

Thank you, Friends!

By Jamie Turbak, Director of Library Services

April is National Volunteer Month, and I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the hundreds of volunteers who support the Oakland Public Library. While the pandemic has made it difficult for OPL to resume normal levels of volunteer engagement, volunteers continue to enhance the library community through Teen Advisory Boards, the Library Advisory Commission, the AARP Foundation's Tax Aide program, the Alameda County Bar Association's Legal Access services, and Branch Friends groups throughout Oakland.

I'd especially like to thank the Friends of the Oakland Public Library – with its volunteer board and dozens of volunteers at The Bookmark Bookstore. The funds that you raise for the library provide critical support for OPL programs and services at every location, and your enthusiasm for library service in Oakland is inspiring.



Youth Development Librarian Ashley Bonifacio, third from right, with OPL teen volunteers.

To all volunteers: I am honored by your generous donations – time, talent, and enthusiasm – to the Oakland Public Library and to our community.

Thank you!

Did You Know?...

...that the Friends of the OPL has a **monthly e-newsletter**? Get all the latest news in your email inbox each month. It saves trees, postage, AND it's jam-packed with Friends and OPL news! Subscribe to e-news at the bottom of our website: www.fopl.org OR complete our Newsletter Request Form here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88fa5p>. Also, the Off the Shelf newsletter is always available at fopl.org/newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive the printed version of Off the Shelf, please send your request to info@fopl.org.

Blowout Sale at The Bookmark 4/21-24



Our patrons have been generous with their donations - so much so that we have a huge inventory of books and media to share with YOU! Please shop from 11am-4pm each day of the sale for incredible deals on books you need. Banned books? We got 'em! Cookbooks? Check! Puzzles, children's books, vinyl? We've got it all! On the first day of the sale, Thursday, 4/21, all Members receive 50% off their purchase. Friday, 4/22, all shoppers receive 30% off, Saturday, 4/23 it's 40% off, and Sunday it's 50% for everyone! Come shop - we can't wait to see you in the store! 721 Washington Street, Old Oakland.

Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media



BookmarkBookstore.FOPL



FOPL_Bookmark



FOPL_Bookmark

Join Us: Support OPL's Measure C

Information provided by OPL Advocates

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library have joined Oakland teachers, librarians, families, and community leaders in supporting Measure C on the [June 7 ballot](#). A YES vote on Measure C – the renewal of 2004's Measure Q parcel tax – will protect our libraries without raising tax rates.

In addition to voting YES on Measure C, here are other ways you can support the campaign to protect Oakland Library funding.

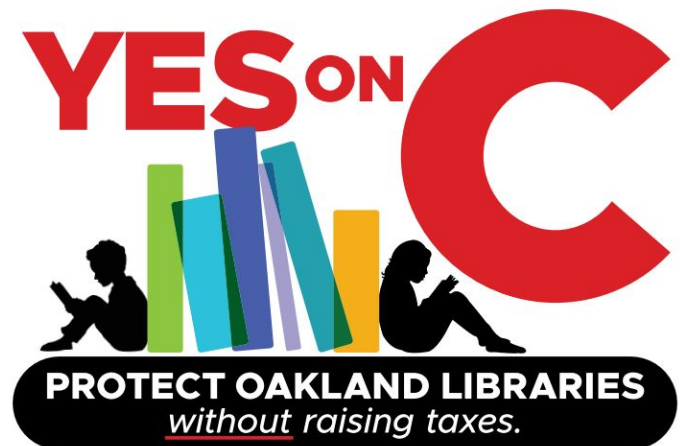
To take action on any or all of these, please go to the official campaign website at www.protectoaklandlibraries.org:

- Make an individual contribution
- Encourage individuals and businesses to make contributions
- Endorse Measure C individually, or encourage your organization to endorse Measure C
- Host a house party
- Deliver/distribute lawn signs
- Put a sign in your window/on your lawn
- Write/design campaign materials
- Create/post social-media content
- Phone bank
- Text bank
- Speak at/visit meetings, community groups, house parties, union meetings (if you are a member). We will train and provide talking points.

