

October 2016

Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois
OPL Coordinator, Grants and Volunteers

Thanks to a FOPL grant, the library recently launched a new lending service at two branches that has been incredibly popular with staff and patrons from Day One: **Hotspots!**

What is a hotspot? This incredible device – the size of deck of cards – allows users who are within range of the Sprint Network and have the logon code to access the Internet. Patrons can check these out for 3 weeks. For patrons who don't have Internet access at home, this is an incredible service.

Celia Jackson, the West Oakland Branch Children's Librarian, reports a great response to this new program, "especially from teenage patrons – they are beaming as they leave the branch with their hotspot. Many who have checked one out had either never been to the library before or haven't been in for ages and ages."

The library is grateful to have the funds which allow us to provide this service. We know it's a real benefit to our patrons – giving them access to the Internet when (and where) they need it.

Hotspots are currently offered at Melrose (4805 Foothill Boulevard) and West Oakland (1801 Adeline Street). Patrons can call 510-535-5623 or 510-238-7352 to reserve one.



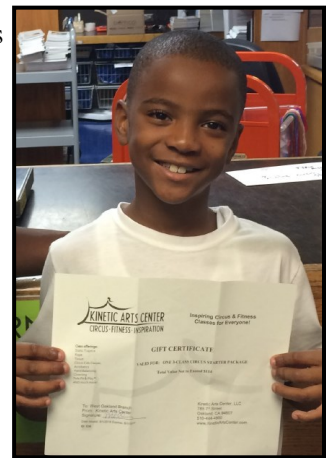
Each year the library submits a "wish list" of grant requests to FOPL - projects that library staff would like to pursue, but which aren't possible without extra funding. This column profiles some of the approved projects after they have been implemented, so that FOPL members can see the results of their work. If there is a FOPL-funded library project you'd like to

see profiled, please contact sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org.

Oakland Supports the Library's 2016 Summer Reading Program

Each year, the Oakland Public Library offers the Summer Reading Challenge – a fun way for local youth to maintain their literacy skills over the summer. About 10,000 children participate, with more than half completing 20 days of reading. OPL awards a new book (of one's own choosing) to each child who completes the program and also holds a raffle for special prizes.

Last fall, OPL Children's librarians decided to ask more local businesses and institutions for prizes for the Summer Reading raffle. Through letters, email, and phone calls, a small group of OPL staff reached out to potential donors with a short description of the program and its goals. Within days, the prizes started arriving:



movie passes from local theaters; tickets to institutions such as the zoo, the circus, the symphony, and the ballet; gift certificates to neighborhood bookstores and recreation clubs; tokens for boat rentals; sports lessons for swimming, yoga, and circus arts; and much more.

"We are very touched by this incredible response from the community," said Nina Lindsay, Supervising Librarian for Children's Services. "So many included a note about how much the owner or manager of the business really believes in the power of reading. We are thrilled to have so many new partners join us in promoting youth literacy in Oakland."

We are proud to acknowledge the businesses and institutions that supported the 2016 Summer Reading Challenge with donations of goods, services, and unique experiences. For a full list of donors, please visit <http://oaklandsummerreading.com/donors> Thank you!

Profile of 2016 Youth Poet Laureate (scholarship 50% funded by FOPL)

Who are you?

Azariah Cole-Shephard. I am 18 years old and attend Charles W. Davidson College of Engineering at San José State University, where I major in Electrical Engineering.

When did you know you had the gift to write poetry?

My mother always instilled in me that my extensive vocabulary and a desire to make change were some of the many blessings God has provided. When I began writing I was skeptical when it came to sharing my work with others because I didn't realize that I was not alone in any of my struggles. The first time I fully opened up to someone and let them read my poems was in 11th grade in my entrepreneurship program. My mentor began reading them and was eventually moved to tears. As she began to explain the cause of her tears and brag about my work to others, I began to receive more encouragement from those around me. The first time my parents heard any of my poetry was when I was filling out my application for Oakland Youth Poet Laureate in 2015. I'll never forget the widened eyes, the hard gulps and the "You wrote that!?" that followed. As the positive responses began to pour in, I knew I had an obligation to continue writing. The first poem I ever performed in a public setting is my piece called "#OneLove", which was written in response to the increased publicized brutalization of black bodies. The poem was my outcry for my people to get it together, not as a prerequisite to protesting police brutality but for the sake of our future generations and intra-race relations. As I watch my writing transform stylistically it becomes more clear to me every day that what I have to say, matters.

