



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library

March 2022



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax, President

Greetings, Friends!

The Friends of the Library were very happy to re-open our bookstore in November of last year after being closed for nearly two years. Our volunteers and customers were excited to see us back in business. Unfortunately, as I write this in mid-January, we have again closed temporarily in response to the surging Omicron variant of Covid-19. I hope that by the time you read this we will have re-opened. And when we do, I urge you to stop by and shop. As always, we are staffed entirely by volunteers, and all money raised goes to support our library. We will continue to offer "gently used" books at a bargain price, including a great selection of children's books for all ages and reading levels.

We will not be holding a large weekend book sale this April, but we will continue to have "Pop-Up" sales from time to time. Notices of upcoming sales will be posted on the Friends of the Library web site (www.friendsofcvlibrary.org). If you "like" us on Facebook ("Friends of the Castro Valley Library") you will receive regular notices about sales and other events.

The library continues to offer excellent, informative programs for both adults and children, in person and on-line. Your support of the Friends helps make all this possible. Please, take a moment to renew your membership in the Friends of the Castro Valley Library for 2022 if you have not yet done so! A form is attached to this newsletter that you can mail with your check or drop off at the bookstore. If you prefer to pay by credit card, you can do so on-line at <https://friends-of-the-castro-valley-library-square.site/>. Select the level of membership that is appropriate for you and enter the requested information. You can also make a donation to the Friends on this site. Help us continue to support the great programs offered by our amazing library staff.

Speaking of great programs, the Friends are again supporting Castro Valley READS. Participants will read two books this year: *Earth Keeper* by Pulitzer Prize winner N. Scott Momaday and *Fire in Paradise: An American Tragedy* by Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano. You can find more information about these books and the many interesting events offered as part of CVREADS on Page 2 of this newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Happy February to all of you! Very strange to think it's been nearly two years since we first closed our doors and remained closed for more than a year! We are trying to find our groove again, slowly.

Our book choices for our 5th annual Castro Valley Reads were announced in early January. *Earth Keeper* by N. Scott Momaday, and *Fire in Paradise* by Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano are the two selections for 2022. We are so pleased to be able to provide the community with another opportunity to come together, read, and discuss the same books. Please consider joining other community members for a book discussion group at the library or in your homes. Tell your neighbors. We'll provide the books!

We have a lot of wonderful programming for CV Reads this year. In February, we have programs to discuss climate concerns in the Bay Area; wildfire, water, and drought programs, and a general climate change program to inform and help you get involved with local groups and solutions. In March we have a virtual Budding Environmentalists Storytime and a tween program for Managing Climate Anxiety. We're also displaying art provided by the Hayward Arts Council and Art Inc. to encourage thought and conversation around climate change and our beautiful planet.

This is our 3rd annual Kids Read event. The kids are reading *Paradise on Fire* by Jewell Parker Rhodes. This work of fiction, for ages 9-12, is inspired by the real life Camp Fire.

Additionally, we are collaborating with Forestr.org to offer the community a seed library! Visit the library to borrow or share seeds. You can learn more at: <https://www.forestr.org/seed-library/>

The Friends have played a primary role in providing funding for events this year. This library would not be the vibrant community gathering place it is without the funding of our Friends. Thank you for continuing to support their efforts.

Wishing you a wonderful healthy 2022! See you at the library.

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Castro Valley Reads

By Chris Selig, Librarian II

In January, we marked the 5th anniversary of Castro Valley Reads! We want to thank the Friends of the Library for their generous and continued support of this community-wide reading program. It is because of you that we have been able to conduct this experiment in connecting community members through great books and engaging discussions.

For 2022, our theme is climate change. Climate change is a politically and emotionally fraught topic. There are daily reports of the consequences of climate change, including fires, floods, species loss, and rising seas. There are also daily reports of innovative solutions, a powerful youth movement, and treaties among hundreds of nations. During the process of preparing for this program, we at Castro Valley Library have felt everything from anxiety and avoidance to hope and determination.

To help meet our readers' interests and moods regarding climate change, we are for the first time offering two books as part of Castro Valley Reads.

