



October 2017

## Scott Nanos, New Co-Manager

Please welcome our new Co-Manager at the Bookmark Bookstore. Scott is an east coast native, born in Queens, New York, and spent most of his childhood in New Jersey, a stone's throw from Princeton University. As a child, Scott was an avid reader, and spent considerable time combing through the shelves of Princeton's various bookstores, libraries, and



archives. Scott first arrived in Oakland, California six years ago while on tour with a band; he fell in love with the city instantly and refused to leave. Shortly thereafter, he began working at Owl & Company Bookshop, where he first met the Bookmark's recently retired Co-Manager, Richard Cook. Scott attributes a lot of his book-selling knowledge to Richard Cook's wise counsel, and considers Richard both a mentor and a close friend. In addition to working for Owl & Company and Pegasus Books, Scott made waves in the Bay Area book-selling community by starting a series of outdoor pop-up bookstores in 2014, collaborating with the notable restaurateur Charlie Hallowell. Scott opened his first brick-and-mortar bookstore, "Books For Days", in December 2014, on Telegraph Avenue in North Oakland, and received a "Best of The East Bay" award from the East Bay Express the following year. Scott is equally passionate about selling books *and* serving the community, and he is absolutely thrilled to be a part of the Bookmark and the Friends of the OPL family! A great person (Phyllis Couillard, the Bookmark co-manager,) once said, "if you're helping the Library, you're helping the whole city". Scott works at the store Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you have not yet met him, drop by the store and do so!"

## FALL BOOKSALE at The Bookmark 721 Washington St., Oakland

October 19-22 (Thursday-Sunday)

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

50% OFF for members only on "Members' First Choice" Day, Thursday October 19 (you can become a member that day)

30% OFF on Friday October 20

40% OFF on Saturday October 21

50% OFF on Sunday October 22

**Shop early! Shop often!**

## The Bookmark is 25!

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library invite you to join in celebrating this landmark birthday at an Open House on **October 14!** For details, please check <http://fopl.org/news/>

### Tentative Schedule of Activities:

Noon: Story time (ages 2 - 6)

1 p.m.: Face painting (all ages!)

2 p.m.: Youth Laureate performance (all ages, but youth 10+ are especially invited to attend)

3 to 4 p.m.: Store closed to prepare for evening events

4 to 7 p.m.: Literary-themed cocktails, music, and food! (adults only)

The evening event has a suggested donation of \$20 to support the Oakland Public Library.

**Bring a friend! Find your friends!  
Become a member!**

## New Board Members: Ynez Arce, Stephen Cole, and Rebecca Pfiffner



The library was such a big part of **Ynez's** childhood growing up in Ojai, California. Her mom took the kids there every week and while she picked up books for herself, they read and picked out their own books. Like her mom before her, Nancy Drew books were her favorite. As an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, she worked at the Moffitt Library and absolutely loved it. She is proud to be a part of Friends and celebrate our Oakland libraries!

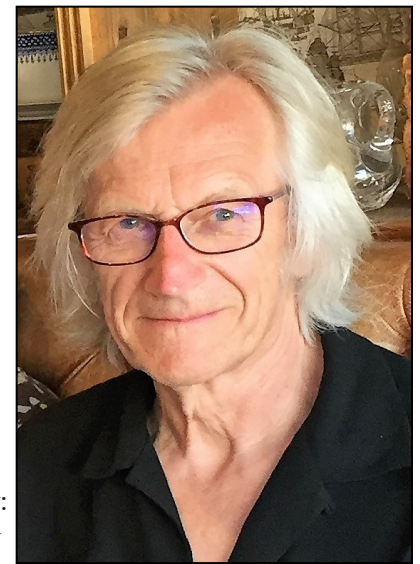
**Stephen** was born and grew up in Norwich, England, and graduated from the University of Sussex. He first came to America as an English-Speaking Union fellow at Indiana University, Bloomington, from which he received an MA and PhD in History. He is currently professor of History at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont and has lived in Oakland since 1999. He has also been a book review editor and the associate editor of a documentary history project at Berkeley. He values the library as an institution vital to a nation's cultural and democratic discourse, as a place of intellectual nourishment, and as a locus of community life. He's delighted to join the board of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

