

July 2016

Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois

OPL Coordinator, Grants and Volunteers

Careful readers may have noticed an intriguing item on the list of FOPL grants to the library last fall: "... in 2015, the FOPL board granted \$10,000 to the Oakland Public Library to Enhance the World Languages Collection."

Why would the library need a special grant to support a World Languages Collection? OPL's Senior Collection Development Librarian reports that, "Foreign language materials, usually imported, tend to be more expensive than standard library materials, and some will carry the extra cost of outsourced cataloging and processing. It can be challenging to find and work with vendors for each of these languages."

Despite these challenges, OPL decided to expand the collection to meet the needs of Oakland's increasingly diverse community. The most recent U.S. Census estimates that 27% of our population is foreign born, and that 40% of Oaklanders (ages five and up) speak a language other than English at home.



This FOPL grant allowed us to purchase new books and signage for the new space at the Main Library, where you will find materials in Arabic, Amharic, Spanish, French, Thai, Tagalog, Hindi, Punjabi, and Tigrinya (spoken in Ethiopia).

Future plans for the Collection include Khmer, Lao, Farsi, and Chinese materials. The Asian Branch has an excellent selection of books in Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and Korean; Spanish books are found at many OPL locations. The World Languages Collection makes our collection more accessible, as Main is open every day.

If you have questions, or if you speak any of these languages and would like to help spread the news about this new collection, please contact Andrew Demcak: ademcak@oaklandlibrary.org.



Summer Reading, June 11th-August 6th

<http://oaklandsummerreading.com/>

There are many special events: magicians and clowns, petting zoo, puppet and bubble shows, toddler dance parties! Check the schedule for activities at your Branch. FREE End of Summer Party, with fun for families and children, at the Oakland Museum, August 7th, noon to 4 p.m.

For Kids: Read 20 days during the summer and be eligible to win a free book and other prizes. Parents and older children can read to non-readers. Grand prizes include a family membership to Children's Fairyland (ages 0-4) and an iPad (ages 5-14).

For Teens: Sign up for the Summer Passport Program and get your TeenZone Notebook, then collect Passport Stamps for visiting museums, skate parks, attending library programs, volunteering for the library, writing reviews, and more. Passport Stamps can be turned in for a backpack, ear buds, and chances to win an iPad mini or Chromebook. FREE Teen Zone End of Summer Party, August 13th, 1 p.m., at Main.

For Adults: Read a book and write a short description/review OR complete three different activities (create art, check out a cookbook, take a selfie somewhere in Oakland, explore Oakland on foot, bike or by public transit, ask a librarian a question, attend a library program, download an e-book, get a Discover & Go Pass, bring a friend to a library). Enter often to increase your chances of winning, but you can only win once. Prizes include gift cards and a Kindle Fire HD.

Appreciation of Sophie Souroujon, Longtime FOPL Board Member

Sophie Souroujon joined the FOPL Board in 2001 and retired from it at the end of 2015. An impressive tenure! She was a very active member, frequently contributing articles to the FOPL Newsletter, most notably interviews with new board members (although it is regrettable that she never agreed to be interviewed herself!). She visited area Bookstores to enlist their support in granting discounts to FOPL members who join at the Book Friend and above levels. She was an ambassador at the annual Fentons Creamery fundraiser for FOPL, and helped with our informational booth at the Antiquarian Book Fair and other such events. Sophie attended literary events all over Oakland and promoted FOPL wherever and whenever she could, including at the First Friday events at The Bookmark. Thank you so much!



Sophie holding the book that the FOPL board presented to her, in appreciation of her service.

Photo: Ellen Moyer

FOPL Funds Half of this Award

Finalists for the 2016 **Oakland Youth Poet Laureate** Competition will perform at the annual BeastCrawl festival and then the winner will be announced. The Laureate will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, leadership opportunities and mentoring. **Impact Hub**, 2323 Broadway, Oakland.

