

Measure D Hiring Update

by Jamie Turbak, Library Director

In June 2018, Oakland voters passed "The 2018 Oakland Public Library Preservation Act", more familiarly known as Measure D. Measure D provides funds for more books and computers, but perhaps most importantly, it provides expanded hours of service. On April 1, 2019, Oakland Public Library began keeping our doors open an additional 226 hours per week, inclusive of six or seven days per week and at least one additional evening at every location.

In order to do this, we needed more staff! I'm happy to say that since the passage of Measure D, we have hired 174 Library employees, an average of about 10 each month. Eighty-three people were new and live throughout different neighborhoods in Oakland. An additional 78 people were formerly temporary part-time employees who now work permanently with benefits and guaranteed work schedules. The remaining 13 were permanent staff who received promotions.

The transition away from large numbers of temporary part-time employees has been a long-time goal for the Library. We now have a more reliable and equitably compensated workforce. I believe permanent employment provides more financial stability and retention of library staff that, in turn, allows them to better focus on serving their community.

I'm extremely proud of the staff who work for Oakland Public Library and grateful for this opportunity to hire and promote such dedicated employees.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2PM | AAMLO

LEARNING ABOUT DR. KING'S LEGACY: ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Join this family friendly event, for a series of 30-minute spirited sessions that reexamine the African American quest for civil rights. Prizes will be given throughout the afternoon.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1:30PM | Main Library

FRANKLINA C. GRAY: THE GRAND TOUR

Ever wondered about the lives of Oakland's Victorian residents? Take a peek into the travels of Franklina C. Gray through her own writings and pages from her scrapbook. We'll enjoy light refreshments and discuss the book Franklina C. Gray: The Grand Tour, and then we'll head across the street for a free tour of Camron-Stanford house and the opportunity to see the original documents on exhibit.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1PM - 3PM | West Oakland Branch

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FAMILY QUILT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Celebrate African American History Month with the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland's annual demonstration and workshop. Supplies will be provided so that you can make your own quilt. For all levels and ages.

To learn more about these and other fabulous OPL events, go here: <u>oaklandlibrary.org</u>

Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media!



🚯 BookmarkBookstore.FOPL 🔞 FOPL_Bookmark 🕥 FOPL_Bookmark

Get to Know Your Grants: 2019-2020 Mini-Grants Selected

by Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator, Grants & Volunteers

In 2016-17, the Friends of the OPL Board came up with an innovative idea: setting aside a portion of the Annual Grants to the library for a mini-grants program. Individual library staff members – at all locations and in all capacities – were encouraged to think of innovative ways to improve service to the community and apply for a small grant to implement these improvements. This program was an immediate success, with twenty applications submitted and nine approved.

The mini-grant program allows library staff with great ideas to quickly make them a reality. It has been a fantastic source of inspiration and it has had a wonderful impact throughout the system. The fourth year of Friends of the OPL Mini-Grants was bigger and better than ever. The Board of Directors of the Friends reviewed 31 mini-grant applications at their meeting on November 6, and – after much discussion – they approved the 16 projects listed below.

Many of the mini-grant projects from past years have been featured in the "Get to Know Your Grants" column, and I look forward to profiling more this year.

Congratulations to all the winning applicants, and thank you to the Friends of the OPL!

Staff & Location	Project Title
Sally Engelfried, 81st Ave Branch	Book Club
Janet Cheung, Asian Branch	Social Justice Art
Rebekah Eppley, Dimond Branch	Who's Your Neighbor?
Susan Martinez, Emily Odza, Mahate Osborn, Eastmont	Little Free Libraries
Nichole Brown & Jack Soares, Eastmont Branch	Junior Carpenters Club
Andrea Guzmán & Susan Martinez, multiple branches	Digital Literacy Workshops
Erin Sanders, Golden Gate Branch	Summer Dance
Ashley Bonifacio & Wendy Chen, Lakeview Branch	Teen Space Remodel
Jesse Nachem, Main Library	Bilingual Yoga
Amy Martin & Paul Overton, Recording at Main Library	OPL Podcast
Wendy Chen, Natasha Moullen, Linda Nguyễn, & Mickey Vo, multiple branches	Teen Field Trips
Josh Armstrong, Melrose Branch	Melrose Hackerspace
Steven Lavoie, Temescal Branch	Large-Print Books
Susy Moorhead, West Oakland Branch	What's Cookin' @ West
Rebecca Highland & Julia Flynn, West Oakland Branch	Wellness @ West
Alison Bowman, multiple branches	Emergency Kits

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 2019-20 list included a request for \$20,000 in Mini-Grants funding, which was approved. 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 or (510) 238-6572.

