



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library  
November 2013

THE NEXT FRIENDS MEETING IS NOVEMBER 12TH AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY'S CHABOT ROOM



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I write this report, Indian Summer days seem to be the norm for Castro Valley, though the late evening and early morning hours certainly have a nip to them that heralds the upcoming "real" Fall weather. We can use a change, particularly if it brings some much needed rain. However, I am also sure that the prospects of damp weather will not deter the volunteers of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library from their many efforts to support the library. Our BookStore (the only one in Castro Valley!) continues to enjoy great interest from the public, both in the quality of donations and in the many purchases made at our bargain prices. We had a very successful August weekend sale, online book sales continue to gather sales from around the country, and we are preparing for both the annual Holiday Sale in early December along with at least one "flash sale" in mid-November. About the only recent sad note was the closing of Zocalo Café in San Leandro where the Friends have had a small bookshelf honesty box sales operation for a good number of years. We would be interested in talking with Castro Valley café owners about possibly installing a small bookstore in their café.

I do want to emphasize the upcoming Annual Meeting of the general membership on November 12<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will mark the fourth anniversary since the opening of the new library. The summaries of library operations by Carolyn Moskovitz, Branch Librarian, by Sheila Keisner & Joan King, our Co-treasurers, and my personal remarks will highlight everything that has been accomplished since Halloween 2009. I think you will be surprised at our reports and gratified that so many members of the Castro Valley community have embraced the library and all that it offers our citizens.

The other major reason for attendance at the Annual Meeting is the election of a President, Secretary, and two At-Large Directors. Our Nominating Committee under the very capable leadership of Jane Kraut has been making a strenuous effort to find members of the Friends to step forward and contribute their knowledge and leadership skills. Please give serious thought to these important positions, suggest citizens who might be interested, or volunteer yourself! Nominees' names will be announced prior to the meeting by email and information posted at the BookStore/Office.

Finally, I have reached the end of my two, two-year terms

## 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](http://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.)*

### Other Ongoing Activities:

**Homework Help** Mon. thru Thurs. 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
**Advanced 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.  
**Assemblyman Bill Quirk's representative**—first Tuesday of every month from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m.

### Partial List of Events Coming Up in November and December

**Adult Computer Classes!** Nov. 5, 12, 19, Dec. 3 & 10, 12:30-2:30 p.m. See the Library's event schedule for more info. Registration is required.  
Nov. 2 10 a.m. -2:30 p.m. ACT Practice Test (reg. req'd.)  
Nov. 4 6:30-8:00 p.m. Paws to Read (reg. req'd.)  
Nov. 5 6:00-7:00 p.m. Start Smart Teen Driving Program (reg. with CHP)  
Nov. 7 10:30-11:30 p.m. Fall Preschool Time—Playtime  
Nov. 12 6:30-7:30 p.m. ACT Test Follow Up & Strategies Workshop  
Nov. 12 7:00 p.m. Friends of the CV Library Annual Meeting  
Nov. 14 10:30-11:30 a.m. Fall Preschool Time—Musical Play  
Nov. 19 1:00-3:30 p.m. Monthly Movie Matinee "Man of Steel"  
Nov. 26 1:00-3:00 p.m. LEGO Club Play Day  
Dec. 6-7-8 Friends of CV Library Book Sale (see page 7 for info)

### The Library will be closed on the following days:

**Monday November 11th for Veterans Day**  
**Thursday November 28th for Thanksgiving**  
**Wednesday December 25th for Christmas**  
**Wednesday January 1st for New Year's 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!

as President of the Friends. They have been a remarkable four years of working with a wonderful group of volunteers, with the library leadership and staff, and with numerous members of the Castro Valley community. Collectively we have accomplished a great deal. I have made many life-long friends amongst the volunteers and I look forward to continuing to work for and with the Friends in the coming years. Thank you all for the privilege of being able to serve you. With my best wishes.

