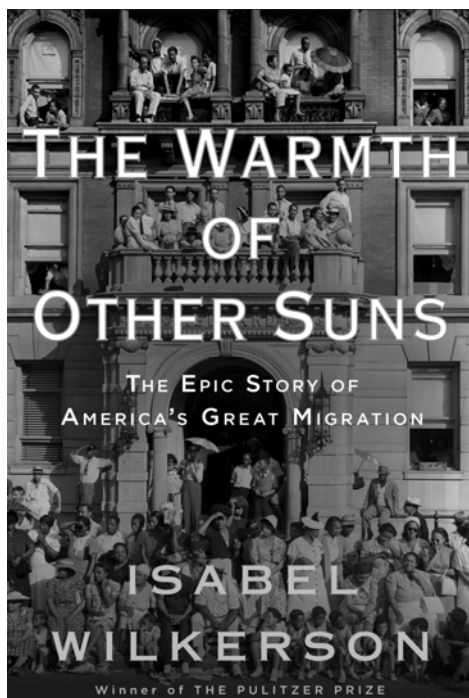




# OFF THE SHELF

MAY EDITION - 2011

AN EVENING WITH ISABEL WILKERSON  
AUTHOR OF *THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS*:  
*THE EPIC STORY OF AMERICA'S GREAT MIGRATION*



From 1915 to 1970, six million African Americans migrated from the rural South to start new lives in industrial cities in the North and the West. *The Warmth of Other Suns* is a best-selling nonfiction account of this massive shift in American demographics, told in compelling, page-turning fashion. Join Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson for an exciting discussion! FREE!

Wednesday, May 25th  
African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO)  
659 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
**7 to 9 pm, doors open 6:30 pm** (Seating is limited; no reserved seating)  
For more information, please call (510) 238-3271

- - Event Co-Sponsored by *The Friends of the Oakland Public Library* - -

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## INSERT:

- Mayor's Proposed Budget: FAQ



## A LIFELONG FRIEND OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

AUTHOR: SOPHIE FYNLAND SOUROUJON

On March 22 I had the pleasure of meeting Robert D. Bacon, Esq. a FOPL member and Capital Gift Donor for the brand-new East Oakland 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Public Library.

Mr. Bacon (call me “Bob”) told me that on March 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, his late father, Omar Bacon, a Public Librarian, would have been 100 years old. Last year, Bob was trying to think of what he could do as a gift for his father’s centennial. Just then, the announcement arrived at his home about the grand opening of a new public library in Oakland, serving a community that was seeking the kind of information and education that only a public library could offer. One of the things that appealed to Bob was the idea of the connection between the elementary school next door and the library, teaching students the possibilities and opportunities of both reading and learning about the world inside and outside of the community itself.

Bob’s gift was clear. He would contribute a Capital Gift toward Oakland’s newest public library.

Omar Bacon grew up on a farm in Wisconsin. He was always interested in reading and education, and during the Depression, he left the farm to attend Wisconsin State College in River Falls. He first became a teacher but then decided that what he really wanted to do was to become a librarian, serving small towns and rural areas. He succeeded in doing that, promoting the concept of public libraries in all different ways.

Bob’s father knew there were other kids on farms who, like he had been, were seeking opportunities to expand their world. He made it a point to get to know the principals and teachers of the small, rural schools, demonstrating the importance of public libraries for students and their families.

Bob was born in Huntington, West Virginia. When he was 4 years old, Bob became the youngest member of the Friends of the Huntington Public Library, a fact commemorated in the local newspaper! As Bob described this event to me, he broke into a wide smile of a delightful memory, a sunshine moment in his life.

Bob enjoyed growing up in a home full of books with a family that was dedicated to public libraries. His mother was a stay-at-home Mom, and later became an accounting clerk for several retail stores. Bob’s late sister, Marilyn Bacon Wilderson, became a book editor, and married a book editor as well.

Bob moved to California to go to Stanford University, where he received his undergraduate degree. He received his Law degree at UC Davis. After law school, Bob moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where he practiced law. He loved living in Anchorage with its breathtaking nature. His interest in photography, especially taking photos of nature, was enriched by living in Anchorage. One of Bob’s photographs was prominently displayed in the room where we held our interview.

