



## A Message from Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library



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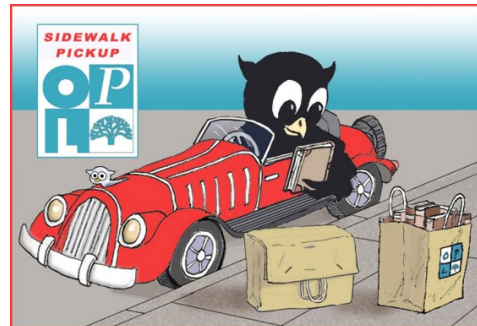
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### Sidewalk Pickup Expanded to Eight Libraries

The Oakland Public Library now has eight locations for its popular sidewalk pickup.

Patrons will have the opportunity to pick up holds for books, DVDs, CDs, and hotspots. Indoor areas are closed to the public.

You can place items on hold, get library addresses and more information at [www.oaklandlibrary.org/sidewalk pickup](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/sidewalkpickup).



You may return items to any outdoor OPL bookdrop including our own Piedmont Ave Library bookdrop. Staff will not accept returned library materials by hand at the sidewalk pick up sites, but rather will direct patrons to return their materials to the outdoor book drops. OPL does not charge fines for overdue library materials.

#### **Sidewalk Pickup Locations:**

##### **Main Library, Rockridge, Dimond, Asian, Brookfield and West Oakland Branch**

Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

##### **81st Ave. Branch**

Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

##### **César E. Chávez Branch**

Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**All other locations remain closed.**

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### Not Your Grandma's Library

We all know what a library is, don't we? A place where you go to check out books, use the computers, get a DVD. A place where librarians put books back on the shelves, check them out, tell you when they're due and answer your questions. No longer. COVID has made that so yesterday. These days Oakland librarians have branched out, so to speak, and are all over town doing all kinds of non-library jobs.

Serving food, for example. 81<sup>st</sup> Ave branch provides 800 prepared, take-away meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as well as 300 produce boxes on Fridays. Chavez and Melrose branches have food distribution programs, too. All staffed by library employees, as Disaster Service Workers. They also phone high-risk individuals to connect them with services, support the city's Emergency Operations Center, and provide information on how to access Covid-19 tests.

But what if you want to check out a book? Between June 15 and 30, 15,000 holds were placed by email, 3,000 – that's 150 per day, almost 20 an hour - were checked out and picked up at five sidewalk pickup sites.

Lots of Oakland's library duties are being handled by email nowadays, too. Between March 16 and July 4, over 180 questions had been answered and more than 2,000 new library cards were issued.

Traditional face-to-face programs have been moved online. Kids' programs are there now: Play and Learn at 10:30 on Mondays, Storytime 10:30 on Saturdays, and Bilingual (Spanish) on Wednesdays at 11. The lawyers are still there, virtually. Email the library [eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org) to check where and when.

For all your questions email [eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:eanswers@oaklandlibrary.org) or leave a voicemail at 510-238-3134. To see all that is available go to <https://www.oaklandlibrary.org/online-resources>.

So the library has not collapsed. The building may be locked, but the librarians, helpful and resourceful as ever, are still available by phone and email, and the books and CDs haven't gone anywhere.

It's not the same library we grew up with, or even the one we depended on last year, but it's there and it's not going away. We can't change that CORVID is with us now and may slow things down, but we can take a deep breath, go to the computer and order what we want. And while we're at it, we can be glad we live in a community with a library system where this can happen.

Note: This report would not have been possible without the help and information from Jenera Burton, Supervisor Librarian

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

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**From Library Director Jamie Turbak, "It has been a busy and difficult time, but staff are pleased to be serving the community – both through Disaster Service Work and Sidewalk Pickups. And I am immensely proud of their enthusiasm, dedication, empathy, and professionalism."**

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### **The Virtual Bookstore from OPL's Bookmark Bookstore**

Good news: you can shop on-line from the Friends of the Oakland Public Library's **Bookmark Bookstore** at <https://www.fopl.org/virtual-bookstore> and all the proceeds go to support the Oakland Public Libraries.



