



Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library

HOOT

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S
FIT TO HOOT!

www.FriendsofPAL.org

Volume 7 No. 5

SUPPORTING THE PIEDMONT AVENUE BRANCH, OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

February 14, 2023

Notes from our librarians From Shani Boyd, Children's Librarian



February Family Programs

February Baby Café

Saturday, February 18th at 10:30 am – 12 pm

Join us at the Piedmont Ave. library for snacks, songs, and socializing! Babies and toddlers are welcome with adults. Drop in at any time during the program. Inside the library, masks are required for everyone ages 2 and up.

Pokemon Pom Pom Friends

Saturday, February 25th at 2 pm – 3:30 pm

Celebrate National Pokemon Day with us at the craft tables to make Pokemon Pom Pom Friends.



Ongoing Programs

Toddler Storytime

Tuesday at 10:15 am – 10:45 am

Songs, active rhymes, and stories especially for ages 18 months to 3 years. See you there!

Friday Tech Support (for Library eResources)

Friday at 3 pm – 5 pm

Unsure about eBooks or streaming audiobooks? Having trouble with the Libby, Kanopy, or Hoopla apps? Call the Piedmont Ave. Branch at 510-597-5011 to schedule a time to bring your device (phone, tablet, e-reader, etc.) to the library and staff will help you set it up.



Celebrate Black History Month with OPL's Annual Black Culture Fest: A Celebration of the African Diaspora

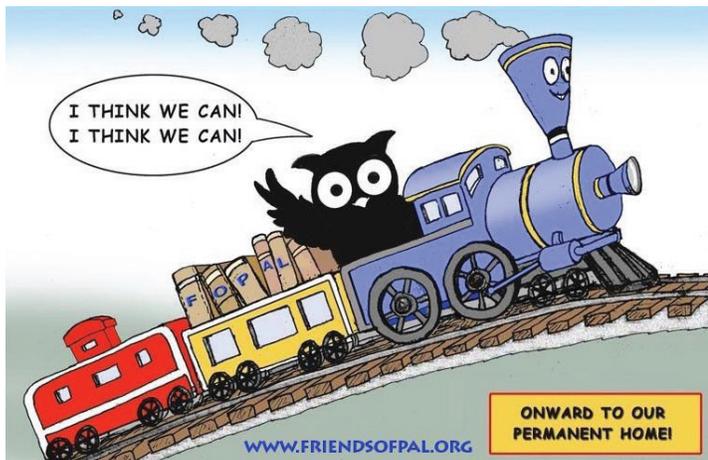
The annual event is coordinated by Black Oakland Public Library staff members who happily and proudly share the brilliance and strength of our heritages. Visit <https://oaklandlibrary.org/black-culture-fest/> to see this year's events!



From The Friends of PAL

Starting Now to Build Strength for Our Campaign for a Permanent Home

There is no definite timeline yet for the City of Oakland's feasibility study on converting the former Child Development Center to a permanent home for the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library, but we know that when we do see the report of the study we will have a



very short time to review the project proposal and secure funds to complete it (as described in our January HOOT) [Hoot link <https://conta.cc/3J4dNms>]

Therefore, Friends of PAL is starting now to gear up for the expected fundraising needs. We are looking for friends and supporters to help with researching grants, improving our database for friends and donors, and increasing our general outreach events and visibility at the CDC. If you are interested or think you know someone else who might bring enthusiasm or experience to these tasks, please let us know at contact@friendsofpal.org

Friends of Pal Meeting

February 21st, 6:30pm to 7:30 pm

At the library, 80 Echo Ave.

Join your neighbors to support our library.



Family Reading Night

On Wednesday, January 25th, Family Reading Night treated approximately 100 people in the Piedmont Avenue Elementary School community to pizza dinners, a fantastic magic show, a storytime, and free books. Parents were given tips about how to help their children love reading by Shani Boyd, the Piedmont Avenue Branch Library children's librarian, as well as members of PART, the Piedmont Avenue Reading Tutors. The fun event was spon-

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.