The current political climate has re-ignited **Rebecca's** passion for local volunteer



activism as a tool for driving community engagement, connection, and compassion. Growing up in Alaska, the library was the first place she interacted with community outside school and home, and throughout her life, she has always turned to authors and books for guidance and inspiration. She believes that libraries are uniquely positioned to be a central hub and heartbeat of a community: they have the potential to positively support every populace of a place. Rebecca joins the Friends of the OPL Board with a deep (and growing!) appreciation for all the ways in which it supports the Oakland community, and is excited to build off of that foundation to help find creative, expanded opportunities to support this beautiful place we all call home. As an entrepreneur and local business owner living in

the Bay for 15 years, Rebecca is looking forward to giving back to the community that has supported her immensely, and is especially excited to find more ways to support local artists and authors, activism education, and youth/women empowerment as a board member!



### FRIENDS of the OPL ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday November 1st, at 5:15 p.m., at the Main Library, 125 14th Street. **All Members are invited!** The main item of business is the election of board members for the upcoming two-year term.

#### Slate of Nominees :

*To be re-elected for a 2 year term:* Ronile Lahti, Susana M. Morales, Ellen Moyer, Julie Waldman, Winifred Walters

*To be elected for a 2 year term, having been appointed earlier in 2017:* Ynez Arce, Stephen Cole, Hannah Onstad, Rebecca Pfiffner, Maria Poppas, Valerie Villanueva

**FYI: Elected in Nov 2016 to a 2 year term:** Michael Dalton, Gen Katz, Sheila McCormick, Kathryn Sterbenc

## The Board Recommends Books

Stephen Cole: **Tales of Two Cities: A Persian Memoir**, by Abbas Milani. The son of a prosperous Iranian family, at 15 he was sent to the Bay Area for high school (Oakland Tech) and landed at Merritt College in the heady days of Huey Newton and Bobby Seale before graduating from Berkeley. Subsequently imprisoned by the Shah's regime and exiled by the mullahs, he writes with a combination of deep affection for Persian culture and regret at the baleful consequences of Iran's pursuit of modernity – whether his generation's "self-referential morality" born of radical politics or the Shah's technocratic dreams. Deeply reflective and unflinchingly honest about his own shortcomings, part of an extraordinarily successful Iranian diaspora, Milani notes ruefully, "Exile is when you live in one land and dream in another."

Gen Katz: **Prisoners of Geography**, by Tim Marshall. Imagine a book where you can sympathize with Putin's problems, understand why Europe is united and Africa never will be and see the boundlessness of the Middle East before Sykes-Picot. Good stuff. Marshall covers the world in ten chapters with ten detailed maps (if only they had been in color with elevations). It's a refreshing take on world politics from a different, immutable position. It's all in the cards that geography dealt.

Sheila McCormick: **Rolling Blackouts, Dispatches from Turkey, Syria, and Iran**, by Sarah Glidden. The author is a cartoonist who tags along with some journalist friends as they investigate the effects of the Iraq war on refugees. She uses recorded interviews and her drawings to tell the story of their trip.

Rebecca Piffner: **The Luminaries** by Eleanor Catton. I'm devouring this book in a way I've never devoured a book before -- it's so good, I got 1/4 through the novel, then started the whole thing again just to ensure I didn't miss a thing! It reminds me a little of Jane Austen, but with an ever-unfolding mystery and woven storyline that keeps me reading well past bedtime. I love the way Catton uses language to create depth for each unique character and relationship. Highly recommend!!

