

Welcome, Summer! Summer Reading 2019

by Sara DuBois, Coordinator Grants & Volunteers

What a summer! Once again, the library is offering patrons of all ages the opportunity to **Explore, Connect & Grow** with exciting summer programs.

We kicked off Kids' Summer Reading on May 24 with a **special edition Children's Fairyland library card**. Anyone who picked up one of these limited-edition library cards can use it for free entry to Children's Fairyland on July 30. (No adult admitted without a child, and no child admitted without an adult.) The Oakland A's made this a very special summer by donating 45,000 ticket vouchers to the library! Patrons signing up for the summer programs receive four vouchers to a game of their choice (from a selection of ten games, provided by the A's.) The A's mascot, Stomper, has also signed up for Summer Reading – he's making four visits to library locations this summer.

And one lucky young participant in Kids' Summer Reading will win a wonderful grand prize: a 4-night stay for four people in summer 2020 at Oakland Feather River Family Camp – a \$1,424 value!

Summer is not over yet – the fun continues through August 3! Visit us at oaklandlibrary.org/summer to sign-up for **Adult Summer Reading**, find our schedule of events, learn about free summer lunch for youth, and to see the long list of donors and sponsors who make all of this possible. (The Friends of the Oakland Public Library and the Bookmark Bookstore are both there, of course!) If you're not excited yet, just check out this fun video promoting OPL's 2019 Kids' Summer Reading program: Oaklandlibrary.org/summer19



National Night Out is Tuesday, August 6, 2019

Register for a block party using the new City of Oakland portal called Oakapps (apps.oaklandca.gov/oakapps/) and get your neighbors to get together to build neighborhood spirit and unity!



Upcoming Events @ The Bookmark | 721 Washington Street, Oakland

SATURDAY, OCT. 12, 4-7PM

PRE-SALE CELEBRATION

Join us for light refreshments to celebrate the new Youth Poet Laureate, Samuel Getachew and other amazing OPL initiatives!

THURSDAY, OCT. 17-SUNDAY, OCT. 20

SEMI-ANNUAL SALE

Friends of the OPL Members receive **50%** off every purchase on **Thursday, 10/17 only**.

All other book & media lovers receive:

30% off Friday, October 18, **40%** off Saturday, October 19, **50%** off Sunday, October 20

Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media!

BookmarkBookstore.FOPL FOPL_Bookmark FOPL_Bookmark

2019 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate | Samuel Getachew

Samuel Getachew has been named the 2019 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate (OYPL), beating out nine other talented Finalists for a \$5,000 college scholarship. The award was announced following performances by the Finalists in front of a live audience on Friday, June 7 at the Oakland Museum of California James Moore Theater.

Getachew, a 16-year-old heading into his senior year at Oakland Technical High School, will represent the Oakland community through poetry, media, and public appearances. He had served as the 2018 Vice Youth Poet Laureate, performing and speaking as a representative of the program, his peers and his city at numerous events.

"I am so proud and grateful to be able to represent the beautiful radiant city that has cultivated so much of my personal growth as an artist and as an individual," said Getachew. "Thank you so much to the Oakland Public Library, and to every person and organization that has come together to make the Youth Poet Laureate Program possible, for this incredible honor. We need programs like this in Oakland now more than ever."

To watch Getachew's winning poem, go to: oaklandlibrary.org/Samuel

He is the three-time defending Youth Speaks Teen Poetry Slam champion, a 2019 YoungArts winner in Spoken Word, and has performed his writing in spaces ranging from corporate offices like Google and Salesforce, to organizations like the March for Our Lives. His poetry has been featured by NPR, KQED, KTVU News, Pop Up Magazine, the SF Curran, and has been published in the *New York Times* and *SF Guardian*.

KQED columnist and freelance journalist Pendarvis Harshaw, who served as one of five OYPL judges, says, "Samuel has been on the path for this title for some time now. No need to look at his extensive resume; you can just look at his posture and poise as he delivers his poems. He's confident and believes in his words, which makes his words believable to the audience members. He embodies what the competition is all about: the next generation of voices from Oakland."

Oakland's 2019 Vice Youth Poet Laureate is **Eleanor Wikstrom**. Wikstrom is a 16-year-old Oakland Skyline High School student where she is the President of the Pinoy (Filipino) Club and vice-president of the Gender-



Sexuality Alliance (GSA). She is also the cross country / track & field team captain. Wikstrom's prose and poetry has been repeatedly recognized, awarded, and has been performed by the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus.

