



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library

May 2022



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax, President

Greetings, friends!

I am very happy to report that our bookstore is once again open. We have a very nice selection of books that, while gently used, are in excellent condition. You will find many best sellers and new releases at bargain prices. We carry a very large inventory of children's books, ranging from pre-school picture books to many popular teen and young adult series. And we also have a wide assortment of non-fiction books. Our volunteers are happy to help you locate something in the store. Please think of us when you are looking for that next "good read," or a gift for a child's birthday, or perhaps a "hostess" gift. Stop by and browse.

Many have asked when we will hold the next big three-day book sale. We are exploring ways to have a slightly smaller two-day sale with a more limited selection of books to allow for social distancing. So keep asking, or check our web site, our FaceBook page (Friends of the Castro Valley Library), or our new Instagram page (Friendsofcvlibrary) for news.

We are a volunteer organization, and have opportunities for a few more volunteers to work in the bookstore. Duties include cleaning and processing book donations and helping customers. We also need a few people who are able to help us move books from our storage area to the library for larger book sales, and someone who could come in on call to mail books that have sold on Amazon. This is not a huge time commitment, but would involve some flexibility in being able to come to the library within a day or two of being notified of a book sale. We are also seeking a volunteer with basic computer skills to assist in record keeping and other office tasks. If you are interested in volunteering, please pick up a volunteer application at the bookstore. Our Volunteer Coordinator will contact for training.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Our 5th annual Castro Valley Reads is officially over. Our theme this year, Climate Change, was difficult for many of our participants. Our interview with the authors of *Fire in Paradise: An American Tragedy*, Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano, was a grim reminder of our own risks living adjacent to so much open space. You can see your personal risk at the Alameda County Local Hazard Mitigation site. Enter your address into the site and see your risk for earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, etc. <https://hmp.acgov.org/mapsinfo.html>

Be ready BEFORE disaster strikes. Alameda County's disaster preparedness website provides important information to help prepare you in the event of a natural disaster. <https://www.acgov.org/ready/>

We have a new "pocket park," Sage Park, on the right-hand side when you pull into our parking lot. A sad and empty lot for nearly 13 years, it has been transformed into a beautiful space compliments of ForestR.org and their volunteers. Photos are available on the ForestR.org website: <https://www.forestr.org/seed-library/>

We had a wonderful Earth Day event with ForestR and our Friends as well. Great information about gardening, the environment, and a pop-up book sale. More clean-up was done as well, and the library landscape is slowly being returned to its original natural splendor.

Book banning has become a hot topic lately. Although we have experienced few to no book banning attempts at Alameda County Library, it's a big problem for many libraries in other areas and states. Most Americans oppose removing books from public and school libraries. The American Library Association (ALA) is hoping to get people to help them combat this attack on our nation's libraries. Banning books stop students from accessing critical information to help them better understand themselves and the world around them. Teachable moments are lost between parents and children, and our communities also lose the opportunity to build mutual understanding through learning about others. If you are interested in learning more and signing up to unite against book bans, you can follow the link here: <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>

This library wouldn't be the vibrant community gathering place without the funding of our Friends. Thank you for continuing to support their efforts.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS PAGE 2

Staff Column

By Leo Liang, Children's Librarian

It's been a busy year in the Children's Services Department with grab and go crafts and numerous passive programs. We're excited to announce that class visits have resumed! We've hosted classes from Twin Oaks Montessori School and it's been a wonderful experience for both new and returning students. Did you know that each month, a new and interactive display is set up in the children's area for kids and families? We've created an I-Spy board with literary and popular characters, Women's history, Black history month, and most recently, a poet-tree with poems created by our very own members. The kids collected a button upon completion of the activity and we averaged about 40 prizes per week. There's been no shortage of participants as kids continue to come in search of the next activity.

Did you know that we've displayed four different stories outside of our library? StoryWalks® are wonderful ways for kids to practice literacy skills while being outdoors. We take apart a picture book to display spreads in a loop around our building. Each page features an activity for kids and their caretakers to interact with. Our most recent book is a Caldecott winner, *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom. This story is a great reminder that we all need to do our part in taking care of our Earth.

Spring break was a wonderful week for families, children, and caretakers to take part in our Spring Reading Game. Members were given a board game to navigate through by reading or completing various outdoor activities. Kids were able to choose from many prizes provided by the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. We're also happy to announce that in-person storytimes will resume soon! We'll be taking advantage of our wonderful amphitheater to share great stories and songs with our community.

Summer is the busiest time for the Children's Librarians. Summer programming begins June 6th through July 14th. We've meticulously planned out hands-on activities for each day of the week. But that's not all! Each Wednesday will feature a performer ranging from circus shows to reptile visits, bee visits (honey tasting included!), and so much more. We're excited to welcome back both new and old performers and anticipate many of our members will be joining us. Summer Adventure is our reimagined Summer Reading Game. Complete learning activities, reading, and more to receive book prizes and enter into a raffle to win more prizes. This year's theme is Wonder in Nature and launches June 15 through August 15. If you know an interested kid entering 6th through the 8th grade in fall, encourage them to become a Summer Volunteer.

