

A special online-only newsletter during mandatory shelter-in-place orders

## OPL Closes Physical Locations, But Streaming Content Is Available 24/7

by Kathryn Sterbenc, President of Friends of the OPL Board

Effective Monday, March 16, the Oakland Public Library closed all locations, and these closures will remain in effect until further notice. This action was taken as a precaution to help limit the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). OPL will be in continued contact with public health officials to evaluate the timeline for opening facilities. This decision was made in consultation with the City Administrator's Office.

The time is now for decisive action to protect the public OPL serves on a daily basis, and the Friends of the Oakland Public Library stand with OPL in this decision. OPL knows its libraries serve as vital community centers and provide essential services to residents of Oakland, Piedmont, and Emeryville. Given the high-volume of people who pass through OPL facilities each day, it would be difficult to implement public health guidance as it relates to social distancing.

### DIGITAL SERVICES AVAILABLE DURING OPL OUTAGE

OPL understands that this action results in temporary loss of access to the in-person learning and communal spaces the Library provides to so many. However, OPL will continue to provide the many [digital services](#) you know and love, like ebooks, audiobooks, streaming movies, TV and music services, access to magazines and newspapers, and more. OPL will be extending loan periods during this time, and patrons do not need to return materials until OPL is back in full operation.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW DURING CLOSURE

#### ***Why are you closed March 16 until further notice?***

To help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 among the high number of residents who utilize library locations on a daily basis, and to adhere to the guidelines pertaining to social distancing recommended by the [Alameda County Public Health Department](#).

#### ***What if I have library materials currently checked out? Or, what if I have a book on hold?***

Please keep them until OPL reopens. Due dates and holds will automatically be extended to accommodate the closure period. If you have a WiFi hotspot, service will last until OPL reopens.

#### ***What services are available during the closure period?***

Our physical buildings will be closed, but patrons can still access various digital services from home. For all of our digital offerings, [click here](#).

#### ***Can I sign up for a library card while the library is closed?***

Yes. To sign up for a library card, please complete an online application and email [eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org) to set up your account.

More information is available on the [OPL website](#).

The Bookmark is closed until further notice. Until then...

### VISIT THE BOOKMARK ONLINE!

Choice media all day, every day on [Amazon](#) and [eBay](#). Allow additional time for shipping! You can also support The Bookmark by purchasing an [e-giftcard](#) for use when we open again.

Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media!



BookmarkBookstore.FOPL



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FOPL\_Bookmark

## Noname's Book Club Comes to Oakland

by Ashley Robinson, Friends of the OPL Board Member

Noname's Book Club and Oakland Public Library...it echoed in the back of my mind. Once I saw that Chicago-based rapper Noname started a book club, I was intently following along with its progress and recommended readings. It's an online/irl community dedicated to uplifting voices of brown and black (often referred to as "people of color" or POC) communities by highlighting two books each month written by authors of color.

When I caught wind of the book club partnering with libraries, I knew it was only a matter of time until OPL came into the picture. The more the idea ruminated, I knew I needed to make it happen. Community, accessibility, education, and supporting POC communities – to me, the values and intentions of Noname's Book Club and OPL aligned perfectly. I drafted the proposal and tweeted out my hopes of manifesting the partnership. Within minutes, I had fellow Oakland residents sharing their support and the team from Noname's Book Club providing their contact email. Less

than a month later, we officially announced the Noname's Book Club x OPL partnership.

Hear more about how this came to life on episode 3 of Check Your Shelf: The

Oakland Public Library Podcast. You can follow @oaklibrary on social media to find out the newest Noname's Book Club picks of the month. Stay tuned for more details on the virtual meetup to discuss the April books happening via Twitter chat on April 25.



Oakland readers gather to discuss and celebrate POC authors in the new Noname's Book Club

## Meet a Librarian: Natasha Moullen, Teen Zone Librarian

by Corey Hatcher, Friends of the OPL Board Member

### What is your favorite part about being a Librarian?

What I love about being a librarian is how varied my job duties are! I serve three East Oakland branches, including Martin Luther King and Brookfield – but I'm primarily based at 81st Ave Library. I plan and run programs, manage the collections, and support teen volunteers and interns.