What inspired you to be a writer and what do you want people to grasp from your work?

When I first began to write, my desire and inspiration was rooted in anxiety, inequality and the desire to exhale. From 7th-12th grade I attended Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy, a predominantly Latinx middle and high school. While there I faced endless racism, sabotage and harassment. My immediate school surroundings, in addition to the anti-blackness I experienced and observed in the status quo, began to weigh heavily on my heart and I needed a way to articulate my truths. While my struggles at Wilson Prep have come to an end, the status quo has done everything but improve the quality of engagement with black bodies. As I continue to write poetry, I begin to write less for myself and more for those around me. At the end of the day, I want my audience to grasp new knowledge after engaging my work. Most of the poetry I write is in-your-face. I believe that there is an underlying desire for change that follows all uncomfortable situations. I just want to continue to exude love and educate others in my writing and as long as I can do that, I will be content.

Where do you see yourself in the future? Happy. I do not know what the future holds but I do know that God makes no mistakes and I will be where I belong. As far as short terms goals, I plan to get my Bachelor's degree, enroll in Law School where I will study Intellectual Property and eventually take the Patent Bar to become an IP Litigator. In addition to these professional goals, I plan to continue my activism and change lives through my poetry. I hope to publish a book soon with an emphasis on healing and affirmation for black youth suffering from the traumas of everyday life in such an anti-black world.

What do you do in your free time?

I spend my free time writing poetry and essays, getting involved with local and national activism, photography, making music, getting closer to God, spending time with my family, reading books, and mentoring youth.

What does being the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate mean to you?

Being the Poet Laureate has provided a larger platform and access to larger and more diverse crowds. A lot of this title is about being able to access people who are going through the same struggles I have endured/am enduring now and using my platform to advocate for those who have not yet found their voice. In addition to the doors it has opened for me, it has taught me how to love who I have become and what I create. I have learned that even when I can no longer connect to a poem, the message can be exactly what somebody else needs and that could not make it anymore worth my time.

Where can we find your work and keep up with you?

My blog is melaninelevatin.blogspot.com; my facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/melaninelevatin/>; and my Twitter is @melaninelevatin.

Annual Grants to the Library

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) approved grants to the Oakland Public Library (OPL) at its September 14 board meeting. Gerry Garzón, Director of Library Services, presented a comprehensive list of funding needs that were identified by staff with input from every library branch and unit. The board approved a total of **\$125,620!**

During Fiscal Year 2016-2017, the following programs will be funded by FOPL:

- Youth Poet Laureate
- Youth Leadership Council
- Teen Author Series
- Programming Supplement for Children's Services (mini-grant program to provide consistent, rich offerings at all locations)
- Support for Adult and Teen Summer reading programs
- Volunteer recognition
- OPL Annual Report design
- Staff hospitality and appreciation
- Scholarships for OPL staff pursuing their library degree
- Small furnishings and equipment for multiple locations
- Mini-grants for innovative staff initiatives
- Support for an initiative to make Children's programs accessible and welcoming to families with children with autism: "Inclusive story time"
- Craft programs for people with disabilities
- New bike library
- New library cards for a library card art contest planned for 2017
- Bookmark Bookstore gift certificates for reading incentive programs

Separately, the board approved grants representing gifts designated for specific purposes by donors: \$23,000 for Children's Programs and \$1,325 for the Second Start Adult Literacy Program bringing FOPL's support to the library this year to over **\$160,000**.

"Thank you to over 900 members and donors, 50 Bookmark Bookstore volunteers, and hundreds of loyal customers who make these generous grants possible," says FOPL President Ellen Moyer.

