PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Hello to all of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. As the newly-appointed president, this is my first opportunity to tell you about the Friends’ past year and what is in store in 2016.

There were three general book sales held in April, August, and December of 2015 as well as a multimedia specialty sale and a Science Fiction specialty sale. The general book sales typically have eight to ten thousand titles available at the Friday night opening. The specialty sales usually have several hundred items. These sales events resulted in a bit over $9,000 revenue for the year. A new feature of the December book sale was a special section which featured books that were in such exceptional condition that they were considered “gift” quality. The “Gift Book” concept proved to be very popular and will be repeated.

Apart from the book sales, the four dozen BookStore volunteers who handled the receipt, sorting, and preparation of donated books for in-house, on-line, and off-site sales produced revenues totaling about $46,000 for the year.

The result of these efforts allow the Friends to provide significant support to the Castro Valley Library for a multitude of educational and entertainment programs offered to children and parents, teens, and adults that might not be otherwise available.

We are looking forward to the same successes this year. The BookStore will continue on its six-day-a-week schedule. Book sales are scheduled for mid-April, mid-August, and early December. Specialty sales will depend on availability of materials in the particular genre. In keeping with this technological age, on-line sales are at Amazon.com, with social media at Facebook and Tumblr. A selections of books are available at Zocalo’s in San Leandro and at Castro Valley Yoga.

By the way, there is an opening on the Friends Board of Directors for a Director-at-Large. This position would run to November. Contact me or any member of the Board if you would be interested.

Roger Caswell, President
Friends of the Castro Valley Library
MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER
By Carolyn Moskovitz

I wanted to start out by thanking retiring President Jane Kraut for her hard work and leadership. I always have appreciated her help, support and positive attitude. And at the same time I want to thank Roger Caswell for taking on the job of President. I know that he will be bring considerable talent and thoughtfulness to the tasks at hand.

In mid-January the MAC had its highest attendance meeting ever. The topic was the proposed East Bay Regional Park’s Lake Chabot Plan to build in the park. I was told that 300 people attended the meeting at our Library. The meeting room can accommodate about 200, so there were people standing, and listening outside the door. I was amazed by the level of civic engagement and really impressed by the determination expressed by the community. Although we were crowded I was pleased that the Library could be the site for this massive demonstration of community will.

During the holiday season the Friends sponsored a number of wonderful events. Santa Claus was here and gave out stuffed animals to the 200 kids who came for fun and stories. We had three concerts including 2 Christmas and 1 Hanukkah performance. And in keeping with New Year’s resolutions, we held a workshop on tidying up and getting rid of clutter. Over 90 adults attended. This session was focused on closets. We are hoping to hold a second one focused on cleaning out garages. A few people looking for the event asked us “where is the workshop on hoarding”. That gave us all a laugh.

Another “holiday” that we were able to sponsor thanks to the Friends, was “Star Wars movie release day”. Although this was not a federal holiday we celebrated it to its fullest. We had a costume contest, adults dressed up as Star War characters, games, light saber fights, and refreshments that were out of this world. It was a huge success. Special thanks to our staff members Nathan and Chris who planned and executed a wonderful event.

I am pleased to report that again, thanks to the Friends, we are in the process of purchasing an upgraded Assisted Listening Device system. The system will work for those who need a hearing boost, and it is designed to boost sound for those with hearing aids as well. And we have expanded the size of the system. This new system will be twice as large as the old, insuring that anyone who wants a headset will be able to get one.

Once again we will be offering free tax help at the library on Wednesday and Thursday between 10 am and 2 pm. Please call for an appointment if you need one. The service is offered through AARP it’s free, and open to all.

And finally, even though I didn’t win a billion dollars in the recent lottery drawing, I felt like I did because not one, but two of our members told me they planned to give the Library a million dollars if they won. We are so fortunate to have a community that loves and support its library!

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, PAGE 2

SPREADING LOVE FOR THE LIBRARY
by Vivian Jaquette, Children’s Librarian

Did you know February is Love Your Library month? As a Friend of the Castro Valley Library, you already show your love in the sincerest way through your membership, donations to the Friends bookstore, and volunteer work.

Here are some other ways you can show the library some love:

- Like us on your personal Facebook page, give us a Yelp review, or post something you love about libraries on your social media accounts.
- Come to a library program you’ve never tried before. (Yoga for Beginners, anyone?!)  
- Bring your grandchild to a Baby & Me program or storytime.
- For more ideas, visit http://www.librarylovers.net/

How can you encourage your friends and neighbors to show their library love? Let them know about the programs we offer year-round for all ages. If they have small children, encourage them to attend a storytime, craft program, or any of the special events offered during school breaks and throughout summer. Teens can get community service credit for helping out in the Homework Center or shelving books. Job seekers are welcome to our twice-weekly Job Lab to work on job applications, update their resume, or research new opportunities using our laptops. Retirees may enjoy watching recently released movies at our monthly matinee or participating in one of our book clubs.