*Ned Lyke, President*

*Friends of the Castro Valley Library*

## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Carolyn Moskowitz

Amazingly, it has been 4 years since we opened our new library. With that in mind I'd like to take this opportunity to list what I think have been the library's 8 greatest successes.

1. **The Friends and the Friends bookstore.** Many of the successes of the new library stem from this. Because of the funds raised we have been able to offer outstanding events and programming. The Friends membership has grown sharply since the move to the new building and the activity level has risen as well with over 50 volunteers working at the bookstore.
2. **Volunteers have come forward** to run or assist with programs that staff alone could have never done on our own. These include Job Lab, Tech Help, Paws to Read, Homework Help, Reading Clubs and Book Groups to name a few.
3. **The Library has become** a community focal point and generated a multitude of community partnerships. As the site for MAC meetings, the Castro Valley Fall Festival, many of the Eden Area Livability Initiative meetings, and Art Commission meeting it is the go to place.
4. **As the Greenest Library** in the Bay Area, we are constantly proud of how we have been able to save and produce energy. Recently the Solar Panels hit the one million kilowatt mark of power that they had produced. We were also awarded a 4 Star Business Certification from the CV Sanitary district.
5. **Our circulation and gate count** and program attendance is amazing. Most months members check out around 60,000 items while 40,000 people come through the doors. In June, July and August we held 305 programs attended by 11,415 people.
6. **The building itself** has worked as planned. The light is wonderful, the air quality is great, and the sight lines make the library easy to supervise. The learning center particularly is being used as it was intended. The furniture is comfortable and easy to rearrange as needed. And the flexibility we were hoping to achieve has allowed us to make needed changes with minimal disruption.
7. **The Automated Materials Handling System** has allowed us to get books back on the shelves dramatically faster than beforehand. Those 60,000 items checked out per month all have to be reshelved when they are returned. The return system automatically checks materials in, resensitizes each item and sorts it so it is ready to go. Most items are back on the

## BANNED BOOKS WEEK

By Danielle Wilson

Autumn brings to the Library a calmer atmosphere as we take a huge sigh of relief after the busy summer months. September is especially important for libraries throughout the country while we celebrate Banned Books Week. The American Library Association founded this annual event to bring attention to our stand against censorship and to celebrate the freedom to read materials that contain unpopular or unorthodox viewpoints.



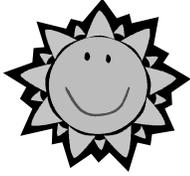
My first taste of Banned Books Week came when I was seven years old. I was a voracious reader growing up, and my mom had a very liberal reading policy. It never crossed my mind that people would seek to remove books from library shelves just because they didn't like what an author had to say. Then I attended a Banned Books talk at my local library and met Zilpha Keatley Snyder, an author whose books have been challenged and banned many times. Of course, I turned around and read every book she'd written. I still refuse to allow anyone to tell me that certain books are inappropriate for me to read.

Fast forward to Banned Books Week 2013 this past September. Castro Valley Library staff worked hard to create a colorful display of library books that are frequently challenged or banned in the United States. The catch? All of the books were wrapped in paper so that you couldn't see the title. All you could see was the reason why the book made the list. Reasons included profanity, homosexuality, violence, nudity, religious viewpoint, and more. Only 47 of the 212 wrapped books for adults, teens, and children were left on the display at the end of the week. It seems that Castro Valley Library patrons support the freedom to read too – and it was great to see so many people learn about Banned Books Week in our library!

For more information about Banned Books Week visit <http://guides.aclibrary.org/banned>

shelves within 24 hours. Also members have them cleared off their records and get a receipt.

8. **And finally, the thing that has been** most amazing in my mind has been the hardworking, creative, very smart and dedicated staff of the Castro Valley Library. We had a very small increase in positions when we move into the new facility. Staff has stepped up to the challenges and provided committed outstanding service.



