



## From the President



Dear Friends,

Summer is here at last. Fiesta has come and gone, school is out, the Spurs have won the NBA Championship—again! Be sure to encourage all the children in your life to "**Sail Away with Books!**" at the library this summer. Once again, the Friends are helping to sponsor the library's **Summer Reading Program**. Also when you are thinking of summer reading, be sure to visit the Book Cellar for great summer books! The Book Cellar has something to interest everyone!

We have a new Friends group starting at Landa Branch Library. They had an organizational meeting in March and still are forming their bylaws and choosing their officers. Of course, Landa closed June 1 for about six months because of work on its roof and grounds. The **Landa Gardens Conservancy** group has done a wonderful job of raising funds for the landscaping there. Landa will be a true "jewel in the crown" for San Antonio. The work is scheduled to be finished in December. Hopefully, the Landa Friends will be ready when it opens again.

Soon, the **Library District** will become an important topic. Please read the article in this issue of *SAPLings* about the Library District. I am sure that folks in San Antonio and the rest of Bexar County will be discussing this in the coming months. As Library Friends, we want to support our library system. In order to do that, we need to understand what the Library District entails and be able to explain it to our colleagues and neighbors.

In May, we had our San Antonio city elections. Several districts have new council representatives. The important Bond Issue also passed. Please, **let your city councilmen know how important our libraries are** to San Antonio. Call them, write them, e-mail them, talk to them in person. You are a taxpayer and they represent YOU!

Your Friend,  
Linda Nairn

## Central Library receives *Express-News* Critics' Choice Award for "Best Wi-Fi Hot Spot"

*San Antonio Express-News*  
Special Section Page 20J  
Wi-Fi hot spot: Central Library  
**René A. Guzman** EXPRESS-NEWS  
STAFF WRITER—June 1, 2007

"Sure, I could always have a latte with my laptop. But coffeehouse Web access just doesn't do it for me. I crave quiet. I crave elbowroom. Basically, I crave my living room couch.

"I think I've found the next best thing: Free Wi-Fi access at the downtown Central Library.

"All branches of the San Antonio Public Library offer free wireless Internet access. But what better place to immerse yourself in a wide world of knowledge than in the Central Library, the city's biggest, enchilada-reddest repository of knowledge?

"This is an information house, if you will," says **Ray Fraga**, SAPL department systems manager, noting students can do research or adults and the working public can do their taxes over the Wi-Fi network.

"Connecting to that network at the Central Library is a breeze, with a 1.5 megabit per second speed that like-

wise flows like the wind. I downloaded several audio and video podcasts while clicking between Web sites on two different browsers, all with nary a glitch. It felt just like home. Well, just like my home high-speed Web connection.

"It helps that the Central Library has around a dozen access points. Oh, and if your laptop needs plug-in power, you're sure to find a power outlet nearby.

"But as with any hotspot, it's all about the atmosphere. The Central Library's bright architecture, especially its soaring Fiesta Tower glass sculpture, makes a charming backdrop to any Web window. Whether you're with the kids, a special someone or just on your own, there's something blissfully meditative about losing yourself online in such a sunshiny setting.

"So who cares if it isn't the cozy cosmopolitanism of your favorite coffeehouse? The Central Library still serves up a unique sense of style sure to quench anyone's thirst for free information and entertainment, and certainly free Wi-Fi."

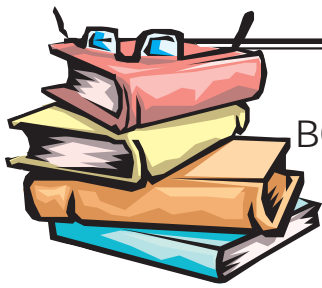
## Rick Riordan Visits with Al Roker

Lyn Belisle

**Rick Riordan**, author and past president of the Writer Friends, made an appearance on the *Today* show with **Al Roker** on June 15. Rick's book, *The Lightning Thief*, was chosen by Roker as the second summer selection for Al's Book Club, a nationwide initiative to encourage kids to read during the summer vacation months. Rick discussed with the young panel of readers how many books he

plans to write for the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, when he first fell in love with Greek mythology, and what it's like to be a writer.

*The Lightning Thief*, chosen as an American Library Association Notable Book, has been optioned for a feature film to Twentieth Century Fox. The second book in the series is *The Sea of Monsters*. And the third book, *The Titan's Curse*, was published this month.



# Friends of the San Antonio Public Library BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## McCreless — May 20, 2007

*Submitted by Sheila Figueroa, Secretary*

**Call To Order:** Bruce Gill, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

**Board of Directors and Officers present:** Bruce Gill, Sheila Figueroa, Nancy Gandara, Linda Arronge, Vera Banner, Betty Kelly Berry, Pat Brown, Aaron Konstam, Claudia Kohler, Rowena Rodgers, Judy Wilson, Evanleen Schmueckle, Anna Cleve, Ronnie Retzloff, Pat Konstam, Alan Cutler, Josie Martinez

**Branch Representatives:** Libbie Roussin, Dorothy Smith, Cathy Dean, Cynthia Massey

**Others Present:** Lora Eckler, Barbara Reagan

**San Antonio Public Library Administration present:** Ramiro Salazar

**San Antonio Public Library Trustee Vice-Chair:** Jean Brady

**San Antonio Public Library Foundation:** N/A

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and recorded.

**President's Report:** No report as Linda Nairn was absent.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Gandara distributed a report as of April 30, 2007. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and filed for audit.

### REPORTS:

**Library Board:** Jean Brady, Chairman, thanked the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library for all of their support. Jean attended an Urban Library Council Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. The Library District Commission Report has been pushed back to June 18, 2007. A report

will also be made to the commissioners in July. Due to the passage of the bond, McCreless will be getting a new site for a library. Jean encouraged FOSAPL members to reach out and speak out at any functions about the library.

