

Summer Programs at the Library

Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants & Volunteers



Laptop Prize Winner at 81st Avenue Library

This summer was unlike any other, but the library adapted its Summer Programs so that patrons found a familiar experience. Kids' Summer Reading inspired children ages 0-14 to read for at least 20 days over the school break. Teens were challenged to complete activities and to write book and media reviews through the Teen Passport program. And Adult Summer Reading encouraged participants to read, write, and review.

Of course, there were significant differences this year. Most notably, we missed seeing patrons at our libraries! We were also sad to cancel the hundreds of regular and special programs - all free of charge and easy to access - that we had planned for the summer. The important Summer Lunch at the Library program was not possible either, although two of our branches continue to distribute free "to-go" meals to individuals and families in need.

Minor changes included new, socially distanced procedures for picking up library materials, turning in Summer Reading logs, and choosing the Kids' Summer Reading book prize.

The Summer Programs would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors. The library is especially grateful to this year's prize donors and major supporters:

- [Oakland Feather River Family Camp](#), for donating a 4-night free stay for a family of four in the summer of 2021 as a grand prize for ages 0-14;
- [Children's Fairyland](#), for donating a free family membership as a grand prize for ages 0-4;
- the [Friends of the OPL](#), whose grants allowed us to purchase 17 Chromebook laptops (as branch prizes for ages 5-14) and prizes for Teen and Adult programs;
- and the 2020 Kids' Summer Reading Major Supporters: the [Friends of the OPL](#), the [Hellman Foundation](#), the [Kenneth Rainin Foundation](#), The [Bernard Osher Foundation](#), and the [William G. Gilmore Foundation](#).



Happy Summer Reader!

Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media



BookmarkBookstore.FOPL



FOPL_Bookmark



FOPL_Bookmark

Get to Know Your Grants

Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants & Volunteers

As their fiscal year ends each fall, the Friends of the OPL Board meet to consider a “wish list” of grants presented by Library Director Jamie Turbak. Last September, the Friends approved Annual Grants for the 2019-2020 fiscal year totaling \$210,000.

These Annual Grants from the Friends of the OPL enhance library programs and services at every location for patrons of all ages.

The COVID-19 crisis dramatically changed the way the library operates, which in turn impacted our ability to spend grant funds. With libraries closed to patrons, most of the programs and activities supported by the Friends of the OPL ceased, leaving us with a 2019-2020 grant balance of almost \$100,000.

At this September's Board meeting, the Friends of the OPL approved the library's plan to reallocate the \$100K 2019-2020 grant balance for distribution in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This approach will allow us the flexibility to make the very best use of these grant funds in these unprecedented times.

This year, more than ever, the library would like to thank all the Friends members for their generous and longstanding support. Your donations, membership dues, and Bookmark Bookstore purchases make a direct impact on OPL's ability to serve the community. Thank you.

Grants from the Friends of the OPL fund projects that library staff would like to pursue, but which simply aren't possible without extra funding. The library is very grateful for the possibilities that these grants create. For more information, please contact Grants Coordinator Sara DuBois at sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org or (510) 238-6572.



Hygiene kits available at OPL for sidewalk pickup.

Sidewalk Pickup Now at 16 Locations!

Matt Berson, OPL Public Information Officer



Sidewalk Pickup at César E. Chávez Library

In mid-September, OPL announced the expansion of sidewalk service to additional locations and (at some locations) expanded hours to provide greater access to books, DVDs, CDs, Wi-Fi hotspots, printing services, and more.

In all, 16 locations are available for sidewalk service, including the popular Oakland Tool Lending Library. The Main Library is now open seven days per week, eight locations are available six days per week, and five new locations are available five days per week. The César E. Chávez Branch is adding a fourth day, Monday, to its sidewalk service, and 81st Avenue will continue to provide sidewalk service three days a week with expanded hours. The Eastmont Branch and African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO) remain closed due to stipulations set forth in the public health guidelines provided by the Alameda County Public Health Department on August 28, 2020.

You can check the website for the most up-to-date information on library schedules by location: oaklandlibrary.org/hours.

The new available locations and expanded hours are being offered thanks to the return of most library staff to library service, following months of serving as Disaster Service Workers assisting the City in food distribution, COVID-19 testing, Emergency Operations Center support, and public education outreach in City parks and community cabins.