One of our books is *Fire in Paradise: An American Tragedy* by Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano, reporters for *The Guardian*. The book is their dramatic narrative of the 2018 Camp Fire on Paradise Ridge and an unforgettable story of an American town at the forefront of the climate emergency. They bring to life the effects of the fire through intimate portraits of local residents and the landscape, and they give all California residents much to consider as we seek to mitigate risks from wildfire and drought.

The other book is *Earth Keeper: Reflections on the American Land* by N. Scott Momaday, a Pulitzer-prize winning Kiowa poet, novelist, and Native American scholar. In *Earth Keeper*, a book of free-verse poetry, he reflects on his sacred connection to the American landscape and its influence on his people. Momaday shares his reverence for the natural world and calls on all of us to protect the Earth's wonders and beauty.

Our virtual Kick-Off event was Sunday, January 23. We were thrilled to do a live interview with N. Scott Momaday via Zoom from his home in New Mexico. Alameda County Youth Poet Laureate and Castro Valley High School student Zoe Dorado and Librarian Chris Selig facilitated the event. A recording will be available on YouTube if you missed it.

Discussion groups are meeting at the library and out in the community through April 4. There are still a few opportunities for you to participate. More information about all the remaining discussions and special events for Castro Valley Reads 2022 can be found at <https://aclibrary.org/castro-valley-reads/>

We are really looking forward to the Grand Finale on Sunday, April 10, at 3 pm. Please join us for a live, online event on Zoom featuring *Fire in Paradise* authors Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano. They'll share an update on the town of Paradise and discuss the process of writing the book. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from two reporters working at *The Guardian*, one of the premier publications reporting on climate change.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS: CYNTHIA TOM

Cynthia trained as a volunteer with Friends of Castro Valley Library in 2019, just before Covid lockdown. She helped with Saturday outdoor book sales, and worked in the bookstore after it reopened. She enjoys seeing people buy lots of books! (As do we all!)

Cynthia also volunteers with her church at Adobe, a homeless shelter in Fremont.

She has worked at Sutter Eden Health as an RN for 39 years. Hobbies include gardening, crafts, and visiting national parks. Her husband is an architect working from home. Her daughter teaches special ed in Fremont. Her oldest son is transferring to SJSU this month and her youngest is a senior at Cal.

"Libraries are so interesting—old ones, new ones. It's so fun just to explore different books and just know and learn more. I love that the library offers so many services to help our community and how Friends of the CV Library plays a significant role in that."

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THANK YOU!

By Kay Wetherwax

A huge thank you to our many volunteers, who have shown much patience and flexibility during these uncertain times! We are fortunate to have such a great group of truly dedicated volunteers!!

I want to thank two members of our Board of Directors who left the Board in November. Debbie Masin served as a member at large for the past two years. She worked regularly in the bookstore and helped with training of volunteers. Thank you, Debbie for your service!

And a huge thank you to Carol Lyke, who was our secretary for the past four years and who has been active with the Friends in many different capacities for many years. Carol is an inspiration to us all, and I know she will continue to be involved as a bookstore volunteer, a

Book Review

By Ginger Russell

Sunflower Sisters by Martha Hall Kelly (2021 fiction):

This is the third and last in the series about the Woolsey family women. (The previous books were *Lilac Girls* and *Lost Roses*.) This novel takes place during the Civil War and tells the stories of 3 women in alternating chapters: Georgeanna Woolsey, a Union Army nurse and activist, Anne-May Watson, a Maryland tobacco plantation owner, and Jemma, her “house slave.” Spanning only the years 1861 to 1864, Kelly has packed a lot of history and adventure into her book. The telling is graphic in places and expresses both heroism and cruelty. Based on the written accounts and correspondence of the Woolsey family women, Kelly has crafted an entertaining and informative novel that holds your attention until the end. If you haven’t read *Lilac Girls* or *Lost Roses* yet, you don’t need to read the books in order, but I do recommend those as well.

“I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library.” - Jane Austen

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 _____
94546

E-MAIL _____

Make tax-deductible check payable to
Friends of the Castro Valley Library
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By _____
Date: _____

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

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.

For bookstore hours, check website, www.friendsofvalibrary.org.



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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.

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