



April 2018

Support Measure D with Your Vote and Your Advocacy!

We all know our Oakland Public Libraries are a vital community resource. They provide a safe after-school space for our children and teens and provide resources that enable students to succeed. As budget cuts have eliminated library hours in many Oakland public schools, students are relying on Oakland Public Libraries now more than ever. However, years of underfunding and rising costs threaten our ability to provide safe after-school spaces for teens, literacy services for children and adults, and important early-childhood reading programs for our youngest Oaklanders. To protect our libraries, city leaders and library advocates have placed Measure D on the June 5 ballot. All registered Oakland voters are eligible to vote on the measure. It will require a two-thirds yes vote to prevail. **Without Measure D**, our libraries face further closures. **With Measure D**, we can expand library hours to allow students, seniors and working families access to library services throughout the week.

What will Measure D do?

- Prevent library closures and extend hours evenings and weekends to better accommodate students, seniors and working families.
- Provide safe places for children and teens to do their homework and for after-school programs.
- Maintain youth reading programs.
- Keep libraries safe and welcoming.
- Provide literacy services.

How are taxpayers protected?

- Measure D will enact a parcel tax of only \$75 per year; there are exemptions for low-income seniors and very low-income households.
- An oversight committee, comprised of community members, will ensure that funds are spent properly.
- Measure D will sunset after 20 years.
- Funds will be subject to ongoing audits.

How can I help the campaign?

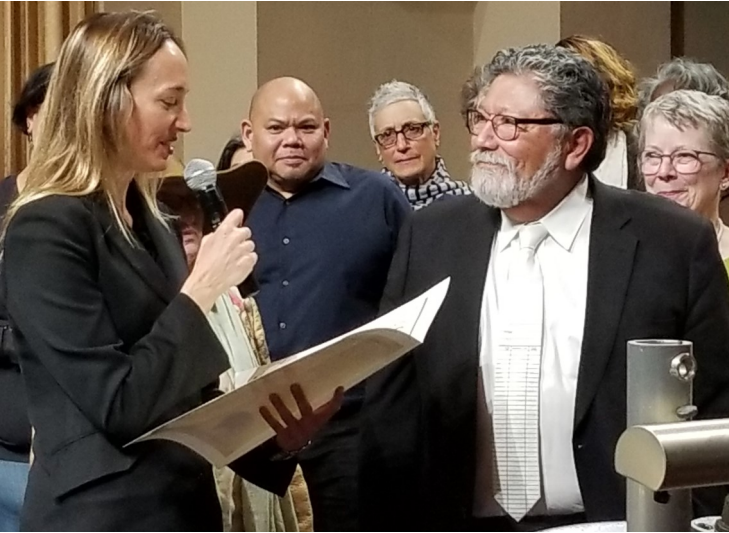
Measure D needs two-thirds of the vote on June 5, and we'll need your help getting there! Here's how to help:

1. **VOTE YES ON MEASURE D!**
2. **Request a yard/window sign** through the campaign website, www.ProtectOaklandLibraries.org
3. **Publicly endorse Measure D** on the campaign website and tell your friends why you're voting YES.
4. **Volunteer to support Measure D.** We'll need volunteers 4 nights a week to call undecided voters; there are other volunteer opportunities as well.
5. **VOTE YES ON MEASURE D!** It's the most important, so we've listed it twice.

For more information, www.ProtectOaklandLibraries.org or ProtectOaklandLibraries@gmail.com.



Gerry Garzon Retires from OPL



Oakland City Council members Annie Campbell Washington, Noel Gallo and Lynette Gibson McElhany proposed a resolution to honor the retirement of Library Director Gerry Garzon, after 18 years of service. Despite some humorous shouts of “I object” before the resolution was read, it passed unanimously. Among its 15 Whereas statements, some were heartfelt: “Whereas during Gerry’s tenure, OPL initiated a new model of service that includes several initiatives based on the concept of “people over things” and reducing barriers to service, as well as looking outward into our community”, and some were funny: “Whereas Gerry has always enjoyed several good cups of java, which people have attributed to why he works so doggedly”.

We wish Gerry a happy retirement!

Note: you can read about Gerry’s earlier career in the February 2013 *Off the Shelf* at fopl.org/newsletter.



