

January 2019

## Get To Know Your Grants

by Emily Weak, Senior Librarian at the Main Library

In any community, the library is one of the most trusted government agencies. We are a safe haven for folks who need it. And life is hard for a lot of folks in Oakland right now. Homelessness increased 25% between 2015 and 2017. Our patrons are increasingly vulnerable, due to demographic factors like immigration status or gender identity. Sometimes the air itself is unfit to breathe. Library staff are natural helpers. We love to find just the right book, or to connect patrons to the information they've been looking for – everything from finding lyrics to that song they've been humming to the email for their new city council person to exactly the right job listing. But sometimes patrons need more help than we can provide. In those cases, it is great to be able to provide a direct referral to an expert.

In December of 2016, a colleague and I applied for and received a Friends of the OPL mini-grant to expand our Veterans Center, a small corner of the Main Library lobby, into the Community Kiosk. We wanted to be able to invite local organizations to provide direct service to patrons in need. With a \$1,500 grant from the Friends, we enhanced this space – making it more visible and more useful – with a second table, a storage cabinet, a video display, and a new laptop.

Prior to the grant, this area was staffed with an employee or volunteer who provided help for veterans for only 10 hours a week. And while we still provide at least 10 hours/week of service to veterans, we now also host partners from local social services agencies almost every day, offering an additional 12-18 hours/week of help in a wide variety of areas.

For example: **Once a month**, Veronica from the Alameda County Community Food Bank signs people up for CalFresh (EBT aka food stamps). **On a weekly basis**, the East Bay Community Recovery Project and Peers Envisioning and Engaging in Recovery Services both provide drop-in hours for folks looking for help with substance use and mental health disorders. **On Tuesdays**, the Employment Development Department provides help with job search, resumes and career development. They have a huge list of job fairs and open recruitments! **Every other Sunday**, Eddie and his colleagues from the Oakland Tenants Union help people stay in their apartments (and avoid homelessness). **On Second Sundays**, the first two hours of the day are staffed by Naomi, who is a certified financial planner, and the last two hours belong to Open Oakland, which does a walk-through of a tool that patrons can use to clear their criminal records. We also host one-off events, such as free flu vaccinations (provided by Alameda Health Care for the Homeless) or open recruitment for Census workers (\$17.25/hour!).

The Community Kiosk provides life-changing interventions in a place that patrons already know and trust: the public library. It allows staff to form closer relationships with organizations providing vital services in Oakland, so that even when services are not in the library, we can provide confident referrals and high-quality information. It helps Oaklanders stay safe, feel better, and maybe even thrive.



*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.*

## More than 90 Attend Sixth Annual OPL Advocates Holiday Mixer

by Kathryn Sterbenc, President of Friends of the OPL

Oakland Public Library's hard-working advocates gathered at the African American Museum & Library at Oakland (AAMLO) for the Sixth Annual OPL Advocates Holiday Mixer on Sunday, Dec. 2. The annual event is co-hosted by the City of Oakland Library Advisory Commission and the Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

This year's celebration began with a powerful performance by Samuel Getachew, 2018 Vice Youth Poet Laureate, followed by expressions of thanks from OPL Interim Director Jamie Turbak and Oakland City Council

Member Dan Kalb (both library advocates extraordinaire).

Then came the segment that's become a favorite part of this annual event – when OPL librarians talk about their most impactful programs. Andrea Guzmán told advocates about the 2017-2018 Friends mini-grant to support wildly successful beginners' tech classes at the Eastmont and West Oakland Branches. Celia Jackson shared the story of the amazing “Quicker, Safer Trip to the Library” program that transports groups of OPL's youngest patrons to the library. And Emily Weak wowed the crowd with information about the Main Library's relevant and effective Community Kiosk (another Friends-funded resource).

The event rounded up with a celebration of the June passage of Measure D – and word that extended hours will come to our branches in Spring 2019! All of that was accompanied by delicious food and drink provided by library commissioners and advocates in the glorious setting of the jewel that is AAMLO. AAMLO's Marco Frazier led a tour of the historic facility at the end of the event.

Advocate groups represented at the event included the Library Advisory Commission; Friends of the Oakland Public Library and its Bookmark Bookstore; Save Oakland Li-

braries; the Youth Leadership Council; OPL Teen Advisory Boards; SEIU 1021; IFPTE 21; and multiple powerhouse Branch Friends groups! Thanks to all for a joyous, inspiring event and a banner year of supporting OPL!



