



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library

November 2021

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 16th.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax, President

Greetings, Friends! We have been given the go-ahead to re-open our bookstore after almost two years! And what a two years it has been! We have many things to do before we're actually ready to open, but I hope that we will be back in November or December. We are busy contacting volunteers to determine if we have enough staff, reviewing policies and procedures, and ironing out details. When opening day arrives, please come celebrate with us!

We have been holding Saturday morning sales outdoors in front of the library since July, and have raised more than \$2000. We will continue these outdoor sales until we are ready to open the bookstore, weather permitting. Our volunteers and our customers are delighted to be there, so stop by and check it out.

Our annual meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Zoom on Tuesday, November 16. This is an opportunity to learn about all the things the library staff offered our community during the pandemic and their plans for the future. You will also hear the ways in which the Friends managed to continue to support the library. We will be electing a president, a secretary, one co-treasurer, and two at-large directors. Please join us for this important meeting! You will need to register to attend. We will send you an e-mail as the date nears with more specific information.

2022 memberships will be available at the time of the annual meeting. Your membership will include coupons that can be used in our bookstore and at larger sales. It's the best deal in town!! But more importantly, your membership helps us pay for so many programs the library offers the Castro Valley community such as:

- Children's story hours
- Homework assistance for elementary, middle school, and high school students
- Computer classes
- Concerts
- Saturday afternoon movies
- Castro Valley Reads
- And many more

I urge you to renew your membership and continue to support our outstanding Castro Valley library

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Good news! We are back to our regular hours after more than 18 months being closed, providing only curbside services, or at limited hours. Refer to Page 4 of this newsletter for our new hours.

Masks are still required inside the building, and we are social distancing. There are no in person programs, and we are in the process of hiring, so our staffing levels are not what they used to be. It may be a bit harder to get assistance these days, and there may be some temporary faces you have not seen before. Please bear with us and know we are actively working to bring the same great level of customer service back to the branch as soon as possible.

Overall, circulation continues to climb back up, and most of the day, the branch is bustling with members visiting to pick up hold, browse the collection, or use the public computers.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention how the staff here has worked incredibly hard to keep up with circulation. Until September, every returned item had to be handled multiple times after a 72-hour quarantine. It was physically exhausting work with all hands on deck. Our circulation machine is now running. You can check-in your items outside and get a receipt.

Please thank the staff when you get a chance (many of you do every day!) They (we) really appreciate the positive feedback from members. Library staff continued to come to work, take public transportation, and in some cases, homeschool their children. It has been an exhausting year for everyone, but the staff here have been frontline essential workers, and we applaud ALL who continued to carry a heavy burden for us these past 18 months.

Other good news. Last year Alameda County Reads was created to provide a significant online community reads program for the entire County. This year we are bringing back Castro Valley Reads. Our book has been chosen and we are working to contract with the author(s) to discuss the title virtually. We are planning for virtual programming and will pivot to in person where possible if we are able. As for the title, I can't say yet, but can hint that it has local roots and interest.

At the branch, we are looking forward to moving closer to life as we knew it. Saying hello to some new faces and goodbye to others is a part of life. We wish the staff who have left or are leaving all the best, and are eager to welcome new staff to the Castro Valley Library crew.

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE

By Lyn Leone, Adult Services Librarian

It's been a very long 18 months since the global pandemic forced us to close our doors to minimize the spread of Covid-19. Since then we've done our best to provide service through contactless pickup, online chat, phone reference, virtual events, and, increases to our digital media collection.

Before the pandemic, many of our members had never read an eBook or downloaded an audiobook, and didn't particularly want to. The closure of the library and the lack of regular social interactions pushed many toward digital books and audiobooks to pass the time. We have now resumed normal open hours and most in-person services. But not all our members feel comfortable spending time in indoor public spaces and it may be that the pandemic-forced adoption of digital formats will prove lasting. Only time will tell!

In the meantime, the library continues to expand its 24/7 digital library to meet demand. Here are some notable additions you may have missed:

- **Ancestry in-home use:** Ancestry is allowing in-home use for the duration of the pandemic. Ancestry is a HUGE database, so take this opportunity to use it at home, at your convenience, and without time limits!
- **East Bay Times:** Today's issue and issues back to 2016.
- **Hoopla:** Hoopla offers eBooks, music, streaming video and, now, downloadable audiobooks! The collection is huge and titles are always available without any waiting. Keep in mind that usage is limited to six total items per month.
- **New York Times & Washington Post:** Enjoy two of the country's most important newspapers online, from the comfort of your own home.
- **Rosetta Stone:** Full access to what many consider the best full-featured language-learning software
- **Value Line Investment Survey:** An essential tool for any stock investor, Value Line covers 3,500 stocks, across 100 industries including 1,700 small and mid-caps.