**Library Administration:** Ramiro Salazar, Director, thanked the Friends for their support in the passage of the bond. There are a number of branches closed at present: Bazan, Carver, San Pedro, Cortez. Landa Branch will close June 1 for about 6 months for landscape and parking lot renovations. Ramiro stated that the budget process is now ongoing. Additional funding will be requested for books, computers and deferred maintenance. The Foundation will be participating in the Botero celebration. On May 28, a new service will be introduced—a receipt will be printed showing the list of items and due dates checked out from the library. There is much press on the printed receipts. There will be no more stamping of the books. Another project in the works is the RFID project. The Radio Frequency Identification stickers will be put into each book at the libraries that will help with self-checkout. The John Igo Branch Library will open some time in late fall, November or December. On June 2, the summer reading program kicks off. On May 6 the Young Pegasus Awards were held.

**Library Foundation:** No report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Arts and Letters:** No report.

**Book Cellar:** Aaron Konstam reported that the Book Cellar had a book sale in April that netted approximately \$7,400. There were seventy volunteers, which was a

record. There were many volunteers from Valero.

**Membership:** Claudia Kohler reported that there are 636 total paid memberships.

**Memorials/Honorariums:** Sheila Figueroa had no report.

**Newsletter:** Cathy Dean reported that the next issue may be an 8-page issue.

### OLD BUSINESS

An update on the bond issue was given. The money suggested for the library was reduced. Everyone needs to speak to their councilmen and keep asking for library support.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Audit Committee:** Judy Wilson volunteered to be chairman of this committee and asked for guidelines and/or procedures. This committee will meet with Nancy Gandara to go over the financial records for any errors. Bruce Gill stated he would give some guidance since Bruce served on last year's committee.

**TLA Convention:** Cathy Dean thanked all the volunteers for their hard work during the convention. There were approximately 8,000 people who attended the convention. Nancy Gandara stated that Mary McAfee arranged for some vendors, at the close of the convention, to donate their books to the library.

Cathy Dean reminded everyone that the Texas Legislature is still working on final appropriations. Contact your legislators.

Bruce Gill thanked the McCreless Branch for hosting the Friends and for the refreshments served.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.



The Friends, inaugurated March 23, 1964, promote public use of the San

Antonio Public Library and appreciate its value as a cultural and educational asset to the community and encourage the extension and improvement of its services.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Nairn . . . . . President  
Bruce Gill . . . . . Vice President  
Nancy Gandara . . . . . Treasurer  
Sheila Figueroa . . . . . Secretary  
Lee LaCaff . . . . . Immediate Past Pres

### BOARD MEMBERS

**2006–2008 Term**  
Anna Cleve • Alan Cutler  
Teresa Garza • Pat Konstam  
Josie Martinez • Janie Oosterveen  
Ronnie Retzloff

**2007–2009 Term**  
Linda Arronge • Vera Banner  
Betty Kelly Berry • Pat Brown  
Lucy Gale • Lou Harris  
Claudia Kohler • Aaron Konstam  
Pat Mendiola • Rowena Rodgers  
Evanleen Schmueckle  
Judy Wilson

### SAPLINGS

Newsletter published every two months for the information of member Friends of the San Antonio Public Library and others supportive of our ideals and activities.

Managing Editor . . . . . Alana Woods  
FOSAPL Editor . . . . . Cathy Dean

Southwest Research Institute® provides partial funding for printing the newsletter.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Lyn Belisle, Chair • Cathy Dean  
Nancy Gandara • Bruce Gill  
Rowena Rodgers  
Linda Nairn, *Ex Officio*  
Mary McAfee, *Distribution*

**Article contributions for publishing in the newsletter are always welcome!**

**The deadline for submitting articles and photos to SAPLings is the 15th of the month**

**(February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15, and December 15)**

Articles to be submitted should be a simple text file or in Word or WordPerfect. Please email files and photos to Alana Woods at <awoods@swri.org> and Cathy Dean at <ca-dean@sbcglobal.net>. Hard copy articles and photos should be mailed to Alana Woods at Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Rd., 78238.



## Brook Hollow

Brook Hollow Library has been the scene of a lot of recent activity by the branch Friends. Our spring book sale was a resounding success, generating over \$2,700 in sales. We are very pleased both with the large number of volunteers and with the excellent quality of donations we've received. All workers had a great time, and our customers took home a wide range of recent best sellers, classics, self-help books, etc., along with a large number of "other media" donations (DVDs, videos, CDs, & audiobooks).

Activity continues on the Friends' landscaping project. Last fall's plants are thriving, thanks to excellent rains, and our new spring plants are doing well in becoming established. We recently added a second layer of hardwood mulch in front, which nicely supplements the color of the various Texas xeriscape plants, enhancing the curb appeal of the front of the library.

Come by and take a look!

*Richard Bowser*

## Carver

The Friends of Carver Library will meet on the 4th Saturday of July. Our next book sale will be August 18. The Carver Friends purchased a book sale sign that will be hung outside the library where it can be easily

seen by all patrons who visit the library. This sign will enhance our book sale profits.

The Friends also purchased two books for Carver—*The Audacity of Hope* by **Barack Obama** and *The Brackenridge Colored School* by **Jerelyne Castleberry Williams**.

A donation was given to the Carver Friends by the Coliseum/Willow Park Neighborhood Association. We thank them for their contribution.

The Friends will purchase additional educational items for Carver in the future.

*Shirley Coleman*

## Cody

The Cody book sale was on May 19.

Cody hosted three authors: **Susan Wittig Albert**, who spoke on her China Bayles mysteries, set in the Hill Country, **Aaron Allston**, a *Star Wars* writer, which was a big event where kids and adults came dressed as their favorite *Star Wars* character, and **Diane Fanning**, a non-fiction author who writes about true-life murder cases.

Long-time volunteer and former Friends Treasurer Janna Lawrence moved out of state. She was a huge asset to FOSAPL. We'll really miss her.