Mad, Bad, Dangerous to Know: The Fathers of Wilde, Yeats and Joyce by Colm Toibín [2018]

I've always loved Irish wit and poetry and rebellious wordplay. My grandfather, Daniel Kelly, redhaired and bowlegged, had a mischievous wit and a twinkle in his eyes. My grandmother Lucy Kelly, although not Irish, loved my grandfather and ergo told Irish tall tales.

As a boy who was inclined to misbehave, I enthusiastically read Brendan Behan's *Borstal Boy*. Later when I was twelve, an Irish poet of my mom and stepfather's acquaintance, John Montague, took me to a Clancy Brothers concert. I had already heard Ewan MacColl sing "Dirty Old Town" but now, live, I was hearing Liam Clancy's bittersweet rendering of the song. I was ineffably moved by the song's melancholic sense of love found and lost in the slums of Dublin.

Next summer my folks took me along for a weekend at Stinson Beach. They wanted me out of the cabin and my stepdad threw an anthology of poetry at me and said "go out on the beach and educate yourself." I sat on the beach on a grey afternoon and read some poems to the Pacific's waves. It was getting cold when I came across Yeats' "The Second Coming." I felt shivers, body and mind, in Yeats' evocation of both the "loss of innocence" and inquiry of what "rough beast, its hour come round at last ... slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?" In high school I liked *Catcher in the Rye* until I read Joyce's *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*. Somehow Dedalus' refusal to conform seemed a far nobler thing than the surly whines of young Holden. Then, in the late sixties, as it seemed a Revolution was approaching, I read Padraig Pearse's great insurrectionary poem "The Rebel." Indeed, with Pearse's poem ringing in my inner ears, I went to Ireland to try to join the IRA. Pearse's lyrics contained a compelling call to arms against the British occupation of Eire. For his poetry, for his words, for his actions in the Easter Rebellion, he was executed and thrown into an unmarked grave.

And now in my hoary, long-toothed old age, I find solace in the poetry of Seamus Heaney, the novels of Kevin Barry, Niall Williams, and Claire Keegan. Last year with other avid readers, I read Joyce's *Ulysses*. I was confused and confounded and delighted by that wondrous book.

All this is the background for a brief review of Toibín's book. Bob Heaney dropped the Irish poet and essayist's book in my mailbox. I read it and my appetite for Irish wit and language and poetry was again whetted. Toibín's book is about Wilde, Yeats and Joyce and their often mordant absentee fathers. Their fathers were brilliant angry men, self-indulgent and destined for scandal. Their sons all came of age and into glory despite, or because of, their fathers' dark shadows. To Toibín's credit there's no Freudian nonsense here, just Irish true tales that give texture to the complexity of the soul and the imagination of these three great prodigal sons and, of course, their Ireland.

By Louis Segal. 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.

Exhibit: The Passing of Hands: the Quilts of Marlene Buckley

Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 - Sunday, March 5, 2023

81st Avenue branch, 1021 81st Ave.

"I am always working on a quilt. Quilts can provide spiritual as well as physical comfort. I put all of myself into my quilts. Making quilts for my family lets me know I'm leaving part of me for my grandchildren and great grandchildren. This is something they will have. They'll know my soul and heart are in it" —Marlene Buckley



Come see the beautifully handcrafted quilts of Oakland's own Marlene Buckley.



What's Happening at the Library

2/18 - **Baby Cafe**, 10:30 am - 12 pm

2/21 - **Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library Meeting**, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

2/25 - **Pokemon Pom Pom Friends**, 2 pm - 3:30 pm

Tuesdays - **Toddler Storytime**, 10:15 am - 10:45 am

Fridays - **Tech Support**, 3 pm - 5 pm

4/29 - **Clean up at the CDC**, 86 Echo, 10 am - 12 pm

Our library is open six days per week!

Sunday Closed

Monday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday: 12 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



Find out more about Friends of Pal at our website.

The Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Our tax ID is 84-4203055.

All contributions are tax deductible.