

OPL Moving Toward Reopening

Jamie Turbak, Director of Library Services

As we mark one year since the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns began, we're starting to see a flicker of light at the end of the tunnel. Under President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan, the City of Oakland will receive between \$163 and \$192 million. With this new source of one-time revenue and depending on City Council action, the Library Department does not expect cuts during the upcoming citywide budget process. Additionally, the American Rescue Plan will provide approximately \$10 million to California libraries through State Library grants for technology applications, workforce development, and job seeking programs. Here are details about OPL's approach to reopening:

The Library has reached an agreement with SEIU 1021 on its reopening plan. When Alameda County enters the Orange Tier, library locations will begin to sunset "sidewalk check out" and roll out modified "inside services" called OPL Express. The Library will announce its plans for OPL Express shortly after the County's Orange Tier announcement.

Computer labs are now open at four locations. Access to computer labs during normal business hours is now available at 81st Avenue, Golden Gate, Melrose, and West Oakland Branch Libraries. Masks are required and everyone must adhere to all measures designed to ensure public health. To make a reservation, please visit oaklandlibrary.org/computers or call (510) 238-3134.

Friends of the OPL News and Updates

- The Friends of the OPL is looking for a treasurer! We have long-time co-treasurers who pass the torch. Please email us at pres@fopl.org if you or someone you know is interested.
- Have you been receiving your monthly News via email? If not, email communications@fopl.org and we'll add you to our email list. Our e-news goes out on the 15th of each month.
- The 2021 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate finalists have been announced! The YPL will be selected between now and June 4th when the Youth Poet Laureate and Vice Poet Laureates will be announced. To learn more, go to: oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets

OPL is implementing planned facility improvements like self-check machines, mobile checkout technology, and floor plans that will promote physical distancing when limited indoor service returns.

In the meantime, OPL continues to offer:

- Sidewalk service at 16 locations
- Online collections of ebooks, streaming video, music, and more
- Online learning, jobs, and research tools
- Virtual events
- Virtual appointments with OPL staff and librarians
- Help with any questions about your library account on the phone at 510-238-3134 or via email at answers@oaklandlibrary.org



Library staff providing sidewalk services at Chavez Branch Library
Photo by Doug Zimmerman

Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media



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Get to Know Your Grants

Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants & Volunteers

Last fall, the California State Library announced a competitive grant opportunity to “help libraries respond effectively to local needs and align services with local community aspirations.” With a specific interest in projects focusing on underserved and vulnerable populations, OPL’s Director of Library Services, Jamie Turbak, thought this grant might allow OPL to better serve unhoused patrons.

Many individuals experiencing homelessness visit libraries to access critical services and resources, including electricity to charge their cell phones. An active cell phone is an essential resource for people experiencing homelessness. Phones keep people connected with family, health care providers, employment opportunities, and housing resources.

Jamie also reached out to Operation Dignity, a local nonprofit with more than 25 years of experience serving and housing vulnerable people in our community. Their Mobile Outreach Team agreed to partner with OPL by lending power banks and providing information about library resources during their regular visits to homeless individuals in Oakland.

Thanks to the flexible support of the Friends of the OPL’s Annual Grants, OPL was able to launch a small pilot program by purchasing 140 rechargeable power banks (devices that provide power to cell phones and personal electronics) with a Director’s Discretionary grant of \$2,172.

The Friends-funded pilot program allowed OPL and Operation Dignity the opportunity to run through the process of receiving, labeling, and distributing the power banks. This pilot provided critical information that OPL used to refine the proposed program for the State Library’s grant opportunity.

While we won’t know until mid-April if OPL’s grant application has been approved, it was immediately clear that the Friends’ grant improved our proposed project. OPL thanks all the Friends donors and members for supporting our work, allowing us the chance to leverage more grant funds and improve service to some of our most vulnerable patrons.

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

OPL Happenings

For all event details go here: oaklandlibrary.org/events

MIGRATING BIRDS: A NATURALIST TALK WITH THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

April 13th, 6:30pm

Every other month, the Oakland library hosts a fun and engaging talk about local natural history with naturalist Constance Taylor of East Bay Regional Parks.