July 16th, 6 p.m. | **FREE**

FOPL Board Additions and Initiatives

Kathryn Sterbenc (current chair of the Library Advisory Commission) was appointed to the board. The Board elected two current members, Susana Morales Konishi and Suzanne Fischer, as Vice Presidents. The FOPL Mission is: to advance the role of the Oakland Public Library as a vital community resource and as an institution critical to the culture, education, and welfare of our diverse community. The FOPL Board held a retreat on April 17th, 2016, where they reviewed the strengths of the organization and strategized new initiatives. Several working groups were formed, for Outreach, Funding, Branch Relationships, Infrastructure and Advocacy. The Board also hopes to engage FOPL members (i.e. those not on the board) in some of these initiatives. Please contact pres@fopl.org if you are interested in learning more.

Social Media

Off the Shelf is published only 4 times a year. You can find more timely information on our **Facebook** page (for example, each month we upload selected images of the store inventory). www.facebook.com/BookmarkBookstore.FOPL

You can also check in with us at **Instagram** ([bookmarkbookstore](https://www.instagram.com/bookmarkbookstore)). We post selected pictures of new donations (this effort spearheaded by Estela Gutierrez, a Bookmark Volunteer).

And on **Twitter** too!

FOPL/Bookmark @FOPL_Bookmark

East Bay Book Festivals

FOPL had booths at The Oakland Book Festival on May 22nd and at the Bay Area Book Festival in Berkeley, June 4th and 5th. We sold FOPL memberships, T-shirts (also available at Dimond, Lakeview, Piedmont Ave., Children's Room at Main, and The Bookmark, in case you missed the chance) and provided general information about FOPL and The Bookmark.

81st Avenue Branch Friends

Gen Katz, the FOPL Board Member who facilitates Branch Friends Groups, met with Rosa Ibarra and five other members of the 81st Avenue Library Branch Friends in February, giving them the Branch Friends Handbook and the FAQ for new Friends Groups. The group is not that new, as they have been meeting occasionally for at least two years; their meetings are not formal, as they see each other on almost a daily basis – sort of a stealth friends group. Gen pointed out the value of holding formal meetings with an agenda and the benefit of summarizing progress towards their goals. The 81st Friends group benefits from having two schools next door and as a result have a large population of children and mothers. Their recent birthday party celebrating five years was well attended and successful. Pre-teens help with community projects. The group attended the last Branch Friends Network Meeting and have done some of the projects that were mentioned there – for example, using discarded books for art (see photo), they had a clothing and toy swap, and are interested in having a sleepover because they do movie nights for families. Further interests – making a cookbook and meeting with other Branch Friends groups. They are on Facebook and linked on OPL's web page.



Photo: courtesy of Rose Ibarra

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.

Chinese proverb

Branch Friends Network Meeting

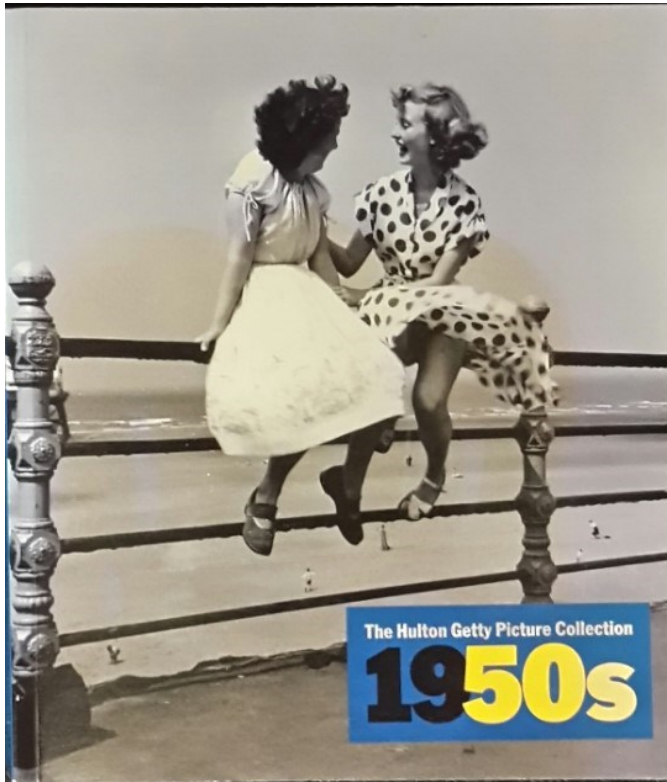
The semi-annual meeting, held April 30th at Melrose, was attended by representatives from the Asian, Chavez, Dimond, Eastmont, Lakeview, Martin Luther King, Jr., Melrose, Oakland History Room, Piedmont Ave, and Rockridge Branches, and by representatives from the Library Advisory Commission, FOPL and OPL. The groups shared how their Branch Friends Groups started (many attendees were second generation members and did not start the group). For all, the main goals are to work towards increasing memberships and strengthening connections with the communities they serve. If you are interested in joining such efforts, contact your Branch Library or Sara DuBois: sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org.