### MARK your CALENDARS!

The Bookmark Bookstore's **SEMI-ANNUAL SALE** is April 11-14

### Membership Notes

**1,025!** During 2018, the Friends of the OPL reached a record number of members. For the first time in our history, our membership exceeded 1,000 members. A big thank you to all new and renewing members! Your support translates to grants to the Oakland Public Library to enhance library services for everyone in our community. *Get To Know Your Grants* is a regular column in this newsletter dedicated to informing members of how your dues and donations make a difference.

The date on the mailing label of this newsletter marks the end of your membership year. If the date is 12/2018 or earlier, please renew your membership today! We send one (yes, just one) renewal notice. If there is no response, we send a follow-up. Go to [FOPL.org/join](http://FOPL.org/join) to use our online giving options or send a check to our office at the Bookmark Bookstore, 721 Washington St., Oakland, 94607. Thank you!

We send a tax receipt for any donation of \$250 or more, as required by the IRS. We are happy to provide the documentation that you need for donations under \$250 – just ask! Membership questions? Please email [info@FOPL.org](mailto:info@FOPL.org) or leave a message at the Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.



## Book Giveaway at Oakland's Thanksgiving Lunch

by Mana Tominaga, OPL

The City of Oakland hosted its 27th annual Thanksgiving Lunch on Tuesday, November 22. This annual festive gathering serves more than two thousand Oakland senior citizens and low-income families and folks experiencing homelessness. For the second year, OPL staff were on hand to distribute free books. Many of the books were donated by OPL staff, and a large number were donated by The Bookmark Bookstore. We distributed 450 books for adults, 450 children's books, 50 DVDs, and 50 cookbooks. We issued new cards and resolved fines and fees. We are very grateful for the support of Friends of the OPL and The Bookmark Bookstore in making this annual effort a huge success.



**2019-2020 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Applications** are open until February 4. If you or someone you know fits the criteria, please consider applying! <http://oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets>

The Bookshop has a thousand books,  
All colors, hues and tinges,  
And every cover is a door,  
That turns on magic hinges.  
*Nancy Byrd Turner*

## Great Things Coming!

Thanks to the passage of Measure D in June, the library is busy hiring and making plans for expanded service throughout Oakland. Although we have not finalized plans on expanded hours, we are excited to share another outcome of Measure D: expanded e-resources offerings available to patrons using their OPL library cards.

The OPL E-Resources Committee is pleased to announce the availability of **Lynda.com** from LinkedIn Learning, a very popular online learning tutorial tool. Lynda.com offers more than 12,000 video based training tutorials and professional development courses on business, technology, and new media design.

In addition, the library has renewed its subscription to the **digital edition of the *New York Times***, allowing OPL patrons to access the online version of the NYT for free with their library card.

On **hoopla**, a platform which allows patrons to download or stream full music albums, audiobooks, ebooks, TV shows, and movies, we've increased our checkout limit from four to eight. You can stream content using the hoopla app, or download content temporarily. All titles are available all the time, so you don't need to wait or place holds.

## Library Happenings!

Jan. 21, **Martin Luther King Jr. Film Festival** ([oaklandlibrary.org/mlkfilmfestival](http://oaklandlibrary.org/mlkfilmfestival)): Join us for a full day of poignant cinema honoring the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Feb. 2, **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of African American Poets and Their Poetry: Black Migrations** ([oaklandlibrary.org/wblmigrations](http://oaklandlibrary.org/wblmigrations)): Community members of all ages are invited to participate by reading poetry, performing, dancing, or/and displaying works of art. If you're interested in being featured in this program, please call 510-238-7352.

