



Circle of Friends

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
November 2012

THE NEXT FRIENDS MEETING IS NOVEMBER 13TH AT 7 P.M. IN THE CHABOT ROOM OF THE LIBRARY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It is always useful to return to previous Circle of Friends Newsletters to see what was written, what commitments were made, and how I assessed the status of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. Now that October 31st will mark the third anniversary of the opening of the new library AND the new role of the Friends in the community it is gratifying to report that the Friends continue to make remarkable contributions to the library and the strength of the community. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

We concluded the last fiscal year in very good financial shape (see elsewhere in the newsletter) and have been able to respond to all requests for assistance from the library. The Board of Directors also anticipates that the Friends will be able to support the "Wish List" of the library staff, take care of updating of some audio-visual systems in the library, and provide assistance throughout the coming fiscal year.

As many in the community know, we had a great August weekend book sale, with hundreds of satisfied customers, the sale of numerous books and other items, and near-record revenues. The sale also created plenty of storage space for more books (!) and already it seems we will have plenty of books for the Winter/Holiday book sale the first weekend in December. Watch for announcements and articles in the Castro Valley Forum!

On the evening of November 13th the Friends will hold at the library their Annual Meeting, the required meeting to go over in detail financial matters, receive a report and Wish List from Carolyn Moskovitz, our Branch Librarian, and conduct elections for the positions of Vice President and Co-Treasurers. It is a good opportunity for members of the Friends and the community to hear what has been going on, what the plans are for 2013, and celebrate our success. Please join the Board of Directors and other faithful members of the Friends at this meeting.

To conclude, I am going to repeat what I said a year ago:

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*

Other Ongoing Activities:

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.

Write to Read Book Club—Tuesdays 6-8 p.m.

November 2012 EVENTS (partial list):

11/3 12-2 p.m. International Game Day

11/4 2-4 p.m. Michael Herrera Classical Guitar Concert

11/5 6:30-8 p.m. Paws to Read

11/6 12:30-2 p.m. Overdrive EBook Workshop for iPad or iPhone

11/13 12:30-2 p.m. Overdrive EBook Workshop for Kindle

11/13 7-8:30 p.m. Friends of the CV Library Annual Meeting

11/14 1:30-2:45 p.m. Medicare Coverage & Options Overview

11/17 10 a.m. –2:30 p.m. SAT/ACT Combo Practice Test

11/19 1-2 p.m. LEGO Club play day

11/20 10:30 a.m. Critter Story Time with Sulphur Creek

11/20 12:30-2 p.m. Overdrive EBook Workshop for all other devices

11/20 6:30-7:45 Debate on Incorporation

11/26 6:30-7:30 SAT/ACT Practice Test Followup/Strategies

11/30—12/2 Friends of the CV Library Book Sale (see page 7)

The Library will be closed on the following days:

Monday Nov. 12—Veterans Day

Thursday Nov. 22—Thanksgiving

Tuesday Dec. 25—Christmas

Tuesday Jan. 1, 2013—New Year's Day

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

"It [the Friends] is a much larger and effective organization, with a sound financial status, very strong support for the library, and wonderful acceptance in the Castro Valley community. All this would not have been possible without the fine volunteer efforts of the citizens of Castro Valley. Many, many thanks to all!

Ned Lyke, President

Friends of the Castro Valley Library

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Carolyn Moskowitz

Can you believe that we have been in our new building for 3 years? I am always pleased when people tell me that it still looks brand new. I think that it's true. The Staff, Friends and Community take real pride in the building, and that helps us all to commit to keeping it clean, orderly and well maintained.



The summer was incredibly busy. We had 1,600 kids play the summer reading game, and 100 middle school kid power volunteers helped them play it. Children's Services held 46 events, and 4,720 children and family

members attended. None of this would be possible without the support of the Friends who paid for the programs, prizes and kid power recognition.

And once again we hosted the Fall Festival on the Library grounds. It was very successful and much easier for us this year since we knew what to anticipate. Once again many visited our facility for the first time.

We were able to begin our EBestseller Book Club in September. It has been a major success. Participants tell us they are enjoying reading books on an electronic tablet, and that they have liked both the tablet training and book discussion group meetings. We were able to purchase both the tablets and content with funds raised by the Friends.