Let people you meet know about the wealth of resources available to them online as Alameda County Library cardholders. If they want to learn some phrases in another language, they can access the Mango or Pronunciator language-learning programs through our Website (aclibrary.org). Readers with a tablet or ereader can check out library ebooks through the Overdrive app and online magazines through Zinio or Flipster. Students, researchers and lifelong learners can use databases ranging from digital encyclopedias to genealogy primary sources to downloadable music and streaming video.

The Castro Valley Library also features treasures not found anywhere else. The local history collection includes photos, newspapers, and high school and middle school yearbooks dating back to 1958. Many staff members live nearby and can offer tips on local businesses, parks and hiking trails, and the like. Artwork throughout the building spotlights local artists and scenes. In addition to the permanent art, we feature a variety of local artists’ work in the café and special collections in the lobby display cases. This month, one display case spotlights artwork by Quarry Lane School students; the other highlights local black artists in celebration of Black History Month.

Want more to love? How about these numbers: Castro Valley Library users checked out 665,672 items in fiscal year 2014-2015, people passed through our front gates 474,573 times in the same period, and attendance at library programs was over 38,000.

Again, our efforts are enhanced and supported year-round by you, our Friends, and all of the other library volunteers who help out behind the scenes. We couldn’t do it without you. It’s clear that you love our library. We love you too!
THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library appreciate your donations of books. If you have a very large donation (more than 2 or 3 cartons), please call ahead to arrange a drop-off time.

We are happy to receive any fiction or nonfiction books in good condition with the following exceptions: we cannot take encyclopedias or other sets of books, textbooks older than 3 years, or books that are very dirty, moldy, or smell of dampness or smoke. Magazines may be up to 6 months old. We will accept audio books, movies, and TV programs on DVD only, as well as music on CD. The only VHS we can accept at this time are Disney movies. We are no longer accepting audio books or music on cassette tapes.

Donations are tax deductible; a receipt is provided on request.

Funds generated through the sale of these items pay for Library programs or other amenities that would not otherwise be provided. We are grateful to our generous donors for these opportunities. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us!

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 _________________________________________________________________

☐ 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  ☐ $35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ $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: ___________________________

THE MULTIMEDIA CORNER!

Some new donations include the following:

National Geographic CD-Roms (Windows 95-3.1 and Mac System 7.5 and higher). Each boxed set includes 2 or 3 disks. Sets are the 20’s, 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, 80’s and 90’s for a total of 23 CD’s. Offered at $12 for all 8 sets.

Hindu collection of work by Prabha Duneja. NEW audio CD’s include Mantra and Meditation, Chakra Meditation, Hindu Festivals, Hindu Gods and Goddesses, Celestial Chants for Relaxation, Hinduism, Talks on the Power of Mantra, and a collection of poems. In addition, a collection of 6 books include the Legacy of Yoga in the Bagawad Geeta, Mantra and Modern Man, and several more. Only $2 each!

CBS Library of World War II video cassettes (VHS) with Walter Cronkite. $6 for all 12 of these boxed tapes.

Musicalia en Español 4-volume hardback encyclopedia of Music published by Salvat, 1986, in Pamplona, plus additional set of 100 color folios on classical music editions. $100 for the set.

If you’re interested, please call the BookStore at 733-3285 and leave a message for Mikel along with your name and phone number.
**Last Bus to Wisdom** by Ivan Doig (2015 Fiction) This is a poignant and fitting title for Ivan Doig’s final novel. Considered by many, “the dean of Western writers” Doig died in April, 2015 after completing this engaging coming-of-age saga set in the 1950s. Told by Donal Cameron, an eleven year old who isn’t above adding a year or two to his age if it suited his purpose, the encounters with a cast of characters on and off the dog bus (i.e., Greyhound) provide him with rollicking adventures. He and his uncle, Herman the German, who surreptitiously joins him, have experiences with “knight of the road”, wily sheriffs, rodeo heroes and ranchers in the great expanses of Montana, which have been so intimately described by Doig in this and his previous novels. Ivan Doig was a born story teller who includes drama, empathy, and chuckling (sometimes belly-laughing) humor along the way to Wisdom. This novel is available in the Castro Valley Library in hard cover and as an audio book. (Carol Lyke)