The library is having several activities throughout the summer: Tuesdays are Teen Tuesdays (2 p.m.); Wednesdays are Cody's Family Movie Day (2 p.m.); and Thursdays are High-Tide Thursdays (11 a.m.) when we're having our special programs for kids. The Friends' are paying for the following childrens' summer programs: Illusions by Blake (Magic Show) June 7 (over 220 people showed up for that!!!!); July 12 is Magical Story-

telling by Donnabelle the Clown; and July 26 is *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* presented by the Steven Stoli Players.

For the One Book, One San Antonio program, we'll Relive Texas History on July 10 at 6:30 p.m., with "Tejano Militiaman" **Tom Jackson**.

We've pretty much completed the RFID tagging of the collection. We're only having to tag incoming materials and music CDs.

*Carol VanCleave*

## Forest Hills

Meanwhile, in another part of the forest....

The library is saddened by a tremendous loss of Library Director **John Powell**, who passed away June 12.

Other events/news include:

Storytimes are normally every Tuesday morning: 10 a.m.—Preschool and 11 a.m.—Toddlers.

Various beginning computing classes are held several times a month.

Presidios and Missions of Texas group meets at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month.

The Contrarian Viewpoints "Express your opinion!" Discussion Group meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

Keetowah: Promoting expression of indigenous cultures in contemporary America is held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of every month.

History of the Month Club meets at 9:30 a.m. on the third Friday of the month.

Rosary Beading Workshop: Indigenous crafting methods for contemporary crafts meets at 9:30 a.m. on the first Friday of the month.

The Forest Hills Friends will be holding a week long book sale in August.

*Johnnie Spraggins*

## Maverick

Maverick Friends acquired two new members this month and keeps on growing.

We continued to spend our proceeds from our previous two book sales with the purchase of two display cases for the library. One of these displays is currently filled with Spurs memorabilia. The other case contains information and pictures on the Friends.

Five of our members met to begin sorting books for our next sale on September 15 and waded through 15 boxes. Several more dates have been set to continue this presorting.

We are so pleased with our summer reading program and were happy to provide refreshments for the attendees.

*Rosalie Klepac*

## Memorial

The Memorial Amigos raised \$1400 parking cars in our parking lot during the St. Mary's Fiesta Oysterbake. Our treasurer **Dolores Zamarron** and member **Julian Castro** manned a booth at the opening of Neighborhood Place Edgewood.

*Rosie Castro*

## Semmes

On April 23, the Semmes Friends were pleased to co-sponsor a debate between the District 10 City Council candidates. It is always good to support community use of public resources, particularly when we can use the library to exercise our rights and responsibilities as citizens. We hope this is the first of many future forums that focus on improvement of San Antonio. Approximately 30 citizens attended the debate

*Continued on p. 4.*

and the candidates were confronted with a wide range of important issues for our city and region.

On Saturday, June 2, Semmes kicked off youth registration in the San Antonio Summer Reading Program, "Sail Away with Books." Our new youth librarian, **Randi Jones**, welcomed youngsters and their families and provided opportunity for program registration and crafts, including the making of bookmarks. The Friends sponsored a reception for the registrants and their parents at this time. Though youngsters could also register on line, by week's end, Semmes had registered over 300 summer readers. One registrant stayed the full two hours during the reception/craft period, and several helped the Friends corral the recyclable refuse from the reception.

Since our last Semmes book sale in March, the Friends have received multiple donations of sheet music and music/song books. The donations are in excellent condition and cover the range from classical, sacred, and popular pieces. While most of the music is for piano, there are some pieces for violin, guitar, flute, harp, multiple instruments, piano duets - and the list goes on! The most recent donation is a large number of books with current (and not so current) popular music (words included) that covers a good range (including Cowboy Songs!). Some of the collection reminds me of recent visits to a friend's Adirondack camp during which time we all sang around the piano. As Friends we look to find welcoming homes for some of our more unique book donations. If you

or someone you know would be interested in looking through the music (for the purpose of purchasing at reasonable prices!) before our September Book Sale, please contact **Judy Wilson** (210-656-9409) or **Christie Smith** (210-653-4103).

Have a good and restful summer.

*Christie Smith*

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## Thousand Oaks

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The Thousand Oaks Branch had a very successful book sale in May. The sale included many children's books and adult fiction books which were in especially good condition.

The group wasted no time in fulfilling librarian Chris Palmer's wish list for the library. Items approved for purchase included a laminator and color printer with the necessary supplies as well as furniture for the children's area.

The Thousand Oaks Friends are making plans to invite a local author to present a program for the public sometime in the fall.

*Leila Hileman*

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## Tobin Library at Oakwell

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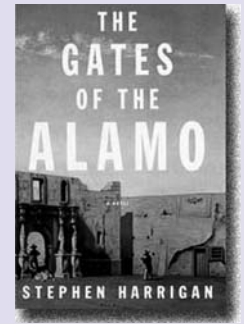
Spring was a busy time at Tobin/Oakwell this year. Our Native Plant Garden was at its best this year with plenty of bluebonnets, Indian paint brush, and other colorful blooms inviting visitors to stop and enjoy their beauty. We are still looking for help in maintaining this special spot during the hot summer months.

Staff and friends enjoyed a delicious Staff Appreciation Dinner at the Barn Door Restaurant on May 4. Each

## One Book. One San Antonio.

### ***The Gates of the Alamo***

*The Gates of the Alamo* tells the story of Texas' famous battle from the point of view of ordinary people caught in the tide of history, with a perspective that accounts for both the Mexican and Texian points of view. **Mary Mott**, her son **Terrell**, her lover **Edmund McGowan** and **William Barrett Travis'** slave **Joe** offer the Texas perspective, while that of Mexico is provided by two soldiers, **Lt. Telesforo Villasenor**, **Santa Anna's** mapmaker; and **Sgt. Blas Montoya**, who leads a company of sharpshooters.



