

FRIENDS



OF THE
OAKLAND
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

OFF THE SHELF

October 2018

2018-19 Grants to the Library

At its September 5 meeting, the Board of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library approved **\$215,000** in grants to OPL for October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019. These funds will support OPL's work across all locations and departments. Some favorite programs are possible only thanks to this funding: the Youth Poet Laureate, Youth Leadership Councils, Ready, Set, Connect!, Adult Summer Reading, Volunteer Appreciation Mini-Grants, Wi-Fi Hotspots, and the MLIS Scholarship program – to name just a few.

Interim Library Director Jamie Turbak said, "I am particularly grateful to the Friends for approving our requested expansion of the Staff Mini-Grants program (from \$10,000 to \$20,000), and for granting us \$20,000 to be used for purchasing food to feed hungry kids in our libraries. My colleagues and I are honored by your generous support."

Your donations to Friends of the OPL make these grants possible. Thank you for helping us make OPL a better, stronger, and more innovative resource for our community.

OPL: Past, Present & Future

Join us in celebrating the past, present and future of Oakland Public Libraries on **October 13 at The Bookmark Bookstore, 721 Washington St., 4-7 pm**. It's been a big year and we want to thank you – for the passing of Measure D and your ongoing support. We'll also be unveiling a new mural created by youth from the Graffiti Camp for Girls. Come enjoy the multigenerational festivities with food, drinks, and books of course! See you there!

2018 National Night Out

Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants & Volunteers

Once again, the Oakland Public Library celebrated National Night Out (NNO) as a fun way to connect with patrons and neighbors. Events were held at library branches throughout Oakland on Tuesday, August 7, and the parties included snacks, games, performers, crafts, potlucks, ice cream, and (at Piedmont Avenue Branch) goats!

Main Library patrons and neighbors enjoyed an outdoor performance by the Awesöme Orchestra, thanks to a programming grant we received from the Friends of the Oakland Public Library last fall.

West Oakland Branch had a special visitor: the A's mascot, Stomper! This was one of five visits that Stomper made to our libraries this summer, and at every location he was a huge hit with patrons of all ages. If you missed celebrating NNO this year, mark your calendars for 2019! It's always the first Tuesday in August. Come join us!



FALL BOOKSALE

at The Bookmark 721 Washington St., Oakland

October 18-21 (Thursday-Sunday) Hours: 10:30 am to 5:30 pm

50% OFF for members on "Members' First Choice" Day, October 18

30% OFF on October 19, 40% OFF on October 20, 50% OFF on October 21

Shop early! Shop often!

Profile of Leila Mottley, the 2018 Youth Poet Laureate

(scholarship funded by Friends of the OPL)

Who are you? My name is Leila Mottley, I'm sixteen years old, and I'm the 2018 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate. I was born and raised in Oakland and attend Oakland School for the Arts. I'm a writer, activist, and artist in my daily life.

When did you know you had the gift to write poetry? I don't think I have any more of a gift to write poetry than anyone else. I think that my familiarity and comfortability with poetry as an art form and tool of expression comes from my ability to access it from an early age. I grew up with parents that valued literature deeply and with the knowledge that not only is poetry important, but that it could be something I created as well. I think this is an experience not everyone gets, especially people of color, with the societal focus on white male poets. In second grade I started writing poetry at recess instead of climbing the monkey bars. I was a pretty quiet kid when I was in public spaces, so poetry felt like one of the only places where I could take up space. It has become increasingly important to me as I attempt to both survive and voice my experience as a young queer black girl in Oakland. I am so grateful for poetry, but I don't think that it is my special gift. I think it is a medium I have claimed to thrive through because of the way it was presented to me in my childhood. I hope that it will be more universally presented as a tool for artistic expression that is not just for the people whose narratives are historically centered.

What inspired you to be a writer and what do you want people to grasp from your work? I've found that it's important to occupy writing in order to both personally cope and be an advocate and ally in my communities. Reading inspired me to be a writer, as I found other writers who used literature as a means for creating space for themselves in the world when no one else sought to do so. I want people to hear/read my work and consider deeply what narratives they aren't listening to in their daily lives and how they can seek those out and hold space for the uncomfortable realities of the world.