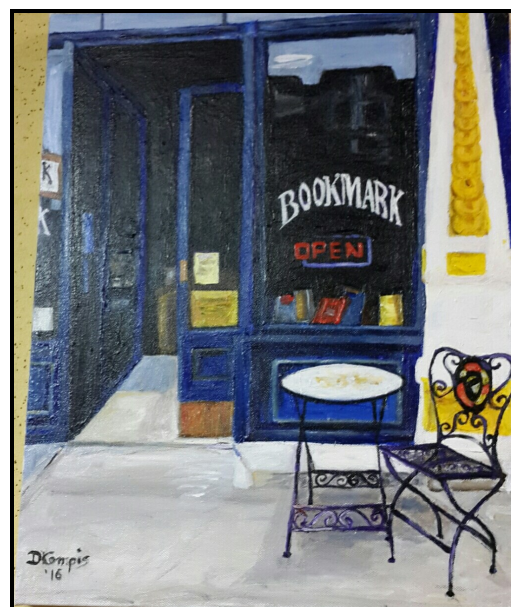
The complete list of grants is published on FOPL's website at fopl.org/library-grants. The "Get to Know Your Grants" articles will continue to provide updates to our members about how your donations support OPL.

White Fang Events at OPL

Jack London was born in 1876 and died 100 years ago. This fall, the Oakland Public Library is having many events in commemoration, focused on White Fang, one of Jack London's iconic books (and also Oakland's One City, One Book for 2016). There will be a Teen Read-Aloud (Main, November 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and film screening (Elmhurst Branch, October 18, 5:45 p.m.), as well as discussions at several branches, from October 11-Nov. 12. For details, please check www.oaklandlibrary.org/events.

Black Panther Party Exhibit

The Oakland History Room has an exhibit to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Black Panther Party's founding. The Black Panthers had innovative and much-needed survival programs (1966-1982) for people in Oakland and around the United States, providing free food, medical care, legal assistance, and political education. "***Revolution is a Daily Struggle: Remembering the Black Panther Party's Social Programs***" (on view through November 30) displays newspapers, photographs, books, articles and ephemera from the group's heyday.



On display at The Bookmark, a painting by Dee Kempis, a Friday volunteer

Our Bookstore Volunteers

(a new occasional feature)

Sally Griffith has volunteered since March 2013, and works the Thursday morning shift. She retired from 15 years in the Contra Costa County Library System. "A friend told me about the Bookmark and so I met her there, walked around and liked what I saw. I have been in the book business or at the library for most of my working life so it looked like a good match. I enjoy being around the books, having my pick of new arrivals on a weekly basis, and interacting with the friendly staff and customers. I'm a big reader and I regularly find titles that interest me. I have bought many cool books, the latest being "M Train" by Patty Smith, but lots of engrossing memoirs, travel adventures, short stories, novels and Nordic Noir to keep me happy!"

Christal Rhea, a student at Mills College, started volunteering in February 2016 and works the Sunday shift. She joined the staff because she wanted to be a part of the Oakland community, to get off campus and find some extracurricular activities. She quickly fell in love with the store, the staff, and our customers. "The most interesting thing about working here is finding odd things wedged into the donated books. Last Sunday I found a newly donated book that had pressed flowers in it. There wasn't even legit flower pressing paper or anything. Just a bunch of plants pressed into the pages of a book about pigs. And sometimes people use toilet tissue for bookmarks, which I did not know before. The coolest book I've bought here was Betty Dodson's book, *Liberating Masturbation*. It is a gorgeous little book, and I was even able to get it signed when she came to San Francisco! It's now a collector's item, and I am so happy I was able to snag such a great piece of sex-positive herstory!"

He Can't Stay Away

Since August, Bob Frey, the long-time former Manager of the Bookmark, has been volunteering to help evaluate books for our Amazon listings of more high-end or rare books. His expertise is welcomed!

Browse our current listings at www.amazon.com/shops/the_bookmark_bookstore

And remember, if you are local, you can buy any of our Amazon listings directly from the store. No need to pay for shipping!

FALL BOOKSALE at The Bookmark

October 13-16 (Thursday-Sunday)
721 Washington St., Oakland, CA
510-444-0473

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day
during the sale

50% OFF for members only on
"Members' First Choice" Sale Day,
Thursday **October 13**

And for all book lovers:

30% OFF on Friday **October 14**
40% OFF on Saturday **October 15**
50% OFF on Sunday **October 16**

NEWS FLASH!!

Credit Cards now Accepted at The Bookmark.
Shop Early, Shop Often!



