

October 2013 Edition

FOPL Announces Record Grants to the Library



Gerry Garzon, Interim Oakland Public Library Director, accepts FOPL grant check from Ellen Moyer, President of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library

Photo: Sharon McKellar

A busy year at the Bookmark Bookstore and strong membership support added up to a banner year for FOPL's grants to the Oakland Public Library. This year's grants total over **\$180,000**—a record! Fifty store volunteers and 850 members along with loyal shoppers and book donors make FOPL's support possible. In addition, FOPL received a generous bequest providing needed funds for Children's programming at all 16 branches and the Main Library Children's Room.

Systemwide Grants—\$113,000

Children's and Teen Services

Children's Services – made possible in part by the Herman Auerbach Memorial Fund Trust II and a generous gift in memory of Oakland resident Steven G. Reuss

Teen Services -- Youth Poet Laureate Program and Youth Leadership Council

Training for volunteer computer docents (partnership with Community Technology Network)

Summer Lunch Program refrigerators at three branch locations

(FOPL Grants—continued on page 3)

ANNUAL MEETING

FOPL's annual meeting of members will be held on Wednesday, November 6th at 5:15 p.m., at the Main Library, 125 14th St. All FOPL members are invited! The main item of business is the election of directors for the upcoming two-year term.

The following individuals have been nominated to serve as

FOPL Directors:

Ronile Lahti

Ellen Moyer

Sophie Souroujon

Judy Toll

Julie Waldman

Winifred Walters

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Interview with Joan Hall Feinberg 2
- ◆ Head Start Training 3
- ◆ Fall Book Sale 3
- ◆ Found at the Bookmark 3
- ◆ Membership/Renewal Form 4
- ◆ Special Insert Membership and Supporters

An Interview with Joan Hall-Feinberg, FOPL Board Member

By Sophie Fynland Souroujon, FOPL Board Member

I had the pleasure of interviewing Joan Hall-Feinberg last July. We sat at my kitchen table and enjoyed eating seasonal fresh fruits, along with tea and coffee. When we began, Joan told me that she read in FOPL's *Off the Shelf* newsletter last year that the FOPL Board was interested in having additional Board Members, and she decided to apply!

Joan was born in Rutherford, New Jersey. She received her Undergraduate Degree in Psychology from Fairleigh Dickenson University, and her Master's in Social Work at Columbia University. In 1959, she moved to California. Her first job was in San Francisco at the Family Service Agency. She right away joined the San Francisco Public Library, just as she had done in New Jersey.

Joan recalls that as a child she loved to walk with her mother to the local library, library card in hand, and get at least eight books at a time to read for the *Summer Reading Program*. She would choose whatever books appealed to her, even though the librarian might have said that the book(s) weren't quite for her. Joan recalls reading a book by Theodore Dreiser as her favorite. Once she read all his books, she would go to the library and borrow the Classics in alphabetic order. She also loved reading Emily Dickenson, as well as the Nancy Drew Mysteries.

Her mother did not object to the books that Joan chose to read—she was an avid reader herself. Joan's aunt (her mother's sister) worked in the publishing field and was also a poet. She was Joan's role model. After her aunt passed away, Joan self-published her aunt's poetry.

Joan now resides in Oakland, and has two sons, two stepdaughters, and three grandchildren. She reads at least an hour a day, and usually has 10 books on reserve at the library. Joan has always been a supporter of libraries, and belongs to two Book Clubs. She enjoys reading fiction, especially historical fiction, and finds great interest in the sensitivity of women authors and in how they portray their characters.

In 1995, when Joan retired as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (Summit Hospital, Oakland), she planned that from then on, she would devote her time to Community Volunteering, becoming fully active in the diverse areas of interest to her, and not necessarily related to the familiar medical field.

On Thursdays, Joan is a docent at the **Oakland Zoo**, and thoroughly enjoys being there.

Joan and her husband, Abe, are members of the **San Francisco Folk Music Club**. Joan plays the guitar, and Abe plays the Mandolin.

She ushers at the **Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Cal Performances, and San Francisco Symphony** (open rehearsals).

In 1997, Joan initially volunteered in the Book Section at the White Elephant Sale Warehouse, but now volunteers in the Music Section.

She facilitates a class called "In the News" for *Senior Center without Walls, a telephone class for home bound seniors in Northern California*

She volunteers at "**Oakland Villages—Aging Support**," visiting families and talking to them on the phone. (This is a Community-Based Network for people over 50 who want to remain in their own homes and increasingly need assistance and support.)

In her spare time, Joan enjoys aqua-aerobics, walking and biking. She enjoys learning about different countries, cultures, and people.

Joan became a FOPL Board Member in November 2012 and is currently a **Liaison** for the History Room at the Oakland Library Main Library. She is also interested in **branch liaison program development**, especially in West Oakland.

