



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



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December 15, 2019

**Piedmont CDC Building – Another Step
Forward For Our Library**

The Friends of PAL welcomed the news that the 7-11 Committee (an advisory group to the Oakland Unified School District) voted on December 12 to recommend against the District declaring the now-vacant Piedmont Child Development Center (CDC) building to be “surplus property”.



That is what we hoped for.

At the conclusion of the December 12th meeting, we learned that the 7-11 Committee’s recommendations would say that a branch library was listed first on their list of “priority uses” for the CDC building.

Members of the Friends of PAL Steering Committee will now be watching for the 7-11 Committee’s report to make sure it reflects all of the concerns in our November 20 letter to the Committee, as well as the large number of emails and comments the 7-11 Committee received from other community members in support of the library.

The full text of the Committee’s recommendations will not be available until January 13, 2020. Then, the OUSD Board could receive the Committee’s report as early as January 22, so library friends should be ready to express their support for the 7-11 Committee’s report and advocate for a joint-occupancy agreement between OUSD and the City of Oakland that would move the Piedmont Avenue branch library into the CDC building on a long-term lease.

To learn more about the options for the CDC, read the FAQ and comment letter by Friends of PAL that are posted at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1j0-y1GMju3ubCzoCylYzpXmdrd8Kltay> along with OUSD background [documents](#) and support letters from other community groups.

If you have further questions or are interested in becoming active with planning efforts around the CDC building, please email contact@friendsofpal.org

-- By Arleen Feng for the Steering Committee of Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library



Your Library Card Travels With You

Let's say it's the first day of a week you're spending at a spa in Palm Springs. You've just had a manicure when you discover that you failed to pack the book you're halfway through. A murder mystery, you haven't figured out who the killer is. Oh no! What to do?

You have two hours before today's massage, so you grab a ride into town and head for the library. You get the book, catch a ride back and return, with fifteen minutes to spare.

But what about a library card, you ask. You don't have a card for that library. Great news: your Oakland library card will let you borrow books all over the state, with only a couple of exceptions.

Although the official name of our local library, part of the Oakland library system, is Piedmont Avenue library, it is not on Piedmont Avenue and serves the cities of Piedmont and Emeryville as well as Oakland. Those towns, with no libraries of their own, have an agreement with Oakland that allows their residents to have an Oakland library card. But, again, that card can be used all over the state and not only for borrowing books but for other activities as well. For attending a class or event, say. In November Piedmont Avenue library conducted or sponsored 49 of them – more than one every day. Piedmont Gardens hosted some.

Back to Palm Springs. You didn't finish the book while you were there and want to read on the plane. No problem, you can mail the book back to Palm Springs.

By Ruby Long

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



Baby Cafe



the library comes to



Piedmont Gardens



When power politics replace ideology in shaping government actions

Le Carré's novels pit good against evil and that struggle never gets old. "Good" characters are honest, idealistic people, sincere in their friendships and as lovers, and generous to others. "Evil" characters conspire for power and money, believe the end justifies the means, and cynically discard the weak. In the author's twenty-two novels, evil is always winning, and his focus is on a hero who is doing his best but being marginalized. Cynicism prevails but does not always win.

This novel focuses on Nat, a British expert on running intelligence agents in the field. He recruits, supports, and assists foreign agents who are spying for Great Britain in Europe. Nat is being marginalized because foreign diplomacy now focuses on Brexit, Trump, Putin and a whole lot of technology. Nat meets a young, guileless man who fears that Brexit will subjugate the UK to American financial power, and therefore Trump's deference to Putin. The timeliness of the issues adds greatly to the novel's interest and allows Le Carré such zingers as "a visit to London where Trump will humiliate his host".

As always, the writing is wonderful. The plot includes astonishing events, complex spy tradecraft details, uncanny analytical insights that change the story, and clever subterfuges to escape the bad guys. Even better, we get rich descriptions of Nat's realistic but loving reflections on the people around him and their sometimes amusing, sometimes heartbreaking actions and choices. Le Carré novels are hard on the good guy, but he usually wins.

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 after school – fun stuff, mostly crafts
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

Holiday hours - closed Dec 24-25, closing early (5:30) New Year's Eve, and closed Jan 1

Hoot Happenings December 15, 2019 – January 31, 2020

We invite children (recommended ages 0-12) to play Winter Bingo over the holiday break.

Come to the library to pick up a Winter Bingo card, complete any 5 activities in a row and win a FREE Book.

You may return completed Winter Bingo cards to any Oakland Public Library between December 26, 2019 and January 18, 2020 to receive a free book of your choice.

Home Organizing Tips with Catherine Meyer: Professional Organizer Saturday, January 11 at 2pm

In this class you will receive many organizing tips you can use in your home. Some topics of interest are clearing your paper backlog and transforming that catch-all room into a home office or guest room.



Please bring your questions for the Q&A part of the presentation. All questions will be answered.

To sign up call 510-597-5011 during open hours or register in person. *Note that if the class fills up we may add a second session.

Friends of the Piedmont Ave Library – Meeting Wednesday January 29 at 6:30pm

So much is happening! Please join for updates about the CDC building, the survey results, and plans for next steps.

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



A gift idea ...

**You don't need wrapping paper!
Use our iconic book bag to deliver all your
gifts. You can get the bags at the library
for a \$10 donation.**

