



Circle of Friends

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
February 2013

THE FEBRUARY FRIENDS MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED; NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS MAY 14

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It seems remarkable that by the time you read this edition of the Circle of Friends Newsletter we will be well underway in the year 2013. This represents the fourth year of operation of the Friends in the “new”

Castro Valley Library and we have much to be proud of during this period. Thanks to the great support of the citizens of Castro Valley and surrounding communities, the sales in the BookStore and other sources of income have provided funds in excess of \$26,000 per year to the library and have built up our reserve funds to cover new initiatives and funding requirements of the library.

Little of this would have been accomplished without the major support of an amazing group of volunteers who help the Friends in the BookStore, in the Office, at the tri-annual weekend book sales, and for other activities critical to our operation. We could not provide the level of service to the library and community without their time, energy and enthusiasm.

At the same time, we continue to encourage other members of the community to join the Friends and, if their time and interests are appropriate, become volunteers. The Friends, like many non-profit, all-volunteer organizations are faced with turnover of volunteer support due to age, “burn-out”, health issues, “moving on” to other interests and challenges, by-laws restrictions, etc. For example, the Board of Directors currently has five very dedicated people most of whom have led the transition of the Friends into the current operation. Two are in their last term of office, and three have “re-upped” for 1-2 years. We will be looking for new faces to lead the organization as 2013 goes along and certainly encourage current members to learn more about our operations and, hopefully, move into leadership roles in the coming months and years. Members of the Board would be happy to talk about the functions of the officers and the organization at any time; we can be contacted through the information listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

I hope that the New Year finds our membership in good

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*
Last Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. *CV Library Book Club*
Third Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. *eBesteller Book Club (registration req.)*
Tuesdays 6-8 p.m. *Write to Read Book Club*

Other Ongoing Activities:

After School Homework Help—Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Math & Science Tutoring—Mondays 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Representative of Barbara Lee's Office available 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2:00-5:00 p.m. (no appt. needed).

Lawyer in the Library 2nd Mondays 6-8 p.m. Appt. req'd.

MAC meeting 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.

Partial List of Events Coming Up in February

2/4 6:30-8 p.m. Paws to Read

Adult Computer Classes (registration required)

MS Word 2010, 2/5 and 2/9 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Windows 7 Files & Folders, 2/26 12:30-2:30 p.m.

2/5 6:30-7:30 ACT Practice Test Follow-up

2/7 10:30-11:30 Playtime (Thursdays through 3/14)

2/9 2 p.m. Ramana Vieira & Ensemble—Fado Music

2/9 2-3:30 p.m. Discover Taiwan—Taiwanese Snacks (for children)

2/20 1:30-2:45 Suro-The Palace at Lands End (documentary film)

2/23 1-2 p.m. LEGO Play Day

3/4 6:30-8 p.m. Paws to Read

3/9 2-3:30 p.m. Discover Taiwan—Shadow Puppetry (children)

The Library will be closed on the following days:

Tuesday February 12—Lincoln's Birthday

Monday February 18—President's Day

Please visit the library website for complete information on all events and activities!

health, good spirits, and excited about the days and weeks ahead in 2013. The Friends of the Castro Valley library look forward to greeting you at the BookStore, the Office and at the weekend book sales! Many thanks to all for their support and encouragement.

Ned Lyke, President

Friends of the Castro Valley Library

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Carolyn Moskovitz

With the New Year, the Castro Valley Library will be seeing some significant staff changes. Dawn Balestreri, who has been working as the Library's half-time Children's Library Assistant, has been promoted to our full time Children's Librarian. That position had been vacant since Denise Baker retired over a year ago. Dawn has done an unbelievable job keeping the Children's program vital and active. She really stepped up, and surprised us all with how much she was able to accomplish. Long time Reference Librarian Donna Krehbiel announced that she will be retiring at the end of March. We are all very happy for her. Donna is a true Renaissance woman. She has fabulous book knowledge, she is extremely good at helping our members find exactly what they are looking for, she does a great job planning programs and displays, and she always shows grace and intelligence in every endeavor. I will miss her as both a colleague and a friend.