OPL Library Advocates Gather for 7th Annual Holiday Mixer

by Kathryn Sterbenc

More than 80 of Oakland Public Library's hard-working advocates gathered at the African American Museum & Library at Oakland (AAMLO) for the 7th Annual OPL Advocates Holiday Mixer on Sunday, Dec. 8. The event was co-hosted by the City of Oakland Library Advisory Commission and the Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

Advocate groups represented at the event included the Library Advisory Commission; Friends of the OPL and its Bookmark Bookstore; Save Oakland Libraries; the Youth Leadership Council; OPL Teen Advisory Boards; SEIU 1021; IFPTE 21; and multiple powerhouse Branch Friends groups representing the Asian, Dimond, Elmhurst, Lakeview, Melrose, Piedmont Avenue, Rockridge and West Oakland Branches, as well as the Tool Lending Library and the newly formed Friends of the Main Library. Also present were members of the Friends of the Hoover-Durant Public Library, who are working hard to bring a branch back to their area of West Oakland.



Friends and fans of libraries joining in on the holiday cheer at this year's Annual OPL Advocates Holiday Mixer

AAMLO Chief Curator Bamidele Agbasegbe-Demerson opened the program with exciting information about the programming, mission and goals of this jewel of the city's library system. AAMLO is dedicated to the discovery, preservation, interpretation and sharing of historical and cultural experiences of African Americans in California and the West for present and future generations. Agbasegbe-Demerson's remarks were followed by deep expressions of thanks from Oakland City Council Members Dan Kalb



Jamie Turbak and Bamidele Agbasegbe-Demerson at the OPL Advocates Holiday Mixer.

(District 1) and Sheng Thao (District 4).

Jamie Turbak, OPL's Director of Library Services, then wowed the crowd with an update about Measure D, the parcel tax overwhelmingly approved by Oakland voters in June 2018. OPL expanded hours at its 16 neighborhood branches, the Main Library, AAMLO, and the Tool Lending Library and has also added 174 library employees thus far, thanks to Measure D funding.

Then came the segment that's become a favorite part of this annual event – when OPL librarians talk about their favorite programs. Sharon McKellar, Teen Services Supervising Librarian, told the crowd about Teen Field Trips, while Eastmont Branch Manager Susan Martinez talked about the life-changing Cooking Workshops being offered at her branch. Both programs are funded by Mini-Grants from the Friends of the OPL. These are grants of up to \$2,000 each that fund the implementation of a new service or program proposed by library staff. Cataloging Librarian Elia Shelton then discussed OPL's involvement with the 2020 Census.

The celebration ended with a powerful performance by 2019 Vice Youth Poet Laureate Eleanor Wikstrom.

All of that was accompanied by delicious food, music, and gorgeous decorations provided by library commissioners and advocates. Thanks to all for an inspiring event and another banner year of supporting Oakland Public Library!

Community Members Drum Up Support for a New Library Branch

by Ronile Lahti

A bit of history: for many years the Hoover Durant area had access to two branch libraries: the North Oakland Branch located at 3424 San Pablo Avenue which opened in 1888 and the Telegrove Branch at 34th and Grove Street – now



A recent pop-up Street Corner Library organized by Friends of the Hoover Durant Public Library

Martin Luther King Way – which opened in 1930. The Telegrove Branch was closed in 1950 and the construction of Interstate 980 caused the closure of the North Oakland Branch by the 1980's. The 2006 Oakland Public Library Master Facilities Plan included a library for Hoover Durant described as a "one story facility with parking or joint-use with other community services" at "an estimated project cost of \$9-11M for 10,000 SF building including budget for land." Unfortunately, the 2006 Library Improvement and Expansion Bond (Measure N) failed by 2.4% and the Hoover Durant project and other facility upgrades in the plan were shelved.

Enter Alternier Baker Cook and the creation of the Friends of the Hoover Durant Public Library (FOHDPL). Many have described Alternier as a "force of nature" – she is certainly a committed library advocate and her current focus is the return of a branch library to the Hoover Durant neighborhood. Under Alternier's leadership the Friends have taken this issue to their community, garnering tremendous support for the goal of a new facility by 2022.