Interim Library Director Named

Jamie Turbak was named Interim Library Director on March 2, 2018. You can read about Jamie’s background in the April 2015 *Off the Shelf* at fopl.org/newsletter. A detailed profile of Jamie will appear in a future newsletter.

SPRING BOOKSALE at The Bookmark

721 Washington St., Oakland

April 5-8 (Thursday-Sunday)

Extended sale hours

10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

50% OFF **only for members**
on “First Choice” Day, April 5
(become a member that day)

30% OFF on Friday April 6

40% OFF on Saturday April 7

50% OFF on Sunday April 8

Shop early! Shop often!

It’s Sundae Month Again

During May, order a Myrtle’s Special Sundae and Fentons Creamery, at 4226 Piedmont Avenue, will donate 25% of the purchase price to Friends of OPL. This will be the 10th year that Fentons promotes summer reading and raises funds for the library. **Thank you, Fentons!**



See this newsletter in color at
fopl.org/newsletter

The Board Recommends Books and DVDs

Gen Katz. *Skyfaring – A Journey with a Pilot*, by Mark Vanhoenacker. It's been a long time since I have felt nostalgic upon finishing a book. I enjoyed flying with Mark, he shared things that I didn't know: that a pilot walks around a plane before take-off, the DECIDE moment, the captain sits on the left, place-lag is more common than jet-lag, what flight maps look like, friendships are numerous and brief, pilots sleep in PJ's and they prefer to fly at night. So many more gems that I will forget and remember. I even read the acknowledgments.

Sheila McCormick. *The Worricker Trilogy*, written and directed by David Hare. This political thriller stars one of my favorite actors, Bill Nighy, playing an MI5 agent, as well as Rachel Weisz, Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes, and Winona Ryder. Intrigue galore!

Kathryn Sterbenc. *Dear World: a Syrian Girl's Story of War and Plea for Peace*, by Bana al-Abed. This brief but affecting memoir was written by a then 7-year-old girl whose tweets from rebel-held Aleppo in 2016 grabbed the world's attention. Her mother, an English-speaking teacher, helped Bana translate her messages to the world, and Bana's chapters are intercut with short chapters by her mother, Fatemah. While some have questioned whether a 7-year-old could have written the tweets, the book provides powerful insight into one Syrian family's experience as the daily bombing moves closer and closer to their apartment building, injuring relatives, killing Bana's best friend, and destroying her school and the life they'd always known.

Valerie Villanueva. *The 57 Bus*, by Dashka Slater. Slater examines the crime on this bus in Oakland in 2013 that drew international headlines. She explores the lives of Sasha, the agender teen whose skirt was set on fire while sleeping on a ride home from school and of Richard, the 16 year old African American boy who admits his guilt in setting the skirt ablaze, but despite his repentance, and against the wishes of Sasha's family, is tried as an adult for his crime. Slater delves into both the LGBTQ+ community and the criminal justice system, especially concerning juveniles being tried as adults, the juvenile detention system and restorative justice. It challenged what I thought I knew about the crime from what I had read in the newspaper headlines at the time and reminded me that everything in our world isn't as simple as "black and white ... cruel and kind ... guilty and innocent." Recommended for its empathetic insight and well worth the wait to get to the top of the library hold list.

Mini-Grant Awardees Named

For the second year in row, the Friends of the OPL offered mini-grants of up to \$1,500 each, to fund new library services or programs proposed by staff. There were 18 submissions to consider this year! On March 7, the Friends Board reviewed and discussed the proposals, and selected these 8 for funding: **Ukulele Collection**, for checkouts, lessons and sing-alongs, at 81st Ave., proposed by Brian Guenther; **Oral History Listening Station**, at AAMLO, proposed by Susan Anderson; **Adult Crafts** with GoGo Crafts, at Golden Gate, proposed by Erin Sanders; **Independently Healthy**, nutrition and cooking classes for teens, at Eastmont, proposed by Susan Martinez & Norma Rubio; **Community Garden & Seed Lending**, at Melrose, proposed by Kate Hug; **Teen Zone Revitalization**, at MLK, proposed by Celia Davis; **Technology Classes**, at Eastmont & West Oakland, proposed by Susan Martinez, Linda Nguyen & Andrea Guzman; **Large Type Reading Group**, at Temescal, proposed by Steve Lavoie, and **Grandparents Day**, at West Oakland, proposed by Celia Jackson. Please check with the locations mentioned for more details about these fun programs. It is too bad that our allotted budget was only \$10,000, as all proposals were worthy. Hope to see more great proposals next year!

