

Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois, Coordinator of Grants & Volunteers

The Asian Branch Library is a busy branch which has a large collection of materials in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese. Branch Manager Janet Cheung and staff were thrilled to receive their first Branch Equity Grant from the Friends of the Oakland Public Library in the fall of 2022. With additional funds from the Friends of the Asian Library, they used the grant to order a beautiful play kitchen – designed to encourage creative play – for the youngest patrons.

This year's grant allowed the Asian Branch Library to create a colorful and fun mural in the children's area in February. Working with the Cut Fruit Collective, Civic Design Studio, and students from Oakland High School Visual Arts Academy, they covered the pillars with culturally relevant public art paintings of persimmon, lychee, dragon fruit, bubble tea, egg tart, and other edible treats that one can find in Oakland Chinatown. This artwork not only complements the play kitchen and engages the children, but it also delights staff and patrons of all ages. \$500 remains in this year's grant, and Janet plans to use it for a Lao Traditional Dance performance to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May.

Other OPL locations are also using Friends of the OPL grant

funds to brighten their spaces. The Main Library has printed and hung colorful photos in the community room, and the Children's Room engaged a local artist to paint whimsical new signage for the entryway.

The César E. Chávez Branch recently finalized the design for an amazing new mural in the lobby. Artist and muralist Xochitl Nevel Guerrero – whose work graces the Women's Building in San Francisco, La Clínica de la Raza in Oakland, and numerous East Bay schools -- will begin the project this spring.

These enhancements bring excitement and joy to our library spaces, and they will continue to do so for many years to come. Such projects would not be possible without these grants from the Friends of the OPL. Thank you!



Asian Branch Library colorful improvements thanks to a Friends Branch Equity Grant

The Bookmark News

Extended Weekend Hours

Starting April 1, 2023

The days are finally starting to get a little longer – which means more daylight hours for book shopping!

Starting April 1st, we will be expanding our weekend hours at the Bookmark Bookstore to be open from 10:30am – 5:30pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Store hours will remain the same on weekdays as they are currently: open 11:00am - 4:00pm on Wednesday - Friday.

The Spring Sale is Coming!

April 28-30, 2023



Proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Library



APRIL 28-30, 2023

10:30am – 5:30pm daily

FRIDAY 50% OFF (MEMBERS ONLY)

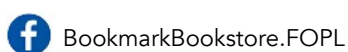
SATURDAY 30% OFF

SUNDAY 50% OFF

THE BOOKMARK BOOKSTORE

721 Washington St. Oakland, CA

Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media



Culturally Relevant Gardening Project at OPL

This spring, OPL launches its new Culturally Relevant Gardening project. You'll find in-person programs, expanded seed libraries, helpful brochures in English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Vietnamese, and even a gardening zine! Visit your local library or OaklandLibrary.org/Seeds to learn more.

This project is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. It also would not be possible without the fiscal sponsorship of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library!



Seed Lending & Gardening

Seed libraries are a free urban seed project. They are committed to increasing the capacity of our community to feed itself wholesome food. OPL seed libraries foster community resilience, self-reliance, and a culture of sharing.

Anyone is welcome to come in and check out seeds and you don't need a library card. We ask that you let some plants go to seed after planting them and return some of these next generation seeds for others to borrow.

The following locations have a seed lending library:

- 81st Avenue Branch
- African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO)
- Brookfield Branch
- César E. Chávez Branch
- Dimond Branch
- Golden Gate Branch
- Main Library
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch
- Melrose Branch
- Montclair Branch
- Rockridge Branch
- Temescal Branch
- West Oakland Branch

OPL Events

Nightcrawling: A Conversation with Leila Mottley and Shereen Marisol-Meraji

Wednesday, April 12, 7pm - 9pm
Oakland Museum of California

2018 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, Leila Mottley, will discuss her book with journalist and UC Berkeley professor, Shereen Marisol Meraji. Their conversation will be followed by a book signing with Mottley. Get your ticket here: oaklandlibrary.org/nightcrawling

Survive & Thrive

Sunday, April 23, 2023, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Main Library

A Literary Reading & Conversation with Devi S. Laskar & Lucy Jane Bledsoe considers what is redemption? How do you get it? How is it different from revenge? Multi-award winning authors Lucy Jane Bledsoe and Devi S. Laskar will read from their new novels and discuss how they write with an eye toward redemption that is true and honest. OaklandLibrary.org/Thrive

2023 Summer Programs

May 27 - August 5, 2023

The library is planning lots of fun for all ages – including adults! – this summer. Mark your calendars to visit the library or OaklandLibrary.org/Summer on May 2, so that you don't miss a single day of OPL Summer Programs!