A truly exciting event took place at the library last month. The County Technology Department, the County Administrator's Office and the Library partnered to sponsor an "Apps Challenge". Community members were invited to write smart phone applications using County data that would benefit Alameda County community members. The winning team was awarded \$3,000. We were thrilled when the winning application was related to our library. It's called "BookIt". Similar to "Redlaser", the user is able to pick up a book in a bookstore or at a friend's and scan the barcode on the book. He or she is then sent to our catalog and given immediate information regarding the book's availability in the Alameda County Library. If it's not on the shelf the member will be able to reserve it. The app will be available in both the Apple and Android store in the next few months.

We are once again able to offer free tax help at the library. Stop by or call for an appointment. And finally we are looking forward to an exciting musical performance. Join us for this rare opportunity to hear traditional Portuguese Fado music performed by one of the country's premier ensembles. Ramana Vieira has been described as "The New Voice of Portuguese World Music." Ramana was born in San Leandro to Portuguese immigrant parents and has achieved international acclaim. The concert will be held in the Chabot and Canyon rooms at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 9th.

e-Bestseller Book Club: Innovation delights booklovers!

By Donna Krehbiel, Reference Librarian

The Castro Valley Library e-Bestseller Book Club is up and running. Sponsored entirely by the Friends of the Castro Valley Library, we bought Barnes & Noble Nook Tablets and loaded them with a variety of recent and current *New York Times* bestsellers. The e-book club program, which is among the first of its kind in public libraries, is made up of 15 members who join for a 4 month session. The first session ran September 2012-December 2012. The current book club runs through April 2013, when we will collect the Nook Tablets and start again with a spring/ summer group.

At the first meeting, members are issued the Nook and receive training on its use, followed by 3 monthly book club meeting discussions of selected titles. Everyone is free to read as many of the other titles as they can manage in the 3 months. Without exception, readers have enjoyed the e-book experience.

All of the 43 titles we've bought for the Nook Tablets are available from the Library in print format. Here's what we've read and discussed so far:

Age of Miracles by Karen Walker Thompson—Days grow mysteriously longer and time stretches out as the Earth's rotation gradually slows. The story is told from the point of view of a young girl who struggles to make sense of her own life while the world struggles to make sense of time itself.

Wild: Lost & Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed (non-fiction)—The author recounts her sometimes harrowing and ultimately life-changing experience. Reeling from personal loss and catastrophe, Cheryl, a novice hiker at best, takes to the 1100 mile trail on a solo adventure that keeps the reader enthralled.

Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman—In the years just following WWI, on a remote Australian island, a lighthouse keeper and his wife come upon a boat washed ashore with a dead man and a living baby. The war weary veteran and his wife decide to raise the baby as their own, setting off a chain of events and consequences that find their way to the mainland

Yellow Birds by Kevin Powers—On all the top-books-of-the-year lists and a National Book Award Finalist, this is the harrowing story of two young soldiers and the reality of modern warfare. The author is an Iraq War veteran.

Friends Member Marion Coleman Spotlighthted on Oprah.com!



Friends member, Castro Valley resident, and super quilter Marion Coleman is featured in an article titled “Blanket Statements” in the January 2013 issue of “Live Your Best Life” on

Oprah.com. The article discusses Marion’s inspirations, processes, and message, and includes a photograph of her beautiful quilt “Among the Most High.”

Marion has taught numerous craft classes at the Library, and her quilts have been displayed in the lobby. Currently, her quilts are traveling the country with the International Quilt Festival.

She believes that quilting is a reminder of the past—not just our nation’s, but our families’ as well. She says, “Quilts preserve your history—they take those memories out of a box or a drawer and make them into something you can see and touch.”

MEET YOUR FRIENDS SHEILA KEISNER



Sheila Keisner has been a member of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library for about 11 years. She is one of those rare California natives, born in Berkeley and lived El Cerrito before moving to Castro Valley in 1965. She and her husband have two daughters, two sons-in-law, and five much-adored grandchildren.

