



FRIENDS
of the
OAKLAND
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

OFF THE SHELF

October 2014 Edition

FOPL GIVES

Annual Grants to the Library

by Winifred Walters, FOPL Board Member

On September 10, the FOPL board approved **\$174,000** in grants to the Library. Complete details are at www.fopl.org/wordpress/library-grants. Highlights of the 2014 grants:

Services to Youth include sponsorship of the Youth Poet Laureate competition – the winner earns an educational scholarship and serves as an ambassador for literacy, arts and youth expression. Other grants support a 20th anniversary celebration of the Books for Wider Horizons (volunteer preschool storyreader program), and Children's Literacy programming at all 17 library locations.

Grants for Branches and the Main Library include support for a concert organized by the African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO) highlighting the careers of the 19th century Hyers Sisters; pop-up shelters for outdoor programs at Brookfield, Main, Melrose, and Piedmont Avenue; new storytime carpets for Dimond; supplies for children's programming and replacement furniture for Chavez; and equipment for Montclair, Temescal and Martin Luther King, Jr. branches.

Systemwide grants support activities to recognize OPL's hard-

working staff and volunteers and award up to three \$1,000 scholarships for staff pursuing a library sciences degree, will allow OPL to acquire out-of-print DVDs requested by patrons, and will make Internet access "hot spots" available for check-out from East and West Oakland libraries.

Additional grants are made possible by designated gifts: a bequest from Helen L. Knopp for the Oakland History Room, grants and donations for the Children's Literacy Programming Fund, and donations for Second Start Adult Literacy.

ANNUAL MEETING

FOPL's annual meeting of members will be held on Wednesday, November 5th at 5:15 p.m., at the Main Library, 125 14th Street. All FOPL members are invited! The main item of business is the election of directors for the upcoming two-year term.

The following individuals have been nominated to serve as

FOPL Directors:

Michael Dalton
Suzanne Fischer
Tam Hege
Gen Katz
Sheila McCormick
Bob Shurtleff

Fall Sale at The Bookmark!!! October 16-19 (Thursday - Sunday)

721 Washington Street
Oakland, CA — 510-444-0473

Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p. m. each day during the sale

50% OFF for members only on "Members' First Choice" Sale Day, Thursday, **October 16**

And for all book lovers:

30% OFF — Friday, **October 17**
40% OFF — Saturday, **October 18**
50% OFF — Sunday, **October 19**

FOPL VOLUNTEER

An Interview with Trish Elliott, FOPL Volunteer

by Sophie Fynland Souroujon,
FOPL Board Member



It was a pleasure to interview Trish at my home on April 9, 2014.

Trish was born into a secular Jewish family in 1942 in Brooklyn, NY. When her sister Laurel was born their parents decided to move to Long Island, first to Lynbrook, and then to Great Neck. Trish was an avid reader from childhood. An early, positive memory is of her father taking her and her sister to the library, where they could borrow four books at a time. The whole family spent hours reading.

After high school she attended a small college in West Virginia. As a freshman she went on a blind date with Roger. Her mother died at the end of her sophomore year, so Trish returned home and started taking classes at a local college. Roger visited her on weekends – they married in 1963, and returned to West Virginia. Trish found a job in the admissions office and after Roger graduated, they moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where Roger studied to become a Christian minister. After he was ordained, they moved to Columbia, Missouri, where he studied for a M.S. in Education. In 1971, when they divorced. Trish pursued a more ad-

venturous path and moved to California, where she worked as a secretary in the San Francisco financial district.

In 1979 she met her second husband, Randy, through their interest in Metaphysical Studies. She moved to Oakland and they married in 1985. Randy introduced Trish to the pleasures and rewards of volunteerism. While she attended classes at New College of California, Trish trained as a volunteer at Planned Parenthood in Oakland. Trish earned her BA in 1982.

Trish was offered a paid position at Planned Parenthood, as a medical assistant. In the mid-80's, when state funding became scarce, many employees, including Trish, were laid off. She started work again in 1984, at Kaiser Permanente, first in the administrator's office, and then in 1994 for their country-wide Women's Health Initiative, until her retirement in 2009.

In 1992, Trish and Randy separated, and divorced. Around 1996 Trish realized that she wanted to explore her Jewish roots. She met with Rabbi Steven Chester (Temple Sinai, Oakland). Trish had never expected to find herself in organized religion! But she felt welcomed. She became involved with the Sisterhood, Torah Studies, Social Action Committee, and delivery of Welcome Baskets to new members. Trish said, "It felt like I had come home."

In 2000, Trish noticed an Oakland Tribune article about The Bookmark Bookstore needing volunteers. Trish went to the store, met Bob Frey, then the Manager, and was assigned the Saturday afternoon shift. On that shift she met two other volunteers, Hanh-Nhan Truong and Winifred Wal-

ters, and they bonded. Trish is now the **FOPL Membership Officer** - she, Winifred and Hanh-Nhan meet every 3 months for a "mailing party," sending out annual membership renewal notices.

