



July 2018

## We did it! Measure D passes!

By Ronile Lahti

In case you haven't heard - Measure D to protect Oakland libraries passed with flying colors on June 5 with more than 76% of Oakland voters casting a **YES** vote for the library.

"The Oakland Public Library is grateful for the passage of Measure D and the staff look forward to serving more people in welcoming environments that better meet their needs." *Jamie Turbak, OPL Interim Director*

"I am so happy that the library will have the funds to extend hours so that everyone, especially children, will have better access to all the library has to offer." *Victoria A. Barbero, Chair, Library Advisory Commission*

"Longer hours and open doors at all Oakland Public Library locations mean more access for the Oaklanders who need it most - those who can't afford books, other materials, computers, Internet access or even homes. I'm so grateful to everyone who supported Measure D and expanded access for all." *Kathryn Sterbenc, President of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library*

The passage of Measure D means:

- all branches can stay open
- hours can be extended throughout the system
- OPL's ongoing budget deficit is covered
- programs many Oaklanders count on will continue

Thank you to members of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, members of individual Branch Friends groups, members of SEIU 1021 and IFPTE 21, library staff (current and retired), members of the Library Advisory Commission, and the informal coalition known as OPL Advocates, who formed the core of this campaign. A list of endorsers and donors is available at: [protectoaklandlibraries.org/](http://protectoaklandlibraries.org/). And a very special thank you to campaign co-chairs Victoria Barbero and Kathryn Sterbenc, who provided amazing leadership as the campaign moved toward victory, as well as to Interim Library Director Jamie Turbak, who seemed to be everywhere. Phone banking, organizing volunteers, tabling, walking precincts, fund raising, obtaining endorsements, speaking to community groups – she was involved in every aspect of this campaign. Remember -- there are exemptions available for very low-income and low-income senior households. More information and the form to apply for these exemptions will be available at [tinyurl.com/yd78rcoo](http://tinyurl.com/yd78rcoo) after the election has been certified.

**Thanks, everyone. It was a great day for the city!!**

### Congratulations to the 2018 Youth Poet Laureate

**Leila Mottley** is a student at the Oakland School for the Arts. She was the Vice-Youth Poet Laureate in 2017. You can read more about her at [tinyurl.com/y8gbax9t](http://tinyurl.com/y8gbax9t), where you can also find a link to her performing one of her terrific poems. She will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, funded by the [Friends of the Oakland Public Library](http://Friends of the Oakland Public Library), and will serve as Oakland's ambassador for literacy, arts and youth expression.



## Summer Programs at OPL

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants and Volunteers

This year's summer programming (underway and ongoing until August 4) is especially exciting, thanks to donations the library has received from local businesses and institutions. The Oakland Athletics responded to the request for summer reading incentives and prizes with an amazing gift of 43,700 ticket vouchers! While supplies last, participants in all three programs (Kids Summer Reading, the Teen Passport Program, and Adult Summer Reading) will receive a set of vouchers – available for a selection of 20 home games in late July-September. A partnership with the Golden State Warriors, San Francisco Public Library, and Oakland Public Library has given local library patrons the opportunity to get a new, Warriors-branded library card. To receive the new card, patrons aren't required to sign up for summer programs, but the launch on June 9 coincided with the start of our summer programs, with the goal of increasing participation this summer. And for kids ages 0-14, the Library has a very special grand prize to award via raffle to one lucky child who completes the program: a 4-night stay for up to 4 people at Oakland's Feather River Family Camp during the 2019 summer season. Located in Plumas National Forest, it has been providing Oakland families with unique vacation and summer family camp experiences since 1924. The Library is thrilled to have this unique and generous prize, valued up to \$1,472.

