



# THE FOPABL HOOT

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO HOOT!



Vol. 2 No. 3

December 15, 2018

## Continuing Our Campaign for a Permanent Library

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 10 at 6:30 pm. On the agenda -- progress reports from the standing committees and a special presentation outlining what was involved in the process that eventually led to a permanent home for the Rockridge Branch.



We all want a permanent library for our neighborhood. In order to achieve this end, the campaign needs community support from readers like you. Consider joining the Finance Committee, the Development Committee, the Political Committee, the Site Committee or the Outreach Committee.

Check [www.fopabl.org](http://www.fopabl.org) for information and come join us!

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## Surefire Book Recommendations for Visiting Grandkids - Or Any Kids



Everyone loves Elephant and Piggie! Mo Willems wrote this early reader series for kids in and around 1st grade, but the jokes are hilarious for everyone from age 2 to adult. But if the tweens or teens are old enough to be afflicted with what I call "too-old-for-that-itis," try a random assortment of popular graphic novels. Anything by Raina Telgemeier should do, plus new favorites like *Dog Man* and *Catstronauts*.

Are they age 5 or younger? Just visit the library for a pile of dinosaur and truck books. Little dinosaur fans are sure to love *The Atlas of Dinosaur Adventures* and the brand-new *My Encyclopedia of Very Important Dinosaurs*. And if you're looking for a fun indoor activity, don't miss the most popular book in the library: *Karina Garcia's DIY Slime*.

Fans of David Shannon's hilarious and possibly autobiographical picture book *No, David!* and its sequels will be happy to learn there's a new one! Reserve your copy of *Grow*

*up, David today.*

And for our friends in 2nd and 3rd grade: *Ivy + Bean* book number 11 is finally here. It's been five years since local author Annie Barrows published book number 10, but she hasn't lost her touch. Book 11 is just as funny and unpredictable as the others.

*by Margaret Rodriguez, Children's Librarian*

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### **Just Imagine – a Library!**

I was awestruck the first time I visited a city library. At four, maybe five, I found the Sacramento Main branch quite amazing. Just amazing. So many books. Shelves and shelves of them, way over my head. So high I'd have to have a ladder to get to them.

“Who owns all these books?” I asked my teenaged cousin who was with me. “The library does. You check them out and bring them back when you're finished reading them,” she said. I was stunned to learn how such a treasure could be so available.

Throughout my life, libraries have played an important part in my quest for knowledge, information and self-indulgence. It has been books that helped me do research, learn a skill, or escape into another world where I watched someone solve a mystery or live through a love affair.

Although the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library is only a short walk from my home, if I'm feeling lazy or it's raining or it's Monday and the library is closed, I can go on line “into” the library. I can make a request on line and find the book waiting for me when I do get to our branch. I have yet to lose my sense of wonder at having such a treasure so close. And free, too.

The worlds I've explored, the things I've learned, the lives I've spied on, the expansion of my knowledge, all without leaving my neighborhood. And if the Oakland system doesn't have what I'm looking for, the amazingly helpful librarians almost always can request it from another system. How fortunate we are, especially in Oakland, to have this great resource, for many of us, almost in our backyard.

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



## The Book Worm Recommends

### *Longbourn* by Jo Baker

#### **An Astonishing New View of Jane Austen's World**

We all remember Jane Austen's heroines in *Pride and Prejudice*—lovely, young Jane and Elizabeth Bennet, unable to inherit their father's property, forced to find wealthy husbands or to live in poverty. How tragic, how unfair! But now, with Jo Baker's *Longbourn*, we get a look at the servants who work in the Bennet's household. We meet orphaned maid servants, employed at seven to wash lovely Jane and Elizabeth's dirty underwear and bloody rags, and desperate men without property or education. All are utterly dependent on the Bennet family for economic safety.

Jo Baker slowly introduces us to the contrast between the Bennets and their servants. We retain sympathy for Jane and Elizabeth as they pursue Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy, and we shudder again at the deeds of the evil, charming Captain Wickham, seducer of young girls. But in addition, we now see the daily lives of the servants and their efforts to figure out better options for their lives. We learn the drudgery of washing dirty diapers in a sink, cleaning thick mud from shoes, hauling water from the well, and emptying chamber pots. And we learn that the servants are also searching for love and security.

Somewhere in the telling we realize that if class barriers and inheritance laws have trapped the Bennet sisters, they have *really* punished those without any claim to property. Readers' sympathy for the Bennets has lasted two centuries, but it wears thin as they send a servant girl to walk miles in the rain for new flowers to decorate their dancing shoes. Their self-absorption seems, well, mean-spirited. And Mr. Bennet--a man ruined because he does not have a son--turns out to have illegitimate children whom he treats as cavalierly as wealthy men treat his daughters!

The magic of this book is the gradual change in focus from the usual concern for the five Bennet girls to a deeper concern for their servants as well, and thus we gain a whole new view of this much-loved tale.

*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**

### Events between December 15 & January 31st:



### **Thursday, December 27 at 3pm & Wednesday, January 2 at 3pm - Winter Break Chess**

Drop in and play a game with chess tutor Dave! Learn the basics or brush up on your skills. All ages welcome.

