



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



Vol. 2 No. 8

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

The group working toward a permanent home for the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library has been meeting once a month since September 2018, searching for possible sites, exploring possible ways to fund all the costs that will be involved, and keeping everyone in the neighborhood informed about the efforts.

A 6-member Steering Committee coordinates the work. They are Tom Mysz, Joanna Smith, Peg Janosch, Ronile Lahti, Sabrina Bowerman and Arleen Feng. As you see them in the neighborhood, ask them about their work.

What's in a name?

Friends of PAL is their new, easy to pronounce name. While we loved and respected FOPABL, we are happy to drop the "B" and make the formal name Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library, or Friends of PAL. At the May meeting, the change was made formal.

Elevator speech

If you had only about 30 seconds, how would you explain to someone why you want a permanent home for the library? At the last meeting of Friends of PAL, everyone there got some instruction and practiced doing just that with an expert advisor and consultant.

The next meeting begins at 6:30 pm on May 29 at the library. You are invited.



The Piedmont Avenue Branch

It was over 100 years ago that our neighborhood first got its own branch library.

The growing city of Oakland recognized the need for its literate citizens and their families to have ready access to books, and so, in 1912, the city officials leased the building at what was then 3975 Piedmont Avenue and remodeled it to serve as a library.

That site was chosen primarily for its easy accessibility to the entire neighborhood. The streetcars that ran on Piedmont Avenue, Linda, Oakland Avenue and Gilbert Street made it a central location for the whole area, and the building was only a few blocks from the elementary school.

A librarian was hired, books were purchased and placed on the shelves and the doors were opened. Ruth Tarpenting was the librarian. She visited schools and playgrounds to promote the library and invite people to visit. By 1914 the branch was lending 28,000 books a year.

By 1918, the circulation had climbed to more than 45,000 books, and it was clear that a larger space was needed. A partition between the library and the empty store next door was removed to provide the space for the growing branch. Donations of books and money from the Piedmont Avenue merchants and residents increased the size of the collection.

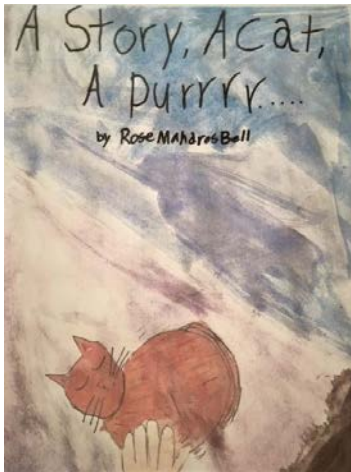
By the 1920s, the new librarian, Katherine Gray, began an outreach program, bringing books to what were then the two largest senior housing complexes in the area, The King's Daughter's Home and the Ladies Relief Society. She took a new supply every three weeks and collected those ready to go back into the branch. Almost a hundred years later, at different venues, different people continue the tradition.

After a couple of years at continuing levels of patronage and support, library officials recognized that an even bigger site would be required, and they designed exactly they wanted for their branch library. They built the charming white stucco mission style building at 160 41st Street. It opened in 1932 as the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library. Katherine Gray, Wilna Edson and John Ransom were the librarians. Over the years, Piedmont Avenue School, St. Leo's and Westlake school have made ample use of the library. Classes from all of those schools have made regular visits.

Our library remained in that building at 160 41st Street for the next 80 years, until 2012 when the branch moved into the modular building at 80 Echo Avenue.

Over time, more and more programs for children and for adults have been offered. Today there are computers, instruction and technical assistance, eBooks, online access to publications, email notifications of due dates, and more attractive elements for all users. The branch library has entered the 21st century.

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



by Rose Mandros Bell
Rose is a fifth-grader at Aurora school. She loves writing poems and pet-sitting chickens

A story, a cat, a purrrrr.....

