



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OAKLEY LIBRARY!

It's January, and with it comes the exciting energy of a new year, a fresh start filled with opportunities for growth, learning, and discovery! On behalf of the Friends of the Oakley Library, I wish you a very **Happy New Year!**

Our team will soon be holding our annual 'retreat' where we gather to set our goals and vision for the year ahead. It's both refreshing and inspiring. I encourage our entire community to take this moment to do the same!

If your personal goals for 2026 include making new friends, getting rooted in the community, or sharing your talents for a worthy cause, the Friends of the Oakley Library is here with welcoming smiles.

Our Mission: The Friends of the Oakley Library support the library through financial, material, and volunteer contributions to help fulfill its mission of enriching the lives of Oakley's diverse community by **bringing people and ideas together.**

While that is our official statement, we put a huge emphasis on the people. We strive to ensure our team efforts are engaging, collaborative, and built by leaning on each other's strengths.

Please don't hesitate to discover the joys of volunteering with our group. We are incredibly proud of our recent momentum. In the past three years alone, we:

- Received the **Non-profit of the Year award** (2023).
- Secured a significant **grant from the City of Oakley.**
- Contributed to fundraising efforts that have resulted in over **\$1.263 million** toward the new Library and Community Center building!

Together, there isn't anything we can't do. I love our dedicated team and warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us:

→ Oakleylibrary.org/volunteer



→ Oakleylibrary.org/membership



- **President of the Friends of the Oakley Library,**
Lorena Campos

* Featured Friend!



Elvira has shaped the visual layout of our flyers and digital materials, using thoughtful design and composition to make our message clear, engaging, and easy to recognize at community events and online. Since she came on board as the Friends of the Oakley Library visual communications designer back in 2024, she has volunteered countless hours designing posters and promotional items, handouts, and my personal favorite, laying out these newsletters!

"I see it as a meaningful and fulfilling use of my talent," said Elvira when I interviewed her. We have so much in common—way beyond getting a new library. But that is a great first step. "I want to encourage families and the community to get involved."

Elvira graduated from Freedom High School in 2018 and recently completed the Pharmacy Technician program at Contra Costa Medical Career College, along with an externship at Kaiser Permanente Antioch Medical Center. We appreciate the time she finds to keep us looking professional. Thank you, Elvira.

✦ **Final Quarter 2025 Wrap-Up for the Friends**
So much fun for the Friends of the Oakley Library at the FALL FIESTA... and a windfall for the Library Fund



If you were able to join us at the Friends of the Oakley Library's biggest event of the year—**Fall Fiesta**—last November 15th in the Oakley Recreation Center, you know it was a blast. What a festive way to kick off the holiday season. The performance by Ballet Folklorico de Antioch was epic and it featured our President, **Lorena Campos**. It alone was worth the price of admission! The food by the New Mecca Café was plentiful and delicious. The bar (manned by wonderful and familiar Oakley Rotary members) was a magnet for meeting up with fellow Oakley Library supporters. The silent auction was buzzing all night.

Kerry Harvey, Liz Fuller, Angela Lowrey, Alan and Paula Kemp were there from the planning stage all the way through clean-up. It may have looked like the fairytale evening rose up like magic, complete with giant, brilliantly colorful paper flowers everywhere, but it sure took a lot of work.

Featured speakers at the event were Principal Architect **Susi Marzuola** and Library Consultant **Martín Gómez** who got us up to date on what is happening with the new library. (More on that in the March issue of the Friends of the Oakley Library Newsletter!)

We suggested attendees wear their most festive and colorful attire. And—WOW—did they ever!

All told, the event brought in close to \$9,000 for the library. In short, it was an amazing success.

Sponsors for the Fall Fiesta included:

Gold Sponsor - \$1,000 Delia & Arnold Fitzpatrick, Jr. Our Kids First; Assemblywoman Lori D. Wilson; The Rodriguez Family—Felix, Alicia, Felizia

Silver Sponsors - \$500 Amazon; Anchored Digital; Black Bear Dinner, ThePress.net

Bronze Sponsors - \$250 Best Western Plus Delta Inn & Suites of Oakley; Local Family-Owned Black Bear Diner; The Bugsmith, Inc.; Colin Coffey, EBRPD Board Member; Cypress Self Storage; Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library; The Lauras—Keller Williams Realty; Yolanda Peña Mendrek; Dorothy J. Wilson

Our Raffle Donors included: AMC Theaters; Beauty Town Salon; Yvonne Benavidez; The Beer Aisle; Local Family-Owned Black Bear Diner; Blackhawk Museum; California Symphony; Campos Family Vineyards; Cap's Oak Street Bar & Grill; Cheese Board Collective; Children's Museum of Sonoma County; Chipotle Mexican Grill; Colin Coffey, Board Member, EBRPD; Julie Cook, Better Homes Realty; Crocker Art Museum; Cypress Self Storage; De Young Museum; Delta Bowl, Antioch; Delta Schools Federal Credit Union; Delta Theater; Diamond Hills Spa; Dream Vacations; Dutch Bros; Laura Egorava; El Campanil; Friends of the Oakley Library; GolfBallin; Good Scents Florist; Hairy Hounds; Hannah Nicole Vineyards; Home Depot; Lone Tree Golf & Event Center; Lowe's; Angela Lowrey; Maya Cinemas, Pittsburg; Trish McDermott; Alison McKee; Michael David Winery; Monterey Bay Whale Watch; No Paws Left Behind; Oakland Museum of California; The Oakland Zoo; Oakley Ace Hardware; PetSmart; Picante Mexican Restaurant; Sara Pope Photography; The Press; Quiltornot by LindaC; Raley's; Ruth Bancroft Garden & Nursery; Sabrina's Pizzeria; Barbara Santos; Charles M. Schulz Museum; Skipolini's, Oakley; Winchester Mystery House; Yogurt Island; Zephyr Grill & Bar, Brentwood and many more!



