



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
February 2015

PLEASE CHECK THIS NEWSLETTER OR OUR WEBSITE FOR MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I look back over the past year, I am overwhelmed by how much I have learned about the workings of Friends of Castro Valley Library. The more I learn (I still have lots to learn), the more I am amazed by how much dedication and work is shown by our volunteers. We have many volunteers (about 70 active), and each shares his or her talents with us in his or her own unique way. The most visible of our volunteers work regular shifts in the BookStore and volunteer during our tri-annual sales. (Not included in the above number are the volunteers from the CVHS Interact Club—more than a dozen at each book sale!) Many other volunteers work behind the scenes: hauling books, boxes and tables; organizing storage areas; managing on-line sales; keeping the office in order; working on committees; recruiting new members; handling public relations; and serving on the board. Many of our volunteers serve in multiple capacities. Each volunteer is important to the success of the Friends.

As I look forward to 2015, I am confident that the Friends will continue to prosper and serve the entire Castro Valley community by supporting our amazing library and providing funds so the professional staff can continue to offer wonderful programs and services to the people of our community.

The Friends of Castro Valley Library is an important organization for everyone in the community. It is especially important for all of us who are lucky enough to be one of the volunteers. If you're not a volunteer yet, stop by the store and pick-up a volunteer form. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who make this organization work.

Jane Kraut, President
Friends of the Castro Valley Library

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 (See page 2 for more info):

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, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Write to Read Literacy Reading Club for adults with English as their second language.

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.
Free Tax Preparation Help! See Library website for more information; appointments are required.

Partial List of Events Coming Up in February

2/2 6:30-8:00 p.m. Paws to Read
2/3 12:15-1:00 p.m. Tuff Tumblers
Adult Internet Classes—Gmail, MS Publisher 2010, Excel 2010. Registration Required; see Library website for more information.
2/4 10:15-10:45 a.m. Yoga for Kids
2/5 10:15-11:00 a.m. And 11:15a.m.-12:00 noon Music Together
2/5 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Winter Preschool Game Time
2/7 10:00-11:00 a.m. Play Lab
2/7 10:30-11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners
2/7 2:00-3:30 p.m. Jazz Concert
2/10 7:00-7:30 p.m. Pajama Time (evening story time)
2/11 3:30-5:30 p.m. Make a Valentine Card
2/14 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Covered California Enrollment Help
2/17 1:00-4:00 p.m. Senior Driver Traffic Safety Seminar
2/19 10:30-11:30 a.m. Musical Play
2/21 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Doll Making Workshop
2/21 2:00 p.m. Yo-Yo Showcase
2/24 5:30-8:00 p.m. Human Trafficking Panel Discussion

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!

The Library will be closed on the following days:
Thursday February 12th for Lincoln's Birthday
Monday February 16th for Presidents' Day

Watch for more announcements in the *Forum*, on the Library's website and readerboard, and on the CV Library Facebook Page.

Also, remember to visit the quarterly art displays near the BookStore and the special features in the lobby display cases.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Carolyn Moskowitz

The start of a new year is always a good time to look back and look forward. We really had a great 2014 with a huge number of excellent programs and events thanks to the Friends and to the talented Castro Valley staff. The building continues to look great and function well and the Library continues to be a major destination for the Castro Valley community.

A few highlights that stand out in my mind include the following. Our solar panels have generated over 1.5 million kilowatts of power. They have completely powered all electricity in the building since their installation.



Our Food for Fines program this year was the most successful ever. Members could reduce their fines by donating food for the Alameda County Food Bank. Close to 2,000 items were donated in Castro Valley. Partnering with the League of Women Voters, we held our first ever Congressional debate. It was the first

time I'd seen quite that many Teamsters in the Library at one time. And finally, with money raised by the Friends, we are able to upgrade our Audio Visual system in the Chabot and Canyon rooms. This has allowed us to expand programming and improve the overall experience for our audiences.

