PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Happy New Year! This month marks the completion of the first year of my tenure as President of the Friends and it’s been quite a learning curve. So many responsibilities and details to come up to speed on! I couldn’t have done it successfully without the advice and support of the current and past Board members and feedback from the volunteers and customers. Thank you all.

Become active: What keeps an all-volunteer non-profit organization like ours going and growing is having new people come aboard. We are always looking for new volunteers, whether as substitute BookStore staff, a dedicated BookStore shift assignment, or book sales assistance. Bring your energy, expertise, and interests so that we can continue to grow with and support the CV library.

Toward the end of this year, we will have four Board of Directors openings to be voted on at the regular General Members’ meeting. These are open to all members. New retirees could use this to make the segue from work life into a fulfilling volunteer life. Bring your business, teaching, or professional experience and direct it anew. You may have retired, but your mind and energy haven’t. The effort required in these positions, other than President or Treasurer which have some defined responsibilities, is pretty much what you are willing to put in.

BookStore Operations: This New Year sees the re-establishment of the BookStore Committee. This committee, which has been in abeyance for some time, oversees the orderly and consistent operation of the BookStore in the library. As such, it is charged with ensuring that all BookStore volunteers are trained in the procedures and policies of the various operations that have been developed over the years to ensure that we provide a good product for our many customers and Friends members who are ultimately the ones who allow us to support many programs at the Castro Valley Library. The books that you find on our sales shelves are assured to be clean, free of odor or stain, and properly categorized by our genre experts. Please feel free to let me know, via a note placed in my folder in the BookStore office, if you have any issues.

December Book Sale: The sale was a great success both in book sales and memberships. Due to lower donations, we started out with about twenty percent fewer books than usual but what there were sold very well and we ended up a little more than half the usual leftovers which are donated to local non-profits for their resale. Gross results were about fifteen percent above the August sale. Thank you all for your custom.

Roger Caswell, 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:
First Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mystery Book Club
Last Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. CV Library Book Club
Second 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.
State Sen. Bob Wiechowski Representative 3rd Wed. 3—5 p.m.
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.
Creative Writing Group. 2nd Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. (preregistration required for this group).

Partial List of Events Coming Up in February
Note that Income Tax Help is available—call the library or drop by to make an appointment!
2/2 10:10-10:30 or 10:45-11:15 Musical storytime (also on 2/9 and 2/16)
2/4 10-11:30 Make a Valentine’s Day card
2/4 10:30-11:30 Robotic Derby—First Tech Challenge
2/4 2:00-3:30 Make a Valentine’s Day Gift
2/6 6:30-8:00 Paws to Read
2/7 12:15-1:00 Tuff Tumblers
2/8 10:15-10:45 Yoga for Kids
2/11 10:30-11:45 Yoga for Beginners
2/11 2:00-3:30 Discover Taiwan
2/18 11:00-12:30 Quilted Postcards by Marion Coleman
2/19 2:00-3:30 Mick Talks About the Oscars
2/21 6:00-8:00 Start Smart Teen Driving

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:
Monday February 13th for Lincoln’s Birthday
Monday February 20th for President’s Day
Monday May 29th for Memorial 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.
As we start the New Year, there are many exciting things to report. First off, we finally have a new Alameda County Librarian. Cindy Chadwick, who has been our Deputy County Librarian, has been hired to fill this role. This is especially nice because Cindy and her family live right here in Castro Valley, and are members of the Castro Valley Library Friends. She has written a column for this newsletter to introduce herself. I am so pleased, and wish her all the best.

During the month of December, we had a series of wonderful holiday music concerts. Santa Claus visited and gave out stuffed animals, and the Chabot Space and Science Center brought in a portable planetarium. Over 100 teens attended a practice SAT test, and we were able to provide both IPAD/IPHONE and Windows 10 computer classes. In January we hosted an author panel where local authors talked about how to get published. More than 50 people joined them for a spirited discussion. It was an incredibly rainy day, and I was amazed to see that many people participate. As always, our Senior Driving Seminar was filled. Although it’s not guaranteed, many insurance companies will reduce rates for Seniors who attend this class. One person I spoke with told me she got a 20% discount as a result. We also held a FIX-IT Clinic jointly sponsored by CVSAN where people brought in broken equipment hoping to fix it, rather than throw it out. If you are interested in attending classes or programs in the future, please check with us. Most of the events held will be repeated.