**The Lake House** by Kate Morton (2015 fiction): This is the fifth novel by Ms. Morton, and the fifth that I have read. After reading the first one, I have looked forward to each successive book with great anticipation. While this one seemed to start a little slowly, I was soon captured by the twists and turns of several related mysteries. The Cornwall Lake House is the home of the Edevane family. In 1933, their baby boy disappears, sparking a search that lasts for decades. Seventy years hence, police detective Sadie Sparrow, who is dealing with her own devils, happens upon the abandoned Lake House, and her curiosity gets the better of her. Soon, she becomes entrenched in the cold case of the baby’s disappearance. Switching back and forth between several lives and decades, this novel will pique your interest. The mysteries aren’t solved until almost the last page. Recommended. (Ginger Russell)

**Lights Out** by Ted Koppel (2015 nonfiction) This book by Ted Koppel is a classic investigative report on an issue that needs to be near the top of everyone’s reading list. The possible repercussions of a cyberattack on the nation’s electrical power system would be devastating. Our lives are dependent on the ready availability of electricity and, if it were not available for weeks or months, well …………. Koppel details how the worldwide access to the internet has made cyberattacks a common occurrence, what the current systems are to counteract the attacks, and the role currently played by both the electric power industry and governmental agencies in protecting the electrical grid. Collectively we are not prepared to deal with this type of disaster. The author examines how some groups have survival abilities or actual plans (Wyoming ranchers, the Mormons), but it is obvious that millions of people would not survive and the country would be devastated. **Lights Out** is very sobering, but it should be required reading for anyone who cares about the future. (Ned Lyke)

**Rogue Lawyer** by John Grisham (2015 fiction): I read a blurb accompanying this book which said that Grisham’s always entertaining work is evolving into something more worthy of his exceptional talent. Then I read *Rogue Lawyer.* Next I clicked on the Internet: a policeman who killed a mother when shooting the family dog in the presence of her 3-year-old son is exonerated; the Chicago killing of two people by a policeman at 4:30 a.m. is reported in a police-serving slant, regardless of all the facts. This is Grisham’s view of our justice system. He speaks as Sebastian Rudd, a criminal defense lawyer. Rudd talks and behaves in a fashion akin to his unsavory clientele, thus allowing Grisham to impale various aspects of the American Justice System. Rudd navigates no less than six cases in 344 pages, not counting his ongoing custody war over his son with his lesbian ex. There’s a drug addict, a crime lord, murderous cage fighters, a railroaded Nam veteran, and a totally evil sex trafficker. Prosecutorial misconduct, jury tampering, lying witnesses, judge trolling—all sprout like weeds as Rudd defends his occasionally pathetic, always deserving but also viciously dangerous defendants. The courtroom is a stage, an arena for Rudd to make Grisham’s points. There is high drama and low humor, spectacular violence, and unexpected romance, but overall a shocking expose of the justice system. This 2015 book predates the recent explosion of police killing cases, and the shaming of the police and administration code of silence by cameras and video recorders. It is a great read. (Martin Waldron)

**BOOK REVIEWS WANTED!** Have you read something you really enjoyed? Let your Friends know by writing a brief book review. You may also review music CD’s, films, or even TV programs (as long as it’s possible to still see it). Share your experiences! Reviews may be submitted at any time and will be printed on a space-available basis.
**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
*By Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurer*

The December book sale generated about $3,000, which includes $455 in sales from our new section of gift quality books. Thanks to all for a successful sale.

**Funds raised in the BookStore**  
and at the book sales continue to support many quality programs offered by our library. For Fiscal Year 2015-2016, we will be able to increase the funding to the library by $7,300 from the previous year to fulfill the Library Manager’s wish list. The continued success of the Friends is due to the generosity of our community.

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**CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!**  
*By Marie Blackmon*

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

**February:** Peruse a selection of books for Black History Month, get your weather forecast on Ground Hog Day, bake for Family Fun month, celebrate President’s Day, and pick up a “little something” for your sweetheart on Valentine’s Day.

**March:** Wear the green for Irish Heritage Month & St. Patrick’s Day, learn about the hearing challenged for Deaf History Month, make something during National Craft Month, and Sing With Your Child.

**April:** Share a good joke for April Fool’s Day, enjoy some Easter fun, spend some time outdoors in your Spring Garden and for Earth Day activities, and celebrate Passover.

**May:** Do you know the history of May Day? Celebrate Cinco De Mayo, appreciate Mom on Mother’s Day, honor our veterans on Memorial Day.

**June:** Fly Old Glory on Flag Day, learn about Juneteenth and emancipation history, congratulate a graduate, appreciate your Dad, and celebrate a wedding or a commitment.