If I have to pick one favorite thing, it's the just-turned-two-years-old 81st Teen Advisory Board (TAB) that I facilitate! The group has about fifteen active members that meet once a month to provide the youth voice for the library. The relationship is reciprocal: I'm supposed to be teaching them leadership skills, but I'm learning just as much—if not more—from them!

### What is special about the 81st Branch Library?

The staff: At 81st Ave we collaborate as a team to serve the community; we build relationships with our patrons

and do our best to provide them with what they want from their neighborhood library: a welcoming place to hang out, use computers/Wi-Fi, take SAT-prep classes, make slime; attend meetings, vote, attend a toddler-parent playgroup or a father's support group; play video games with other kids, borrow a jump rope or check out a ukulele or a portable Wi-Fi or the latest NYT bestseller—seven days (and two evenings) a week.

### What are you currently reading and why?

I just finished reading a big stack of books to recommend for the 2020 Teen Reading List that Teen Services publishes annually, so I've switched to reading some adult stuff now, including Annalee Newitz's *The Future of Another Timeline* (feminist speculative science fiction—a delightful escape from our current political climate!) and *The Second Chance Club* by Jason Hardy-nonfiction (felony disenfranchisement and the benefits of harm reduction and restorative justice)

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



OPL Advocates



opladvocates



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## Get to Know Your Grants: "Check Your Shelf" OPL Podcast

by Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants & Volunteers

The January edition of this newsletter included the list of 16 mini-grants proposed by library staff and approved by the Friends of the OPL Board. In this edition, we take a closer look at one of these grant-funded projects: the new OPL Podcast, "Check Your Shelf."

Podcasts – or audio programs that can be downloaded or listened to online – are a great tool for engaging community members. As regular radio listeners would probably agree, audio interviews can bring a story to life



Amy Martin of "Check Your Shelf" Podcast

in a vivid and memorable way.

Almost immediately after the grant was approved, Community Relations Librarian Amy Martin used these Friends of the OPL funds to purchase the

equipment required to record, edit, and publish a podcast.

The [first episode](#) was released on January 29, bringing listeners an interview with History Librarian Dorothy Lazard, an information request to Children's Librarian

Mahasin Aleem, and a touching story from Magazines and Newspapers Librarian Kirsten Baldock.

[Episode 2](#), released February 26, is all about the staff, programs, and projects currently underway at the African American Museum & Library at Oakland (AAMLO.) Through Amy's engaging interviews, listeners experience AAMLO's new Saturday Children's Story Hour, talk with Chief Curator Bamidele Agbasegbe-Demerson, and hear some of AAMLO's unique collection of interviews and recordings.

OPL plans to publish a total of six episodes this year. You can access them all on your preferred podcast platform or any time through this link: [www.oaklandlibrary.org/checkyourshelf](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/checkyourshelf).

The goal of "Check Your Shelf" is to give listeners an inside look at the Oakland Public Library. The podcast brings us to areas of the library we might not normally visit and introduces us to programs, services, and resources we might not know exist. Everyone who enjoys visiting the library should consider listening.

*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](mailto:sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org) or (510) 238-6572.*

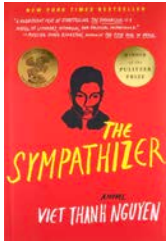
## Giving in 2020

We honor and celebrate these special contributions to the Friends of the Oakland Public Library:

- In memory of **Dr. Roger P. Baxter**, a lifelong reader and lover of books, from Lynne Ann Jones
- In memory of **Wendell Leonard** from Lisa Hirsch
- In memory of **Tatiana Golovko** from Joaquin Miller
- In memory of **Marjorie Ng** and **Norma Ng Lau** from Valerie Lau & David Fiske
- In honor of **Shahar Permutt** from Thomas Permutt
- In honor of **Gen Katz** on her 90th birthday from Winifred Walters
- In honor **Jens Von Der Linden** from Stephen Garcia
- In honor of **August Mense** from Molly Brodsky
- In honor of **Trish Elliott** from Ilene Levinson
- In honor of **Robert** and **Helen Joerger** from Julie and Thomas Rice
- With thanks for the library's children's services 1950 – 1960s from **Anne Simonson**

## FRIENDS OF THE OPL BOOK & MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS CORNER

### Found on [The Bookmark @Amazon](#)



#### THE SYMPATHIZER

by Viet Thanh Nguyen

A New York Times Bestseller for a reason, this book presents a complex perspective of the Vietnam War and the immigrant experience in the US.

