



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
August 2018



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax

The year seems to be flying by. I can hardly believe we're almost done with July! It continues to be a very busy and productive year for the Friends, with pop-up sales and special sales in addition to our on-going work in the bookstore and at our three yearly big sales. We continue to increase our memberships and to reach out to let the community know more about our organization.

I realized the other day that we are the only bookstore in Castro Valley that offers a range of choices: novels, biographies, mysteries, children's books, non-fiction and more! I encourage all of you to shop in the store and at our sales when you want to purchase a book before you go to other communities and before you order on-line. Our prices are extremely low (so you can always find a great deal!) and we have some wonderful books, including many that are "gift quality."

I am happy to report that we have added a few enthusiastic new volunteers since the last newsletter, including some who can help with weekend shifts. This is good news indeed, but we still need a few more. If you are interested, please pick up a Volunteer Application at the BookStore. Once you complete the form and turn it in to the store, someone will contact you to set up an orientation and training session.

On June 6, we had our annual pizza lunch for the library staff and our BookStore volunteers. It's always a great opportunity to get to know each other better. Delicious pizza, homemade cookies, and good conversation made for a very enjoyable event!

On a sad note, in recent months we have lost two long-time Friends. Lorraine Gill, former Vice President of the Friends, passed away in early April after a long illness. And Diane George, webmaster of the Friends' web site, died in mid-May. Diane also taught many of the library's computer classes, and she and her husband taught the popular genealogy class. Both Diane and Lorraine devoted many hours to the Friends and contributed in important ways behind the scenes. They will be missed.

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*
Second Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. *eBesteller Book Club (registration req.)*
Third Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. *Real Reads Nonfiction Book Club*
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. (when school is in session only)
Advanced Math & Science Tutoring Mondays 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Lawyer in the Library 2nd Mondays 6-8 p.m. Appt. req'd.
State Sen. Bob Wiechowski Representative 3rd Wed. 3—5 p.m.
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 August

8/1 2:00-3:00 p.m. Puppet Art Theater Company
8/2 1:00-3:00 p.m. Game Day
8/4 1:00-2:00 p.m. Introduction to Coding
8/4 2:00-4:00 p.m. Meditation
8/6 1:00-3:00 p.m. Build It Day
8/6 6:30-8:00 p.m. Paws to Read
8/7 2:00-4:00 p.m. Movie—*A Wrinkle in Time*
8/8 2:00-3:00 p.m. Jeremy the Juggler

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 September 3rd for Labor Day
Monday November 12th for Veterans 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Summer's in full swing and we are as busy as ever at the Castro Valley Library! We are providing programming nearly every day in July. This summer's programs are all free and have ranged from Jazz concerts to a Pirate Escape room for Teens. This summer our paper summer reading game is back. Last year only the online game was available. Families have been very happy to find the paper game and our spinners back this year! In addition, our middle school volunteer summer program, is back and keeping our middle schoolers occupied and learning the value of volunteering in our community. A win-win for the library and the community!

I was working the Children's desk the other day and spoke at length with a parent of two young boys. She was so thankful for the library's services and spoke about how expensive it is these days to do anything with a family of four (not to mention five, six...). She said she appreciates being able to come in everyday during the summer and find great programming for free. She reminisced about her own childhood library visits and was clearly delighted to be able to provide those same memories for her family. We are delighted to be able to offer the programming with the assistance of our amazing group of Friends. Summer programming continues through August 11.



The branch has seen checkouts decline (as has nearly every other library since the economy has improved), but our gate count is staying steady or increasing in some cases. People still want to come into the library for all the amazing services we offer. Coding classes, literacy circles, book clubs, puppet shows, storytime, book sales, the list goes on and on. We are always trying out new programming and invite you to make a suggestion. We are actively planning our next Castro Valley Reads program and look forward to sharing the next book selection with the Castro Valley community. We are also continuing to recruit and train Bookleggers for volunteer work in the schools and cultivate the love of reading for your children and grandchildren.