"I am extremely blessed to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community and I couldn't be more excited to work with Samuel and all of the other amazing Finalists to promote art and activism in Oakland and beyond," said Wikstrom.

The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is run by the **Oakland Public Library Teen Services** and is an unprecedented citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and connect young writers to far-reaching opportunities. Each year, OPL accepts submissions from talented Oakland writers (ages 13-18) to be considered for the honor.

The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, the Vice Youth Poet Laureate, and all Finalists are available for performances, talks, and workshops. **Submit your booking requests at oaklandlibrary.org/yplbooking**. For more information please visit oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets or contact Sharon McKellar, Supervising Librarian for Teen Services, at 510-238-7613 or smckellar@oaklandlibrary.org.

Stay up to date on events and appearances with the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate by liking [facebook.com/YouthPoetLaureate](https://www.facebook.com/YouthPoetLaureate) or visiting oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets.

The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is supported by a broad coalition of partner agencies across the Bay Area: Chapter 510, Write-to-Read and the Alameda County Library. The Friends of the Oakland Public Library finances the Laureate's scholarship.

Overdue Fines are Out at OPL Starting July 1

OPL joins over **50 library systems nationwide** in recognizing that overdue fines create unnecessary and inequitable barriers to resources. Moreover, overdue fines negatively affect patrons who can least afford the fine and are not an effective incentive to returning library materials.

In 2017-18, the Library collected **\$77,600 in overdue fines** which were deposited into Oakland's General Purpose Fund. However, it **cost the Library more than twice** that amount in staff time to collect that income.

"Our library exists because of community support. Our materials are meant to be used, and this is a more effective way of ensuring their availability to everyone," said Director of Library Services Jamie Turbak. "We want to spend our time serving people – not nickel-and-diming them because they are late in returning materials. **Our library is now easier to access** and we want everyone to feel confident and welcome to use their Oakland Public Library."

To read the full announcement, go here: oaklandlibrary.org/nooverduedefines

Did You Know... You Can Get Library Information Texted to You?

Sign up with **Shoutbomb** to receive SMS text notices on your holds, renewals, and fee balances for your Oakland Public Library account, plus information about important library announcements.

For more information, go here: oaklandlibrary.org/textupdates

More Friends, Please! Forming a Friends Group for the Main Library

by Sheila McCormick

On June 13, there was a meeting at the Main Library about starting a Friends Group for the Main Library (all but one of the Branch Libraries have a Friends Group), organized by Helen Bloch. Despite the unexpected overlap of the meeting with the 6th Warriors game, 13 people attended, including a library staff member, four members of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library Board, two representatives from Reading Partners, several former or current members of the Library Advisory Commission or of other Branch Friends Groups, and other interested library patrons. Discussion was wide-ranging and included the Downtown Oakland Plan, the sorts of things that Friends Groups at the other Branches do, and the parameters of what a Friends Group specific to Main might do. Our next meeting is Sunday, July 21, 3-4 pm at the Blue Oak Cafe in the Oakland Museum of CA (accessible without paying for museum entry). We also plan to generate a survey asking both staff and patrons at Main what improvements they would like to see at Main, as a launching point for what a Friends Group at Main might concentrate their efforts on. And of course we want to encourage other patrons to join. To receive updates, please contact: oaklandmainfriends@gmail.com

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 11AM - 3 PM | [Oakland Museum of California Garden](#)

END OF SUMMER READING 2019 CELEBRATION

Meet your friends in the sunny gardens at OMCA and enjoy performances, games, and crafts! Bring the whole family for this summer bookstravaganza!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 12PM | [Lakeview Library](#)

BACK TO OAKLAND: AUTHOR TALK WITH PENN HUGHES

Lakeview – The Bay Area is a global presence. Back to Oakland is set around Lake Merritt. It addresses whether the buzz of Oakland might be the setting for other shapeshifting as well, from a different angle of repose.

To read more about the fabulous OPL events, go here: oaklandlibrary.org

Get to Know Your Grants

by Sara DuBois, Coordinator Grants & Volunteers

The library uses incentives to get patrons of all ages excited about our Summer Programs. While not everybody needs an incentive to read, for some it is the only reason they participate...



A happy branch raffle winner with a prize purchased by a Friends of the OPL grant.

As I mentioned in the Summer Reading article on page 1, many of our fantastic prizes are donated by local merchants and fun places that people love to visit. (Prize donations are still arriving, but you can see the current list of donors at oaklandlibrary.org/summer.) The library is grateful for these donations and we love being able to include the community in this way.