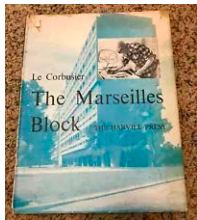


#### WHY I'M NO LONGER TALKING TO WHITE PEOPLE ABOUT RACE

by Reni Eddo-Lodge

A British perspective, but globally salient in this collection of 7 essays on race, class and feminism.

### Found on [The Bookmark @eBay](#)



Selected by M.C. Abbott

#### LE CORBUSIER: THE MARSEILLES BLOCK

from The Harville Press

A close look at Corbu's iconic Unité d'Habitation housing complex. [Buy now!](#)



#### MIDSOMMAR

directed by Ari Aster

A white-knuckle folk thriller, director Aster makes Oscar-winning *Parasite* director [Bong Joon Ho's list of filmmakers to watch](#).

### Media Recommendations on [kanopy.com](#)

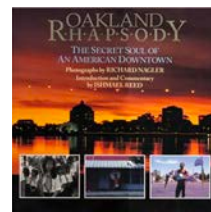


Selected by M.C. Abbott

#### THE WIND WILL CARRY US

directed by Abbas Kiarostami

Set in Iran, a group of people from the city arrive in a little village with a different kind of mission.



#### OAKLAND RHAPSODY: THE SECRET SOUL OF AN AMERICAN DOWNTOWN

by Richard Nagler

Twenty years of street and architecture photography.

### OPL Books on OverDrive/Libby App

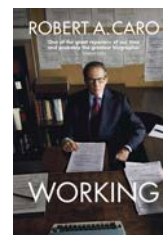


Selected by Pooneh Koohyar

#### FISH IN A TREE

by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

For all families who deal with the daily pain and frustrations of living with learning disabilities, this is the story of Ally and her journey to confidence aided by a substitute teacher who sees more than a child.



Selected by Sheila McCormick

#### WORKING

by Robert A. Caro

Caro is known for his biographies of Robert Moses and Lyndon Johnson (5th volume still in progress). Anyone who likes to write or edit will enjoy learning how he does it.

# Come to Your Census, Oakland!

by Winifred Walters, Friends of the OPL Board Member

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau is required to count every person living in the United States, regardless of citizenship status. Beginning in March 2020, residents will participate in the next decennial census count ensuring our community receives its share of federal funding that supports education, housing, health, transportation, and other critical programs that make our community thrive.

For the past year, the Oakland Public Library and the City of Oakland were part of the Alameda County Complete Count Committee effort to make sure our community is counted. Plans included designating 18 OPL locations as Census Questionnaire Assistance Centers. OPL staff and volunteers were trained in February to assist patrons requesting help in completing the census, starting March 12th.

With the coronavirus public health emergency and OPL's closure beginning March 16, in-person assistance will not be available as planned. However, the 2020 Census is still underway!

The Census Bureau is providing timely updates on its response to the coronavirus, including an extension to the census deadline to August 14 and modifications to its field operations to protect the public and employees. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, [2020Census.gov](https://www.census.gov):

*The public is strongly encouraged to respond to the 2020 Census online using a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone, or tablet, and can also respond by phone or mail. Everyone should respond to the 2020 Census as soon as they receive their invitation — and when they're finished, they can make sure their friends, families and social networks know about the importance of responding.*



## Why is the Census important to OPL?



**Operational decisions.** Census data helps local leaders make planning decisions about where libraries should be located, whether they should expand, and what kinds of services should be offered based on the characteristics of the community.



**Money.** Census data drives federal funding allocations for libraries, including grants to states under the Library Services and Technology Act.



**Language services.** Census data provides the baseline for the American Community Survey, which informs the need for translation services for predominantly non-English speaking communities.