Oakland Public Libraries are an essential community resource. Measure C will protect access to local libraries for everyone in Oakland. Our libraries are vital for Oakland youth. They provide safe spaces for our children and teenagers and provide homework assistance, tutoring programs, and other resources that help students succeed.

Our libraries need your help. Your YES vote on Measure C will keep all our libraries open to continue providing safe places for children and teens, literacy programs for adults and seniors, and connection to government services and assistance, including for unhoused individuals – without raising tax rates.

Without Measure C, our neighborhood libraries will be forced to cut hours and services, and some will likely close. With Measure C, we can ensure students, seniors, and



working families have access to public library services when they need them.

Measure C will:

- Provide safe places and protect after-school programs to keep students engaged and prepare them for college and careers.
- Prevent library closures and preserve extended hours to serve students, seniors, and working families.
- Keep libraries safe, clean and welcoming.
- Maintain literacy services.
- Improve safety of our public libraries during the pandemic and beyond.
- Increase computer and internet access for all.

Measure C funds can be spent only for Oakland Public Libraries; the City cannot spend this money for any other purpose. Measure C is temporary and cannot be extended without a new vote of the people. The measure includes exemptions for low-income seniors and residents, community oversight, and regular independent audits.

Oakland Public Library branches help our community members find jobs; start small businesses; find housing, legal, and tax assistance; access the internet; and more.

Join Oakland teachers, librarians, families, community leaders, and the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. Protect our libraries without raising tax rates: [Vote YES on Measure C on June 7!](#)

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



OPL Advocates



opladvocates



OPLadvocates

Get to Know Your Grants

By Celia Davis, Branch Manager, MLK Branch

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch Library received a Branch Equity Grant from the Friends of the OPL last fall, and we recently used it to launch a Teen Art program. Exuberant teens get out of school early on Fridays, and many come into the King Branch wanting to destress from their week. This spring, teens from nearby Coliseum College Preparatory Academy (CCPA) middle/high school are doing team building activities and expressing themselves through drawing and painting. The teens are working collaboratively to create one image using large acrylic paintings with a Dreamscape theme including a galaxy, the sky, bikes, the ground, and plants. The paintings are connected to their everyday



Photo by Doug Zimmerman



Photo by Doug Zimmerman

lives and painted on reusable aluminum composite boards to be showcased on the library's outside art wall.

In addition, four CCPA seniors are interning at the King Branch, re-designing the teen space and exploring the connection between mental health and art. The interns will produce their own paintings. Both programs are possible thanks to the Friends of the OPL and a partnership with Civic Design Studio and Healthy Havenscourt Collaborative. The Branch Equity grant is also being used to support sewing activities, the King Branch seed library, and our new garden.

King staff Claudia Barrientos and Khalilah Fortenberry, along with Lauryn Marshall of Civic Design Studio, are helping to make the magic happen. We all hope you enjoy the accompanying photos from one of our Friday afternoon painting sessions.

Friends Need a Treasurer

One of our longtime Treasurers, Julie Waldman, is tip-toeing away from her role and we are searching for someone to partner with our other Treasurer.

The right candidate will be appointed to the Friends' Board of Directors and assume the role of Assistant Treasurer. The candidate will be extensively trained by our current Treasurers, with the goal of replacing one of them in the near future. The Treasurer works in tandem with a bookkeeper to maintain and disburse the funds of the Friends of OPL.

Of course, our new Treasurer will passionately support the mission of the Oakland Public Library. Of equal importance, we seek a Treasurer who will further our goal to make the Friends board reflect the diversity of the community it serves.

To learn more about the Treasurer position or connect us with a promising candidate, please email us at pres@fopl.org.

Library
Giving
Day



This year, National Library Week centers on the theme "Connect with Your Library" and your donation to support this event helps us provide direct financial support for the many ways OPL connects with you and your community. OPL offers opportunities to connect with books and media, programs and events, ideas and classes. Our libraries are places to get connected to technology by using broadband and computers as well as borrowing Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspot bundles. Most importantly, our libraries connect us with each other. Show your support for Library Giving Day, this year by making a donation to the Friends of the OPL - visit us at fopl.org/LGD or scan the QR code above.