Sheila started with the Friends as a “Monday Morning Packer,” later becoming Assistant Treasurer and then Co-Treasurer. She was on the committee that was involved with setting up the BookStore. She works in the BookStore on Thursday afternoons, where she is one of the Persons-In-Charge for the fiction and mystery sections. She’s an avid mystery fan.

Before finally retiring in 2002, Sheila worked for Shell Development Co., an attorney’s office, a CPA, a tech firm, San Lorenzo School District, and was finally Executive Director for the Southern Alameda County Dental Society (whew!).

In her spare time, Sheila enjoys traveling, gardening, movies, reading, needlework, spending time with her family, and most especially baseball. She and her husband have gone to the S.F. Giants Spring Training in Arizona for quite a few years, and she also loves to watch her grandson pitch in Little League.

If you’re in the Library on Thursday afternoons, drop by the BookStore and say hi to Sheila!

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 in October of each year.

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: _____



STAFF PICKS

Book Reviews



The Eerie Silence—Paul Davies (2010, nonfiction). To date, Humans have found no evidence of life outside our solar system, and we've not been contacted by extra-terrestrials. If life, more importantly intelligent life, is so prevalent in our known Universe, then where is everybody? Paul Davies asks this very question in his book. He briefly outlines the history of evolution of life on Earth, followed by civilization's development and the advent of technology allowing humans to send and receive information concerning forms of life existing elsewhere. He discusses how life might evolve on other planets, become intelligent, civilized, and technologically advanced. He discusses the enormous amount of time required for intelligent civilizations to evolve, interact with others, and eventually die, as well as the immense distances in space that inhibit both communication and planetary travel. He ponders the pros and cons of a civilization being "artificial" versus "biological" in nature. He also speaks to the question of what people of Earth should do if a message is received or if "first contact" occurs. Who would speak for the people of Earth? What should we say? What should we do? What might happen to our societal structure or to humanity as a whole? Some excellent questions and possible answers coupled with relevant information in this entertaining science book. (Gene Weber)

City of Dark Magic—Magnus Flyte (2012 fiction): One can look at this novel as a paranormal mystery or a political thriller. Or both. In any event, it is inventive and entertaining and one that has a surprise around every corner. Sarah Weston is a doctoral candidate in musicology, who is invited to Prague to help catalog the ancient Lobkowicz family's collection of music and art. When she arrives, she discovers numerous treasures and likewise numerous intriguing and disturbing questions. This novel has a little of everything, including spies, hidden masterpieces, time travel, alchemy, and murder. The research into period art and music is extensive and interesting. Magnus Flyte is the pen name for the duo of Meg Howrey and Christina Lynch, and they are to be congratulated on a fascinating debut novel. Enjoy! (Ginger Russell)

Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky—Kathi Appelt and Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer (2001 nonfiction): One of the least known, but most successful, of President Roosevelt's WPA pro-

jects was that of the Pack Horse Library in the Cumberland Mountains of Eastern Kentucky. The librarians were almost entirely young, local women who would get up before dawn, put saddle packs of books and magazines on their horses, and traverse the narrow mountain trails to reach families and one room schools in the distant hollows. It was hard and dangerous, but everyone eagerly awaited swapping their current reading materials for whatever was in the saddle pack. These librarians did it all for \$28/month. A fascinating read for all ages, this slim book with many photographs is found in the Juvenile section of the Castro Valley Library. (Carol Lyke)

The Paris Wife—Paula McLain (2011 Fiction). This book embarks on the love story of Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway and its eventual demise. The lure of the idealistic life of Paris in the 1920's draws the newly married couple to Europe where life for Hemingway as an expatriate writer commences with the alliances of Gertrude Stein and F. Scott Fitzgerald, among others, and where Hadley struggles to fit into the hard drinking, fast living life of Paris. The novel is Hadley's story, dull at times, as she herself is, but the mystique for Hemingway and his womanizing ways keeps the reader glued to this soap opera romance. What is most impressive is Hadley's poetic voice and the research done by McLain to make this historical novel read true to life. In the end, Hemingway writes that he wished he had died before he loved anyone but Hadley. (Leticia Garcia Bradford)

