

A Message from the OPL

By Jamie Turbak, Director of Library Services

Dear Friends,

In December, I had the pleasure of joining many of you on Zoom for the Ninth Annual OPL Advocates' Holiday Mixer. I appreciated the opportunity for some of the library's talented and dedicated staff to showcase their innovative work: Teen Take & Make projects, the East Oakland Outreach & Engagement Team activities, and an online book club for 4th and 5th grade students. I was moved by the powerful words of the 2021 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, Myra Estrada. And I was touched to hear so many people speak about their strong feelings for the library and its importance to the community.

I hope you share the pride I felt in celebrating the library, for the programs highlighted during the mixer would not be possible without the support we receive from the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. Your donations and membership dues make a direct impact on library programs and services, and I thank you for supporting our work through the Friends. We have a great deal to look forward to in 2022, starting on January 9 with the addition



Zoom screenshot from the 9th Annual OPL Advocates' Holiday Mixer

of Sunday hours (10:00am - 5:30pm) at the 81st Avenue and the César E. Chávez Branch Libraries. These two locations will join the Main Library in offering service on Sundays, giving everyone more time to access the many valuable resources at these locations.

I wish you all the best for the New Year, and hope that your plans for 2022 include many hours of enjoying all that the Oakland Public Library has to offer!

Sincerely, Jamie

2020-2021 OPL Annual Report

Thanks to a grant from the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, the library recently produced their Annual Report for the 2020-21 fiscal year. To learn more about this extraordinary year, go to: oaklandlibrary.org/AnnualReport

The Bookmark's Turning 30!

The Bookmark Bookstore turns 30 in November 2022 and we are celebrating for the next year with a sale! Every weekend everything in the store will be 30% off. That's everything in the store, every Saturday and Sunday until November 2022. Members get 30% off every day — instead of the usual 20% — until November. *Sorry, no other discounts will apply.*

The Bookmark is open 11am-4pm, Wednesday - Sunday. Please come in to shop and celebrate!



Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media



BookmarkBookstore.FOPL



FOPL_Bookmark



FOPL_Bookmark

Unique Opportunity for Oakland Youth

Launched in 2012, the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate (OYPL) program is an unprecedented citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and connect young writers to far-reaching opportunities. Each year, the library accepts applications from talented Oakland writers (ages 13-18) to join a community of young poets. Applications for the 2022 OYPL Program will be open from **January 3 to February 7, 2022**. For more information or to apply, visit oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets. This program would not be possible without the generous support of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

The Indelible Impact of Winifred Walters

By Stephen Cole, Board Director



Winifred Walters

After 26 years of service, Winifred Walters is retiring from the board of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. Yes, that was an earthquake you just felt.

Board colleagues describe Winifred variously as “dedicated,” “incredibly organized,” “steadfast,” “calm,” and

“kind,” but the word most often used is “thoughtful.” Her knowledge of the work of the Friends is encyclopedic, and she shares it with the kind of, well, thoughtfulness one might expect. Few among her colleagues haven’t had the experience in a meeting of her leaning in and saying, “Just so you know...” before delivering an explanation whose clarity is matched by its economy. Mercifully, then, she’s not going far.

When Winifred moved from San Francisco to the East Bay in the 1990s she noted that her branch library’s hours were quite limited. Looking for volunteer opportunities, she attended an information session at the Main Library where she determined that volunteering at the Bookmark Bookstore fitted her schedule best. It was a propitious choice: she still volunteers there to this day, happy to serve what she describes as “the face of our organization.”

In short order, Winifred became a board member, recruited by then-president Terry Preston, who served as something of a mentor in board and library matters. Typical of her

thoroughness and preparation, Winifred asked to read the bylaws before she signed up! No prospective member had ever made that request before, Terry told her. She served as board president from 1999 to 2005, a busy time that included the passage of Measure Q, which still provides a substantial proportion of OPL’s funding. In 2006 Winifred’s association with OPL deepened when she joined the library’s administrative staff. It was an exciting time as she helped raise \$3 million in private funds for books and furnishings for the 81st Avenue branch, which opened in 2011. She retired from OPL in 2017.

