computers to find a job. The class is free and open to the public. No sign up is required. THIS IS A BILINGUAL CLASS.
- o May5: 5:00 p.m., Oak Sprigs Branch. Chess Club. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up. Historically women have been underrepresented in the chess world, so we especially encourage women and girls to join in the game.
- o May 5: 6:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. ¡Qué me cuentas! 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.
- o May 5: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch. Mystery Book Club
- o May 6: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.
- o May 8: 11:00 a.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.
- o May 8: 2:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 8: 3:00 p.m., Sweet Home Baptist Church, 1725 W. 11th St., Music of the Great Depression. John Wheat, audio archivist at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, will speak about the Lomax project, funded in part by the WPA, to document American folk and roots music. Following his speech, the Church choir and singer/songwriter Guy Forsyth will entertain the crowd with songs from the 1930s.
- o May 9: 2:30 p.m., Carver Branch. Free Salsa dance lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 10: 4:30 p.m., North Village Branch. Comic Club. Ages 9-17 Our club doesn't read a specific book each month, instead we read titles with a particular character or group and talk about our favorites. This is a great way to get exposed to new storylines and share our viewpoints.
- o May 10: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 10: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 11: 12:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch. BILINGUAL

Computer Training for Beginners/Taller de Computación para Principantes. Get started with basic computer skills. BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners takes place every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. Learn how to use the internet and email. This class is free and open to the public. Sign up is required.

- o May 11: 2:00 p.m., Hampton Branch. Steeped in Books. Have a book brewing in your head? Straining to let others know what you thought about it? Drop in for informal talk and tea to share your thoughts about what you're reading. Don't know what to read? Here's a perfect opportunity to pick up a few recommendations!
- o May 11: 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. For more information about the Austin History Center please visit [www.cityofaustin.org/library/ahc](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library/ahc).
- o May 11: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry Branch. Book Club
- o May 11: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Branch. Book Club
- o May 12: 10:00 a.m., Terrazas Branch. Beginners Computer Lab/Taller de Computación para Principantes. The Beginner's Computer Lab is offered every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the Youth Computer Lab at the Terrazas Branch of the Austin Public Library. Bring your questions about basic computer skills, how to use the Internet, and e-mail. Come with general questions about copmputers, programs such as Microsoft Word, or resume writing. You can also learn how to use computers to find a job. The class is free and open to the public. No sign up is required. THIS IS A BILINGUAL CLASS.
- o May 12: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. Chess Club. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up. Historically women have been underrepresented in the chess world, so we especially encourage women and girls to join in the game.
- o May 12: 6:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. ¡Qué me cuentas! 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.
- o May 13: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.
- o May 13: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch. Book Club
- o May 15: 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. 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.
- o May 15: 11:00 a.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a

place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.

- o May 15: 2:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 16: 2:30 p.m., Carver Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 17: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 17: 7:00 p.m., Halcyon Coffee, Graphic Novels Book Club
- o May 17: 7:00 p.m., Hampton Branch. Book Club
- o May 17: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 18: 12:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch. BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners/Taller de Computación para Principiantes. Get started with basic computer skills. BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners takes place every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m. Learn how to use the internet and email. This class is free and open to the public. Sign up is required.
- o May 18: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch. Book Club
- o May 18: 2:00 p.m., Hampton Branch. Steeped in Books. Have a book brewing in your head? Straining to let others know what you thought about it? Drop in for informal talk and tea to share your thoughts about what you're reading. Don't know what to read? Here's a perfect opportunity to pick up a few recommendations!
- o May 18: 6:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Family Movie Night
- o May 18: 7:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Mystery Book Club
- o May 19: 10:00 a.m., Terrazas Branch. Beginners Computer Lab/Taller de Computación para Principiantes. The Beginner's Computer Lab is offered every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the Youth Computer Lab at the Terrazas Branch of the Austin Public Library. Bring your questions about basic computer skills, how to use the Internet, and e-mail. Come with general questions about copmputers, programs such as Microsoft Word, or resume writing. You can also learn how to use computers to find a job. The class is free and open to the public. No sign up is required. THIS IS A BILINGUAL CLASS.
- o May 19: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. . Chess Club. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up. Historically women have been underrepresented in the chess world, so we especially encourage women and girls to join in the game.
- o May 19: 6:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. ¡Qué me cuentas! 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.
- o May 19: 6:30 p.m., Manchaca Road Branch. Book Club
- o May 20: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.
- o May 21: 4:00 p.m., Southeast Branch. Anime Club.
- o May 22: 11:00 a.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos

Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.

- o May 22: 2:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 23: 2:30 p.m., Carver Branch. . Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 24: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o May 24: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries







