

Library Annual Report for Encino-Tarzana Branch  
By Lawrence Nash, Senior Librarian  
January 2020

2019 saw many improvements for patrons of all ages. Of special note are the many enhancements made for our Young Adult (YA) readers. In the YA Area there are two new Mar-Line rotor spinners paid for by our generous Library Friends. We were also able to repurpose a spinner that was not being used in the children's collection. It was moved to the Young Adult area. Now Elisabeth Calla can display all of the YA paperbacks, together, on the spinners, instead of on bookcarts. The YA DVDs were moved to the Adult DVD section where a wider audience could browse them. The YA Manga collection was weeded and there is new space for new titles.

A mobile, pyramid display unit was moved from the Young Adult area to the small entry corridor that leads from the security gates to the reference desk. This allows us to merchandise our collection. There are three levels of the pyramid and each level can display books and programs geared to a different audience: adult, Young Adult, and juvenile. The branch also benefits from a core group of artistic teen volunteers who contribute their ingenuity in crafting corkboard posters and displays.

The Friends of the Library expressed their interest in being part of a redesign of the Children's area. Currently the area has frayed carpet covered wood boxed seating. It encourages kids to climb and jump, but the area is not made of soft materials and could be a safety hazard to young kids. Friends President, Maggi Stern and I met with Chad Helton, Branch Library Services and Eloisa Sarao, Facilities and Events Management. We discussed our desires to create an attractive children's area that would be safe and inviting to parents and children. We laid the groundwork for the new area. Hopefully, it will come to fruition in 2020.

Encino-Tarzana continues its outreach to our community through key programs that are relevant and that resonate with our Adult patrons. In August 2020, Encino-Tarzana was chosen to be one of the branch libraries to partner with American Jewish University to offer a photo exhibit featuring historical Jewish fashions from different time periods and locations of the world. We were picked because the branch has a large Jewish patron base. A total of 22 posters were displayed at the branch. The display was written up in the Jewish Journal. It spurred conversations between the public and staff.

Other improvements have been made that enhance the experience for all visitors. The library book shelves that lead from the security gates to the reference desk were rearranged to make more intuitive sense. New Children's, Teen's, and Adult Books

each have their own shelving and are not competing with each other for space or foot traffic. The ready reference and the Language Learning books were moved from this area to the back wall. They are now closer to the travel and other reference materials. The small Hebrew collection that was on loan to the branch from Central Library was returned because it was not circulating.

Through the efforts of our dedicated Friends, Encino-Tarzana continues to have funding for many library programs that cater to different age groups. These programs keep the library active and they are among the many reasons our circulation is so very high.