But donations vary every year, and we need to be able to count on certain prizes so that librarians can be sure of hearing "ooooh!" when they promote the Summer Reading program to school classes in May. And that's why we ask the Friends of the OPL each year for grants that we can use to purchase Summer Reading prizes.

The Children's Librarians choose a couple of prizes that they know would be popular with a broad range of kids, and then they purchase 17 of these to be awarded via raffle, at the end of the program at each branch and at the Main Library Children's Room.

Two of our 2019 Kids' Summer Reading Grand Prizes were provided by donors: Oakland Feather River Family Camp (for the ages 0-12 prize) and Children's Fairyland (ages 0-4). But the iPad grand prize (for ages 5-12) is only possible thanks to the Friends of the OPL grant.

Teens and Adults benefit from the Friends of the OPL Summer Program prize grants, too! Teens earn raffle entries that make them eligible to win fantastic system-wide prizes: season passes to Great America, Six Flags, an iPad Mini, or even a Nintendo video game system. The prizes we purchase for Adult Summer Reading are mainly gift cards, but the librarians take the time to make certain that winners get to choose one that they will be sure to use.

The Friends of the OPL grants approximately \$4K for our use in Summer Program prizes, and for that amount we get a lot of mileage with promoting the program and delighting participants. We hope you might be inspired to sign up for Summer Reading – if you haven't already – or to mention it to someone you know who likes the chance of winning prizes!

Each year the library submits a "wish list" of grant requests to the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. 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, please contact Grants Coordinator Sara DuBois at sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org or (510) 238-6572.

Express Your Support For an Expanded Main Library

Email your Oakland City Council Member by July 15 and tell him/her why YOU think including an expanded Main Library in the Downtown Development Plan matters to Oakland. EVERY VOICE COUNTS! To get your rep's contact info, go to www.oaklandca.gov and click "CITY COUNCIL" at upper right.

Please also add Strategic Planner Joanna Winter (jjwinter@oaklandca.gov) and OPLadvocates@gmail.com to your email, and the Advocates will bring your message with us when we visit City Council.

Connect with OPL Advocates on Social Media!

 OPLAdvocates
  opladvocates
  OPLadvocate

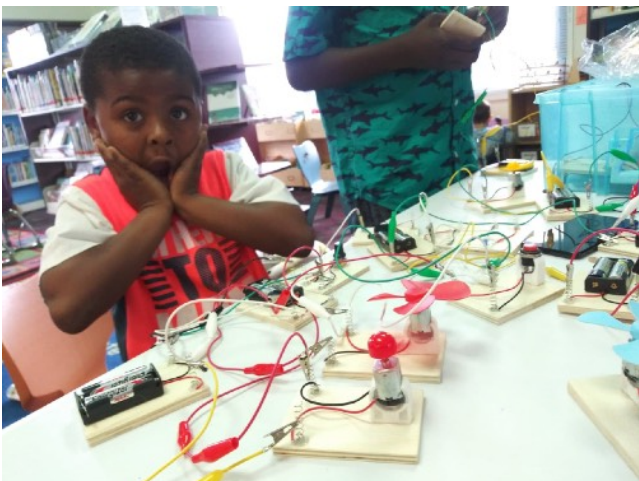
Mini-Grantee Spotlight: Junior Hackerspace Program @ MLK

by Joshua Armstrong, Children's Librarian

There were two encounters that inspired me to create a hackerspace. First was Mahasin (Children's Librarian at Main) who produced a big hit with her "Take It Apart Clinic" where she had kids take apart electronics. The other was a presentation to the children's librarians by Ace Monster Toys Makerspace of Oakland. I saw some really cool electronic crafts that sparked the idea in my mind to create a space for technology programming at the MLK branch that would appeal to the main population of elementary and middle school students who need engaging programs directed at them.

Although the majority of what we do includes having children make things, I would not define it as a makerspace program in that it doesn't include art such as painting/coloring/collages/etc. While the term "hacker" itself has a negative connotation, the definition of a hackerspace is: "A community-operated, often "not for profit" (501(c)(3) in the United States) workspace where people with common interests, such as computers, machining, technology, science, digital art, or electronic art, can meet, socialize and collaborate." I thought it was a perfect description of the program I wanted to create. I also hoped that the word 'hacker' would pique the interest in some of my reluctant youth patrons.

The parameters of the program at MLK are: each program must be something that includes technology, can be done after school in under two hours, and is simple enough that the kids who aren't exposed to much technology programming will understand it. I did not take electronics classes in school and I would not consider myself a tinkerer, so the programs must also be easy enough for me to do.



