

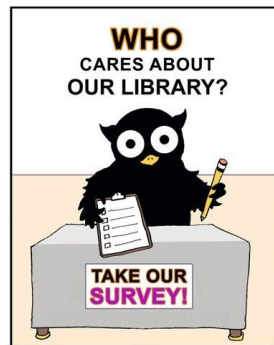


**A Message from
Friends of the
Piedmont Avenue Library**



Vol. 3 No. 1

October 15, 2019



Join Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library to determine support of our neighborhood library.

Take our 2 minute survey today and share your opinion.

www.FriendsofPAL.org

Update on Piedmont Avenue CDC

Many people have suggested that the permanent home of our branch library could be in the now vacant Piedmont Avenue Childhood Development Center at 86 Echo Avenue next to the modular building that currently houses our branch.



In July, we reported that the Oakland Unified School District is evaluating whether to designate this CDC as “surplus property” which could make it available for future lease, possibly to the Oakland Public Library for branch library use.

Friends of PAL are tracking the process required to designate a property “surplus”, which OUSD is implementing via a “7-11” citizen’s advisory committee to review the Piedmont CDC and 4 other sites. We assume there will be a meeting for community input on potential uses for the CDC at the Piedmont Avenue Elementary School on a Thursday evening in October or November, still to be determined by the committee.

What you can do if interested:

- Email 711committee@ousd.org now to say you want to be notified of the time and date of the meeting where the CDC building at 85 Echo Avenue is reviewed. Getting these emails now will alert the committee to the level of attendance they can expect. Once the meeting date is set, Friends will notify the Hoot mailing list and publicize it in the neighborhood.
- For more details on the 7-11 Committee process email Arleen Feng ayfeng@alum.mit.edu who has been attending meetings and submitting initial comments on behalf of Friends of PAL.

Our Library Staff!!!!!!

Left to right: Russell, Jessica, Hana, Michelle, Niki and Margaret

Come in and say hello.



More Library History

Those of you who read this newsletter regularly know that library services had been in several places on and near Piedmont Avenue before coming to the current location on Echo. But the Echo Avenue site has an interesting history as well.

The Hume family was the earliest to build on the property, in the 1860s or 70s. George Hume, who can now be found just up the road in Mountain View Cemetery, was a salmon fisherman from Maine. He bought several acres not far from the cemetery on what was then a country road and is now Piedmont Avenue, and he build a big house. The pillars that marked the entrance road to his property can still be found on Brandon.

The Humes had two children. There was no school for miles, so Mrs. Hume's sister, Miss Zilphia Raymond, a teacher, began giving them lessons at the dining room table. As word got around the neighborhood, other parents sent their children. One boy rode a horse that grazed outside while he had his lessons. Soon the need for a real school on a site of its own became clear.

After a couple of unsuccessful trials at other neighborhood locations, the Humes offered a part of their property to the school district and the city bought it for \$16,000. In 1892 first classes were held at Piedmont School on Piedmont Avenue and Echo Street. The name changed to Piedmont Avenue School when the city of Piedmont incorporated. It changed again, to Piedmont Avenue Elementary School in 1928 when 7th and 8th graders began attending middle school at Westlake.

The school, a showcase Victorian building, remained there until 1938 when a disastrous fire destroyed it. The present building was designed and built in 1939 as part of the WPA -- the Works Progress Administration, an economic recovery program directed by president Franklin Roosevelt. An impression in the sidewalk commemorates the date.

The building has been extended and portable buildings now take up part of the school grounds. One of these portable buildings is what we hope is Piedmont Avenue Library's *temporary* home.

The fact that our library is on a site with such an interesting history makes a charming story, but the library deserves better.

The spirit and the energy of those who work there and the interest and involvement of the library patrons is remarkable. In this newsletter, you can see what steps The Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library (PAL) is taking to secure a permanent home for our neighborhood branch library and you can see how to support the effort.

If you have friends who do not get this newsletter by email, ask them to send their email address to contact@FriendsofPAL.org to sign themselves up for the PAL mailing list. We invite every one to become a Friend of PAL and to learn about the process to secure a permanent home for our neighborhood branch library.

By Ruby Long is a neighbor whose work has appeared in local and national publications. She is the author of the 3-part series on the 100-year history of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library in the last issues of this newsletter. To see the past issues: <http://friendsofpal.org/news.htm>



Baby Cafe at Piedmont Gardens



More, Better Main Library: Update on the Oakland Downtown Plan

The revised Downtown Oakland Specific Plan was released Aug. 30. Thanks to your help, the revised plan now includes the need for a new and/or expanded Main Library and for improvements to the Main Library. The Plan also calls for further study of impact fees to fund such. While these revisions are a crucial step in bringing a new/updated Main Library to fruition, the Plan also raised several issues Library Advocates will address. We will request that the City Planning Staff make the following revisions: 1. In many places, the Plan speaks about the Main serving as a "shelter" for the homeless. The library provides shelter but is not a shelter – a key difference. 2. The value of the Main Library as an incubator of economic development was not mentioned. 3. The role the Library plays in supporting youth was not emphasized. 4. Although downtown development is viewed through an equitable framework, the role of the digital divide in Oakland and how the Library helps meet that challenge was not discussed.