Current status: the Friends are now estimating **\$9-25M for an 8-12,000 SF building** including budget for land. During the last budget cycle, the City Council approved **\$500K for a Hoover-Durant feasibility study** which is scheduled to take place in 2020. The FOHDPL, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation, has identified two possible locations: 2810 West Street, formerly

the Marcus Foster School, and 3000 Market Street. They've also acquired an impressive list of over 40 partners,

supporters, and sponsors from the business, government, and

non-profit communities and have an active fund-raising campaign, Facebook page, and a web-site in the works. In the meantime, they are keeping the community engaged through a series of **Street Corner Libraries** (the next one is planned for the first quarter of 2020) where books and refreshments are available along with updates on their quest for a permanent location. **This is not a group that's sitting still**.

The Friends of the Hoover Durant Public Library meet the first Thursday of every month at the West Oakland Youth Center, 3233 Market Street, 5:30pm.

For more information visit their Facebook page -

www.facebook.com/friendshdpl.



Portrait of Alternier Baker Cook, community activist and chair of Friends of the Hoover Durant Public Library, photo by Darryl Barnes for East Bay Express

Did You Know... The 2020 Census is coming and the OPL is READY!

Having accurate census information is absolutely critical to making sure every Oaklander is counted. 2020 is the first Census that will be filled out primarily online and OPL is partnering with the City of Oakland and the Alameda County Complete Count Committee to publicize that there is free Wifi and free public access to computers for people to come in and fill out the Census. In addition, library staff will be trained on how to assist a patron in completing the Census, and how to access language and disability services for patrons that require them.

For more about the Oakland's Census efforts, go here: www.oaklandca.gov/topics/oaklandcounts-2020-census

OPL Youth Poet Laureate Applications Due February 3, 2020

The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is an unprecedented citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and connect young writers to far-reaching opportunities.

Each year OPL accepts applications from talented Oakland writers (ages 13-18) to join a community of young poets. The Laureate earns an educational scholarship. The Laureate and Finalists will serve as ambassadors for literacy, arts and youth expression with ongoing opportunities for performances, projects, and peer support. Starting in 2020, every applicant will be invited to stay connected with the OYPL community.



The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is supported by an alliance of community partners representing Oakland's leading arts, education and community organizations. Scholarship funding is provided by the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, with administrative and academic support by Scholarship America.

The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is run by the Oakland Public Library's Teen

Services department with support from the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. See <u>http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/</u><u>youthpoets</u> for more details.

Too Good: A Poem by Eleanor Wikstrom, Oakland's Vice YPL

When Dr. Christine Blasey Ford testified, with a national audience, during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination, that he sexually assaulted her when they were teenagers, Eleanor Wikstrom wrote a poem. With this poem, "Too Good," and two other poems, she applied to the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program and became Oakland's 2019 Vice Youth Poet Laureate.

Eleanor has been performing all over town and in October performed "Too Good" at the YWCA Silicon Valley's Inspire Luncheon. There, she shared the stage with Dolores Huerta and Dr. Christine Blasey Ford herself. You can watch Eleanor's performance here: <u>https://youtu.be/5KtliSSQkXY</u>

Dr. Ford was receiving the YWCA Empowerment Award and said, "It's funny, I was inspired by Anita Hill when I was deciding whether to testify but it didn't occur to me at the time that I would be inspiring anyone else," Ford said. "Eleanor, I couldn't ask for a greater gift than to know I inspired your poem."

Eleanor is an Oakland native who has been writing prose and poetry since she could form sentences. Currently a senior at Skyline High School, Eleanor is involved in several clubs and a co-founder of the organization Oakland Students for Public Education,

which empowers OUSD students to advocate for public education reform at the Capitol. She is also the cross country / track team captain and holds multiple all-time records for



Eleanor Wikstrom, 2019 Vice Youth Poet Laureate

the city of Oakland in the distance events. An avid writer, Eleanor has won numerous awards for prose and poetry, including the Youth Activist Award from the California Teachers Association, and was named a 2020 YoungArts Finalist in Writing / Spoken Word. This past May she partnered with composer Dominick DiOrio and the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus to premiere a new choral piece using the text of one of her poems, which has been selected for publication by the Hal Leonard Music Corporation. As the current Oakland Youth Vice Poet Laureate, Eleanor is excited to spend her senior year harnessing the evocative power of language to promote art and activism in her community and beyond.

If you would like to book Eleanor; the current Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, Samuel Getachew, or any of the other 2019 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Finalists, please do so here: <u>http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/yplbooking</u>

SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 16 - APRIL 19, 2020

THE BOOKMARK'S SPRING SALE

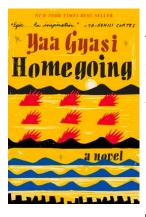
Friends of the OPL Members receive 50% off their purchases on Thursday, 4/16.

