

Congratulations to the Friends!

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure and honor to congratulate the Friends of the Oakland Public Library on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary! This tremendous milestone is thanks to the combined efforts of hundreds of passionate volunteers who contributed their time and talents to enhance public library services in the City of Oakland over the past seventy-five years.

On behalf of the Oakland Public Library, I thank all current and former volunteers for their service to our community. I also honor those Friends who are no longer with us.

The Friends were formed in 1950, in anticipation of supporting the new Main Library which opened the following year. Both the library and the Friends have grown over the past 75 years, and 2024 in particular was a big year of changes for both institutions. The Main Library closed for six months to undergo significant infrastructure improvements, and the Friends' Bookmark Bookstore moved to its beautiful new location at 933 Broadway.

I know that there will be many opportunities to celebrate this important milestone throughout the year, and I hope you'll join me in showing support and appreciation for the Friends volunteers who do so much for our library community.

In the meantime, I thank everyone for supporting the library through the Friends. And I hope that we'll meet in 2025 to celebrate the Friends' 75th Anniversary together!

Sincerely,

Jamie Turbak

Library Director, Oakland Public Library



Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Welcome, New Members!

We wish to thank and welcome over 300 new members who joined us in 2024! Many of you visited and signed up at our new Bookmark Bookstore on Broadway. We are grateful for your support of our mission to support OPL.

Thank You, Anonymous Donors

Every month, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library receives donations from supporters we know only as "anonymous." We are not able to thank you personally, so we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge your unsung philanthropy. Thank you!

Winter Bingo at the Oakland Public Library

Kids, Win a Prize Book by January 21

The fun is underway! Complete any 5 activities in a row before January 21 and win a prize book. To play:

- Visit your local library and pick up a Winter Bingo card
- OR download a game board and print at home
- OR register online using your Beanstack account.

Each bingo card suggests 25 engaging activities to enjoy during the holiday break. There are two different cards: one for early learners and the other for kids in grades K-8. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bh76c58s> for more details.

Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator of Grants & Volunteers

Librarian Annabelle Blackman runs an English as Second Language (ESL) conversation club at the César E. Chávez Branch Library. She was recently inspired to plan a field trip by one member's enthusiasm for exploring San Francisco. Thanks to the Friends of the OPL Branch Equity Grant, she had the funding needed to make it happen.

Annabelle quickly developed a plan to take a group of 12 ESL Club attendees by ferry to the SF Ferry Building Farmers' Market to practice their English language skills in a new environment and to talk about their experiences together over snacks.

On Saturday, September 28, the group had this amazing experience. The trip and the market offered lots of topics for discussion, and the Bingo card provided by Annabelle encouraged ESL club members to interact with vendors and staff at the market.



Two staff members and two volunteers accompanied the 12-person club. One patron works at a hotel in Jack London Square, and he was especially excited to take the ferry for the first time. And he wasn't the only first-time ferry rider among the group!

Ferry tickets were donated by SF Bay Ferry and snacks – Jamaican food samplers – were purchased ahead of time by the Friends of the OPL. Peaches Patties provided complimentary drinks. And the Amigos of the César E. Chávez Branch Library donated a prize that was awarded by raffle to one of the field trip attendees. The library is very grateful to everyone who supported this project.

The trip was a great success. Not only did club members learn new vocabulary, gain confidence in their English language skills, and enjoy new experiences, they also bonded as a group. Annabelle reported that the next club meeting had the highest attendance since the pandemic. They hope to do it again in 2024-25!

Get to Know Your Grants is a regular newsletter feature which highlights some of the library programs, activities, and improvements that are possible thanks to your support for the Friends of the OPL. For more information, please contact Sara DuBois at sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org or (510) 238-6572.

Poetry Pen Pals

Ella Gordon, the 2024 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, worked with the library's Teen Services Department to launch an exciting new project: Poetry Pen Pals! This innovative program encourages everyone to share poems and build community. Targeted at youth and seniors but open to everyone, this project needs participants to be a success. Please help OPL spread the word about this opportunity, and – no matter your age – consider contributing a poem or two! www.oaklandlibrary.org/poetrypenpals



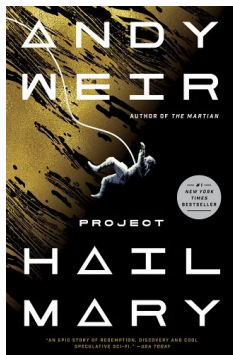
2025 Oakland Youth Poet

The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate (OYPL) program is an unprecedented citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and connect young writers to far-reaching opportunities. Each year the library accepts applications from talented Oakland writers (ages 13-18) to join a community of young poets. Most youth would not apply without the encouragement of a trusted adult. Please consider promoting the program among the youth in your life.

