



# OFF THE SHELF

DECEMBER EDITION - 2010

## PROJECT UPDATES IN THE LIBRARY BRANCH SYSTEM

Three branches serving East Oakland are being opened, reopened or closed for renovations. The projects were identified in the Oakland Public Library's Master Facilities Plan completed in 2006. The plan called for improvements throughout the system to modernize library facilities.

**Save the Date**  
**January 29, 2011 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**for a Grand Opening of the 81st Ave/East Oakland Branch**

Celebrate the opening of the new 81st Avenue/East Oakland Community Library, located at 1021 81st Avenue. The new branch is funded by grants from the California State Library, the Oakland Redevelopment Agency, the Oakland Unified School District and many foundations. FOPL raised funds for books and other materials. For information call 510-238-6932.



### Brookfield Branch Temporarily Closed

The Brookfield Branch at 9255 Edes Avenue, is closed as of December 1, 2010 for construction work. Improvements include a skylight renovation, exterior signage, and a new control system for the HVAC. The branch is tentatively scheduled to reopen on February 1, 2011.

### Elmhurst Branch Library Reopens

The Elmhurst Branch, 1427 88th Avenue, reopened on December 1, 2010. The renovation project included major changes to the front door access, restroom, and drinking fountains, all of which have been made compliant with ADA standards, making the branch more accessible for the disabled. New furnishings will be arriving later and a "Grand Re-Opening" will be announced at that time with activities and refreshments.



For information, call the Library at 510-238-3271 or visit the Library's website: [www.oaklandlibrary.org](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org)

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### ELECTION RESULTS

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library held our annual meeting. We are pleased to announce the re-election of Genevieve Katz and Michael Dalton to the Board of Directors. In addition, we are pleased to welcome Bob Shurtleff, the most recently elected member of FOPL's Board of Directors.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE AT OPL

Author: OPL Community Relations

October 6 was Snapshot Day at the Library. Snapshot Day was a statewide campaign overseen by the California Library Association to document and showcase the value of libraries in our communities. Data was collected, patrons provided testimonials, and, with funding from FOPL, photos were taken to capture a "day in the life" at the Library.

Said one patron: "The library is such a great resource on so many levels! It doesn't just offer books, but community groups, literacy work, and a certain deep and abiding sense that a well-stocked library is one of the foundations of a great society."

The Oakland Public Library participated along with hundreds of other libraries (big, small, public, and private) throughout the state. Here is a pair of heartwarming images captured during the day.



The library attracts readers of all ages. Photo Courtesy of Sibila Savage



Photo Courtesy of Sibila Savage

Dimond's Storytime drew a big crowd of little people.

## EBOOK AND AUDIOBOOK SELECTION GROWS

Author: OPL Community Relations

Check-Out and Download Digital Media Anytime, Anywhere!

With the recent launch of the Oakland ePort, the Oakland Public Library has expanded its services with audiobooks and ebooks available to download from the Library's website. Library card holders can browse the library's website, log in with a valid library card and a PIN, and download to PC, Mac, and many mobile devices.

Currently, approximately 1,000 new titles are available in audio book and ebook format, and 15,000 public domain titles are available in ebook format, and the list is growing steadily. Visit [www.oaklandlibrary.org](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org) to learn more.

## GIVING

FOPL is grateful for special donations received from July 2010 to November 2010:

### In memory of Cathy Pauline Austen

Anonymous

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Nancy Wheeler

**In memory of Jacob Schwartz** from Lillian Schwartz

**In memory of Anthony Joseph Smith** from Richard Kolbert

**In memory of Lee White** from Rachel Kimball

**In memory of Sharon Crandall**

Stephanie Mooers

Marilyn Kinney

**In memory of Marilyn Mason** from Terry Kulka

From the **A & A Sherwood Fund** at the East Bay Community Foundation for publication and distribution of this newsletter.

## FOPL'S YOUNGEST BOARD MEMBER AN INTERVIEW WITH BROOK VANDERFORD

Author: Sophie Fynland Souroujon

On August 3, 2010, I had the pleasure of interviewing Brook Vanderford at her apartment in downtown Oakland, situated just a few blocks away from The Bookmark Bookstore.

