

HOOT



ALL THE NEWS THAT'S
FIT TO HOOT!
www.FriendsofPAL.org

Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library



Volume 4 No. 6

SUPPORTING THE PIEDMONT AVENUE BRANCH, OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 15, 2021

Be A Friend Of PAL

Support our library. Join the Friends of the Piedmont Ave Library contact@FriendsofPAL.org



Our meetings are the second Tuesday of the month. You can get on our email list and receive the zoom address of our meetings at contact@FriendsofPAL.org.

We are all waiting for our library to reopen to the public. When the risk level in Alameda county is in the yellow tier we should be able to return!



Find out more about
Friends of Pal at
our website.

Sidewalk Pickup In Action

Emily Odza , whose regular assignment is Adult/Youth Librarian 1 at Eastmont, is the staff member who will greet you outside our Piedmont Avenue Library and deliver the books you ordered. Emily has worked at several of our area libraries and has done “Chat Duty” for students doing research at Laney College. This temporary sidewalk assignment is different - and fun when the sun shines.

Piedmont Avenue Library, even with its limited hours, has 30-50 pickups per day. Emily receives many thank yous from the grateful patrons. She says picking up books has become a ritual for many, combined with walks with their children. Emily has met many interesting people, including a 7-year-old girl who is such a voracious reader that she said she was “hungry for books.”

Thank you, Emily, and all the library staff who are there for us during the pandemic.

Curbside sidewalk service is available at Piedmont Ave Library Tuesday – Saturday, 10am to 1pm. For details go to the Oakland Public Library (oaklandlibrary.org) and click on sidewalk pickup for the details.



OPL RESPONDS

A year into the COVID-19 pandemic, **Your Library** is still here for you.

SIDEWALK AND ONLINE SERVICES PUT THE WORLD INTO YOUR HANDS.

332,000
items checked out since we started sidewalk pickup.

OPL provides sidewalk pickup of books, dvds, WiFi hotspots, and other materials that meet people's educational and informational needs.

735,000+
digital checkouts since March 2020

OPL's online books, movies, music, magazines and other resources have increased 21%, meeting people's recreational, educational and informational needs.

12,000 new OPL users since March 2020

OPL is offering accurate and trusted information and help at sidewalk service sites and its call center during these uncertain times.

Mobile printing
is available and widely used

In response to community requests, OPL offers printing at all sidewalk service locations so that people impacted by the digital divide can print essential documents.

12,290
uses of WiFi network outside OPL buildings, fighting the digital divide

OPL circulates 300 WiFi hotspots and donated 500 hotspots to OUSD so that online students can learn and people can access job, housing and health resources.

157,000
meals provided

OPL provides free meals in partnership with Eat.Learn.Play. and World Central Kitchen so that hungry children can learn and hungry families can survive.

Keeping people safe from COVID-19

OPL staff have collected masks and referred more than 900 people to testing sites to keep the community healthy and safe.

AND EVEN MORE:

OPL provides tools for garden and home repairs through the Tool Lending Library

Legal problems are solved through the online Lawyers in the Library program

Weekly storytime videos entertain and educate children under 5, increasing their school readiness and literacy skills

OPL provides free, live homework help in English and Spanish through tutor.com helping students succeed

Your Library is still here for you.



Prepared by the Oakland Public Library Community Relations Department, March 2021

A virtual OPL is still here for us

Some services are listed below. There are many more. See the OPL website oaklandlibrary.org

OPL eBooks & Audiobooks

Access your library from anywhere. The Oakland Public Library offers a variety of eBooks and audiobooks. Library cardholders can download or stream digital content any time, to a computer or a mobile device.

Movies

Get access to thousands of movies with your library card. Stream movies and videos.

Virtual Lawyers in the Library

The Lawyers in the Library program is a free information and referral program staffed by volunteer lawyers and hosted by libraries throughout Alameda County. If legal help is required, people are referred to other agencies.

To request an appointment

email eAnswers@oaklandlibrary.org or call 510-238-3134.

Online Research and Learning

The Oakland Public Library subscribes to a large number of online databases and online learning resources that are available to you free from home with your library card. Student resources, language lessons, test preparation help, car repair information, business information and much more can be found at the OPL website.

March is Women's History Month



The blog from Oakland Public Library, called Advice for Readers, gathers ten books published in the last year that highlight some incredible women, as well as the social movements and legacies they helped create. Celebrate women's history by checking out the fascinating stories you find at the OPL website, blogs, oaklandlibrary.org

“Reading shaped my dreams and more reading helped me make my dreams come true.”

—Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Sam Davis, our local School Board Member, recommended this movie in his Newsletter

The film titled We Are the Dream: The Kids of the Oakland MLK Oratorical Fest features a family and teacher from Piedmont Avenue Elementary School.

It is a film from HBO in Classrooms, nominated for an NAACP Image Award, showing how, every year, hundreds of children from pre-K through 12th grade take the stage at the Oakland MLK Oratorical Fest, a public speaking competition where they perform poetry and speeches inspired by the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The film gives us an introduction to the students, the teachers, and the parents. It is a view into our own Piedmont Avenue Elementary School.

If you haven't seen this amazing film and would like something uplifting in these trying times, you can see the full 58-minute film at HBO Series, HBO In Classrooms.



These are my favorite characters.

Monkey D. Luffy is the Straw Hat Pirate in the magna book, “One Piece.”
Naruto is the hero in the magna book, “Naruto.”

I like Luffy because he is silly, not too bright and funny.
I like Naruto because he is silly and smart.

By Armaan Arellano,
5th grader at Anna Yates School



What's Happening at the Library

Effective March 16, 2020 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.

There is curbside sidewalk service at Piedmont Ave Library Tuesday – Saturday, 10am to 1pm. You can pick up books, DVDs, CDs and WiFi hotspots. To find out how, go to the OPL website oaklandlibrary.org

The Avid Reader By Louis Segal

I've been an avid reader since I could read. In high school I used to cut school to read in the Berkeley Public Library. I'm writing this column to share some of the books I love. I hope, perhaps, you might grow to love a few of them.



To paraphrase a very wise man "What affects one, affects all indirectly. All life is interrelated... we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality bound in a single garment of destiny." In that spirit, and echoing other wise souls, Black History should not be confined to one month, Black History is inextricably tied to the history of the US every month of the year. And in that spirit, this review:

Deacon King Kong

by James McBride

James McBride, an important novelist, memoirist, and screenwriter, was born in Red Hook, Brooklyn in 1957. His latest novel, *Deacon King Kong*, was published in 2020 and celebrates an unnamed neighborhood in Brooklyn. The neighborhood is clearly based on the Red Hook of McBride's childhood and youth and particularly the life in the Projects and the surrounding, enveloping, shifting world. The action of the novel revolves around the neighborhood in 1969 and 1970 and, in his narrative, lyricism, and sentiment he honors and represents his piece of Brooklyn like Dylan Thomas honors the fictional fishing Welsh village of Llareggub in *Under Milk Wood* [1957].

Both McBride and Thomas, at the height of their literary powers, are invested in the bursting life of their community, both have poetic bursts of words tumbling around the lives, dreams, disappointments, and joys of their people. Thomas is pastoral and monochromatic. McBride, on the other hand, is urban to the bone, polychromatic and, indeed, is the polyglot griot of this slice of Brooklyn. Brooklyn, in his telling, centers around the public housing projects and the old diminishing presence of the Irish, Italian and Jewish Red Hook play a subsidiary role in the novel. But the heart of McBride's tale is Latinx and African American, from the southern diaspora, from the dilapidated Projects, from Haiti, from Puerto Rico, full of dignity and pain, hunger and wit, joy, and reflection. The older denizens of the neighborhood have vivid memories of their past lives, the younger ones only know the Projects with disappearing jobs or a hardscrabble existence of marketing and selling uppers and downers, to Red Hook residents and suburban kids longing for a fix. Circling around that world is a melancholy Irish cop and a lonely Italian gangster, dancing with the new world and attracted and repelled by the people of the new Red Hook. The story permeates with love and friendship and survival of people who find themselves cast upon the post-industrial world, forced to the corners of the illegal market or into the so-called criminal justice system. And yet these people love and grieve deeply, shield themselves with dignity and wit, believe in different Gods or don't believe at all. Their fundamental kindness and compassion speak to the best in all of us.

As long as Lent is upon us if you're interested in partying and contrition and the sublimity of American music (AKA "Jazz") or prefer reading history check out Ned Sublette-like McBride, also a musician- and his 2008 *The World That Made New Orleans: From Spanish Silver to Congo Square*. A wonderful tour de force of history, music, and of New Orleans. Another shout out for the month goes to the great historian Greg Grandin's *The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom and Deception in the New World*, a cultural history of literature, whaling, and the slave trade from Lima to Boston. It is sprawling and ties together the history of the Americas.

Both these books again demonstrate that Black History is inextricably tied to the history of the United States and indeed the Americas every month of the year.

Louis was born in Oakland, raised his family in Oakland, dropped out of school in 1968, worked many jobs over the decades, dropped back into school in the 80s, got a Ph.D. in history, taught as an adjunct professor from 1993 to 2015. Retired but not withdrawn.