



FRIENDS
of the
OAKLAND
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

OFF THE SHELF

April 2016

FOPL UPDATE

Get to Know Your Grants

By Suzanne Fischer, FOPL Board

As we learned from our 2015 FOPL Membership Survey, you want to learn more about the specific projects your donated funds are supporting at the library. You spoke, we listened! Here is the first installment of “Get to Know Your Grants.”

One of the items on our 2015-16 FOPL grants list was “Library card wallets for preschool card drives and other outreach.” What the heck is that? Well, a library card wallet is a little plastic pouch – imprinted with the Oakland Public Library name – made just for carrying a li-



brary card. It is perfect for little hands and delights our youngest cardholders, who are eligible to receive one when obtaining their very first library cards.

The Children’s Services Department has increased its outreach to early elementary and preschool students over the past year. We know that the need to support early literacy is great, and that research shows early reading proficiency is a prima-

ry indicator of a child's future academic success. By welcoming young children as members in a community of readers, the library reinforces the importance of reading to children and their families.

The library is proud to make a big deal about this milestone moment in the lives of youngsters, and are grateful for FOPL’s support through the purchase of the wallets. Children take the responsibility of their first library card very seriously, and are so delighted to have their very own wallet to go along with it. The key ring on the wallet makes it easy to attach to a backpack, so that they are never without it.

For more information -- and a charming story – on how the library issues lending cards to very young children, please visit the library

website at: oaklandlibrary.org/category/tags/library-cards.

FOPL FUNDRAISER

Calling All Baseball Fans – Tickets Available!

The baseball fundraiser is back! Join us for a fun afternoon and support the Oakland Public Library! The Oakland A’s will play the Toronto Blue Jays in Oakland on July 17 at 1 p.m.. Tickets for plaza level in-field seats are \$37 each.

To purchase tickets, send a check made out to “FOPL” to FOPL – A’s Tickets, 721 Washington St., Oakland, CA 94607. We reserved 50 seats. For more information contact us at baseball@fopl.org or call Winifred at 510-238-6932.

Spring Sale at The Bookmark!!!
April 7 to 10 (Thursday - Sunday)

721 Washington Street
Oakland, CA - 510-444-0473

Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. each day during the sale

Thursday - 4/7 - Members’ Preview - 50% off
Join on Members’ Preview Day and get the discount!

And for all book lovers:

30% OFF - Friday, April 8
40% OFF - Saturday, April 9
50% OFF - Sunday, April 10

PIEDMONT SCHOOLS

New Friends with a Big Surprise

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator,
Grants & Volunteers



On February 27, students from Havens, Beach, and Wildwood elementary schools in Piedmont presented the Oakland Public Library with a check for \$5,451.93! On top of that, the older students -- trained through their schools' Reading Buddies programs -- stayed and read to lucky youngsters at the Rockridge Branch Library.

This fun event was coordinated by teachers, librarians, and parents at all three schools.

Their generous gift was the result of the "1st Annual Piedmont Tri-School Read-a-Thon," in which students raised funds for the library through reading. Needless to say, everyone at FOPL and the library has been completely charmed by the Read-a-Thon activities, and we extend a warm welcome to our new, young Friends at these three schools.

The Read-a-Thon proceeds have been designated for the library's Children's Literacy Programming Fund, which supports system wide initiatives -- including the popular Summer Reading Challenge and the new Winter Bingo program.

Many thanks to those who organized and donated to the Read-a-Thon, and read for the cause!

FOPL READS

FOPL Board Member Book Recommendations

Not surprisingly, the FOPL Board likes to read. Here are some recommendations -- all are available at the Oakland Public Library.

Gen Katz: **Ninety percent of everything: inside shipping, the invisible industry that puts clothes on your back, gas in your car, and food on your plate**, by Rose George. About container ships and the "Wild West" ocean. Would never have picked this one if it weren't for my book club. From cover to cover a fascinating story about people, why it pays to ship, pirate attacks and safeguards against them; goes inside these immense cargo ships and over and under the lawless seas.

Sheila McCormick: **The birds of Pandemonium: life among the exotic and the endangered**, by Michele Raffin. This is a fascinating book about a sanctuary for rare and endangered birds, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains. I thought it was an absolutely fabulous and compelling read, even though my experience with birds, at the moment, is 6 domesticated chickens in my backyard aviary! (nytimes.com/2014/09/18/garden/362-birds-and-unruffled.html?_r=0)

Suzanne Fischer: **2 A.M. at The Cat's Pajamas: a novel**, by Marie-Helene Bertino. This smart and charming novel follows a 9 year old Philadelphia schoolgirl who wants to sing at a famous jazz club.

Winifred Walters: **Rising from the plains**, by John McPhee. About

the geology of Wyoming and the fascinating lives of a Wyoming geologist and his parents, a Scotsman and a college-educated school teacher from the Eastern US, who make Wyoming their home in the early 1900s.

Judy Toll: **The bees, a novel**, by Laline Paull. This unusual and fascinating novel tells what happens in one orchard bee hive when the queen sickens and one of the sanitation workers, Flora717, refuses to any longer "accept, obey, serve".

Tam Hege: **Our souls at night**, by Kent Haruf. The last book he wrote before he died, set in Holt, Colorado, the site of all his novels. Featuring the spare landscape of the high plains and the small mindedness of the population, we view the unusual relationship between two elderly neighbors, Addie and Louis. 179 poignant pages that give one lots to think about.