The Friends of the OPL Mini Grant was amazing because it helped me buy the most expensive parts of a hackerspace to get it off the ground. With the mini-grant funds I purchased a 3D printer, a virtual reality headset, a set of soldering irons, a dozen 3D Pens, and many other components that will work for programs in the future. After the mini-grant funds are exhausted, I will be able to maintain the program through my regular programming budget.

Some of the other fun things we've done include soldering, decorating bikes with electroluminescent wire, motorized paper airplane launchers, LED minecraft style torch-lights, and taken apart old electronics. We look forward to creating solar-powered toy cars, spinning robots, buzz wire game, and learning about circuits.

These programs have already had success at other branches, and they are available in kits for other librarians across Oakland.

Note: while hackerspaces and makerspaces are fairly common among libraries nationwide, I was unable to find any programs that mirror what I'm doing. Many of the makerspaces have substantial budgets (tens of thousands of dollars or more) and large work areas, usually with their own separate room. Without those resources, I needed to develop this program on a small budget with little dedicated space. While the MLK might not have a flashy nice new library with lots of funding, our goal to give the kids here a great-looking space with great programs is being achieved and met with enthusiasm.

The Junior Hackerspace Program is offered every Tuesday: 1pm during the summer and 3:30pm during the school year. Stop by the MLK Library at 6833 International Blvd. or email me for more details at JArmstrong@oaklandlibrary.org

Books & Media Recommendations from the Friends of the OPL Board

Recommended by Sheila McCormick

Faces Places - This charming 2017 documentary is a travelogue of sorts, but much more than that, featuring the artist/muralist JR and the famous new wave film director Agnes Varda (she recently died, at 90), as they drive around France while they make and discuss art and films. FYI, JR has an installation at SFMOMA (www.sfmoma.org/exhibition/jr/). **Faces Places** is available from OPL via Kanopy.

Recommended by Ynez Arce

The World as It Is: A Memoir of the Obama White House by Ben Rhodes - This memoir by President Obama's speechwriter and Deputy National Security Advisor gives revealing insight to the Obama presidency, significant historical events, and the consciousness of an intelligent leader. A great read and **\$5 at The Bookmark!**

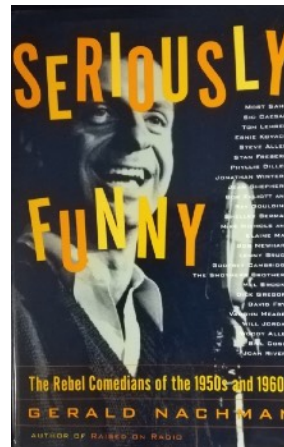
Recommended by Kathryn Sterbenc

The Maze - This new documentary short film – written, directed and produced by Oakland resident Serginho Roosblad – explores the “historical, cultural and environmental impact” of the MacArthur Maze. “The Maze” weaves archival film, historical maps and photos with interviews with community members, including longtime OPL advocate Alternier Baker Cook. Stream the film on KQED (using an OPL WiFi Hot Spot!) at www.kqed.org/trulyca/2992/the-maze

Found at The Bookmark

by Sheila McCormick

Perhaps I am dating myself (I was born in 1952), but I have a weakness for this era of comedians, so when I saw this book for only **\$4** (with member discount), I snapped it up. This book is a very engaging history of the early days of stand-up comedians, starting with Mort Sahl and Sid Caesar, and ending with Joan Rivers.



For the younger generation that might not be familiar with some of the names on the book cover, I strongly urge you to look them up on YouTube (e.g. a GE refrigerator commercial with Mike Nichols and Elaine May, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPGHQYutitY) - still very funny.

Interested in Volunteering?

The Bookmark needs YOU!

Please visit, call, or email for more details:

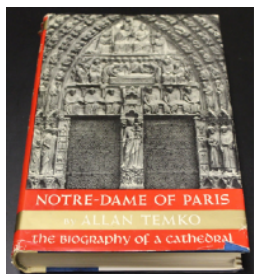
721 Washington Street, Oakland | (510) 444-0473
bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com

Browse our Amazon & eBay Listings!

amazon 2,000+ books and media listed here:
www.amazon.com/shops/the_bookmark_bookstore