### **Stephen Harrigan**

Former staff writer and senior editor at *Texas Monthly* magazine, **Stephen Harrigan** is the author of four novels and several screenplays for television, including *King of Texas*. Mr. Harrigan is on the faculty of the University of Texas James A. Michener Center for Writing. He is a member and former president of the Texas Institute of Letters and a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas. He currently lives in Austin.

– From Mr. Harrigan's website: [www.stephenharrigan.com](http://www.stephenharrigan.com)

staff member received a gift card for Borders Books and Music, and **Mary Ann Deason**, who retired at the end of May, was given a gift card from Bed, Bath, and Beyond. She and her husband will be moving into their home soon. We miss Mary Ann already.

Our May book sale was quite successful, netting almost \$2,400. We thank **Pat De Pasquale** and her crew for their dedication and hard work. **Fern Burke** is to be commended for recruiting so many able volunteers.

Sales like this make it possible for us to fund many special programs at the library. Our new movie projector has arrived and is being put to good use. **Debbie Martin** recently showed "The Little Mermaid" to her children's group and served refreshments during intermission. Many more film programs are

planned for adults as well as children. Summer B.A.C.K. PACK "Books and Crafts for Kids" is held every Thursday afternoon through July 26. Story time for pre-schoolers takes place Tuesday mornings.

Oakwell has a number of adult programs planned for the summer months. An altered books workshop to turn discarded books into pieces of art was held in mid-June. A session on mosaic tile art is scheduled for mid-July.

**Dagny Darnell**, a long-time member of our Friends Board, has tendered her resignation due to poor health. Best wishes to you, Dagny. We hope that you will be able to rejoin us when you are feeling stronger.

Our next book sale will be held Saturday, August 18.

*Joan Hildreth*

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## Book Discussion Guide

### *The Gates of the Alamo* by Stephen Harrigan

#### Questions

How did the story align with what you had been taught about the Alamo in the past?

Were there any parts of the book that you thought were probably inaccurate?

Did the setting of this book draw you in? Did it put you off? Was it a neutral aspect of the book for you?

Do you think that the book probably gives a good feel for what it must have been like for people living in that time and place?

Did you find the story suspenseful, despite some knowledge of what would happen?

Did it bother you that so many of the main characters survived the Alamo?

Did you find any of the characters particularly sympathetic? Why or why not?

Mary assumes when she first meets Edmund that he must have killed before. What do you think this says about the time and place, or Mary, or both? How do you think this kind of general assumption about what every man's life must be like might have contributed to people's feelings about war?

Some of the characters saw war as an opportunity for honor (see p. 229). Why do you think this was? Is it fair to say that they would have changed their minds after experiencing war? Do you think this view is still prevalent today?

What did you think of Edna? How well do you think she fit into the flow of the story?

Edmund and Mary: what did you think of their choices? Mary gets very frustrated, especially when she wants to sleep with him at the Alamo. Did you sympathize with her or him or both? Why?

Were there any stories or characters you wish had been followed further? (i.e., Isabella)

Did you find the end satisfying? Why or why not?

Do you think that this book passes judgment on what happened at the Alamo? How does telling the story from both sides change the way you read the story?

Do you think that the book does a disservice to the famous Alamo historical figures? Did your opinion change of Bowie, Travis, Crockett or Houston?

The book is lengthy. How did you feel about the side story lines such as Mary's initial attack with the Comanche or Edmund's initial horticulturist assignment/sickness/saving the girl?

Why do you think this was chosen as the One Book. One San Antonio. selection? Do you think it is a good choice? Why or why not? What kind of book would you like to see chosen next year?

#### Read-Alikes

##### **Alamo Non-fiction**

*Sleuthing the Alamo: Davy Crockett's Last Stand and Other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution* by **James E. Crisp**  
976.403 CRISP (2005)

*American Legend: the Real-Life Adventures of David Crockett* by **Buddy Levy** 976.804 CROCKETT (2005)

*David Crockett: Hero of the Common Man* by **Bill Groneman** 976.804 CROCKETT (2005)

*Uniforms of the Alamo and the Texas Revolution, and the Men Who Wore Them, 1835-1836* by **Bruce Marshall**  
355.14097 MARSHALL (2003)

*Alamo Traces: New Evidence and New Conclusions* by **Thomas Ricks Lindley** 976.403 LINDLEY (2003)

*Alamo Reader: a Study in History* 976.403 ALAMO (2003)

*Remembering the Alamo; Memory, Modernity, and the Master Symbol* by **Richard Flores** 976.403 FLORES (2002)

*Archeology of the Alamo: a Self-Guided Walking Tour and Personal Account* by **Herbert G. Uecker** 976.4351 UECKER (2001)

*Eyewitness to the Alamo* by **Bill Groneman**  
976.403 GRONEMAN (2001)

*Alamo to Espada: a Vintage Postcard Profile of San Antonio's Spanish Missions* by **Lewis F. Fisher** 976.4351 FISHER (2001)

*Alamo: a Cultural History* by **Frank Thompson**  
976.403 THOMPSON (2001)

*A Line in the Sand* by **Randy Roberts** 976.403 ROBERTS (2001)

*Alamo, 1836: Santa Anna's Texas Campaign* by **Stephen Hardin**  
976.403 HARDIN (2001)

##### **Alamo DVDs**

*The Alamo Volume 1* DVD 976.403 ALAMO (2003)

*The Alamo Volume 2* DVD 976.403 ALAMO (2003)

##### **The Alamo on CD**

*The Alamo* by Frank T. Thompson CD 976.403 THOMPSON (2003)

##### **Alamo Fiction**

*The Alamo: a Novel* by **Frank T. Thompson** (2004)  
LARGE PRINT FICTION THOMPSON

*Alamo Heights: a Novel* by **Scott Zesch** (1999) FICTION ZESCH

*Red Ripper* by **Kerry Newcomb** (1999) FICTION NEWCOMB

*Wave High the Banner: a Novel Based on the life of Davy Crockett* by **Dee Brown** (1999) FICTION BROWN

*Bowie: a Novel* by **Randy Lee Eickhoff & Leonard C. Lewis** (1998) FICTION EICKHOFF

## 2007 Kids' Summer Reading Club

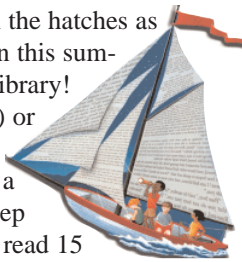
Sail Away with Books! ¡Navega lejos con libros!

