



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library

May 2016

NO MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Book Sale Summary: Here it is Spring 2016 already, and the first book sale of the year is under our belt. We had a bumper crop of large book donations in March from an estate clearance and from several folks moving to southern climes. The sale tables were full and the overflow stacked underneath was three deep in some categories. We expanded to two tables of cookbooks and added most of a third table to the hardback fiction genre. Multimedia such as CDs and DVDs were well represented and flew out the door. There was moderate interest in the Civil War and Indian Wars special selections, but that's a tough sell being an enthusiast niche.

The opening of the sale with the Friday evening "Members Only" night was less well attended than usual even though this is when the best selections are available. At that, we added fourteen new and renewing members and bulging cloth shopping bags full of new acquisitions were seen leaving. They knew a good thing!

The Saturday sale started well at 10 a.m. but dropped off during the Warriors basketball game. That event, a sunny beach day, and competition from the Alameda Friends book sale are seen as contributing to the lower than usual attendance. We added an extra incentive in the afternoon in a surprise (repeated) announcement that hardbound fiction and mystery books were two for the price of one, and all cookbooks were also buy-one-get-one (BOGO), resulting in paperback cookbooks effectively selling for one quarter. Unfortunately such a deal only works if the buyers are already there.

The three-dollar-a-bag sale on Sunday opened to a huge crowd and stayed busy through most of the day. As always, there were a couple of late arrivals who managed to fill a bag in the last seven or eight minutes.

Bottom line: About \$2500 in book sales were realized, as well as about 20 new and renewing memberships. All in all, sales were about ten percent below last April but respectable nonetheless.

Board News: Sara Sammis was appointed as Director-at-Large at the February Board meeting. Sara manages the Tumblr website and publicity for the Friends as well as sorting through the books made available due to their withdrawal by the library in order to open up sorely needed stack space. Welcome aboard, Sara. (See also the "Meet Your Friends" column on page 5.)

COMING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!

There are many regular Library activities, and the event schedule is updated frequently. Please call 667-7900 or visit www.aclibrary.org for up to date event information.

Reading Groups:

First Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. *Mystery Book Club*
Last Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. *CV Library Book Club*
Third Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. *eBestseller Book Club (registration req.)*
Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. *Write to Read* Literacy Reading Club for adults with English as their second language.

Other Ongoing Activities:

Homework Help Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Advanced Math & Science Tutoring Mondays 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Lawyer in the Library 2nd Mondays 6-8 p.m. Appt. req'd.
MAC meeting 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays, 6 p.m.
Job Lab Monday 12:30-3:00, Wednesday 10:30-3:00.
Drop-in gadget help 1st and 3rd Mondays 5:30-7:30 p.m.—(phones, computers, etc.) for adults.
CV Library Genealogy Study Group. 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 10:30 to 12:30. Registration required.
Creative Writing Group, 2nd Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. (preregistration required for this group).

Partial List of Events Coming Up in May

5/7 12—1 p.m. Make Your Own Beats Workshop
5/7 2—3:30 p.m. Taiwanese Dance and Night Market
5/14 10:30—11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners (adult)
5/14 1—3 p.m. STEAM Extravaganza
5/17 6—7:30 p.m. SAT Essay Workshop
5/19 10:30—11:30 a.m. Storyteller John Weaver
5/21 1—4 p.m. Bookfair with 30 local authors
5/22 2—4 p.m. Swing into Spring with the In Full Swing big band

New events are added frequently! Please visit the library website or check the readerboard in the library lobby for complete information on all events and activities!

The Library will be closed on the following days:

Monday May 30th for Memorial Day
Monday July 4th for Independence Day

Watch for more announcements in the *Forum*, on the Library's website and readerboard, and on the CV Library Facebook Page.

Also, remember to visit the quarterly art displays near the BookStore and the special features in the lobby display cases.

In a few short months, the November elections of Board members will be here. If you have constructive ideas and energy, please consider running for one of the positions. You may attend the Board meetings as an interested observer at any time to see how it works.