All book & media lovers enjoy: 30% off Friday, April 17, 40% off Saturday, April 18, 50% off Sunday, April 19

Recommendations from the Friends of the OPL Board

Recommended by Rebecca Pfiffner

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi



It's a breathtaking and poignant journey that traces the lineage of two half-sisters in Ghana, starting 300 years ago through the present day. It gives voice and powerful depth to those whose lives were brutally and unjustly scarred, silenced, and shattered by the evils of racism, colonialism, and hatred in all of their guises. It will break your heart, and also crack it back open with stories of resilience. Recommended by Sheila McCormick

Welcome to Sweden (season 1), by Greg Poehler et al.

A funny TV series, from Greg Poehler, Amy Poehler's brother. Somewhat based on his real life. He plays Bruce Evans, an accountant for celebrity clients, who moves to Sweden to live with his Swedish girlfriend; her mother is



played by Lena Olin! Lots of culture shock.

New Year's Resolution Idea: VOLUNTEER AT THE BOOKMARK!

Love books? You're hired! **The Bookmark** always needs book-loving, awesome volunteers - join us today! Please visit, call, or email for more details:

721 Washington Street, Oakland | (510) 444-0473 bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com

Friends of the OPL Say Goodbye To Longtime Board Member Ellen Moyer

November marked the close of an amazing Friends board career, as Ellen Moyer officially retired from the Friends of the OPL board after 12 years of service.

Ellen was first elected to the Board in November 2007. She was elected Vice President in November 2008. One year later, in November 2009, she was elected President of the Board and **served as President for EIGHT years!**

During that time, the Board enjoyed a wonderful continuity under her leadership. One of Ellen's most notable and enduring accomplishments is her suggestion that the Board accept small grant requests from *any* OPL staff member. This blossomed into the **Mini-Grants program** and it became an instant favorite of board members AND OPL staff. For this and so many other reasons, we are sad to say goodbye to Ellen but wish her much joy in all of her life adventures. Come back any time, Ellen!



Off the Shelf | January 2020

Celebrating the Bookmark Volunteers



On December 12, we celebrated the Bookmark volunteers by hosting a brunch at the store in their honor. We had **30+ attendees** (volunteers, Friends of the OPL Board members, and OPL library staff). The store was transformed into a cozy restaurant with tables and chairs set up in the middle of the store. The food was catered by Ann's Catering of Berkeley. The event featured a short program with comments from Manager Phyllis Couillard,

Appreciating volunteers at the Bookmark!

Jamie Turbak, OPL Director of Library Services, and Kathryn Sterbenc, Friends of the OPL President. Volunteers had a chance to meet others who work on different days and some discovered people they knew in common!

This is the second year we have hosted this brunch at the Bookmark and, by all accounts, the volunteers love having it there. We are ever so grateful for all of our volunteers and thank them for their commitment to the Bookmark and the greater role they play in supporting Oakland's libraries.

The Bookmark Fall Sale was BIG!

by Ynez Arce

The 2019 Fall Sale at the Bookmark brought in nearly 20% more revenue than the 2018 Fall Sale. That is INCREDIBLE! Thanks to all of our Members and friends in the community who showed up to enjoy discounted prices and our huge collection of donated books and media. The 2020 Spring Sale is set for Thursday, April 16, through Sunday, April 19.

We can't wait to see you there, let's beat our Fall Sale's numbers!

Found by Bold Italic: The Bookmark

The Bookmark was featured on the Bold Italic's list of "Shop Local: The 5 Best Bookstores in Oakland". Thank you, B.I., we agree!

Go here to read the article: thebolditalic.com/shoplocal-the-5-best-oaklandbookstores-3c58b540e057



Friends of the OPL Welcome Four New Board Members

At our Annual Meeting, Friends of the Oakland Public Library elected four new members to the board. They will join our 13 existing members in our mission to advance the role of the Oakland Public Library as a vital community resource. Each new Board Member brings unique perspective and experience to the Board and we are thrilled to have them!

Welcome M.C., Elizabeth, Corey, Sanam!



M.C. Abbott

Three words for libraries: Palaces for [the] people Favorite 2019 movie: Honeyland Reading now: The Dark Forest, sequel to Three Body Problem



Elizabeth Falkner Three words for libraries: Amazing community resource Favorite 2019 movie: *Knives Out* Reading now: *Circe* by Madeline Miller



Corey Hatcher

Three words for libraries: Safety, knowledge, community

Favorite 2019 movie: A toss up between: Us and The Last Black Man in San Francisco

Reading now: The First 90 Days by Michael Watkins



Sanam Nassirpour

Three words for libraries: Peaceful, sanctuary, knowledge

Favorite 2019 movie: Jojo Rabbit

Reading now: Normal People by Sally Rooney and Braving the Wilderness by Brené Brown

Browse our Amazon & eBay Listings!

