



A Message from Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library



Vol. 2 No. 11

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A permanent home for Piedmont Avenue Branch Library? What do you think? You are about to be asked.

The Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library (Friends of PAL) will be conducting a survey of all the residents of the neighborhood because they need to learn what the community wants and is willing to support. They are forming the core questions into a **survey** form now.

Nobody expects it to be quick or easy to get a permanent brick-and-mortar branch library, but few have an understanding of all the different elements involved. This **survey** is designed to lay out the issues and ask residents to weigh in.



Watch for their survey to come to you by email, just as this newsletter does. Send your answers, then watch this space to see the summary of the results.

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 28th, beginning at 6:30 pm in the library, and you are invited.

Feel like a Rock Star



How would you like to feel like a rock star, with adoring faces focused on you, cheers and applause as you finish your gig and cries of “more, more” following your exit? All this happens to Oakland Public Library’s Volunteer Story Readers.

The program that trains these volunteers is now twenty-five years old – one volunteer has been with the program for 24 years. The program is led by Rochelle Venuto who coordinates *Books for Wider Horizons* at Oakland’s Main Library. Her

office is like no other you’ve seen, with stuffed animals hanging on the coat rack, rattles in boxes on the floor and shelf after shelf of hand puppets and books for preschoolers, all available for volunteers to take with them on their gigs.

Volunteer readers attend six two-hour training sessions at Rockridge library, led by children’s librarians from the Oakland system. The training culminates in a day long meeting where each person has an opportunity to show off their newly learned skills.

Many of these volunteers are retired women and men, but some are as young as eighteen. Those whose grandchildren live in the area are lucky because they have subjects in their family on whom to practice.

When training is complete, the volunteer is assigned to a preschool where they go every week for half an hour and present a story or two. This doesn't always mean sitting and reading to a rapt audience for twenty to thirty minutes. There's a wide range of sitting-still ability in kids who come to these programs, so the volunteers learn to be flexible in the story telling. Sometimes they may close the book and tell the story in their own words, or pick up a puppet and let it talk for them. Adaptability is an asset for these volunteer readers.

The initial training doesn't end with a wave and a goodbye. There are regular workshops, potlucks and parties for the volunteers, gatherings where you can tell your stories of challenges met and rewards received, a place where you can feel part of the community of readers.

If you'd like to be part of this fun and satisfying endeavor, stop by the library – any Oakland library – for a flyer and ask a librarian for more information. But do it soon, training begins early in September.

Rochelle Venuto's library number is 510-238-7453. Her email is rvenuto@oaklandlibrary.org

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



Little Explorer Petting Zoo
at the library



Dear Hoot:

Please tell me when and where I can get more of that delicious mango banana cake I bought at the library bake sale at the John Street Jumble Sunday. I can't find it anywhere.

-- Questing Customer

Pam's BLUE RIBBON BANANA-MANGO BREAD

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 C vegetable oil
- 1/2 C butter or margarine melted
- 1 1/2 C sugar
- 2 C flour (You may use 1 C whole wheat & 1 C all-purpose flour.)
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 C bananas, sliced & firmly packed
- 1 C chopped, drained mangoes
- 1 tsp vanilla

Add 2 C chopped walnuts if you wish.

(There were no walnuts in the bread at the Friends of PAL Bake Sale)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease & flour a small angel food cake pan or two 8 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 2 1/2 inch loaf pans.

Beat eggs, oil, butter and sugar for 2 minutes. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Add bananas, mango and vanilla and mix until bananas are mashed. Add nuts. Pour into prepared pans and



bake for 50 to 55 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Remove from pans immediately and cool on wire rack.

ENJOY and thank you for the compliments! This recipe comes from my favorite cookbook, "A Taste of Aloha" from the Junior League of Honolulu. I am so pleased it was such a hit. It will be a standard at future Library Bake Sales!