Roger Caswell, President
Friends of the Castro Valley Library

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Carolyn Moskowitz

Election time is fast approaching in California, and there is a race for the Board of Supervisors' 4th district seat. Incumbent Nate Miley is being challenged by Bryan Parker. The library hosted both a Town hall and a Debate in April. The Town hall was sponsored by Castro Valley Matters and the Chamber of Commerce. The debate was sponsored by the Eden Area Chamber of Commerce, Castro Valley News, and the Library. In both cases, standing room only crowds got a real chance to get to know the candidates and listen to them discuss the issues. We got a chance to remind them that we will be once again inviting the public to watch the Presidential Debates in the Library on the big screen with their friends and neighbors. The library will be partnering with the Eden Area League of Women Voters. A light supper and spirited discussion moderated by the League will be featured as well.

Once again, the library was the go-to place in town for tax help. We had both forms and instructions for those who wanted paper. We also had AARP here to help with tax returns, and Dave Butner coordinated this very popular service. Our AARP volunteers e-filed 221 returns this year, completed 5 paper returns, 3 previous year returns, and 15 amended returns. In addition, they answered 60 questions from people not needing to file. We are very grateful for the wonderful service they provided.

As many of you know, the Library has invited the community to participate in the development of a new master plan to improve our library places and spaces. Castro Valley had a strong turnout at a library system wide visioning workshop, and we have had great number of people fill out our survey. If you have not yet had a chance, it's available electronically on our website. Paper copies are available at the information desk as well.

We had our first ever IPAD/IPHONE class in April and our first ever bi-lingual English/Spanish family story time. We also offered a workshop on using LinkedIn in the job search. I expect we will be repeating these workshops in the future so be sure to check with us if you are interested.

In May, we have a variety of entertainment events planned. On May 22nd we will have the "Big Band" directed by Milt Bowerman performing "In Full Swing". On May 24th we will offer a sneak peek at the upcoming Douglas Morrison Theatre production of "The Book of Days", and for teens on May 7th we will offer a workshop on Hip Hop with an opportunity to "Make Your Own Beats". As always we are planning a jam-packed summer for everyone, but especially the kids. The Friends' generosity allows us to do this, and all our staff really appreciate it and know how lucky we are here at the Castro Valley Library.

Meet Local Authors at the Library

by Chris Selig, Adult Services Librarian

The Library will celebrate local writing talent at the second annual Castro Valley Book Fair on Saturday, May 21, from 1 pm to 4 pm. More than 30 writers from Castro Valley and the surrounding area will be on hand to sell and sign their books. The event also will feature a prize drawing and light refreshments.

In addition to shopping for

books, you'll have a chance to learn about writing and publishing. Some of the authors also will be forming panels to discuss their experiences. You can learn about self-publishing, writing romances, and writing self-help books. Look for details, including the times of the panels, at the Library as the date approaches.



Both professionally and independently published authors will be on hand. You could meet Camille Minichino, author of a series of mysteries based on the periodic table of elements. Felicia Quijano-Beck, a local high school student, will be offering her young adult fiction book. Jessica Okui will be selling her books about origami and crafting with washi tape. Mark Vaz is the author of books on film history and popular culture. And C'Anna Bergman-Hill will be here with a memoir about her time as a special education teacher. Chris Guillory will offer a sci-fi thriller. And that's just a sample!

The ever-expanding variety of ways for writers to get their work published in print and online means more people can put their stories out into the world. With this event the Castro Valley Library has become part of the pipeline from local authors to their readers. Please plan on stopping by to learn about the writers in our midst and be inspired by our vibrant literary community.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library appreciate your donations of books. If you have a very large donation (more than 2 or 3 cartons), please call ahead to arrange a drop-off time. Otherwise, books can be dropped off any time the Friends' BookStore and office are open. We would greatly appreciate your not leaving books outside the Library, as they are then subject to theft or damage, and detract from the appearance of our beautiful facility.



