



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
May 2013

THE MAY MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED. THE NEXT FRIENDS MEETING IS AUG. 13TH AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As I write this report to the membership it is a sunny, warm afternoon in Castro Valley, heralding the conclusion of a noteworthy and fulfilling academic year for the children and families in the community.

Hopefully this time of the year finds all our membership in good spirits and looking forward to the coming days, weeks and months with positive outlooks and plans.

As many of you know, the Friends of the Castro Valley Library have been very busy in recent weeks. We had a successful weekend sale the second weekend of April; revenue was down slightly, but there were more attendees than we have ever experienced. Everyone was pleased with the turn out, the satisfied customers, and our ability to generate funds for the library, get books back into the reading community, and move the "leftovers" on to schools and charitable organizations. In addition to the sale, there have been many successful days at the Book Store.

The Board of Directors is engaged in discussions about Board expansion and creating a more formal organizational structure of the Friends. We probably will propose that two at-large director positions be added through elections at the Annual Meeting in November. This will require a change in the by-laws that will be proposed at the next general meeting of the membership in August along with more details of our discussions. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for a short comment on these plans.

The Board of Directors has approved the establishment of a PayPal Account to facilitate monetary contributions to the Friends. A link to PayPal will be on our website. The latter is undergoing considerable revision under the capable leadership of Mikel Lestrin and Diane George, and we hope to be on-line very soon.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find other information about the current status of the Friends. I continue to be grateful for the wonderful support Castro Valley and surrounding communities have in the Friends activities,

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 (reg. req'd)*

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.

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

MAC meeting 2nd, 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.

Beginning May 7th, a representative of Assemblyman Bill Quirk's office will be available at the library the first Tuesday of every month from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. to help with State-related issues. You may call Assemblyman Quirk's office at 510-583-8818 for an appointment, or you are welcome to simply drop in.

Partial List of Events Coming Up in May and June

May 1 4:00-5:00 p.m. Berkeley Rep Theater Workshop for kids (reg.)

May 6 6:30-8:30 p.m. Paws to Read (reg. reqd.)

May 11 2:00-3:30 p.m. Discover Taiwan: Dragon Boat Festival (kids)

June 3 6:30-8:00 p.m. Paws to Read (reg. reqd.)

June 8 1:00-4:00 p.m. Discover Taiwan: Taiwanese Festival (kids)

The Library will be closed on the following days:

Monday May 27—Memorial Day

Thursday July 4—Independence Day

New events are added frequently! Please visit the library website or check the readerboard in the library lobby for complete information on all events and activities!

knowing that it reflects on your positive impression of the library. And, especially, I want to thank all the volunteers, who I consider my good Friends, for their enthusiasm, energy and good spirits.

Ned Lyke, President

Friends of the Castro Valley Library

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Carolyn Moskovitz

Today is your Lucky Day. That's how we hope people will feel when they get a chance to use the Library's newest addition. Starting in the summer, we will be adding a Lucky Day collection. New books and DVD's will be on display and available for checkout. The collection will feature the hottest and most requested materials, yours for the borrowing if it happens to be your lucky day. We think this will be fun, and will allow our members a chance to get the newest books and DVDs without the wait.

Speaking of fun, we sponsored a really different event in February to celebrate Valentine's Day. We invited everyone to take a book on a blind date. We put out books wrapped in pink with brief descriptions, but author and title information were hidden. Of the hundreds put out, most were taken. Folks took them to their favorite places, shared a meal with them and in many cases got to know a new genre or author. It was a great success—everyone who took a book out on a blind date got to enter a raffle and we awarded candy, generously supplied by the Friends, to the winners.



Tax help this year at the library was amazing. Volunteers through AARP helped 160 people prepare and file their taxes. We had a full set-up of paper forms available as well. Many people told us we had the most comprehensive collection of tax forms of any library around and thanked us profusely. Since the IRS no longer mails forms, this service has become a really critical and important part of our jobs.

So many meetings and programs took place in the library meeting rooms, most thanks to the Friends generous support. In the first quarter of 2013, we held 364 meetings, and 6,853 people attended.

And finally, this quarter has been a wonderful time for Art in the library. The Ed Foundation held a competition for teen art. Many art events were held in the Library in March as part of the Library's partnership with ART is Education, and finally at the end of April, Congressman Eric Swalwell hosted a Congressional Art Competition selection and reception at the library. High School students were invited to submit art. The winning piece will be displayed in the U. S. Capitol for one year.

