



OFF THE SHELF

JULY EDITION - 2012

It's Time for...Summer Reading!

The Oakland Public Library's Summer Reading Program starts Saturday, June 16. As always, the Summer Reading Program means lots of fun activities and programs for kids, the Passport Program for Teens, lively literary exchange for adults, and great prizes and other incentives for everyone. All three programs are supported by FOPL grants.

For Children: Dream Big - READ!

"Dream Big - READ" is the theme of the 2012 Summer Reading Program. Taking place at all branches of the Oakland Public Library, from June 16 through August 11, the Summer Reading Program encourages children to maintain their reading abilities after school is out. All library locations will feature live entertainment and fun activities to lure kids in. As added incentive, prizes will be given to all children who reach reading goals.

Teen Summer Passport - Your Ticket to an Exciting Summer!

Teens (ages 12 - 18) can earn passport stamps by visiting Bay Area Hot Spots - museums, farmers' markets, art galleries, skate parks, swimming pools, and more. The more stamps you earn, the better your chances of winning a great prize, such as an iPad, an iPod Touch, or a computer!

Adult Summer Reading Program

The Main Library and all branches will participate with prize drawings for readers who register for the program and write reviews. Select your favorite branch library to be entered into the raffle and increase the odds of winning with each review. Participants can submit reviews of the books they read for inclusion in a summer reading blog and can even link their profile to a Facebook account.

For more information or to sign up, visit any Oakland Public Library branch or visit us online at: www.oaklandlibrary.org

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Giving

In memory of **James W. Stockholm** from Carl Alexander

In honor of **Trish Elliott and Stan Klezmer** in celebration of their milestone birthdays from Winifred Walters

In honor of **Arlene Oppedisano** from Anna Oppedisano and Jim Beach

In honor of **Winifred Walters** from Lucy and Tom Creighton

In memory of **Fred Bloebaum** from Christine Sinn

In memory of **Janet Wenninger, wife of Bookmark Bookstore volunteer Jim Wenninger**, from Virginia and Wade Sherwood

In memory of **Shannon Williams, avid reader and library patron**, from B.K. Moran and Charlie Haas

FOPL Seeks New Board Members

FOPL is looking for Oakland Library patrons to join our Board. We are currently eleven people aged 20 to 80-something who share a love of the library system and want to do something more to help pay for things that don't make it into Oakland's ever-stretched budget. Last year, in part, we helped fund the expansion of the e-book collection, purchased furniture for the Melrose branch, helped fund a quilt project at Rockridge and bought plants for Chavez. And we are helping to fund this summer's Teen Summer Passport Program.

The FOPL board meets 6 times a year, so the time commitment is reasonable. And we always have snacks! We would welcome the addition of several more new Board members to help build on the work we do for the libraries, whether through outreach, fund raising, writing, organizing, being computer literate or any number of other skills. All you need to bring is your enthusiasm for our Public Libraries.

To learn more, please email: pres@fopl.org

OPL Now Offers Free Museum Passes

Oakland Public Library Now Offers Free Museum Passes

On May 1, the Oakland Public Library launched its new "Discover and Go" service, which makes free passes to museums and other cultural institutions available to library card holders. Library patrons can access the Library's "Discover and Go" page on the OPL website:



discover.oaklandlibrary.org

Follow a few simple steps to procure a pass. Patrons will need to set up an online account, with their own PIN, to take advantage of this program.

Participating partners currently include:

Aquarium of the Bay
 Asian Art Museum
 Bay Area Discovery Museum
 Bedford Gallery
 California Academy of Sciences
 California Historical Society
 California Shakespeare Theater
 Cartoon Art Museum
 Charles M. Schulz Museum
 The Contemporary Jewish Museum
 Exploratorium
 GLBT History Museum
 The Lawrence Hall of Science
 Lindsay Wildlife Museum
 The Marine Mammal Center
 Museum of Children's Art
 Museum of Craft and Folk Art
 Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD)
 Napa Valley Museum
 Oakland Aviation Museum
 Oakland Museum of California
 Pacific Pinball Museum
 Peralta Hacienda Historical Park
 Saint Mary's College Museum of Art
 San Jose Museum of Art
 USS Hornet Museum
 Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum
 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

“Books on the Move...” A Community Project of re-donating books

An Interview with the Bookmark’s Phyllis Couillard—by Sophie Fynland Souroujon

Phyllis started volunteering at the Bookmark Bookstore in 2009, and now works there from 10:30 -2:00 pm on Sunday and occasionally other shifts on Thursday, Friday or Saturday if needed. She is also on the Bookstore Committee, where the subject kept coming up of finding a way to re-donate unsalable books rather than destroy them. In seeking a solution, Phyllis did some research which she shared with me.