(FOPL Grants—continued from page 1)

Adult Programs, Outreach and Support for Staff and Volunteers

Adult Summer Reading raffle prizes

Bicycle locks for use by patrons

Community Relations: Annual Report, promotional items for outreach events and volunteer recognition

Staff recognition awards, hospitality fund, and training event

Registration fee for OPL staff to participate in the *Association for Library Service for Children* Institute in Oakland September 2014

iPad and other equipment to demonstrate ebooks and other digital services at outreach events

Second Start Adult Literacy

Scholarship Fund for OPL staff pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science degree

Innovative Public Programs Fund

Director's Discretionary

Special Projects

81st Ave Library Book Fund (final pledge payments from 2010 campaign)

Makeover Fund for renovations at Brookfield, Dimond and Montclair branches

Grants to Branches, AAMLO & Main—Upgrades to Public Spaces—\$68,000

Eleven branches, African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO) and Main were awarded grants for specific needs. Over the next year the public will see furniture and equipment purchased with FOPL grants. The complete list is posted at www.fopl.org—click on “library grants.”

Volunteer Training for Oakland Head Start Story Readers Starts October 22

Have you always dreamt of reading stories to children? Do you sing “Itsy Bitsy Spider” in the shower? Do children’s smiles mean more to you than ice cream? Then you might be a candidate for the Oakland Public Library’s volunteer program – Books for Wider Horizons.

OPL is looking for committed adults who have an interest in children's literature and enjoy reading to children to present weekly storytimes at selected Head Start Centers in Oakland. Volunteers will receive free training in the art of story-reading with a seven day training series over the course of three weeks, beginning on Tuesday evening, October 22nd, and ending on Saturday, November 16th. Volunteers must have direct experience working with children as well as good reading or speaking skills.

If you are interested in volunteering, or have friends or constituents who would enjoy this opportunity, contact Celia Jackson at (510) 238-7453. To learn more about current volunteer opportunities at OPL visit www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer

Fall Book Sale

Friends of the Oakland Public Library’s Bookmark’s semi-annual sale event will be held October 10-13 from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm each day at 721 Washington St. in Old Oakland, near 12th Street BART Station. Members of FOPL are eligible for the “members’ first choice” discount of 50% on October 10th. All shoppers receive 30% off all purchases on Friday, Oct. 11, and the discount increases each day—to 40% on Oct. 12 and 50% on Oct. 13. The discount applies to already low prices

of \$3-6 for most of the 17,000 books in the store.

Help FOPL and the Library by spreading the word about the sale. Anyone may join FOPL in person at the store on (or before) October 10th to receive the member discount. In addition to that good feeling that comes from supporting the Oakland Public Library members receive 20% off their Bookmark Bookstore purchases for a full year. To become a member, visit www.fopl.org or use the coupon on the back of this newsletter.

Browsing at the Bookmark—Chick Lit

No, not like Bridget Jones Diary (although that genre can also be found at The Bookmark).

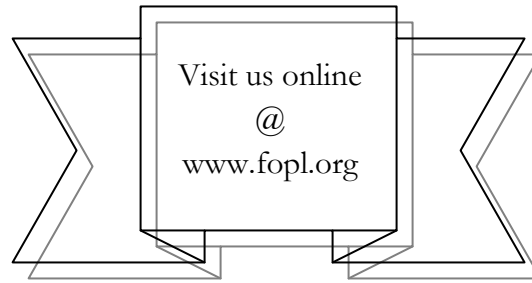
I am referring instead to “Flossie and Bossie” about some chickens and their daily life. The narrator is Flossie, a scrawny chicken who is picked upon by another chicken, Bossie. The chickens refer to humans only as The Hands (that collect the eggs). Like most Chick Lit featuring humans, all ends well. Bossie needs help incubating her eggs, Flossie comes to the rescue, and by the end of the story they both come to appreciate the attributes of the other. I am not sure why I pulled this off the shelf, since the book had a non-descript spine and the dust jacket was missing, but I’m glad I did. A first edition, 1949, today Amazon is saying \$69.99—I paid \$2!

(Written by Sheila McCormick, FOPL Board Member)

Friendly Reminder: If the date just above your address on the back of this newsletter is **09-01-2013** or earlier, please renew today! Thank you!



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- Ellen Moyer
- Winifred Walters
- Sophie Souroujon
- Julie Waldman

If your membership has expired,
PLEASE RENEW NOW!

More ways to support the Friends...

- Share this newsletter. Ask a friend to join a growing organization-- **800** strong--dedicated to supporting the Oakland Public Library!
- Donate your gently-used books, CDs and DVDs to the Bookmark Bookstore. Call **(510) 444-0473** for more information.
- Do you have a few hours per month? Visit www.fopl.org or call **(510) 444-0473** to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.
- Keep up with Library news and events by going to www.oaklandlibrary.org, click on 'Subscribe to our E-News' under 'Connect with Us' at the bottom of the home page.

Join Us!

Yes, I want to support the Friends of the Oakland Public Library!
Enclosed is my check payable to FOPL for \$ _____

New (1 year membership)
 Renewal (1 year membership)
 Donation (\$ _____ in addition to my membership dues)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Gift in honor/memory of _____

Email _____

(sign me up for email notices and updates)

Membership Levels:

Book Angel \$1,000 or more
 Bibliophile - \$500 - \$999
 Book Conservator \$250 - \$499
 Book Worm \$100 - \$249
 Book Friend \$50 - \$99
 Family/Household \$35 - \$49
 Individual \$25 - \$34
 Senior (65+)/Student \$15 - \$24

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 Mail to: FOPL, 721 Washington St., Oakland, CA 94607.