Notre-Dame of Paris: The Biography of a Cathedral
 Hardcover 1955

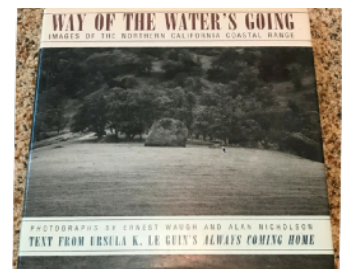
Sub-titled “The Biography of a Cathedral”, Allan Temko's book spans two centuries of Medieval France. These centuries saw the Gothic established in all of Europe, and the great Cathedral of Paris was the embodiment of that age. This story is at once historic, biographical, social, and artistic. **\$125**



ebay 200+ books and media listed here:
www.ebay.com/usr/friends_opl

Way of the Water's Going - First Edition

Photographs by Ernest Waugh and Alan Nicholson. Text from Ursula K. LeGuin's "Always Coming Home" - beautiful black & white photos, published in 1989; signed by Ursula LeGuin, **\$50**



The Bookmark's Spring Sale was a Big Success!

by Ynez Arce

The 2019 Spring Sale at the Bookmark brought in nearly 10% more revenue than the 2018 sale. Thanks to all of our Members and friends in the community who showed up to enjoy discounted prices and our huge collection of donated books, CDs, DVDs, LPs, and other media. The Fall Sale this year is Thursday, October 17 thru Sunday, October 20. Friends of the OPL Members receive 50% off every purchase on Thursday, 10/17 only. They and all other book & media lovers receive: 30% off Friday, October 18, 40% off Saturday, October 19, and 50% off Sunday, October 20. We can't wait to see you there!

Great Gift Idea!

For the book, media, and library lovers in your life, buy a Friends of the Oakland Public Library Membership! Your friends should be Friends of the OPL too!

Annual dues start at \$25 (Full-time students and seniors, age 65+, can join for \$15).

See all the ways to join at fopl.org/join

Friends of the OPL Membership Notes

A big thank you to all new and renewing members! Your support translates to grants to the Oakland Public Library. Get To Know Your Grants is a regular column in this newsletter dedicated to informing members of how your dues and donations make a difference in our community. Our volunteer membership team meets quarterly to prepare and mail renewal notices. We send a notice in the month prior to the expiration date on the mailing label of your newsletter. If there is no response, we send a follow-up.

Membership questions? Please email info@FOPL.org or call the Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.

DID YOU KNOW?...

Members who join at the BookFriend level (\$50 or more) receive discounts at the following local bookstores:

- Bibliomania, 1816 Telegraph Ave, 510-835-5773
- Montclair Book Tree, 6121 La Salle Ave, 510-339-0513
- Pegasus Books, 5560 College Ave, 510-652-6259
- Spectator Books, 4163 Piedmont Ave, 510-653-7300
- Walden Pond, 3316 Grand Ave, 510-832-4438

Learn more at: FOPL.org/join

Farewell and Thank You to Friends Board Member Hannah Onstad

by Kathryn Sterbenc



The Friends of the Oakland Public Library bid a fond farewell to board member Hannah Onstad, who joined us in January 2017. Among her key achievements, Hannah led the effort to create the Friends' beautiful new logo and to rebrand all of our marketing materials. Hannah also was instrumental in the creation of the poster, "100 Things We Love About Oakland Public Library," which is on display in the Bookmark. An avid art lover and occasional art collector, Hannah also has served as an art docent at the Oakland Museum of California. Best wishes and happy trails, Hannah – may our paths cross again!

Giving

- In memory of Herbert Leonard Mager, Jr., from Walter Kowalewski
- In honor of Polly Jackson from Rebecca and Randy Litteneker
- In honor and celebration of Kathryn Sterbenc's birthday. She loves Oakland Public Library and we love her.

To learn about more ways to donate, go to: fopl.org/donate



721 Washington Street
Oakland, California 94607
Forwarding services requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit #4544

Friends of the OPL Board Members

- ✦ Ynez Arce, *Newsletter Editor*
- ✦ Stephen Cole
- ✦ Michael Dalton
- ✦ Genevieve Katz
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti, *Secretary*
- ✦ Sheila McCormick
- ✦ Ellen Moyer
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner, *Vice President*
- ✦ Ashley Robinson
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Valerie Villanueva
- ✦ Julie Waldman, *Treasurer*
- ✦ Winifred Walters, *Assistant Treasurer*

We welcome your feedback & comments:
info@fopl.org

If the date on your mailing label is **6-01-2019**
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 Oakland since 1992. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Library. Members receive a discount on purchases.

Your support is crucial:

Your annual member dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library. In the last 10 years, Friends of the OPL granted over **\$1.5M** 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 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 purchase when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

Thank you!

To learn more, visit www.fopl.org or call The Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.
The Friends of the Oakland Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
Our tax ID is 94-2553734, and contributions are tax deductible.