June 1–July 28

W eigh the anchor and batten down the hatches as you set sail for a boat-load of fun this summer at the San Antonio Public Library!

Go online ([www.sanantonio.gov/library](http://www.sanantonio.gov/library)) or come to the Library to join the Summer Reading Club and get your reading log for a summer of reading fun! Use your log to keep track of how much you read. When you've read 15 books, return your log to the library to receive a book to keep and 2 tickets to a San Antonio Missions game.

You'll also find exciting activities all summer at every San Antonio Library Branch!



## Bon Voyage! SummerFest 2007!

As our summer of sailing comes to an end, we can't resist the notion of one last hurrah as our sailors return from the sea!

Join us on Saturday, July 28, beginning at 11:00 a.m., as we celebrate your summer reading success and relive your many maritime adventures!

There will be activities throughout the library, stem to stern. And don't worry - we won't lower the mainsail until 3:00 p.m. Stop by and be part of the fun.

Central Library  
600 Soledad  
Phone (210) 207-2621 for more information.

Thanks to our Partners!

FirstBook  
San Antonio Missions Baseball  
San Antonio *Express-News*  
Friends of the San Antonio Public Library  
Target  
San Antonio Public Library Foundation  
CPS Energy

## Memorials and Donations

*In Memory of:*

*By:*

Beatrice Ouellette

Pat R. Brown

Suzette Berry

Maria Pfeiffer and Lenore Karp

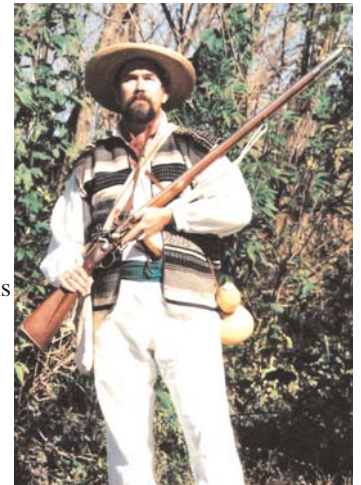
*Sheila Figueroa*

## Tejano Heroes

*Beth Graham*

Anyone who has been in Texas for at least a week has heard the story of the heroes of the Alamo.

This summer, the San Antonio Public Library offers a chance to learn what life was really like for the men of that era. Local attorney **Tom Jackson**, a sixth-generation Texan and certified Texas Living Historian, will present five programs on the role of Hispanics in the battle for Texas independence. Appearing in the authentic attire of a Tejano militiaman, he gives an interactive insight into the Texas of the 1830s.



"Tejano Heroes" will be offered at four libraries:

- ❖ Cody Branch Library, 11441 Vance Jackson Road, Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.
- ❖ Guerra Branch Library, 7978 Military Drive West, Saturday, July 14, 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ Semmes Branch Library, 15060 Judson Road, Saturday, July 21, 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ Central Library Auditorium, 600 Soledad, Sunday, July 22, 2:00 p.m.

All programs are free and open to the public. At the Central Library, one hour of free parking is available in the Central Library parking garage with a validated ticket. For more information, the public may call (210) 207-2500.

For more information about Mr. Jackson, visit his website at [www.texaslivinghistory.com](http://www.texaslivinghistory.com).

## Oakwell Best Friend



**Mary McVicker** (left) presented the Oakwell Best Friend award to **Norma Carmack** (right). Norma's husband **Ted** also attended.

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(With appreciation and apologies to Mark Twain)  
Rumors of Our Demise Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

Beth Graham

**D**uring an interview, Google founders **Larry Page** and **Sergey Brin** were asked, "Librarians must hate Google. Will you put them out of business?" Actually, in the information overload age, libraries are more relevant than ever. Like a commercial from a few years back said, "It's not your father's library." Sadly, the company that coined that slogan is no longer with us, but libraries are here for a long time to come. In fact, last year the San Antonio Public Library had more than 4 million visitors to its 23 locations, and they checked out more than 6 million items. That doesn't count more than 3 million hits to our homepage.

OK, I admit it. I'm biased. (That "our homepage" thing was probably a tipoff.) I work for the San Antonio Public Library, and it's the best job I've ever had, because I love libraries and because they are changing all the time, practically while you watch. You can still check out the latest bestseller or drop your kid off at storytime while you browse the shelves (and lots of people do use their libraries exactly like that), but there's more. A lot more.

**How much more?** As of this year, every San Antonio Public Library location (list of addresses at [www.sanantonio.gov/library](http://www.sanantonio.gov/library)) is a free WiFi hotspot. Anyone with a wireless-enabled device can walk into the Central Library or any branch library and log on to the Internet. FREE. You don't need a library card (although if you live in San Antonio or Bexar County you're welcome to get one, and we'd love for you to), you don't need to sign up with anyone, and you don't have to wait in line. Wherever you are in San Antonio, there's probably a public library near you. For anyone whose work or school schedule means you have to travel around the city, WiFi at the library is convenient and easy.

(As a sidebar, the library believes it's important that everyone have access to information technology. That's why all our branches offer free computer time for customers to check email, write résumés, look up genealogical data, or just about anything else you'd want a computer for.)