Inscription inside *The Book of Perennials* by Alfred C. Hottes: "To Vic—May you continue to spread rose petals instead of thorns through the pathway of life."

SPRING AND SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS!

By Dawn Balestreri
Children's Services

Spring is in the air, and it has been a lovely spring so far, with one new program and several familiar ones for the Castro Valley Library Children's Department. This spring we introduced Tuff Tumblers to our library. Tuff Tumblers is a non-competitive gymnastic program for preschool children. We had lots of fun stretching, jumping and tumbling, and hope to have Tuff Tumblers back on a regular basis thanks to Friends of the Library funding.



In addition, we enjoyed a visit from the Oakland Zoo's Conservation ZooMobile, and their array of furry critters. Kids had an opportunity to learn about ways they can help conserve the environment for all types of creatures (including the human ones).

We began offering two sessions of our very popular Playtime program. Playtime is the Castro Valley Library's version of storytime. We meet in the Chabot/Canyon room. All children 5 years and under are welcome. After storytime, the older children craft and the younger children play with a wide array of educational toys (many of which were provided by our Friends of the Library).

Science is also in the air at the Castro Valley Library! Kids had the opportunity to build indoor kites with Spectrum of Science in late March. Spectrum of Science is a hands-on educational science program. Access to a program like this is rarely available locally and always has a fee, but the Friends of the Library funding allow us to provide this program to our customers for free!

Summer Sneak Peek: The Children's Department at the Castro Valley Library is already thinking ahead to summer this time of year, and we have lots up our sleeves this summer. As always, our summer reading game kicks off in June with the theme, **Have Book, Will Travel**, this year. Last year we had more than 1,600 children sign up to play in Castro Valley alone. Programming goes into overdrive in the summer, and last year more than 7,000 children enjoyed puppet shows, magicians, jugglers, movies, and science programs. We'll have more of the same this year and will be adding our successful Lego Club on a weekly basis and a Maker Monday workshop for tweens. Makers are do-it-yourself types who enjoy making, creating and doing. We will be building mini catapults, brush bots and more. Please visit the Castro Valley Library's website for more information or stop in for a visit.

COMMENT ON BOARD EXPANSION AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

By Ned Lyke, President

The Board of Directors anticipates proposing the addition of two at-large members to the Board. We would like to attract new "blood" interested in corporate governance, further engage younger members in the activities of the Friends, and provide for a continuation of a well-functioning Board.

The organizational structure of the Friends has worked very well over the past few years: at the old library, during construction and transition to the new library, and now continuing in the years since opening in October 2009. Much of the work has been done with the leadership of a small number of individuals. A Transition Committee led us into the new building and re-organization, and a Book Store Committee has continued to oversee those operations. Recently, a Website Design Committee has begun work on expansion. In addition, there are specific volunteers that function in critical roles such as overall volunteer coordinator, online sales, off-site sales, bookstore volunteer coordinator, membership/roster coordinator, office manager, and tri-annual book sale coordinator. Many of our current volunteers were instrumental in writing the detailed procedures that guide the organization. We would not be doing nearly as well were it not for their efforts over the past four-plus years.

The Board of Directors is studying how everyone functions, where there are shared duties, and how we might engage other members of the community in committees and ad-hoc groups to accomplish our goals. They are particularly concerned that the organizational structure will carry the Friends of the Castro Valley Library well into the future. We expect to present ideas to the membership for discussion and decisions by early summer and will be communicating through the newsletter and emails.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS JOANNE PARENTI & GLORIA BONORA

Sisters Joanne Parenti and Gloria Bonora manage the Food and Wine section of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library BookStore. As you might guess, both love books and also love to cook. They joined the Friends and began working in the BookStore when the new library opened.

Joanne and Gloria are long-time Castro Valley residents, Gloria moving here in 1960 and Joanne in 1972. Each has 3 children. Gloria has 6 grandchildren. Joanne has 5 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Joanne is retired from the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, where she was an administrative assistant. Gloria worked for the Department of Energy and then transferred to the Lawrence Livermore Lab.

Both sisters volunteer with the St. Vincent DePaul dining room, serving food to hundreds of homeless and low-income people daily. In addition, Gloria volunteers with CARH, coordinates the blood drives at the Lawrence Livermore Lab, and serves as a driver for the Senior Transportation Group of Pleasanton.

It is hard to imagine their having any spare time, but Gloria says she enjoys playing tennis and bocce and also square dancing. And of course they like to cook!