New Branch Friends Group at West Oakland

Former Branch Manager MaryGay Ducey tapped five community members to gauge their interest in forming a Friends group. The first meeting was held Fall 2015. In February 2016 Allene Warren, chair of the Elmhurst Friends Group, and MaryGay Ducey facilitated the discussion; Ms. Warren shared what the Elmhurst Friends group does in their community, and gave tips on gaining new members as they move ahead. Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 3 p.m., at West Oakland. Contact the Branch Manager Susy Moorhead to learn more: SMoorhead@oaklandlibrary.org.

National Night Out is August 2nd

Neighborhoods host block parties featuring cookouts, visits from the police or fire departments, contests and more, all with the intention of strengthening neighborhood spirit. Oakland had more than 550 block parties in 2015, and 2016 might surpass that! Several OPL branches will have NNO events: Melrose will have a petting zoo at 4:30 p.m., Elmhurst will feature Mariposa the Clown at 5 p.m., 81st Ave events are at 6 p.m., and West Oakland's start at 5 p.m. Please check with your Branch for details.



Found at the Bookmark

By Sheila McCormick, FOPL Board Member

A sampling from the Hulton-Getty Picture collection, arguably the world's largest photography collection. 1950: Self-service supermarket in Connecticut. 1951: photo shown above, taken with a fixed-focus box camera, Blackpool, England. 1952: women reading newspaper with headline "The King is Dead". 1953: Russian tanks in East Berlin. 1954: Rin Tin Tin, the dog movie star, "reads" his fan mail. 1955: "Duck and Cover" drill for nuclear attack. 1956: Girl receiving polio vaccine. 1957: Elizabeth Taylor with pigeons on her hat in Trafalgar Square. 1958: Car of the future, to be atomic-powered! 1959: Nixon and Castro shaking hands. A nice feature of this book is that the captions are in English, French, and German. If historical photography interests you, I additionally suggest this mini-series [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting the Past](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting_the_Past) - the DVD is available at OPL.

FOPL Seeks New Volunteers

If you have marketing, financial, or other expertise that you think might be relevant to our efforts, FOPL and The Bookmark Bookstore hope you will consider volunteering. Please contact pres@fopl.org or bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com

Armchair Traveler Recommendations from FOPL Board Members

Gen Katz: **The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World**, by Eric Weiner. Eric, a longtime foreign correspondent for National Public Radio, after years of grim reporting, decides to visit the most contented places in the world. He makes use of Veenhoven's database on positive psychology to help him make his selections. His observations are insightful, often amusing and his findings surprising. Iceland and Bhutan are at the top of this mixed list. Read to find out why.

Kathryn Sterbenc: **Notes from a Small Island**, by Bill Bryson. After living in England for almost 20 years, Bryson takes a farewell tour before returning to the U.S. This travelogue provides his typically wry social commentary, along with endearing portraits of the people and regions in his adopted homeland. Bryson's descriptions of the miles and miles of glorious British countryside made me want to go there.

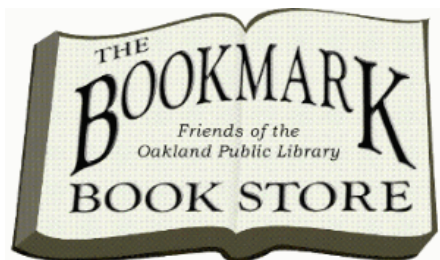
Sheila McCormick: **Chasing the Monsoon** by Alexander Frater. As a child, Frater had a painting of the wettest place on earth in his bedroom, a place his father had dreamed of visiting, but had never managed to do. In this book Frater starts near the southern tip of India and travels north with the Monsoon, eventually, after much bureaucratic difficulty, reaching that wettest place (Cherrapunji, Assam). I've never been to India but I love this book.