Be sure to see what else we are offering at our calendar: http://www.aclibrary.org/castro_valley and enjoy the rest of your summer!

School's Out and Summer is Upon Us

By Nathan Silva, Librarian

It's already August... where did the summer go? Now is the perfect time to both look back and glance forward at how the Friends of the Library Organization has generously helped teen services. We were also able to have some truly fun and unique activities over the summer for teenagers. July specifically saw a multitude of programs for teens, staffed by teens, and even created and facilitated by teens.

The Castro Valley Library partnered with Castro High School's Society of Women Engineers to host an interactive engineering fair open for people of all ages. One of my favorite exhibits at the fair was a water balloon launching trebuchet. It sent the water balloons a pretty good distance and was surprisingly accurate. A humorous story that a couple of the teens relayed to me was about a skateboarder, completely oblivious to what was going on, casually skating through the bomb zone and almost getting picked off by a balloon. Thankfully, he survived and everybody had fun.

The program that I was most excited about was our Pirate Escape Room. For those unfamiliar with the concept, an escape room is where a group of people are "locked" in a room and up against a time limit, they must solve a series of clues and puzzles to escape. If you haven't done one, you should! They can get incredibly stressful but are a lot of fun. Our Escape Room that we had was pirate-themed, and participants had 45 minutes to escape to free themselves from the brig and try to get the treasure. They had to utilize cipher wheels. One of the cooler aspects of the program was that the teens participating at the Escape Room at Castro Valley were competing against teens at the Dublin Library. I've been working with the teen librarian in Dublin for about 5 months on this program to come up with clues and construct props. To help prepare for the event, a group of us went to a Pirate themed Escape Room in Livermore to get ideas about puzzles and operation. It was a ton of work to put together, but it was very satisfying once completed, and we both were very pleased with the result. I'm sure that we will offer this in the future (for both teens and adults).

Just because summer vacation is over, doesn't mean that we stop doing stuff to attract teens into our building. In late August, the library will be offering a FREE bike repair workshop. The Alameda County BikeMobile will stop by to help fix your flat tire, adjust your brakes and even replace some worn out parts. The people at BikeMobile are incredibly helpful and super friendly. Also in late August, we will be offering a unique program geared towards teens covering the usage of drones. This promises to be both a fun and educational program as there will be a flight demonstration during it as well as some valuable information on the rules and regulations when it comes to flying drones.

All in all, it was an eventful summer and with the continued help with the Friends of the Library, there will be much more to come.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

The success of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library depends on your generous donations of books, CD's, and DVD's. We are happy to receive your donations any time the BookStore is open. If you have a large donation (more than a few cartons) please contact us ahead of time, as we may want to make arrangements for your donation to be dropped off at our storage facility rather than at the Library. Please do not leave donations outside the Library as they are subject to weather or vandalism damage and detract from the appearance of our beautiful Library.



PLEASE NOTE that we cannot accept donations the week prior to a book sale due to space constraints.

At this time, we are accepting donations of most types of books, DVDs, and music CDs in good, saleable condition, as well as magazines that are no more than 3 months old. We do not accept sets of books such as encyclopedias, Time-Life sets, condensed books, textbooks older than 3 years, or books that are dirty, moldy, smoky, or otherwise damaged. We also cannot accept VHS tapes (except Disney), vinyl records, or cassette tapes (music or audiobooks).

Funds received from the sale of these items pay for library programs and amenities that would not otherwise be available.

If you have questions about donating or how the donations are used, please let us know! Donation guidelines are available at the BookStore or on our website.

SAVE THOSE BOOK JACKETS!

Dust jackets enhance the appearance, value, and salability of books. Modern novels and nonfiction often will not sell in the Friends' BookStore if the jackets have been removed, even those that are less than a year old. While we are often able to sell current-year fiction for a dollar or two more, those without dust jackets unfortunately may not even sell at a bargain price. So if you plan to donate your books at some future time, please keep the jackets!