2,000+ books and media listed here: www.amazon.com/shops/the_bookmark_bookstore

Leo Rosten's Giant Book of Laughter - Hardcover 1985

An antidote to the news of today, this rich collection of jokes, wordplay, anecdotes, tall tales, and limericks about every possible subject is accompanied by step-by-step instructions on how to tell a joke.

Selling for **\$50** on Amazon.

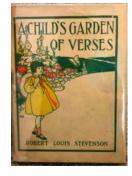




200+ books and media listed here: www.ebay.com/usr/friends_opl

A Child's Garden of Verses - 1909 Edition

We have several editions of <u>A Child's Garden of Verses</u> by Robert Louis Stevenson from this 1909 edition to a 1930 edition. If you're looking for a special gift for a child in your life or wanting to add to your collection, these are great options. Selling for **\$50** on eBay.



Great Gift Idea!

For the book, media, and library lovers in your life, buy a **Friends of the Oakland Public Library Membership!** Your friends should be Friends of the OPL, too!

Annual dues start at \$25 (Full-time students and seniors, age 65+, can join for \$15).

See all the ways to join at fopl.org/join

Giving

Thank you to the library lovers who donated to the Friends of OPL on **#GivingTuesday** this year. We received \$1,700 in one day!

Additional Contributions

- In memory of Pam Winthers from Judy Gilman, Mary Beth Stone, Stephanie Gromek, Sally Kusalo, Ruth Levin, Pam Webb
- In memory of Natalie Weinstein from Edina Nelson
- In memory of Linda Ann Follette from Marjorie O. Follette
- In memory of Tina Wong from Steven Wong
- In memory of beloved book club member Betsy Noga from Betty Courtney, Linda Davis, Gloria Holmberg, Nancy Jokerst, Sharon McKee, C.A. Meylan, Kathy Miranda, Joan Saumur, and Joan Schommer
- In honor of Wayne Diamond from Anonymous
- In honor of Sue Pon from Lawrence K. Joe
- Special thanks to John Nguyen, Design One, for assistance in design and fabrication of new signs to promote the Bookmark Bookstore
- "In appreciation of the Reference Staff in Magazines & Newspapers (Main Library) for finding a death notice from the Tribune for my great-uncle, George" from Robert Simmons

A Year in Stories: Learning, Sharing, and Growing with OPL and FOPL



In October, Friends of OPL celebrated our community with an evening program of typewriters and treats at our beloved Bookmark Bookstore.



In partnership with East Bay Regional Parks, the Dimond Branch will now be offering outdoor adventure backpacks stocked with resources for getting outdoors. Reserve yours at the Dimond Branch desk or by calling (510) 482-7844.



Back by popular demand, Drag Story Hour, this time with performer Per Sia (@per_sia), one of hundreds of events happening every week in our neighborhood libraries.



In 2019, OPL went to work on a strategy for taking a headson approach to getting our community counted in the 2020 Census. Learn more at https://www.oaklandlibrary.org/ events/main-library/get-job-census



Oakland-born Cheyenne and Arapaho writer Tommy Orange cracks up on stage with OPL's Youth Poet Laureate Samuel Getachew at OMCA Fridays. Catch a full video recording on OPL's Youtube.



One of the engines behind all that OPL accomplishes, Jamie Turbak was named Director of Library Services. Congrats, Jamie, on completing one year in the role!



This year the Oakland Public Library celebrated LGBTQ pride throughout the city with a series of events including a family pride picnic with taiko and crafts at Dimond Park. Check out the 2019 coloring book, "Color the Town"!



2019 saw the growth of events and materials at the Commons Archive, "a permanent neighborhood memory bank" located at the Golden Gate Branch, including this archival photograph of the Black Panthers' band Lumpen seen here at the baycott of Bill's Liquors in 1971.

NO OVERDUE FINES!

In 2019, OPL went fine-less, helping to reduce the inequitable impact of overdue fines, while freeing up our library staff to focus on the things that matter most.



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Friends of the OPL Board Members

+ M.C. Abbott

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

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

If the date on your mailing label is **12-01-2019** or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

Your support is crucial:

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
- 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, visit www.fopl.org or call The Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473. The Friends of the Oakland Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Our tax ID is 94-2553734 and all contributions are tax deductible.

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.