Django Unchained—Directed by Quentin Tarantino (Golden Globe Script winner). This movie, a continuously entertaining 2+ hours, highlights Tarantino's essential seriousness of purpose, his magnificent stable of frequently used actors - Christoph Waltz, Samuel Jackson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, Tarantino himself, and the manner in which Tarantino inveigles his audience into imaginatively enhancing Tarantino's gore. The story itself pits good against evil. Bounty hunters played by Foxx and Waltz confront plantation owner DiCaprio and his head slave Jackson, in search of Foxx's (Django) wife. Waltz and Jackson treat Tarantino's script like poetry, says Tarantino, and Waltz alone is worth the movie. DiCaprio and Jackson portray an institution so evil that Tarantino has targeted the movie *Lincoln*, portraying the eventual emancipation of the slaves as a fitting sequel to *Django Unchained*.

(continued on P. 5)

Reviews, cont'd from P. 4

Noteworthy are the black and white pairings of the main protagonists, Foxx/Waltz and Jackson/DiCaprio, and the searing accuracy of the language. Movie maker Spike Lee objected to the language without seeing the movie, and Tarantino said cleansing the language would be insulting and condescending. The movie lives up to Tarantino's bloodthirsty style. He straps bags of blood to the actors. The bags, of various sizes, are triggered to explode after an electric charge is delivered through remote control. Behind the bag is a metallic shield to protect the actor and direct the energy outward. The result is so excessive as to evoke laughter.

The story is gloriously filmed, with sweeping scenery and soaring music, reminiscent of Sergio Leone. Sets and costumes invite inspection. The rank and file slave owners are ugly and brutal, the slaves reduced to subhumans. Humor flashes. I particularly liked Tarantino's self-annihilation, and the concluding equine salute from a neigh-sayer. (Martin Waldron)

Have you read a book, seen a movie, or heard a CD that you absolutely loved? Please share it with your Friends! Reviews may be submitted to Circle of Friends at any time. We will print as many as we have room for.

FINANCIAL REPORT



The first three months of the new fiscal year have started off in reasonably good shape with income from the BookStore and book sale roughly comparable to the previous year. There has been a drop-off in membership and general contribution income, but we are hopeful of an increase in those areas in the coming months, particularly as previous members remember to renew for 2013! As usual details of the Friends financial records are available to members upon request.

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.

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

Our special theme books are found on the center honesty shelves.

FEBRUARY: Valentine's Day—do what you love; wonderful books by African-American authors; and honoring the history of U.S. Presidents



MARCH: Spring Begins! Wear your green and read some Irish books for St. Patrick's Day. Celebrate Women's History Month. Bunnies and Baskets and Eggs, oh my! Easter and Passover celebrations.

APRIL: Green up your thumb and start your gardens! Rainy Day Reading for those showery days. Books that became movies. And lots of award winning books..



TAX ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE AT THE CASTRO VALLEY LIBRARY!

Once again, the Castro Valley Library, IRS, and AARP are offering income tax preparation assistance.

Appointments are available on Wednesdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., from February 6 through April 10, 2013. This program provides trained volunteers to assist with almost all U.S. Federal and California State income tax preparation and e-filing.

You must make an appointment to take advantage of this service! Please call the Library Desk at 510-667-7900 during normal open hours, or sign up in person.





THANK YOU CORNER

Our early December weekend book sale always brings out a large group of volunteers to help in the many chores that are needed for a successful sale. The Friends would particularly like to thank Bill Welte and Bob Bell of Welte Construction for their generous donation of a box truck and Bob's time and muscle to help move the many, many boxes of books from storage to the library the day before the sale. This move is a major effort and others who contributed their muscle and enthusiasm included Barb McGeough, Jack Kilgour, Paul Mackel, Gene Weber, Ned Lyke, Les Harrington, and Aaron Karliner.

The Interact Club from Castro Valley High School has been a faithful contributor of young adults to help in the tasks before the sale and the cleanup after the sale on Sunday afternoon. The Friends really couldn't do everything nearly as efficiently without their help and they deserve many thanks.

