

Oakland Libraries Are Back!

Great news: The Oakland Public Library (OPL) expanded service at all 18 locations as of Tuesday, June 15, 2021 to reflect the hours that were in effect prior to the COVID-19 pandemic that forced buildings to close in March 2020.

The Main Library (125 14th St) is now open seven days a week; 15 neighborhood branches will be open six days per week and until 8:00 p.m. two nights per week.

In addition, the African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO) and Oakland History Center (OHC) will be available for in-person visits and browsing. AAMLO will continue to require appointments for the archives, seed lending library, and group tours of the museum and the facility.



Library Staff preparing to welcome patrons back to OPL!

The 81st Ave Branch will add back its Sunday hours in the coming months.

All patrons will be expected to follow County health orders, and service will be adjusted as necessary to accommodate. All patrons and staff will continue to wear face coverings in OPL branches.

To view service hours at all locations, go to oaklandlibrary.org/hours.

OPL Happenings

For all event details, visit oaklandlibrary.org/events

VIRTUAL LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY - TAX ATTORNEY

July 23, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Make an appointment to talk with a tax attorney. The Lawyers in the Library program is a free information and referral program staffed by volunteer lawyers and hosted by libraries throughout Alameda County.

NORCAL BATS!

July 23, 10:30am

Curious about bats? These nocturnal critters are rarely seen up close, so we've arranged the perfect program to satisfy your curiosity. Corky Quirk from Northern California Bats will show bats to us in a virtual environment so you can get a good look. You will learn the myths that surround bats and the importance of the role they play in our environment.

Friends of the OPL News

THE BOOKMARK IS OPEN!

We are thrilled to announce that after more than a year of closures and limited hours, the Bookmark Bookstore, owned and operated by Friends of the OPL, reopened five days a week on June 16th. It has been our highest priority to provide a safe environment for our customers and staff and we will continue following Alameda County Public Health protocols and CDC guidelines.

Our new store hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:00am - 4:00pm, no reservations needed.

Got books and/or media to donate? Make a [reservation on our website](http://www.fopl.org) for donations: www.fopl.org

We deeply appreciate your patience and continued support of the store. And a very special thanks to our store manager, Phyllis Couillard, and all the volunteers for their commitment to the store during the closures and uncertainty.

Welcome back, Friends!

Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media



[BookmarkBookstore.FOPL](https://www.facebook.com/BookmarkBookstore.FOPL)



[FOPL_Bookmark](https://www.instagram.com/FOPL_Bookmark)



[FOPL_Bookmark](https://twitter.com/FOPL_Bookmark)

Get to Know Your Grants

Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants & Volunteers

In spring 2012, Oakland Public Library (OPL) teamed up with a host of community partners to offer the first-ever Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program. Now in its tenth year, this program is an unprecedented citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and to connect young writers to far-reaching opportunities. Each year, OPL's Teen Services Department accepts submissions from talented Oakland writers (ages 13-18) to be considered for the honor.

More than a competition, this program creates a community of young poets. The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate and Finalists serve as ambassadors for literacy, arts, and youth expression with ongoing opportunities for performances, projects, and peer support. The Laureate also receives a \$5,000 educational scholarship provided by the Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

Myra Estrada, going into her junior year at Oakland High School, was named 2021 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate on June 4, during a live event on Facebook. You can watch the event recording -- which includes performances by each of this year's seven finalists and by past laureates -- at www.facebook.com/YouthPoetLaureate.

Ms. Estrada says, "Being named Oakland Youth Poet Laureate gives me hope for my future and my generation. With my title I'll strive to advocate for amplified youth voices and youth demands and wishes for the betterment of Oakland."

OPL could not be more amazed by the talented young people who have participated in this program. Listed below are the 10 Oakland Youth Poets Laureate, who continue to do incredible things in the world.

2021: Myra Estrada

2020: Greer Nakadegawa-Lee

2019: Samuel Getachew

2018: Leila Mottley

2017: Lucy Flattery-Vickness

2016: Azariah Cole-Shephard

2015: Tova Ricardo

2014: Sophie Elkin

2013: Obasi Davis

2012: Stephanie Yung

This program is only possible thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. Thank you for supporting this important program.



