

April 2017

Get to Know Your Grants

by Sara DuBois

In 2014, the Teen Services department launched a new program – the Teen Author Series – with author Summer Brenner and her novel *Oakland Tales*.

Thanks to grants from FOPL, the

program continued in 2015 and 2016, and – we hope – it will continue to bring authors to speak with youth at the library for many years to come. These grants have paid for honoraria, making possible visits from:

Isabel Quintero, author of *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces*

Coe Booth, whose books include *Tyrell*, *Kendra*, *Bronxwood*, and *Kinda Like Brothers*

Kate Schatz (author) and Miriam Klein Stahl (illustrator) of *Rad American Women A-Z* and *Rad Women Worldwide*

Calla Devlin, the author of numerous short stories and the young adult novel *Tell Me Something Real*

Marina Budhos, whose young adult novels include *Tell Us We're Home*, *Ask Me No Questions*, and *Watched*

These events – most of which took place at Main – each drew crowds of 60-90 middle and high school students. The talk with Marina Budhos, in which she read from *Watched* (her novel about a Muslim teen under government surveillance) attracted a crowd of almost 150 youth to the nearby Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California.

Teen Librarian Brian Boies says, “Meeting a published author makes a big impact on young people. The chance to ask questions about the writing process, as well as the narrative itself, allows youth to see literature as a profession as well as a hobby. I’ve received a lot of enthusiastic and positive feedback from the visiting authors, teachers, and young people who have taken part in the Teen Author Series.”

Each year the library submits a “wish list” to FOPL, for projects that library staff would like to pursue, but aren’t possible without extra funding. The library is deeply grateful for the possibilities that these grants create. Contact sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org for more information.



Students from the American Indian Public Charter School listening to Calla Devlin’s talk, September 2016.

SPRING BOOKSALE at The Bookmark!

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And for all book lovers:

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40% OFF on Saturday April 22
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Library Card Design Ceremony and Art Show of All Entries

Over 300 designs were submitted! Join us and some of the judges for a reception and ceremony to announce the six winners (two children, two teens, and two adults), **Wednesday April 12**, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the West Auditorium at Main. Light refreshments will be served. The Design Contest was co-sponsored by FOPL and AC Transit; the six winning designs will also be displayed on busses in April and May.

The Spring Branch Friends Meeting

Saturday April 29, 10 a.m. to noon, at the West Oakland Branch, 1801 Adeline Street. Everyone is welcome. For more information, or to register, contact Sara DuBois at 510-238-6572 or at sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org.

Mini-grants to OPL library programs

In order to foster creativity, innovative programming, and user-centered services, library staff submitted 17 proposals to fund a new library service or program. On March 1, the FOPL Board approved 9 of these, for up to \$1,000 (for individual projects) or \$1,500 (for team projects). Each will be implemented before September. The approved projects:

- Community Kiosk, at Main, modeled on the Veteran's Resource Center, to provide drop-in assistance to at-risk or in-need populations.
- Grandparent's Appreciation Day, at West Oakland, in partnership with GMA Village and Lincoln Families, to celebrate grandparents who are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren.
- Juvie to Library Pipeline, at Main, to invite writers with personal experience of prison to tell their stories and lead writing workshops.
- K'nex Klub, at Brookfield, to inspire youth to become STEAM professionals, by starting a club where they can build K'nex motor-driven models.
- Kitchen Update, at West Oakland, so that local food producers can lead programs on how to cook healthy meals.
- Mini-recording Studio, at Elmhurst, to teach audio recording and engineering, and to encourage kids to record their own audio books.
- Power Tool Safety, at Tool Lending, to empower patrons who have never used table, miter or chain saws to feel safe and confident.
- Junior Carpenters Club, at Eastmont, for workshops to teach teams of two (1 adult & 1 child; 1 child & 1 teen, or 2 teens) to complete carpentry projects.
- Digital Self Defense, at Main, in partnership with the Data Privacy Project, to train library staff to develop greater expertise, then train the public at monthly workshops, such as "How to maximize your privacy on Facebook" or "Safe searches for health information."

Please check out these projects soon!

Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Finalists

April is National Poetry Month. To celebrate, come hear the Poet Laureate Finalists perform on **Friday April 28** (Independent Bookstore Day) at Pegasus Books, 5560 College Ave., at 7 p.m. The 2017 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate will be announced at a performance including all Finalists, at the Oakland Book Festival, **Sunday May 21**. The Youth Poet Laureate Program is co-funded by FOPL and the Youth Speaks Youth Poet Laureate Fund.