You can meet Joanne and Gloria at the BookStore between noon and 3 p.m. on Mondays.

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



Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey: The Lost Legacy of Highclere Castle by the Countess of Carnarvon (2011 Nonfiction): With viewers on both sides of the pond agog over the PBS series “Downton Abbey,” the wait for the next series to begin may seem long, but a pleasurable way to pass the time is with a good book. This is such a book. Written by the present Countess of Carnarvon, the wife of Lady Almina’s great-grandson, this work provides an inside look at Highclere Castle, the setting for the TV episodes. It’s a fascinating story with interesting parallels between the actual history of Highclere and the story line of “Downton Abbey.” The castle actually was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers during WWI; the changes that followed in the early to mid 20th century did cause upheaval within the household, upstairs as well as downstairs. (Almina’s husband, the Fifth Earl of Carnarvon, and Howard Carter discovered and opened King Tutankhamun’s tomb in Egypt. This bit of actual history hasn’t made its way into the TV story, however.) Available at the Castro Valley Library in both book and e-book formats. (Carol Lyke)

Martin Cruz Smith writes atmospheric thrillers. When you have read *Wolves Eat Dogs* (2004) you won’t have to visit Chernobyl; you’ll pronounce it “Chornobyl” and you won’t ever be tempted to visit Fujishima. When you have read *Three Stations* (2010), you will have experienced Moscow, or at least Komsomol Square. Again, you will not be considering a tourist trip. In these two books, Smith presents an engaging investigator, Arkady Renoko, a cast of titillating supporting characters, and gripping, original story lines. Serendipitously, I read *Wolves Eat Dogs* prior to *Three Stations* and so was rewarded with engrossing and unexpected character development. And what characters! A terminally ill doctor treating radioactive patients, a near mute boy chess genius scamming adults, a teen mother searching for her baby. Smith’s attention to details of people and places could make these vignettes worthwhile independently of the main story lines. His plots zig-zag along furiously. His people struggle with near desperation. His world is a convincing morass of unclear moral choices. Martin Cruz Smith is must-read, mesmerizing, unforgettable. (Martin Waldron)

The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin (2012 Fiction): This is a magnificent first novel, set in rural Washington State at the turn of the twentieth century. The orchardist, William Talmadge, is orphaned at an early age and then loses his sister, so he lives alone and cultivates orchards of apple and apricot trees. Two young pregnant sisters arrive one day and become acquainted by stealing his fruit; however, he eventually takes them in and cares for them as if they were daughters. The story is far from uplifting, by turns gritty and stark, but also beautiful and haunting. The characterizations and landscapes are exquisite, huge in scope and deep in understanding. This book is, quite simply, amazing. (Ginger Russell)

Unbroken by Lauren Hillenbrand (2010 nonfiction). *Unbroken*, the story of Louie Zamperini, begins with a boy who seems most successful at getting into trouble. Running leads Louie to honor with a spot on the 1936 U.S. Olympic track team and a scholarship to the University of Southern California. Louie joined the Army to be a bombardier. His plane was shot down over the Pacific Ocean. Louie and the crew spent several weeks on a raft before he and another man were captured by the Japanese. Louie’s fame from the Olympics led to numerous attempts by his capturers to break him. The vivid descriptions are often sickening, but the detailed and well-researched story is worth reading. Louie Zamperini is an unusual hero. Available at the Castro Valley Library in printed and audio forms. (Sara Accornero)

The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes, winner of the Man Booker Prize in 2011 (nonfiction) presents a compelling journey of a middle-aged man as he reviews his life, family, and friends and then is presented with new information which causes him to re-evaluate everything that he thought he knew and believed. It explores memory—what and how we remember and how we may edit it to give sense and meaning to our lives. Available in the Castro Valley Library in hardback, e-book, CD, and e-audio formats. (Carol Lyke)

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.

TECHNICAL HELP WANTED!!

With the advent of the new IT Committee, the Friends continue to look 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT



We continue to maintain a steady income from our operations through the first five months of the 2012-13 fiscal year. Total income from all the book sales through March 31st shows an increase of about \$450 compared to a similar time period a year earlier. There has been a slacking off of income from general contributions and membership dues, though the numbers do not take into account transactions in April including new members joining at the weekend sale. One measure of the success of our activities is that our current monetary reserves will provide over four years of funding for the library.

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.

