

December, 2019

Upcoming Events

12/07/2019

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
4pm @ Oakley Civic Center

12/17/2019

Season of Authors: Jay Hartlove,
6:30pm @ the Oakley Library

12/31/2019

Noon Year's Eve, 2pm@ the Oakley
Library

01/28/2020

Season of Authors: Lynn Goodwin,
6:30pm @ the Oakley Library

02/18/2020

Season of Authors: William Martin,
6:30pm @ the Oakley Library

Upcoming Friend's Meeting

January 16th

6:30 PM @ Oakley Library

Board of Directors

President

Brittany Matous

Vice President

Arnold Fitzpatrick Jr.

Secretary

Nancy Huffaker

Treasurer

Linda Pennock

Contact Us

www.oakleylibrary.org

925-308-6395

A Message from the President

As 2019 draws to a close, I find myself looking back at all of the programs that were held at the Library this year. For those who are not aware, Friends of the Oakley Library funds all programming that occurs at the Oakley Library and also purchases all craft supplies, various program supplies and even cleaning supplies. From Summer Reading to Beading with Donna, all programming is made possible through your generous support of the Friends of the Oakley Library.

This year, "Friends" was able to raise over \$3,000. These funds are made possible through memberships, donations and sales from our Book Sale Area. We also receive additional donations through our Amazon Smile[®] account and in 2020 we will be receiving donations through our partnership with the Book Forest.



I am also pleased to report that during this past year, "Friends" volunteers have contributed over 150 hours. These volunteers assisted in programming, community outreach, assisted with the router at the Library, they help maintaining our book sale area and have supported the Library at city events.

I hope that in 2020 we can continue to provide both financial and volunteer support for the Library. As Oakley continues to expand, our Library will need to provide additional programming to meet the needs our community. I wish all of our members a wonderful holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year and extend my sincerest thank-you for all of your support that you have given this year.

Brittany Matous

City Council Looks to a Stand-Alone Library!

On November 12th the Oakley City Council approved a resolution to look in to converting the old Sheriff's Station (located at 200 O'Hara Avenue) in to a Library. The building was built in the 1920's and due to the age of the structure there are concerns regarding the structural integrity of the building, potential building code violations, etc. With this in mind, the resolution has allotted \$25,000 to evaluate the current structure, survey the property and create architectural renderings of a potential stand-alone library.

In response to the city council's decision, several members of the Friends of the Oakley Library have formed an Ad-Hoc committee that will meet in January. This group will be meeting with the intent to come up with a plan to help get a library built in Oakley. We are still narrowing down a day in time to meet in January. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact the president (president@oakleylibrary.org) by December 23,2019 with a day and time that you think this committee should meet.

Since 1913, the Library has been shuffled from space to space across Oakley, never having a permanent place to call home. In 1999, Freedom High School graciously invited the Library to share their Library space for a period of five years so that the city could build a stand-alone Library. Twenty years later, the Oakley Library is still there and, due to city growth, the Library has outgrown the 3,000 sq. ft space. While there have been several attempts to build a stand-alone Library, these ballot measures have fallen short in the number of votes needed to fund a structure. We hope that the decision by the City Council will draw attention to our city's need for a permanent stand-alone structure and hope to see many of our "Friends" at the Ad-Hoc meeting.

The Librarian's Corner

Wow! It has been an exciting year for Contra Costa County Library. I can't believe that it has almost been a year since we've said **goodbye to fines** on overdue materials. In September, we've started to offer five **new library card designs**. I hope that you have replaced your current card or at least seen the new card designs. The new designs are fun and beautiful, and people love having a keychain.

I'm thrilled about our **new website!** We know that this is something that you have been asking about for a while. The public preview for the new library website and catalog are underway right now. The clean, modern website offers improved navigation and is mobile responsive for access on any phone or tablet. The new catalog has enhanced search capabilities and features that allow users to rate books, find reading recommendations, and create reading lists. The current website and catalog will be retired on December 16, 2019.

Three new databases have been added to our lineup. We are happy to offer Ancestry. **Ancestry Library Edition** includes coverage of the US and UK, including census, vital, church, court, and immigration records, as well as record collections from Canada, Europe, Australia, and other areas of the world. It is the near equivalent to the World Explorer home subscription version. Ancestry Library Edition is the only database that has to be used in the library; there is no remote or home access.

LearningExpress Library features online tutorials, practice tests, and eBooks to help students of all ages. It offers job search and workplace skills improvement, skill building in reading, writing, math, and basic science, career certification and licensure exam prep, college and grad school entrance test prep, GED test prep, and more.

New York Times Digital is also new and offers direct access to the regular and multimedia content from 1851 to the present.

These are our new databases, but some of my favorites include Rosetta Stone®, ABCmouse®, and Kanopy Movies®. Check out our new website or visit us at the library to learn more. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

Andrea Freyler

The Book Forest

Online sales are now the new norm for most "Friends" groups in the area. Unfortunately, we are a small organization and we do not have a dedicated team that can run an online component to our Book Sale area. To rectify this, on October 24, 2019 the Friends of the Oakley Library partnered with The Book Forest to sell donated books online.

How this works, is that using an app that is connected with Amazon®, our book sale team can identify books that can be sold online. These books are set aside and The Book Forest collects the books to sell. Once these books are sold, the Friends of the Oakley Library receives 60% of the profits. This partnership will allow us to increase program offerings at the Oakley Library.

A New Look for a New Year!

If you haven't checked out our website in a while, you might be shocked at several changes. For starters, the website has a lighter and brighter appearance and is much more compatible on mobile and tablet devices. We have also streamlined the web-site to make it easier for members to navigate. The biggest change on our website is the addition of our blog. Our homepage now consists of a blog that will be used to keep our members in the loop regarding all "Friend" and library happenings.
