



A Message from Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library



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Getting a Permanent Home for Our Branch Library – the CDC Building

As noted in last month's HOOT newsletter, the efforts of Friends of PAL led to the OUSD 7-11 Committee's positive action: the 7-11 Committee is recommending against "surplusing" the Piedmont Child Development Center, the now empty building next to the library. That is what we hoped for.



Now we are preparing to support that recommendation as it goes from the 7-11 Committee to the School Board of the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and to advocate for the School Board to designate the building and property for a use that will include a branch library.

First, we are requesting additions and corrections in the 7-11 Committee's draft report to be sure that it includes the information that Friends of PAL submitted.

Then, members of the Friends Steering Committee will attend an upcoming School Board meeting (possibly January 22) to advocate for a joint agreement between OUSD and the City of Oakland as the best way to locate the Piedmont Avenue branch library into the CDC on a long-term lease.

What can you do? Depending on developments at the next 7-11 meeting, Friends of PAL may ask neighbors to send emails in support of our position to Jody London, our OUSD representative and acting President of the School Board. So please stand by.

Another avenue to pursue is with Dan Kalb, our Oakland Councilmember. We have discussed with him the possible scenarios for getting the library into the CDC building, and we want to keep that avenue of communication open and active. **We encourage PAL supporters to attend his upcoming community meeting at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School at 7 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 29th.** We hope to see you there.

To learn more about the planning for the CDC, read the FAQ and comment letter by Friends of PAL that are posted at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jo-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

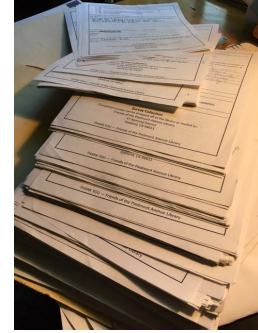
Getting a Permanent Home for Our Branch Library – the Survey Results

The Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library (Friends of PAL) conducted a survey to gather and document the opinions of the neighbors on the questions facing the library as its current lease on the modular building at 80 Echo Avenue nears the 2022 expiration date.

Over 550 people completed the questionnaire and 93% of them

said they would be willing to pay for keeping the library in the neighborhood. Here are the highlights:

- 93% would support a special parcel assessment (or tax), and of that number 53% said they'd be willing to pay \$25 per parcel.
- When ranking objectives for next year, 42% thought renewing the lease for the current temporary building should be number one, while 47% thought moving to another building on or near Piedmont Avenue should take top priority.
- 95% felt it was very important to maintain a library in the neighborhood.
- 72% would like to see the size increased.
- 86% said they use the library, and of that number, 31% reporting they use it at least once a month.
- When asked where the library should be placed, 51% replied "anywhere in the neighborhood."



Additional information is available at friendsofPAL.org.

Saving a Treasure

Did you take the survey? More than 500 did, all over the neighborhood. Forms were collected from Piedmont Gardens, Piedmont Systems, the Piedmont Avenue Library, a PANIL meeting, people on the street and folks passing through the Morcom Rose Garden. Final figures show strong support for moving the library into the much larger CDC building next door on the corner of Echo and Glen.

Comments like "we must keep it in the neighborhood", "a larger library with meeting rooms would definitely be a community asset", and "please do what you can to keep the current location" appear over and over in the written responses.

The Piedmont Avenue library has been in the neighborhood for more than 100 years and part of the city library system since 1932. When it lost its home on 41st street, next to Citibank, and moved into the portable building it currently occupies, the library became one of the smallest size wise in the system, but – get this – it is among the busiest. The limited space doesn't stop programs like story time and crafts projects from happening.

Crowds of children, accompanied by their parents, make seating a challenge and quite a few choose to sit on the floor. One survey respondent said, "would love to see a space that could truly accommodate story time". And a teacher says, "I am so grateful for PAL (Piedmont Avenue Library). They are an excellent resource for my classroom". A mother wrote, "I love the Piedmont Avenue Library, as do my husband and two kids (aged 7 and 9)."