SAVE MONEY & THE ENVIRONMENT WITH ELECTRIC VEHICLES

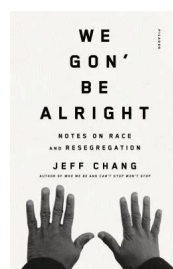
April 22nd (Earth Day!), 12pm - 1pm

This presentation provides an overview of the different types of electric vehicles and clean transportation programs available to low-to-moderate income communities.

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



WE GON' BE ALRIGHT: NOTES ON RACE AND RESEGREGATION

Jeff Chang

Jeff Chang takes an incisive and wide-ranging look at the recent tragedies and widespread protests that have shaken the country.



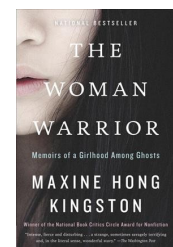
KAREN TEI YAMASHITA

With an introduction by Jessica Hagedorn

I HOTEL

Karen Tei Yamashita

An epic tale of America's struggle for civil rights as it played out in San Francisco near the end of the 1960s.



THE WOMAN WARRIOR: MEMOIRS OF A GIRLHOOD AMONG GHOSTS

Maxine Hong Kingston

The book blends autobiography with old Chinese folktales.

The Friends Board Welcomes Three New Directors

The Friends of the OPL are happy to add three new members to the Board in the first quarter of 2021, and we said thank you to M.C. Abbott, Gen Katz, and Sheila McCormick upon the completion of their board member services in 2020.

Welcome to our new Friends Board Members, **Erica Dennings**, **Colleen Haikes**, and **Nick Marble**!

Erica Dennings is a seasoned litigator dedicated to public service in her professional and personal life. She is the Acting Supervising Attorney at the State Bar of California and a volunteer in Oakland supporting women, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and children's wellbeing.



Erica Dennings

"I joined FOPL because the library has been an integral part of my life for as long as I can remember. The library offers so much more than books-it's a community resource. I wanted to work to ensure the library continues to be a resource for the next generation."

Colleen Haikes is a communications professional who has lived in Oakland since 2006 and enjoys the

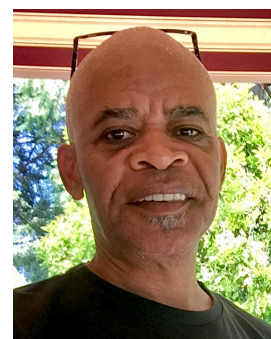


Colleen Haikes

memories of Sunday afternoons with her kids curled up with their favorite books in the reading nooks of the Children's Room. She admires the OPL's agility in launching sidewalk pick-up during the pandemic and for continuing to offer much more than books.

Nick Marble is an artist in Oakland and a full-time paralegal. His commitment to community engagement is on display at Thornhill Elementary School across its many colorful murals.

"I joined Friends out of a genuine interest in what I consider a great opportunity to add my voice to the chorus of voices impacting and charting the course of an all-important Oakland community resource: our public library. I believe it is important to have a diverse channel of input and opinions and hope I am able to add value to the missions of both Friends and OPL through my contributions."



Nick Marble

Excited to shop in person again? The Bookmark is open for in-person shopping by appointment!
 Make your reservation to shop on our website: www.fopl.org/bookmark-reservations

Giving

- In honor of Maisie Spector-Gelb from Paul Hamby and Susan Aaronson
- In honor of Stefanie Wissmann, Educator and Leader, from Bob and Karen Wissmann
- In honor of The John Mooney Family
- In honor of Stephen Cole from Erin Jaeb
- In honor of Harold Friedman from Andrew Kramer
- In honor of Ayana and Izumi Sakamoto from Lindsay and Art Okamoto
- In honor of Robert and Helen Joerger from Thomas and Julie Rice
- In honor of David Shin from Grace Lee
- In memory of Luella Edmond from Wendy Alfsen

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



OPL Advocates



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OPLadvocates



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- ✦ Michael Dalton
- ✦ Erica Dennings
- ✦ Elizabeth Falkner
- ✦ Colleen Haikes
- ✦ Corey Hatcher
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Nick Marble
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- ✦ Sanam Nassirpour
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Valerie Villanueva, *Secretary*
- ✦ 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.

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

If the date on your mailing label is **03-01-2021**
or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

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
- 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.

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.