### Fall Meeting of the Branch Friends Network

Wednesday, October 18 from 10 a.m. to noon, at Temescal, 5205 Telegraph Avenue. Everyone is welcome. For more information, or to register, please contact Sara DuBois at [510-238-6572](tel:510-238-6572) or [sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org)



The Friends of the OPL Board said thank you to long-time board member, **Judy Toll**, at her last board meeting in September. Judy began volunteering at the Bookmark Bookstore in 2001, joined the Board in 2003, served as Board Secretary from 2005-2014, and served as Chair of the Bookstore Committee from 2011-2017. Fortunately, Judy will continue her regular volunteer shift at the Bookmark Bookstore!

OPL Director Gerry Garzon presented a proclamation celebrating Judy's service to the Friends of OPL and to OPL. After many, many Whereas statements, it concluded "**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in honor of her dedicated service to the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, we declare September 6, 2017

### JUDITH TOLL DAY

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Office of the Library Department affixed.

And then we had some cake!

**Gift idea:** Buy a Friends of the OPL membership for any friends who are not yet members.

## **Profile of Lucy Flattery-Vickness, the 2017 Youth Poet Laureate (scholarship 50% funded by Friends of the OPL)**

**Who are you?** The question of all questions, and entirely impossible for me to answer in a short paragraph, but I'll give it my best shot. I'm the kind of person who will first and foremost ask you how you are doing, and give the space for you to answer honestly. I'm someone who is constantly trying to be a better listener, someone who hopes to positively impact this planet, someone who bought something from Hobby Lobby and felt horribly guilty for weeks. I'm a public school person and a devout worshipper of words. I'm a grower, and a self-improver, and mainly a person with a loud voice who feels compelled to use my skills to enable others to write - for self-healing, self-exploration, and self-expression.

**When did you know you had the gift to write poetry?** I don't necessarily think there is any sort of gift involved with my writing. I fell in love with poetry, and when you are passionate about something you pursue it and pursue it until you eventually get good at it. I began to recognize my own improvement when I got involved with outlets that allowed me to perform my poetry. At the end of middle school, audiences began to give me the feedback that I wanted to hear: something I said resonated with them. That was the greatest sign anyone could have given me. From then on I had the confidence to reach out for feedback and continue to grow at my craft.

**What inspired you to be a writer and what do you want people to grasp from your work?** There was never a moment when I saw someone or heard something and thought to myself, "Ooh, I want to be a writer." There were many factors that combined to create my love for literature. Firstly, my parents are extremely literate people. I went to schools that nurtured my growing love for books. I probably have a bigger right side of my brain, and I'm an auditory learner. By the end of middle school, I knew I had a passion for writing. I also understood that I could read and write at a higher fluency than most kids in my school. And, unlike many, I enjoyed both things. And, unlike some, people listened to me when I spoke. This series of realizations instilled in me a sense of responsibility different from just a passion for words. When I speak or recite or write, I want people to understand that I am privileged to be able to do so, and I want them to feel the weight of *why* I write. There are a lot of things that need to change about the world we live in. It is okay to still be figuring out what to tackle and how to tackle it, but I want people to know that an effort is necessary.

**Where do you see yourself in the future?** After furthering my own education, I want to be a teacher. I think that education is one of the most necessary professions of this time, and I think it is an incredible venue in which to make change. Being a recent high school graduate, the fact that we need a new approach to teaching is freshly emblazoned in my mind; I want to put myself in a position to work towards achieving this.

**What do you do in your free time?** I love to play sports (especially basketball and track), I like to explore the wilderness, and I love to spend time with family. As a teenager, I spend my fair share of time on social media and with friends. But, primarily, I write.

**What does being the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate mean to you?** I have been a part of this program for four years now, and have watched it grow and take shape. The most important thing Oakland Youth Poet Laureate means to me is community. I have formed a personal connection with so many incredible people by being involved with this program. I have been at events and witnessed the formation and coming together of community in the most beautiful and graceful of ways. And lastly, being Poet Laureate gives me the opportunity to foster community among others. I do not throw the word community around lightly. Community means many things. In this case I am talking about the mixing of many different types of people joining as change makers, as thinkers, as revolutionaries. I am talking about gatherings of those who are deeply passionate. I am talking about youth connecting over the places they come from or are going towards. It is an incredible honor and privilege to get to hold the mic for my city, and represent and create community as the 2017 Poet Laureate.

