



A Message from Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library



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A Permanent Home for Our Branch?

As we've reported in the past, much attention has been focused on the empty building next door to our current library, the unused Child Development Center (CDC) at 86 Echo Avenue, on the campus of Piedmont Avenue Elementary School. The Oakland Unified School District board has charged a special "7-11 Committee" with determining potential uses of several vacant properties, including the Piedmont CDC.



On October 17th, the 7-11 Committee held a public meeting as part of its process to gather community input on preferred uses for the CDC.

The evening started with the opportunity to go inside the CDC building to see all the rooms, the size and the lay out before the 7-11 Committee meeting began. Well over 60 members of the local and school communities filled the auditorium of the Piedmont Avenue Elementary School to voice their opinions on three questions: what is your interest in the CDC, what are your concerns, and what are your ideas for best use. Every one who spoke said they wanted something that benefited the community or students– and a library was mentioned frequently.

Here's what Friends of PAL will be recommending to OUSD and will be working toward: **OUSD should not declare the CDC as "surplus property" and instead negotiate a joint occupancy agreement (as is allowed by the state Education Code) with the City of Oakland to use the building for a permanent library branch that incorporates community benefits while allowing expanded access by classes at Piedmont Avenue Elementary.**



CDC on Echo



Inside the CDC building

Looking For a Little Help From My Friends

The Piedmont Avenue library, at about 1900 square feet, one of the smallest in the system, can be an example for all of us of doing a lot with a little.

In September, 5037 items – books, videos and other communication devices – were checked out and taken home by patrons. That translates to about 209 per day, which is 23 per hour. In other words, every two minutes or so, someone behind the counter is helping a patron so they can take their selection home.

Meanwhile, depending on the day, another librarian is hosting play time with the big blocks or leading pre-school story time. Another one might be at Piedmont Gardens, conducting the monthly multi-generation get-together with music or stories, while back at the library Berkeley Rep is telling about their upcoming show. Then there are the computer help sessions, one-on-one with a staff member.

Every day has some activity focused on a specific age group. And these are interspersed with performances involving animals or magicians or story tellers. All this goes on while the librarians are performing their regular duties – checking out books, rearranging furniture for another group, returning books, CDs, etc., to the shelves, answering questions for patrons, answering the phone, requesting a book from another branch, all in a 1900 square foot space.

The Piedmont Avenue Branch Library needs a bigger space. The activity per square foot is way too vigorous, the meeting space too limited, and we have an opportunity to let the library powers-that-be know.

Join Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library to determine support of a neighborhood library. Take our 2 minute survey today and share your opinion. At the Friends' web site www.FriendsofPal.org or at the library.

By Ruby Long

Ruby is a neighbor whose work has appeared in local and national publications.



The Book Worm Recommends

The Girl Who Lived Twice by David Lagercrantz

The Dark Side of Sweden

This is the sixth novel in the Millennium series that focuses on Mikail Blomkvist, a good-guy political journalist, and Lisbeth Salander, a young sexually and socially abused computer genius with a wildly dysfunctional family. There is so much background to these two people that you should read the books in order beginning with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. Also, that first novel is the most surprising!

This story opens as Blomkvist learns that an unidentified homeless man has been found dead with the journalist's telephone number in his pocket. Why? To identify the man, Blomkvist sends the man's DNA data to Salander. Technology repeatedly steps in to add interesting plot twists to this narrative. Salander reads the DNA and learns that the man came from a specific valley in a remote place. At the same time, Salander is tracking her evil twin who is plotting to destroy her. When the sister threatens Blomkvist, he and his latest girlfriend switch to phone apps that allow encrypted communication.

The series is controversial because the original author, Stieg Larsson, died and David Lagercrantz has written the last three sequels. Purists still long for that first novel portraying a badly abused girl who triumphantly achieves revenge. Subsequent novels are less astonishing,

but they are faithful to the characters and have ingenious plots. Lagercrantz has also written highly original novels such as *Fall of Man in Wilmslow*, about the suicide of Alan Turing and that book is a fascinating look at British views of homosexuality in the 1950's.

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

Tuesdays & Wednesdays afterschool – fun stuff, mostly crafts

Wednesdays at 10:15am – Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays at 11:00am – Pre-School Storytime

Fridays at 3:30pm – Build Fridays

Saturdays at 10:30am – Baby Café

Saturdays at 2:30pm – eBook Help



www.FriendsofPAL.org

Hoot Happenings November 15 – December 31, 2019

Turkey Crafts! Tuesday November 19 at 1:30pm

To celebrate autumn, come to the library to make your own turkey. Decorate it however you want and take it home to keep.

This craft is for kids 5-12 years old. Children younger than 5 can participate as long as a parent or guardian is present.

Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library, PAL Meeting Wednesday November 20 at 6:30pm

Join us in our campaign for a permanent home for our library.

Come Write In: Join Us for Weekly Write-Ins for National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)! Tuesday November 19 & Tuesday November 26 4:00pm – 8:00pm

The Piedmont Avenue Branch is hosting a weekly Write-In for National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) every Tuesday in November. Join fellow NaNoWriMo writers for a chance to write together, utilize library writing resources, and get some NaNoWriMo swag!

Each year on November 1, hundreds of thousands of people around the world begin to write, determined to end the month with 50,000 words of a brand-new novel. Drop in and work on your next novel! Every story matters. Let's start writing yours.

With our newest resource, Biblioboard, writers can upload their completed novels and have them read by other library users! Ask us for more information.

For Grades TK to 5: Come Write In: Learn How to Write and Illustrate Your Own Book for National Novel Writing Month Tuesday November 19 & Tuesday November 26 4:00pm to 5:00pm

The Piedmont Avenue Branch will offer guidance for writers in grades TK-5 who want to write and illustrate their own stories for National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo).

Intro to Persian Poetry Saturday December 7 at 1:00pm

In the first segment, there will be an introduction to three famous Persian authors:

- Omar Khayyam, a poet, a scientist, and a philosopher;
- Saadi, Sheikh Moselh-eddin, a poet and a world traveler
- Hafez, Khajeh shams-eddin (in contrast to Saadi, "homey" person) the poet and philosopher

In the second segment, there will be a group discussion of their poetry.

Tree Lighting Saturday December 7 3:30pm to 4:30pm at Key route Plaza

Craft table plus book give away! Santa will arrive at 5:30pm

Get Crafty with Snowflakes! Thursday December 12 at 3:30pm

Join us for a crafty afternoon in the TeenZone! We will be creating 3-d snowflakes to make your winter brighter. All materials provided. For youth ages 12 to 18.

Berkeley Rep Talk: *Becky Nurse of Salem* Saturday December 14 at 1:00pm

A world premiere by one of Berkeley Rep's beloved playwrights, Sarah Ruhl

“Once upon a time people thought the devil explained everything. Then a hundred years later they thought sex explained everything. And now? They think statistics explains everything. But numbers don't explain anything. Numbers didn't explain the election, did they? Sorry, I didn't mean to bring that up.”

Out of work and out of love, Becky Nurse is an ordinary but strong-willed grandmother just trying to get by in post-Obama America. She's also the great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Rebecca Nurse, who was infamously executed for witchcraft in 1692—but things have changed for women since then, haven't they? Desperate to raise her troubled teenage granddaughter right, and also desperate to connect with an old flame, Becky visits a local witch for help. But those spells and potions don't work out exactly as planned.

This latest play from Tony-nominated Sarah Ruhl, *Becky Nurse of Salem*, speaks to the trials and triumphs of women today. It is a comedic, warmhearted story about trying to do the right thing in a chaotic world. Join us for a wonderful docent talk!

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

