

LIBRARY REPORT FOR ENCINO-TARZANA BRANCH
By LESLIE CHUDNOFF, Senior Librarian and Branch Manager
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Circulation at the Encino-Tarzana Branch continues to rank consistently within the top three branches each month, or top four when including our regional branch. Staff is kept busy at both the Reference and Circulation Desks. Our patrons are active readers; we are also amongst the highest in monthly holds.

We serve an enthusiastic community of good readers at all age levels. Our patrons had a chance to participate in Los Angeles Public Library's (LAPL's) first ever Winter Reading Challenge, Reading Takes You to the Top. It began on December 15th, when schools let out for their winter recess, through January 15th. The program was conducted entirely online and was open to children, teens, and adults. Each branch had a grand prize winner -- selected randomly across all levels.

Demand remains high for Hebrew books and two additional long term loans were requested from the Central Library's International Languages Department. Best-selling fiction titles by Israeli authors, as well as popular romance titles in translation were most often requested. Our own Russian and Persian collections continue to circulate well not only within the community, but also go to fill interlibrary loan requests from communities with branches not in possession of their own collections. Our Russian materials are now going to fill holds from patrons living in the North end of the Valley, as demographics in our region continue to change. Our branch serves as a resource for those patrons as well. We have added two Russian language magazine subscriptions to our permanent collection.

Regular programming at all levels continues to be well attended. We still have our regular Wednesday morning story times with our Children's Librarian and the guest presenters she invites to participate. We have active English Language Conversation Classes three days per week, which is more than any other branch in the Valley's two regions. Our weekly yoga class continues to grow in participants and is extremely popular. Our winter holiday concert, featuring seasonal favorites, Christmas and Hanukkah songs, as well as numbers from opera and musical theater, drew an audience of nearly 50 persons.

Our branch's contract security officer has had his hours increased to three days one week and two days opposite week. His presence has been a strong deterrent to would-be troublemakers, and has greatly reduced the number of our security issues. Patrons have commented on the positive effects of having an officer present, and how much it helps to provide us with a safe and secure environment for staff and public. We are hopeful that future budgeting allows for coverage daily.

Our vacant Young Adult Librarian position was filled in January and we look forward to providing activities, programming, and volunteer opportunities for the teens in our community. We are excited to welcome Young Adult Librarian EMILY APPLETON to our staff and she hopes to have an active Teen Council very soon.

The Encino-Tarzana Branch Library Staff look forward to a springtime filled with many exciting activities and programs for our community.