**Where can we find your work and keep up with you?** There are videos of some of my performances on Youtube and scattered across the internet. The best way to see my work is to come hear me and other fabulous poets perform live at events across the Bay Area. Information about performances, bookings, and other cool things I have gotten myself into can be found on my Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lucyflatteryv>

## Dimond Library Open Again!

By Sara DuBois

After many years of planning, the Dimond Branch closed for much-needed improvements earlier this year. This facility – one of the Oakland Public Library's busiest – had opened in its current location in 1980 and had not had any significant work done on it since then. To the delight of patrons and staff, the branch reopened on July 15, 2017. Among many improvements, it now boasts new furniture and carpeting, fresh paint, enhanced lighting, an improved Children's Area, an updated Adult Section, and a brand-new Teen Zone.

This project was entirely funded by private grants and donations, including significant support – financial and administrative – from the Friends of the OPL. The library celebrated the community and its role with a short ceremony and special activities on August 19. If you could not join us there, please accept our sincere thanks and visit this delightful neighborhood library soon!



## Litquake & OPL present: Lit by the Lake in the Library

Celebrate the variety of literary talent in the East Bay in a special after-hours event at Oakland's Main Library. Five East Bay authors come together this year to read from their newly published books. Enjoy a glass of wine, take a seat, and make new friends while you meet some of our top local authors: Aya de Leon, Meredith Jaeger, Elizabeth Rosner, Shanthi Sekaran, and Arisa White.

Friday, October 13, 2017: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Main Library, 1st Floor Study Area

125 14th Street

Phone: (510) 238-3134

Full details here: [tinyurl.com/y77squ58](http://tinyurl.com/y77squ58)

Color versions of this and previous newsletters can be found at [fopl.org/newsletter/](http://fopl.org/newsletter/)

## Summer Reading Program Prizes

Many thanks to all the businesses and institutions that supported OPL's 2017 Summer Reading programs, by donating goods, services, or unique experiences for prizes.

AC Transit; Aquatech; Athletic Playground; Bay Area Children's Theater; Bay Area Girls Rock Camp; Bladium Sports & Fitness Club; Bookmark Bookstore; Children's Creativity Museum; Children's Fairyland; The Crucible; East Oakland Sports Center; Fentons Creamery; Folkmanis; Golden State Warriors; Grand Lake Theater; Kinetic Arts Center; Lake Merritt Boating Center; Landmark Theatres (Piedmont Ave Theatre); Laurel Book Store; Oakland Athletics; Oakland Ballet Company; Oakland Museum of California; Oakland Symphony; Oakland Zoo; Pacific Pinball Museum; San Francisco Bay Ferry; Studio Naga

### Follow Us on Social Media

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Instagram: [@bookmarkbookstore](https://www.instagram.com/bookmarkbookstore)

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## Thank You Fentons!

Representatives from OPL and Friends of the OPL recently accepted a \$2,500 donation from Fentons Creamery, in support of the library's summer reading programs. This contribution comes from the May 2017 "Myrtle's Creation" promotion, in which 25% of the proceeds from each of these sundaes are donated to a designated charity. OPL and Friends of the OPL are honored to be beneficiaries of this fun and delicious fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who bought a special sundae in May.