# THANK YOU CORNER

**The Friends would especially like to acknowledge** and thank our retiring Secretary, Gene Weber, for his faithful and fine work during the past four years as a member of the Board of Directors. Gene has been responsible for taking the minutes at all the meetings of the Board of Directors, the general membership meetings and the Annual meetings for the past four years. In addition, he has been a very valuable member of the Board, bringing his business experience to bear on our operations, asking the 'good' questions that focused our thinking and decisions, and helping with many, many things that needed to be done to support the efforts of the Friends. We will also miss Gene, his muscles, and his big truck that were critical to hauling boxes of books, tables and other supplies for our weekend sales. Gene is moving to Texas to provide needed support for aging family members and will be missed by his many friends in the Bay Area. We wish you well with many thanks, Gene!

**Zocalo Café in San Leandro** has closed and we thank the departed ownership for their support, and especially our Donna Jones for initiating the book sales, and more recently Sheila Keisner

and Sue Waldron for maintaining the book supplies and collecting the money.

**The Friends receive**, on a daily basis, many donations of books, magazines, CDs, and video materials. The majority are relatively small donations, perhaps a paper bag or two, or one or two boxes. However, we would like to acknowledge in a general way, the thoughtfulness of members of the community who have made very large donations of books. Over the past few months we have received collections of well over 10, 15, 24, 35 boxes of books: some have been wonderful collections of children's books, very recently hundreds of cookbooks, other collections of travel books, plus general fiction and non-fiction books. In some instances, donors have just decided to downsize their collections, in others the surviving families of deceased parents and grandparents have gifted the collections to the Friends. We are grateful to all and really appreciate your thinking of the Friends as a means to support the Castro Valley Library.

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose. - George Carlin

**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



**“Divas” CD by Pottery Barn:** Compilation CD’s can be hit or miss, but may mask some hidden treasures. As PIC (person in charge) of the music collection in our BookStore, I try to keep up with cleaning the incoming CD’s and making sure they play o.k. and look appealing too. While going through the latest contributions, I had the pleasure to try out a compilation by Pottery Barn called “Divas.” Now, I’d expect that to be opera stars, and I was pleasantly surprised to find some rarely heard tracks by Aretha, Ella, Pearl, Dinah, Eartha, and Etta, among others. Nice surprise, and currently on display in the BookStore, subject to prior sale. (Mikel Lestrin)

**Meet Jo Nesbo:** Since Stieg Larsson burned the Lisbeth Salander trilogy into my consciousness, I have been reading Scandinavian thrillers. They have led me into cold, miserable, frozen, snowbound terrain, always correlated with a compelling psychological component – depression, suicide, religious mania. Finally, I discovered Jo Nesbo, and *The Devil’s Star* (2005), *The Redbreast* (2006), and *Nemesis* (2008). Written in Norwegian and translated in the indicated years, these works are celebrated worldwide. For myself, the most rewarding discovery is Inspector Harry Hole. The plots are chronologically connected, based in Oslo, but each book stands alone. The thread is the inspector. He is an unforgettable, completely convincing, alcoholic. His detective work is brilliant, assisted or not by carefully etched characters in the police department. The plots, as complex as anything I have read, are exhausting, and often Harry’s blackouts are welcome relief. There are political and family histories and relationships to challenge the mature. For example, I have never appreciated the layered complexity of Norway’s World War II experience. Back to Harry, I have moderate knowledge of alcoholism. I learned much from these stories. He is always thirsty, under pressure to have a drink. He drops out for weeks. He suffers from horrific nightmares. He practically eats cigarettes. His personal hygiene is deplorable, but his mind operates in a parallel universe, most productive when inexactly focused. He has just enough administrative support, based on brilliant successes, to survive self-destruction, to be allowed return to supervised special duty. His integrity is unquestioned. He takes extraordinary pride in his work, never accepting the easy obvious. His values are beyond reproach. Who will forget his loyalty to his Downs sister. I wholeheartedly recommend Jo Nesbo. (Martin Waldron)