Tool Library Videos

The Friends of the Oakland Tool Library (fotll.org) is proud to announce instructional videos (funded by a 2017 Friends of the OPL mini-grant) about how to use a sewer snake, weed wacker, miter saw, table saw, and demolition hammer. You can borrow these (or any of their 5,000 other tools) by visiting the Temescal branch. Be sure to bring a photo ID if it's your first visit. And if you're a DIY MacGyver-type, consider joining their friends group!

Nerd Nite East Bay with OPL

Short presentations about something scientific; topics vary each month. At **Club 21, 2111 Franklin St.** Upcoming dates: **April 30, May 28, June 25**, starts at 7 p.m. OPL will be there with relevant reading lists and to answer questions. oaklandlibrary.org/nerdnite.

Get to Know your Grants

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants and Volunteers

As a member of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, you should have received a postcard last month announcing the 2016-17 Annual Report (cover image by Katy Tanis). The report provides an opportunity to highlight OPL's recent accomplishments, to honor partner organizations and supporters, and to report important statistics to the community. Gathering the content – stories, photos, and statistics -- is an extensive project managed by my colleague Tom Downs. Tom also writes the text and follows up on all the details that make the report more compelling. Thankfully, the Friends of the OPL supports this important project with a grant for a professional design. For the past six years, Randall Homan of Gestalt Graphics has provided fantastic layout and design services for OPL's annual reports. Tom and Randall work together closely to make sure the final document is informative, accurate, and attractive. In addition to paying for design services, the Friends of the OPL also pays for the mailing of the postcard mentioned above. If you haven't already done so, please visit our website and read all about the library's impact in our most recent fiscal year. And, if you like the design, please do thank the Friends of the OPL for making it all possible! Read the report at: oaklandlibrary.org/annualreport.

Each year the library submits a "wish list" of grant requests to the Friends of the OPL. This list comprises 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, sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org.



2018 Youth Poet Laureate

Meet the Finalists and 2018 judges on **May 11th, 7 p.m.** at Pegasus Books, 5560 College Ave. The Winner will be announced in June, location and time TBA. Please check oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets for details.

Store Volunteer Profile

Susan Zaninovich started volunteering in May 2017. She had earned a BA in English with a focus on Creative Writing, and read voraciously, so when she took a break from working she looked for a meaningful volunteer job. She heard about the Bookmark from a librarian at OPL and right away knew it was for her. "Bookstores to me are what churches are to others--a place rich with spirit, soul, passion, and peacefulness. I wanted to work in such an environment and share my knowledge of books with others. I am constantly amazed at the variety and uniqueness of the books donated--fascinating subjects and art that I have never been exposed to before. I love the vintage books because I collect them myself. I do the initial sorting with my co-workers Katie and Max, and sometimes discuss the books. It can be like discovering buried treasures. The coolest book I bought is *Goldfinch*, the 2014 Pulitzer Prize fiction winner by Donna Tartt. It is close to 800 pages but I could not put it down. I transcribe quotes into a leather-bound book, and I transcribed almost all of *Goldfinch*'s last chapter. It is an entertaining page-turner but ultimately a beautiful summation of life."

April is National Poetry Month—check out these events

Saturday April 7, 2:30-4 p.m., The Importance of Art in Times of Duress, with Temescal Poet July Westhall and artist/photographer Julia Sparenberg, oaklandlibrary.org/TemescalPoetry

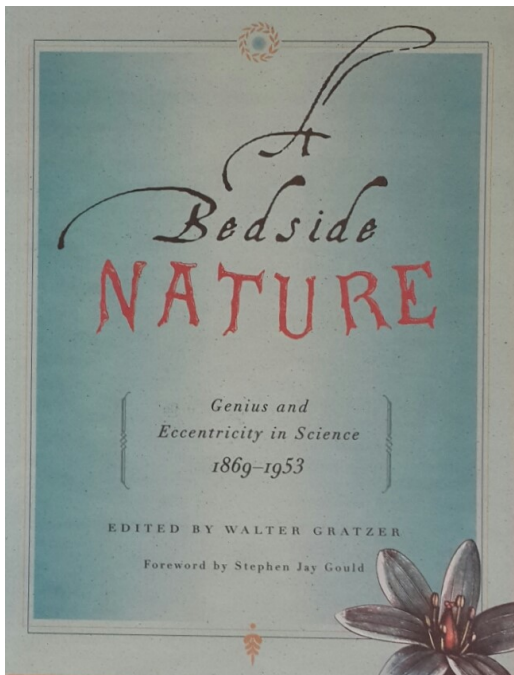
Wednesday April 11, 6-7:30 p.m., Words of Resilience, a National Poetry Month Celebration, oaklandlibrary.org/MainPoetry