~TIME TO RENEW YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP~

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2022, please do so. We rely on your membership dues as well as income from the bookstore to support library programs. Renewal is easier than ever, as now you can renew using your credit card on line by clicking [here](#) to use our automated Square membership (and donation) portal.

The bookstore is now open! We have the only bookstore in Castro Valley! .

May - Mother's Day / Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month / Mental Health Month/ Memorial Day

June - Weddings, Dads, and Grads / LGBTQ Pride Month / Juneteenth

July - Independence Day / Summer Reading / Summer Escapes / Camping or Glamping

Our web page: <http://www.friendsofcvlibrary.org>

MEET YOUR FRIENDS: JAN KILGOUR

Jan has been a Friends volunteer for about 4 years. She works in the bookstore where she is point of contact for biography and memoirs. Jan recently moved to Baywood Court and is involved in committees and councils there as well as taking part in a variety of activities.

Jan loves a wide variety of books, especially those that teach new things, but also enjoys reading fiction.

“The library is an important part of our community and it is wonderful to see the ongoing evolution and changes that have been made by the library to best meet the needs of our area and serve our citizens of all ages. “

Jan has lived in Castro Valley for 50 years and “wouldn't trade it for the world!”

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, PAGE 3

THANK YOU!

Did you know that the third week in April is designated as National Volunteer Week? It was established in 1974 with the purpose of celebrating volunteers, recognizing their impact, and encouraging volunteerism in our communities. For this newsletter's thank you column, I want to take this opportunity to spotlight and thank all our volunteers that work to support our Library's vital role in our community. Our 50 volunteers range in age from 19 to 90. Many work only 2.5-3 hours per week, making a difference for so many who come to the Library for programs, all free to the participants and most paid for by the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. We are a hard working and fun group. About half have been here since our Library moved to its new location 12 years ago.

During the past two years, these terrific people have shown their resilience, dedication and flexibility as we all worked together to find ways to continue our support of the Castro Valley Library. Through closing, opening, closing, and opening again, and many outdoor pop-up sales, they have been available whenever needed. To all our volunteers, we appreciate you and your dedication to our Library! Many, many thanks to you all. You're the best!!

Book Review The 1619 Project, Nikole Hannah-Jones, ed (2021 non-fiction) By Carol Sholin

Slavery did not begin in 1619. But aspects of American enslavement of Africans were unique. It was hereditary. The child of a slave was a slave. English common law derived a child's status from the father, but in this case, the child's status derived from the mother, using the law that applied to livestock: who owns the cow, owns the calf. As Thomas Jefferson put it, an enslaved woman who birthed a living child every two years was more valuable than an enslaved man who, once he could no longer work, left nothing behind.

The American slavery system that first codified the notion of "blackness" and "whiteness". At first, colonials drew no distinction between (white) indentured servants and (African) slaves but when a revolt against intolerable conditions was crushed, sharp lines were drawn between "races" including concomitant racial mythology.

The Fourteenth Amendment eliminated slavery but with the critical clause except as punishment for crimes. With the defeat of Reconstruction, Southern states passed laws that made a crime for Black people to do such things as loiter, be unemployed, actual or perceived rudeness to a white person, etc.

It is impossible to summarize such a comprehensive history in a few paragraphs; I just recommend reading the book. In the final chapter, Justice, Hannah-Jones writes "We cannot change the hypocrisy upon which we were founded. We cannot change all the times in the past when this nation had the opportunity to do the right thing and chose to return to its bases inclinations. We cannot make up for all of the lives lost and dreams snatched, for all the suffering endured. But we can atone for it. We can acknowledge the crime. And we can do something to set things right...None of us can be held responsible for the wrongs of our ancestors. But if today we choose not to do the right and necessary thing, that burden we own."

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
3600 Norbridge Ave.
Castro Valley CA

FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY:
Card Issued
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

BOOKSTORE HOURS

Sunday: Closed
Monday: 12pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday: 12pm – 5:30pm
Wednesday: 10am – 3pm
Thursday: 12:30pm – 5:30pm
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 10am – 4pm

Please call 510 667-7900 or visit the Library website at www.aclibrary.org for more information.

Check website, www.friendsofvalibrary.org.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

Kay Wetherwax, President
Elizabeth McCune, Vice President
Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer
Elizabeth Rinehart, Operational Treasurer
Rose Kish, Secretary
Ka'ai Jensen, At-Large Director
Joan King, At-Large Director
Robin Olivier, At-Large Director
Nancy Hollister, At-Large Director

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.

Printed by:
Minuteman Press
2580 San Ramon Valley Road Ste B110
San Ramon, CA 94583
925-415-3090
www.ca293.minuteman.com

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

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