## 3 simple things you can do:



**Be counted!** Respond to your Census invitation, if you haven't already.



**Check in with your networks** to encourage others to join you and be counted.



**Stay informed.** Reliable information is at these websites:

- [U.S. Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov)
- [Alameda County Complete Count Committee](#)
- [Oakland Public Library](#)



## 18 Ideas to Tick Away the Time (Mostly) Inside

collected by M.C. Abbott, Friends of the OPL Board Member

1. Start your day like any other pre-pandemic day. "Wear earrings and get dressed – no jammies all day" – Gen Katz, Friends of the OPL Board
2. Get on [Overdrive](#) or download the Libby app (available for [Android](#) and [Apple](#)) to borrow e-books and audio books from the OPL collection.
3. Read through that stack of *New Yorkers* you always think you'll get to one day. (Today is the day!)
4. Stay connected by joining a mutual aid network like [Oakland At Risk](#), connecting at-risk individuals with low-risk neighbors to check-in on each other's physical and mental health, while ensuring isolated folks are sufficiently stocked with supplies.
5. Browse The Bookmark listings on [Amazon](#) and [eBay](#), or support the shop by purchasing a e-giftcard.



Identify local fauna like this pincushion protea spotted in the Piedmont Avenue neighborhood with the app iNaturalist

6. For those getting fresh air, identify native plants and the blooms from your neighbor's hard work with the app iNaturalist (available for [Android](#) and [Apple](#)) – from Jenny Odell's *How to Do Nothing*

7. Catch up on the first two episodes of the new OPL [Check Your Shelf](#) podcast.

8. Tackle that home project you've been putting off for years,

like "pulling weeds (could take three whole weeks)." – Julie Waldman, Friends of the OPL Board

9. Take a free online short course with Coursera, such as MoMA's "[Modern Art & Ideas](#)", Yale University's cult favorite "[The Science of Wellbeing](#)" or former head of Google Brain Andrew Ng's [AI for Everyone](#).
10. As Marie Kondo would encourage, regularly tidy up. "Minimize chaos and do your dishes. Always." – Gen Katz, Friends of the OPL Board Member

11. [Learn the latest dance moves going viral](#) on Gen-Z social media platform TikTok (available for [Android](#) and [Apple](#)).



Learn the new dances of TikTok stars @sofiawylie @addisonre & @zoifishh

12. Set up an account with [Kanopy](#) to watch up to four movies per month, including gems from the Criterion Collection.
13. Explore the best of short fiction with [LeVar Burton Reads](#), including stories from Neil Gaiman, Haruki Murakami, Octavia Butler, and Ray Bradbury.
14. Take a virtual workout class, possibly rediscovering dance aerobics in your living room with live-streamed [Dance Church Go](#) every Wednesday and Sunday.
15. "Try to grow an avocado: it will die in a few weeks, but at least you can say you tried." – from I-D Magazine, [100 useful things you can do to kill boredom if you're quarantined at home](#)
16. Catch up with your friends over a virtual happy hour. (But you already knew that.)
17. Download Netflix Party for Chrome to synchronize binge-watching a TV series with a remote loved one.
18. Go on a virtual tour of a world class art collection with this list of [Ten Museums You Can Virtually Visit](#).



Take a virtual tour of the NASA Research Centers

## Friends of the OPL Board Members

- ✦ M.C. Abbott, *Newsletter Editor*
- ✦ Ynez Arce, *Vice President*
- ✦ Stephen Cole
- ✦ Michael Dalton
- ✦ Elizabeth Falkner
- ✦ Corey Hatcher
- ✦ Genevieve Katz
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Sheila McCormick
- ✦ Sanam Nassirpour
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
- ✦ Ashley Robinson
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Valerie Villanueva
- ✦ Julie Waldman, *Co-Treasurer*
- ✦ Winifred Walters, *Co-Treasurer*

**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.



### Help our frontline workers!

Donate your unused face masks at the Main Library book return bins (125 14th St.)! Please only donate new, unused face masks that are in a sealed package. If you have quantities too large to deposit in the book return bin, please email [eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org) to schedule a drop off.

### Your support has never been more critical:

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:

- Invite a friend to become a member
- Leave a legacy by naming Friends of the OPL as a beneficiary in your estate plan
- Donate gently-used books to the Bookmark Bookstore
- Volunteer! [www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/volunteer)
- Shop online at [smile.amazon.com](http://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](http://www.fopl.org) or call The Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.  
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Our tax ID is 94-2553734 and all contributions are tax deductible.**