As we begin 2015, there are a few things I'd like to see us achieve. First, I hope we can reopen the café. We expected it to reopen last Fall, but because of a number of job transfers and vacancies in other County Departments, the key people who were needed to make it happen were not there to follow through on plans. I truly hope we can move forward on this, and I am committed to doing my best to get it done. Next, I am hoping that we will be fully staffed in 2015. Because of the recession, hiring had been stalled and as a result we have had vacancies for most of the time we have been in this building. A full staff would really allow us to deliver the level of customer service we strive to achieve. Finally, I am looking forward to a new initiative that will bring laptops and ipads for check out and use in the library. Sometime this year, we will be adding Kiosks that will make this possible. Along with them, we will be adding wireless printing so that members using their own devices will be able to print through the Library's printer.

And finally, for the first time ever, the library will only be offering a limited number of tax forms. We have always been proud to stock a full complement of forms and instructions, but this year the IRS has severely restricted its program and will not be sending libraries most forms and instructions. We know many people depend on us for this program and we are saddened that we will not be able to help them.

Castro Valley Library Book Clubs

by Chris Selig
Adult Services Librarian

Please consider joining one of the great book clubs at the Castro Valley Library.

When you join a book club you'll get to know people in your community and be exposed to new books and perspectives. Take it from a librarian, reading provides mental stimulation by expanding your vocabulary, increasing your analytical skills, and improving your focus and concentration. Plus our book clubs are fun!

The Library has four free book clubs to choose from.

If you love a good mystery, join the **Mystery Book Club** for a lively discussion of classic and current crime fiction. The club is facilitated by best-selling mystery writer, Camille Minichino, a Castro Valley resident, on the **first Tuesday** of each month at 6:30 pm. Drop in or contact Ms. Minichino at camille@minichino.com.

Our eBestseller Book Club is for adults interested in getting a taste of reading eBooks on a Library-owned NOOK tablet. Advance registration is required, so come to the Library to sign up and learn about the requirements for participation. This book club is limited to 12 people. Attend the first meeting on February 10th to receive your NOOK tablet and learn how to use it. Then on March 10th, April 14th, and May 14th at 6:30 pm the group will meet to discuss a bestselling book preloaded on the NOOKs.

In the Parent-Child Book Club, parents read and discuss the same books as their sons and daughters. The conversations can bring families closer together and foster community with other families. The club meets the **third Tuesday** of every month at 7 pm and is recommended for ages 9 to 12. Stop by the Library to sign up and learn about upcoming dates and titles.

Lastly there's the original Castro Valley Library Book Club for adults who want to read and discuss a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction selected by club members and librarians. This book club meets on the last Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. At the next meeting on Tuesday, February 24 we will be discussing *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Stop by the Library to sign up or just drop in.

Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.

- Lady Bird Johnson

**NOT A MEMBER YET?
JOIN TODAY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THESE GREAT BENEFITS:**

Memberships in the Friends of the Castro Valley Library are available for as little as \$10 per year. For this basic level, your membership allows you to attend the member preview night at our tri-annual book sales, obtain a \$2 discount for each book sale (\$6 total for the year), and obtain \$7 in discounts for the BookStore. With a **family membership** (\$20 per year), you receive \$4 in discounts for each book sale and \$14 in discounts for the BookStore. In addition, you will receive this quarterly newsletter, *Circle of Friends*, by e-mail (or snail mail if you prefer).

Other levels of membership are available: Corporate Sponsor, Benefactor, and Lifetime (individual or family). Your membership dues benefit the Library in the same manner as the monies raised from the sale of donated books—funding many of the programs and amenities that could not otherwise be provided. Application forms can be mailed or dropped off at the BookStore.

As far as I can tell, a young adult novel is a regular novel that people actually read.

- Stephen Colbert

Classic: A book which people praise and don't read.

- Mark Twain

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library appreciate your generous donations of books, CDs, DVDs, and other media. Funds generated from the sale of these items pay for many library programs and amenities that could not otherwise be offered.