In October we were pleased to present "Debate Watch" in our meeting room. We broadcasted all 4 Presidential Debates on the big screen, served delicious refreshments thanks to the Friends, and had a moderated discussion led by the League of Women Voters following the debates. The first debate drew 170 people, while the next 3 averaged 70 participants. Many told us they enjoyed the opportunity to come together as a community to watch and engage in civic discourse.

The School Year Is Getting Started with Help from the Friends

By Nathan Silva, Library Assistant

The arrival of September signifies a time of change. Leaves begin to turn their multitude of colors, the weather begins to get cooler, days become shorter. September also marks a significant change in that school is now in full swing and the afternoon droves of children and teenagers that descend onto the library have returned. As such, it is important for us to offer programs and services to this age group that help in their social and educational development. The Friends of the Library are an integral part in helping us to accomplish this goal.

The Homework Center is arguably our most successful ongoing program at the library. Every day after school, the "Learning Center" is packed with upwards of 50 students eagerly awaiting help from our fantastic assortment of volunteers. With such a constant stream of people utilizing this after school program, it is imperative that we keep the Homework Center well supplied with the materials they need to accomplish their goals. The Friends of the Library make sure of this by purchasing voluminous amounts of supplies that help keep the Homework Center stocked for the duration of the entire school year. We go through (no exaggeration) thousands of pencils, countless reams of binder paper, a plethora of colored pencils, glue sticks, erasers and a bevy of other random school supplies during the entire year. Without the Friends' help, our Homework Center would be a bare bones operation, but thanks to them, every child has access to all these materials, should they forget to bring their own supplies. Beyond just having the necessary school supplies, the engine that makes our Homework Center run is our volunteers.

The most important aspect in having a successful Homework Center is to make sure it is staffed with talented and dedicated volunteers. The Friends were instrumental in our volunteer recruitment efforts by generously providing food and refreshments for potential volunteers during our two volunteer orientations. Because of their efforts, to date we have over 50 volunteers to staff the Homework Center during the 4 days a week it is open. This resource has led to days in which there are 20 volunteers helping out at a time! This is a truly awesome number, made possible with the help of our Friends

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Canyon/Chabot Meeting Room at the Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue in Castro Valley.

The agenda for the meeting includes the following:

- Election of officers for the positions of Vice President and Co-Treasurers
- President's Report
- Library Manager's Report and Wish List
- Financial Report
- Upcoming Book Sale
- Other Business
- Public Comment

The meeting is open to the public. Anyone who cannot attend the meeting but would like to provide input on the items under discussion may contact the Friends of the Castro Valley Library by telephone at 510-733-3285, by e-mail at *Friends.CVL@gmail.com*, or in person during normal business hours at 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley.

TIME TO RENEW!!!

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library fiscal year began on October 1, 2012. Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed your memberships!

If you have not yet renewed, or if you would like to join us as a new member, please fill out the application form below or pick up an application at the BookStore in the Castro Valley Library. As a Friends member, you will receive \$7 in discounts at the BookStore, as well as discounts for the book sales held 3 times a year. Your membership also includes admission to Member's Preview Night at each book sale, which allows first pick of our great selection of books and multimedia items. Our next book sale is November 30—December 2. You will also receive our quarterly newsletter, *Circle of Friends*. Most importantly, you will be helping us provide funds for library programs, activities, and amenities.

The cost of an individual membership is only \$10 a year! Family, youth, corporate, benefactor, and lifetime memberships are also available at the costs listed on the application form below. The membership cost is tax deductible! If you have any questions about the membership categories and associated benefits, please feel free to contact us.

Please Note: If you mail in your renewal, you will need to stop by the BookStore to pick up your membership card. Please allow about ten days' mailing and processing time before coming in. Thank 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
- Information Technology/Website Public Relations/Advocacy

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Card Issued

By _____

Date: _____



STAFF PICKS

Book Reviews



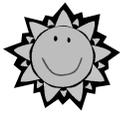
People of the Book—Geraldine Brooks (2008 Fiction). Once again, Geraldine Brooks has taken a snippet of history and woven it into an engaging historical novel. *People of the Book* recounts the plausible journey of a uniquely illuminated Haggadah, which passes from family to family from the 14th to the 21st century. This holy Jewish book somehow emerged unscathed after the Bosnia War in Sarajevo, hence it is now known as the *Sarajevo Haggadah*. How many hands did it pass through on its incredible journey? Brooks postulates plausible answers to this question while enlightening the reader about historical events and cultural practices through the centuries. A captivating read available in the Castro Valley Library. (Carol Lyke)

