



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



Vol. 2 No. 9

June 15, 2019

## Continuing Our Campaign for a Permanent Home

At the May meeting of Friends of PAL, Jenera Burton who was our branch librarian in 2012, and is now Oakland Public Library's Supervising Librarian for the Branches, came back to talk with us about how the City of Oakland handles requests for funding like one for a permanent home for the Piedmont Avenue Branch. She described Oakland's new approach to prioritizing Capital Improvement Projects that factors in equity or fairness. See an explanation here: <https://oaklandnorth.net/2019/05/14/oakland-tries-a-new-way-to-prioritize-city-improvement-projects-by-considering-equity/>

For an understanding of how equity is defined, see this excellent 2018 report "Measuring Change toward Greater Equity in Oakland"

<https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/2018-Equity-Indicators-Full-Report.pdf>

As Friends of PAL moves forward, the 6-member Steering Committee is forming a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that will become important as their efforts continue.

The next meeting begins at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, June 26 at the library. You are invited.

## Summer Reading is here!

Registration for the Oakland Public Library's Kids' Summer Reading Program is open now, and you can begin logging your activities. Kids who read 20 days during the summer (June 1 to August 3) will receive a free book and be eligible to win other prizes.

Click here to register:  
<https://oakland.beanstack.org/reader365>

Although the nuts and bolts differ with each age group, babies, kids, teens and adults are equally welcome to join in. As an added bonus, you get a prize just for signing up; you get vouchers for tickets to an A's game – four vouchers per participant.



OPL's Kids' Summer Reading Program rewards children for reading or listening to books or other materials that they pick out themselves.

Many local businesses have donated awesome prizes. There are drawings for special grand prizes such as a family stay at the Oakland Feather River Family Camp, one family membership to Children's Fairyland (ages 0-4) and one iPad (ages 5-14).

Note that our own Fentons Creamery is one of the financial supporters of the Summer Reading Program.

Check out the webpage for more details <http://oaklandlibrary.org/kids/summer-reading> and register online or at the library.



## Library Cards for Babes In Arms

Did you know that now people from ages 0 months to 5 years can get their own library cards? Yes, and for a fitting new look, there is a new library card with a Fairyland design available for people of all ages.

## History of The Piedmont Avenue Branch Library – Part 2

*Part one, in the May 2019 issue of HOOT, ended with closing of the library's first home, the building on 41<sup>st</sup> Street, where the branch had remained for 80 years – 1932 to 2012. Part two begins with that move.*

When the building at 160 41<sup>st</sup> Street was sold in 2012 to a private company, the City of Oakland leased a modular building on the grounds of Piedmont Avenue Elementary School for the new home of the branch.

In late October 2012, the move, organized and directed by librarian Jenera Burton, was a neighborhood affair. First, the thousands of books, the furniture, the computers and the like were transported in secure vehicles. Then, thanks to someone's brilliant idea, the annual Hallowe'en parade down Piedmont Avenue became a moving caravan with library patrons and their children carrying the odds and ends by hand to the modular building on Echo Avenue.

When everything had been deposited in that empty building, the doors were locked and the librarians, other workers and volunteers from Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library went to work. There were bookcases to be placed and stabilized, chairs, tables and the reception desk to be placed, signs to be attached, computers to be installed. The big job of mostly physical labor took more than two weeks and on November 27, 2012, the library opened its doors again.

Now this branch, one of the smallest in the Oakland system, with a regular staff of four and a half, has become like the train in the children's book, *The Little Engine That Could*. With a circulation of 5000 to 6000 checkouts a month, it is among the ten busiest in the Oakland system.

The next chapter in its history is in the making now as Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library campaigns for a permanent home in this neighborhood.

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



We carried the books down Piedmont Ave. to the



modular building at 80 Echo Street, our temporary home.

## The Book Worm Recommends

***Belgravia* by Julian Fellowes**



## A light hearted romp through the British class system

This book by the author of Downton Abbey, Julian Fellowes, describes the same world—magnificent wealth, worry about a male heir needed to secure all this privilege, headstrong young women who refuse to marry for money, and wounding social snubs coming from all directions. Set in the 1850s, the story involves the beautiful daughter of a (*gasp!*) tradesman who falls in love with the son of a Duke, a secret heir who is hidden from view, lost legal papers that emerge in the nick of time, an evil presumptive heir who seduces and is blackmailed by a cheating wife, and so on. All are interesting characters, and all are well described.

The story is like a game of solitaire, the rules are rigid and immutable, but cards are turned up in succession that rearrange the whole game. The fun is in not knowing what will appear next and in seeing new possibilities emerge where formerly none existed. It is enjoyable to see the author's nimble and unexpected plot turns. Not for a minute does the reader worry that anything *really* bad will happen. Fellowes' portrayal of the British class system as a jolly, lighthearted game is in contrast to that of Charles Dickens and Jane Austen who describe the real misery that unequal wealth causes. Fellowes, who is by birth a Conservative peer of the House of Lords, has made a long successful career of describing the class system as a comedy of manners to which he brings a clear and insightful insider's understanding.

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.*

---

## Friends of PAL Book and Bake Sale



The June 1 Book and Bake Sale was a tremendous success! We made money and signed up 21 new members of Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library.

The funds will support the work to secure a permanent home for our library. Thanks to all who stopped by to chat with us and hear about what Friends of PAL is doing.

Credit goes to everyone who donated books, baked, and volunteered. Special recognition to Nathan and Company, 4025 Piedmont Avenue, who once again provided us with tables and a \$100 gift certificate for our drawing. Thanks Nathan!

## 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 June 15 & July 31, 2019:

**Shrinky Dinks Craft Tuesday June 18 at 6 pm**

**Build with Giant Blue Blocks Thursday June 20 at 3 pm**



**Bubble Workshop Tuesday June 25 at 6 pm**

**Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library Meeting Wednesday June 26 at 6:30 pm**

Work with the Friends to find a permanent home for our library. We are currently reaching out to our neighbors to support this essential community resource. You can help; please join us at the June 26 meeting.

**East Bay Parks Naturalist Thursday June 27 at 3 pm**

Come discover what hops, crawls, hides, flies and grows from the hills to the bay with a naturalist from the East Bay Regional Park District. You'll meet live animals and get to touch skulls, pelts and more!

**Slime Time! Tuesday July 2 at 6 pm**

Come to our slime lab and learn how to make your own stash of squishy, oozy slime!

**Ice Exploration! Tuesday July 9 at 6 pm**

Use tools and salt to excavate frozen objects from big chunks of ice.

**Bead Animals Craft Thursday July 11 at 3 pm**

**See the Moon Tuesday July 9 & Wednesday July 10 6-8 pm**

Step outside our branch to see the moon through a telescope provided by the Eastbay Astronomical Society. Weather Permitting

**Sporty Stuff Outdoor Play Tuesday June 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.

**Book Making Tuesday July 23 at 6 pm**

**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 6 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.

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

---