Applications for 2025 will close on February 3. Visit www.oaklandlibrary.org/YouthPoets to learn more.

What the Friends Board is Reading

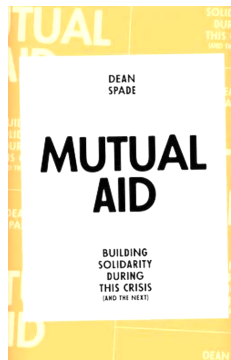
These titles can be found at OPL (check the card catalog at oaklandlibrary.org) or purchased from Bookshop at bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore



PROJECT HAIL MARY by Andy Weir

In this Hugo Award finalist from the author of *The Martian*, a lone astronaut must save the earth. Even if sci-fi isn't usually your thing, the story is gripping, filled with heart, and packed with unforgettable characters.

—Recommended by Rebecca Pfiffner



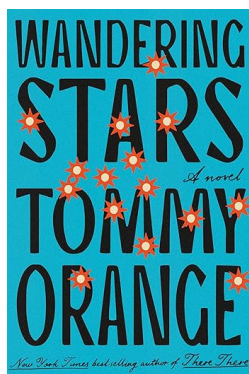
MUTUAL AID by Dean Spade

At a time when Americans know less than ever what support we may receive—or lose—from our government, Spade explains how people successfully organize mutual aid to provide for ourselves and each other. An invaluable guide when we need it most. —Recommended by Kathryn Sterbenc

WANDERING STARS: A NOVEL by Tommy Orange

From Oakland's own Tommy Orange comes a *New York Times* notable book. Both a sequel and a prequel to *There There*, Orange extends his constellation of narratives into the past and future.

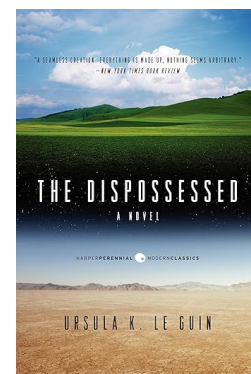
—Recommended by Diana Kaw



THE DISPOSSESSED: A NOVEL by Ursula K. Le Guin

A spellbinding story and 1975 Hugo Award winner about the anarchist and "galactically famous" scientist who single-handedly attempts to reunite two planets cut off from each other by centuries of distrust.

—Recommended by Mifta Chowdury



Save the Date!

Upcoming Weekend Sales at the Bookmark Bookstore | Now Open Daily 11AM-5PM Sun-Fri, Saturdays 11AM-6PM

- January 18-19: Comic Books (10,000+) for \$1 each, OR 3 for \$2, OR 200+ for \$0.50 each
- January 25-26: Dollar Books (4,500+) for \$1 each
- February 15-16: 50% OFF for Members on Saturday, 50% OFF for Everyone on Sunday

Main Library Open House on Saturday, February 22, 2025

Visit www.oaklandlibrary.org/OpenHouse in early February for more details.

Giving

- In memory of Judy Toll, from Robert C. Toll
- In memory of Adam Twain, from his friends and colleagues at OPL
- In memory of Dick Kolbert, from Bobbe Klezmer and Ken Woolf
- In memory of Judith Toll, from Tom and Winifred Walters
- In memory of Beryl Clawson, from Fonda Karelitz and Lise Pearlman
- In memory of Shirley Rodenborn, from June Curtis
- In honor of Haesun and Giff Brooks, from Audrey Brooks
- In honor of the Bolton Schodt Family from Julie Pickering
- In honor of Mary Ann Crumpler, from JJ Johnson





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Friends of the OPL Board Members

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- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Alexis Joseph Merritt
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
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- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*

We welcome your feedback & comments:

info@fopl.org

If the date on your mailing label is **12-01-2024**
or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

**Thanks to your support, in the last 10 years Friends of the OPL granted over \$2 million
for library programs and projects. Thank you for your continued support!**

Mission

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 Oakland since 1992. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Libraries.

Ways to Support Friends of the OPL

- Membership - your annual member dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library
- Make a tax deductible donation
- Invite a friend to become a member
- Leave a legacy by naming Friends of the OPL as a beneficiary in your estate plan
- Shop for books and media at The Bookmark Bookstore where members receive discounts for their purchases
- Donate gently used books to The Bookmark Bookstore
- Purchase new books at bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore

To learn more about Friends of the Oakland Public Library, visit www.fopl.org

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Our tax ID is 94-2553734. All contributions are tax deductible.

THE BOOKMARK
— BOOKSTORE —

Sven-Erik Geddes, *Store Manager*

Erin Rivero, *Ops Manager, Newsletter Editor*