Thanks to Fentons for their donation of \$3000

And thanks to the many Library and Ice Cream Fans who bought Myrtle's Special Sundaes in May. Fentons donated 25% of the purchase price to FOPL.

Left to right: Ellen Moyer (FOPL Board President); Ronile Lahti (FOPL Board); Marta Rodriguez (OPL), Myrtle the Cow (Fentons); Danika King (Fentons); Anne Lennon (OPL).

FOPL Board Recommends Books

Julie Waldman: **LaRose** by Louise Erdrich. The story takes place in North Dakota; it begins with a tragedy and relates how two families struggle to deal with the aftermath and resolve the breach that it caused. The writing and the outcome are beautiful.

Judy Toll: **Puffin of Death** by Betty Webb. Join Teddy Bentley, California zoo keeper, as she travels to Reykjavik, Iceland. Here she learns how to care for a polar bear cub coming to her zoo, rocks with the Reykjavik club scene, and tours the fabulous Icelandic tourist spots with an Arizona birdwatching group -- not to mention a volcanic eruption and several murders -- all in a day's work for Teddy.

Gen Katz: **American Nations - A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America**, by Colin Woodward. It was the plural of "Nation" that grabbed my attention. The book clarified my understanding and answered many of my questions: why can't Kansas do good for Kansas? will Appalachia always be feuding and poor? Why can't they be more like what he refers to as Yankeedom or the Left Coast? Woodward describes the original settlers of the different regions, how these cultures shaped the region and how these characteristics persist for decades, attracting like-minded people. When you see the country as a patchwork of different nations it becomes easier to understand the discord in Congress and the widely divergent views of the role of government. The book is an eye-opener. Our Union is not unlike the European one, straining with different cultures but hopefully, unlike the European Union, "one nation indivisible."

Tam Hege: **A Certain Justice**, by P.D. James. The death of a successful hard driving lawyer in Old Bailey, a sealed building with a limited number of occupants and three additional deaths to round out the picture. A familiar detective and his assistant and English countryside. What more could you want?

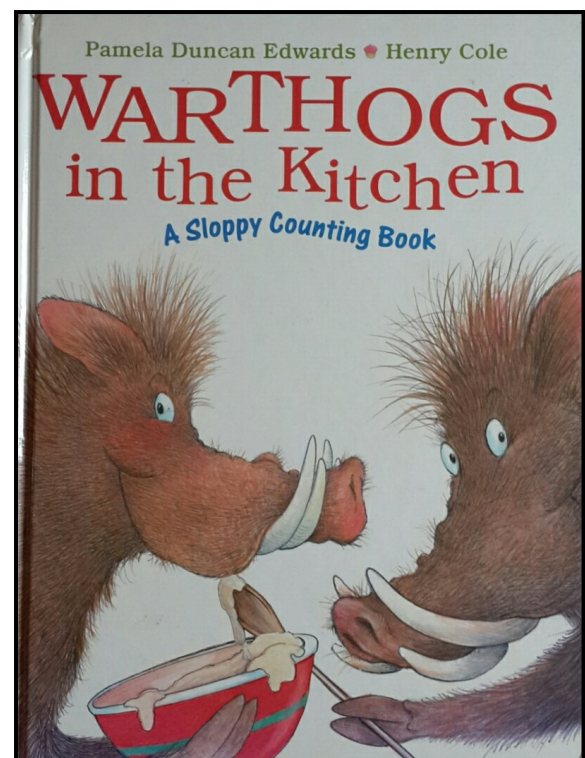
Kathryn Sterbenc: **I Never Had It Made**, by Jackie Robinson (as told to Alfred Duckett). Baseball great and WWII veteran Jackie Robinson's memoir, published shortly before his death in 1972, is still painfully relevant 44 years later with statements like this: "I'm not talking about the things that happened to me in order to portray myself as a kind of martyr. I'm recording them because I want to warn the white world that young blacks today are not willing -- nor should they be -- to endure the humiliations I did."

ANNUAL MEETING

FOPL's annual meeting of members will be held on Wednesday November 2nd at 5:15 p.m., at the Main Library, 125 14th Street. All FOPL Members are invited! The main item of business is the election of board members for the upcoming two-year term.

