



*A Message from*  
**Friends of the  
Piedmont Avenue Library**



Vol. 2 No. 10

July 15, 2019

## **Working Toward a Permanent Home for Our Library**

### **Bake and Book Sale**

Friends of PAL held a successful and fun Bake and Book Sale on June 1 that reached over 200 neighbors and raised funds to support our efforts to get a permanent home for the branch library when the current lease expires in 2022. For example, there are the expenses involved in establishing the non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that will be needed as we move forward.

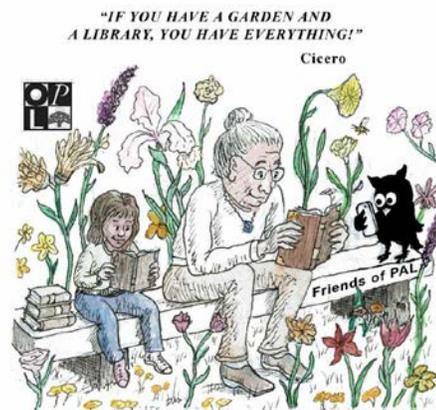
At this year's John Street Jumble – July 21 – there will be another Bake and Book Sale, so come by and join in the fun.

### **Where should the permanent library building be?**

At the June meeting of the Friends of the PAL, part of the discussion was about the number of people who say they would like the permanent home to be on the property right next to the modular building that our library currently occupies -- where the now vacant and unused Childhood Development Center is. That is not the only location that has been mentioned, but it is one that many see as their first choice.

It is owned by the Oakland Unified School District. It has not been used for some time, and we hope the District will designate it as "surplus property". Members of Friends of PAL are tracking the process the District uses to designate a property "surplus" and will report back at the next meeting to see if community input can be helpful.

The next meeting is July 24, beginning at 6:30 pm in the library, and you are invited.



**Fined for keeping library books too long? Not any more.**



Oakland Public Library has decided to stop charging fines for overdue books.

They have joined the nationwide movement to eliminate charges for overdue items because the fines 1) cost more than they bring in and 2) prevent some people from checking out books and using the resources.

Over 50 library systems across the country have taken this step, recognizing that overdue fines create unnecessary and inequitable barriers to resources.

“Our library exists because of community support. Our materials are meant to be used, and this is a more effective way of ensuring their availability to everyone,” said Oakland Director of Library Services Jamie

Turbak.

In 2017-18, the Oakland Public Library collected \$77,600 in overdue fines that were deposited into Oakland’s General Purpose Fund. However, OPL reported that it cost more than twice that amount in staff time to collect that income.

Books, audiobooks, CD’s, DVDs and items reserved through LINK+ will no longer incur overdue fines. But tools checked out from the Oakland Tool Lending Library *will* still have overdue fines, although those fines will be significantly reduced. And, while patrons will still be billed a replacement fee for items not returned *30 days past the due date*, the fee will be excused when the item is returned in good condition.



## Look What Noah Stiegler Did in Front of our Branch Library

Click here to see what Noah and his Boy Scout crew accomplished in the space in front of our branch library’s modular building:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/1tbU1QqRLmvNHpFa8>

There is a big handsome new sign. There is a charming garden bed next to the street. There is a clean and inviting patio for our outside use.

This was the vision and plan that Noah completed for his Eagle Project with the Boy Scouts Oakland Troop 202, and we thank him and everyone who worked on it with him.

## Our Library Today

*This is the last of a three-part article. Parts 1 and 2 gave the history of our branch library from its opening in 1912 to its move to Echo Avenue in 2012.*

Since moving into the portable building on Echo Avenue in 2012, the Little Library That Could continues chugging along, even though some of the faces have change. Jenera Burton has moved to a spot in the main branch downtown and the current staff of Michelle Rosenthal, Margaret Rodriguez, Russell Tran, Nikki Truong and Jessica Trimmer keep things on track.

In addition to their regular duties of checking out books and checking in those returned by patrons, these talented and friendly staff members are responsible for receiving the items ordered from other libraries and the new books arriving from the main branch. They keep all the shelves in order.

In addition to these duties and their behind-the-desk jobs, they organize and host programs like the two Baby Cafes -- one at the library and one at Piedmont Gardens. -- and story time for toddlers and one for preschoolers. Then there's Build Fridays, when the big blocks come out. And each month there is a different crafts session for teens.

Our librarians also schedule special programs like the chocolate tasting and the (outside) guest appearance of goats. They host actors from Berkeley Repertory Theater who come to the library to give a preview of their upcoming offering when it is about to change.

They arrange for a computer savvy person is there once each week to help with any e-device. Call to a reserve a spot, then bring your phone or laptop and find out, in a one-on-one session, what else it can do and learn how to make it happen.