**Now, about those library cards.**

There are several good reasons to have one. Number 1: Go to our web page ([www.sanantonio.gov/library](http://www.sanantonio.gov/library)) and click on "Articles and Databases." What you'll see is a list of online resources with something for everyone, from the kid working on a homework assignment to an entrepreneur looking for information about where to make the next presentation. You will need a library card to access most of them. The good news is that both the library card and the databases are free—and if you take a look at the databases, you'll see that the selection includes resources that businesses and schools spend thousands of dollars annually to subscribe to. All yours, no charge with a San Antonio Public Library card.

**What else?** Your library has a huge selection of DVDs and videos, and not what you might expect, either. You're probably thinking, "Yeah, but who wants to watch a documentary about Soviet tractor production in 1957?" You're right: nobody. But what about *Ice Age: the Meltdown*, *Beauty Shop*, *Terminators 1, 2 and 3*, Disney's *Aladdin*, Bogart and Bergman in *Casablanca* (or the Marx Brothers in *A Night in Casablanca*), *Pure Jazzercise*, complete seasons of "24", or *Superstar: the Life and Times of Andy Warhol*? You can check out videos or DVDs for one week, FREE, and we're adding new titles all the time. Chances are if you can find it at the video store, it's at the library.

**More.** Whether you're a fan of hip-hop, ska, salsa, Mozart, James Brown, or the Beatles, your library has CDs and tapes available for check-out. Take a look and take home your favorite listening.

With your library card, items not available at

your neighborhood library can be requested and sent to you from another library in our system, or from libraries around the world. To find out more, visit our web page and click on "How Do I?"

If you want to keep up with what's happening at the library, go to [www.sanantonio.gov/library/news/signup.asp](http://www.sanantonio.gov/library/news/signup.asp) and subscribe to "Bookmarks," our email newsletter. Each month you'll receive an update about library programs, user-friendly technology, what library employees are reading, and more. Like most library services, "Bookmarks" is free.

For teens, there's the Youth(wired) webpage, [www.youthwired.sat.lib.tx.us](http://www.youthwired.sat.lib.tx.us), and both the Central Library Youth(wired) Department and Cody Branch Library have MySpace pages.

Coming soon: self check-out and downloadable audiobooks. All this, and you can still drop off your kid at storytime while you browse the shelves for the newest bestseller. Oh, and did I mention it's FREE?

### Brook Hollow Friends' landscaping project progresses



## Memorial Amigos



St. Mary's Fiesta Oyster Bake. The lot was full in an hour.



**Dolores Zamarron and Julian Castro** at the grand opening of the Neighborhood Place, June 16.

## Receipt to replace date stamps

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#185 06-19-2007 1:06PM
Item(s) checked out to patron

TITLE: The twelve universal laws of success / Herbert, 1944-
AUTHOR: Harris, Herbert, 1944-
CALL #: 158.1 HARRIS
BARCODE: 31551072894701
DUE DATE: 07-10-07

TITLE: Metro girl / Janet Evanovich.
AUTHOR: Evanovich, Janet.
CALL #: LARGE PRINT FICTION EVANOVICH
BARCODE: 31551070854497
DUE DATE: 07-10-07

TITLE: Motor mouth / Janet Evanovich.
AUTHOR: Evanovich, Janet.
CALL #: LARGE PRINT FICTION EVANOVICH
BARCODE: 31551076030480
DUE DATE: 07-10-07

TITLE: The rocky road to romance / Janet Evanovich.
AUTHOR: Evanovich, Janet.
CALL #: LARGE PRINT FICTION EVANOVICH
BARCODE: 31551070778514
DUE DATE: 07-10-07

TITLE: Life is short-- wear your party pants / Loretta LaRoche.
AUTHOR: LaRoche, Loretta, 1939-
CALL #: 158.1 LAROCHE
BARCODE: 31551067273099
DUE DATE: 07-10-07

San Antonio Public Library
www.sanantonio.gov/library
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*On May 28, a new service was introduced—patrons will receive a printed receipt (similar to the one on the left) showing the list of items and due dates checked out from the library.*

*There will be no more stamping of the books.*

## Nominations Sought for 2007 Arts & Letters Awards

It's that time again—the Friends annual search for nominations for their prestigious Arts and Letters Awards!

First presented by the Friends in 1972, the awards recognize and celebrate achievements by individuals who have demonstrated notably outstanding accomplishments in the arts and letters. Past recipients include local writers, artists, musicians, publishers, educators, entertainers, and others whose dedication and devotion to their chosen field have served to enrich the literary, artistic, and cultural life of San Antonio.

Nominations for the 2007 awards, to be presented in late October, are now being accepted. More than one

award may be presented. Nominations may be made by any individual, must be in writing, and must attest to the desirability and suitability of the nominee to be considered for the award.

Nominations must provide supportive biographical information about the nominee and include a local mailing address and telephone number for both the nominating party and the nominee.

Nominations must be received by the award committee before August 15, 2007, addressed to: **Friends of the San Antonio Public Library, ATTN: Arts and Letters Awards Committee, P.O. Box 461523, San Antonio, TX 78246.**

## The National Friends of Libraries Week

October 21-27, 2007

Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) says, "The celebration offers a two-fold opportunity to celebrate the Friends. Use the time to creatively promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership. This is also an excellent opportunity for your library and Board of Trustees to recognize the Friends for their help and support of the library."

Get more information at [www.folusa.org/sharing/national-friends-week.php](http://www.folusa.org/sharing/national-friends-week.php).

**The greatest gift is the passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination.**

**~Elizabeth Hardwick~**



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# Library District Commission Report

*Ramiro Salazar, Director; and Jessica Ramos, Special Projects Coordinator, San Antonio Public Library*

Work to possibly create a library district that will offer sustainable funding to operate the library system continues to move forward. The Library District Commission (LDC) wrapped up their work and delivered their final report with their findings and recommendations to the San Antonio City Council on June 20, 2007. The report's key findings were:

- ❖ The San Antonio Public Library fulfills a vitally important function in the community by providing free, open access to information resources.
- ❖ The San Antonio Public Library is critically underfunded and requires a stable, sustainable source of funding.