Slate of Nominees

Michael Dalton
Suzanne Fischer
Tamra Hege
Genevieve Katz
Sheila McCormick
Kathryn Sterbenc



Found at the Bookmark

By Sheila McCormick, FOPL Board Member

I bought this book in 2003, for \$2.40 (with member discount). A cupcake recipe, with hilarious illustrations. Excerpts from the text: **One** little chef thinks he'll cook today. **Three** cake makers read the book to check how. **Six** cracked eggs. How many on the floor? **Eight** pink tongues lick lips at the sight. **Zero** cakes left. They're down in each tummy. "We're excellent cooks. Those cupcakes were YUMMY!"

Fall and Winter Events

Rockridge Branch: Join the 20th anniversary celebration. Enjoy fun, food, music, art and of course books. Share memories and make new ones. All ages welcome. Saturday, October 22, at 11:30 a.m..

Piedmont Ave. Branch: Friends of the Piedmont Ave. Branch and OPL Advocates will participate in the Piedmont Avenue Halloween Celebration, Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. These same groups will also participate in the Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 3, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

AAMLO: Photography Exhibit “Revolutionary Grain-Celebrating the Spirit of the Black Panthers in Portraits and Stories” Photographs by Suzun Lucia Lamaina. Opening reception October 22, 3 to 6 p.m., Exhibit on



Photo taken at the July 24th presentation by Patrick Sweeney, the Political Director of everylibrary.org, an advocacy group.

Front row, left to right: Kathryn Sterbenc (Chair, Library Advisory Commission and FOPL Board Member), Jamie Turbak (Associate Director, OPL and Member of Local 21), Mel Gooch (SFPL Librarian and EveryLibrary Board Member), Karen Long (Chair, Dimond Branch Friends and member of OPL Branch Friends Network). Back row, left to right: Helen Bloch (OPL Children's Librarian at Main and member of Save Oakland Libraries), Gen Katz: (FOPL Board, Dimond Library Branch Friends, and member of OPL Branch Friends Network), Ain Bailey (Member, Library Advisory Commission), Steve Lavoie (Temescal Branch Manager and SEIU 1021 rep), Patrick Sweeney (EveryLibrary).

Oakland History Room is 65!

Since 1951, the Oakland Public Library has been providing East Bay residents with historical information about the city of Oakland from its founding in 1852 to the present. To commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Oakland History Room, the Library will host a program on October 19, highlighting the room's development, its ever-broadening services to the public, and many of its treasures. Join Oakland History Room librarian Dorothy Lazard, historic preservation planner Betty Marvin and Senior Librarian Kathleen DiGiovanni as they celebrate this unique Oakland asset.

FOPL Members might be interested to know that FOPL, formed in 1950, made a significant gift during the early days of the Oakland History Room. In 1953, the California Room at the Main Library received a gift of 15 books by **Jack London** and inscribed by him to Frederick Irons Bamford, who at one time was Assistant Librarian of OPL. FOPL bought this collection from Mr. Harold Holmes, a rare book dealer, who had bought them from Mrs. Bamford. It had been Mrs. Bamford's hope that the books could end up in the Oakland Public Library and Mr. Holmes had withheld the collection from public sale, as he too had thought the books should go to the Oakland Library, where Jack London had spent so many hours.

Don't miss this special opportunity to learn more about the Oakland History Room!

Wednesday, October 19, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Main Library Walters Auditorium, 125 14th St.

The Fall Branch Friends Meeting

Wednesday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Avenue. Everyone is welcome at this meeting. For more information, or to register, please contact Sara DuBois at [510-238-6572](tel:510-238-6572) or sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org.

“A bookstore is one of the many pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking.” - Jerry Seinfeld

OPL and Litquake join forces

Join us to celebrate the variety of literary talent in the East Bay, at a special after-hours event at Oakland's Main Library, October 14, 6:30 to 8 p.m, in the 1st Floor Study Area. Six East Bay authors will read from their newest books. Enjoy a glass of wine, take a seat, and make new friends while you hear from **Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Ali Eteraz, Yang Huang, Lisa McGuinness, Nayomi Munaweera** and **Kate Jessica Raphael**.

Admission: \$5.00 suggested donation (includes complimentary wine for attendees over 21).