In 1994, Bob moved due to a work transfer from Sacramento to Oakland, where he currently specializes in criminal law.

Bob enjoys attending concerts of the Philharmonia Baroque, his favorite “listening music style.” His mother also especially enjoyed classical music in particular, among other eclectic musical preferences.

Bob likes to travel, is interested in sports, such as cross-country skiing (Tahoe Donner area and Alaska), and enjoys going to baseball games. He likes to read books on American history and geography. Lots of choices!

Bob told me that joining Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) was “a given” for him. Wherever he lives, he always supports that city’s public library. Bob was raised to believe in the significance of public libraries, and his support and contribution to this institution are constant reminders of what it takes to have a thriving community, working together toward a better life for all.

Thank you, Bob, for being here in Oakland, California.



Photo: Sally Bean, 81st Ave. Library Manager and Robert Bacon

### JOIN FOPL & THE OAKLAND A'S

The Oakland A's and FOPL are teaming up to raise funds for the library. Join us at the August 13th game between the A's and the Texas Rangers. We have 50 Field Level seats for \$26 each, of which HALF goes directly to benefit the library. Game time is currently scheduled for 1:10 and the first 10,000 fans will receive a Ray Fosse Bobblehead. For more information and to reserve your tickets call Winifred at (510) 238-6932 or send an email to [info@fopl.org](mailto:info@fopl.org) (include "Oakland A's" in the subject line).

#### ELLEN MOYER, FOPL PRESIDENT DISCUSSES OAKLAND BUDGET CRISIS

One of the Oakland Mayor's fiscal year 2011-13 Proposed Budget scenarios, the "All Cuts Budget", would have a devastating effect on the library and its services. It effectively reduces next year's library funding from the 2010-11 level of \$23.6 million to \$3.6 million, requiring the closure of 13 of the 16 branch libraries, as well as the African American Museum and Library, the Tool Lending Library and Second Start Adult Literacy. Electronic services like downloadable books and databases would be discontinued, and there would be little funding for programs like summer reading and story hours.

In 2003, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library worked diligently with hundreds of others to enact Measure Q, the special parcel tax in support of the Oakland Public Library. Seventy-seven percent of Oakland voters voted for this measure, which raises just under \$14 million a year to provide library services to all of Oakland. To raise these funds, the city is required to fund the Library in the amount of \$9 million out of the general fund. The All Cuts budget funding of only \$3.6 million means the city would not be able to collect Measure Q funds.

We are asking our members and others who visit our website to educate themselves about the budget scenarios under consideration by visiting [www.oaklandnet.com](http://www.oaklandnet.com). Please contact your City Council representative and let him/her know how you feel about enacting a budget that closes most of the city's libraries. Contact information, talking points, meeting dates and more can be found at:

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

Myrtle's Monthly Creation

**SUNDAE of the MONTH**  
**Snickerdoodle**

A Warm Snickerdoodle Cookie cradling Limited Edition Cinnamon Ice Cream nestled with Chocolate Ice Cream, topped with Hot Fudge, Whipped Cream, Cherry and a dash of Cinnamon!

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### GIVING

FOPL is grateful for the following donations received through April 2011:

In honor of **Charles H. Shuttleworth, III** from Stephen Shuttleworth

In honor of **Georganne Ferrier & Steven Weinberg's anniversary** from Susan Myers, Stephen Teixeira and Felice York

In honor of **Rosemary Goderre & Morris Hirsch** in honor of their nuptials from Bill, Laura, Rose and Tom Hogan

In memory of **Lottie Rose**

In memory of **Muriel E. Nelson**

The Bookmark received a donation from Constanca Romilly and Benjamin Treuhaft consisting of many signed and first editions from the estate of **Jessica Mitford and Robert Treuhaft**. The Bookmark Bookstore is grateful for thousands of books donated each year to be sold in the store or online to maximize the amount raised for Oakland's libraries.



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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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