Upcoming OPL Events

2022 Summer Programs

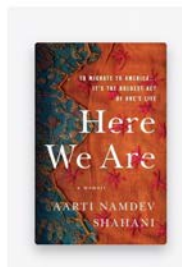
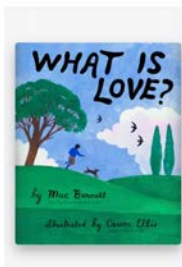
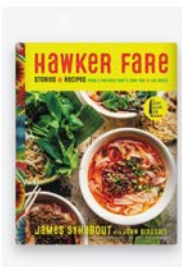
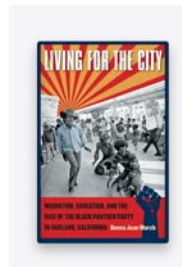
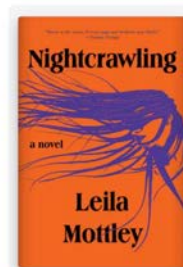
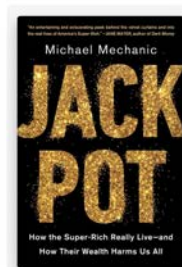
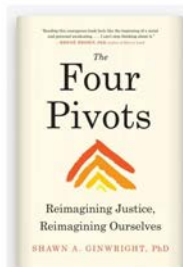
The library can't wait for summer! From May 28 - August 6, we'll have special programs for Kids (ages 0-14), Teens (12-17), and Adults (18+). Mark your calendars to visit the library or its website – oaklandlibrary.org – on May 28, so that you don't miss a single day of this special OPL Summer!

Bookshop Spotlight

All Things Oakland

These are just 10 of the 93(!) books on the All Things Oakland list on [The Bookmark's Bookshop list](#).

All these books feature Oakland in some way. Some are fiction set in Oakland, some are non-fiction about Oakland, some are written by an author who lives in Oakland. Oakland is always the connection. See the full list here: bookshop.org/lists/all-things-oakland



LGBTQ Family Pride Celebration

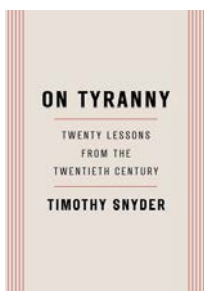
Saturday, June 25, 10:30am – 2:30pm

Main Library, Madison Street Courtyard

To celebrate Family Pride, we will host a special event featuring a storytime with Drag Queen extraordinaire, Per Sia. Per Sia will bring a little glitter and glam with a Drag Storytime. Plus, lots of other fun activities. Come and celebrate Pride with the library!

Friends of the OPL Board Book Recommendations

These titles can be found at OPL (check the card catalog at oaklandlibrary.org) or purchased from Bookshop bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore



ON TYRANNY: TWENTY LESSONS FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Timothy Snyder

A historian of fascism offers a guide for surviving and resisting America's turn towards authoritarianism. Short, to the point, and impactful.

Recommended by Ynez Arce

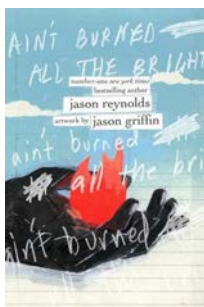


THE SWIMMERS

Julie Otsuka

This intimate story of mothers and daughters--and the sorrows of implacable loss--is the most commanding and unforgettable work yet from a modern master.

Recommended by Julie Waldman

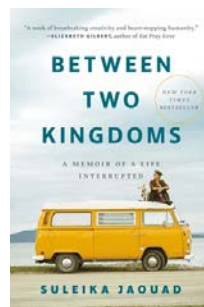


AIN'T BURNED ALL THE BRIGHT

Jason Reynolds and Jason Griffin

Prepare yourself for something unlike anything: A smash-up of art and text for teens that viscerally captures what it is to be Black. In America.

