



THE FOPABL HOOT

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO HOOT!



Vol. 2 No. 7

April 15, 2019

The Campaign for a Permanent Home – What is Being Done Now?

About 20 of our neighbors have formed a group within Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library (FOPABL) to get a permanent home for our branch library.

They have been meeting once a month since September 2018. At the March 26th meeting, we learned where their most important focus is now: making sure everyone knows about this campaign.

The Outreach and Communication Committee, chaired by Sabrina Bowerman, will continue with Facebook (facebook.com/fopabl), Twitter (@fopabl) and Instagram (@fopabloakland) postings and will begin leafleting on Piedmont Avenue. Leafleting is the kind of face-to-face personal interaction that seems to be the most effective in getting people to understand what is at stake.

They will also be collaborating with all the merchants and all the schools in the neighborhood as a way to inform and involve everyone who lives, works, shops, spends time in and around the Piedmont Avenue neighborhood.

If you can be the contact person to a school or a business in the neighborhood, or if you can take a shift to hand out information on Piedmont Avenue, contact Sabrina Bowerman - contact@fopabl.org

The Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library is doing another Book and Bake Sale on May 18th. In the past, this event has proven to be a great opportunity to talk to your neighbors about books and about our library. And it raises money for the campaign for a permanent home for our branch library.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, at the library, beginning at 6:30 pm .

Don't Miss These

Did you miss the free chocolates Barlovento Chocolates passed out in the library in February? How about Cowgirl Creamery's samples at their March program? Don't miss these upcoming opportunities.

Another freebie is on its way, this time a taste of Berkeley Rep's upcoming presentation, "The Good Book" on Saturday, May 4th at 1pm. In the beginning of a new play's run at the theater, some of the staff will come to Piedmont Avenue Branch Library to talk with us about what will be happening next on their stage.

A chance to make some extra money awaits, too. On Saturday, May 8, recruiters for people to work in the 2020 census will be at the library from 10:30 to 12:30. Many jobs are available and the lowest pay, for census takers, starts at \$25 an hour.

Also in May, a celebration of Bike Month. A number of events are scheduled, but you especially won't want to miss the demonstration and instruction of how to make earrings from bicycle tire tubes. If they're not for you, consider making some for your mom, sister, girlfriend or boyfriend. Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30pm.





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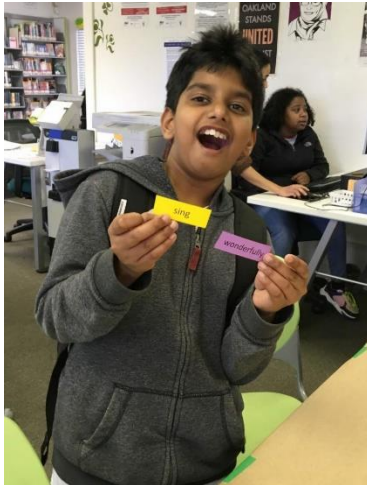


At another evening gathering in May, the 14th and 15th weather permitting, the East Bay Astronomical Society will set up telescopes outside the library from 6 to 8 pm. This will be a great opportunity to wear your new earrings as you have a close-up look at the moon.

All of these programs are organized by Michelle, one of the librarians at our branch. Some come from patron's suggestions. Have you heard about or seen something you think the neighborhood would enjoy? Let her know. You might see it on the calendar in a few months. Make it a habit to check the library website every week. A program you've been waiting for may be there.

Remember, this is not your grandma's library.

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



The Library That Looked Like a Cake

Forty years ago Harry Mantuch bought a small house in the middle of town. It had lots of nooks and crannies and dormers that stuck out from everywhere. It was a funny little house that Harry Mantuch painted white with bright yellow trim, and when it was finished, it looked like a cake. Harry Mantuch didn't live in his house. Instead, he planned to fill it with books just for children to read.

Harry Mantuch spent most of his days finding wonderful books for his library. He bought books about foxes and books about boxes. He bought books about stars and books about cars. He bought fairy stories and scary stories, and pretty soon he had filled his library with hundreds of books just for children to read.



One by one, the town's children discovered the yellow and white library that looked like a cake. They wandered in and were dazzled by all the bright colors and sizes of books on the shelves. They could sit quietly



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at the big round reading tables browsing through the books they had picked, and the best part was that Harry Mantuch would let them each take home three books for fourteen days !

Pretty soon Harry Mantuch had to get extra help to run the library, so he hired Mrs. Ship to help the children find the books they wanted and to answer all the questions that might pop up after each book had been read. Questions like "How many eggs will a robin's nest hold?" or "Who was the first person ever to toast a marshmallow?" or "If I mix blue and yellow together will I really get green?" There were so many questions that Harry Mantuch and Mrs. Ship needed another person just to help put away all the books the children were returning every day, so they hired Shalva the shelver. Shalva knew where every single book belonged.

As the years passed they watched the children grow up and pretty soon a new generation of children came to the library that still looked like a cake, even though Harry Mantuch had put on a new wing. Now there were thousands of books and several more helpers to keep track of all the books and to answer even more complicated questions like "Can I download this book onto my computer?" or "Will my robocat take a 9 volt battery?" or "How many tons of rocket fuel will propel a satellite dish to the moon?"

Finally, after forty years, Harry Mantuch decided to retire. He told Mrs. Ship and Shalva the shelver who were very happy for him but sad that he wouldn't be with them every day. Harry Mantuch told them that they were now in charge.