Brook was born in Kokomo, Indiana and grew up between there and a small country town an hour away named Flora with her mom, stepfather and sister Lisa, who now resides in Phoenix, Arizona. Brook comes from a long line of women readers: her great-grandmother, her grandmother and, of course, her own mother. It's a tradition that Brook is proud to continue to this day, following the routine that started in childhood: going to the library and taking as many books to read as possible, with a wide variety of subjects to absorb, including many books that her mother had taken out of the library for herself trusting that Brook could handle the more adult books as well.

Some of Brook's early favorite books were The Boxcar Children series, Nancy Drew, The Chronicles of Narnia, and The Secret Garden. As she got a little older, she preferred A Wrinkle in Time, The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings series, along with historical biographies. She says the book that affected her the most growing up was Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird.

When Brook's family moved to a more rural setting, reading became even more important to her. Since this school offered fewer classes, she supplemented her education by reading as much as possible, and Brook credits this with helping to prepare her for

college. Brook graduated from Indiana University, majoring in Anthropology, and succeeding very well in her major because of her keen reading comprehension from an early age and an innate eagerness to learn.

In 2003, three days after Brook's graduation, she moved to Palo Alto, California, to volunteer at the Gorilla Foundation, where Koko the gorilla famous for knowing sign language resides. Brook's goal was to get a Master's in Anthropology, especially because of her keen interest in primates. In 2004, Brook moved to San Francisco, where she worked for awhile at the Junior League, a non-profit organization. After Brook left this position, she worked as a researcher for CM Recruiting, an Internet recruiting firm that finds people to fill positions for companies like Google, Yahoo, Netflix, etc. Because the hours were flexible, this made it easier for Brook to work on her digital filmmaking certification, which she received from the Bay Area Video Coalition. She used this certificate to apply for the Visual Anthropology Master's program at San Francisco State University and was accepted. Unfortunately, soon after beginning this program in 2008, she started experiencing serious health problems with her eyes that would cause her to put her academic goals on hold.

Besides reading, Brook's interests range from movies and karaoke to roller-skating. Brook and her husband Ben like to explore the local history of cities where they live and mostly do so by walking in the various neighborhoods, learning



Photo Courtesy of Brook Vanderford

about the architecture of that particular place, and visiting a diversity of restaurants, especially those that are vegetarian. Brook enjoys going to used bookstores, consignment shops, vintage shops, thrift stores, estate sales, and flea markets. While Ben stands outside a building and admires its architecture, Brook is already inside – shopping!

When Brook and Ben moved from San Francisco to Oakland, they chose to live in the Old Oakland neighborhood because they both had fallen in love with the architecture and the general good feeling about the neighborhood itself. On one of their exploring days in Old Oakland, they discovered a treasure – FOPL's The Bookmark Store. From then on, Brook started going to the Bookmark and now volunteers there 2-3 times a week. She enjoys supporting something that she cares about deeply – books and libraries. Brook soon realized that she could do more for FOPL than just volunteering at The Bookmark. She then joined the Board of Directors and started to work on FOPL's website, also enlisting her husband's technical know-how to do so.

Brook has made FOPL's website more user-friendly and easier to update. Various links were added, including the latest news about the East Oakland Community Library at 81st

Avenue. Next Brook started working on a separate website for The Bookmark, which launched in September of 2010. The website includes news about the bookstore, Old Oakland events, local authors and the Oakland Public Library. You can check it out at:

[www.thebookmarkbookstore.org](http://www.thebookmarkbookstore.org)

Brook helped do the research on prospective donors for EOCL's fundraising, and she also contacted many local businesses to see if they wanted to be involved in this campaign. Brook enjoyed the work she did for EOCL's development so much that she is currently considering a career change to non-profit fundraising once her eye problems allow her to return to work. In the meantime, she says that working with FOPL has helped her in numerous ways during her time off. Not only has it given her something to keep busy with and let her surround herself with books, she's also learned new skills that she hopes to take with her into her next career, as she is hoping to return to work sometime in the coming year.

To Brook and Ben – a big THANK YOU for volunteering your time for FOPL. The clear, easy-to-read FOPL website looks great and we are excited to see how the general public reacts to the new site for the Bookmark Bookstore!



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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](http://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) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$500 Bibliophile      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$250 Book Conservator      Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$100 Book Worm      City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$50 Book Friend      Gift in Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Basic Membership Levels:

\_\_\_ \$35 Family/Household

\_\_\_ \$25 Individual

\_\_\_ \$15 Senior (65+)/Student

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Call (510) 238-6932 for membership information.