

June 2013 Edition

Oakland Public Library wins “Youth-Friendly Business Award”

On June 12, the Oakland Public Library received a plaque as the winner in the Government category of the 2013 Oakland Youth-Friendly Business Award program. The award is granted by the Oakland Youth Friendly Business Network, an organization that promotes and recognizes the generous businesses and individuals who provide workplace mentoring, meaningful work and essential life skills to youth. OPL was nominated by members of its Library Advisory Commission and Youth Leadership Council. Library Director Gerry Garzon and Teen Services Librarian Amy Sonnie accepted the award at the Inner City Advisors’ “All In” event at the Fox Theater. For more information visit youthfriendlybusiness.org.



Amy Sonnie, OPL



Mayor Jean Quan, Refilwe Gqajela (Youth Leadership Council), Gerry Garzon (OPL Acting Director), Wendy Calmo, (Youth Leadership Council) and Charles Sanchez (Library Advisory Commissioner and YLC Alumnus).

Photography by Sharon McKellar.

Join Friends of the Oakland Public Library at the Oakland A’s game:

Please join library supporters at the Saturday, July 27th game between the A’s and the LA Angels. We have 100 Field Level seats reserved at \$35 each. HALF of the price of each ticket goes directly to benefit library, and -- the first 10,000 people entering the stadium on July 27th will receive a free *Oaklandish* t-shirt! Game time is scheduled for 12:05 p.m.

For more information, please email Beccah Rothschild, FOPL Board Member, at baseball@fopl.org.

To purchase your tickets, please send a check made out to “FOPL” to:

**FOPL – A’s
721 Washington St.
Oakland, CA 94607**

(Write "Oakland A's" in the memo line of your check)

Last day to purchase tickets (while supplies last) is July 4th.

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An Interview with Beccah Rothschild, FOPL Board Member

On Wednesday afternoon, May 29, 2013, I had the pleasure of welcoming Beccah Rothschild to my home. As a prelude to the interview, we sat at the kitchen table, drank coffee and ate blueberries and raspberries. We eventually moved to the patio for the interview.

Beccah's parents encouraged their two daughters from a very early start to learn to read. The whole family belonged to the public library, and the choice of what the girls wanted to read was theirs. They didn't watch TV or go to movies very often, but instead did things such as reading, playing sports and piano, and traveling. They were encouraged to become absorbed, through books, in the worlds of fiction, historical fiction, non-fiction, language, places to travel, and so on.

Beccah is a native Californian, though she moved to Madison, Wisconsin when she was a year old. Her family travelled to many places in the U.S. as well as overseas, and the girls discovered, first-hand, about ways of life on different continents. She received her B.A. in Spanish and Global Cultures (1991-1995) from the University of Wisconsin- Madison.

When Beccah moved back to California in 1996, she immediately went to one of the Oakland branch libraries to borrow books to read. She noticed that there was a sign at the library, seeking volunteer tutors for the *Second Start Adult Literacy Program*, a program of the Oakland Public Library. After orientation, she was matched with a person to tutor, an El Salvadoran woman who mainly spoke Spanish, was very smart, and wanted to learn to read in English.

Soon thereafter, a position opened up at *Second Start Adult Literacy Program*, and Beccah started to work there. She continued to tutor the woman from El Salvador in the evenings for several more years. Meanwhile, the woman moved out of California with her two sons and though Beccah flew out once to visit her, they eventually lost contact. About ten years later, Beccah was surprised when one day she received a phone call. Apparently one of the woman's sons was using a pencil that had the phone number to the *Second Start* program on it. He said, "That's from the girl with the books." Through the phone number on the pencil, they tracked Beccah down, and they have now reconnected!

In 2001, Beccah left her job at *Second Start*, and entered graduate school at San Francisco State University for her Masters of Public Administration. Because of her experience working for several years at *Second Start*, part of the Oakland Public Library, she was able to get her internship requirement waived and therefore, finished her degree by 2002.

In 2003, Beccah accepted a full-time position at *California Literacy*, managing the *California Health Literacy Initiative*. She then moved on to become the director of health literacy projects in a center within the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. She was there for over eight years, and recently accepted a new position on the Health Impact Team at *Consumer Reports*, and works in San Francisco.

Beccah is very much involved with athletics! She enjoys swimming, hiking, skiing, yoga, and camping. She is currently on the Manatee Aquatic Masters swim team, and has done the Alcatraz swim twice and swam around Key West, Florida.

Beccah spent her junior year of college living in Madrid, spent a summer teaching AIDS/HIV education in Tanzania, and lived on a garlic farm in Mexico for part of a summer when she was younger. She's been on many other great trips, but her dream trip is to go to the moon!

Beccah got involved with FOPL when she read in the *Off the Shelf* newsletter that FOPL was looking for new Board Members. Beccah met with Ellen Moyer, FOPL President, Communications and Newsletter Editor, and Winifred Walters, FOPL Assistant Treasurer, Communications, and Membership. In November 2012, Beccah was installed as a new FOPL Board Member.