**“The Crane Wife” CD – The Decemberists (2006):** I discovered The Decemberists sort of by accident when I heard one of the tracks from this album, “The Perfect Crime,” on a local radio station. Not being one to download music, I purchased the CD expecting to find more of the same type of music. I was more than pleasantly surprised by the beauty and insight contained in the rest of the tracks. The title “Crane Wife,” which consists of 3 different tracks, recounts a Japanese fable about a farmer who rescues and marries a crane. Other tracks include a grisly bedtime story about “The Shankill Butchers” (sort of like a bogeyman) and a gorgeous folk song about the Civil War. This album is lyrically and musically excellent. Its content is somewhat different from the rest of The Decemberists’ work. If you have not heard it yet, give it a try. (Ginger Russell)

***I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* – Delphine Minoui (2010 Nonfiction):** By the age of 10, Nujood Ali has been married off to an abusive husband who regularly rapes and beats her, escapes during a visit to her poverty-stricken family, finds her way to a sympathetic judge and with the compassionate aid of lawyers wins a divorce – the first in Yemen to accomplish this. Told from a child’s viewpoint, the simple prose conveys the horror of the situation and the relief from the oppression. After the divorce at age 10, Nujood was able to return to school and the happiness of education while determined, through her story and other ways, to help others in her situation. A small book of less than 200 pages, it is available in book form and on E-Books in our library. (Carol Lyke)

***Kiss My Aster* – Amanda Thomsen (2012 Nonfiction):** The author calls this book “A Graphic Guide to Creating a Fantastic Yard Totally Tailored to You,” and that’s what it is. Written in conversational vernacular and liberally illustrated, this book is both entertaining and informative. Whether you are an experienced gardener or just starting out, you will love the way this book is written, and you will also gain valuable knowledge about designing, setting up, planting, and maintaining your garden, beginning with a bare plot of land. The illustrations are whimsical but logical and botanically correct. I introduced this book to my garden club, and a number of the members have also purchased it. (Ginger Russell)

**Have you read (or seen or heard) a wonderful book, CD, or movie?? Please share it with your Friends. Reviews may be submitted at any time, and we will print as many as we can.**

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING!

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chabot/Canyon Room of the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, in Castro Valley.

The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Friends Office/BookStore prior to the meeting. Proposed agenda items include election of officers and board members as follows:

**President**

**Secretary**

**Member At-Large (one year term)**

**Member At-Large (two year term)**

Other proposed agenda items include the President's Report, Annual Financial Report, Library Manager's Report, discussion of any new or pending items of business, and comment from the public.

You are invited to attend this meeting and comment on any of the items being discussed. If you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to make comments, please email us at [Friends.CVL@gmail.com](mailto:Friends.CVL@gmail.com), or direct your written comments to the Friends office, Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley CA 94546. If you have any questions about the meeting or agenda items, please feel free to call us at 510-733-3285 or email to the above address.

## Donations and Volunteers Needed!

As always, the Friends are grateful for your donations of books and other media. Please contact us for donation guidelines, either by phone or on line, or stop by the BookStore.

Volunteers are needed for our upcoming December book sale (see page 7). The sign-up sheet will be available in the BookStore approximately the first week of November, OR you can call or email us at any time if you are able to help.

**THANK YOU!!!**

Under "There's a weird word for that" :

**BIBLIOBIBULI** (bib-leo-BIB-you-lie): Those who read too much. (From the *Reader's Digest*)

Now, really—is it possible to read too much???? (- Ed.)

## CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

Our special theme books are found on the center Honesty Shelves.

**November:** Celebrate Thanksgiving and Family; explore Native American cultures; honor our Veterans.

**December:** So many holidays! Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and others. And the Winter Solstice.

**January:** New Year—New You! Resolutions for the coming year; Football Bowl Game season.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

September 30<sup>th</sup> was the end of the 2012-13 fiscal year and the Board of Directors are pleased to report that the organization is in excellent financial condition. Total income from book sales increased over the previous fiscal year, particularly in the BookStore and online sales. Total income was reduced somewhat due to a drop in memberships. Our total assets are such that the Board of Directors anticipates providing additional funding to the library in the coming year, particularly for the Library Wish List, which we have been able to increase every year over the past four years. As always, details of the financial condition of the Friends are available to members in the Office.