Vintage and classic books likewise tend to be worth more with the jackets, even if the jacket is damaged.

We appreciate all donations and will of course accept jacketless books that are otherwise in good condition. But if you prefer to read your book without the jacket, please don't throw it out—keep it for us!

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

The November issue of Circle of Friends will be snail-mailed to the entire membership in order to include the annual membership remittance envelope.

Payment for your 2019 membership will be due January 1st. (Your current 2018 membership card is valid through December 31st including member night at the December book sale.)

Life members will automatically receive their 2019 cards by mail.

Remember that your membership includes discounts at the BookStore and a discount for each book sale. Your dues help fund library programs and amenities.

Memberships may also be renewed at the December book sale or at the BookStore beginning on December 3rd.

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:

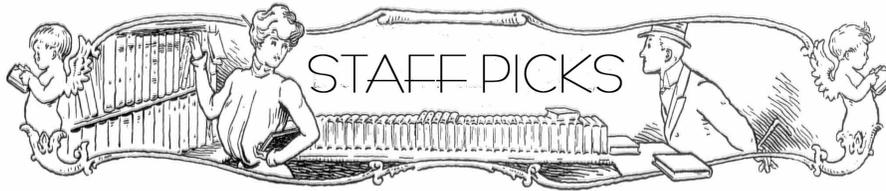
- \$10 Individual \$20 Family \$5 Youth \$35 Corporate Sponsor
 \$50 Benefactor \$200 Lifetime—Individual \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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 Last Mile by David Baldacci (2016 fiction): This is my introduction to Amos Decker and hyperthymesia. Amos stands 6'5", weighs a fluctuating 350 pounds, and lasted one NFL game. That game not only finished his career but affected his brain so that he is now hyperthymesiatic, possessing perfect recall. He has been recruited by the FBI for investigative purposes, and his choice is the case of Melvin Mars. Melvin has spent 20 years in jail for murdering his parents, and on his execution date, another man confesses to the deed. Melvin was the opposing lethal running back who ended Amos' career, and Amos is intrigued. He convinces his FBI team to reexamine the original Mars trial and the life-saving confession. Baldacci weaves an intermittently fascinating tale made credible only because of Decker's unique gift. I found his logical leaps barely convincing, but Baldacci's language riveting. Prison life and the death penalty are made unforgettable. Mars is as intriguing a character as Decker, although under-developed in the unfolding plot. Baldacci expands the character cast to include a modern version of *The Three Musketeers*. He also uses American football plays to advance the plot. I recommend *The Last Mile* for an entertaining read, but I felt cheated by the plot. Maybe jealous? (Martin Waldron)

The Shadow Land by Elizabeth Kostova (2017 fiction): Alexandra Boyd travels to Sofia, Bulgaria, planning to teach and to see a country that her deceased brother had always wanted to visit. While helping an elderly couple and their son into a taxi, she comes away with one of their bags, and to her horror, discovers that it contains an elaborately carved urn filled with human ashes. In an effort to find the family and return the urn, Alexandra embarks on an adventure she never anticipated, and in the process, uncovers decades-old secrets that have current-day consequences. I think this is the first book I have read that is set in Bulgaria and involves its governmental upheavals. The descriptions of the country's terrain and villages are wonderful, and Alexandra's journey is both poignant and thrilling. Recommended. (Ginger Russell)

The Likeness by Tana French (2008 fiction): This is a hypnotic read, a gripping murder mystery, an incredible yet irresistible story. Trinity College, Dublin, County Wicklow, Ireland's never-ending struggle for real freedom, all are sketched accurately as background to an undercover operation that skates over myriad difficulties. The main cast of five characters is sketched in excruciating adequacy, leaving the reader to fill in potential gaps. Then there is a supporting cast of detectives and policemen, problematic, uncertain, and challenging. French's County Wicklow, immediately south of Dublin City, is a relatively undeveloped rural environment. There is a Big House, decrepit but still a symbol of centuries of oppression to the

local peasantry. Its five occupants are unlikely but interesting individually and as a group. The plot places detective Cassie Maddox in their midst as a replacement for murder victim Lexie Madison. The police deny and conceal her death. Cassie is to become Lexie in order to solve the crime. There are outsiders, and she has regular communiques with her police handler, but the plot becomes her absorption into the community, and her acceptance. I thought that this situation was impossibly difficult, but French conjures up a marvelous inexorable tidal development of factual and person relationships that carried me for 500 glorious pages. (Martin Waldron)

The Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan (2017 nonfiction): This best-selling and highly readable book contributes much to our understanding of the Great Lakes, the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world. It is a story of the natural history of native and invasive species of plants and animals, of the human utilization of the Great Lakes, and the enormous efforts to address the consequences of the multi-dimensional human impact on this gigantic ecosystem. Perhaps you have heard of animals such as the sea lamprey, the alewife, the quagga and zebra mussels, the lake trout, and the chinook and coho salmon? How could they be related? What has been their role in the ecology of the Great Lakes? And their influence on human interests in the lakes? Could there be a relationship with the development and history of the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Welland Canal, global shipping (and ballast water), the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and commercial and recreational fisheries in all the Great Lakes? Is there a connection between agricultural runoff and the viability of water systems using lake water? Is that 'green' water really toxic? What about the more recent impact of climate changes? The author, an investigative reporter for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel and water policy fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, writing with an engaging and informative manner, provides a fine history of the many changes that have occurred in the Great Lakes over the past two hundred years, often as a consequence of human involvement. These changes are still going on, and their enormous influence on the communities surrounding the lakes, as well as the lives of fishermen, shipping interests, research scientists, politicians, construction and engineering experts, and the general public, is recounted in an up-to-date story that provides the reader with much to learn, to marvel at, to get exasperated at, and to wonder what the future portends. Surprisingly this is not only true for the Great Lakes ecosystem, but for other ecosystems throughout the United State and Canada. This book is another wake-up call to humans to carefully consider the consequences of their activities and the long-term viability in the many inter-related ecosystems of our part of the world. (Ned Lyke)

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

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

- The Life and Times of Scrooge McDuck* \$66.00
- Picasso, a Contemporary Dialogue* \$27.00
- Foxfire Series 3 Vol. Boxed Set* \$27.00
- Thomas Hart Benton Illus. from Mark Twain's Works* \$34.00
- Little Toot on the Grand Canal* \$28.00
- Warships Inside and Out* \$34.00
- Redoute's Fairest Flowers* \$22.00
- Buddha, Radiant Awakening* \$25.00
- Fly Homer Fly* \$29.00
- 1995 Toyota Celica Repair Manual* \$66.00
- Hetch Hetchy and Its Dam Railroad* \$26.00

Our name on Amazon is **FriendsofBooks**, and you can access the store by clicking on our name when viewing one of our listings. When you reach the welcome page, click on "Products" to view all of the books.



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.

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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

August: Bark as the Dog Days continue, take a swing at National Golf Month, recognize your favorite for Artist Appreciation Month, camping al fresco, and uh-oh, Back to School.



September: Back to school continues; play a tune for classical music month, be polite for Kids' Good Manners Month, celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

October: It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month; celebrate Italian-American Heritage Month; take fright for Halloween.



November: It's National Native American Heritage Month, fly high for Aviation History Month, celebrate Family Togetherness Month and Thanksgiving.



Every reader's Catch-22: The more you read, the more you realize you haven't read; the more you yearn to read more, the more you understand that you have, in fact, read nothing.