I am excited to announce that San Francisco Chronicle Mick LaSalle will be at the Library on Sunday February 19th, to talk about the upcoming Academy Awards. Mick was here a few months ago, and his presentation was great. Thanks to the Friends generosity we are able to offer a program of this caliber. And thanks as well for the very exciting program we are about to begin in partnership with the Castro Valley Unified School District. Both the Fremont Library and the Pleasanton Library have been running “Booklegger” programs for many years. We are about to join them here in Castro Valley. “Bookleggers” are volunteers who go into the schools and talk about books. The goal of the program is to encourage and motivate reading and the love of books. We are hoping to kick it off in the Spring.

And finally the last piece of news I’d like to announce, is that I will be retiring in March. My last day will be March 15th. I have absolutely loved my time working at the Castro Valley Library, especially working on the building and opening of the new Library. The support from the Friends has made my job a joy. I thank you all for the warmth and kindness. It has made an incredible difference to know that I could always depend on you.

A quick introduction, though I know many of you already: I’m Cindy Chadwick, the new Alameda County Librarian. I’ve served as the Deputy County Librarian since February 2011 and am a proud resident of Castro Valley and member of the Castro Valley Friends. My husband, Ken Cashion, and I live on Greenridge Road in an Eichler home owned by our 3 cats; they allow us to live there because we have thumbs and we open their cat food cans. Ken is an industrial designer, currently working at the Exploratorium. We also have a wonderful 20 year old son named William who is living and working in San Diego.

I’m writing this note at Gate 30 at Oakland Airport as I wait for a flight to the American Library Association conference in Atlanta. So many wonderful things are happening in public libraries. This conference will offer sessions on partnering with local law enforcement to advance social justice, helping our communities combat fake news, and building diverse collections of children’s picture books. Libraries will become more important in the coming years, and Alameda County Library will continue to offer the services you love, as well as services none of us have dreamed of yet.

No matter what exciting changes lie ahead, a constant role for Alameda County Library will be as an inclusive space. The Public Library Association recently issued a statement on inclusivity that reads, in part:

“The public library has an unparalleled ability to bring people and knowledge together, especially in times of uncertainty and division. We are places of learning, free inquiry, and free speech for people of all ages and backgrounds. As such, our nation’s public libraries stand as a bulwark to intolerance and a beacon of opportunity. With thousands of public libraries in towns and neighborhoods across the country, we invite community conversations and actions that further understanding and address local needs.”

Under the leadership of Carolyn Moskovitz, the Castro Valley Library has, for many years, been a space that does just that: invites community conversations and stands as a beacon of opportunity. Castro Valley Library is a place of learning, free inquiry, and FUN for thousands of visitors each week. It is an inclusive space and will remain so, even in times of uncertainty. I wish Carolyn the very best as she heads into retirement...though I admit I’m already scheming about how to lure her out of retirement to do more great work (!)

And thank you, Friends, for your exceptional efforts. Your hard work, dedication and generosity are noticed and appreciated, more than I can say. I look forward to connecting with you often, and I can be reached anytime at cchadwick@aclibrary.org.
The success of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library depends on your generous donations of books, CD's, and DVD's. We are happy to receive your donations any time the BookStore is open. If you have a large donation (more than a few cartons) please contact us ahead of time, as we may want to make arrangements for your donation to be dropped off at our storage facility rather than at the Library. Please do not leave donations outside the Library as they are subject to weather or vandalism damage and detract from the appearance of our beautiful Library.

At this time, we are accepting donations of most types of books, DVD's, and music CD's in good, saleable condition. We do not accept sets of books such as encyclopedias, Time-Life sets, condensed books, textbooks older than 3 years, or books that are dirty, moldy, smoky, or otherwise damaged. We also cannot accept VHS tapes (except Disney), vinyl records, or cassette tapes (music or audiobooks).

We will gladly accept magazines that are no older than 6 months. Unfortunately, most magazines that are not current will not sell.

Books and other media that are in the best condition are offered for sale in the Friends’ BookStore. Most other donations are kept in storage for our three annual big book sales. We may also donate books to other organizations such as the jails, educational facilities, or St. Vincent DePaul. Books that are in poor condition or are otherwise unsaleable will be recycled.

