



## A Message from Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library



Vol 3 #12

September 15, 2020

### The Piedmont Avenue Branch is Now Open for Sidewalk Pickup!

Beginning Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup>, our library will have sidewalk service Tuesday – Saturday, 10am to 1pm. You can pick up books, DVDs, CDs and WiFi hotspots; here's how.

First go to

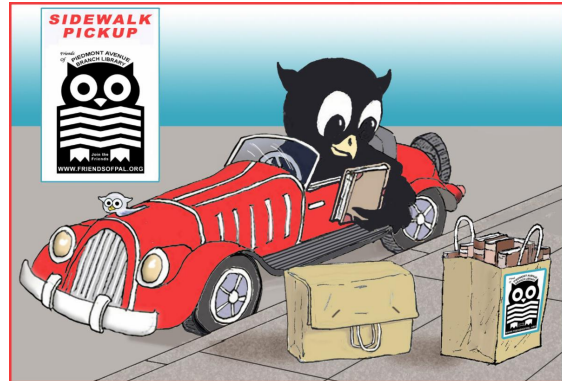
<https://oaklandlibrary.org/services/cards-and-visiting/sidewalk-pickup-oakland-public-library> and place a hold on the item(s) you want to pick up. Wait for a notice that your choices are ready. We are told that wait times for holds may be longer than usual.

You will receive one notification for each item you have on hold, and your items may not all be ready on the same day. You will have 14 days after you receive your notification to pick up each item.

When you know your items are ready, go to the library Tuesday - Saturday, between 10am and 1pm. No appointment is necessary. Wear a mask and bring your library card or card number and a cell phone that can send and receive texts. (If you don't have one, you can wait in line and staff will help you.) When you arrive at the branch, you'll see instructions to text your first and last name to a posted phone number. Text your name and follow the prompts.

Staff will bring your items to the entrance and give them to you with no contact. Our sidewalk team will be our old friends Niki and Paulette and our new friends Emily and Paul. How good it will be to see them again.

If you have questions, or to apply for a library card, call 510-238-3134 or email [answers@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:answers@oaklandlibrary.org).



### Staff Changes at Piedmont Avenue Branch

Russell Tran, Library Assistant, has accepted a transfer to Asian Branch. Piedmont Avenue Branch will miss Russell's calm and friendly manner, his technical expertise, his ability to explain anything to anyone, and his mastery of de-escalation. The Chinatown neighborhood will benefit from all this and his language skills as well. Russell and Yen's baby, Sunday, is walking now, and we all look forward to the day when the family can toddle back to Piedmont Ave Branch for a storytime.



There are new faces on the team now, working on temporary assignment at the library through December - Emily Odza and Paul Overton. They join Nikki Truong and Paulette Forte who have permanent assignments to our branch.

Emily's regular assignment is Eastmont Branch, Adult/Youth Librarian I (since November 2019), half time. She joined OPL in 2010 and has worked at nearly all the branches since then, including Piedmont. She really enjoyed the community at Piedmont Ave. Branch and is happy to be back for the fall experiment in walk-up service. Emily was a librarian at Hayward where she was in charge of the seed library and organizing garden related workshops.

Paul Overton, Library Aide, is a new employee and we are looking forward to getting to know him.

## **A Letter to the Hoot Readers from Margaret Rodriguez**

I'm now the Children's Librarian at the Asian Branch Library, on 9th Street in Oakland Chinatown. This was a bittersweet promotion for me: bitter because I didn't get a chance to say goodbye to the Piedmont Ave Branch families, teachers, students, and regular visitors who have shown me such kindness and friendliness over the past four years -- but sweet, because my dear mom, who passed away in April, once held that very same job.

Please come visit when you can! Parking is very easy in the garage under the library, and it's the same hourly rate as the parking meters.

Sniff.

Margaret

*Margaret was the Children's Librarian at our Piedmont Avenue Branch for 4 years.*

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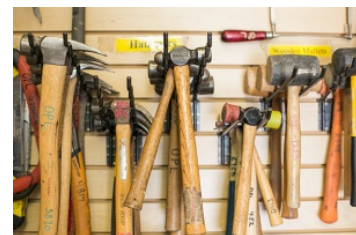
## **Clean-up Day Postponed**

Our plan to hold a clean-up day on the grounds of the library has CHANGED. The last message we sent you was about postponing the clean-up day to September 19th, but now that project has been pushed further into the future.