- Pamela Paul, Editor
From her book *My Life with Bob*

A few years ago, a children's book was published detailing the mischievous behavior of young John Hancock, Paul Revere, George Washington, and Ben Franklin. One day, a customer walked into our library and read the book's title, *John, Paul, George and Ben*. With a look of abject confusion, she said, "I didn't know Ringo's real name was Ben."

- Joann Meadows, Evanston, WY

When I was a proofreader, I shared with my coworkers this example to illustrate how writing can skew based on gender: A professor wrote on the blackboard, "Woman without her man is nothing." The students were then instructed to insert the proper punctuation.

The men wrote, "Woman, without her man, is nothing."

The women wrote, "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

- Susan Allen (in *Reader's Digest*)

Thank You CORNER

By Kay Wetherwax, President

Thank you to Joan King, who has organized our recent membership drives and other pop-up sales. Her enthusiasm and organizational skills have made these new undertakings a great success.

Thank you to Sara Accornero for organizing the library staff/volunteer luncheon. A good time was had by all!

I also want to thank Vice-President Wayne Ainsworth for stepping in at the very last minute to chair our June board meeting when I was unable to attend.

Mikel Estrin and Carl Stanley helped get our many CDs ready for the pop-up media sale we held in May. We were able to sell many boxes of CDs and DVDs! Thank you!

Thank you to Jane Kraut for taking on the job of Volunteer Scheduler.

Thanks to Ned Lyke, Roger Caswell, Jack Kilgour, and Les Harrington for hauling boxes of books to and from storage several times every week.

And a huge Thank You to Sue Choquette, who does so many things to make our events a success, especially for the great flyers she creates and the many hours she devotes to the Friends.

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.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS Jack and Jan Kilgour

The Kilgours have been members of the Friends for a very long time—since the 1980's! Jack served on the Castro Valley Library Advisory Committee from its inception in 1990.



Jack has hauled books to our storage facility for many years (thank you!!!) and just recently started working the Thursday afternoon shift in the BookStore. Jan works in the BookStore on Saturday afternoons.

The Kilgours have lived in Castro Valley since 1972. Jack is a retired professor of business administration from CSU East Bay (1972-2005), and has worn several administrative hats. Before that, he was a merchant seaman following a hitch in the Navy.

Jan is a medical technologist and retired hospital laboratory manager. She says she is interested in almost everything.

Jack is currently vice president of the CSUEB chapter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. He also publishes primarily journal articles on employee benefits and related matters.

The Kilgours travel quite a bit, walk at least a mile a day with their new puppy, and are avid readers and grandparents. They have a son in Sacramento. Their daughter's family lives in Castro Valley.

They have been married 50 years. (Congratulations!!)

To meet Jack in person, stop by the BookStore on Thursday afternoons, and to meet Jan, stop by on Saturday afternoons.



Mark your calendars now—the next Book Sale is

August 17-19

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. (\$4 per bag)

This Dog Days of Summer sale will again feature *Tavish the black lab* (on Friday night only) and his special selection of dog books, as well as our usual fiction, nonfiction, and children's books. We will also have *educational materials* of many types, including curricula, work books, elementary texts, and posters.

And we will again have *gift quality* books of all types.

We anticipate having at least 350 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 (2018) 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. THE LAST 2018 BOOK SALE
WILL BE NOVEMBER 30—DECEMBER 2**

*WATCH THIS SPACE IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE FOR THE
DATES OF ALL THE 2019 BOOK SALES!!*



**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SALE OF
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 6TH!**

The sale will be held in the Chabot/Canyon Room
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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 (1st & 3rd) 12 noon to 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday (2nd, 4th, 5th) 12 noon to 5:30 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

Kay Wetherwax, President
Wayne Ainsworth, Vice President
Ka'ai Jensen and Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurers
Carol Lyke, Secretary
Sara Accornero, At-Large Director
Joan King, At-Large Director

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. Our annual meeting will be held in November. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

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925-829-7750.

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
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Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