BOOK REVIEW

By Martin Waldron

In Siberia by Colin Thubron (2000 nonfiction): I read this book making frequent reference to its 2-page map and 7-page index. In the map a dotted line connects the towns and rivers identified in the text. The author has provided a trail, starting at Vekaterinburg and proceeding eastward to Magadan, without which I would have been lost. Every place is located and described as encountered, then located in history. When available, renowned writers are mentioned as witnesses. It is in Albazin Thubron meets a 90-year-old librarian who says, "I've read Solzhenitsyn and I'm not impressed. He could only write about what he knew and that was limited. It gives him no authority to guess at numbers. Sixty million dead! It was only twenty million. These were Stalin's victims." This is the most harrowing book I can recall reading. Siberia is extreme in every respect. Statistics challenge understanding. Thousands are executed and buried in nameless graves. Man's inhumanity is a reflection or product of nature's incredible cold. At Oimyakon a temperature of -97.8°F has been recorded – the coldest inhabited place on earth. I didn't find Oimyakon on the map. Vorguta saw 28,000 die when worked 12 hours daily at -40°F. Kolyma saw 1 of 100 prisoners survive 14-hour workdays in 1932 at -60°F. The mines reduced men to savages. They hacked off fingers, injected kerosene under their skin, rubbed acid into eyelids, hoped to get into hospital, feigned madness, "descended into the walking dead, then slipped into oblivion". The poet Anatoly Zhigulin survived these conditions in the 1950's, and has described brutal maimings, accidents, internecine murders and desperate strikes. Prisoners, enchained, were addressed by number only, climbed 4 miles to reach the mines, and women convicts trudged 8 miles every day to carry home cold rations. Thubron recounts a joke his companion tells: "My grandfather was a village postman, who spent 5 years in the camps for telling a passerby that Stalin was on the line to talk to him. For that, grandpa got 5 years." Thubron ends on that note, "We've still got that – jokes."

THANK YOU

By Kay Wetherwax, President

Although our bookstore has not been open for almost two years, the Friends Board of Directors, the Bookstore Committee, and other committees have continued their work. They have made it possible for us to keep funding library programs. I especially would like to thank Joan King who has organized our Saturday morning sales and the many volunteers who have worked at those sales.

Thanks to Sue Choquette, our Office Manager, who has continued to update all our membership information.

By Carol Sholin, Editor

Thank you to outgoing Newsletter editor Ginger Russell, who is moving on after 10 years editing the Newsletter.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold its annual meeting on **Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.** via Zoom.

Agenda items include election of officers (President, Secretary, Operational Treasurer, two At-Large Board Members) for two-year terms that begin following the election; the annual Financial Report and budget for the upcoming fiscal year; the library's wish list; and other subjects as may be determined by the Board of Directors or requested by attendees.

Members of the Friends and members of the general public are invited to attend this meeting and comment on the issues being discussed. To attend please email *Friends.CVL@gmail.com*. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to provide input, please feel free to contact the Friends at the Castro Valley Library Book Store by calling 510-733-3285 or e-mailing *Friends.CVL@gmail.com*.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

By Barbara Kissling, Treasurer

Though the Bookstore remained closed during the fiscal year ending September 30 due to the Coronavirus, we continued to receive funds from online sales, donations, memberships and investments. We were able to generate additional funds during the months July-September with outdoor book sales on Saturday mornings.

The Board of Directors will be presenting the 2020-2021 Annual Report and the budget for the coming year, as well as the Library Manager's Wishlist at the Annual Meeting, to be held virtually on the evening of Tuesday, November 16th. As always, details of the financial condition of the Friends are available to members by request or in the Bookstore Office when we reopen.

We hope that any of you who are interested in what the Friends are all about will make a reservation to attend this virtual meeting and continue to support our Library.

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■ I have always imagined that Paradise will be ■
■ a kind of library. – Jorge Luis Borges ■
.....

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 .

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

LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday: 1pm – 5pm
Monday: 12pm – 8pm
Tuesday: 12pm – 8pm
Wednesday: 10am – 6pm
Thursday: 10am – 6pm
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 10am – 5pm

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

The bookstore is currently closed but we hope to open again soon.



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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

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Ka'ai Jensen, At-Large Director
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Board members may be contacted by calling the Friends office or emailing us at Friends.CVL@gmail.com.

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. Please call 510-733-3285 or e-mail us at Friends.CVL@gmail.com if you have any questions or want to submit an item.

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