When asked which accomplishments of the Friends during her tenure stand out, Winifred notes both the overall increase in membership and that members are able to join at a number of different levels, with giving at the higher levels having grown over the last two decades. Perhaps most important, though, is that the Bookmark Bookstore survived the existential threat posed by the current pandemic with the aid of the careful stewardship of the Friends bookstore committee, manager Phyllis Couillard, and volunteers.

While Winifred’s departure leaves a giant hole in our counsels, fortunately she’s not riding (or bicycling) off into the sunset. Rather, she’ll continue to serve on the Friends’ membership committee and volunteer at the Bookmark, and I know this most modest of women will always be ready with sage advice if asked. Thank you, Winifred, from your legion of fans among colleagues and friends for all you’ve meant to the Friends and to OPL. We will miss you.

Grateful for Your Support This Year

Your generosity has a direct impact on Oakland Public Library programs. We are incredibly grateful to have such a considerate, engaged community in a challenging year. Here are just some grants the Friends have given in the last year with your support:

- \$21,750** – Chromebooks for public lending
- \$17,000** – Teen services including the Youth Poet Laureate program
- \$24,600** – Architectural services for the bike repair container at Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch
- \$20,000** – New flooring at West Oakland Branch
- \$4,500** – Scholarships to staff pursuing their Masters of Library and Information Science

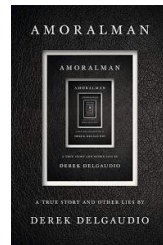


At the November 2021 meeting, the Friends of the OPL recognized the service of **Sanam Nassirpour**, who completed her two-year term on the Board. Thank you, Sanam!

Book Recommendations

From Board Directors Nick Marble and Erica Dennings

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



AMORALMAN

Derek DelGaudio

An author's childhood fascination with sleight of hand card tricks and conjuring leads him on an unexpected adventure through a dangerous underworld of high stakes, private party gambling in Beverly Hills. An entertaining, thrilling read!



JUST AS I AM

Cicely Tyson

Penned when she was 96, this luminous book captures the readers from the first pages as it chronicles the author's experiences of childhood, racism, and her unexpected path as an actress.

Giving

- In memory of Adam Twain, my late husband and twin brother of Robin Casper, on their birthday, from Valerie Sobel-Twain
- In memory of Michael McClure from Carl Landauer
- In memory of Bill Mallchok from Jill Toyoshiba
- In memory of Pamela McCorduck, author of *Machines Who Think*, from Lisa Hirsch and Donna Odierna
- In memory of Aggie Rogacsi from Judy Gong
- In memory of Marjorie Ng and Norma Ng Lau from Valerie Lau & David Fiske
- In memory of Tina Wong from Steven Wong
- In honor of the Oakland Public Library – Thank you for being you! – from Jean Wright
- In honor of Sue Pon from Lawrence Joe
- In honor of Trish Elliott, Friends of OPL's super membership volunteer, from Winifred Walters
- In honor of Julie Waldman from anonymous
- In honor of Winifred Walters from Sara DuBois, Rita Howard, Kathryn Sterbenc, and Jamie Turbak
- In honor of the children of Oakland from Beth Keer
- In honor of Aileen Frankel from Alicia Sabuncuoglu
- In honor of Warren and Maria Chupp from Camille Reed
- In honor of Hana Kadoyama, OPL employee, from Billy Kimbley

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



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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.

Do you know our newsletter is always available at www.fopl.org? If you no longer wish to receive the printed version of Off the Shelf, please send your request to info@fopl.org.

We welcome your feedback & comments:

info@fopl.org

If the date on your mailing label is **12-01-2021** or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

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.