We are fortunate indeed to have this great resource within walking distance for most of us and available to us six days a week now, recently increased from five days a week.

None of this would be possible without the support the library gets from the Piedmont Avenue community. Be sure to ask them how you can help keep this valuable resource in the neighborhood.

*Author's note: These three articles about our history and our library today wouldn't have been possible without previous articles by Ray Ranieri and Winifred Walters which have been drawn upon extensively. Another source, Ronile Lahti, has all her life lived within a few blocks of Piedmont Avenue and been a library patron. Her long relationship with the library and prodigious memory were of invaluable help.*

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



## **The Book Worm Recommends**

***Unto Us a Son is Given* by Donna Leon**

### ***Delicately Protecting a Loved One from Making a Serious Mistake***

This is Donna Leon's 28<sup>th</sup> novel about Guido Brunetti, a *commissario* of police in Venice. Those who've read the earlier books are glad to get our biennial update on Brunetti, his witty wife and charming children, his wealthy in-laws, his varied coworkers, and the concerns all these people have about current Venetian social issues. We don't complain that there is no crime until late in the story because the book is really about how these old friends are handling life's continuing challenges.

The focus of this story is an eighty-five-year-old man who wishes to adopt his 40-year-old lover. Doing so means that the younger man can inherit the older man's wealth under Italian law. Everyone has an opinion about this situation. Is the old man lonely and desperate? Is the young man caring or conniving? Why do we suspect the motives of a 40-year-old man when we would readily accept that a 40-year-old woman would do a conscientious job of taking care of an elderly person in exchange for the money? The reader and the characters must all examine their own values in light of this situation.

Leon's novel is not for those who enjoy car chases, fist fights, and torrid sex scenes. This is a policeman who uses exquisite subtlety in handling people. He lightly touches an old friend on the arm to express sorrow over a loss. He arches an eyebrow and sips his chilled wine when a waiter hints that there is a source of evidence as yet unexamined. He thoughtfully assigns his staff to tasks where they will do well and not be asked to make decisions that are beyond their skills. Brunetti, and behind him Leon, creates a world where people are wise, caring, and generous and as readers we are always glad to visit this pleasant place.

*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.*

## **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**

**July 15 – August 31, 2019**

**Sporty Stuff Outdoor Play Tuesday July 16 at 6 pm**

**Magic Workshop with Magical Nathaniel Thursday July 18 at 3 pm**

Are you interested in learning a little magic? Join us for this magic workshop and learn the basics and a few card tricks.

**John Street Jumble Sunday July 21 at 9 - 1 pm**  
**Montgomery Street near John Street**

The Friends of Pal will have a table at this annual event. We will be selling books and baked goods and talking to our neighbors about our campaign for a permanent home for our library. Come join the fun!

**Book Making For Kids & Families Tuesday July 23 at 6 pm**



**Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library Wednesday July 24 at 6:30 pm**

Meeting at the library 80 Echo Ave. Please join us in our campaign for a permanent home.

**Teen Terrarium Making Workshop Thursday July 25 at 3:30 pm**

Work with an artist from the Oakland-based Rock Paper Scissors Collective and learn how to create a mini terrarium. All supplies are provided. For teens, ages 12-18.

**Build with Keva Planks Thursday July 25 at 3 pm**

**Circus of Smiles Workshop Tuesday July 30 at 6 pm**

Come try your hand at juggling, experience tumbling, and master the art of comedy in a supportive and fun environment.

**David Grashton: Musician Wednesday July 31 at 10:15 am**

Music to both entertain and inspire joy and compassion. David's original children's songs encourage us to acknowledge and share our feelings. You'll also enjoy timeless classics by Pete Seeger, Burl Ives, Raffi, and The Beatles.

**Beginner Knitting & Crochet class with Handability Saturdays August 3 – August 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. This class is intended for adults and kids ages 8 and up. Please register at 510-597-5011, space is limited. All materials are provided.

**National Night Out & Little Explorers Petting Zoo Tuesday August 6 at 4:30 – 7 pm**

Come enjoy some ice cream with your neighbors while we celebrate National Night Out! This annual event is always fun. This year we're hosting Little Explorers Petting Zoo at 4:30. There will be various barnyard animals for folks to pet or hold (who knows what you will see at the library). Then an ice cream social. Hope to see you there!

**Teen Pop Up Program Thursday August 8 at 3:30 pm**

Do you like to make crafts? Want to tell us about your favorite book? Please join us very second Thursday of the month. The program in August is Ribbon Bookmark Making.

**Unless noted, all these activities and events take place at the Piedmont Avenue Branch, 80 Echo Avenue, Oakland CA 94611**