You can read the entire Plan at: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/documents/draft-dosp-eir> There are many opportunities on the horizon where we would love to have representation from supporters of an expanded Main Library: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/news/2019/draft-plan-to-be-released-august-30>. If you cannot attend one of the listed meetings, please send your comments and thanks to City Planning staff at plandowntownoakland@oaklandca.gov.

By OPL ADVOCATES

The OPL Advocates are the informal coalition of volunteer advocacy groups working to support the Oakland Public Libraries



The Book Worm Recommends

Twisted Prey by John Stanford

Even Crime is Making Technical Advancements

The hard-boiled detective has been a popular and enduring fictional hero since Sam Spade. Current writers in this genre include Michael Connelly who writes about Los Angeles, Jussi Adler-Olsen who writes about Denmark, and John Sandford who usually writes about Minnesota. Each of these authors provides interesting characters, hilarious dialog, and cleverly complex plots. But all of them also move the story along with car chases, fist fights, and explosions rather than the cerebral examination of motives and opportunities favored by Agatha Christie's Poirot or Miss Marple.

In his new novel, John Sandford's hero, Lucas Davenport, has risen to the rank of Federal Marshal assigned to investigate the attempted murder of one U. S. Senator from Minnesota by the other senator from Minnesota. The murderous Senator is a psychopathic woman who has made useful contacts with rogue elements of the clandestine action community through her work on the Senate Intelligence Committee. These people are ruthless, but they are also really

sophisticated at using technology in criminal behavior.

The reader will learn how to use one car to run another off the road without leaving evidence on either car. Other useful tips include the use of flesh-colored face masks, techniques to poke adversaries' eyes out in close combat, and telephonic data transfer methods. The characters in the book can identify all firearms on sight and know the make and model of all motor vehicles, especially the cool luxury models. Rooms are bugged, phones are burners, and listener-proof bunkers are in daily use.

This is John Sandford's twenty-eighth Lucas Davenport novel and he has two other rough and ready series as well. His popularity is assured and rests on his ability to construct interesting puzzles solved by good-humored characters who specialize in snappy dialogue.

If you like action, quickly grab your Walther PPQ pistol .40 S&W and hop into your Ford F-250 truck because this author is for you!

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

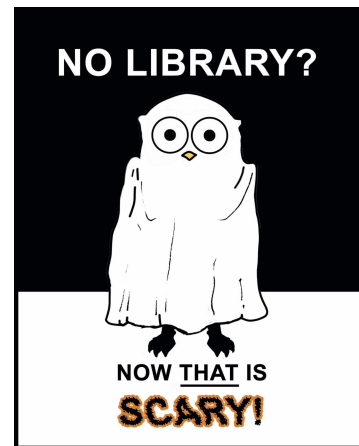
Fridays at 3:30pm – Build Fridays

Saturdays at 10:30am – Baby Café

Saturdays at 2:30pm – eBook Help

Hoot Happenings October 15 – November 30, 2019

Berkeley Rep Talk: *White Noise* Saturday October 19 at 1pm



"Racism is a *virus* and we've all got it. Ok, some more than others, ok. The workings of the virus are getting more complicated and the rewards are getting more sophisticated."

Leo, Dawn, Ralph, and Misha are old friends. The two 30-something couples are educated, progressive, and cosmopolitan. But when a racially motivated incident with the police leaves Leo shaken, he makes a radical proposition to Ralph that forever alters the relationship between these four friends—and their view of the world.

Brave, intelligent, and eviscerating, *White Noise* by Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks is one of the most talked about new plays tackling our rapidly unraveling social contract. We're proud to be the only regional theatre outside New York to present *White Noise* this year. Join us for a docent talk.

Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library – PAL Wednesday October 23rd at 6:30pm

Join us in supporting our library, be a PAL!

Halloween Celebration Events Saturday October 26

-- Slightly Spooky Toddler Storytime at 10:15am inside the MoveMe Boutique 3966 Piedmont Ave.

-- Piedmont Avenue Parade beginning at Montell & Piedmont Ave. at 11am

The bike library, EBike, will roll in the parade and then park in front of Piedmont Ave Elementary to give away books.

-- **Piedmont Avenue Elementary School Carnival at Piedmont Avenue & Echo at 11am**

Come to the library's Button Making Booth in the main activity room of the school.

Celebrate Día de los Muertos with Non-Sugar Skulls! Tuesday October 29 at 1:30pm

Sugar skulls are usually made with cane sugar and used to decorate altars to honor ancestors during Día de los Muertos. Here at OPL we make them with Model Magic ® and decorate them with color, glitter, and feathers. Join us!

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