Where do you see yourself in the future? I hope to always be a writer, in whatever capacity feels most necessary to my life at the moment. I know that advocacy and breaking silence will always have a role in my life, but I'm not sure exactly what that will look like. I hope to be in Oakland and feel like it is still my home. In a perfect world, I'd like to be a writer and human rights lawyer that can give free legal council to those who can't afford it.

What do you do in your free time? I write. I think. I listen to Leon Bridges and Erykah Badu and Muddy Waters. I think about different ways I can be an active advocate in my community and the world. I talk to people because I think relationships are the source of everything revolutionary.

What does being the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate mean to you? This program is creating a platform for young people's voices to be given the attention and respect that isn't offered elsewhere. I feel incredibly honored to represent my city and make connections with people around Oakland through poetry and a love of our home. I'm grateful to everyone who has made this program possible and who takes the initiative to give young poets a medium to be heard in Oakland.

Where can we find your work and keep up with you? I regularly post videos of my work and upcoming events on my Facebook page (facebook.com/leilamottleyOYPL2018/). You can also book me for events on the Oakland Public Library Website (oaklandlibrary.org/yplbooking).

Note: oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets for general information. Applications for the 2019 Laureate will be open in December and January.

The next **Branch Friends Network Meeting** will be held on **Friday, October 19, 2018 from 10 am to noon**, at the Dimond Branch Library (3565 Fruitvale Avenue). The Branch Friends Network meets twice a year – in April and October. For more information or to attend, please contact Sara DuBois, OPL's Coordinator of Grants and Volunteers, at (510) 238-6572 or sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org

New Board Member

Ashley Robinson joined The Friends of the OPL Board in September 2018, but her love of libraries started far before then. Beginning in her middle school days, Ashley used to spend her summers volunteering at her local library in Virginia – she thanks her mom for sparking her interest in books from an early age. Since then, her relationship with libraries has only grown, stemming from a passion for education, accessibility and community. She’s constantly spreading the word about events and resources offered by OPL, in addition to volunteering as a library event photographer. Catch her at the Main Library checking out new books (and flute sheet music) every weekend!



Friends of the OPL Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 7, at 5:15 pm, at Main Library, 125 14th Street. All Members are invited! The main item of business is the election of board members for the upcoming two-year term.

Slate of Nominees: To be re-elected for a 2-year term: Michael Dalton, Gen Katz, Sheila McCormick, Kathryn Sterbenc. To be elected for a 2-year term, having been appointed Sept. 2018: Ashley Robinson.

Scholarship Winners

Susan Martinez, Eastmont Branch Manager & Scholarship Committee Chair

Congratulations to library staff Sabah Abdulla, Andrea Guzmán, and Catherine Pyun! The Friends of the Oakland Public Library Scholarship Committee recently selected them to receive scholarships of \$1,500 each for the 2018-2019 academic year, to support their work towards a MLIS degree. Their enthusiasm for and commitment to the Oakland Public Library and to our library profession is commended. Please join the Scholarship Committee in wishing them success in the year ahead!

Library Happenings!

History Lecture Series at Main, 6 pm Wednesdays (see oaklandlibrary.org/events for details)

Oct. 10: The Question of Resistance and Accommodation: Incarcerated Japanese-Americans and their Allies; **Oct. 17:** Along Lake Merritt’s Western Shore; **Oct. 24:** Ancestry.com: It’s not just for Genealogists.

Oct. 13 – Dec. 8: 81st Avenue Branch MPACT/ Luna Dance Every Saturday (except Nov. 24), FREE family dancing for adults and children at the 81st Avenue Branch. MPACT (Moving Parents and Children Together) classes are a fun and comfortable way for families to play and dance together. (oaklandlibrary.org/MPACT/Luna)

Oct. 20: Home Movie Day at AAMLO Honors Family History Month with “Representing Ourselves: Black Home Movies for All Audiences”, a program of rare historical scenes of family life and leisure in home movies made around California. (oaklandlibrary.org/AAMLOmov)

