

Reopening the Main Library: A Letter from Jamie Turbak, Library Director

Dear Friends,

On May 26, the Main Library closed so that work could begin on critical maintenance, repairs, and improvements. Thanks to funding from local Bond Measure KK and the California State Library, our contractors were able to tackle a long list of facility issues that needed attention.

You will certainly notice many of these improvements on your first visit to the newly reopened Main Library: refinished floors, fresh paint, window film, powerful new ceiling fans, and energy-efficient light fixtures. The Madison Street courtyard is now enclosed with a beautiful wrought-iron fence, and (not funded by the California State Library) the colorful mural on the front of the building was restored. There is a new glass-encased conference room for public use on the first floor. I'm especially excited about the enhancements to the Community meeting room on the ground level: new flooring, secure doors, frosted windows, a cooling system, and a kitchenette.

Many aspects of the project are critically important but not easily visible: a new roof and skylights, a boiler control system that adjusts to outside and inside temperatures, plumbing repairs, lighting controls, and a new electrical system (including the replacement of our original 1950s electrical panel). This work was long-overdue, and it's an enormous relief to see it being addressed.

While the library will reopen on November 18, work will continue throughout the year and into spring 2025. There are some larger items – and many smaller ones – that will be completed over the winter months.

If you cross paths with any of the individuals working on our building, please consider sharing a thanks. MAR CON Builders and their subcontractors have managed the project well and taken great care of the building. I can't wait for you to see it!

Sincerely,

Jamie



The Main Library Community Meeting Room being outfitted with new doors onto the Madison Street courtyard.

Member Benefits for Book Lovers

Discount at the Bookmark, Plus Local Bookstores

All members receive a 20% discount at The Friends' Bookmark Bookstore and a 50% discount at the Bookmark's semi-annual member sale.

Book Friends Members (annual donation of \$50 or more) receive discounts at participating local bookstores: Dan Webb Books, Montclair Book Tree, Pegasus Books on College Ave, Spectator Books, Walden Pond, and Womb House Books.

Thank You, Bookmark Grand Opening Sponsors!

Local Community Contributors

Angel Cakes	Oakland Ballers
Comedy Oakland	Oakland Museum of California
Crumble & Whisk	Oakland Public Library
Jenny Odell	Oakland Roots Soccer Club
Jessica Ferri	Square Pie Guys
W. Kamau Bell	
La Guerrera's Kitchen	
The MADE (Museum of Art & Digital Entertainment)	

Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator of Grants & Volunteers

Oakland Public Library staff were thrilled that the Friends of the OPL Board approved our grant request for the 2024-25 fiscal year at their September 4 meeting. Thanks to the funds they raised last year through donations, membership dues, and proceeds from the Bookmark Bookstore, the Friends were able to approve the entire \$250,000 that the library requested to support programs, services, and enhancements that touch every location. These grants are what make it possible for the library to organize the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program, provide community outreach at local events, host summer programs for all ages, offer gardening support through programs and OPL Seed Libraries, secure licensing for screening movies and films, and so much more.

Looking at one specific branch illustrates the impact of these grants: The Eastmont Branch Library will benefit from all the grants that provide systemwide support, but they also received access to a \$1,000 grant for Programming and a \$2,500 Branch Equity Grant which can be used for staff-identified needs. Two years ago, Eastmont Library used their Friends of the OPL Branch Equity grant to launch a new program: Chair Yoga. Designed for people who have difficulty getting up and down from the floor, Chair Yoga makes the many positive benefits of yoga more accessible. Taught by local instructor Bett Bollhoefer, the series was an instant success. To date, over 200 people have participated in Eastmont's Chair Yoga program. "This series has been really transformative for our branch and for the community," said Eastmont Branch Manager, Susan Martinez. The program has helped forge bonds with the community's seniors, including members of the Golden Age Senior Center and Nate Miley Gardens Senior Housing development.

The success of Chair Yoga inspired the former Eastmont Children's Librarian to host a yoga series for kids in the spring of 2024. The branch hopes to host an additional series of yoga for kids—with a focus on integrating the whole family into the program—when a new Eastmont Children's Librarian arrives. The Eastmont Branch staff plans to use at least some of their 2024-25 grants to continue providing yoga classes to the Eastmont community in the next year. And branches throughout the system are making similar plans. This kind of community-focused, responsive programming would simply not be possible without the Friends of the OPL and these annual grants. The library is grateful to all the Friends of the OPL, and we hope you'll join us at some of the many events made possible by your support.

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.

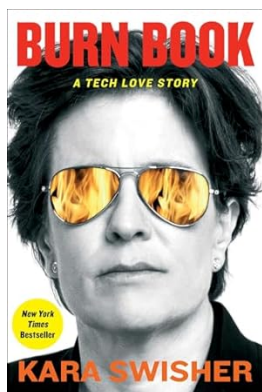
Thank You, Summer Reading Donors!