The LDC report included the following recommendations:

- ❖ Having determined that the Library District is the preferred structure, the Commission recommends that the City of San Antonio and the County of Bexar move immediately to formally endorse and approve the formation of the San Antonio/Bexar County Library District.
- ❖ Upon approval of the Library District, we recommend that the City of San Antonio and the County of Bexar begin the process of identifying respective candidates for consideration of service on the Library District Board of Trustees.
- ❖ We recommend that the City of San Antonio and County of Bexar accept Funding Scenario #4 as the preferred alternative to support the Library District. This requires a commitment from each of the governmental entities to provide financial support on an annual basis, commencing with the upcoming fiscal year. Over the course of years the level of funding must grow directly in relation to the physical growth of the communities serviced by the District. It should be noted that under Scenario #4 San Antonio and Bexar County's support would be augmented by the sales tax, but it would never replace their funding nor relieve them from the commitment.
- ❖ We recommend that the City Library Staff undertake a comprehensive transition plan designed to transfer the governance, operations, and administration of the Library System from the City of San Antonio to the San Antonio/Bexar County Library District.

The LDC also offered recommendations for actions to be taken by the Library District Board of Trustees once it is appointed. The recommendations included:

1. Calling for an election to approve a dedicated sales tax in May or November 2008
2. Developing business and civic support to undertake an initiative to support the passage of the sales tax proposition
3. The development and implementation of a formal information campaign to educate the community about the library's funding needs
4. The development of a strong working relationship with the Library Board of Trustees to facilitate the transition

of the library from a City department to an independent district

5. The consideration of a long-term contract with the City of San Antonio for administrative services
6. In the event that the Library District develops its own personnel function, employees transferring from the City would retain their existing salary and benefits.

Overall, the feedback from Council was positive and they were supportive of this initiative. Council strongly expressed the need to focus on an effective public information campaign before a sales tax election is brought to the voters.

Because the new district will have a countywide focus and will require support from the County, the Library District Commission is scheduled to also present their report and recommendations to Bexar County Commissioners Court. City Council is scheduled to take action on the Library District Commission's recommendations at their regular session on August 2, 2007.

The LDC understands the importance of the role key stakeholders, such as the Friends and the Foundation, will have in the creation of the library district. The LDC will be making a presentation to the Board of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library during an upcoming meeting.

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## BOOK CELLAR NEWS

All adult hardcover fiction is on sale for half-price at the Book Cellar during July and August. That includes novels, mysteries, large print, science fiction and westerns—all for 50 cents a book. The only exception is specially priced books.



Children's books are selling especially well this summer. The Summer Reading buy-one-get-one-free sale of all regularly priced juvenile and young adult books will continue through August, when teachers begin restocking. The sale includes fiction and non-fiction, hardbacks and softbacks—everything except easy readers and specially priced books. Easy readers will sell for their regular price of 50 cents for hardbacks and 25 cents for paperbacks.

In addition, the Book Cellar periodically has short-term sales that are advertised inside the store on particular kinds of overstocked books. You have to come to the store to find out what is featured that week. Please stop by and browse.

Book Cellar volunteers have received additional service patches for the past year, thanks to **Jim Wogstad** who compiled the hours of service and **Kay Wogstad** who sewed the patches on the aprons.

*Pat Konstam*

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## Form for Gifts, Donations, and Memorials

Honor a loved one with a remembrance for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because." It can also be a wonderful, thoughtful, and lasting way to honor the memory of a relative or friend.

If you do not want to make a contribution at this time, clip this form and save it for the appropriate occasion.

I would like to make the following donation:

- In honor of     In memory of
- Special event (birthday, graduation, etc.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (All donations are tax deductible.)

### Acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### My Name and Address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out in full, make your check payable to:

Friends of the San Antonio Public Library  
and mail to: **Sheila Figueroa**, Chair, Gifts, Donations,  
& Memorials

Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL)  
P.O. Box 461523, San Antonio, Texas 78246



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## FRIENDS of the SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Individual (Adult)            \$ 15

\_\_\_\_ Dual (Adult)                 \$ 25

\_\_\_\_ Individual (Teen, Ages 13-18)    \$ 5

\_\_\_\_ Patron (Per Person)            \$ 50

\_\_\_\_ Contributing (Per Person)       \$100

\_\_\_\_ Life (Per Person)               \$250

\_\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Branch Group \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Do not include my phone number in the Friends' directory.

\_\_\_\_ I'd like to volunteer at the Book Cellar (used book store).

\_\_\_\_ Please call me: I'd like to be an active participant.

**MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (or FOSAPL).**  
**Your contribution is tax deductible.**

and mail to:

Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL)

P.O. Box 461523

San Antonio, Texas 78246

(Note: Membership is from Jan. 1—Dec. 31. Members receive a renewal notice in early Dec.)