Proceeds will be split by [Litquake](#) and the [Friends of the Oakland Public Library](#).

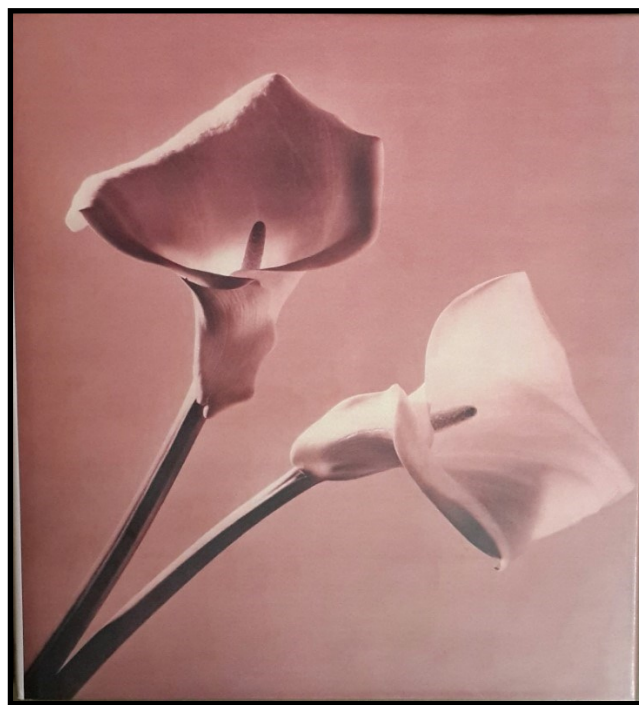
We Want More Members!

Memberships are a significant source of revenue for FOPL. As of late August, there were just over 900 FOPL members. As you know, annual memberships for students and seniors are only \$15, and we have 139 such members. The standard membership is \$25, and we have 136 such members, as well as 45 Family memberships (\$35). But what is truly exciting is that all other members joined at the Book Friend (\$50) level or above, including 27 at the Book Angel (\$1000, or more) level. **Thank you!**

Please consider purchasing a FOPL gift membership, **at any level**, for your friends.

If you and all your friends are already members, consider buying a T-shirt at The Bookmark Bookstore (or at Dimond, Lakeview, Piedmont Ave., or Children's Room at Main). They make wonderful holiday gifts!

T-shirt designed by Amy Martin
Printed by Oaklandish
Modeled by William Hsu



Photography

The Bookmark Bookstore receives many notable donations of photography books. Shown is the cover of Robert Mapplethorpe's **Pistils**, which includes reproductions of 120 of his images of flowers (for the non-botanically inclined, pistils are the female parts of the flower). The monograph includes early Polaroids, as well black and white, color, and gravure prints. A striking book.

Giving

In honor of **Matilda and Lillian** on their first birthdays from Jacky Cheung, Katrina Eichel, Winifred Walters and Anonymous

In honor of **Katherine Getts and Kevin Varela-O'Hara** from Nancy Adams and Anonymous

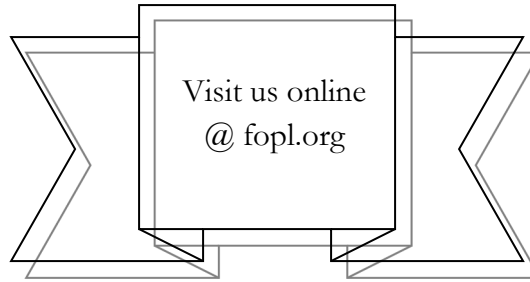
In honor of **Keri Cascio** from Johanna Vondeling

In memory of **Hadassah Kramer** from Cynthia Berrol, Sue and Mike Austin, Consuelo Lopez-Morillas, Steven Bileca, and Sandra Fox

In memory of **Dorothy Mace Pusey** from Kenneth and Sylvia Tyler, Theresa Kinhart, and Tyler & Company



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- Winifred Walters, Assistant Treasurer
- Carl Alexander, Honorary Member

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)
___ 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
___ Book Worm \$100 – \$249
___ Book Friend \$50 – \$99
___ Family/Household \$35 – \$49
___ Individual \$25 – \$34
___ Senior (65+)/Student \$15 – \$24

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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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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