



THE FOPABL HOOT

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO HOOT!



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The Campaign for a permanent library for Piedmont Avenue begins!

Four years. We have four years left on our lease on the building on Echo Avenue that houses the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library. That's about how much time it will take to secure a permanent home – all things considered – so we need to start now.

The Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library (www.fopabl.org) is launching the campaign at a meeting in our library on Thursday, September 13th at 6:30 pm. Can you join us then?

We will assign teams to interview city and library administrators to determine what funds are available for rent and improvements.

We will explore with OUSD officials if the derelict building next to the library could become our permanent home.

We will research several options for funding the library. For example, we'll look into partnering with a developer or other builder or creating a special tax district for our area.

As you can see, we've got ideas; now we need foot soldiers. We need a variety of skills for this multi-year effort. Please come to the 6:30 pm meeting Thursday September 13th to learn more. Childcare and snacks will be provided. Or send us your thoughts by email to contact@fopabl.org. We need to hear from all of you.



Kids & kids



EBRPD Naturalist at the Library



Ice Cream Team

A Menagerie at the Library

Screams erupted as Banana the python began slithering from her crate, then ooh's and ah's of awe as

all 8½ feet emerged and showed herself. But that was the beginning of the end of the amazing show put on by Tracy Hill and his assistant, a team otherwise known as Furs, Scales and Tails.

It had begun more than an hour earlier with the hamster, Chubby Dubby. Tracy, sounding like a rap artist with a constant prattle that was sometimes directed to the animals and sometimes to the audience, opened the door on top of Chubby Dubby's cage so he could show him off and give him a piece of bread. Putting him back, he carelessly (?) left the bread on top of the cage and the door open. Predictably, when Tracy turned his back and reached into another cage for Brown Town, a baby hamster, Chubby Dubby reached out and grabbed for the bread. Kids laughed, yelled and pointed until Tracy turned around and pushed Chubby Dubby back into the cage, and, you guessed it, left the door open again and the bread with the bread on top.

Then it was Marshmallow's turn. A fat grey and white rabbit, he was content to sit and be admired while he munched on a carrot. But he was on top of Midnight's bin. (All the animals had been transported in blue plastic bins so the audience couldn't see them till they emerged.) Marshmallow stayed where he was while his bin was tipped enough to let Midnight's lid be opened. Midnight turned out to be a small black chicken with a handsome red comb on his head. As he settled on Tracy's arm, Tracy held out a worm. "Anybody want this?" he asked. When no hand went up, he offered it to Midnight who gobbled it with gusto.

About this time the head of Chubby Dubby emerged from his cage. The kids began to yell and point as he reached out for the bread. While Tracy pushed Chubby Dubby back into the cage, Midnight flew onto Tracy's head. Looking all around, it took Tracy a while to locate him. Meanwhile, bedlam erupted - the hamster was after the bread again.

Then there was Boo, the turtle, and a tree frog named Echo. A baby turtle, too, and Mr. Claws, a hermit crab. The tarantula, and iguana. A chick -- yes, a tiny fluffy chicken. And more before Banana made her appearance.

By this time the drama and excitement had attracted everyone in the library, all standing except the kids who sat around the children's section that was full and overflowing. With no more sitting space, a number of the children stood also.

The finale of the show had everyone lined up to say goodbye to the animals that had provided such a wonderful experience. They petted and patted and stroked. Then everyone left with unforgettable memories, and the library returned to its usual quiet.

It was definitely not your grandma's library.

by Ruby Long, a neighbor whose work has appeared in local and national publications



The Book Worm Recommends

Jacqueline Winspear *To Die but Once*

Not all war casualties occur on the battlefield

In this novel, Jacqueline Winspear takes us to England in 1940 just as people are realizing that England is going to war with a much stronger Germany. Adults remember the devastation of the last war and want to protect their children. Masie Dobbs, a private detective, learns of the disappearance and murder of a young man who was unhappily employed as a painter at British military bases preparing for action. Why would he be killed? His parents and other adults thought him lucky because he had a very desirable job—one exempted from military call up. So why was he sick and afraid? Solving the mystery introduces us to the anxiety of the coming war and its many difficulties such as rationing of food and gas, criminal profiteering as government contracts are hastily awarded,

and enemy spies hiding in the community. When the population learns that the Germans have defeated the British troops in France and the survivors must be rescued from the beach at Dunkirk, many families face tragedy.