**Purrrrrrr.....
Her warm body, vibrating vibrating
like a little motor on my chest**

**Warm fuzz brushing my face
Dad in bed next to me**

**The voice of my dad fading fading
He is asleep asleep**

He is, she is, but I am not my hand on her belly moving up and down, up and down

The steady beat of their breath

A sigh breaks the silence of the night

**The soft pink light only illuminates my bed
The light is glinting off her fur dark black corners**

**The mysterious blue-black night sky makes me think what I felt:
joy wonder delight calm**

A story, a cat, a purrrrr....



The Book Worm Recommends

Outside Looking In by T. C Boyle

The Fate of Moths around the Flame of a Dangerous Man

Timothy Leary received his Ph.D. in psychology from U. C. Berkeley in 1950 and immediately began working at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland and at UCSF. By the time he took psilocybin mushrooms in Mexico, he was a well regarded academic. It was an experience which led him to theorize that drugs were more effective than psychotherapy as a means of understanding the mind. Harvard hired Leary and he began researching and promoting the use of LSD as a positive path to self-understanding for himself and his students. Leary quickly attracted famous people including Alan Ginsburg, Tom Wolfe, and Ken Kesey, as well as wealthy donors such as the Mellon heirs. Over time he was frequently interviewed, photographed, and arrested.

Boyle's book focuses on Fitz, a graduate student assigned to work with Leary at Harvard. Through Fitz's eyes, we see Leary during six early years as he rose to fame and infamy in the America of the 1960s.

Initially reluctant, Fitz gradually joins Leary's inner circle and begins taking the drugs, defending the research, engaging in sexual experiments, and finally moving his family to live in Leary's group compound in New York. The author's presentation of Fitz's ambivalence and choices during these years provides insight into how an individual's decision-making processes are influenced by a charismatic and immensely attractive individual such as Leary. The reader, generously equipped with hindsight, repeatedly wants to scream at Fitz to watch out... but to no avail.

Boyle has written several fictionalized accounts of the lives of people who live with famous, powerful men, most notably in The Women about the three wives of Frank Lloyd Wright. He does this very well and with great sympathy and 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.

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 May 15 & June 30, 2019

See the Moon Wednesday May 15 at 6 pm – 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 6:30 pm

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

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

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.

Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library Meeting Wednesday May 29 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 May 29 meeting.

Felt Butterflies Craft Tuesday June 4 at 6pm

Emily Butterfly Thursday June 6 at 3 pm

Join Emily Butterfly, an interstellar storyteller, who delights children with her magical form of puppetry, story sharing and song.

Berkeley Rep Talk: Kiss My Aztec Saturday June 8 at 1 pm

Come listen to a Berkeley Rep docent talk about their current play, *Kiss My Aztec!*. This fresh, irreverent musical comedy could only spring forth from the clever and culturally savvy mind of John Leguizamo (who seriously schooled Berkeley Rep audiences with *Latin History for Morons*). With an energetic musical fusion of salsa, Latin boogaloo, hip-hop, gospel, funk, and merengue, and an inspired mash-up of Elizabethan dialect and modern slang, *Kiss My Aztec!* celebrates, elevates, and commemorates Latinx culture.



Campfire with ghost stories and warm drinks Tuesday June 11 at 6 pm

Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association Thursday June 13 at 3 pm

The Mount Diablo Beekeeper Association is an organization dedicated to promoting beekeeping and educating the public about the vital role of honey and bees in the environment. Learn about bees, [hives](#) and get a taste of sweet honey.

Henna, Teen Pop Up Program Thursday June 13 at 3:30 pm

Learn about the ancient art of henna at the library this summer! Henna tattoos are temporary, lasting but can last up to 8-10 days. A permission form signed by a parent/guardian is required for this workshop. Pick one up a copy of the required form at your local library or email teensatopl@gmail.com to ask us to send one to you. All supplies are provided. For , ages 12-18.

Slinky Dinks Craft Tuesday June 18 at 6 pm

Bubble Workshop Tuesday June 25 at 6 pm

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!

Build with Giant Blue Blocks Thursday June 30 at 3 pm

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