Nov. 2: Non-Sugar Skulls Celebrate Día de los Muertos at Melrose. Sugar skulls are usually made with cane sugar and used to decorate altars to honor ancestors during Día de los Muertos. Here at OPL, we make them with Model Magic and decorate them with color, glitter, and feathers. (oaklandlibrary.org/DiaMuertosNoSugar)

See newsletter in color at fopl.org/newsletter

Get to Know your Grants

Kate Hug, Branch Manager at Melrose

Earlier this year, I applied for a Friends of the OPL Mini-Grant, asking for \$950 to establish a Seed Lending Library and to improve the backyard garden here at Melrose Branch. These projects are part of a longer-term goal: to increase community engagement through food, gardening, sharing of recipes, and seed lending.

Getting the garden up and running brought together staff, and along the way we found amazing adult community partners on whom we could rely. The dirt was sourced and ordered by a new patron, who saw us unloading the metal troughs and “wanted to get involved.” He brought along friends to help shovel dirt into buckets, cart them into the garden, and repeat. These gentlemen have taken it upon themselves to be responsible for watering.

The seed lending library is upstairs. We found drawers that fit the aesthetic of the library and our Ready, Set, Connect intern learned all the ins and outs of Microsoft Publisher as we worked with him to design our “Seed Lending” and “Seed Saving” information brochures in both Spanish and English.



We had our Container Garden Party/Seed Lending Kick-Off party on June 23, and approximately 75 people attended (including 30 adults), despite the extremely hot weather. Patrons went upstairs to check out the Seed Lending Library, ate ice cream in the garden, painted terra cotta pots donated by Ace Hardware, and planted seeds.

We will be partnering with Scientific Adventures to continue to grow and expand our garden this fall. They will be teaching sustainable STEM programs and by winter will have built a butterfly enclosure in the garden.

The Melrose Garden was already beautiful and a welcome place of quiet respite for the East Oakland Community. Moving forward, we have plans of partnership as well as community-driven ideas to plant medicinal plants for teas and salves this winter. Thank you so much for making this possible!

Discounts at Oakland Bookstores

Oakland’s independent bookstores partner with the Friends of the OPL to support literacy and libraries! Members who join at the BookFriend (\$50) level or above receive a 10% discount at the participating local bookstores. Please show your BookFriend membership card to qualify for the discount.

Bibliomania, 1816 Telegraph Ave

Marcus Books, 3900 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

Montclair Book Tree, 6123 LaSalle St

Pegasus Books, 5560 College Ave

The Spectator, 4163 Piedmont Ave

Walden Pond, 3316 Grand Ave

And don’t forget, members always receive a 20% discount at the **Bookmark Bookstore** and 50% off on October 18, on the Member Preview Sale Day.

Special Thanks to Tip Top Bike Shop

Julie Waldman, Friends of the OPL Treasurer

The Friends receive many fantastic donations throughout the year – books, LPs, CDs, and more – but this summer was the first time we’ve ever received a brand-new bike! The 2018 Surly Cross-Check, donated by Tip Top Bike Shop in Temescal, inspired us to hold a raffle in September. The drawing took place September 30 at Oaktob-fest (after this newsletter was mailed), so we can’t announce the winner or the amount of money raised yet... But we’re thrilled to have this new fundraising tool, and I know the winner will be excited to have this new bike. Thanks, Tip Top!

Social Media

Off the Shelf is published 4 times a year.

For more timely information check out:

Facebook ([BookmarkBookstore.FOPL](https://www.facebook.com/BookmarkBookstore.FOPL))

Instagram ([bookmarkbookstore](https://www.instagram.com/bookmarkbookstore))

Twitter ([@FOPL_Bookmark](https://twitter.com/FOPL_Bookmark))

Happy 100th Birthdays to the Golden Gate & Temescal Branches!

Golden Gate Celebration

Join us October 20th for an afternoon of celebration, food, music & fun. Learn about neighborhood organizations and their work, meet neighbors old & new, and add your part to a communal art project. 12 - 4 pm

(see oaklandlibrary.org/GG100Celebration for updates).