Phyllis explained that at The Bookmark Bookstore, there are donation guidelines (see Bookmark Bookstore website for further details: fopl.org) for books and other items that are accepted. Store manager Bob Frey and volunteer staffers sort all donations. Most end up on the shelves. Badly damaged books are boxed for discard and picked up by the paper recycler. And some of the books, such as duplicates, are now set aside for the re-donating project. Books that are culled from our shelves by volunteer staffers are also put aside for the re-donating project.

Phyllis met with Erik Lyngen, owner of The Book Zoo (14 Glen Avenue, Oakland, CA), who directed her to an organization called Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10520 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA (bayareafreebookexchange.com). She located the Prisoners Literature Project, 2022 Blake Street, Berkeley, CA (prisonersliteratureproject.com), a non-profit, grassroots organization that sends free books to prisoners in the United States.

Phyllis called the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department and was directed to Raul Rodriguez, Inmate Literacy Specialist for the Alameda County Library Extension Services. They provide books and a tutoring program to prisoners at the three Alameda County Jails. Raul now provides book bins and comes to Phyllis’s home to pick them up each week. And a meeting with Ann Gallagher, Oakland Unified School District Librarian, identified PLACE at Prescott in West Oakland.

A call to the Lakeview Branch of the Oakland Public Library found that a Friends Group volunteer could use some trade paperback fiction books to sell to raise money for the Lakeview Branch. Last year while visiting an art gallery in Danville, Phyllis noticed a book sale going on at the Danville Public Library, hosted by the Friends of Danville Library. She introduced herself and asked what they did with the books that were not sold at the sale. The volunteer in charge of the sale, Elizabeth C. A. Johnson, told her they work with the Alameda County Jail Services program (through the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department) and St. Vincent de Paul’s.

Each program has its own guidelines for accepting books. Phyllis sorts out what the programs need and sets aside boxes for each as appropriate. She comes in on Thursdays and Saturdays to pick up the boxes that have been set-aside for her. Bookmark volunteers Kay Nelson and Richard James help her load and unload the boxes and she hires a local friend to help with delivery on Saturdays and Sundays. Once the deliveries are made, she returns the empty boxes to the bookstore for the next week’s donations. Since July 2011, Phyllis has picked up 15-20 boxes a week (approximately 400-500 boxes in total) and has re-donated approximately 13,775 books.

Phyllis worried about books going to the paper recycler and has done something extraordinary about it. She realizes that a one-woman volunteer is not enough, and would welcome other volunteers to join her in the re-donation project and expand this project to more community programs in need of books. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE BOOKMARK. It’s a great way to promote outreach to others in the community and the services of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

Phyllis loves books and is very proud of having several library cards that she uses with much relish. Her philosophy is that books should be available to everyone. For her, books are sacred; they take you to different places and escapes into the world of history, language and words. Growing up, some of her favorite books were the Nancy Drew mystery series. As an adult, she prefers reading non-fiction.



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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 members 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? Call (510) 444-0473 or visit us online at www.fopl.org to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.
- Donate items needed to improve Bookmark Bookstore operations:
 - ⇒ Sidewalk sign "Bookmark Bookstore"

JOIN US

Yes, I want to show my support for 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
- Bibliophile \$500 - \$999
- Book Conservator \$250 - \$499
- Bookworm \$100 - \$249
- Book Friend \$50 - \$99
- Family/Household \$35 - \$49
- Individual \$25 - \$34
- Student/Senior (65+).... \$15 - \$24

Name(s) _____

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(Sign me up for email notices and updates)

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