We would like to especially thank Vice President Ginger Russell, and our Co-Treasurers Sheila Keisner and Joan King, for being so willing to continue on the Board of Directors for another two-year term.

As customers at the Book Store recognize there are a good number of volunteers working one or more shifts and their efforts are integral to the success of the store. However, some of them also have "behind the scene" duties that are very important to the organization. We will mention just two this time: Ginger Russell, who is Editor of the *Circle of Friends* Newsletter as well as Vice President; and Maxine Willett, who is Membership Roster Coordinator/Guru and oversees mailing of the newsletter. Couldn't do these things without them! Many thanks.

Book Sale Help Needed! We have an ongoing need for many volunteers for our weekend book sales, to help with transporting books, setup, customer assistance, and dismantling after the sale is over. The book sale calendar for 2013 is shown on Page 7. If you are able to help us, please indicate an interest and someone will contact you prior to the next book sale. We are extremely grateful for all book sale volunteers!!!

If you can help, please email us at Friends.CVL@gmail.com, call us at 510-733-3285, or drop by the BookStore.

TECHNICAL HELP WANTED!!

The Friends are looking for one or two computer- and Internet-oriented people to help us with our website, global e-mailing, and possibly to set up and maintain a Facebook page. Website updates are estimated to take only an hour or two per month and can be accomplished on the PC in the BookStore office during our normal operating hours or from the volunteer's home.

Our e-mail list is to be updated regularly as new members join or if their information changes. Our newsletter, *Circle of Friends*, is e-mailed on a quarterly basis. Occasionally, other e-mails are sent to the entire membership.

At the present time, we do not have a Facebook page, but once the initial setup is accomplished, we would anticipate posting a few announcements and photos per month. However, ideas and suggestions are always welcome!

If interested, please contact us at the BookStore office.

DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Our success depends on the generosity of our donors! We gratefully accept donations of **most types** of books, magazines, CD's and DVD's at the BookStore during our normal operating hours.

Please note that we cannot accept books that are very dirty, moldy, or smoky, nor can we accept encyclopedias or other sets of books, condensed books, or textbooks older than 3 years.. We do accept audio books on CD; however, we cannot accept those on cassette tapes.

With very few exceptions, we are also not able to take magazines older than 6 months, and we no longer accept VHS tapes (except Disney). Unfortunately, these categories do not sell well, and we end up disposing of them. For a complete handout or further information regarding donations, please stop by the BookStore at your convenience. We are a nonprofit organization and will provide a donation receipt on request. **THANK YOU!!!**



Mark your calendars now—
The Friends of the Castro Valley Library
Spring Book Sale is
Friday April 12th - 6—8 p.m.
(Member Preview)
Saturday April 13th - 10 a.m.—4 p.m.
Sunday April 14th - 1—4 p.m. (Bag Day)

This sale includes our usual large selection of
fiction and mystery books,
many categories of nonfiction,
and antiquarian and special price books.
At least 350 cartons of books will be available.
You will be glad you came!

Volunteers are needed for all 3 days.
Contact us at 510-733-3285 or Friends.CVL@gmail.com

*Please remember to bring your
Friends of the Castro Valley Library
membership card in order
to take advantage of your discount.
The discount for this sale
will be \$2.00 per member
(valid on Friday & Saturday only)*

BOOK SALE SCHEDULE FOR 2013!

**SAVE THESE DATES FOR FRIENDS OF THE CASTRO VALLEY LIBRARY
BOOK SALES LATER IN THE YEAR!**

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 17, AND 18
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 7, AND 8**

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 12 noon to 7:30 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

Ned Lyke, President 537-5961
Ginger Russell, Vice President 733-5223
Sheila Keisner & Joan King,
Co-Treasurers 538-4911
Gene Weber, Secretary 925-963-1165

MEETING SCHEDULE!!!

Friends meetings are held on an as-needed basis. The February meeting has been cancelled; the next regular meeting is May 14 at 7 p.m. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