Rules of Civility—Amor Towles (2011 Fiction). When I first read the blurb for this book, I thought, “another *Pygmalion*.” Not in the slightest. This is a gorgeously-worded chronicle of a year in a woman’s life in late 1930’s New York. And it’s written by a man. Yes, a chance encounter at a bar does catapult 25-year-old Katey Kontent from a blue-collar existence into the upper echelons of depression-era Manhattan society. However, her achievements are entirely within her control and ability. I have not read a book written in this style or with this command of the English language in quite some time, and certainly not a contemporary one, so think “future classic.” But this book is also readable, interesting, thought-provoking, and one that you will not want to put down until the end. It evokes a sense of nostalgia for a bygone era and conjures up the energy of any large city. The characters are intelligent, and most are, if not completely likeable, at least sympathetic. I had visions of *Gatsby* combined with the Algonquian Round Table floating through my head. (Ginger Russell)

Across Many Mountains: A Tibetan Family’s Epic Journey from Oppression to Freedom—Yangzom Brauen (2011 Nonfiction). This multigenerational biography is developed on stories the author heard from her grandmother, a Buddhist nun, and her mother who, as a young child, fled from the Chinese invasion and occupation of their land in 1950. They escaped over the Himalayan mountains to India, only to spend many hard years there in refugee camps. Later they traveled, this time on an Iron Bird (an airplane) to another mountainous country, Switzerland, where Yangzom was born and grew up with her Swiss father and Tibetan mother. In telling their story, Brauen provides meaningful insight into the Buddhist ethos, the blending of Eastern and Western cultures in families and the strength of personal character. A highly recommended book available in the Castro Valley Library. (Carol Lyke)

Little Bee—Chris Cleave (2009 Fiction). This is a tale of two women, English and Nigerian, whose paths converge with tragic results. Little Bee is a Nigerian teenager who flees the lethal consequences of having observed a massacre of her village by oil company employees. Stowing her way to England, her key to a new life is a British driving license. The license belongs to the Englishwoman’s husband, Andrew O’Rourke, and provides an accurate address and telephone number. How Little Bee obtained the license on a Port Harcourt beach is Cleave’s master plot device. Little Bee reaches England and is detained in a government refugee center for two years. Cleave captures the utter and inexcusable helplessness of detainees. Their only avenues of escape are sex or acceptable language skills. Little Bee survives suicidal depression and learns English from the BBC TV. A fellow Jamaican detainee seduces a staff official and Little Bee is improperly released, without any documentation. She succeeds in reaching the driving license address. Andrew is a journalist. He is married to Sarah, a magazine editor. They have a son Charlie who lives in a Batman world of goodies and baddies. Sarah is having an affair with Lawrence, who works for the Home Office. Little Bee’s arrival into the O’Rourke family triggers a fast-moving sequence of plausible events, an enthralling narrative which returns the reader to Port Harcourt. Cleave has created a convincing cast for a harrowing story which will resonate with the reader when finished. (Martin Waldron)

Dreams of Joy—Lisa See (2012 Fiction). What happens when you find out that your mother is your aunt and your aunt is really your mother? It also means your father is not your father. Joy runs halfway around the world to Shanghai in 1957 in search of her real father. Lisa See, author of *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, returns to China to continue the story of Pearl and May (*Shanghai Girls*) and Joy, Pearl’s nineteen year old daughter. See’s historical novel places Joy in Communist China chasing the ideals of the New Society of Red China under the dictatorial rule of Mao. Pearl chases after her daughter, confronting the horrors of her home country, from which she had fled 20 years earlier. Two women with two dreams travel from the crowded city of Shanghai to the remote villages of the outlying country, one in search of the love of her father and the other in search of her daughter’s love. Will a mother’s love prevail? In *Dreams of Joy*, as well as her other novels, See reveals the influence of Amy Tan, who also explores the theme of mother/daughter relationships that is universal in all culture. (Leticia Garcia Bradford)



THANK YOU CORNER

It is with particular pleasure that the Thank You Corner would like to extend a very large "Thank You" to Ginger Russell, Sheila Keisner and Joan King. These three individuals have made many, many contributions to the operations of the Friends for the past three years. Ginger, in addition to serving as Vice President, is also Editor of the *Circle of Friends* Newsletter, BookStore volunteer, and an active seller of online books. Sheila has been the Operational Co-Treasurer of the Friends for the past four years, charged with and faithfully executing the weekly accounting of all revenues and paying all the bills. She has also been a charter member of the BookStore Committee, [currently Co-chair], and also a regular volunteer in the BookStore. Joan has been the Recording Co-Treasurer for the past four years, maintaining the monthly accounts, summarizing all the income and expenditures, and preparing as necessary the appropriate tax and related reports. Joan also has been an active volunteer in the BookStore, and seller of online books for the Friends.