### **Saturday, December 29 at 3pm - Come and Make a Snow Globe!**

It may not snow in Oakland but that shouldn't stop you from enjoying a little winter wonder. Mix a little glitter, glycerin, and water, pour into a jar and you have a Snow Globe. Yes, this month we will be making Snow Globes. We will have all the supplies necessary but if you have an extra or special jar and lid bring it in to use for your own Snow Globe.

### **Saturday, January 5 at 1pm - Berkeley Rep talk, Paradise Square: An American Musical**

It's 1863 and in a 20-block area of Manhattan known as the Five Points, black and Irish Americans live side by side, work together, marry, and for a brief period realize racial harmony. However, the intensifying Civil War soon results in the first-ever Federal draft, leading to riots as whites are called to enlist while blacks are barred from serving. Will the hard-won bonds of friendship, community, and family in the Five Points prevail or be severed forever? Join us for a discussion with a Berkeley Rep docent.

### **Thursday, January 10 at 3:30pm - Teen Pop Up Program, Pulled String Art**

We will be making abstract art with strings and paint. What will yours look like? Come find out! All materials provided.

### **Thursday, January 10 at 6:30pm - Campaign for a Permanent Library –**

### **January meeting**

Those working on the Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library's campaign to secure a permanent home for our library will review the progress and consider plans for the next steps. See [www.fopabl.org](http://www.fopabl.org) and please join us!

### **Saturday, January 12 at 1pm - Veterans Pop-up Resource Center**

Learn about the benefits you're entitled to! Many people qualify for veterans' benefits that they don't know about. Speak to a staff member to learn about benefits for education, health, employment, housing and more.

### **Saturday, January 19 at 3pm - Storybook Science**

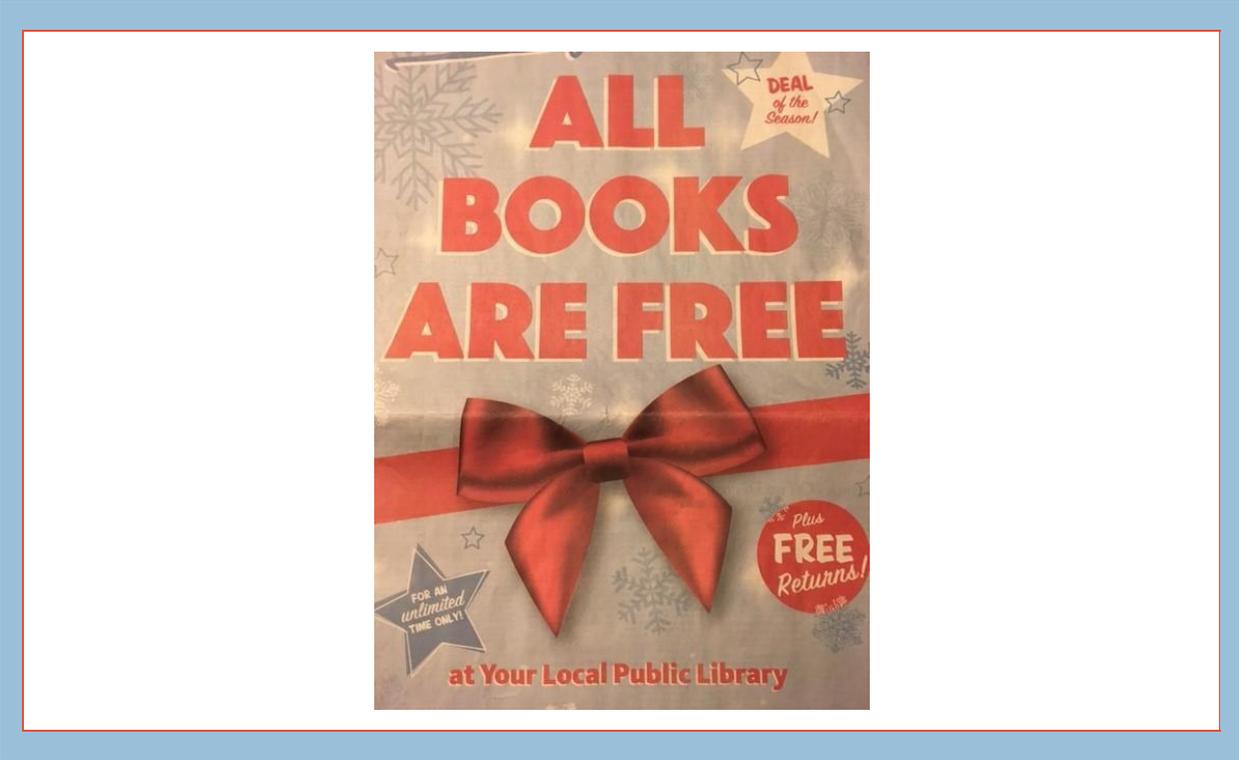
Join us to experiment with a problem found in a book -- use your smarts and skills to determine a solution, and then work to make it even better. Design, build, and test your one-of-a-kind creations. All supplies provided.

### **Saturday, January 26 at 1pm - Financial Planning for People Who Hate Financial Planning**

Benjamin Packard, of Lula Financial, presents a free 60 minute workshop that gives you a quick crash course in the basics of financial planning. Using stories and simple to understand concepts, he will teach you how to start planning for retirement.

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

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