

## **NEW LIBRARIAN, UPDATE ON HOMELESS SITE CLEANUPS at PANIL MEETING**

The September 13 PANIL meeting provided an opportunity to meet the new PIEDMONT AVE BRANCH librarian, Pat Toney. Pat brought her enthusiasm for the position to the meeting, with a wealth of handouts on events at the Piedmont Branch as well as other branches throughout the city.

Peg Janosch, Chair of the Friends of Piedmont Library, started with a summary of the status of the current library and the quest for a permanent home. Peg noted the lease has been renewed for the current location, so there is no immediate pressure to move. There were some hopes the library could move to the abandoned child-care center adjacent to its current location, but inspection of that site made it clear that the costs of rehabilitation would be prohibitive. A suggestion was made to consider using the current elementary school library, but that space is far too small. While certainly not as quaint and central as the older library, the current location is larger and even has a restroom!

Pat Toney comes to Piedmont after stints at the main library and San Francisco. She has specialized as a children's librarian. She is conversant in Portuguese and Spanish, and has strong facility with Web design and database management, skills so essential for the modern library.

Pat highlighted the role of the library as almost a cultural center for the community. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the library will hold a Momemade Salsa Contest! Fridays after school kids build structures in Lego Mania. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday the library has a Teenzone program. Do you want to write? The library will host a new writer workshop on November 7.

On the topic of homeless encampments, Brenda Ivey, our Neighborhood Services Coordinator, reviewed a list of upcoming cleanup efforts underway by the city. Though the core of the Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood has been relatively free from encampments, they have in the past appeared around Oakland Ave and I-580, along Glen Echo Creek and on 42<sup>nd</sup> St. in the Temescal area. PANIL hopes to have a meeting on the topic in the future with responsible city staff.

The Police report on beat activity was provided by an Officer Lorenz, substituting for the Tui Pollard, who was in a class. He did not have much up-to-date information at his disposal, but did report two robberies on Piedmont Ave. in the last month. He made the point that this was one of the safest beats in the city. He warned that auto burglaries and thefts continue to be a concern and that they are seeing many more trunk break-ins as people leave fewer items visible inside the car.

The final topic of the night was to be a presentation Oakland City urban planner Laurissa Wells on the topic of affordable housing. Unfortunately, Ms. Wells could not make it to the meeting. We plan to reschedule this for a future one. [Subsequent to the meeting we contacted Ms. Wells, who apologized but noted there was a communication mixup, and also she had an auto accident that day, so she couldn't have attended. We agreed she come later this year.]

The meeting ended early at 8:45. Next month's meeting on October 11 will feature two key transportation authorities, AC Transit and BART. Please come and invite your friends.