Save Room for Ice Cream at Fentons

During May, order a Myrtle's Special Sundae and Fentons Creamery will donate 25% of the purchase price to FOPL. This will be the 9th year that Fentons, located at 4226 Piedmont Avenue, promotes summer reading and raises funds for the library.

Thank you, Fentons!



"Off the Hook" at Melrose

by Laurie Umeh, Member, Friends of Melrose Branch
This group was started in summer 2009, by a few women knitting and crocheting at picnic tables in Maxwell Park, then in each other's houses after we lost our shade in the park, when large trees were removed as part of a park improvement project. At a neighborhood meeting in 2011 we asked the librarian if our group could meet in the library and were welcomed by the Melrose Branch. We became "Off the Hook" at the suggestion of one of the library aides. Our motto: "We finish!"

We are an eclectic group of regulars and drop-ins at varying skill levels. The projects often have long stretches of boring repetitive work, and can develop horrible snags. "Off the Hook" helps us problem solve and encourage each other. All ages and genders are welcome. The camaraderie is palpable.

Our projects are varied: handbags, socks, potholders, dog sweaters, felted bowls, fingerless gloves, ear warmers, and headbands. We donate and sell some of our creations at neighborhood events, with proceeds earmarked for FOPL. "Off the Hook" meets at Melrose the 1st and 3rd Saturdays every month, from 3 to 5 p.m. Come join!

New FOPL Board Member

Kathryn Sterbenc was born and raised in a south Chicago suburb, the youngest of a large Catholic herd of avid readers. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma and spent the next several years working as a reporter and editor in Oklahoma, Northern Illinois, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Still a journalist at heart, she left the industry at the turn of the century and soon got a job with the company for which she still works, helping to create and maintain community-based, social-services websites (www.networkofcare.org).



Over the years, Kathryn has volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, working on behalf of foster youth; as a cuddler (best job title ever) in a Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit; as a floor volunteer at Children's Hospital Oakland, and as a tutor with Oakland Public Library's outstanding Second Start Adult Literacy Program. She joined the City of Oakland Library Advisory Commission in 2011 and served as chairperson from 2012-16. Thoroughly addicted to library advocacy when her commission term expired last year, she happily joined the FOPL Board. See page 4 for more about her advocacy efforts.

East Bay Gives 2017

<https://www.eastbaygives.org/>

On **Thursday May 4** you can express your support for the Oakland library by encouraging your neighbors, friends and co-workers to make a tax-exempt contribution to the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. FOPL will be participating in the annual East Bay Gives, a 24-hour online giving event, now in its fourth year.

If you have let your FOPL membership lapse, or if May is your renewal month, please use this occasion to renew your support. FOPL is the only non-governmental organization raising money in support of the libraries that provide so many programs, services, and good reading to the Oakland community for free. This year we hope to increase our membership to 1,000 (or more!) library lovers.

Help Us Make 2017 a Banner Year.

National Library Week is April 9-15. Celebrate!

Movie Recommendations from the FOPL Board (all available at OPL)

Sheila McCormick: **The Secret of the Grain** (2008). Fascinating slice of life, set in Southern France, about opening a fish couscous restaurant. Great acting, especially by Hafsia Herzi.

Ellen Moyer: **Dan in Real Life** (2008). A charming love story, starring Steve Carrel and the delightful-to-watch Juliette Binoche, where the good guys win in the end.

Hannah Onstad: **The Salt of the Earth** (2014). This visually stunning documentary explores the life of acclaimed photographer Sebastião Salgado – from the gold mines in Brazil to the war-torn refugee camps of Rwanda – yet ends with an inspiring story of hope. Directed by his son, Juliano Ribeiro Salgado, and Wim Wenders.

Maria Poppas: **The Man From Snowy River** (1982). Great Australian scenery. Wild Horses. Young Love. Danger and Kirk Douglas! What more could you want?

Judy Toll: **Slings and Arrows** (2008). This wonderful Canadian TV series (3 seasons, 18 episodes) is a spoof of Shakespearean Theater Festivals. It's good fun.

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 Washington Nationals in Oakland on **June 4** at 1 p.m. Tickets for Plaza Level Infield (3rd base side) are \$39 each. To purchase your tickets, send a check made out to "FOPL" to FOPL – A's Tickets, 721 Washington St., Oakland, CA 94607. We reserved 35 seats. For more information, call Winifred at 510-238-6932 or email baseball@fopl.org

Oakland Noir Anthology

On **April 8**, from 2 to 4 p.m., the Oakland History Room at Main will host an afternoon of readings. Join co-editor Jerry Thompson and contributors Phil Canalin, Dorothy Lazard, Carolyn Alexander, Judy Juanita, and Tom McElravey as they explore Oakland's dark underbelly.