We are happy to receive any fiction or nonfiction books in good condition with the following exceptions: we cannot take encyclopedias or other sets of books, textbooks older than 3 years, or books that are very dirty, moldy, or smell of dampness or smoke. Magazines may be up to 6 months old. We will accept music, audio books, movies, and TV programs on CD or DVD only. The only VHS we can accept at this time are Disney movies. We are no longer accepting audio books or music on cassette tapes.

Donated books and other media are sold in the Friends' BookStore or at one of our book sales. Some books may be donated to

ASK A LIBRARIAN

From the *Reader's Digest*, here are some queries posed to the staff of public libraries:

A woman wanted "inspirational material on grass and lawns."

"Who built the English Channel?"

"Is there a full moon every night in Acapulco?"

"Music suitable for a doll wedding to take place between a Shirley Temple doll and a teddy bear."

"Can the New York Public Library recommend a good forger?"

the County Jail or another facility that needs them. Leftovers from the book sales that cannot be used otherwise are donated to St. Vincent DePaul. Those books which cannot be used due to condition or content are recycled.

Donations are tax deductible; a receipt is provided on request.

Funds generated through the sale of these items pay for Library programs or other amenities that would not otherwise be provided. We are grateful to our generous donors for these opportunities. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us!

I want to join the Friends of the Castro Valley Library as a new renewing member (IMPORTANT—so that we have accurate information, PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!)

First Name: _____ Last Name _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone _____
 E-MAIL _____

Make tax-deductible check payable to
 Friends of the Castro Valley Library
 3600 Norbridge Ave.
 Castro Valley CA 94546

I do do not wish to receive the newsletter and other Friends' information by e-mail

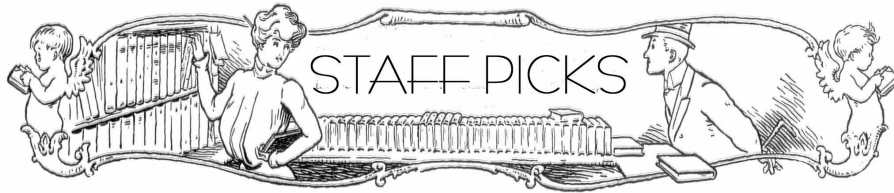
MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- \$10 Individual \$20 Family \$5 Youth \$35 Corporate Sponsor
 - \$50 Benefactor \$200 Lifetime—Individual \$300 Lifetime—Family
- Membership renewals are due in October of each year.*

I would like to be an active Friend and help with:

- Book store Sales events Membership Publications
- Information Technology/Website Public Relations/Advocacy

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
 Card Issued
 By _____
 Date: _____



The Girl From the Train by Irma Joubert (2007 fiction; English translation 2015): Not to be confused with the current bestseller *The Girl ON the Train*, this book chronicles the life of German refugee Gretl Schmidt, who escapes from a Nazi train bound for Auschwitz at the age of six. Taken in by a Polish family, Gretl is eventually handed over to an organization sending German war orphans to South Africa to be adopted by farming families. Despite her “advanced” age of ten, she is selected by the Neethling family, and her name is changed to Grietjie. Her new family knows little of her history, her part-Jewish ancestry, or her Polish friend Jakob who rescued her and sheltered her for four years. Gretl is also plagued by nightmares from her much younger days, the source of which she cannot remember. We see Gretl grow up in South Africa, graduate from school, and become a translator. The book deals with the prejudices of the time, not only in Europe but also in South Africa. There are a number of surprises along the way. This is an entertaining and enjoyable book. Translated from Afrikaans. (Ginger Russell)