Indeed, it's difficult to find a time when there are no children in the library, attending a program or accompanying an adult. At times the area around the entrance looks like a parking lot for strollers.

But there are plenty of books and programs for the parents and grandparents, too, as well as CDs. Many of the folks who took the survey voiced their opinions about those aspects of the library. But you'll have to wait till next month's issue of HOOT to find out what they said.

By Ruby Long

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

The Friends of PAL is looking for a library supporter to manage their social media accounts -- Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Training is available.

Interested? Please send email to contact@friendsofPAL.org.



Fun Stuff



At the Library



Baby Cafe, Piedmont Gardens



Announcement: we now have toys you can borrow! They're in the blue mesh bags above the children's audiobooks. Full toy menu at oaklandlibrary.org/toys.



The Book Worm Recommends

The Perfume Collector by Kathleen Tessaro

Discovering life through the senses, not the mind

This is a novel about the sensual awakening of two young women. It is set in glamorous Parisian apartments, stylish New York hotels, English country gardens in the spring, and warm, midnight beaches near Monte Carlo. We revel in descriptions of these lovely places and we come to focus on an evil character who ends up on a dairy farm in Minnesota.

One young woman is born to poverty but has extraordinary gifts that allow her to create a world of style and excitement that beguiles those around her. She flits around glamorous casinos in a shimmering dress and silver sandals, pausing in the doorway to catch the light.

The other is an English debutante who complains that food with onions and garlic has too much flavor and who considers luxurious clothing garish. A French hairdresser turns her into a beauty, a shop saleswoman puts her into a flattering Balenciaga “architecturally cut” dress, and a charming, sensitive French man introduces her to...well...onions, garlic and other pleasures.

Central to the novel is the appreciation, description, and enjoyment of the sense of smell. Fragrance, a character notes, is an aspiration. Perfume transports us from life as it is into a lovely place filled with our most sensually delicious moments, and so each person needs a perfume that reminds them of things they love--clean rain, jasmine in a flower garden, newly mown grass.

It is a pleasure to spend time in the world of this novel.

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

Hoot Happenings January 15 -February 29, 2020

Toddler Storytime – Every Wednesday at 10:15am

Songs, active rhymes and stories especially for ages 18 months to 3 years old.

Preschool Storytime – Every Wednesday at 11am

Stories, songs and rhymes for kids ages 3 to 5 years old.

Build Fridays – Every Friday at 3:30pm

Design, build and explore every Friday after school. Legos and Duplos every week, plus building surprises. Come see what we have this week! Will it be Keva planks, marble run, or something new?

Baby Café – Every Saturday at 10:30am

Bring your baby or toddler to Baby Café for coffee and playtime! Most Saturdays we meet at the library and make new friends. Siblings welcome.

The second Saturday of each month, we meet at the Piedmont Gardens retirement community, for music and playtime with seniors in nursing and memory care.

Friends of the Piedmont Ave Library – Meeting Tuesday January 28 at 6:30pm

So much is happening! Please join us to hear the news about the CDC building, the survey results, and plans for next steps as we work to find a permanent home for our branch library.

District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb's Piedmont Avenue Community Meeting
Wednesday January 29 at 7pm in the auditorium at Piedmont Avenue Elementary School, 4314 Piedmont Avenue

Please attend the meeting and thank Dan Kalb for his help, in the past, for the Oakland libraries. Ask him to support the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library in their campaign to secure the CDC building for its new home!

Berkeley Rep Docent Talk: Culture Clash (Still) in America – Saturday February 29 at 1pm

Irreverent, thought-provoking social satire

The missionaries of mayhem are back with their unique, badass brand of Chicano satire! In this powerful, pointed, and downright hilarious update, they turn their razor-sharp wit to everything from pussy hats to MAGA caps, laying down outrageous, biting, and thought-provoking monologues and sketch comedy about the immigrant experience in America right now.

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



**Our Friends of Pal Owl is the star of a
2020 calendar!**

Only \$5 for sale at the library. A perfect

New Year's gift for friends.