We generally accept all types of adult and children's fiction and nonfiction books in good condition, except that we *cannot* accept encyclopedias or other sets of books, condensed books, or textbooks older than 3 years. We also cannot accept books that have gotten damp, moldy, dirty, or smoky. We do accept audio books and other media; however, we can no longer accept VHS tapes other than Disney films. A complete list of donation guidelines is available at the Friends office or on our website.

We also accept magazines. With very few exceptions, magazines should be dated within the past six months. We can accept *National Geographic*s published within the past 3 to 5 years, and can generally accept most older cooking and hobby-related (i.e., woodworking, model building, etc.) magazines as long as the information remains current. Please do not cut the address labels off the magazines; we have a black-out stamp to cover your information. Cutting the covers sometimes causes the covers to tear when placed on our shelves. (Thank you!)

We are excited to report that we have received donations of many wonderful books and other media since the holidays, so please stop by the BookStore and see what we have for you!

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

**FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY:**

Card Issued
By _____
Date: _____



Hand in Paw: A Journey of Trust and Discovery by Nancy Schluntz (2014 nonfiction): Nancy Schluntz tells the story of her journey, one we can all relate to: Suffering the pains of growing up; finding family; balancing her spiritual and professional life; and increasing openness to the beauty and power of our natural world. This local author tells her history tenderly, with utter honesty. Nancy became transformed as she slowly began to hear the animals (wild and tame) around her waiting, often impatiently, to communicate with her. You'll laugh aloud at some charming stories of the animals who introduce (nay, sometimes drag) Nancy into her larger world. Their profound messages will help you look at your pets (and the rest of us) with different eyes. With this increased awareness, Nancy folds together her non-profit work career, her evolving family life, her love of nature, and her calling to a ministry of serving animal-human relationships. Watch her understand her challenges and make difficult choices; we've faced many of those life issues ourselves. You will find this wise, moving, and above all merciful story from an accomplished author deeply satisfying. Available currently from the author, The Book Shop, and Amazon. (Alison Lewis)

The Chase by Janet Evanovich (2014) and ***Destroyer Angel*** by Nevada Barr (2014) are fun novels. *The Chase* stops villains with some real and some imagined technology. The heroes are a new set of characters, for Evanovich, a thief and an F.B.I. agent. The pair travels across continents to thwart a vicious criminal with large and deadly staff and access to the latest in technology and some only imagined weapons. *Destroyer Angel*, also a fun novel to read, is almost the opposite of *The Chase*. Anna Pigeon, the heroine of this story, has almost no technology to help her save her friends. The five friends include a paraplegic, another mother and each of their teenaged daughters. They are on a wilderness trek that includes some river rafting. Several men have been hired to kidnap two friends and kill the others. Anna must save them all with her wits. (Sara Accornero)

Palisades Park - Alan Brennert (2013 Fiction): The author of two other wonderful books, *Moloka'i* and *Honolulu*, this time treats us to an historically accurate snapshot of the beloved Palisades Amusement Park and the saga of a family whose history is intertwined with that of the park. The story begins with Eddie Stopka's 1922 visit to the park and continues through his eventual

employment as a carnny, his service in World War II, his marriage, and the birth of his children, one of whom becomes a sideshow high-diver. This is a well-researched novel that chronicles the tough but often exciting lives of the carnies and sideshow acts but also the importance and strength of home and family. Highly recommended. (Ginger Russell)

Philomena (DVD, The Weinstein Company, 2013). Any film with Dame Judith Dench is going to be good, and *Philomena* is no exception. The title character, Philomena, a young girl in Ireland in the 1950's, gives birth out-of-wedlock to a baby boy. The child is subsequently adopted by an American couple, a devastating event for the young mother. Fifty years later, a chance meeting with journalist Martin Sixsmith (played by Steve Coogan) leads to their search together in Ireland and the US for Philomena's now adult son and for a "human interest" story for Sixsmith. Based on the true story in the book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee* by Martin Sixsmith, the film delivers humor, pathos, and an uncanny ability to haunt your thoughts long after the final credits (which include current information about Philomena and Sixsmith) have run. Highly recommended. (Carol Lyke)