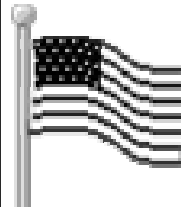
MAY: Plan a fiesta for Cinco De Mayo. Celebrate that special woman on Mother's Day. Remember those who gave their lives for our country on Memorial Day.



JUNE: Look for that special "guy" book for Father's Day. Contemplate a landmark moment in our history—Juneteenth, and the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation. Celebrate LGBT Pride. And do a little wedding planning with books about marriage and brides.



JULY: Honor our country's birth on Independence Day. Read about all things French on Bastille Day. Plan your summer vacation or do a little light "beach reading."



DEFINITIONS YOU CAN USE:

BOOKSTORE: One of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking. (Jerry Seinfeld)

COMMITTEE: A cul-de-sac down which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled. (Barnett Cocks)

SYNONYM: A word you use when you can't spell the word you first thought of. (Burt Bacharach)

WHOM: A word that was invented to make everyone sound like a butler. (Calvin Trillin)



THANK YOU CORNER

Once again, it is our pleasure to thank Bill Welte and Ryan Reed for their wonderful assistance prior to the weekend book sale. Bill has been providing a large truck for many, many sales to help in moving the 350 plus boxes of books from storage to the library on Thursday afternoon for the sale setup. This time, Ryan was the truck driver who arrived on time, provided his considerable muscle power and good humor, and quickly got the books to the library. We, literally, could not have done it without Bill Welte and Ryan Reed. Thanks very much!

Another group that provides vital assistance at the sales is the Interact Club of Castro Valley High School. This group of willing community volunteers is critical on Thursday afternoon prior to the sale in helping break down 300 plus boxes for return (empty) to storage. Then, on Sunday, at the end of the sale the group of 8-10 students help box up all the left over books and do other clean-up chores. We think the record for cleaning up is about 40 minutes! Thanks to the Interact Club and the regular Friends volunteers who provide invaluable assistance in setting up, running, and tearing down all the things that have to be done for one of these sales.

Without mentioning names, we would like to thank those Friends volunteers who, after coming down with some medical/physical problem, are always quick to tell the volunteer coordinators that they really, really want to heal quickly so they can get back to helping the Friends in the Book Store, at the weekend sales, or wherever else they can make a contribution. We really do appreciate their dedication to "the cause" and wish them a speedy recovery.

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.

NOTABLE DONATIONS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Over the past few months, the Friends have received some very generous donations that have enhanced the selection available at the BookStore. The first of these included literally hundreds of **books on the cinema**, from filmographies to the very detailed *Variety* reviews and AFI catalogs. Some of these books are now listed on line, some were featured at the recent book sale (and may still be available at the next sale in August), and others are available now at the BookStore.

Another very generous donation included hundreds of **jazz and classical CD's**. These will be featured in a special sale at the BookStore. The date for the sale has not been determined yet but will probably take place in May or June. Watch for announcements at the BookStore and by e-mail.


We also have a nearly-complete set of *West's California Codes* that was surplus by the library. These include current updates; however, approximately 20 volumes (out of the set of over 300) are missing. If anyone is interested in purchasing this set, please contact us at the BookStore, 510-733-3285.

One of the frequent questions from potential donors is whether we accept "old" books. The answer is that we accept *most* of them. The exception is *textbooks older than 2010*. Otherwise, we are grateful for any older fiction or nonfiction books.

Other books that we cannot accept include encyclopedias and series type sets, condensed books, and those which are damaged, moldy, very dirty, or smoky.

We do accept magazines if they are dated within the last 6 months. We also accept audio books on CD, music CD's, and movie and TV DVD's. However, we can no longer accept VHS (except Disney) or cassette tapes.

Our success depends on the generosity of our donors! We gratefully accept donations during our normal operating hours, and we are happy to help you carry the books from your car to the BookStore.



Mark your calendars now—
The Friends of the Castro Valley Library
Summer Book Sale is
Friday August 16th - 6—8 p.m.
(Member Preview)
Saturday August 17th - 10 a.m.—4 p.m.
Sunday August 18th - 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 300 cartons of books will be available.
You will be glad you came!

Volunteers are needed for setup on Thursday
and for all 3 sale 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)*

THERE WILL BE ONE MORE BOOK SALE IN 2013!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT FRIENDS OF THE
CASTRO VALLEY LIBRARY BOOK SALE!

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 May meeting has been cancelled. The next regular meeting is **August 13 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