The funds raised from the sale of books and other media pay for Library programs and amenities that might otherwise not be available.

If you don't have items to donate, please consider making a monetary donation, either by check or by PayPal on our website. Thanks for your generosity.

Remember that memberships are now on a calendar year! A 2017 membership is valid for the entire 2017 calendar year rather than requiring renewal in the Fall. So your BookStore and book sale discounts will be in effect through December, including the December 1-3 book sale. If you haven’t renewed yet—it’s not too late! Renewals can be mailed in or dropped off at the BookStore.

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  □ $300 Lifetime—Family

Membership renewals are due in October this year; but will be due January 1st beginning in 2018.

I would like to be an active Friend and help with:
□ Book store  □ Sales events  □ Membership  □ Publications
□ Information Technology/Website  □ Public Relations/Advocacy

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can’t read them.

- Mark Twain
**My Brilliant Friend** by Elena Ferrante (2011 fiction): The first book of the Neapolitan Quartet by Italian author Elena Ferrante, *My Brilliant Friend* is the story of two girls growing up in Naples, Italy in the 1950s. The girls are mostly friends, but as they compete with each other and pursue different paths, their friendship waxes and wanes. Their lives and stories include family, friends, neighbors and others who populate the poorer area of Naples where they live. Violence is casual and always threatening, creating an unsettling undertone. Written in Italian and read in translation, the style of the novel conveys great detail about everyday life at a time and in a place that feels very foreign and far away. Elena Ferrante is a pseudonym. The recent and widely reported unmasking of the individual behind the pseudonym has been controversial. Many of this popular author’s fans feel strongly that her right to privacy supersedes the public’s right to know. Whoever Elena Ferrante may be, she has written an engaging and compelling story about growing up in Naples. (Stephanie Doward)

**Taken** by Robert Crais (2012 fiction): I will think of *Taken* whenever I hear of Trump’s Mexican wall. This complicated thriller follows two super sleuths, Joe Pike and Elvis Cole, in their search for a pair of innocent young people who are swept up in a group of pollos. *Pollos* are illegal immigrants who travel under the control of coyotes and bajadores in a world of slavery, extortion, torture, death, and mass graves. Located in the desert of the US Southwest, people are treated like disposables commodities. The *pollos* include Mexicans, Guatemalans, Nicaraguans, and Koreans. They are packed into trucks, stored in houses made prisonlike and escape-proof, and eventually sold to expectant employers or family members. If not delivered, they die. The *coyotes* are criminals of every nationality, mostly American and Mexican. The *bajadores* are super- *coyotes*, preying on anyone caught in their tentacles. Crais supplies a succession of independent scenes, a chain of deepening depravity offset by the forces of hope, represented by Pike and Cole. The plot does not flow, but zigs and zags, ever moving forward. The pace is cinematic, the climax inevitable but uncertain right up to the recovery of the innocents. (Martin Waldron)

**The Maggie Hope Mysteries** by Susan Elia MacNeal (2012-16 fiction): This is a series of books beginning with *Mr. Churchill’s Secretary* and progressing to the sixth book (so far), *The Queen’s Accomplice*. Maggie Hope is a transplanted American living in London during World War II. She inherits her grandmother’s house and travels to London with the idea of selling it, but instead, the war breaks out and she decides to stay and lend a hand. She has an advanced degree in mathematics, and her first job as a secretary in the Prime Minister’s office reveals her aptitude for cryptography, which then leads to training with MI-5 to become a spy. In the first book, she learns that her runaway mother works for the Nazis, and the father she thought was dead works at Bletchley Park as a code breaker. After helping to foil a plot to destroy St. Paul’s Cathedral in *Mr. Churchill’s Secretary*, successive books find her as a guardian for the young Princess Elizabeth, parachuting into Germany to spy on the Nazis, investigating the deaths of dancers in the Vic-Wells ballet troupe, traveling to America with the Prime Minister after Pearl Harbor and helping solve the murder of Eleanor Roosevelt’s secretary, and in the sixth book, unraveling the mystery of a Jack the Ripper copycat. There is a 7th book in the works, *The Paris Spy*, which should be out sometime soon. While these are definitely fiction in terms of the main characters and their exploits, all have a historical background that includes major players in World War II. Each book will “catch you up” on main events in prior books, but there is a benefit to reading them in order. These are great light reading for those rainy days that you can’t do anything else, and you find yourself eagerly anticipating the next event. (Ginger Russell)