Tuesday April 24, 6-8 p.m., Readings by Seven Local Poets, oaklandlibrary.org/MontclairPoetry

Found at the Bookmark

By Sheila McCormick, Board Member

I bought **A Bedside Nature, Genius and Eccentricity in Science 1869-1953**, in 2000, for \$2.40 (with member discount). This collection of articles, from the science journal **Nature**, is fun to browse. The articles range from Darwin's "On the dispersal of fresh water bivalves," in 1882, to one from 1890, discussing the advantages (or not) of drinking beer from a glass, and the book ends with "A structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid," by Watson and Crick, in 1953. The commentary by Walter Gratzer puts things in context, as each section is prefaced by what was going on in the world outside of science (e.g. opening of the Suez Canal). Even the Index is entertaining, e.g. "photography of falling cat" p. 96, "reasoning ability in beetles" p. 124, and "brandy made from coelenterates" p. 127.



Spring Meeting of the Branch Friends Network

Saturday, April 28, 10-12, at the 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave. Everyone is welcome. For more information, or to register, contact Sara DuBois at 510-238-6572 or sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org

Volunteer Opportunities and Job Fairs

1. **Spring Youth Job and Paid Internship Fair**, Wednesday April 18, 2-5 p.m., in the Teen Zone at the Main Library, oaklandlibrary.org/YouthJobFair
2. **Volunteer Information Session**, Sunday May 6, 2-3:30 p.m. at the Main Library, oaklandlibrary.org/InfoSession
3. **Spring Job Fair for Adults**, Wednesday May 23, 2-4 p.m., at the Main Library, oaklandlibrary.org/JobFair
4. **WANT TO HELP OUT AT THE BOOKMARK?** There are shifts available, and other short-term opportunities at The Bookmark. Email bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com or call 510-444-0473.

Giving

- In memory of **Tina Wong** from Anonymous, Robert Wong, Dian Lowe and Jane Hirata
- In memory of **Tina Wong** from Nicholas Deluca: "I did not know Tina Wong, but after reading her obituary – I wished I had. And so, in her name, this modest contribution."
- In honor of **Zander Brennen & Wendy Niles/Turtle Brennen & Ava Kay** from Liz Graf-Brenner
- In honor of **Mark Merker** from Anonymous
- In honor of **Jamie Turbak and Paul Scheisser** from Shannon Luepke
- In memory of **Leon David Sykes, Sr.** from Lome Aseron
- In honor of **Pat Toney, Branch Library Manager** at Piedmont Avenue from Anonymous
- In memory of **Margueritta Bovo Martinez** from Phyliss Martinez
- In honor of **Mitzi Mock** from Anonymous
- In honor of the **Steere-Richardson-Reanier-Meyer family** from Bonnie G. Meyer
- In honor of **Brad and Christie Worsti** from Erin Huston
- In memory of **Don Carleton Pettyjohn** from Anonymous, Bette & Bruce Flushman & Dana Heidrick
- In honor of **Jeevan & Sevak Singh** from Karin Cooke
- In honor of **Julius Webster** from Anonymous
- In honor of **Victoria Barbero** from Dalbir Singh
- In honor of **Winifred Walters'** retirement from OPL from Rita Howard
- For the Second Start Adult Literacy program in memory of **Luella Edmonds**, from her family and friends: Judy Martin, Dino O'Neal, Wayne Martin, Martha Green, Coelise Martin, Gail Anahem, Murphy and Valerie Robinson, Cessie Glenn, Eliza Bingham, Martha McWoodson, Doris Jackson, Betty Cherry, Claire Jeannette, William and Christine Sinn, Marilyn Cleveland, Fara Molavi, and Barbara Oseroff



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If the date on your mailing label is 03-01-2018 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
- 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 or call The Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.
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