Rhythm, Country & Blues (CD, VHS) Copyright 1994 MCA Records, Inc.: About 20 years ago, an outstanding program appeared on PBS which paired prominent R&B artists with prominent Country artists. Some of the participants: Tanya Tucker with Little Richard, Vince Gill with Gladys Knight, Clint Black with the Pointer Sisters, and eight other duets. Rather than showing stage performances, the program was filmed in the recording studio, with all of the typical banter that occurs in that setting. Several years later, I was able to obtain a copy of the VHS recording of the session, and seeing the program twice didn't diminish a bit of its energy. Sometime later, I discovered there is also a CD recording, and while seeing the tape is much better, the recording still manages to convey the really outstanding, apparently unrehearsed music that was created in these sessions. The only thing that would be better is if MCA saw their way clear to putting this on a DVD, which they evidently have not. If you still have a VHS player, or just want to try the CD, both are available on *Amazon.com* and other media sources. Recommended for fans of both genres. (Ginger Russell)

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

The Friends currently have over 100 books and other media listed on *Amazon.com*. Here are a few of them:

Knight's American Mechanical Dictionary, 3 vol., late 1800's (\$199)

Klutz Kwiz Gizmo, 2002 (\$35.00)



News Media Libraries: A Management Handbook, Barbara P. Semonche, 1993 (\$107.00)

Miss Finn: The Case of the Missing Librarian, Carol Winifred Bradley, 1975 (\$34.00)

Floral Design and Art: Principles and Philosophy, Alberts & Dries, 1986 (\$139)

Bullmina the Courageous Bulldog to the Rescue, Lita Eitner-England, 2010 (\$25)

Personal Recollections of the American Revolution, A Private Journal, Sidney Barclay, 1859 (\$165)

Quicken Willmaker Plus, 2010 (\$39)

Settlement Cookbook, Mrs. Simon Kander, 1941 (\$29)

Charlie's Charts of the Western Coast of Mexico (including Baja), Charles Wood, 1990 (\$45)

Peterson Tractor Company: The First Sixty Years, Eileen Grafton, 1998 (\$25)

Our name on Amazon is FriendsofBooks, and our entire on-line store can be viewed at <http://www.amazon.com/shops/A1AE92DUB78GQ4>. You can access the store by typing the above string in your browser, or by clicking on our name when viewing one of our listings.

Don't forget to mention us when purchasing through *Amazon Smile*. When you select Friends of the Castro Valley Library as your charity of choice, we will receive a 0.5% donation every time you make a purchase. Many great items "from soup to nuts" are designated as *Smile* products, so please check it out!

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

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

February: Can a groundhog predict the weather? Black History Month; United States Presidents; We Love Valentine's Day!



March: *Slainté!* It's time for St. Patrick's Day. Put a Spring in your step for the Vernal Equinox. Also featured: Palm Sunday and Cesar Chavez Day.

April: Easter and Passover; Plot your gardens or snip your Green Thumbs.

May: Mmmmm. May Day History, Celebrate Mom, and honor our Military for Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day.



FINANCIAL REPORT

By Melanie Courchaine, Co-Treasurer

We are pleased to report another successful December book sale. We raised over \$2,700, thanks to the generous donations of books from the community and time from our volunteers. Our Library Wish List was presented and approved at our November General Meeting, and we will be able to continue supporting the great programs offered at the Castro Valley Library.



REVIEWS WANTED!

Have you read a book, seen a film or television program, or listened to a music album that you loved? Share it with others by writing a review for *Circle of Friends*. Reviews may be submitted at any time by dropping off a written copy at the Friends' BookStore inside the Library or emailing to us at Friends.CVL@gmail.com. We will print as many as space allows. Thanks!



THANK YOU CORNER

By Jane Kraut, President

I want to take this opportunity to thank our three retiring board members: Joan King, Sheila Keisner and Ginger Russell.