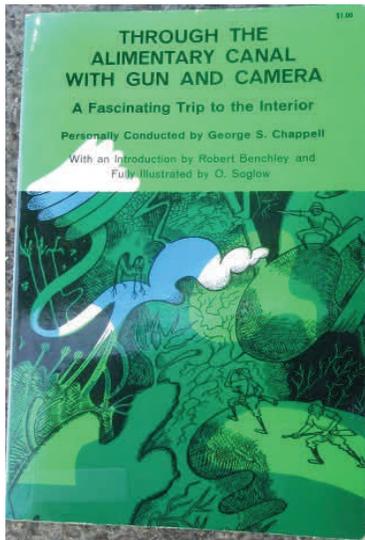
Since November, Beccah has been involved in a few FOPL fundraisers, including selling raffle tickets at The Bookmark Bookstore's 20th Anniversary event held at Cosecha, selling tickets for the A's baseball game fundraiser in July 2013, and eating ice cream at Fenton's Creamery.



Browsing at The Bookmark Can Lead to the Unexpected

Mary Roach, a local writer, has a new book out called “Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal”. But there was a humorous version on the same topic long before.

In 2003, I bought a 1963 edition of the 1930 book “Through the Alimentary Canal with Gun and Camera” at The Bookmark (I paid \$2, double the cover price!). This book itself was an elaboration of a talk that Robert Benchley, the early 20th century humorist, presented at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. Chappell’s book has chapter titles such as “Into the oral cavern” and “Great doings in the peritoneum” and cartoon illustrations such as “The one man sub with which I navigated the aorta” and “We shoot the rapids at the confluence of the gall and the spleen.”



*Written by Sheila McCormick,
FOPL Board Member;-*

A Friendly Reminder from the Membership Committee:

If the date on this newsletter mailing label is 6/2013 or earlier, please renew today! Thank you.

Oakland Public Library Budget Update

Every two years the City of Oakland goes through a multi-month process to develop a Policy Budget. The Mayor and City Administrator released their proposed budget for fiscal years 2013-2015 in April. City Council is required to adopt a balanced budget before July 1, the beginning of the City’s fiscal year.

Thanks to Measure Q, the dedicated library parcel tax passed by voters in 2004, library services will continue at all locations. Measure Q established a floor (\$9 million) from the City’s General Fund in order to ensure collection of Measure Q revenues. For the past 4 years, General Fund cuts have been absorbed by Measure Q with no major changes to the total budget for the library. As a result, Measure Q now funds 60–65% of the Library’s \$24 million annual budget, compared to about 40% just a few years ago. While Measure Q cannot absorb such shortfalls indefinitely, it appears that the library parcel tax will secure the Library’s budget for another two years.

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Beccah has been to The Bookmark Bookstore and, yes, she has also enjoyed eating at the *Cock a Doodle Café*, right next door to The Bookstore. Beccah, we are delighted that you have joined the FOPL Board.

*Written by Sophie Fynland Souroujon,
FOPL Board Member*

GIVING

The following tribute gifts were received from February-June 2013:

In memory of **Rosemary Springer** from Lillian Schwartz

In memory of **Irene Samuelson** from Shirley Schell

In memory of **Jana Lane** from Kathy Anderson

In memory of **Edith Lunde Hodge, friend and dedicated reader**, from Mary Commanday

In honor of **Barry Ress** from Steven Freedman

FOPL is grateful for gifts from our members who give through workplace campaigns with the following employers. Many employers offer matching gifts. Please ask at your place of work and increase the impact of your membership!

- AT&T
- Bank of America (3)
- S. D. Bechtel Foundation
- City of Oakland (10)
- Chevron (3)
- Chubb & Son Inc
- Clorox (3)
- Genentech
- Google
- HP
- Kaiser Permanente (6)
- Levi Strauss
- PG&E (5)
- Sidley Austin LLP
- Wells Fargo (2)



721 Washington Street
Oakland CA 94607

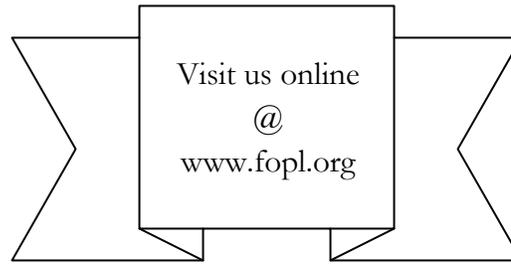
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If your membership has expired,
PLEASE RENEW NOW!

More ways to support the Friends...

- Share this newsletter. Ask a friend to join a growing organization-- **800** strong--dedicated to supporting the Oakland Public Library!
- Donate your gently-used books, CDs and DVDs to the Bookmark Bookstore. Call **(510) 444-0473** for more information.
- Do you have a few hours per month? Visit www.fopl.org or call **(510) 444-0473** to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.
- Keep up with Library news and events by going to www.oaklandlibrary.org, click on 'Subscribe to our E-News' under 'Connect with Us' at the bottom of the home page.

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)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Gift in honor/memory of _____

Email _____

(sign me up for email notices and updates)

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

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.