Interim Library Director, Jamie Turbak says "The Oakland Public Library is honored by the generous support we've received for our 2018 summer programs. We're expecting this year to be one of our most successful years ever, as patrons of all ages are sure to find incentives and prizes that appeal to them. On behalf of Library staff and patrons, I'd like to thank all of our donors for their contributions." Prize donors (as of June 19) include: Aquatech; Athletic Playground; Bay Area Children's Theatre; Bladium Sports & Fitness Club; Blue Bottle Coffee; The Bookmark Bookstore; Cat Town Oakland; Chabot Space & Science Center; Children's Creativity Museum; Children's Fairyland; Cookiebar Creamery; The Crucible; Downtown Oakland YMCA; Fentons Creamery; Folkmanis; Ford Go-Bike; Friends of the Oakland Public Library; Golden State Warriors; Grand Lake Theater; Imperfect Produce; Kinetic Arts Center; Lake Merritt Boating Center; Landmark Theatres (Piedmont Ave Theatre); Laurel Book Store; Nerd Nite East Bay; Oakland Athletics; Oakland Feather River Family Camp; Oakland Ice Center; Oakland Museum of California; Oakland Symphony and the Oakland Zoo.

Major financial support for Kids' Summer Reading is provided by the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, Fentons Creamery, Hellman Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, The Bernard Osher Foundation, Union Pacific Foundation, and the William G. Gilmore Foundation.

Details on all three summer reading programs can be found online at [www.oaklandlibrary.org/summer](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/summer). For more information, or to learn more about contributing to the library's summer programs, contact Sara DuBois, at (510) 238-6572 or [sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org).



## The Board Recommends Books and DVDs

**Sheila McCormick:** *Goodbye, Vitamin*, by Rachel Khong. About a woman who moves back home because of a failed romance and because her father is starting to show signs of dementia. The previous sentence does not make it sound like it was a fun read, but it was.

**Valerie Villanueva:** My entire family is enjoying the **Great British Baking Show**, available as DVDs from OPL. The show follows twelve amateur bakers as they head to a tent located somewhere deep in the beautiful British countryside. By the show's final episode of each season, one baker will be named Britain's best. As my young son noticed, the show lacks all the over-the-top competitiveness usually found in any such American show, which is so refreshing. We love learning about so many esoteric bakes and we all routinely use our new learned British vocabulary and slang to describe the "perfect bake" without a "soggy bottom" that is just "scrummy." And imagine our delight when we found **The Great British Bakeoff: Big Book of Baking** at OPL. The book is chock-full of baking recipes from the show's judges, Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood (yes, their real names!) and has fun profiles about all the bakers from Season 1 (our favorite so far). One caveat: when you sit down to watch make sure that you have something tasty at hand to eat. The show makes you hungry!

**Winfred Walters:** If you have never read Willa Cather's *My Ántonia*, you are in for a treat. It features beautiful descriptions of the now mostly lost landscape of the Great Plains and a moving story about an immigrant pioneer family. I learned during a recent visit to Red Cloud, Nebraska—Cather's childhood home—of a project created in honor of the centenary publication of this work. The Slow Read [www.slowread.org](http://www.slowread.org) is a literary and fine art project where you can join a summer-long "simulcast" of *My Ántonia*. Read a few pages a day and view artwork related to the reading.

## Happenings at the Libraries

OPL has many events every month, at Main and at the Branches. In July: Documentary films at AAMLO, every Saturday at 2 pm; Art exhibits at Rockridge, Lakeview and the Teen Zone; Poetry readings at Dimond, July 28 at 1 pm; presentation by Yang Huang, about her book *My Old Faithful*, at Main, July 11, 6 pm; presentation by Judy Joy Jones, about her work with Mother Mary Wright, at Main, July 25, 6 pm; Phonographic Memory Storytelling, at Temescal, July 17, 7 pm; GoGo Crafts for Adults, at Golden Gate, every Saturday at 2 pm; and more! For a link to the full listing each month, [www.oaklandlibrary.org/events](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/events)

## Tools! Plants! Tools!

The Friends of the Oakland Tool Lending Library participated in the Spring Plant Exchange in Oakland on March 31, with a booth highlighting some of the Tool Lending Library's garden tools and books that are available for borrowing. We also brought our new Tool Petting Zoo activity for kids to Tinkerfest, held at Chabot Space & Science Center on April 22. Young (and older!) attendees could try out a variety of hand tools and improve their knowledge of the right tool for various kinds of jobs by taking our quiz.