Kids' Summer Reading is the library's 10-week program aimed at preventing a slippage in literacy skills over the long school break. It encourages reading for pleasure, provides drop-in enrichment activities, and creates excitement around reading. Each participant wins a free book of their choice after 20 days of reading and is entered into a raffle for additional prizes. Kids are motivated to read more by earning another raffle entry for each additional set of 10 days of reading. This summer, 4,689 children (ages 0-14) participated in Kids' Summer Reading and earned a free book. Many also earned additional fabulous prizes. Kids' Summer Reading – and the summer programs OPL offers Teens and Adults – would not be possible without significant support from the community. Thank you to all our donors and our Summer readers!

Major Sponsors: Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation; The Friends of the Oakland Public Library; The Friends of the Rockridge Library; William G. Gilmore Foundation; Hellman Foundation Fund; Matson Foundation; The Bernard Osher Foundation; the Kenneth Rainin Foundation; Lunch at the Library: a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California. **Prize Donors:** Oakland A's; Bookmark Bookstore; Folkmanis Puppets; Lake Merritt Boating Center; Oakland Feather River Family Camp; Oakland Roots SC; Oakland Zoo; San Francisco Bay Ferry; The MADE (The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment); East Oakland Sports Center; Golden State Warriors; Chabot Space and Science Center. **End of Summer Party Supporters:** Free backpacks for youth provided by the Wayne Lippman Charitable Trust Fund and the Beta Chapter of Beta Pi Sigma Sorority, Inc.; books and meals to nourish young readers courtesy of the Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation and the Alameda County Community Food Bank; hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers grilled and served by the Oakland Firefighters Local 55; drinks donated by City Councilmember Carroll Fife; financial and administrative support provided by the Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

What the Friends Board is Reading

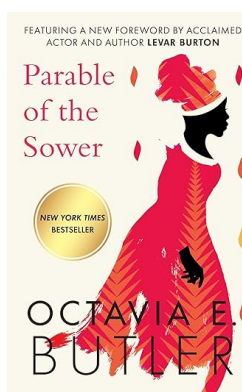
These titles can be found at OPL (check the card catalog at oaklandlibrary.org) or purchased from Bookshop at bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore



BURN BOOK: A TECH LOVE STORY Kara Swisher

From award-winning journalist Kara Swisher, a witty, scathing, but fair accounting of the tech industry and its founders who wanted to change the world but broke it instead. "As it turned out, it was capitalism after all."

Recommended by Ynez Arce



PARABLE OF THE SOWER Octavia Butler

This terrifyingly prescient novel written in 1993 made the best-seller lists in 2020 for its chilling relevance to current events. Don't be surprised if it shows up on the best-seller lists again this year, because she predicted climate change, corporate greed, a return to slavery, and a president

whose motto is -- wait for it -- "Make America Great Again."

Recommended by Kathryn Sterbenc

Grand Opening Success!

Congratulations to the Bookmark Bookstore and all of its enthusiastic volunteers and supporters for a successful Grand Opening event on September 28, 2024. Store sales, including memberships and silent auction donations, soared to over \$3,600.

Special thanks to event committee chairs Corey Hatcher and Colleen Haikes for volunteering their time to oversee "behind the scenes" event preparation, alongside Bookmark Co-Manager Erin Rivero. Cheers to this exceptional and historic time in the story of the Bookmark!



Photo courtesy of Pooneh Koohyar

Notice of the Friends of the OPL Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library will hold its Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, November 13 at 5:15pm** via Zoom. The main item of business is the election of board directors for the upcoming two-year term. All members are invited!

If you would like to attend, please email pres@fopl.org, and we will send you the Zoom meeting details.

Current directors standing for re-election for two-year terms (2024-26): Aniya Grimm and Kathryn Sterbenc

Current directors appointed during 2024 to be elected for two-year terms (2024-26): Diana Kaw and Glenn Poppe

Current candidate standing for election to a two-year term (2024-26): Alexis Joseph Merritt

Giving

- In memory of Tina Wong from Steven Wong
- In honor of the talented and inspiring poet Elise Kazanjian, celebrating her 89th birthday from Anne Colby
- In honor of Ynez Arce from Jenny Phan
- In honor of Linda Roman from Jamie, Aaron and Caro Weiner



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Friends of the OPL Board Members

- ✦ Ynez Arce, *Vice President*
- ✦ Mifta Chowdhury, *Assistant Treasurer*
- ✦ Erica Dennings
- ✦ Elizabeth Falkner
- ✦ Aniya Grimm
- ✦ Colleen Haikes
- ✦ Corey Hatcher
- ✦ Sara Jewell, *Treasurer*
- ✦ Diana Kaw
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
- ✦ Glenn Poppe
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Anastasia Yip, *Secretary*

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 almost \$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, Co-Manager

Erin Rivero, Co-Manager, Newsletter Editor