## Farewell to OPL but NOT to Friends

Winifred Walters, Community Relations Manager at OPL, retired in August after 10 years of dedicated service. Thankfully she is NOT retiring from the



Friends of the OPL! We are extremely pleased to confirm that she will remain on the board as Assistant Treasurer. She continues her passion for library fundraising, requesting that those who wanted to mark her retirement with a gift do so with a donation to the Friends of the OPL. As of September 6,

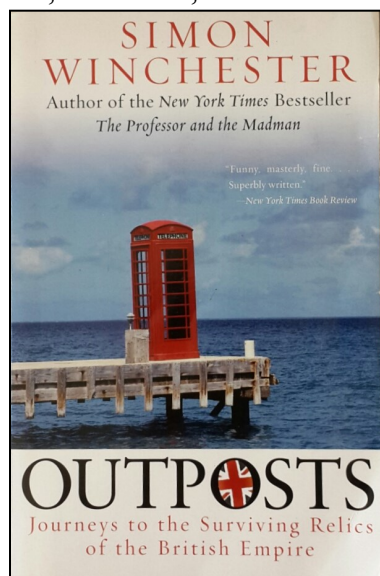
\$1,820 has been raised in her honor.

**Thank you and congratulations, Winifred!**

## Found at the Bookmark

By Sheila McCormick, Board Member

The British Empire used to control a lot of real estate! Winchester writes about several of the more obscure places that remain (Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tristan de Cunha), and well as better known ones (Gibraltar, Bermuda). This book was written in 1985, so Hong Kong no longer belongs on the list. I think the best chapter is about Diego Garcia, a US military installation in the Indian Ocean (unfortunately for the indigenous population, who were banished). He manages to sneak in there (briefly) on a sailboat. Great stories.



*Books are a uniquely portable magic.*  
—Stephen King

## Friends of OPL Grants to the Library

At its September meeting, the Friends of the OPL Board approved grants to the Oakland Public Library (OPL), totaling \$115,380. Without support from Friends of the OPL, many programs simply would not be possible. These include the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate and Scholarship program, scholarships for library staff that are pursuing library science M.S. degrees, Children's and Teen programs, and other programming for all ages.

Director of Library Services Gerry Garzon presented grant requests designated to help OPL advance its goals:

**Reach more people where they are:** Outreach and programming

**Improve our physical spaces:** Displays, signage, furnishings, and landscaping supplies

**Develop, retain and attract quality staff:** Staff scholarships and funds for innovative mini-grants

Friends of the OPL grants are made possible by members' annual dues and proceeds from The Bookmark Bookstore. The board thanks Friends of the OPL members, volunteers, book donors, and customers for giving so generously.

Separately, the board approved grants representing gifts designated for specific purposes by donors: \$25,000 for Children's Programs, \$1,375 for materials, and \$1,125 for the Second Start Adult Literacy Program, bringing Friends of the OPL's support to the library this year to \$145,000. The complete list of grants is at [fopl.org/library-grants](http://fopl.org/library-grants). The "Get to Know Your Grants" articles in this newsletter provide updates about how your donations support OPL.

## Help Re-Envision a Future for AAMLO

The African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO) is dedicated to the discovery, preservation, interpretation, and sharing of historical and cultural experiences of African Americans in California and the West for present and future generations. Help OPL re-envision a future for AAMLO that is visitor-centered, civic-minded, inclusive, diverse, welcoming, responsive, unifying, and participatory. To learn more please visit: [tinyurl.com/y92pehsg](http://tinyurl.com/y92pehsg)

What is your dream for AAMLO? If you'd like to share your ideas, please fill out the feedback form at [tinyurl.com/yctlbjns](http://tinyurl.com/yctlbjns)

## Get to Know your Grants

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants and Volunteers

### National Night Out, at Your Library!

Many people think of their neighborhood library as a second home, so what better place to celebrate National Night Out? Designed to build stronger communities through fun, social activities among neighbors, this year's celebrations took place on Tuesday, August 1. Eleven OPL locations hosted National Night Out events this year. While each branch celebrated in its own way, most locations planned a fun performance, refreshments, and children's activities. For the third year in a row, the Friends of OPL's Innovative Programming Grant paid for the Awësome Orchestra to perform at the Main Library. This unique community orchestra delighted regular patrons and passersby with an outdoor concert in the sunken courtyard on Madison Street (photo by volunteer Mitzi Wong-Nguyen).