The **BookStore Committee** typically undergoes some changes about this time of the year and it is with gratitude that the Friends acknowledge the great assistance of Sheila Keisner, Sue Waldron, and Priscilla Kalish for the past three years. Sheila and Sue have served as Co-Chairs for the past year. Thanks all! Sue Choquette, Veronica Priem, and Becca Karliner will be continuing members plus three additional volunteers yet to be named.

Finally, thanks to our many, many Castro Valley community donors of books and other materials. Without your continuing contributions the Friends would not be able to maintain our superb BookStore, have the three weekend sales, sell books online books and at Zocalo Café. The contributors have made it all possible!!

FINANCIAL REPORT



The Friends completed the 2011-2012 fiscal year in very good financial condition. Total income from all kinds of books sales was almost exactly the same as the previous year, while total income in addition to sales, includes memberships, contributions, and interest earned on our bank accounts, was slightly less than 2010-2011. We have provided in excess of \$2500 more to the library than the previous year, and expect to increase significantly our general funding of library programs, equipment, services and other needs for 2012-2013. As always, the details of the Friends' finances are presented at the Annual Meeting in November and are available at the Friends' office.

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

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

NOVEMBER: A wonderful selection for American Indian Heritage Month, as well as celebrating family and Thanksgiving.

DECEMBER: Winter holidays—Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the beginning of Winter.



JANUARY: Getting in shape, organize your life, the Presidential Inauguration, Martin Luther King

FEBRUARY: Valentine's Day—do what you love; African-American authors, the history of U.S. Presidents

***Books are keys to wisdom's treasure;
Books are gates to lands of pleasure;
Books are paths that upward lead;
Books are friends, Come, let us read!***

- Emilie Poulsson

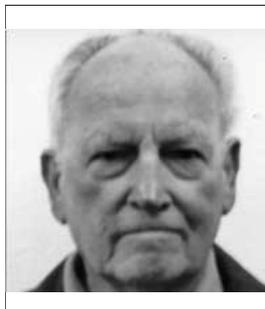
HOW TO CONTACT *CIRCLE OF FRIENDS*

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.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS! JACK CONNER



Long-time Castro Valley resident Jack Conner is also a long-time volunteer with the Friends.

Jack moved to Castro Valley in the early 1960's. From 1962 until 1991, he was a member of the faculty at Cal State East Bay.

Starting in the 1990's, and until the new Library and BookStore became a reality, Jack worked with the book sorters and packers. Jack says that he recruited Carol Lyke, who in turn recruited Ned! Now he volunteers in the BookStore, where he is the Person-in-Charge (PIC) for the How-To and Reference sections. You can usually see Jack in the BookStore on Tuesday afternoons.

In his spare time, Jack works in his garden, where he grows and cultivates many varieties of fruits and berries. Along that line, he also volunteers in the 200-tree apple orchard at Garin Ranch Regional Park. One of the perks of this duty is getting to taste all of the apples, and he says they can always use more help. Another hobby, which he started in the Navy in the 1940's, is woodcarving.

One can always count on Jack for a pithy comment on just about any subject. Stop by the BookStore on Tuesday afternoons and say hello.

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 last book sale of 2012 is the weekend of November 30—December 2. 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 was 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 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, textbooks older than 3 years, magazines older than 6 months, or VHS tapes (except Disney). Unfortunately, these categories do not sell well. For a complete handout or further information regarding donations, please stop by the BookStore at your convenience. We are a non-profit organization and will provide a donation receipt on request. **THANK YOU!!!**

Mark your calendars now—
The Friends of the Castro Valley Library
Winter Book Sale is
Friday November 30th - 6—8 p.m.
(Member Preview)
Saturday December 1st - 10 a.m.—4 p.m.
Sunday December 2nd - 1—4 p.m. (Bag Day)

We have a wonderful selection of
gift-quality books for the holidays.

We also have lots of
holiday-oriented craft and cookbooks,
as well as 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 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)***

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 next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday November 13th** 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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925-829-7750

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
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www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