The Shed Receives \$400,000 of Redesign Funds

Valerie Villanueva, Board Member, Friends of the OPL



Rendering of an initial redesign concept for The Shed

The Scraper Bike Shed at OPL's Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch will receive funds to complete a redesign to expand the bike repair and programming space. The Shed, as it is informally known, opened in June 2016 as the first youth-led bike repair shop for the East Oakland community. Housed in a former shipping container, The Shed operates popular clinics where the community learns how to repair, tune-up, and decorate bicycles in original scraper-bike style.

In July 2019, the Friends approved a \$5,000 grant for OPL to work with an outside architecture and construction firm to create redesign plans for The Shed. "Working with these design plans for the redesign of the bike repair container was immensely helpful as we talked with potential partners about moving the project forward," said Jamie Turbak, Library Director.

The Shed will receive \$400,000 as part of the California Strategic Growth Council's decision to fully fund the City of Oakland's "Better Neighborhoods, Same Neighbors" proposal through a multi-year grant of \$28.2 million. The grant is part of a statewide initiative that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions, strengthen the economy and improve public health and the environment, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

OPL will partner with Oakland Public Works to implement the redesign to relocate the existing shipping container and add a second shipping container to allow for increased work area, meeting/flex space, new office space and more storage area. The popular program will receive additional bike stands, tool carts and shelves, electrical outlets, outdoor lighting, a security system and a wash sink. The grant includes funding for the development of curriculum for bike safety and repair to be taught in after school enrichment classes to youth. Finally, Oakland's Department of Transportation will collaborate with the program to implement and grow the East Oakland Mobility Action Plan.

While The Shed's workshops have been put on hold during the COVID-19 shutdown, the redesign funding will ensure that The Shed will remain a valuable resource in East Oakland for an even greater number of bicycle enthusiasts for years to come.



Rendering of an initial redesign concept for The Shed



Events

WEEKLY EVENTS

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

New stories posted to the [OPL YouTube channel](#)

VIRTUAL LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY

The Lawyers in the Library program is a free information and referral program held over the phone and staffed by volunteer lawyers.

FREE PRODUCE PICKUP

Free produce pick-up every Tuesday beginning at 11:30am, hosted by the Melrose Branch Library.

VEGGIE RX COOKING AND NUTRITION CLASSES

Free classes by [Fresh Approach](#). Learn more about nutrition and get a \$20 voucher for fresh produce.

OPL PODCAST: CHECK YOUR SHELF

Enjoy the OPL's weekly podcast. October is history month!

UPCOMING

GIVING TUESDAY

12.01.2020

[#GivingTuesday](#) is an annual global movement that celebrates and encourages charitable giving online. The **good** news is that as a member of the Friends, you already support Oakland's Libraries. The **great** news is that you have another opportunity to get involved and support the OPL! Please keep an eye out for our social media posts and share freely!

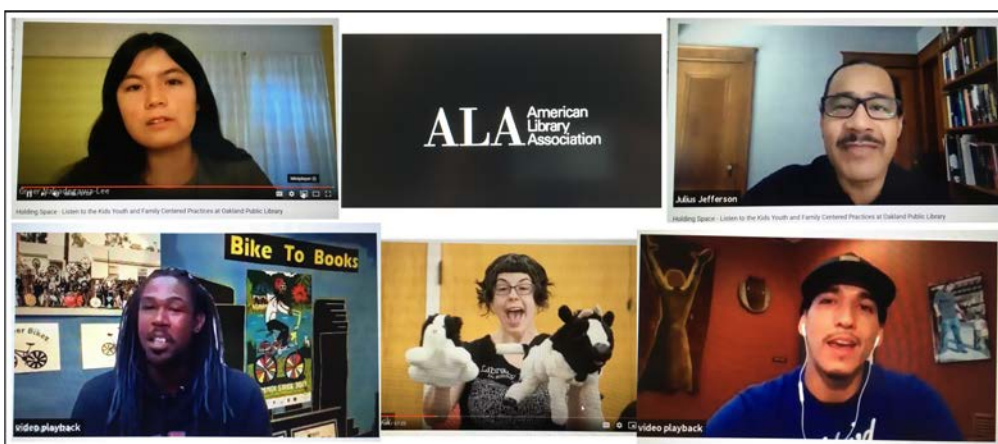
[#GivingTuesday](#) is a great opportunity to gift memberships and ask your friends and neighbors to join the Friends of OPL. Join us for [#GivingTuesday2020!](#)

OPL ADVOCATES ANNUAL MIXER

December 6, 2020, 1pm-3pm, Virtual Event

Look for updates on the Friends of the OPL [website](#).