## 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](mailto:Friends.CVL@gmail.com).

## SPECIAL SALE ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!

Just in time for the holiday season, the Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold a special sale of **COOK-BOOKS** on **Saturday, November 16th.**



We were fortunate to receive a substantial donation of excellent quality cookbooks of all types. These would make excellent holiday gifts or may give you new ideas for your own entertaining.

The sale will be held in the library's meeting room, near the BookStore, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

In addition, we will also be offering the remaining selection of **music CD's** from our earlier sale. Many of these would make wonderful gifts for music aficionados. We still have lots and lots of CD's, and most of these are jazz or classical.

Hope to see you at this special sale!

My childhood library was small enough not to be intimidating. And yet I felt the whole world was contained in those two rooms. I could walk any aisle and smell wisdom.  
- Rita Dove, Poet

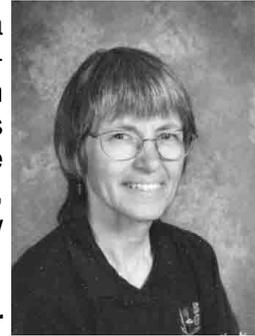
### Memorable Inscription:

Inside *Chester—Beautiful England*, a 1950's vintage guidebook printed in Glasgow:

"To B., Christmas 1953. Thought you might enjoy a book about Chester. However, on glancing through the book—I find it "peculiar" - quite negative! But the pictures are very nice. Love, G."

## MEET YOUR FRIENDS Jane Kraut

Like many of our Friends, Jane Kraut never has enough to do! She has been a member of the Castro Valley Friends for a couple of years, working in the BookStore on Tuesday afternoons and serving on the BookStore Committee, of which she is the new Chairperson.



In addition to her much-appreciated time with the Friends, Jane also volunteers in the Library's Homework Center, plays clarinet in the Castro Valley Community Band and two chamber groups, and is involved in the bell choir, chancel choir, and children's programs at her church. She also volunteers one day a week at Eden Gardens Elementary School in Hayward.

Jane was born in Southern California and lived in the Mojave Desert for a few years, moving to a rural area east of Gilroy, where she went to school. She majored in music at San Jose State and received her elementary teaching credential from Fresno State, teaching in Tulare for a year before getting married and moving to Livermore. She and her family moved to Castro Valley in 1984, and her three children graduated from CVHS. She worked as a library teacher at Eden Gardens before retiring in 2009.

If you're in the library on Tuesday afternoons, stop by the BookStore and say hi to Jane!



If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need!  
(Contributed by Carl Stanley)

**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY—IT IS TIME TO RENEW!!!**

The new Friends of the Castro Valley Library membership year began on October 1st! If you have not already done so, please drop by the BookStore during our regular hours. Your renewal will include \$7 in discounts at the BookStore (\$14 for Family and Lifetime memberships) as well as discount coupons for the book sales and that all-important entry to the Friday night book sale previews.

Mark your calendars now—  
The Friends of the Castro Valley Library  
**Fall/Winter Book Sale** is  
Friday December 6th - 6—8 p.m.  
(Member Preview)

Saturday December 7th - 10 a.m.—4 p.m.  
Sunday December 8th - 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.

This sale includes many holiday and gift-quality books at super prices.

**At least 300 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 2013-14  
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*

**THE 2014 BOOK SALE SCHEDULE WILL BE ANNOUNCED  
IN JANUARY. DROP BY THE BOOKSTORE OR WATCH FOR THE  
FEBRUARY ISSUE OF *CIRCLE OF FRIENDS!***

**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](http://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](mailto: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 next regular meeting is **November 12th 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**  
3600 Norbridge Avenue  
Castro Valley CA 94546  
[www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