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**AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM**

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

- *Seven Brothers* (2005) $23.00
- *Ogeley Boogely* 5 (2009) $39.00
- *Hayward, the Heart of the Bay* (Fenton, 2002) $25.00
- *Photographic History of the Civil War* in 10 Vol. $89.00
- *How to Shoot Straight* (Hastings, 1970) $20.00
- *Zoo Walk* (Reyes, 1987) $350
- *Campaigning With Grant* (1897) $25.00
- *Four Centuries of Violin Making* $250.00
- *Big Game Shooting* in 2 Volumes $90.00
- *Inside Pitching* (Jenkins, 1972) $21.00
- *A Short History of the 357th Infantry Regiment* $75.00
- *Science Fiction, The 100 Best Novels* $30.00
- *Our Cabin Companion* (Blein, 2003) $24.00
- *The Little House Books*, 9 vol. set, $34.00
- *Sunset All Western Cookbook* $20.00
- *I Wonder Why*, 12 vol. set $35.00
- *The History of Middle Earth*, 12 vol. set $1,000.00
- *Fantastic Ornament Vector Designs* (Dover) $20.00

Our name on Amazon is FriendsofBooks, and our entire on-line store can be viewed at [http://www.amazon.com/shops/A1AE92DUB78GQ4](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.

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Don’t you love the Oxford dictionary? When I first read it I thought it was a really really long poem about everything.  – David Bowie
THANK YOU CORNER
Roger Caswell, President

Getting to know you.

I am impressed by the sheer volume and variety of donations that come in. These have to be processed quickly and efficiently by the volunteers, or the already- restricted space would be jammed. Sorting through the books for gift quality, bookstore-worthy, book sales stock, or recycling requires a facility born of experience and the ability to make quick decisions while still handling the ongoing bookstore business. Those with responsibility for placing books ready for sale on the outer shelves, the PFCs, rely on having cleaned and well-sorted stock ready at hand when they arrive for their shifts. The efficient flow from donation to sales can only be achieved by the conscientious attention to cleaning and proper sorting by all of the volunteers.

Following on the previous thought, moving the sale books to storage is critical to keeping the office and backroom accumulations from backing up. There are usually fourteen to eighteen boxes of books to go to storage on Monday morning and about the same amount on Thursday morning. These have to be loaded up, driven to storage, unloaded into the trailer or container, logged in, and any required materials brought back to the office. Thanks for the dedication of Ned Lyke, Les Harrington, and Jack Kilgour who perform this vital task week after week.

It is only through these behind-the-scenes efforts that the Friends can provide the quality BookStore and sales that we’re known for.

To borrow from Jane Kraut’s November Thank You Corner, I want to thank all of the volunteers who work in the many capacities vital to keeping this organization contributing to the library and community.

Speaking of community, a special recognition to two of our members who helped make the Holidays special: Mikel Estrin (our media specialist) with the “Celebrate Hanukkah” on December 8th and Kay Wetherwax (our Board secretary) with the “Winter Concert of Woodwinds and Brass” on December 19th. Both presentations were enthusiastically received by the audiences.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS
Barbara Kissling

Ask anyone who does it—accounting can be a tough and exacting job. So we are very appreciative of our Co-Treasurer Barbara Kissling!

Barbara joined the Friends in October of 2014 and was elected Co-Treasurer in November. In addition to tending our (account) books, she also tends the Social Science and Women’s Issues sections of the Friends BookStore.

A long-time (60 years plus) resident of Castro Valley, Barbara has worked for several local businesses as an administrative assistant, accounting clerk, and human resources clerk. She retired in 2013.

She has two children and three grandchildren, all of whom live in the East Bay.

Barbara also volunteers as a receptionist and staff assistant at the Kenneth Aitken Senior Center. In her spare time, she attends her grandchildren’s academic and sports events and assists seniors in the community whenever possible.

She says volunteering is one of the best things she has ever done. Barbara doesn’t work a regular shift in the BookStore, but you can find her in the Social Science and Women’s Issues sections periodically, or you can always attend a Friends meeting!

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 next book sale is

**APRIL 15–17**

As always, the sale 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. ($3 per bag)

This sale will feature our usual wonderful selection of fiction, nonfiction, and children’s books. We anticipate having at least 300 cartons of books at the 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 (2015-2016) Friends of the Castro Valley Library membership card in order to take advantage of your $2.00 discount. You can join or renew at the door or purchase a membership ahead of time.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE 2016 BOOK SALES!

**APRIL 15-17**  
**AUGUST 19-21**  
**DECEMBER 2-4**

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.CV.L@gmail.com for more information.

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL