



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
November 2020

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 9th. SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax

Greetings, Friends. It's been a most unusual and challenging year, but I'm happy to report that the Friends are still here! Our BookStore remains closed for now, and our December Book Sale has been cancelled, but we have resumed on-line sales of books on Amazon. You can also support us by making your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile. If you sign up to support Friends of the Castro Valley on Smile, 0.05 per cent of your purchases will be donated to the Friends.

Once the library is open again, we will find a way to resume some of our on-site activities, although we're still not sure what that will look like. What I do know is that we will continue to work to raise funds to support a wide variety of library programs that benefit our Castro Valley community!

During this time that our BookStore is closed, it is especially important that memberships and monetary donations continue. I urge you to renew your Friends membership for 2021. You will receive a Renewal Form in the mail sometime in January. Or you can renew sooner by visiting our website (friendsofvalibrary.org) where you'll find a renewal form to download, complete, and mail with your check to:

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546

We will hold our Annual Meeting on Monday, November 9. This year's meeting will be a bit different from those in the past, but all Friends are invited to join us. Because of the coronavirus, our meeting will be a virtual one on Zoom. If you would like to attend, you MUST pre-register by sending an e-mail to friends.cvl@gmail.com. Approximately 48 hours before the meeting, we will send you the Zoom link for the meeting. We will adopt our annual budget which includes the library's Wish List. We will also elect a Vice President, one of our Co-Treasurers and two At-Large Directors for the Friends Board. I hope you can join us!

I know many of us have used this time of sheltering in place to read some wonderful books. A few of our Board members and library staff are once again sharing some brief reviews of books we have especially enjoyed during this time. I hope you find some suggestions for your reading pleasure.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Here we are in November already. I don't think any of us could have imagined what we have experienced over the past 8 months. Global Pandemic, more wildfires than I can keep track of, smoke and heatwaves, and that's just California! We need a break, some good news.

The Castro Valley Library served as an Early Accessible Polling and Training Location for the 2020 Election. Safety of community members and staff is always the priority for the County and the Library. We were pleased to be able to serve our community by using the building to provide early and safe access to voting during this unprecedented year of COVID.

On October 1st, the Alameda County Department of Public Health released new orders allowing, among others, libraries to re-open at <25% beginning on October 9th. This left us with a lot of questions, and work to do. Our facilities are not yet prepared to invite our members back. We are working on our plan, including staff training, and installing additional safety materials. Alameda County Library will begin opening with pilot branches. There's not a re-opening date for Castro Valley Library at this writing, but we hope to be open as soon as we are ready. Our hours will not be the same as pre-COVID hours to start, and we will continue our No Contact Pickup service at reduced hours to serve those who do not wish to visit inside. Once we're open, we will work with the Friends of the Library to get them opened safely for everyone. This plan is still subject to change, but we think it will provide a safe environment for our members and our community. Please check aclibrary.org and the Castro Valley Library Facebook Page for the most up-to-date information.

We are planning a community reads event this year, but we're doing something a little different. Because our event, Castro Valley Reads, was so well received by our community, Library Administration has asked us to lead an Alameda County Reads program. Librarian, Chris Selig, and I are very excited to bring our wonderful community event to Alameda County. Don't worry, it doesn't mean Castro Valley Reads is over. We will resume next year, and the only differences you'll see is that all programming/discussion groups are online (of course!). Look for teasers in November, and our book announcement in December on our website.

Have a wonderful, safe, holiday season. We've gotten this far, we'll get through the winter.

Greetings and Salutations!

By Patty Mangel, Assistant Library Manager

We have been back in our building for almost 5 months now. It's very, very odd being here without our members. We miss you and look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we can safely do so. We are now working on what that scenario looks like and putting a plan into place.

So, what does it look like in the library with no members? When we first came back, we had to create an entirely new system of serving our members. We came up with a service model that seems to really be appreciated by our community. Contact Less Pick-up is the service model we adopted. It provides you the opportunity to request, and



pick up your material, all without setting foot in the branch. It's a safe and very efficient, but labor-intensive system. Books

coming back (we are taking your returns now) need to quarantine for 96 hours before we can check them in. It may take up to 10 days before they are removed from your account.

Our daily schedule includes staff taking turns answering phones, making appointments for members, checking in returns, processing our daily delivery of hold items, shelving items, and making bags for our members' appointments. We are unable to use our automated system to check in books, so every book needs to be handled multiple times (quarantine, check in, shelve, check out). It's a lot of hands on physical work with the large numbers of holds being placed.

We offer more than 100 appointments every day, Tuesday through Saturday. A very popular service is "Book Bundles" or an assortment of children's books, since our kids and parents cannot come in to browse. All in all, our days are more work than one would think, but it's work we love and we are all grateful to be healthy and working and able to serve our community.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library will be held on Monday, November 9 at 6:00 PM. We will adopt the budget for the new fiscal year which includes the library's Wish List, and we will elect the new officers and board members of the Friends.