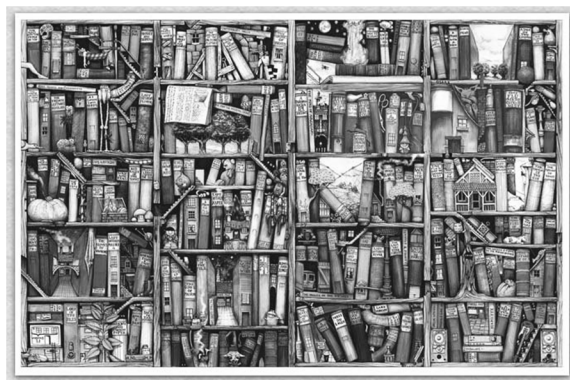
Bridge of Spies: A True Story of the Cold War by Giles Whittell (2010 nonfiction) relates the story of Gary Powers and William Fisher, alias Rudolf Abel, in more detail than the movie did. Gary Powers achieved infamy as the U-2 pilot shot down over the Soviet Union, as did Abel as the spy traded to secure Powers’ release from the USSR. The movie tells the major events of this Cold War period, but the book supplies enough detail so the reader understands how these events meant missed opportunities to end the Cold War. Also, in this book, the people from this period are treated with more sympathy than they were by the news media. For a person interested in history, the book is excellent. (Sara Accornero)

Make Me by Lee Child (2015 fiction): This is Lee Child’s latest Jack Reacher novel. It has received an enthusiastic welcome. But I found myself trying to figure out how Child, not Reacher, keeps readers hooked. And then I read *Make Me*. Child has a formula: introduce the loner, Reacher; provide an inevitable sexual partner; slowly unveil a succession of cartoonish opposition characters, set against a highly improbable background. And then grudgingly supply Reacher with just enough information to become involved. We accompany him, salivating breathlessly. Insurmountable odds are disposed of ruthlessly. More clues are unveiled, clues no reader could anticipate. More vigilante violence advances the chase. And in *Make Me*, two ultra modern ideas are introduced: the existence of a dark evil internet, the Deep Web, and the prevalence of a “snuff” pornography market, offering videos entitled

“Gut Shot,” “Pregnant and Bayoneted,” “Starved to Death,” “Thin Man All Ribs Broken,” “Death by a Thousand Cuts.” Maybe I resent not being fully aware of the real world, but I thought *Make Me* was overkill. (Martin Waldron)

M Train by Patti Smith (2015 Nonfiction): Many of us think of Patti Smith as the rock music star of the 1970’s who recorded the hit “Because the Night” as well as her seminal album “Horses.” That album is on the *Rolling Stone* list of the top 100 albums of all time. She is in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Patti Smith is also a poet, an artist, a photographer, and author of the autobiographical *Just Kids* and now this book. *Just Kids* chronicled the earlier part of her life. *M Train* recounts experiences that occurred later in her life. She describes her neighborhood in New York, her daily routines, her thoughts and dreams, and many of her travels abroad. It is a book that has to be experienced to be understood; she reminds me of friends I haven’t seen in years and even myself at various times of my life. Her writing is beautifully descriptive and leaves nothing to chance; her disappointments are as visible as her successes. Recommended. (Ginger Russell)

BOOK REVIEWS WANTED! Have you read something you really enjoyed? Let your Friends know by writing a brief book review. You may also review music CD’s, films, or even TV programs (as long as it’s possible to still see it). Share your experiences! Reviews may be submitted at any time and will be printed on a space-available basis. You do not need to be a BookStore volunteer to submit reviews! All members are welcome to email reviews to our Friends email address or drop them off at the BookStore office.



AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM



The Friends currently have over 100 books and other media listed on *Amazon.com*. Here are a few of them:

Crystal City Internment Camp 50th Anniversary \$49.00
All of a Sudden: The Creative Process \$35.00

The Grand Hotel Capitola \$69.00
Super Bowl XIX Game Program \$20.00
1999 Harley Davidson Dyna Glide Models Service Manual \$29.00
Basic Works of Sigmund Freud \$37.00
A Brief Sketch of the Fifty Ninth Regiment \$299.00
The Sorcery Shop: An Impossible Romance \$29.00
Dutch Graphic August 1998 \$30.00
The History of Middle Earth 12 volume set \$700.00
The New Science—Weaponless Defense \$45.00
The Voice of Ireland \$55.00
Four Centuries of Violin Making \$210.00
Campaigning with Grant \$22.00

Our name on Amazon is **FriendsofBooks**, and our entire on-line store can be viewed at <http://www.amazon.com/shops/A1AE92DUB78GQ4>. You can access the store by typing the above string in your browser, or by clicking on our name when viewing one of our listings.

