

Connect with Your Library in 2024!

By Megan Keane, OPL Community Relations Librarian

There truly is something for everyone at the Oakland Public Library, and – thanks to our new website – it's very easy to find events, programs, and services that will appeal to you.

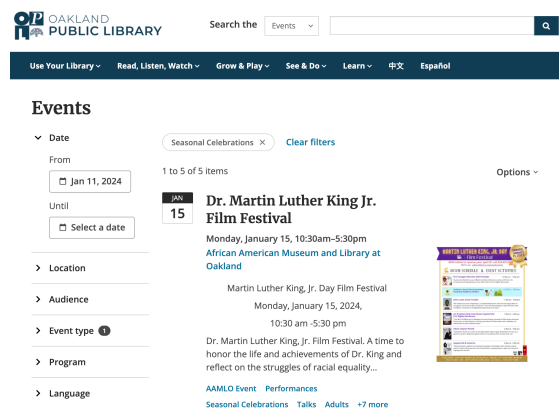
Visit OaklandLibrary.org/Events and use the filters to find free activities by date, location, language, type, and more....

You'll find:

- Storytimes for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers throughout Oakland.
- Arts, crafts, games, and special programs for older children.
- The amazing Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program for new and experienced poets ages 13-18.
- Book clubs, author talks, and craft programs for teens and adults.
- Gardening resources and activities.
- Support for educational pursuits and career development.
- Resources for free food and a variety of social services.
- Fun, joyful, and educational seasonal celebrations for all ages.

The Oakland Public Library also offers unique lending collections (toys, tools, and Wi-Fi hotspots), online services (live tutoring, craft tutorials, computer classes, and language lessons), and a large online archive of fascinating history lectures and special collections.

It all starts at OaklandLibrary.org. If you have any questions, call the library at (510) 238-3134 or email answers@oaklandlibrary.org. We'd love to connect with you this year!



Use the filters to find events and activities that speak to you!

The Bookmark Bookstore News

We Love Our Members! Book Sale

Saturday, February 10, 11am – 4pm

50% off everything in the store ALL DAY for Friends of the OPL Members. Non-members can join on the day of the sale to receive the discount!

Memberships start at just \$25 for individuals, with special discounts for seniors and students.

Learn more about memberships and other ways to support the Friends here: fopl.org/get-involved

New Winter Hours at The Bookmark

- Wednesday-Friday 11am - 4pm
- Saturday & Sunday 11am - 5pm

See you there!

Second Sundays are Free Children's Book Day



Visit The Bookmark Bookstore at 721 Washington St., Oakland, CA 94607 or online fopl.org/the-bookmark

Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator of Grants & Volunteers



Since 1998, the Friends of the OPL have funded a competitive scholarship program open to OPL employees pursuing their Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degrees. This past year, OPL's Scholarship Committee received eight very compelling applications for the three awards of \$2,500 each.

One of the Fall 2023 awardees, **Dalia Ortiz Pon** (pictured on

the left), recently agreed to share with the Friends some of her professional inspirations and career goals:

Q. What prompted you to pursue a degree in library and information science?

I've appreciated the work of public librarianship and am interested in exploring the field more widely. A major draw in today's world, library science degrees distinctly provide foundations in both STEM and the humanities which allow for a versatile skill set that can be applied to various environments. I value libraries as flexible, changing spaces and want to pursue a combination of interests within my studies with an adaptive mindset which MLIS degrees compliment well.

Q. What are you learning in the MLIS program that could enhance your work at the Oakland Public Library?

I'm just now starting my program, mid-academic year. I have a rigorous desire to learn and believe developing a literacy in technologies will only support the work that I aim to be a part of. Prior to my studies I've completed two certificates from the Library Juice Academy, one in User Experience for Libraries another in Disability, Access and Inclusion and will be continuing to merge these fields to better inform my work with the Oakland Public Libraries.

Q. What are you excited to learn more about?

I hope to complement my practical experiences within libraries by learning about universal design principles and metadata with an introduction to basic coding. My intention is to fuse accessibility frameworks with digital information systems to support the design of web content that is available for everyone. Beyond this, I simply have a genuine

interest in the information field and want to know more about cataloging, archives and digital librarianship.

Q. What impact are you looking to make in the future?

I am still developing this answer for myself but whatever I do I hope there will be a connective component that resides within the community.

Get to Know Your Grants is a regular newsletter feature which highlights some of the library programs, activities, and improvements that are possible thanks to your support for the Friends of the OPL. For more information, please contact Sara DuBois at sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org

2024 Youth Poet Laureate: Applications Due Feb. 5, 2024



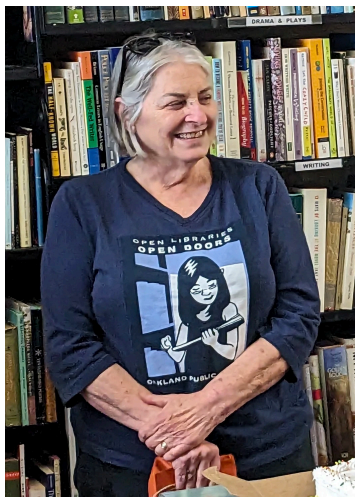
The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is supported by a broad coalition of partner agencies across the Bay Area: Chapter 510, Youth Speaks, Write-to-Read, and the Alameda County Library. The Friends of the Oakland Public Library finances the Finalist prizes and the Laureate's scholarship which is then administered through Scholarship America.