Temescal Branch Centennial Celebrations on Saturdays

Nov. 10: “Edna Purviance-Mabel Normand Film Festival”: Combined kick-off for the Temescal Branch Centennial & commemoration of the end of World War I. Newsreel footage of the celebrations of the armistice, as well as films with Mabel Normand, shot in Idora Park and with Edna Purviance, shot in downtown Oakland, as well as a major film (TBD) from that era. 2 - 5 pm.

Nov. 17: “Temescal Poetry Festival” hosted by Clive Matson and with G. P. Skratz, July Westhale, members of a hip-hop poetry troupe and more. 12 - 5 pm.

Nov. 24: Children’s Story Hour and/or Local History Day: Time and exact events to be announced

Dec. 1: Coming to Temescal (program about migration & immigration), featuring local novelist Nayomi Munaweera (from Sri Lanka) and Lauren Markham, author of the *Faraway Boys* and teacher at Oakland International High School, and more. 1 - 5 pm.

Dec. 8: Temescal Celebrates its 100th Birthday! The Temescal Branch will cap off its “Month of Saturdays” Centennial Celebration with a block party in the Temescal District. Stay tuned for more details!

(oaklandlibrary.org/100atTemescal for updates)

Gift idea

Buy a Friends of the OPL membership. Your friends should be Friends of the OPL too!

Seeking New Volunteers

If you have marketing, financial, or other expertise that you think might be relevant to our efforts, The Friends of the OPL and The Bookmark Bookstore hope you will consider volunteering. Please contact pres@fopl.org or bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com for details.

Did you know?

The Bookmark Bookstore donates books to the Oakland Housing Authority’s Children’s Book Giveaway Program, which promotes reading and entertains children while they wait with their families, and they can take the books home, too!

Litquake in Main Reading Room

October 19 at 6:30 pm

Enjoy a glass of wine and meet six of our top local authors (Holly Brown, Jasmine Guillory, Laleh Khaldivi, Cornelia Nixon, Brontez Purnell and Dashka Slater) as we examine the connections that exist between us—ones we nurture and cultivate, unexpected ones, regretful ones, bonds we try to evade but cannot escape. Admission: \$5.00 suggested donation benefiting Litquake and the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. Admission includes complimentary wine for attendees over the age of 21. Books will be available for purchase and signing courtesy of The Octopus Literary Salon.

See oaklandlibrary.org/litlake18 for details.

Giving

In memory of **Rona Schick** from Carla Schick and Diana Curiel

In honor of **Wendy Simon on her birthday** from Elaine Bachrach

In honor of **Tam Hege** from Marilyn Snider and Barbara & Christopher Westover

In memory of **Manny Pearlman** from Anonymous and Kathleen & Mario DiGiovanni

In honor of **Trish Elliott and her commitment to our libraries** from Laurie Earp

In honor of **Sylvia Miller** from Rebecca Herman

In memory of **Gary Encinas** from James Wright

The Friends is grateful for a recent gift from the estate of **Elizabeth Pigford**, a long-time member who died in January 2018.



721 Washington Street
Oakland CA 94607

Forwarding services requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit # 4544

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Ynez Arce
- Stephen Cole
- Michael Dalton
- Genevieve Katz
- Ronile Lahti, Secretary
- Sheila McCormick, Newsletter Editor
- Ellen Moyer
- Hannah Onstad
- Rebecca Pfiffner, Vice President
- Ashley Robinson
- Kathryn Sterbenc, President
- Valerie Villanueva
- Julie Waldman, Treasurer
- Winifred Walters, Assistant Treasurer

If the date on your mailing label is 09-01-2018 or earlier,
PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

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 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. Members receive a discount on purchases.

Your support is crucial:

Your annual dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library. In the past 10 years, Friends of the OPL granted over \$1.5 million for library programs and projects.

More ways to support Friends of the OPL:

- Ask a friend to become a member
- Leave a legacy by naming Friends of the OPL in your estate plan
- Donate your gently-used books to the Bookmark Bookstore
- Volunteer! www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer
- Shop online at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

Thank you!

To learn more, visit fopl.org or call The Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.
Contributions are tax-deductible (Tax ID 94-2553734).