



OFF THE SHELF

DECEMBER EDITION 2009

FENTONS MAKES SWEET CONTRIBUTION TO NEW EAST OAKLAND LIBRARY

Author: Sophie Fynland Souroujon

During the month of October 2009 Fentons Creamery and Restaurant on Piedmont Avenue generously agreed to donate 25% of the price of a special Bookworm Sundae to the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. All the proceeds would go towards the purchase of books and other materials for the new East Oakland at 81st Avenue Branch Library, slated to open in spring 2010.

In response to a call for volunteers to staff an information table, my friend Evelyn Benas and I volunteered for Saturday, October 17th. It is hard to describe the excitement and thrill of being at Fentons. Evelyn and I sat at one of the patio tables, adjacent to the small parking lot, positioned exactly where everyone who entered the restaurant could see us right away. We passed out information about the Friends and the Oakland Public Library. We answered questions from hundreds of people as they walked into the restaurant. Quite a few people also dropped off donations in the large jar we kept for this purpose as they entered or left the restaurant. It was incredible to watch a slice of Oakland's life right there before our eyes!

There were at least half a dozen people who said that they were librarians from other cities (and states as well). Each one stopped to tell us how important libraries are in their lives. Quite a few people told us that they were from out of town and just visiting Oakland. Some said, "I'm visiting but I was



born in Oakland and remember Fentons." There seemed to be a real sentimental feeling about enjoying an ice cream treat at Fentons. Evelyn and I can relate to that!

Lots of children stepped inside for birthday parties and ice cream cones, but we realized that there were more adults than children inside Fentons. One man in particular walked out with his ice cream cone, sat at one of the patio seats, and looked as though he was in heaven with his cone. He was definitely a senior citizen, but it appeared to us that this man was a little boy enjoying his ice cream. It was such a joy to watch him eat.

Despite the fact that October 17th marked the anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake, it was a true blessing to be sitting in front of Fentons promoting the growth of a brand-new library, and hearing so many people speak with fondness about returning to Fentons for a sentimental journey home.

Wow!

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AN INTERVIEW WITH A TALENTED BOOKWORM ELLEN MOYER, INCOMING FOPL PRESIDENT

Author: Sophie Fynland Souroujon



Photo: Ellen Moyer w/Granddaughter Matilda

For many members, the most valuable benefit of FOPL membership is the knowledge that their donation is directed to the Oakland Public Library's greatest needs. With your help, FOPL granted **\$102,000** to the Oakland Public Library this past year for programs and projects that enhance library services for everyone in our community. FOPL's administrative costs are low (less than 6 percent) so most of your donation goes directly to the Library.



Recently I had a conversation with Ellen Moyer, a 12 year Oakland resident who has just become President of the board of FOPL. Over cups of tea, accompanied by a variety of cookies, Ellen and I enjoyed talking about her multifaceted interests and various activities.

Ellen and her two sisters grew up in a family who loved books. Ellen attended elementary school in Berkeley. She recalled with fondness a special childhood ritual: every Friday night, she, her parents and two sisters would go to the Berkeley Main Public Library on Shattuck Avenue and Kittredge Street. There, they would disperse into whatever corner of the library that appealed to them, pick as many books as the library permitted to be taken home, and carry the precious volumes home for their reading

pleasure. Ellen's favorite children's books were Nancy Drew mystery books, all Richard Scarry books (which she read to her own sons as they were learning to read), Cherry Ames nursing stories, the Bobbsey Twins books and magical Edward Eager books, among many others.

Ellen carried over the tradition of reading books to her own two sons. There was no public library close by where they lived in Seattle, Washington so books were purchased and each child either read on his own every night or the parents read to them. The boys are grown now - Ellen's oldest son, Bennett, lives and works on Kauai. Her younger son, Nathan and his wife, Mimi, have two daughters - 3-year old Sadie, and 1-1/2 year old Matilda. Ellen visits them in Seattle as often as she can!