♥ **A Merry & Bright December at the Barnes & Noble Book Fair**



The December Barnes & Noble Book Fair was another HUGE success. Having the sale just in time to purchase books for the holidays was perfect timing. Not only did the event generate substantial funds for library projects, it gave us a chance to tell folks (who obviously love to read) about the new Oakley Library! It was definitely a PR bonanza for the Friends of the Oakley Library.

We want to thank Barnes & Noble for their ongoing and generous support. A pat on back to all the volunteers who showed up to hand out the vouchers that directed a portion of the proceeds each day right back to the Friends of the Oakley Library! But also a big THANK YOU to **Kerry Harvey**, who has worked with Barnes & Noble so that the book fairs are fun and profitable for everyone!

☀ **A Financial Update**

By *Liz Fuller*, Treasurer

Community Impact Fund: The Friends of the Oakley Library received \$5,000 for library programs from Diane Burgis’ Community Impact Fund. This fund was approved by the Board of Supervisors and comes from one-time FEMA COVID-19 reserves – the Board of Supervisors agreed each of the five supervisor districts would have \$1 million to allocate as they wish to community organizations. The Friends have focused on raising funds for the new Library and Community Center the past two years but wanted to make sure we continue to fund library programs that Oakley Library staff work so hard to present to the community.

✿ **Wow, Where Did 2025 Go?**

By *Alan Kemp*, Vice President & Volunteer Director

We started off the year (2025) with a planning and goal setting session that outlined a very busy year for the Friends in general, and our roll of volunteers in particular. We committed to multiple **Friday Night Bite events, Juneteenth, Summerfest, Heart of Oakley**, multiple book sales, multiple library events, three separate **B&N Book Fairs**, and general community outreach throughout the year. I’m not exaggerating when I say that this was the most ambitious schedule we’ve committed to and due to all of your efforts, it was our most successful as well!

Job well done and let’s all welcome our newest volunteers: **Allison Taylor, Margaret Llanes, Mika Smith**. Thanks to all of you and hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season!

Reminder for volunteers: We will have lots of events added to the calendar for 2026 and we’ll need plenty of help for them. Keep updated here: [Friends of the Oakley Library Calendar](#). Want to greet folks at our booth, help people find/buy books at the book sale, and/or help us do whatever else needs doing? Yay and welcome! Our call for volunteers typically goes out about a week in advance of an event. If you are not already on our list to be notified and want to be, just fill in this form: [Friends of the Oakley Library Volunteers](#)

Visit our calendar!



Become a volunteer!



☀ **ARE YOU A MEMBER FOR 2026?**

Friends of the Oakley Library Membership Chair **Vannessa Cendejas** reminds us that it’s always a good time to be a Friend of the Oakley Library. Not sure if you are current on your dues? Vannessa says, “Notices for our January upcoming expiration of memberships will occur in the next two weeks.”

If you want to join, renew, or pass along membership info to a friend please visit:

→ Oakleylibrary.org/membership.



☀️ Progress Update on the NEW Oakley Library

What do you see when you imagine the new Oakley Library? There will be opportunities in 2026 for the public to weigh in, so keep an eye on our social media for information about that. The building will begin before we know it, so make your ideas known.

Remember, you can always follow the progress of the project at:

→<https://engage.oakleyca.gov/en/projects/oakley-library-and-community-center-1>



Clarification: The Oakley Library site, currently housed in the Freedom High School, is city-owned and operated. However, the library's SERVICES are provided by Contra Costa County. We apologize for any confusion!



Help Us Grow Our Library Together!

Your support makes a difference in our library's ability to provide programs, resources, and a welcoming space for our community. By donating, you're helping us bring more books, events, and services to Oakley residents of all ages.

Every donation counts! Whether it's \$5, \$50, or your time, your contribution supports literacy, learning, and connection in Oakley.

Ready to help? Visit www.oakleylibrary.org or stop by the Oakley Library to learn more.

Donate to New Library & Community Center:
https://www.oakleylibrary.org/new_library_and_community_center

Donate to Library Programs:
<https://www.oakleylibrary.org/donate>

Volunteer: <https://www.oakleylibrary.org/volunteer>

Become a Member:
<https://www.oakleylibrary.org/membership>

Subscribe to our Newsletter:
<https://www.oakleylibrary.org/newsletters>

Thank you for being part of our story!

The Friends of the Oakley Library is an all-volunteer, registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has proudly supported the Oakley Public Library since 1972. As advocates for the value of our Library, we speak out in the community and work to enhance library resources, programs, and improvements.

Created Together By....

Friends of the Oakley Library Board and Volunteers

✍️ Writing & Storytelling

Barbara Santos

🌟 Guidance & Contributions

The Friends of the Oakley Library Board

President of the Oakley Library, *Lorena Campos*

Vice President & Volunteer Coordinator, *Alan Kemp*

Secretary, *Nancy Huffaker*

Treasurer, *Liz Fuller*

Book Sale Chair, *Joy Kick*

Fundraising Chair, *Kerry Harvey*

Membership Chair, *Vanessa Candejas*

🎨 Visual Communications Designer

Elvira G.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE FALL FIESTA

YOUR GENEROSITY HELPED MAKE IT A MEMORABLE EVENING AND A SUCCESS FOR THE LIBRARY FUND.

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