East Bay Gives

Despite significant technical challenges with the East Bay Gives web site on May 5th, FOPL received \$2,440 in donations. There were 31 gifts, including 7 new memberships and a \$500 matching gift from an anonymous donor. Thank you to all the donors who persevered!

Where is human nature so weak as in the bookstore?

Henry Ward Beecher



Mark your calendars for The Bookmark Bookstore's Semi-Annual Sale, from October 13th to 16th (Thursday-Sunday). Remember, FOPL members receive 20% off purchases **every** day.

On-line Sales (also available directly from the store)

See (www.amazon.com/shops/the_bookmark_bookstore) to browse current listings, such as:

The Waste Land: A Facsimile and Transcript of the Original Drafts, Including the Annotations of Ezra Pound, Limited Edition, 1971 (\$250)

Charlotte's Web, by E.B.White, – 1st Edition/1st Printing, Hardcover, 1952 (\$75)

I Am King: A Photographic Biography of Muhammad Ali, by David King, Paperback, 1975 (\$50)

Exactng Ear: The Story of Listener-Sponsored Radio, and an Anthology of Programs from KPFA, KPFK, and WBAI, edited by Eleanor McKinney, Hardcover, 1966 (\$40)

Farmer's Market Branch

The Bookmark Bookstore has a booth at the Jack London Square Farmer's Market, the first Sunday of every month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The booth is currently hosted by volunteers Pat Brody and Joshua Chavanne. Please come by, and thanks to these volunteers for their efforts in spreading the news about our store!

“Off the Shelf” Format Changes

The newsletter is now printed on white instead of beige paper (easier to see the images) and each page has two instead of three columns (easier to read). Let us know what you think: info@fopl.org.



Notable Donations from Pixar

Pixar recently donated 26 boxes of books from their Art Library Collection; many are in foreign languages. **5 ar av frihet** is a coffee table-sized book (in Swedish) about 19th century French cartoons and caricatures (notice the people in the seed cavity of the pear). This donation is still being processed, but check soon for some interesting additions to our shelves.

GIVING:

In memory of **Susan C. Hodson** from Karen Long

In memory of **Ann Adams** from Samuel Williams

In memory of **Jean S. Triebel**, former FOPL board member, from Winifred Walters

In honor of **Ronile Lahti** from Sandra Sher

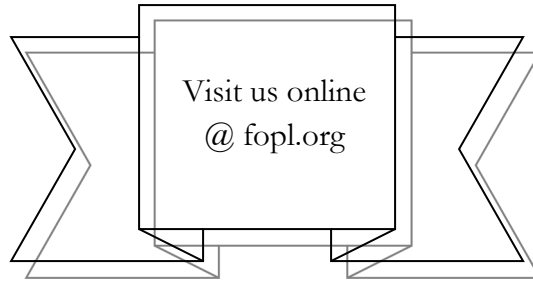
In honor of **strong literacy for all** from new members Lynne Jones and Roger Baxter

In honor of **Kathleen Bahamondes** from Joan and Bill Bolster

FOPL thanks **New Sprouts Chinese School** for a gift to enhance services to children at the Asian Branch Library



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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 – **925** strong – dedicated to supporting the Oakland Public Library!
- Leave a legacy by naming FOPL in your estate plan.
- Donate your gently-used books, CDs, DVDs, 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)
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___ Donation (\$_____ in addition to my membership dues)

Membership Levels:
___ Book Angel \$1,000 or more
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___ Book Friend \$50 – \$99
___ Family/Household \$35 – \$49
___ Individual \$25 – \$34
___ Senior (65+)/Student \$15 – \$24

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Go to fopl.org to sign up for book sale announcements

Contributions are tax-deductible (tax ID 94-2553734).
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