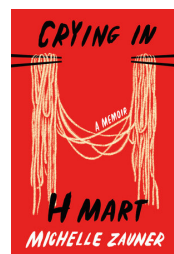
Maya Estrada, 2021 Youth Poet Laureate

For more information, please contact Grants Coordinator Sara DuBois at sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org or (510) 238-6572.

Book Recommendations

Friends of the OPL Board

Each of these titles can be checked out from OPL through encore.oaklandlibrary.org or purchased from Bookshop bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore



CRYING IN H MART

Michelle Zauner

Michelle Zauner tackles grief and the Asian American experience with humorous intimacy and honesty.



AFTERPARTIES: STORIES

Anthony Veasna So

As the children of refugees carve out radical new paths for themselves in California, they grapple with the complexities of race, sexuality, friendship, and family.



YOU EXIST TOO MUCH

Zaina Arafat

Told in vignettes that flash between the U.S. and the Middle East, Zaina Arafat's debut novel traces her protagonist's progress from blushing teen to sought-after DJ and aspiring writer.

The Friends Board Welcomes a New Director and Assistant Treasurer

The Friends Board welcomed **Sara Jewell** as a Director in May. Sara is a Bay Area native and resident of Oakland since 1997. She began volunteering in libraries in elementary school and continued through her children's



educations. Libraries have provided her resources, respite, and mental adventure through the years. Her career has been mainly in accounting with several stints as Treasurer for various non-profit organizations along the way.

Sara is proud to support Oakland Public Libraries as a Friend and Board Director.

B Bookshop

Bookshop is an online bookselling platform started in January 2020 to support local, independent bookstores. Friends of the OPL joined Bookshop as an affiliate in Spring 2020 when it became evident that the store could be closed for some time. As an affiliate, the Friends earns a 30 percent commission for every item purchased through our page. We use our Bookshop storefront to share booklists curated by OPL librarians, sell new books and media, digital gift cards, and more!

Our affiliation with Bookshop and your support of Friends of the OPL through your purchases has helped sustain us throughout the pandemic and we are grateful. For us and so many independent bookstores, Bookshop came along at just the right time. Visit our page to peruse the incredible booklists and consider supporting us today: bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore

Giving

- In honor of the Main Library and OPL – the best library in the world – from Jean Wright
- In honor of high school graduates Rohan Marangoly, Jason Olaru-Hagan, Makai Perkins, and Dante G. Ruberto from Matthew Goldstein and Laura Ruberto
- In honor of Jonathan Newhall from Emily Newhall, Nancy and Howard Crisp
- In honor of Elaine Joe from Winifred Walters
- In honor of Paloma Takacs from Catherine Congress and Delores McCullum
- In honor of Winifred Walters from Elaine Joe
- In memory of Norma Ng Lau (retired Oakland City Auditor and former OPL page) and Marjorie Ng (former OPL Librarian) from Valerie Lau and David Fiske
- In memory of Luella Edmonds, from her family and friends: Judy Martin, Dino O'Neal, Martha Green, Linda Gunvalson, Susan Hughes, Carrie Sachs, Barbara Oseroff, Zoe and Carl Soane, William and Christine Sinn, and Doris Jackson.
- In memory of Dolores Gonzales from Viola Gonzales & Penn Hughes
- In memory of Linda Verdicchio from Dawn Muller
- In memory of Carl Alexander from Tamra C. Hege
- In memory of Carl Alexander, Betty Ferguson, and Ann Powers, from Winifred Walters with gratitude for their volunteer service to the Friends of OPL

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



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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.

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

If the date on your mailing label is **06-01-2021**
or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

Your support is always needed and appreciated:

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:

- Make a tax deductible donation
- Invite a friend to become a member
- Leave a legacy by naming Friends of the OPL as a beneficiary in your estate plan
- Shop for books and media at The Bookmark Bookstore
- Donate gently used books to the Bookmark Bookstore
- Purchase new books at bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore
- 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. All contributions are tax deductible.