OPL Staff Featured in American Library Association Production



In August, several OPL staff were featured in an online discussion with American Library Association President, Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. The panel's theme was "Listening to the Kids: Youth- and Family-centered Practices at OPL," and it included overviews of staff trainings on child development, the Scaper Bike programs, the Bike Library, Storytimes at Family Laundry, and the Youth Poet Laureate Program.

The program will appeal to library patrons as well as library professionals, and it can be seen [online here](#).

Be sure to watch minute 40:19, as Library Assistant Peggy Simmons gives a heartfelt shoutout to the Friends of the OPL for supporting the Youth Poet Laureate program.

Connect with OPL Advocates, a Coalition of Groups that Love Our Libraries!



OPL Advocates



opladvocates



OPLadvocates

Friends of the OPL 2020 Scholarship Winners

Susan Martinez, OPL Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, OPL employees pursuing their Master of Library and Information

Science (MLIS) degrees were invited to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship to support their education. The response this year was incredible, with eight extremely compelling applications.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year's scholarship winners: **Megdelawit Abebe, Chantra Tham, and Rainn Shaw.**

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the Friends of the OPL for making this opportunity possible!



Scholarship Winner, Rainn Shaw



Scholarship Winner, Chantra Tham

"My palms are together, the way Cambodians greet and say, 'Thank you'".

Giving in 2020

We honor and celebrate these special contributions to the Friends of the Oakland Public Library:

- In honor of **Juneteenth** from Laura Beaudrow
- In honor of **Winifred Walters** from Dolphin Waletzky
- In memory of **Fred Bloebaum** from Christine Sinn
- In memory of **Jean Christie** from Christie Sulaiman
- In honor of **Kathy Andree-Rissel** from Chris Andree
- In honor of **Winifred Walters** from John and Mayumi Hughes
- In honor of my **parents and teachers** from Maureen Steiner
- In memory of **Sophie Souroujon**, Friends of OPL board member from 2001 to 2015, from Winifred Walters
- In memory of Moira Nichols from Mary-Catherine Haug
- Gift from the Estate of **Sophie Souroujon**

Note from the Friends Board

We were saddened to learn of Sophie Souroujon's death in August of this year. Sophie served on the Friends of OPL board from 2001 to 2015. Sophie was an active and engaged member of the Friends board and an indefatigable booster of the Oakland Public Library. She attended literary events all over Oakland and promoted the Friends and the library wherever and whenever she could. She could be counted on to promote the Friends and the library's summer reading program at the annual Fentons Creamery fundraiser. The Friends of OPL is honored and touched by a generous gift from Sophie's estate. We thank her for her service to the Oakland community and offer our sincere condolences to her friends and loved ones.

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OPL Advocates



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What's Happening at the Bookmark Bookstore?



It was a busy summer at The Bookmark. We opened for limited hours for curbside pickup, we created a virtual bookstore so you can continue to browse select shelves from the comfort (and safety) of your homes, we started (then stopped) taking donations by appointment, and are continuing to sell books and media on [Amazon](#) and [eBay](#).

While individual sales are encouraging and consistent, they are not at the same level they would be if we were open for browsing. Since we've been closed, our volume of incoming donations has far outpaced our volume of outgoing sales. To make room for new donations, we are encouraging select bulk buyers to make appointments to come and shop while maintaining cleaning protocols and distancing. To learn more, [email us!](#)

Like everyone else, we are anxiously waiting for the green light to resume more normal business operations. We are following the library's lead on how and when to re-open, getting guidance from our [Alameda County public health officials](#), and preparing the store for our beloved community to return! We will continue to share updates on our website as we have them.

We appreciate your support and will continue to find ways to engage our patrons and community. Every sale helps so thank you, in advance, for your support!