Recommended by Julie Waldman



BETWEEN TWO KINGDOMS: A MEMOIR OF A LIFE INTERRUPTED

Suleika Jaouad

A searing, deeply moving memoir of illness and recovery that traces one young woman's journey from diagnosis to remission to re-entry into "normal" life.

Recommended by Erica Dennings

Friends of the OPL Board Continues Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Work



The Friends have embarked on a journey to ensure equity in our board practices. This is what we have accomplished so far. We understand that there is still much room for us to grow, and we are learning every step of the way.

Recruitment	Onboarding	Development	Retention	Transparency
<p>Refined our recruitment and interview processes.</p> <p>Created a one-pager that describes board service.</p> <p>Stepped up our efforts to recruit for a diverse Board.</p>	<p>Instituted Board Friend Program, in which each new Director is paired with a seasoned Director for the first year.</p> <p>Developed onboarding session to introduce new Directors to FOPL history, goals, procedures, and opportunities.</p>	<p>Created the Board Development Committee to support diversity and inclusion efforts.</p> <p>Started a program to discuss an equity resource at each board meeting to stimulate conversation about equity in Oakland and in our board work.</p>	<p>Developed an annual survey to understand our demographic makeup and sentiments regarding inclusion and equity.</p> <p>Held individual conversations with each Director around the topics of inclusion and diversity.</p>	<p>Connected with OPL's Racial Equity Team to support its vision and goals.</p> <p>In-process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing our diversity status on our Website. - Updating our resources and practices to include an equity lens.

Read more about our DEI work on our website: tinyurl.com/2yt8muym

Giving

- In memory of Carl Alfred Alexander from Kiyoshi Nakasaka
- In memory of Helen Moss, Marjorie Harman, and Christine Saed from Winifred Walters
- In memory of Stewart Ricker from Peggy Ricker
- In memory of Milene Rawlinson from Shivaun Van Straatum
- In memory of Luella Edmond from Barbara Oseroff, Carrie Sachs, Susan Hughes, Karen Sullivan, Judy Martin, Christine Sinn, Doris Jackson, Marilyn Cleveland, Wendy Alfsen, Jennifer Jolly
- In memory of Michel Roublev from Dorrie Slutsker
- In honor of all the wonderful library staff across all OPL branches from Amy Chou
- In honor of Milagro Cuadra from anonymous
- In honor of Sarah Hampson from Trish Capell
- in honor of my daughters, Alicia Sabuncuoglu and Serra Sabuncuoglu, from Aileen Frankel
- In honor of Ka Kwong Chan from Michelle Chan
- In honor of the amazing staff of the Rockridge Branch from Saira Mohamed and Nels Bangerter
- In honor of Rochelle Venuto, OPL's Books for Wider Horizons program coordinator, from Barbara Szudy
- In honor of all the wonderful library staff and volunteers from Laura Ingram
- In honor of friends of the Lambrechts/Grassies from Erin Grassie and Eric Lambrecht
- In honor of Jamie Turbak from Diana Ip
- In honor of Winifred Walters from Mary Ann Benson
- In honor of Dan, Alison, and Angus from Lee and Carolyn Snowberg
- In honor of Alison Callahan and Dan Kurtz's wedding from Debbie Wolgelerenter, Lisa Snowberg, and Jake McCumber, and Matt Gunnison
- In honor of The Bookmark and Friends of OPL volunteers from anonymous
- In honor of Howie Slater from Noëlle Bittner



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Friends of the OPL Board Members

- ✦ Ynez Arce, *Vice President*
- ✦ Stephen Cole
- ✦ Erica Dennings
- ✦ Elizabeth Falkner
- ✦ Colleen Haikes, *Newsletter Co-Editor*
- ✦ Corey Hatcher
- ✦ Sara Jewell, *Co-Treasurer*
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Nick Marble
- ✦ Charu Mehra, *Newsletter Co-Editor*
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Valerie Villanueva, *Secretary*
- ✦ Julie Waldman, *Co-Treasurer*

We welcome your feedback & comments:

info@fopl.org

If the date on your mailing label is **03-01-2022**
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 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 almost \$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.