Join OPL Advocates on Social Media!

by Kathryn Sterbenc, FOPL Vice President of Advocacy

Do you love the Oakland Public Library and hang out on social media? Then please keep reading! (OR, hand this article to the nearest person staring at a smartphone.)

FOPL is part of a larger, informal coalition of advocacy groups working to promote the Oakland Public Library and its vital role in our city. This coalition, called OPL Advocates, seeks OPL's long-term financial stability and the return of a sixth day of service at the Branch Libraries. Coalition members also include Branch Friends groups; the City of Oakland Library Advisory Commission; Save Oakland Library; Teen Advisory Boards; the Youth Leadership Council, and other library patrons.

In addition to hosting tables/booths at events like the Oakland Book Festival, OPL Advocates regularly post on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. **Here's how you can help:**

On Facebook: Follow **OPL Advocates**. We expect that you'll like our posts, so click Like and share them with your Facebook friends. Ask them to share with THEIR friends. Help us find more OPL lovers!

On Instagram: Follow our **oaklibadvocate** account, and Like and share our posts (which, in all humility, are awesome). Then share on Facebook and ask your friends to share them with THEIR friends.

On Twitter: Follow our **@OPLadvocate** account and Like our tweets. Retweet our tweets to your own followers.

We guarantee you'll learn new things about OPL from OPL Advocates – but please tell us what YOU know, and post/tweet back at us about why you love OPL. We'd LOVE that!

If you'd rather avoid social media, but know that your Branch Friends group is doing something amazing, then email us about it at OPLAdvocates@gmail.com. We'll do the posting for you! (Have we mentioned that Facebook has 214 million users in the U.S.?) Or send us any other pro-OPL thought or photo you have. Tell us your library story. Tell us why you love OPL (our hash tag: **#WhyWeLoveOPL**). Tell us your favorite program. Describe your favorite librarian. Take a selfie with your library book and post/tweet/email it to us. Put an OPL Advocates T-shirt on your puppy and snap and post THAT. Have fun with it! But most importantly, help us add new members to the OPL Advocates army.

Library Journal Honors Two OPL Staff

On March 13, **Reginald Burnette Jr.** and **Anthony Propernick** were named in the **Movers & Shakers Innovation Category**, and will be honored at the American Library Association Conference in Chicago in June 2017. Burnette and Propernick set up Bike Repair clinics at two branches. Read more at: <https://tinyurl.com/lvfau9r>



Found at the Bookmark

by Sheila McCormick, FOPL Board Member

A Year in Japan, by Kate T. Williamson. She went because of her interest in sock design! This charming book documents her year there, with drawings and text. Some of my favorites: nearly gift-wrapped single apples, plastic fish-shaped mini-containers for soy sauce, and the perfect way to eat a mango.

Volunteer Opportunities

An information session will be held on **Sunday April 23**, from 2 to 3 p.m., in the Bradley Walters Community Room at Main. You can learn about Books for Wider Horizons, Second Start Adult Literacy, Computer Docents, FOPL's Bookmark Bookstore, The Library Advisory Commission, The Summer Lunch Program, and much more. Advance registration is encouraged, but not required. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/krdxazn>

or contact Sara DuBois: 510-238-6572 or sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org.

FOPL and OPL Advocates Booths

We will have informational booths at the Oakland Book Festival (free admission) on **Sunday May 21**, Frank Ogawa Plaza, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and at the Bay Area Book Festival in downtown Berkeley, **June 3 and 4**. FOPL also had a booth at the 50th International Antiquarian Book Fair held in Oakland, February 10-12.

Our Bookstore Volunteers

Estela Gutierrez started volunteering about a year ago, because “Public libraries are really important and sometimes can't get all the funds they deserve, so the way the store helps them seemed a great project. The managers and all the volunteers are extremely nice and love books, they are like a little family, and because of this, it's always a delight to come into the store. I really hope everyone who sets foot in here can feel the same. My favorite finds at the store are some illustrated old editions of classic books by Charles Dickens. I also love stumbling upon various nice editions of books I had been planning to read!”