In 1998, Ellen relocated from

Seattle to Oakland. Somewhere (at a library branch?) she saw a copy of *Off the Shelf*, FOPL's newsletter, and read an article titled, "Interested in being on the Board?" Ellen took the challenge, eager to give to others beyond the tutoring that she had already been involved with. Ellen contacted Julie Waldman, FOPL's then President, joined the Board, and within a year became Vice President.

Ellen is a big fan of libraries - both public and private collections. If she knows someone who has a collection of books about writers and by authors - Ellen's right there to look for new and/or additional knowledge, an idea, a thought, a poem, a search and adventure for something to learn.

What are some of Ellen's interests? First of all, she is a quilter, a passion that she shares with former FOPL president, Julie Waldman. Ellen plays the viola and piano. She is interested in various arts and crafts, sewing, fiber art, Guatemalan weaving, bead embroidery design, sculpture, anything happening at the Mendocino Art Center, botanical art and all sorts of classes, included art classes at Filoli House & Gardens, Woodside, CA.

Ellen prefers to read fiction, primarily books written by

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women writers, and various mystery books. Ellen is currently a member of FOPL's communications committee, organizing contact and writing articles for *Off the Shelf*, and responsible for updating the newly-redesigned FOPL website:

<http://www.fopl.org>

At the November 2009 Board meeting, Ellen Moyer was elected as FOPL's incoming President. Here are some of Ellen's "wish list" items for the future :

- To increase FOPL's board membership by at least 3 or 4 members, so

that more projects can be done.

- Further Board Development and develop more outreach
- Seeking additional ways to fundraise for the Library
- Generate new roles for The Bookmark Store, which is the public face of FOPL

It was certainly a pleasure to interview Ellen. We all wish her good luck in her presidency at FOPL. Who knows what's ahead with someone who likes to read mysteries?

We'll just have to wait till the next chapter.

Visit us online @
WWW.FOPL.ORG

Member Benefits

Members who join at the BookFriend (\$50) level or above also receive discounts at the participating local bookstores. Please show your BookFriend membership card to qualify for the discount.

Bibliomania, 1816 Telegraph Ave
Book Zoo, 6395 Telegraph Ave
Laurel Book Store, 4100 MacArthur Blvd
Marcus Books, 3900 M.L.K., Jr. Way
Montclair Book Tree, 6123 LaSalle St
Pendragon, 5560 College Ave
The Spectator, 4163 Piedmont Ave
Walden Pond, 3316 Grand Ave

GIVING

FOPL is grateful for the following tribute gifts:

In memory of **Bruce R. Alexander**

- Carl Alexander
- Irene Jose

In memory of **Bradley C. Walters**

- Willard L. Boyd
- Oakland Raiders Booster Club
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Oakland Word
PALABRA
OAKLAND
屋仑言
WRITING THE WORD, WRITING THE WORLD

Starting in January, several branch libraries will offer free workshops and seminars led by local writers, in a new program called Oakland Word. Workshop participants will have the unique opportunity to see their creative writing in print in an official Oakland Word publication. The program will continue until April 2010.

Contact Kenji Liu @
kliu@oaklandlibrary.org

Bradley C. Walters

On August 15, 2009 our friend and colleague Brad Walters passed away. He dedicated his life to serving the bibliophiles of Oakland. For the past 19 years, he worked in the Main branch. He was also an active member of the SEIU Local 1021, and was serving as chapter President at the time of his death. His presence will surely be missed by all who have a love of reading.



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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 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 volunteering.
- Donate your Vehicle. Charity Connection, a service of Volunteers of America, will sell your vehicle, and contribute a portion of the proceeds to FOPL. Call (800)559-5458 and be sure to mention that your tax-deductible gift is for the Friends.

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)

Supporting Membership Levels:

____ \$1000 Book Angel Name(s) _____
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