Due to the coronavirus, this year's meeting will be a virtual one held on Zoom. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone wishing to attend **MUST** pre-register. To do so, please send an e-mail to friends.cvl@gmail.com indicating your interest. You will receive an e-mail approximately 48 hours before the meeting with the Zoom meeting link and additional information.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

By Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 ended September 30. This year, we experienced the unexpected closure of the BookStore in mid-March due to the Coronavirus. The Board of Directors reports that had we been able to remain open the entire year, we were on track to exceed the average earnings of the past two years based on funds generated from sales in the BookStore, the December 2019 book sale, on-line sales, and special events.



The Board of Directors will be presenting the 2019-2020 Annual Report and the budget for the coming year, as well as the Library's Manager's Wish List at the Annual Meeting, to be held virtually on the evening of Monday, November 9th. As always, details of the financial condition of the Friends are available to members by request or in the BookStore office when we re-open. We hope that any of you who may be interested in what the Friends are all about will make a reservation to attend this virtual meeting and continue to support our Library.



READING LIST, PART 2: More books that the Friends' volunteers and the Librarians recommend:

Elizabeth Rinehart: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson (non fiction). This book is about the first year and a half (May 1940 - December 1941) with Prime Minister Churchill leading England through the Blitz from Germany. His courage, eloquence and perseverance bound a country during this horrific time.

Nancy Hollister: I recommend the mystery series by Jack Arbor: *The Russian Assassin* (book 1), *The Pursuit* (book 2), *The Attack* (book 3), and *The Hunt* (book 4). These are a series of thrillers about a character called Max Austin. He is a retired spy/private detective who becomes involved in undercover work for the CIA as well as other foreign governments. They are well written with unexpected plot twists and turns. I found them engaging and a fast read. They are all available on Kindle Unlimited for Amazon Prime members.

Ginger Russell: After waiting 2 years I was rewarded with Ken Follett's new book *The Evening and the Morning*. This is a prequel to the *Pillars of the Earth* series and is a fascinating look at life in England in the late 10th and early 11th centuries.

Nathan Silva: Part historical fiction, part combination of *Les Miserables* and one of my favorite books, *Six of Crows*; *The Court of Miracles* is an alternative version of the French Revolution. Nina is on a quest to rescue her sister from the grasp of the powerful lord of guild 1 (1 of the 9 guilds that control the city)...the only problem, as a guild member herself, defying the rule of a guild lord could send the entire "Court of Miracles" (the name of the collective 9 guilds) into civil war. Now with a traitor in her midst, Nina must devise a plan to free her sister from the clutches of "The Tiger" all while maintaining the intricate balance of *The Court of Miracles*. Complete with chases and heists and lots of action and adventure, this was a thoroughly engaging read that kept me completely engrossed. Cannot wait for when the sequel comes out!

Debbie Masin: *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie—I picked this from my bookshelf, not feeling brain dead exactly, just in need of something positive and easy to understand. It has exceedingly short chapters plus amusing/amazing anecdotes of famous people who have learned to use these homespun principles to great advantage. Everyone—beginning with our highest government leaders—needs to read this book.

Barbara Kissling: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*—a good read if you're looking for unforgettable and inspirational characters plus impressive historical facts about life in the Kentucky mountains in the 1930's—mining, racism, the Blue People, and the Packhorse Librarian program.

Kay Wetherwax: *Troubled Blood* by Robert Galbraith. This is the latest book in the Cormoran Strike mystery series by Robert Galbraith (a pseudonym of J.K. Rowling). The story is complex, long (over 900 pages!) and fascinating. Strike and his partner Robin Ellacott take on the case of a doctor who disappeared 40 years ago and was never heard from again. If you're a fan of mysteries, I highly recommend this book!

Ned Lyke: *The Body: A Guide for Occupants* (2019) by Bill Bryson. Readers of earlier books by the author [*At Home*; *A Walk in the Woods*, etc.] will recognize his methods of providing an immense amount of fascinating information about a subject. Such is the case in this book about the human body. It is an interesting, often amazing, and worthwhile discussion of how we are put together, how all the various parts work together, and even how things go wrong during the life of the occupant. Of perhaps most interest and importance is Bryson's critical analysis of the American health system and why it has failed to provide lasting good health for millions of occupants of the human body.

Chris Selig: Are you a teen or adult reader who is looking for light, fun fantasy novel? I recommend escaping into *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune. Meet Linus Baker, a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, where he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. One day he is given an assignment to visit Marsyas Orphanage, which is secret and houses a group of children of surprising abilities. Is it safe and well-run? Linus must learn the answer to this question. To say more about the plot would ruin it. It is by turns sweet, charming and funny. The book has important (and somewhat obvious) messages about fighting prejudice and hatred. But interestingly, Klune chose to make homosexuality a nonissue in the world he created. It is such a lovely idea and reminds me of the TV series *Schitt's Creek* in that regard. Mostly the book is reminiscent of Harry Potter and the style of the humor in Terry Pratchett's Disc World series. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Watch for the February issue of *Circle of Friends* for more reading suggestions and book reviews!

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Library and the Friends' BookStore are closed until further notice. If you have any questions about available Library services, please call 510-667-7900 or visit the Library's website at www.aclibrary.org.

To contact the Friends of the Castro Valley Library, please email us at Friends.CVL@gmail.com or visit our website at FriendsofCVLibrary.org.

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Board members may be contacted by 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!!!

Our annual meeting will be held November 9th via Zoom. Please see Page 2 for more information. Circle of Friends is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

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