## Social Media

**Off the Shelf** is published only 4 times a year.

For more timely information check out:

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

**Instagram** ([bookmarkbookstore](https://www.instagram.com/bookmarkbookstore))

**Twitter** ([@FOPL\\_Bookmark](https://twitter.com/FOPL_Bookmark))

See this newsletter in color at  
[fopl.org/newsletter](http://fopl.org/newsletter)

## Get to Know your Grants

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants and Volunteers

As announced in the last newsletter, the Friends of the OPL awarded mini-grants (up to \$1,500 each) to nine OPL locations. Designed to encourage creative program and service ideas, the mini-grants program has accomplished its goal at 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Branch! Branch Manager Brian Guenther asked for \$915 to make his idea for a **Ukulele Collection** a reality.



“Portable, inexpensive, fun, and easy to learn, ukuleles are a great way to bring community members of all ages together to learn a new skill,” he proposed. The Friends of the OPL agreed, and in early March they approved his grant request.

By the end of April, Brian had purchased 15 ukuleles, music stands, and tuners. He had also booked local musician “Ukulenny” to lead a workshop on May 26. This program was a

huge success, with 35 people attending (some of whom brought their own ukes), and Brian says they hope to do it again soon.



OPL staff love the mini-grants program, as it gives them a quick means to implement their great ideas. The other eight programs – some fun, some practical – are also completed or well underway. Each one makes an impact and is greatly appreciated by staff and patrons.

*Each year the library submits a “wish list” of grant requests to the Friends of the OPL. 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, [sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org).*

## Seeking New Volunteers

If you have marketing, financial, or other expertise that you think might be relevant to our efforts, The Friends of OPL and The Bookmark Bookstore hope you will consider volunteering. Please contact [bookmark\\_bookstore@yahoo.com](mailto:bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com) or [pres@fopl.org](mailto:pres@fopl.org).

## Mark your Calendars!

FALL SALE

@THE BOOKMARK

October 18 - October 21

## Branch Friends Network Meeting

The Branch Friends Network met on Saturday, April 28 at the 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Branch. Seventeen people attended, representing nine Branch Friends groups, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, the Library Advisory Commission, and OPL. The Branch Friends each shared news of their recent projects, heard an update from OPL’s Racial Equity Team, received a report on Measure D from the Co-Chair of Protect Oakland Libraries 2018, and discussed how the various Branch Friends groups can work together.

Do you enjoy your local branch? Do you want to get more involved with what’s going on? Call or email me, and I can connect you with your local Branch Friends group. They’ll be happy to fill you in on the ways you can help! (510) 238-6572 or [sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org)

**Gift idea:** Buy a Friends of the OPL membership. Your friends should be Friends of the OPL, too!

## National Night Out August 7

This year, the Main Library and many OPL branches will have fun events. The times and activities at each location vary, so in late July please check the events section of OPL’s website or the August calendar at [oaklandlibrary.org/news](http://oaklandlibrary.org/news)

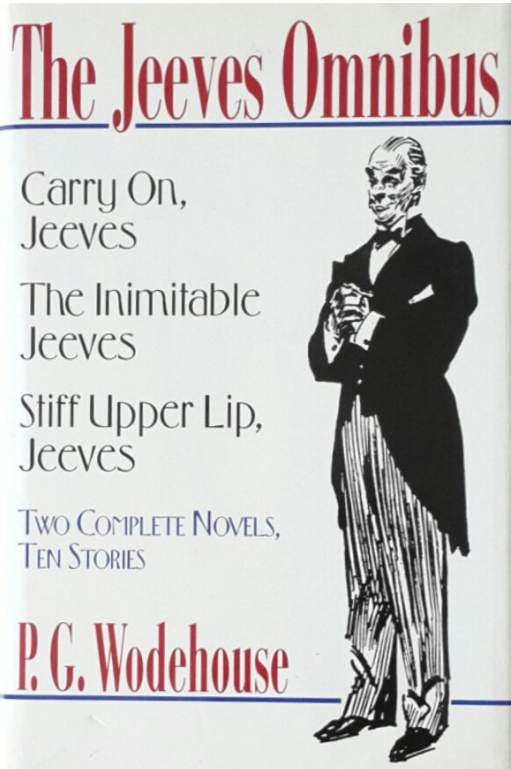
*I love the smell of book ink in the morning.*