The Children's Services Programming Supplement – another Friends of the OPL grant – allowed the West Oakland Branch Library to engage the Circus of Smiles at their National Night Out celebration. Patrons of all ages enjoyed the show and fantastic refreshments, generously donated by Whole Foods Market. If you missed National Night Out this year, please do look for it next year. A great way to connect with your neighbors while enjoying your library!

### Want to Help Out at The Bookmark?

There are shifts available, and other short-term needs. Call 510-444-043, or email [bookmark\\_bookstore@yahoo.com](mailto:bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com)

## Climate Change & Community

A Science Café Series at Golden Gate Branch, October 14, 21 and 28, 10 a.m. to noon, funded by a grant from NOAA and NSF. See [tinyurl.com/ybu9mvfp](https://tinyurl.com/ybu9mvfp) for more information.

## Remembering Dean Johnson

By Gen Katz, Friends of the OPL Board

Dean Johnson died August 15, 2017 and his passing gives new meaning to "sorely missed". He served on the Friends of the OPL board from 1998-2005. I remember him as a tall, handsome man with silver hair and a slightly-stooped position of politeness. He was the quintessential board member. He took it upon himself, as his responsibility to the board, to visit all 16 libraries, a task that is needed even more today. He was passionate about what libraries could offer to children. Using his engineering and management background, he developed a matrix showing how libraries, nearby schools, NCPC's and average scores in math and English interacted. Here was a map that stunned us in its scope. He showed us how far library outreach could go. He thought the Tool Library was hot stuff, worked for Measure Q's passage and put our Bookmark on sound technical footing. The Johnson family supported libraries. His wife Nancy, with her connection to the League of Women Voters, made them a forceful giving couple. Dean is survived by Nancy, his son Reed, and grandchildren who brought him great joy. They were lucky to have him in their life and lucky for the Friends of the OPL to have had such a board member. I miss him as I write this.

## Giving

In memory of **AlannaLynn** from Patricia Ewing

From Caroline Park in honor of **Naila Yee Findley**

From Anonymous, Winifred Walters, and Ann Eberhardt, in memory of **Dean Johnson**

From Gordon Shell in memory of **Richard A. Leigh**

In honor of **Winifred Walters** and her retirement from OPL (but NOT from the Friends of the OPL):

Anonymous; Sara & Emerson DuBois; Maureen Elia & Lucretia Ausse; Wendy Simon; Rosalía Romo; Sheila McCormick & Paul Herzmark; Sharon, Ian, Lillian, & Matilda McKellar; Mary Schrader; Wade & Virginia Sherwood; Bob and Judy Toll; Gene Tom; and Jamie Turbak.



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**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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- Michael Dalton
- Genevieve Katz
- Susana M. Morales, Vice President
- Ronile Lahti, Secretary
- Sheila McCormick, Newsletter Editor
- Ellen Moyer, President
- Hannah Onstad
- Rebecca Pfiffner
- Maria Poppas
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- Judy Toll
- Valerie Villanueva
- Julie Waldman, Treasurer
- Winifred Walters, Assistant Treasurer
- Carl Alexander, Honorary Member

If the date on your mailing label is 9-01-2017 or earlier,  
**PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**

**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 Old Oakland since 1992. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Library. Members receive a discount on purchases.

**Your support is crucial:**

Your annual dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library. In the past 10 years, Friends of the OPL granted over \$1.5 million for library programs and projects.

**More ways to support Friends of the OPL:**

- Ask a friend to become a member
- Leave a legacy by naming Friends of the OPL in your estate plan
- Donate your gently-used books to the Bookmark Bookstore
- Volunteer! [www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer)
- Shop online at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

**Thank you!**

To learn more, visit [fopl.org](http://fopl.org) or call The Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.  
Contributions are tax-deductible (Tax ID 94-2553734).