# INCOME AND EXPENSE DETAILS

April 30, 2007

Submitted by Nancy Gandara

	Budget	Mar/Apr 07	FOSAPL YTD	Groups YTD
<b>Income</b>				
Book Cellar Sales/Group Book Sales	\$65,000	\$20,448.28	\$28,368.73	\$11,710.30
Donations	\$3,523	\$983.00	\$461.00	\$1,738.25
Interest	\$6,250	\$1,050.73	\$2,055.02	
Membership	\$8,000	\$1,545.00	\$11,937.00	\$2,945.00
FOSAPL Income	\$82,773	\$24,027.01	\$42,821.75	
Branch/Groups Income				\$16,393.55
Transfer from Savings	\$37,227			
Assets to be Used During 2007	\$120,000			
<b>Expenses</b>				
Accounting	\$2,250		\$165.00	
Arts and Letters	\$400			
Bank Charges	\$50	\$12.75	\$24.25	
<b>Book Cellar Expenses</b>				
Advertising	\$2,000			
Commodities for resale	\$600		\$423.00	
Equipment & Maintenance	\$2,500	\$213.83	\$213.83	
Internet & software	\$200	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Printing / copying	\$200			
Recruitment of volunteer workers	\$750			
Salary & benefits	\$7,200	\$1,490.00	\$2,670.00	
Volunteer Appreciation	\$500	\$457.59	\$457.59	
Water service	\$652	\$70.75	\$138.75	
Branch / Group Operating Expenses				\$1,383.76
Bulk Mail	\$1,500		\$160.00	
FOLUSA Membership	\$100	\$100.00	\$100.00	
FOSAPL Committee Expenses	\$400		\$121.70	
FOSAPL Donor Recognition	\$1,000			
Friends recognition	\$300			
Insurance (bonding)	\$125			
<b>Library Support</b>				
Programming for public [all year, all ages]		\$40,000	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Staff development & training	\$40,000	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
Memorial gifts for FOSAPL Life Members no funding amt.				\$200.00
Various Branch / Group Purchases				\$17,980.09
Mail Box	\$100	\$72.00	\$72.00	
Newsletter Prep/Editing	\$1,800	\$600.00	\$800.00	
Newsletter Printing	\$2,800		\$1,005.08	
Office Supplies	\$1,500	\$103.87	\$103.87	
Parking	\$4,600	\$535.75	\$1,296.25	
Postage	\$623	\$81.80	\$81.80	
President's Expenses	\$350	\$70.00	\$70.00	
Sales Tax (Book Cellar and Branches)	\$10,000	\$2,209.08	\$2,863.37	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$122,500</b>	<b>\$46,067.42</b>	<b>\$51,016.49</b>	<b>\$19,363.85</b>

## Branch & Special Interest Group Funds

April 30, 2007

Accounts	Balance
Money Market Gold Account	\$135,705.22
Checking Account	\$59,668.40
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$195,373.62</b>
Branch-designated Funds	\$66,257.85
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$66,257.85</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$128,215.77</b>

## Branch & Special-Interest Group Funds

	Dec. 31, 2006	Apr. 30, 2007
Bazan	\$781.73	\$1,221.73
Brook Hollow	\$16,017.85	\$10,811.16
Carver	\$1,875.63	\$1,564.31
Cody	\$8,494.84	\$5,512.17
Forest Hills	\$895.87	\$1,030.97
Guerra	\$2,843.46	\$2,674.55
Johnston	\$1,031.76	\$1,641.37
Landa (pending official formation and approval)		\$20.00
Maverick	\$3,545.48	\$1,037.34
McCreless	\$6,053.73	\$3,523.46
Memorial	\$5,683.31	\$6,934.31
Oakwell	\$3,386.55	\$2,344.35
Semmes	\$1,370.88	\$2,620.24
Texana/Genealogy	\$12,711.31	\$13,762.08
Thousand Oaks	\$5,037.97	\$4,337.98
Westfall	\$4,674.98	\$4,798.44
Writer	\$2,267.39	\$2,423.39
<b>Total Group Funds</b>	<b>\$76,672.74</b>	<b>\$66,257.85</b>

"Thank you!" for these noteworthy 2007 gifts!

### EXTRA-GENEROUS "LIFE" MEMBERS

Ruth McLean Bowers  
Manfred & Mary Jane Groth

### "LIFE" MEMBERS

Betty Child Don Child  
Rose Marie McElfresh Barbara Steinhauser

### "CONTRIBUTING" MEMBERS

Richard Alvarado Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cheever  
Steve Edwards Robert Fulkerson  
Joanne Seymour John Santikos  
Melissa Shepherd Ruth Eileen Butler Sullivan

### "PATRON" MEMBERS

Alethea S. Bugg Mr. & Mrs. Louis Agnese, III  
Jeanne Devine Bob & Pat Flynn  
Peggy Ryan Mary Allyn Watson





P.O. Box 461523  
San Antonio, Texas 78246

**Address Service Requested**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
San Antonio, Texas  
Permit No. 865

## CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

*Because dates and times change occasionally, please call and verify information.*

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| July 10        | <b>Tom Jackson</b> presentation of Tejano Heroes, Cody, 6:30 p.m.            |
| July 14        | <b>Tom Jackson</b> presentation of Tejano Heroes, Guerra, 2 p.m.             |
| <b>July 15</b> | <b>Friends Board Meeting, Thousand Oaks Branch, 2:00 p.m.</b>                |
| July 21        | <b>Tom Jackson</b> presentation of Tejano Heroes, Semmes, 2 p.m.             |
| July 22        | <b>Tom Jackson</b> presentation of Tejano Heroes, Central Auditorium, 2 p.m. |
| July 28        | 2007 Kids' Summer Reading Club ends. Celebration at Central Library, 11-3    |
| August 1       | McCreless Friends meeting, 7:00 p.m.   |
| August 4-5     | McCreless Book Sale, Saturday-9:00-4:45, Sunday 1:00-4:45                    |
| August 18      | Carver Book Sale   |
| August 18      | Tobin/Oakwell Book Sale, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.                              |
| Sept 15        | Maverick Book Sale   |
| Nov 3          | Thousand Oaks Book Sale  |

**Note:** Each branch Friends group has a designated representative to the Board. However, these Board meetings are open to the general membership. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Carver Library  
3350 E. Commerce St, 78220  
210-225-7801

Central Library  
600 Soledad Street, 78205  
210-207-2500

Cody Library  
11441 Vance Jackson, 78230  
210-696-6396

Guerra Library  
7978 Military Dr W, 78227  
210-673-1492

Maverick Library  
8700 Mystic Park, 78254  
210-680-9346

McCreless Library  
1023 Ada Street, 78223  
210-532-4254

Semmes Library  
15060 Judson Rd., 78247  
210-650-9540

Thousand Oaks Library  
4618 Thousand Oaks, 78233  
210-657-5205

Tobin Library at Oakwell  
4134 Harry Wurzbach Rd, 78209  
210-828-2569