Cristal Fiel: **Octavia's brood: science fiction stories from social justice movements**, edited by Walidah Imarisha and adrienne maree brown. Inspired by the renowned woman of color science fiction writer, Octavia Butler, this compilation was written by social justice organizers and activists. From the editors, "Whenever we try to envision a world without war, without violence, without prisons, without capitalism, we are engaging in an exercise of speculative fiction."

Ellen Moyer: **The crossing places** by Elly Griffiths. This is the first in a satisfyingly-ongoing series of murder mysteries featuring forensic

(Continued on page 3)

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archeologist Ruth Galloway, who lives and works near Norfolk, England. Her life becomes wonderfully intertwined with that of Detective Chief Inspector Nelson, who solicits her expertise in solving the mystery of the bones of a small child discovered on a nearby beach. Later books in the series have proven equally enjoyable.

FOPL EVENTS

“East Bay Gives” is May 3, help FOPL membership grow to 1000+ members

You know the Oakland Public Library lends books. However, are you aware that it also offers special programs (such as cooking, chess, gardening, and exercise classes), tax preparation and legal consultations, multilingual storytimes for three age groups, a tech job training program for youth, cultural celebrations, access to computers, e-books, streaming music, and more – all free of charge? If you love the idea of totally free access to books, materials, and a wide variety of services throughout the city of Oakland, please consider becoming a Friend of the library. Make a donation on May 3rd and help us reach 1,000 members! Our matching gift sponsor will donate \$5 for each new or renewing membership. The Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) and its 900+ members raised \$170,000 last year to support Oakland’s libraries. Join FOPL to make Oakland and its libraries even better! Here’s how: go to eastbaygives.org/npo/friends-of-the-oakland-public-library.

Save Room for Ice Cream at Fentons

Throughout the month of May, order a Myrtle’s Special Sundae and Fentons will donate 25% of the purchase price to FOPL. This will be the 8th year that Fentons Creamery on Piedmont Avenue promotes summer reading while raising funds for the library. Thank you, Fentons!

Book Festivals

FOPL will be at two book festivals:

1. Oakland Book Festival on May 22 at Oakland City Hall – oaklandbookfestival.org, and
2. Bay Area Book Festival on June 4 and 5 in Berkeley – baybookfest.org.

Come join us!

Exhibit at AAMLO

FOPL provided funding for AAMLO’s current exhibit: Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement. The exhibit will be at the museum through July 16. More info available at: oaklandlibrary.org/exhibits/heroines-civilrights-movement.

Melrose Branch Turns 100

Melrose will hold their Centennial Kick-Off on Saturday, April 9 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Activities for all ages and light refreshments.



4805 Foothill Boulevard
510-535-5623

oaklandlibrary.org/locations/melrose-branch?page=2

GIVING —

In memory of **Barry Rees** from Marc Snyder

In honor of the **John Mooney Family**

In honor of **Zachary Stockton & Sieka Chiarchiaro** from Patrick Stair

In honor of **Ruth P. Wenten** from Randy West and Robert Wenten

In honor of **Gerry Garzon and the Oakland Public Library** from Sophie Souroujon

In honor of **Kurt S. Bodden** from Lynn Carman Bodden & Peter JB Carman

In honor of **Patrick Cmacho** from Denise Nutt-Beers

In memory of **Miles Myers**, who loved books

In memory of **Luella Edmonds**, from her family and friends: Marilyn Cleveland, Martha Coady Sachs, Martha Green, Doris Jackson, Judy Martin, Martha McWoodson, Katherine Moore, Murphy & Valerie, Dino O’Neal, Cynthia O’Neal, Barbara Oseroff, Caroline Sachs, William & Christine Sinn

**Celebrate National
Library Week
April 10 to 16
“Libraries Transform”**



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If your membership has expired,
PLEASE RENEW NOW!

More ways to support the Friends...

- Share this newsletter. Ask a friend to join a growing organization – 925 strong – dedicated to supporting the Oakland Public Library!
- Leave a legacy by naming FOPL in your estate plan.
- Donate your gently-used books, CDs, DVDs, sheet music, and song books to The Bookmark Bookstore. Call **510-444-0473** for more information.
- Volunteer! To learn about volunteering at The Bookmark Bookstore and many other opportunities, please visit oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer.
- Shop online at Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library. To sign up go to smile.amazon.com.

Join Us!

Yes, I want to support the Friends of the Oakland Public Library!
Enclosed is my check payable to FOPL for \$_____

New (1 year membership)

Renewal (1 year membership)

Donation (\$_____in addition to my membership dues)

Membership Levels:

Book Angel \$1,000 or more

Bibliophile \$500 – \$999

Book Conservator \$250 – \$499

Book Worm \$100 – \$249

Book Friend \$50 – \$99

Family/Household \$35 – \$49

Individual \$25 – \$34

Senior (65+)/Student \$15 – \$24

Name(s) _____

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City/Zip _____

Gift in honor/memory of _____

Email _____

Go to fopl.org to sign up for book sale announcements

Contributions are tax-deductible (tax ID 94-2553734).
Make your Credit Card donation at www.fopl.org.
Mail to: FOPL, 721 Washington St., Oakland, CA 94607.