**Sign Talker: The Adventure of George Drouillard on the Lewis and Clark Expedition** by James Alexander Thom (2000 fiction): Continuing his compelling body of historical novels, based primarily on Native Americans and their interactions with the encroaching “whiteman,” James Alexander Thom introduces us to George Drouillard (referred to as Drewyer in the Lewis and Clark Journals), a “half-breed” skilled hunter and translator who was part of the expedition. Raised by the Shawnees, George was able to understand and speak some of the tribal languages the Corps of Discovery encountered on their two year journey from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River. Through sign language, however, he was able to communicate with all the tribal leaders. His skill both as an extraordinary hunter and translator prevented or lessened serious situations which could have doomed the expedition. Through his eyes, the reader develops an appreciation of the differences among the various tribes and George’s ability to help Lewis and Clark, due to their pre- and misconceptions, avoid potentially serious miscommunication with the tribal elders. For anyone with an interest in the Lewis and Clark expedition, this is a different perspective and accurate account from original sources. Available in the Alameda County Library System. (Carol Lyke)
The Friends currently have over 100 books and other media listed on Amazon.com. Here are a few of them:

*Wise Men* by Stuart Nadler, 2013 $27.00

*Fred the Whistling Postman* by Virginia Parsons, 1977 $32.00

*Nevada Through Rose Colored Glasses* by Agnes Scott, 1977 $27.00

*The Very Best of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, 2009 $35.00

*Turkish Grammar* by Geoffrey Lewis, 1967 $39.00

*Japanese Orthodox Flower Arrangement* by Mishi Go Ryu, 1938 $24.00

*Offenbach in America*, 1877, $49.00

*American Seacoast Defenses Reference Guide*, $38.00

*LEGO City, the ultimate sticker book*, by Mary Ling, 2000 $35.00

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.

The December 2016 Book Sale was a huge success with sales over $600 above that of the sale held December 2015. Our amazing group of volunteers and the generosity of the community continue to make our sales very successful.

At our annual meeting in November, we were once again pleased to fully fund the Librarian’s wish list for the present fiscal year including several programs, classes, parties and events.
Ka’ai Jensen joined the Friends of the Castro Valley Library about a year and a half ago. Recently elected one of the Co-Treasurers, Ka’ai also works in the BookStore several Saturdays each month and is the PIC for graphic novels and the back-up PIC for science fiction.

Originally from Hawaii, Ka’ai has lived in California for a little over four years and in Castro Valley for two years. Her family still lives in Hawaii, where she visits whenever possible. They own a coffee farm on the northeast side of the Big Island.

Ka’ai graduated from San Jose State University with a Master’s degree in Geology. She received her Bachelor’s degree, also in Geology, from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She currently works for an Engineering company doing groundwater remediation. Ultimately, she would like to teach. She has worked at a variety of jobs, including as an exploration geologist in Alaska and Australia, a hydrologist in Alaska, and a tour guide in Hawaii.

While she currently only volunteers for the Friends, she has previously volunteered tagging sea turtles, monitoring and assisting baby sea turtles in Hawaii, and as a volunteer firefighter in Alaska.

When she has time, Ka’ai enjoys backpacking and has recently gotten into biking. She hopes to bike across the country. She enjoys traveling and has been to 41 of the 50 states, Canada, and Fiji. She has lived in New Zealand and Australia and hopes to travel to Europe and Asia.

To meet Ka’ai, stop by the BookStore on a 2nd, 4th, or 5th Saturday morning.

The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites. It gives you the knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is moral illumination.
- Elizabeth Hardwick
Mark your calendars now—the next book sale is

**APRIL 7–9**

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)

We will again feature a nice 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.

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<th>Planning to attend?</th>
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<td>Please remember to bring your current (2017) 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.</td>
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW. THE 2017 BOOK SALES WILL BE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- APRIL 7th, 8th and 9th
- AUGUST 18th, 19th and 20th
- DECEMBER 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

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.
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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
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Sara Accornero, Vice President
Ka’ai Jensen and Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurers
Kay Wetherwax, Secretary
Elizabeth McCune, Director-at-Large
Sarah Sammis, 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 BookStore during normal operating hours.

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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