Khalilah Fortenberry started volunteering in July 2016. She volunteered at a library in Sacramento her last year of high school. “I enjoyed my time there and found it was a good way to expose myself to interesting books to read, so when I read about this bookstore while researching volunteer opportunities at local libraries, I figured this would be a fun opportunity. We have a great selection of books; it's always exciting when a customer asks about a specific book or author and we happen to have something in stock. The coolest book I have bought so far is the "Her Stories" African American folktales book. I was just about to purchase another folktale book and was telling one of the volunteers I work with about how the book reminded me of the Her Stories book that I loved to read when I was younger. Then the volunteer actually pulled that book off of the shelf, which was great because my old copy was all torn up.”

Christine Hsu has volunteered since September 2014. She fell in love with the bookstore after she had lunch at Caffe 817 and was wandering around Old Oakland. “I randomly stumbled upon the store and was so excited to find out I could volunteer there. I love the regulars that come in. There is an adorable couple that come in and buy art books and call me "Young Lady." I also love recommending books to my fellow volunteers. It's exciting to see the new donations that come in, especially fiction and cookbooks, my favorite types of books to price and shelve. I love the book "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" by Richard Bach. I gave it to my friend and former volunteer Christopher Butler. He trained me and showed me what face outs are!”

The Bookmark Helps Out

The Bookmark Bookstore donated two \$25 gift certificates: to the Edna Brewer Middle School “Bid for Brewer” 2017 Fundraiser Auction, and to the Renegades Dragon Boat Club, for their “Trivia Night” fundraiser.

Paid Internships for Youths (ages 15-25)

OPL's Second Job and Internship Fair will be held **Wednesday April 26**, from 2 to 5 p.m., in the Bradley Walters Meeting Room, at Main. Please dress professionally and bring copies of your resume. Come meet with employers and youth agencies, and get professional advice about your resume. Call 510-238-7332 for more information. You can also find more job leads on Instagram at oaklandhasjobs, or online at [Instagram.com/oaklandhasjobs](https://www.instagram.com/oaklandhasjobs).

The Bookmark Bookstore Sells Online

Browse our current listings at www.amazon.com/shops/the-bookmark-bookstore. Or buy what you see there directly from the store.

Giving

In honor of **Trish Elliott**, from Ruth Adar

In honor of **Trina Jones** from Julie Hawes

In honor of **Linda Sensabaugh** from Jeffrey Sensabaugh

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

In recognition of **Library Staff Member Ann Daniels** from Theresa Nelson

Dedicated to **Adele and Lyman Wynne** from Sara Wynne

In memory of **Luella Mak** from Darrow Chan

In memory of **Hadassah Kramer** from Ralph M. Kramer and family

In memory of **Sumi Yamashita** from Patrick Haggarty

In memory of **Arnie Fong** from John and Tita Mahoney

In memory of **Kevin Starr**, historian and California's State Librarian, from Thomas Vinson

In honor of **Sarah, Jonathan, and Robin**, from Michael Gamble

In memory of **Elaine Parker** from Moira Nichols

In memory of **Noni Walters**, from Tom and Winifred Walters

For the Second Start program in memory of **Luella Edmonds**, from her family and friends: Martha Coady Sachs, Martha O'Neal Green, Linda Gunvalson, Doris Jackson, Judy Martin, Martha McWoodson, Dino O'Neal, Cynthia and Joe Flores, and Carrie Sachs

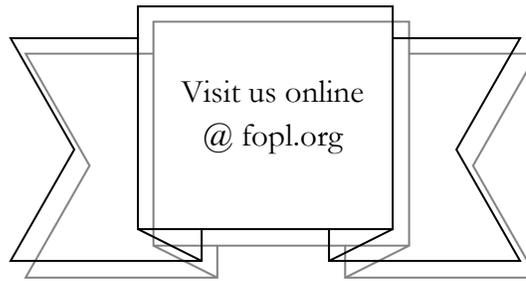


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Our mission is to advance the role of the Oakland Public Library as a vital community resource and as an institution critical to the culture, education, and welfare of our diverse community.

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) is the only organization that provides support to all Oakland Public Libraries.

In addition to that great feeling that comes with supporting the library, members receive our quarterly newsletter that includes a special feature highlighting grants to the library.

The Bookmark Bookstore operates on volunteer power and is a community resource for anyone who loves books. The Bookmark has been in Old Oakland since 1992. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Library. FOPL members receive a discount on purchases.

Your support is crucial:

Your annual dues contribute to FOPL's grants to the Oakland Public Library. In the past 10 years, FOPL granted over \$1.5 million for library programs and projects.

More ways to support FOPL:

- Ask a friend to join FOPL
- Leave a legacy by naming FOPL in your estate plan
- Donate your gently-used books to the Bookmark Bookstore
- Volunteer! www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer
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Thank You!

To learn more, visit fopl.org or call The Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.
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