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## **Need a pruning saw? What about an orbital sander?**

You can rent one, or hundreds of other tools, for a week from the **Oakland Tool Lending Library** (OTLL) <http://fotll.org/>.



There are gardening and digging tools, carpentry and woodworking tools, plumbing tools, concrete and masonry tools, and several other categories. Just to give you an idea of the breadth of the over 3,500 tools available, there are ten different kinds of hammers. The complete list, including power tools, is at [www.oaklandlibrary.org/tools](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/tools).

The OTLL is in the basement of the Temescal Branch. It is staffed by library employees and is funded by the City of Oakland and property taxes from Measure Q. You can read its full 20-year history here <http://fotll.org/history/>

In order to place a hold on the item(s) you want to rent, call OTLL at **510-597-5089** Thursday through Saturday, 10am – 1pm. There is sidewalk pickup on those same days and hours, at the library at **5205 Telegraph Ave.**



## Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library “reconvening” Zoom meeting

Dear Hoot Fans—we are happy to invite you to our meeting on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We know it’s another Zoom meeting, but we have updates on our quest for a new home for our library and we want you to come hear and plan. Please join us using this Zoom link: [Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library](#) Meeting ID: 893 7498 4967 Passcode: FOPAL. See you on the ‘net!



## The Bookworm Recommends

### The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company by William Dalrymple

A podcast I was listening to recently started off with the question, “What is the purpose of economics?” I think economics should have something to do with making life better for people. That podcast was about a new biography of John Maynard Keynes, the British economist who advocated for increased government expenditures and lower taxes to stimulate demand and strengthen the economy. That biography sounded interesting.

But even more interesting was the book I was reading at the time, *The Anarchy* by William Dalrymple. It’s a fascinating history of the East India Company, starting off when Shakespeare was in mid-career in the early 1600s, describing the formation of a joint stock company dedicated to international trade, whose mercantile activities gradually grew to include military combat with foreign competitors and Indian rulers all over the Asian sub-continent.

This was an international corporation unfettered by any meaningful government control for almost 200 years, with a private army, at its height, twice the size of Britain’s. The British government did not finally take over its military and governmental machinery until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When we think about economics in relation to modern multinational corporations, national and international politics, this story has something to tell us.

William Dalrymple is a superb writer, a dramatic storyteller, with strong opinions on the heroes and villains of this long colorful tale. He has lived in India most of his life and enriches his writing with source material in Persian, Urdu and other languages, providing a perspective rarely offered by European historians.

Dalrymple’s story of the First Anglo-Afghan War, “Return of a King”, was similarly enriched by non-European sources and written with a similar energy and excitement. I’ll never forget seeing Dalrymple presenting that book at the Mechanic’s Library, standing at the podium with a glass of red wine, painting a picture of a British scout, crouched in the hills of Afghanistan, spying on a caravan of Russian soldiers, sent by the Czar, at the beginning of The Great Game between Britain and Russia. He paused in the middle of this story, looked down to find his glass was empty. He asked, “Is there any more wine?” Someone scampered up with a bottle, refilled the glass, and he continued with his entrancing story. Dalrymple is my kind of writer.

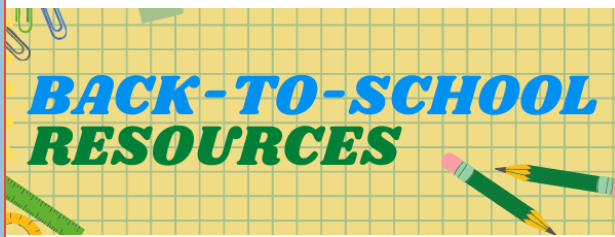
With or without a glass of wine, red or otherwise, I think you’ll find this an exciting, often troubling, but always interesting tale, with a lot to tell us about the world we live in today.

*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.*



**Homework Help, Tutoring, and More.**

Oakland Public Library has resources available for learning 365 days a year.

<https://oaklandlibrary.org/back-school-resources>