"I have a secret I must tell you because now you will run our library without me. For forty years, twelve times a year, on the first day of every month, I put a dollar bill into the first book borrowed that day. I never knew if any or all of the money was ever found by any of the children who read the books. I've always believed that reading, above all else, is a most rewarding past time and I just wanted to sweeten the pot a bit. It was a little game I played. I'd imagine the delight when the child found the dollar and perhaps that good fortune added a touch of mystery to the next book."

Mrs. Ship and Shalva the shelver loved Harry Mantuch's secret and promised to keep his secret alive for as long as they were in charge. He kissed them both on the cheek, took one long last look at the library that still looked like a cake, and went fishing.

By Rowena Winik, the author of The Sixty-Fourth Day , the story of her life on the streets as a teenager.



The Book Worm Recommends

The Outsider: My Life in Intrigue by Frederick Forsyth

An Author's Life Told as an Unpredictable Adventure

Early in this autobiography, Forsyth relates a charming story of an American army tank arriving outside his English home in 1941 when he was five years old. To his delight, a Texas cowboy emerges from the tank wearing a Stetson hat and offers him a first taste of chewing gum. A ten-gallon hat being worn in a tank? Unlikely. A skilled author who knows how to tell a great story? You bet! Forsyth goes on to tell us about learning to speak French and German like a native, as well as pretty good Russian and Spanish, and then about becoming a RAF pilot, a Reuters reporter in France and East Germany, a BBC reporter, and a war correspondent in the Nigerian civil war—all before he was thirty.



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Along the way he tells us how his early adventures foreshadowed his later novels. As a reporter in Paris, he covered plots to assassinate de Gaulle that he later used as the basis of his first book, *The Day of the Jackal*. Next, he tells us how he moved from hearing a vague rumor about networks to help Nazis escape, to talking with Simon Wiesenthal, to finding a concentration camp survivor, to writing *The Odessa File*. Years later, a man in South America saw the film adaptation of the novel, recognized the villain as a man who lived on his street, and turned him into the police. It is fascinating to see how an author constructs a book and then remains involved with it well past its publication.

Not all went well in Forsyth's life. He was injured, swindled, and deeply angered by British foreign policy in Nigeria. But he maintains a lively interest in the unexpected and he knows how to tell a great story.

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.



Musicians wanted!

Saturday, May 11 at 10:30 is Baby Cafe at Piedmont Gardens. Musicians wanted! Do you know anyone who would love to lead a singalong for seniors, babies and toddlers, and families?

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 April 15 to May 31, 2019

Tuesday April 30 at 6:30 pm – Monthly Meeting of Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library

Please join us with your ideas and energy in our campaign for a permanent home for our library.





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Family Yoga Thursday May 2 at 10:30am
Nurturing Connection through Movement, Song, and Play (Ages 2-6 with caregiver)

A yoga workshop for caregivers and toddlers where caregivers will support their children, ages 2-6, in guided song and movement. Children will learn yoga poses through story and games, playfully developing skills for improving listening, flexibility, motor development, circulation, and sensory integration. Caregivers will learn techniques for connecting nonverbally to their kids through sound and physical touch.

Provided by **Family Paths** in partnership with Oakland Public Library

Free Comic Book Day Saturday May 4 10am – 5:30 pm

Celebrate Free Comic Book Day at the Oakland Public Library!

Kids and teens: visit your local library and receive a **free** comic book. Supplies are limited.

Want even more comics? Check them out with your library card!

Berkeley Rep Talk about the play *The Good Book* Saturday May 4 at 1pm

A docent from Berkeley Rep comes to talk about their current production, *The Good Book*. This powerful play weaves together three distinct yet connected stories: a devout young man struggling to reconcile his belief with his identity; an atheist biblical scholar trying to find meaning as she faces her own mortality; and the creative journey of the Bible itself—from ancient Mesopotamia to medieval Ireland to suburban America—through the many hands, minds, hearts and circumstances that molded this incredibly potent testament to the human spirit.

Need a job? Recruitment for jobs with the 2020 census -- \$25/hr Wednesday May 8 10:30am - 12:30pm

2020 Census jobs provide great pay, flexible hours, weekly pay and paid training!

Stop by to talk to a recruiter or apply online www.gsa.gov/fedrelay .

Teen Pop Up Program Thursday May 9 at 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Stained Glass Candle Holder

Join us for a crafty afternoon in the TeenZone! We'll be decorating candle holders with colorful tissue paper to give them a pretty stained glass effect. All materials provided (candles not included). For youth ages 12 to 18.

Do you like to make crafts? Want to tell us about your favorite book? Please join us every second Thursday of the month.

See the Moon Tuesday May 14 & Wednesday May 15 6pm – 8 pm

Stop outside our branch to see the moon through a telescope provided by the **Eastbay Astronomical Society**. *Weather permitting*

May is Bike Month- DIY Earrings! Wednesday May 15 at 6:30pm

Celebrate Bike Month by making earrings out of materials from recycled bike tires. Everything needed is provided and free!



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Book & Bake Sale to Support Our Library Saturday May 18 10:30am – 2:30pm At Key Route Plaza

Buy homemade goodies & wonderful books. A great way to talk to your neighbors about our library. Sponsored by The Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library & their campaign for a permanent home for our branch library.

Gardening Workshop for Toddlers Thursday May 16 at 10:30am

Gardening is a perfect sensory activity for all ages! From the smell of the soil to the sight of beautiful flowers and the taste of herbs, all senses will be engaged in this class. The workshop will include story time, songs, and a hands-on activity. Kids have the opportunity to get a little dirty, so please dress appropriately.

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