Ginger Russell has served as Vice-President for four years and continues to work diligently as a BookStore and book sale volunteer, in on-line sales, and Newsletter editor. Thank you Ginger!

Sheila Keisner has served as Co-Treasurer from the very beginning; do you realize that she has counted nearly every penny that we have collected (bookstore and book sales)? Sheila continues to work a regular shift in the BookStore and help out in many other ways. Thank you Sheila!

Joan King has served as Co-Treasurer, in addition to filling in as counter, depositor, etc, when Sheila was away. Joan has made sure that all the legal paper work relating to our non-profit status is correct and current and that tax forms are filed on time and accurately. Joan continues to work a regular shift in the BookStore, as well as working book sales and as on-line sales coordinator. Thank you Joan!

At the end of their terms, each of these amazing people has worked to ensure that the transition to the new board members goes smoothly. As you can see, these are big shoes to fill.

Thank you to our new board members: Sara Accornero, Vice-President, Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurer and Melanie Courchaine, Co-Treasurer. We indeed are in good hands.

I take a book almost everywhere. Books are the perfect entertainment; no commercials, no batteries, hours of enjoyment for each dollar spent. What I wonder is why everybody doesn't carry a book around for those inevitable dead spots in life.

-Stephen King,
in *Entertainment Weekly*

MEET YOUR FRIENDS Marianne Bagai

Resident travel expert Marianne Bagai joined the Friends in 2009 when the new library opened. She



works in the BookStore on Wednesday afternoons, where she manages the Travel section and helps with the Children's books.

Marianne has visited all 50 states, as well as 25 countries, and she is always looking forward to the next trip. She grew up on Connecticut, attended UCLA, and has lived in Castro Valley nearly 38 years.

She taught elementary school in San Lorenzo from 1971 to 2008, and she has been available as a substitute for the past 7 years. She is a member of the State Retired Teachers Association.

When she's not in the BookStore or traveling the world, Marianne also enjoys needlepoint, making greeting cards, watching movies, and attending the Lamplighters Musical Theater productions.

Stop by the BookStore on Wednesday afternoons and say hi to Marianne!

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.



Mark your calendars now—
The 2015 Book Sales are on the following dates:

APRIL 17—19
AUGUST 21—23
DECEMBER 4—6

As always, these sales will be at the following times:
Friday night Member Preview—6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday Bag Sale—1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We anticipate having over 300 cartons of books at each sale.
You will be glad you came!

Volunteers will be needed for all sale days
as well as for the set-up and clean-up days.
Contact us at 510-733-3285 or Friends.CVL@gmail.com
if you can volunteer or if you have any
questions about the work or requirements.
A signup sheet will be available in the
Friends office approximately one month
prior to the book sale date.

Planning to attend?
Please remember to bring your current
Friends of the Castro Valley Library
membership card in order to
take advantage of your \$2.00 discount.
Not a member? You can join at the door or
purchase a membership ahead of time.
(See page 3 for details.)

WE MAY ALSO HAVE SPECIAL SALES AT
OTHER TIMES DURING THE YEAR.
REMEMBER TO CHECK FREQUENTLY FOR NOTICES IN THE NEWSLETTER,
ON OUR WEBSITE, AND POSTED AT THE BOOKSTORE.
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND GET UPDATES ON ALL OUR EVENTS,
AS WELL AS ANY SPECIAL BOOKS OR COLLECTIONS
THAT COME INTO THE BOOKSTORE!

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

Jane Kraut, President
Sara Accornero, Vice President
Melanie Courchaine and
Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurers
Kay Wetherwax, Secretary
Roger Caswell, Director-at-Large
Elizabeth McCune, Director-at-Large

Board members may be contacted by calling the Friends office or emailing us as noted under the BookStore information to the left. You may also contact us through our website or by visiting the

MEETING SCHEDULE!!!

Friends meetings are held on an as-needed basis. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

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925-829-7750.

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3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