Don't forget to mention us when purchasing through *Amazon Smile*. When you select Friends of the Castro Valley Library as your charity of choice, we will receive a 0.5% donation every time you make a purchase. Many great items "from soup to nuts" are designated as *Smile* products, so please check it out.

Re-reading the same book produces new insights because the reader is a different person. Indeed, a good book is very much like a mirror: the glass is the same year after year, but the reflection in it changes over time.

- Christopher S. Nelson
President of St. John's College

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

Our special theme books are found on the center of the Honesty Shelves.

May: Do you know the history of May Day? Celebrate Cinco De Mayo, appreciate Mom on Mother's Day, honor our veterans on Memorial Day.

June: Fly Old Glory on Flag Day, learn about Juneteenth and emancipation history, congratulate a graduate, appreciate your Dad, and celebrate a wedding or a commitment.



July: Celebrate America's Independence, try all the varieties during Hot Dog Month, enjoy living alfresco and your summer getaway, check out the history of Bastille Day.

August: Hit the links for Golf Month, pet man's best friend for the Dog Days of Summer, do what you want on Just Because Day (8/27), and Race Your Mouse Around the Icons Day (8/28). And (awwww) Back to School.

September: Continuing Back to School Month, play or listen during Classical Music Month, celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, and watch your etiquette for Kids' Manners Month.

FINANCIAL REPORT

By Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurer

The weekend of April 15-17 marked another of our book sales, earning over \$2,800 in proceeds from the sales of books and new memberships for the



Friends of the Castro Valley Library. The generous support from the community and the time donated by volunteers continue to make our sales worthwhile.

As always, we are proud to generate funds in order to provide financial assistance as needed for the library and its many events, programs and activities.



THANK YOU CORNER

Roger Caswell, President

There are many volunteers who give up part of their weekend but only see bits and pieces of a book sale during their respective shifts. Much of the satisfaction of being a volunteer is to see how one's part contributes to a community effort. With that in mind, this is an overview of the recently completed Spring Book Sale to let all of those volunteers and the Friends membership, at large, know how things worked out.

As some of you may have noticed, I am a "numbers" sort of person. I like to be able to quantify the results of actions and therefore attempt to be able to make more of the productive work and lessen the counter-productive work. It was with this point of view, that I looked at the recent Spring Book Sale results.

Fifty-one volunteers participated in the spring book sale, accumulating a total of 305 hours over the Thursday-through-Monday life-cycle of the event.

Somewhat over 400 boxes of books were moved to the community room at the library to be unboxed and set out for the sale. At an average of 20 books per box (sizes range from small childrens' readers to coffee table books), the quantity was more than 8,000 books.

The Interact students from the Castro Valley High School provided an additional fifteen hours for the set-up and clean-up.

About \$2,500 was raised through the book sales, and there were about two dozen new and renewed memberships.

About 250 boxes of unsold books were contributed to St. Vincent de Paul charity. Suitable paperback books were directed to the jail system, and the few remaining K-3 children's books went to the San Leandro Boys and Girls Club to help a learning program there.

The sales tables allocated to the Cookbook category were doubled for this sale, and priced at two-for-one on Saturday afternoon in an effort to sell as many as possible of the overstock. Two-for-one pricing was also instituted on Saturday afternoon for the hardbound fiction and mystery categories for the same reason.

Old/Antiquarian books were difficult to sell even though venerable. Older modern fiction and mystery are also a difficult sell.

In spite of many obstacles, the book sale results were respectable.

I wish to thank all of the volunteers who contributed their time and effort to this sale and through their hard work, made it turn out as well as it did.