Umberto Eco

## Found at the Bookmark

By Sheila McCormick

I bought this book for \$5, \$4 with member discount. Who can resist characters with names like Honaria Glossup and Gussie Fink-Nottle, and phrases like “ice formed on the butler's upper slopes” and “Aunt calling to Aunt like mastadons bel-lowing across primeval swamps?” The Jeeves and Wooster TV series, with Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry, are also great - DVDs available at OPL.



## Friends of OPL History Room

The OPL History Room Friends group meets every other month; there are about 25 members. Recent activities that FOHR has funded: digitizing photographs of industrial buildings and districts; an effort by Noah Veltman to make an interactive map of Oakland Streets, as he did for San Francisco ([sfstreets.noahveltman.com](http://sfstreets.noahveltman.com)). The History Room is planning a trivia night or show-and-tell evening event and a continuing display, 100 objects that tell the story of Oakland (idea borrowed from New York City). If you are interested in Oakland history, ask at the History Room about how to join this Friends group.

## Our On-line Listings

These books, **signed by the authors**, are described at [www.amazon.com/shops/ the bookmark bookstore](http://www.amazon.com/shops/the_bookmark_bookstore).

**In the Presence of Books**, by Debora DeWit Marchant, Paperback (\$50)

**Writing Across the Landscape: Travel Journals 1960-2010**, by Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Hardcover(\$100)

**American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America**, by Michelle Obama, Hardcover (\$150)

**Always the Young Strangers**, by Carl Sandberg, Hardcover (\$90)

All our Amazon listings (we have more than 2000) are available directly from the store - call the managers (510) 444-0473 if interested, so that the book can be ready for you when you come in.

## Tri-Schools Read-a-Thon in Piedmont!

Congratulations to students, parents, and staff on completing this third annual effort, organized by the parent group SERVES (Student Engagement, Responsibility, and Volunteerism in our Elementary Schools), which combines two of the Friends' favorite things: reading and fundraising. This year, students at Beach, Havens, and Wildwood elementary schools raised over \$6500 for a very special cause thoughtfully selected by the students: Santa Rosa City Schools fire relief efforts. Superintendent of the Santa Rosa City Schools, Diann Kitamura, informed two of the SERVES co-chairs, Katie Gudiksen and Jo Studert, that this generous contribution would go toward new library shelves in a school that was affected by last year's fire.

## Giving

In honor of **Alicia Gonzales' 100th birthday** from Lin and Charles Tynes

In memory of **Tina Wong** from Anonymous

In honor of **Shelby Solomon** from Valorie Wagner

In memory of **Daile Rosicky** from Charlene Okamoto

**Special Thanks:** Carl Alexander served as financial advisor and treasurer from the late 1980s until he retired from the Friends of the OPL board in 2009. Since then, Carl has been recognized as Honorary Director. Carl recently advised us that he and his wife are moving out of the area to be near family members in another county, and has relinquished his honorary title. The Friends owe a great debt to Carl: the accounting systems and procedures that he established put the organization on a solid foundation for the future. We wish Carl and his wife all the best in their new home.

A recent Renewal Donation arrived with this note: “I am increasing my donation to thank OPL for the audio book services and LINK+.” (see [www.oaklandlibrary.org/services/linkplus](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/services/linkplus))



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If the date on your mailing label is 06-01-2018 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 Old Oakland since 1992. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Library. Members receive a discount on purchases.

**Your support is crucial:**

Your annual dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library. In the past 10 years, Friends of the OPL granted over \$1.5 million for library programs and projects.

**More ways to support Friends of the OPL:**

- Ask a friend to become a member
- Leave a legacy by naming Friends of the OPL in your estate plan
- Donate your 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 purchases when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

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