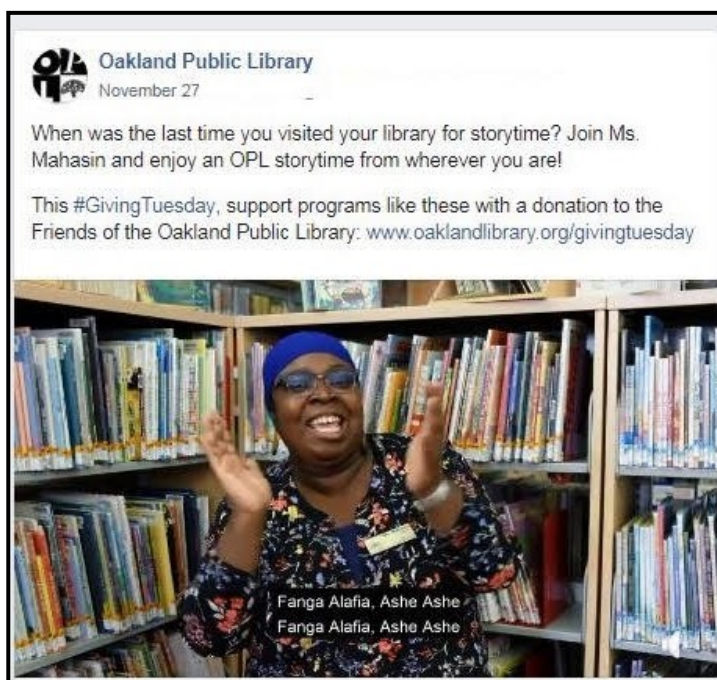
Feb. 5 **Music with Contemporary Violinist Nate Guinto** ([oaklandlibrary.org/Guinto](http://oaklandlibrary.org/Guinto)): Join us for an exciting musical performance by Nate Guinto. Nate is a Bay area native, contemporary violinist, aspiring producer and beat maker.

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

## #GivingTuesday 2018

Held each year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday is a global day that celebrates and encourages charitable giving online. The library and the Friends of the OPL participated in their first ever #GivingTuesday this year, and we were thrilled with the response! This online fundraising initiative generated 50 donations exceeding \$3,000 to support the Friends of the Oakland Public Library. Just as nice: the Friends of the OPL also gained 12 new members!

In addition to fundraising, the library used #GivingTuesday as an opportunity to bring people “into” the library with a special online storytime. Children’s Librarian Mahasin Abuwi Aleem led viewers in songs and read a storytime book, generating an enormous, warm response from the library’s online community. If you missed it on #GivingTuesday, you can still watch it online at: [oaklandlibrary.org/GTstorytime](http://oaklandlibrary.org/GTstorytime)



Our **Annual Appreciation Brunch** for Bookmark Volunteers and Friends of the OPL Board Members was held at The Bookmark Bookstore on December 8<sup>th</sup>. A great time was had by all! Thanks to our 60+ Volunteers and Board Members for all your efforts in raising funds to help OPL.

Having fun isn't hard  
when you've got a library card.  
*Marc Brown*

## Book Recs from the Board

**Gen Katz: Krakatoa**, by Simon Winchester. A superb book dealing with the events leading up to the explosion of the volcano, the complete destruction of the island for which it was named and the creation of a 100 ft tsunami that wiped out the coastal cities. The author starts out with a history of the Dutch East Indies company and the spice trade. He goes on to describe the geology and plate tectonics of this very active area, and then he explores the political, social and biological aftermath of this destructive event. The book includes tasty nuggets of information, such as the origin of Reuters, spices worth their weight in gold, why we toss out paprika when it gets a little old, and how a tsunami speeds up as it reaches shore. There are pleasures for all.

**Sheila McCormick: Fashion Climbing: A Memoir with Photographs**, by Bill Cunningham. I always loved his photography in “On the Street” and “Evening Hours” in the Style Section of the Sunday *New York Times*, so it was fun to read about his early days and when he was a hat designer.

**Rebecca Pfiffner: The Mother of All Questions: Further Reports from the Feminist Revolutions**, by Rebecca Solnit. I'm only halfway through, but already have the book decorated with post-it flags and highlighted text. This book of essays is required reading for anyone who identifies as a feminist or should (i.e. all of us). With so much appropriation and commercialization of feminism in our modern day culture, it's easy to get distracted or even feel overwhelmed – Solnit's eloquent and masterful writing is like a tall glass of cool water. She teaches, grounds, enlightens, and inspires, and reminds us all why it's so good for us (and for the world) to be allies and part of the feminist movement.

**Ashley Robinson: The Botany of Desire**, by Michael Pollan. This book shines a new perspective on our relationship with plants. Pollan dives into how our human desires are directly reflected in the plants we gravitate towards, but also how we grow, breed, and genetically engineer plants. Providing a twist by also offering a plant's point of view, we'll see how our relationships with plants have changed over time through the lens of the potato, apple, tulip and cannabis.

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



## Follow OPL Advocates!

Friends of the Oakland Public Library is one of several advocacy groups that work year-round to support OPL and its programs, staff and city funding.