This is Maisie Dobbs' 14th novel, and what a life she's lead! She's been a housemaid, an Oxford scholar, a titled Lady, a nurse in WWI and the Spanish Civil War, a spy in Hitler's Germany, and more. It is not necessary, however, to read the books in order because each book focuses on a separate, fascinating adventure. And Maisie Dobbs, like Nancy Drew or Miss Marple or Sherlock Holmes, never fails to set things right.

by Ann. P. McCauley

Ann studied Anthropology at Cal and works in international health. She loves stories with sympathetic, wise characters who engage in humorous conversations and travel to exotic places.



Musicians Wanted

Do you sing, and maybe play guitar, ukulele or another small instrument? Margaret Rodriguez is looking for volunteers to lead a sing-along on the second Saturdays of the month with seniors, babies, and families at the Piedmont Gardens retirement home.

Email mrodriguez@oaklandlibrary.org for info, or drop by the library to chat.

What's Happening at the Library

Ongoing Events

Wednesdays at 10:15 am – Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays at 11:00 am – Pre-School Storytime

Fridays at 3:30 pm – Build Fridays; Legos & More

Saturdays at 10:30 am – Baby Café

Saturdays at 2:30 pm – eBook Help

Events August 15 - September 30:

Saturday, September 9 at 10:30 am – Baby Café located at Piedmont Gardens 110

41st Street

Bring joy to the folks at Piedmont Gardens and meet up with other young families. At the Skilled Nursing and Memory Care, we bring the babies and toddlers for a morning with the residents there. The residents shake tambourines and sing along, trying to get the babies' attention, or nap quietly in their wheelchairs. The parents dance their little ones around the circle, saying hello to the seniors. Join us for the fun on the second Saturday of each month.

**Thursday, September 13 at 3:30 pm – Teen Pop Up Program Ages 12-18
Design Your Very Own Tote Bag. All supplies provided.**

Do you like to make [crafts](#)? Want to tell us about your [favorite](#) book? Please [join](#) us every second



Thursday of the month from 3:30-4:30 pm.

Thursday, September 13 at 6:30 pm – Meeting of the Friends of Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

A planning meeting to start the campaign for a new permanent library. We need your help. Snacks and childcare will be provided.

Saturday, September 15 at 1:00 pm - Berkeley Rep Talk: *A Doll's House Part 2*

Who's that knocking on the door? Nora is back in this audacious Tony Award-nominated comedy—a fiercely intelligent and theatrically scintillating play that delighted audiences both on Broadway and off. It is set 15 years after she slammed the door on her marriage and children in the revolutionary final scene of Ibsen's signature play, *A Doll's House*. As this play, *Part 2*, written by Lucas Hnath, opens, Nora is a successful yet scandalous writer, and she's being blackmailed. She returns home because she needs her former husband's help, but her family has a few grievances they need to air first.

To find out more about this intriguing play join us for a talk about *A Doll's House, Part 2*.

Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 - 7:30 pm - Sensory Gardening Class with Kristen Smeal

Gardening is the ultimate sensory experience. From the smell of fresh cut flowers and herbs to the sound of a lovely wind chime or birds' songs, all five senses can be engaged. This short lecture will present ideas on how to create a multi-sensory experience in your own space, whether it be a backyard garden, balcony, or inside the home. There will be a hands-on activity and plant swap at the end and everyone will take home a plant. Kristen Smeal, M.Ed. grew up on a farm in the rolling hills of Pennsylvania. She brings her farm roots and love of gardening to an urban environment by teaching sensory garden workshops around the Bay Area. Feel free to bring a plant, seed, gardening book or material to swap.

All these activities and events, unless otherwise noted, take place at the [Piedmont Avenue Branch](#), 80 Echo Avenue, Oakland CA 94611