Each year the program accepts applications from talented Oakland writers (ages 13-18) to join a community of young poets. OPL began accepting applications for the 2024 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Program on January 5. Applications are due February 5.

Being part of the OYPL program means being part of a community of young poets and leaders who learn from each other, grow together, and share their truths with audiences in Oakland and beyond! Whether you are a practiced performance poet or are just learning to get your thoughts out in your notebook, this program is for you.

Go to oaklandlibrary.org/oyplapply to apply!

Friends Board Departures | Julie Waldman & Charu Mehra



We are sad to say farewell to longtime Friends Board Director, Julie Waldman. Julie joined the Board in 1999 and has held just about every position on the Board — secretary, president, treasurer, and most recently chair of the bookstore committee where she helped pilot the Bookmark through the unprecedented

challenges of Covid to emerge stronger than ever.

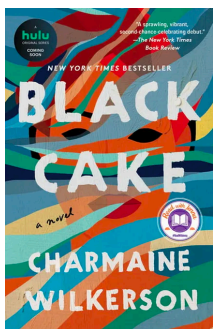
Board Director, Stephen Cole wrote a wonderful tribute to Julie on the Friend's website. Read the whole story of our committed, steadfast colleague: fopl.org/post/meet-julie-waldman. Thank you for all you've done for the Friends and OPL, we are deeply grateful!

We also say farewell to Charu Mehra who joined the Friends Board in 2020. Charu was an integral part of remaking the Friends communications, including helping design our website, working on the monthly e-newsletters, and newsletters. We will miss you Charu, thank you!



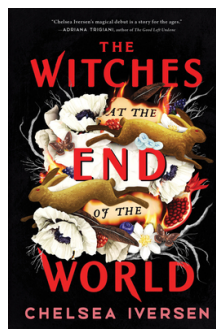
What the Friends Board is Reading

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



BLACK CAKE Charmaine Wilkerson

The story of two siblings, Benny and Byron, who reunite after many years when their mother passes away to watch videos of their mother telling the family history. The book covers themes of family, loyalty, race, and secrets woven around family ties. - Recommended by Erica Dennings



WITCHES AT THE END OF THE WORLD Chelsea Iversen

This is a speculative novel set in 17th-century Norway about two sisters who find themselves at odds when one incites a dangerous curse against the village where their mother once lived; but you can't take back dark magic once it's been released, and they know, like their mother before them, that someone will have to burn - Recommended by Aniya Grimm

Giving

- In memory of Judith Toll from Robert Toll
- In memory of Judy Toll from Lee Aurich & Helen Hutchison
- In memory of Judith Toll from Patricia Cipriano
- In memory of Audrey C. Leshin from Maryann Leshin
- In memory of Tina Wong from Steven Wong
- In memory of Rosalie Mailman from Anonymous
- In memory of Shirley Rodenborn from June Curtis
- In memory of Velma Marie Simmons from Anonymous
- In honor of the Foster-Weinzimer Family from Robin Dattel
- In honor of Natalie Greenberg from Rachel Pomerantz
- In honor of Jay Gash and Joshua Alperin from Re-Present Media
- In honor of Henry Maibach from Adam Derewecki
- In honor of local author, Booki Vivat, from Jeff Kinney, author of the Wimpy Kid series
- In honor of Sue Pon from Lawrence Joe
- In honor of Joan C. Colgan from Christine Colgan
- In honor of the Bolton Schodt Family from Julie Pickering
- In honor of Jen Kampf – one Clever reader! From Karissa Fite
- In honor of Colleen Haikes from Amanda Brown-Stevens
- In honor of Candace Besso from Dana Hansen
- In honor of Liz Soskin from Scott Sperling
- In honor of Stefanie Wissmann, Master Teacher, from Bob and Karen Wissmann



Friends of the OPL Board Members

- ✦ Ynez Arce, *Vice President, Newsletter Editor*
- ✦ Jennifer Chan
- ✦ Mifta Chowdhury, *Assistant Treasurer*
- ✦ Stephen Cole
- ✦ Erica Dennings
- ✦ Elizabeth Falkner
- ✦ Aniya Grimm
- ✦ Colleen Haikes
- ✦ Corey Hatcher
- ✦ Sara Jewell, *Treasurer*
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Cora Tellez
- ✦ Anastasia Yip, *Secretary*

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We welcome your feedback & comments:

info@fopl.org

If the date on your mailing label is **12-01-2023**
or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

Thanks to your support, in the last 10 years Friends of the OPL granted almost \$2 million for library programs and projects. Thank you for your continued support!

Mission

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 Libraries.

Ways to Support Friends of the OPL

- Membership - your annual member dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library
- 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 where members receive discounts for their purchases
- Donate gently used books to The Bookmark Bookstore
- Purchase new books at bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore

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.