Shop our [Virtual Bookstore](#) and pickup at the store!

Curbside Pickup is available Sunday, Wednesday, Friday 11am-2pm

Grab Bags are a new feature of our virtual bookstore: 5 books for \$10 (sorry, no further discounts...). Choose one of our curated stacks or a MYSTERY bag. [Email us](#) and/or visit [our website](#) to make your selection.

Buy New Books at Bookshop.org

When you buy books from our [bookshop.org](#) shop, Friends of the OPL receives 100% of the profit - approximately 30% of the purchase price. To purchase, go to the Friends of the OPL shop, browse books, and buy. It's that easy!

Purchase e-Gift Cards

[Purchase an e-gift card](#) in any amount up to \$200 online through our Square account.

For more updates, watch social media and [our website](#) for updates on donations and special promotions.

Notice of Annual Meeting on October 28, 2020

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library will hold its Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, October 28, 2020** at 5:15pm. The main item of business is the election of board members for the upcoming two-year term. All members are invited! Please email us at info@fopl.org for instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting.

Slate of nominees to be elected for a new 2-year term: Charu Mehra.

Nominees to be re-elected for a 2-year term: Michael Dalton and Kathryn Sterbenc.

FRIENDS OF THE OPL BOOK & MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS CORNER

Found on [The Bookmark @Amazon](#) & [The Bookmark @eBay](#)



OBAMA: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT

Pete Souza

White House photographer's intimate images of President Obama's eight years in office.

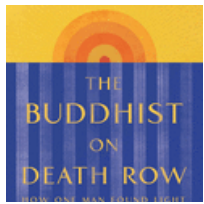


FRIENDS OF PHOTOGRAPHY "UNTITLED"

Various

Complete set #1-#58. Incredible collection!

Found on [The Bookmark @Bookshop.org](#)



Recently purchased on [bookshop.org](#)

THE BUDDHIST ON DEATH ROW

David Sheff

How one man found light in the darkest place.



Recommended by the Friends of the OPL

THE WATER DANCER

Ta-Nehisi Coates

A boldly conjured debut novel about a magical gift, a devastating loss, and an underground war for freedom.

In addition, please see our curated list of anti-racist book recommendations on [Bookshop.org](#).

Media Recommendations on [kanopy.com](#)



RBG

Magnolia Pictures

In loving memory: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg's personal journey of rise to the nation's highest court and her extraordinary legacy.

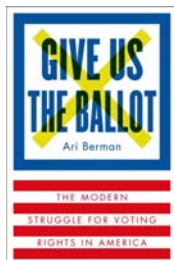


THE BOOKSELLERS

Greenwich Entertainment

Inside view of antiquarian booksellers and their essential role in preserving history.

OPL Books available on [OverDrive/Libby App](#) or [Sidewalk Pickup!](#)

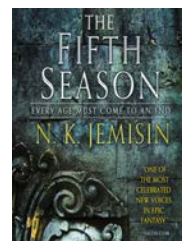


Recommended by Winifred Walters

GIVE US THE BALLOT : THE MODERN STRUGGLE FOR VOTING RIGHTS IN AMERICA

Ari Berman

A riveting and alarming account of the continuing battle over the right to vote. [Sidewalk pickup](#) and [ebook](#).



Recommended by M.C. Abbott

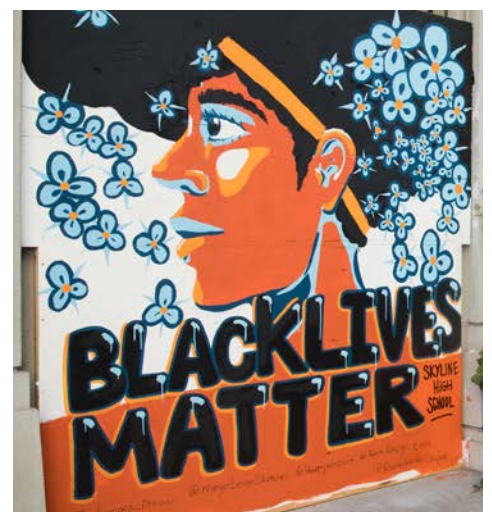
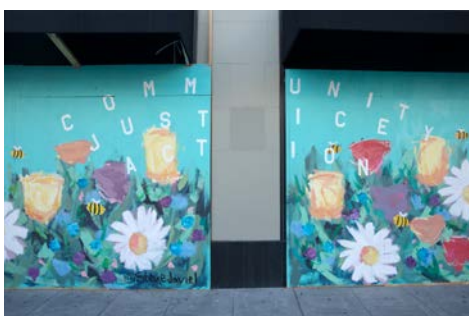
THE FIFTH SEASON