Pam Feack



Eragon Book Series

by Christopher Paolini

reviewed by Sophia Bylin

My favorite book series is Eragon. The author is Christopher Paolini. I like the series because I am interested in fantasy, realistic fiction and sci-fi. I like this book because there are lots of battles, twists, dragons and romance. It is kind of sad.. well.. I am not the one to give a spoiler.

I read this book in 3rd grade and it is a very complicated book. I think the age range is 6th grade.

From what I remember the book was about this person named Eragon (of course), who lived on a farm. His life is pretty simple until he finds this blue jewel in the woods. It is very pretty and looks to be worth some good money. So he takes it to the fair that comes 'round every month (?) and he tries to sell it. The jeweler takes a look and says, "this is unsellable and it not any jewel I've ever seen." Eragon then replies, "oh man..." and heads home.

Later that night he wakes up to a cracking sound and he scrambles out of bed and finds the big jewel (oh did I mention that it was big?) A blue dragon come out and selects him as his rider. Eragon then says, "ok. This is cray-cray. Now I have to name you". He looks at the shell, then the dragon. The shell, the dragon. Shell, dragon, shell, dragon and then thinks: "she's blue, like a sapphire." So he says: "You look like a Saphira." And she (yes the dragon was a she) looks at him funny and thinks 'wow, this guy isn't that original..' but says "fine."

He cheers, and I THINK his brother wakes up and comes in and finds the dragon. That must've been *really* awkward. Now, the next day Eragon had to hide and feed the dragon. Some months passed and something big and bad drives him out of his peaceful village life into sad, chaotic war life. And takes his dragon and brother.

Enough now. This series has four books in it, so now I will step back and let you read them yourself. I hope you enjoy the books and this report. Sophia, out!

Sophia Bylin, age 12, is a student at Edna Brewer Middle School. Her interests are reading and art.

What's Happening at the Library

Ongoing Events – every week

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

August 15 - September 30, 2019

Beginner Knitting & Crochet class
with Handability Saturdays August 3 – August



Drawing by Alexis Bylin - Age 10

31 at 2:30 pm

Every Saturday afternoon in August the Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library and Handability are joining together to provide a Beginners Knitting & Crochet class intended for adults and kids ages 8 and up. All materials are provided. Space is limited. To register, call 510-597-5011.

Build Fridays Design, build and explore every Friday after school at 3:30 pm

Legos and Duplos every week, plus building surprises... come see what we have this week! Will it be Keva planks, marble run, or something new?

Baby Café at Piedmont Gardens Saturday September 14th at 10:30 am
Meet in the lobby at Piedmont Gardens, 33 Linda Ave.

Bring your baby or toddler to Baby Café for coffee and playtime!

The second Saturday of each month, we meet at the Piedmont Gardens retirement community for music and playtime with seniors in nursing and memory care. Siblings welcome. No colds or sniffles, please.

Friends of Piedmont Avenue Branch Library Meeting Wednesday August 28 at 6:30 pm

How can we support our branch library? What can we do to ensure our library has a permanent home? Join us as we work for a solution.

Super Smash Bros Preliminary Tournament! Thursday September 12 at 3:30 pm
Nintendo Switch Super Smash Bros In-House Tournament!

Do you play Super Smash Bros? The library is having a Super Smash Bros Tournament!

Think you have what it takes to win it all? The top two finalists will receive preliminary prizes and will get a chance to compete in the **Final Tournament on October 12th in the Main Library's TeenZone**, where they'll battle it out against contestants from the other libraries.

Snacks will be provided! Contestants must be ages 12-18.

Berkeley Rep Talk: The Great Wave Saturday September 21 at 1 pm

Join us for a docent talk about the latest play to hit the stage at the Berkeley Repertory Theater.

An epic new thriller spanning over 20 years and the two vastly different countries of Japan and North Korea, The Great Wave is at once a riveting geopolitical thriller and a powerful story of the unshakable bonds between a mother, a daughter, and a sister who refuse to give up hope.

Unless noted, all these activities and events take place at the Piedmont Avenue Branch,

80 Echo Avenue, Oakland CA 94611