In 2008, through a friend at Temple Sinai, Trish met Stan Klezmer, "my significant other, who shares with me all the good things in my life." Trish says: "Between Temple Sinai, my second home and family, volunteering in various activities in the Jewish East Bay community, working out at the Hilltop YMCA, knitting, The Bookmark, which feeds my love of books and reading, and my life with Stan in El Sobrante; **Life and Retirement is blessed.**"

BRANCH FRIENDS

81st Avenue Branch Friends

"Congratulations to the **Friends of the 81st Avenue Library** on their inaugural fundraiser! On Saturday, June 14th, their book and bake sale raised \$135. Thanks so much to Leticia Hernandez, Alvin Monroe, Rosa Ibarra, Julian Prentice, and Jeanine Shimatsu for your hard work, time and dedication. You can support the 81st Ave Friends by visiting the book sale at 81st Ave, donating gently used books, or by becoming a member!"

TWENTY YEARS AND GROWING

Books for Wider Horizons Celebrating 20th Anniversary, Looking for New Volunteers

by Rochelle Venuto, Program Coordinator

Oakland Public Library's program Books for Wider Horizons is celebrating its twentieth year of bringing storytimes to Oakland's children. The program, which began in 1994, trains and places volunteer story readers in Head Start centers and many other preschools in underserved Oakland communities. Many of these children have few books at home and limited opportunity for adults to read aloud to them. Each week they look forward to the visit of the storyreader, who is often treated to hugs and "treated like a rock star" (according to one volunteer).

Each new volunteer commits to 6 months of weekly storytimes with a particular class. Many volunteers find it so rewarding that they return year after year. Our longest serving volunteer has been with us for nineteen years!

In the 2013 - 2014 school year, Books for Wider Horizons served 33 centers with 58 volunteer readers: 86 storytimes each week for 1,380 children. But it needs more volunteers to help meet demand. We could not provide storyreaders for every preschool that requested them.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a storyreader, please email or call Rochelle Venuto, Books for Wider Horizons Coordinator at rvenuto@oaklandlibrary.org or 510-238-7453. Our annual training begins October 7th, and takes place at the Rockridge Branch Library over 6 evenings (October

7th, 8th, 9th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd) and one Saturday (October 25th). Nationally renowned storyteller and Oakland Public Librarian Gay Ducey leads the training, with some help from current volunteers.

Calling Past Readers! A 20th Anniversary Celebration will take place in January. We hope to invite everyone who has been involved in Books for Wider Horizons, including past volunteers, but we need help! Our records are out of date and incomplete. If you or someone you know was involved in the program, please get in touch with Rochelle so we can send invitations!

SECOND START 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Party Like It's 1984!

By Amy Sonnie, OPL Librarian

The Second Start Adult Literacy program is having a party to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

Second Start has helped nearly 6,000 adults improve their literacy skills and achieve their goals – ranging from being able to read instructions on prescription medication, complete the GED, train for jobs, to reading a book with a grandchild.

Join us to honor the students, volunteer tutors, staff and supporters who have made Second Start a second home since we opened in 1984.

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Oakland Public Library

125 14th Street – 2nd Floor

If you're feeling festive, wear your best '80's outfit, or wear purple – because *Purple Rain* turned 30 this year too! Prizes awarded. Additional info: 510-238-3432.

GIVING

In honor of **Steve Lavoie and the staff of the Temescal Branch Library** from Joan Marie Wood/Temescal Writers

In honor of **Suzie Shin and Julien Lafrance-Vanasse** from Rohan Nirody

In memory of **Laurie Simon Goldstein**

In honor of **Teresa Jean Nowlin**

In memory of **Zoia Horn, advocate for everyone**, from Nina Lindsay

In memory of **Zoia Horn and Dean Galloway** from Winifred Walters

In memory of **Reed and Sue Moyer** from Winifred Walters

In memory of **Liven A. Peterson** from Irene Jose

In honor of **Bob Frey** from Shirley Schell
Winifred & Tom Walters

In memory of **Bill Hoch** from Barbara Moffat

In honor of **Nina Lindsay** from Deene Goodlaw

In honor of **Matthew Nordstrom and Dagny Brown** from Lauren Miller

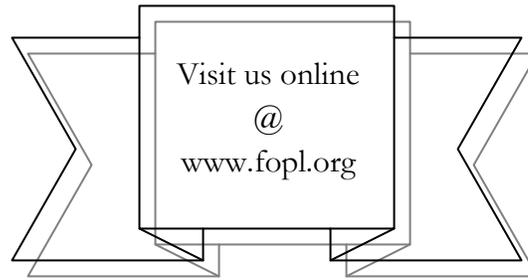
Thank you donation in honor of **FOPL and The Bookmark** from Dick Kolbert with this note:

LOVE YOU GUYS. Keep up the good work. For people like myself who still value books on paper you are an invaluable resource – a kind of Shangri-La of great value and literary goodies.



**FRIENDS
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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 – **850** strong – dedicated to supporting the Oakland Public Library!
- Donate your gently-used books, CDs, DVDs, LPs, sheet music, and song books to The Bookmark Bookstore. Call **(510) 444-0473** for more information.
- Volunteer! To learn about volunteering at The Bookmark Bookstore and many other opportunities, please visit oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer.
- Shop online at Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library. To sign up go to smile.amazon.com.

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)

Membership Levels:

___ Book Angel \$1,000 or more	Name(s) _____
___ Bibliophile \$500 – \$999	Address _____
___ Book Conservator \$250 – \$499	City/Zip _____
___ Book Worm \$100 – \$249	Gift in honor/memory of _____
___ Book Friend \$50 – \$99	_____
___ Family/Household \$35 – \$49	Email _____
___ Individual \$25 – \$34	(sign me up for email notices and updates)
___ 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.