You can browse their huge stock of gently used books, DVDs and even jigsaw puzzles. It is fascinating to see the things they have. Follow the directions on the website for how to purchase what you want, and then pick up at the curbside, **721 Washington in Old Oakland, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday between 11-2.

Jigsaw puzzles are selling fast and they need more of them! Please donate your gently used (and complete!) puzzles to the store. Drop them off at the store, **721 Washington**, when someone is there: Wednesday, Friday, Sunday between 11-2.

They continue to accept book donations, even while they are closed, but now it is by appointment only. Contact them by email at [bookmark@fopl.org](mailto:bookmark@fopl.org) and let us know what books you have. They will send a return email on how to make an appointment to bring them to the store.

It's an amazing effort because Bookmark has been closed since March 16th, but FOPL has found the way to stay in business.

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### **A Bookhive**

The west of Ireland was home, long ago, to hermits whose meditation retreats were held in huts they designed to be like beehives in order to foster meditation and increase the flow of harmony within the structure.

The beehive design and a related name, "bookhive", have been taken up, worldwide, in the names of book stores and book-sharing organizations, and in art pieces created from books themselves. A bookhive is a hive shaped stack of books, based on the Irish beehive huts the 8th - 12th century hermits made in the west of Ireland for meditation retreats.



This Bookhive, using over 2,300 discarded books, is a 2019 art piece by San Francisco artist Pam Ward displayed at the SF Main Library February 2020. The color patterns are rainbow color of chakras and bring the flow of mediation and harmony on the stories the books hold.

Instagram: @thebardsbranch Artist Pam Ward



## The Bookworm Recommends

### *A New World Begins* by Jeremy Popkin

Do you like history books? I mostly read fiction, a good biography now and then, and a history book every once in a while. This one I got for Christmas last year. It's about the French revolution. My first thought was, "What is there new to say about the French revolution? Don't we already know everything we need to know about that?" But I was surprised. This was a great book.

For my taste, a good history ought to be like a good novel. It needs to tell a good story. This one does that. Like the best stories, it shows things from a number of different perspectives, giving the feeling of how complicated and confusing the time was. Okay, it's not a quick, easy read, like a mystery novel. It's one of those "baggy monsters" with lots of characters and lots of complexity – but fascinating. It holds your attention.

Popkin makes a special point of showing aspects of the revolutionary period we don't hear much about: the role of women, the issue of slavery and the revolts in Haiti, and the differing movements outside of Paris, especially in the rural western areas.

There are many fascinating characters, from all the different classes and "estates" of France. The number of factions competing for the support of the public was more varied than I realized. The various directions the revolution might have taken were greater than I imagined. We all know how this story is going to end up. But still, it's kind of a surprise when, towards the end, this fellow Bonaparte first appears as just another character in a chaotic tumultuous time.

If you want a good story on the French revolution, try Popkin's book. It's as good as a novel. I won't promise you'll feel better about the political chaos of our own country today, but you'll learn a lot, and be vastly entertained.

*By Peter Sownie, a retired gentleman who has lived in the Bay Area for 56 years, 35 of them working for large banks, while somehow remaining a basically good person. He likes to travel, ride his bicycle, visit libraries and bookstores, and have dinner with friends, when possible.*

## What's Happening at the Library

*Effective March 16, the Oakland Public Library closed all Library locations to help limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). These closures will remain in effect until further notice. All programs are*

canceled while our library is closed. The Friends of PAL will send out a notice when we know the date the library will reopen.



**Join the Oakland Public Library for online programs!**

Bring your young one 3 times per week to our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube page](#) for some fun from wherever you are.

Mondays 10:30 AM: Play & Learn

Wednesdays 11 AM: Bilingual Storytime (Spanish)

Saturday, July 18 & July 25, 10:30 AM: Storytime