2023 Youth Poet Laureate: Who will be the 2023 YPL? Find out LIVE!

Friday, June 2, 7pm - 8:30pm
Oakstop Broadway Gallery, 1721 Broadway

Featuring performances from all 2023 Finalists and special guests! *Learn more:* oaklandlibrary.org/youthpoets

Friends of the OPL is a proud sponsor of the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Program, a citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and connect young writers to far-reaching opportunities.

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



Friends Board Bids Farewell to Valerie Villanueva and Nick Marble



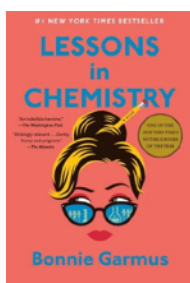
The Friends board and the Bookmark Bookstore staff and volunteers will dearly miss Director Valerie Villanueva, who stepped down in January because of professional and personal demands. Valerie, who was appointed in May 2017, served as board Secretary in recent years. But her claim to Friends fame may always be her significant contributions to helping shepherd the Bookmark through the pandemic. Farewell and thank you, Valerie!



The Friends board bids a fond farewell to Director Nick Marble, who was appointed in March 2021. Nick brought his passion for drawing, painting, creating and designing to the board's Development, Engagement and Communications Committee, while helping to manage the Friends' volunteer intake process. Nick stepped down on New Year's Eve 2022. We will miss his professionalism and humor. Best wishes, Nick!

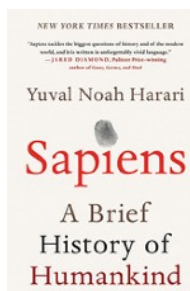
What the Friends Board is Reading

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



LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY: A NOVEL
Bonnie Garmus

This novel chronicles single mother and feminist Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant chemist in a man's world-1960s America-as she becomes an unlikely cooking show host and a role model for her daughter and other people she encounters. - Recommended by Erica Dennings



SAPIENS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND
Yuval Noah Harari

Sapiens is a narrative of humanity's creation and evolution - exploring how history and biology have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be human. A fascinating read!
- Recommended by Ynez Arce



OAKLAND EARTH DAY
oaklandearthday.org
(510) 239-7630

Partners: CURE IT, GREEN, LEAN IT, @Bartable

Accessibility request? Contact adigital@oaklandca.gov (510) 239-7630. TTY for relay service

Celebrate Earth Day with the City of Oakland

In honor of Earth Day 2023, please enjoy this list of books, movies, documentaries, websites, and podcasts curated by members of the Friends Board: tinyurl.com/yew99t8m
Did we miss any great resources? Add a comment/suggestion to the list Doc and we will review!



Giving

- In honor of Colleen Haikes from Amanda Brown-Stevens
- In honor of Stefanie Wissmann from Bob and Karen Wissmann
- In honor of Jude's birthday from Gabriel Sarah
- In honor of Ronile Lahti from Winifred Walters
- In memory of Robert Bellanti, UCLA Librarian Emeritus, from Lin and Charles Tynes
- In memory of Luella Edmond from Susan Hughes, Barbara Oseroff, D. M. Jackson, Jennifer Jolly, Christine Sinn, Judy Martin, D. R. Gibson, Marilyn Cleveland, J.E. Johnson Glover, Martha Green, and Dino O'Neal
- In memory of Michel Roublev from Dorrie Slutsker

Thank you to members who participate in workplace giving programs offered by these employers:

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Apple | • Gilead | • Netflix | • Spotify | • XL Construction |
| • Chevron | • Google | • PricewaterhouseCoopers | • Take Two Software | |
| • Clif Bar | • Kaiser Permanente | • Roblox | • Thermo Fisher | |
| • City of Oakland | • LinkedIn | • PG&E | • WarnerMedia | |
| • The Clorox Company | • Moss Adams | • Salesforce | • Wells Fargo | |



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

If the date on your mailing label is **03-01-2022**
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.