A Library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life raft, and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind, hospitals of the soul, theme parks of the imagination.

- Caitlin Moran

MEET YOUR FRIENDS Sarah Sammis

Sarah joined the Friends of the Castro Valley Library in May of 2015 and immediately began helping us with our Social Media. We have had a Facebook page for a while, but Sarah was able to also get us on Tumblr and is a super Internet advisor for our group.

Since Sarah is a Librarian by trade (between jobs at the moment), she has taken on the task of reviewing the library discards and deciding which are good candidates for the BookStore or book sales. She spends quite a lot of time making sure that we get the very best of the discarded books, and those that are most likely to earn money for the Library.



Sarah also serves on the Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large.

Some of her other volunteer time is spent as a Daisy Girl Scout Troop Leader. She has 6 Daisies in her group, which is part of a larger joint troop. They meet twice a month, and she spends time during the rest of the month making lesson plans to help the girls earn patches.

In her "spare" time, Sarah hikes and pursues both photography and painting. She combines all 3 by photographing the things she sees on her hikes and then using the photos as references for her paintings. Two of her paintings have been selected for the Endangered Animals and Habitats show at Sun Gallery (runs through June 4) and will later become part of the continuing show at O'Lague Gallery in the Hayward City Hall.

Catch Sarah at a Board meeting or a regular Friends meeting.

HOW TO CONTACT *CIRCLE OF FRIENDS*

If you have any comments or suggestions for regular columns or features that you would like to see in *Circle of Friends*, please let us know.

We also welcome brief news items or articles. Deadlines are typically about one month prior to a regular meeting date. Keep in mind that time-sensitive items must fit within the publication schedule.

Please call 510-733-3285 or e-mail us at Friends.CVL@gmail.com.



Mark your calendars now—the next book sale is

AUGUST 19–21

As always, the sale will be at the following times:

Friday night Member Preview—6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday Bag Sale—1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (\$3 per bag)

This sale will feature our usual wonderful selection of fiction, nonfiction, and children's books. We anticipate having at least 300 cartons of books at the sale. You will be glad you came!

Volunteers will be needed for all sale days as well as for the set-up and clean-up days.

Contact us at 510-733-3285 or *Friends.CVL@gmail.com*

if you can volunteer or if you have any questions about the work or requirements.

A signup sheet will be available in the Friends office approximately one month prior to the book sale date.

Planning to attend?

Please remember to bring your current (2015-2016) Friends of the Castro Valley Library membership card in order to take advantage of your \$2.00 discount. You can join or renew at the door or purchase a membership ahead of time.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE 2016 BOOK SALES!

AUGUST 19-21

DECEMBER 2-4

WE MAY ALSO HAVE SPECIAL SALES AT OTHER TIMES DURING THE YEAR. REMEMBER TO CHECK FREQUENTLY FOR NOTICES IN THE NEWSLETTER, ON OUR WEBSITE, AND POSTED AT THE BOOKSTORE.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND GET UPDATES ON ALL OUR EVENTS, AS WELL AS ANY SPECIAL BOOKS OR COLLECTIONS THAT COME INTO THE BOOKSTORE!

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, PAGE 8

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday & Tuesday 12 noon to 8 p.m.
Wed. & Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday Closed
Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call 667-7900 or visit the Library website at www.aclibrary.org for more information.

BOOKSTORE HOURS

Monday 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday 12 noon to 7:30 p.m.
Wed. & Thursday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday Closed
Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please call 733-3285 or e-mail Friends.CVL@gmail.com for more information.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

Roger Caswell, President
Sara Accornero, Vice President
Melanie Courchaine and
Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurers
Kay Wetherwax, Secretary
Elizabeth McCune, Director-at-Large
Sarah Sammis, Director-at-Large

Board members may be contacted by calling the Friends office or emailing us as noted under the BookStore information to the left. You may also contact us through our website or by visiting the BookStore during normal operating hours.

MEETING SCHEDULE!!!

Friends meetings are held on an as-needed basis. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

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Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