N. K. Jemisin

Its titular premise, a world in which a fifth season of ash exists as the result of a war between Father Earth and its inhabitants, rings eerily true for 2020's wildfire season. [Audiobook](#) and [ebook](#).

Oakland Street Art in Support of Black Lives Matter

Photographer Doug Zimmerman regularly photographs OPL events and branch activities. In June, he created a gallery to document the street art and murals that continue to pop up in downtown Oakland. Doug's gallery can be found at the [OPL Flickr](#) page.





Friends of the OPL Board Members

- ✦ M.C. Abbott
- ✦ Ynez Arce, *Vice President, Newsletter Editor*
- ✦ Stephen Cole
- ✦ Michael Dalton
- ✦ Elizabeth Falkner
- ✦ Corey Hatcher
- ✦ Genevieve Katz
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Sheila McCormick
- ✦ Sanam Nassirpour
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Valerie Villanueva, *Secretary*
- ✦ Julie Waldman, *Co-Treasurer*
- ✦ Winifred Walters, *Co-Treasurer*

Our 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 Friends of the Oakland Public Library is the only organization that provides support to all Oakland Public Libraries.

In addition to that great feeling that comes with supporting the library, members receive our quarterly newsletter that includes a special feature highlighting grants to the library.

The Bookmark Bookstore operates on volunteer power and is a community resource for anyone who loves books. The Bookmark has been in Oakland since 1992. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Library. Members receive a discount on purchases.

Your support has never been more critical:

Your annual member dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library. **In the last 10 years**, Friends of the OPL granted over **\$2M** for library programs and projects.

More ways to support Friends of the OPL:

- Invite a friend to become a member
- Leave a legacy by naming Friends of the OPL as a beneficiary in your estate plan
- Donate gently used books to the Bookmark Bookstore
- Volunteer! www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer
- Shop online at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchase when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

Thank you!

To learn more about Friends of the Oakland Public Library, visit www.fopl.org

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
Our tax ID is 94-2553734 and all contributions are tax deductible.

OPL RESPONDS

Six months into shelter-in-place, **Your Library** is still here for you.

SIDEWALK AND ONLINE SERVICES PUT THE WORLD INTO YOUR HANDS.

100,000

items requested since we announced sidewalk pickup.

OPL provides sidewalk pickup of books, dvds, WiFi hotspots, and other materials that meet people's educational and informational needs.

380,000+

digital checkouts during shelter-in place

OPL's online books, movies, music, magazines and other resources have increased 23%, meeting people's recreational, educational and informational needs.

5,500 new OPL users and 13,000 reference questions answered since March 17

OPL is offering accurate and trusted information and help at sidewalk service sites and its call center during these uncertain times.

Mobile printing
is available and widely used

In response to community requests, OPL offers printing at all sidewalk service locations so that people impacted by the digital divide can print essential documents.

6,800

uses of WiFi network outside OPL buildings, fighting the digital divide

OPL circulates 300 WiFi hotspots and donated 500 hotspots to OUSD so that online students can learn and people can access job, housing and health resources.

86,000

meals provided

OPL provides free meals in partnership with Eat.Learn.Play. and World Central Kitchen so that hungry children can learn and hungry families can survive.

Keeping people safe from COVID-19

OPL staff have collected masks and referred more than 900 people to testing sites to keep the community healthy and safe.

AND EVEN MORE:

OPL provides tools for garden and home repairs through the Tool Lending Library

Legal problems are solved through the online Lawyers in the Library program

Weekly storytime videos entertain and educate children under 5, increasing their school readiness and literacy skills

OPL provides free, live homework help in English and Spanish through tutor.com helping students succeed

Your Library is still here for you.



Prepared by the Oakland Public Library Community Relations Department, September 2020