Follow our coalition of advocacy groups – called OPL Advocates – on social media to learn quick, easy ways you can support the library you love at the local, state and federal levels. For on-going posts about the inspiring programs and events funded by Friends (aka YOU), use hashtag: **#FriendsPaid4That**

**FACEBOOK:** OPL Advocates  
**INSTAGRAM:** OakLibAdvocate  
**TWITTER:** @OPLadvocate  
[www.OPLAdvocates.org](http://www.OPLAdvocates.org)

Questions? OPLAdvocates@gmail.com

## Browse our Amazon and eBay Listings!

We have >2000 items listed at [www.amazon.com/shops/the-bookmark-bookstore](http://www.amazon.com/shops/the-bookmark-bookstore). For example, **Mozart Edition: Complete Works (170 CD Box Set)** (\$100), **Film Posters of the Russian Avant-Garde** (\$28), **Japanese Ikat Weaving: The Techniques of Kasuri** (\$125), and **Patti Smith: Complete Lyrics, Reflections and Notes for the Future** (\$30). We have about 75 items listed at [ebay.com/usr.friends opl](http://ebay.com/usr.friends opl). For example, both 1913 (\$30) and 1923 (\$50) versions of Robert L. Stevenson's **A Child's Garden of Verses**. If you are local, you can contact the store and purchase any of these listings there (avoid the shipping charges).

## Editor's Note

by Sheila McCormick

This is my last newsletter to edit. Going forward the editorial tasks will be taken over by Board Member Ynez Arce. I will remain on the Board and continue posting to our Social Media.

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

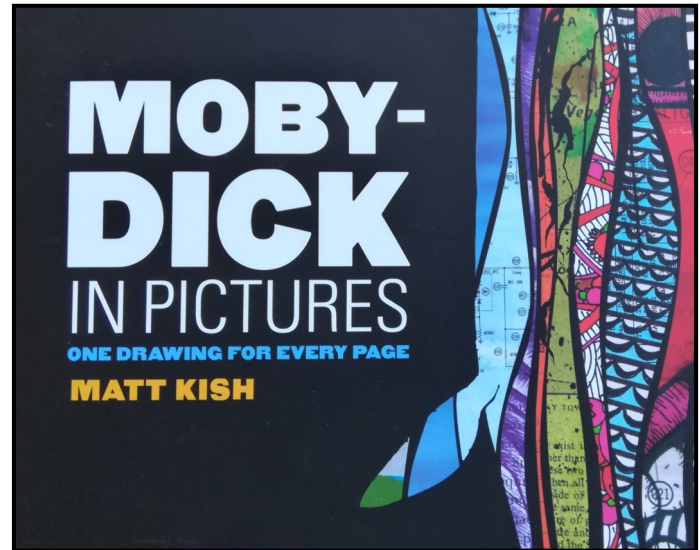
**Instagram** ([bookmarkbookstore](https://www.instagram.com/bookmarkbookstore))

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

## Found at the Bookmark

by Sheila McCormick

I bought this book in 2017 for \$8 (with member discount). The cover pretty much describes what is inside: Matt Kish selected a phrase or sentence from each of the 552 pages and made art inspired by it. For example, p. 28: *However, a good laugh is a mighty good thing and rather too scarce a good thing...* has those words incorporated in a colorful drawing on found paper (a cabinet invoice sheet).



### Want to Help Out at The Bookmark?

There are shifts available, and other short-term needs. 510-444-0473, or [bookmark\\_bookstore@yahoo.com](mailto:bookmark_bookstore@yahoo.com)

## Giving

- In memory of **Jeanne Marie Bergovoy & Effie**, from J. J. Bergovoy
- In memory of **Gaye Lenahan**, from Mary MacLeod and Cecile Litherland
- In memory of **Helen McCully**, from David McCully
- In memory of **Tina Wong**, from Steven Wong
- In memory of **Herbert L. Mager, Jr.**, from David and Jane Groppenberger, Wendy K. Krupa, Ronald J. Wichert, Linda Ayscue and Charles Ostrofe
- In honor of **Trish Elliott**, from Anonymous
- In honor of **Unka Ted and Aunt Julie**, from Joy North
- In honor of **Paul Herzmark and Sheila McCormick**
- In honor of **Sue Pon**, from Lawrence Joe
- In memory of Monday Bookmark Bookstore volunteer **Allen Sommer**
- In memory of **Marjorie Ng and Norma Ng Lau**, from Valerie Lau and David Fiske
- In memory of **Linda Ann Follette**, from Marjorie O. Follette



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If the date on your mailing label is 12-01-2018 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** and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

**Thank you!**

To learn more, visit [fopl.org](http://fopl.org) or call The Bookmark Bookstore at (510) 444-0473.  
Contributions are tax-deductible (Tax ID 94-2553734).