



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
August 2017

There are no meetings scheduled at this time. The Annual Meeting will be held November 14th.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Caswell

I grew up with the belief that pretty much what was printed or disseminated on radio or television as the news was true. Journalistic standards were high, national commentators were battle-tempered on the fronts in WW II, and brought a sense of probity in the late 1940's and 1950's news reporting. That was long before social media and the world of "fake news" that we have to wade through today. Imagine how it is for our children to navigate the cacophony of this digital age where spurious accounts circulate instantaneously while thoughtfully researched journalism takes a day or two.

In a recent Stanford study reported by NPR, middle school, high school, and college students were asked to evaluate the information presented in tweets, comments, and articles. The researchers were, in their own words, "shocked" that a significant proportion of supposedly social media-savvy cohort could not distinguish polished sponsored content and passed it on as being true.

The Public Library Association in the November/December 2016 issue states the case for teaching media awareness much better than I can paraphrase. At the bottom line of the feature article is the statement: "Building meaningful relationships and creating safe spaces for open discourse helps identify the public library as a place that community members can trust and librarians as people they can believe in. Information and media literacy is a bipartisan issue and a functioning democracy demands informed citizens. Public libraries are critical to that effort."

As stated in the bylaws, the Purpose of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library is "To promote literacy and to support the Castro Valley Library as a vital community resource". To me, it seems that we could wholeheartedly support instruction in our library that would teach the abilities of being able to discern what is factual from what is "fake", distinguishing mainstream from fringe, detecting altered photographs, being aware that there is no supporting evidence, and noting an absence of source attribution, falls within that purview.

You might say "Teach them how to fish".

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. *eBestseller 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. (when school is in session only)
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. (pre-registration required for this group).

Partial List of Events Coming Up in August

8/1 2-4 p.m. LEGO Batman movie
8/1 4-6 p.m. Senior Driver Safety Program
8/2 2-3 p.m. Wild Wednesday—Storyteller John Weaver
8/7 1-3 p.m. Build It Day
8/7 6:30-8 p.m. Paws to Read
8/8 2-4 p.m. Rogue One: A Star Wars Story movie
8/9 2-3 p.m. Puppet Art Theater
8/12 10:30-11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners
8/15 6-8 p.m. Start Smart Teen Driving Program

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 September 4th for Labor Day
Saturday November 11th for Veterans Day
Thursday November 23rd for Thanksgiving

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 Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

We're in full swing mid-summer at the Castro Valley Library! The parking lot is full and so is the meeting room, with lots of great programming for children and families. Recently, Sterling the Bubblesmith wowed the crowd with bubbles galore of all shapes and sizes (even some big enough for a child to fit into!). We've also enjoyed a small alligator and lots of other reptiles this summer, including a 12-foot yellow python! Of course, all these programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Castro Valley Library.

Last month, we held our annual Rainbow storytime in honor of Pride month. More than 25 families joined us in the Children's Area for an inclusive and colorful storytime.

For nearly a month, we've had the Community Identifier Proposal Display at the Castro Valley Library. The Community Identifier Project is an official project of the Alameda County Arts Commission. The overall goal is to create a community gateway marker in Castro Valley, and two neighboring communities on freeway overpasses. The Castro Valley marker will be on the I-580 overpass at Redwood Rd. The display has allowed library customers to view artist renderings and submit their opinions on the best design for their community. The winning design is slated to be decided by a selection committee (taking into account the community feedback) in Fall of 2017, and the project completion is expected by Fall of 2018. There are some beautiful designs, and I hope many community members have had an opportunity to view them and submit an opinion. I definitely did!

The library has been providing a space for volunteers to offer tax help for years. Tax Help is a popular program and is usually completely booked by early March. This year, our volunteers E-filed 201 returns, 5 paper returns, and 7 amended returns. In addition, they assisted another 50 taxpayers by answering questions. Tax Help is an important service the library provides customers. I commend the volunteers who make it possible and I hope to offer it for many years to come.

I'm officially the new Manager at the Castro Valley Library. As a Children's Librarian in Castro Valley for nearly 7 years, I know the library community. As a resident for more than 18 years, I am very excited to play a part in providing such a valuable resource to the community that I call home.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

WELCOME TO THE BOOKLEGGERS!

By Chris Selig, Staff Librarian

This past May, the Library graduated its first class of Bookleggers!

What are Bookleggers, you ask?

They are a group of volunteers dedicated to promoting independent reading by children. They do this by visiting classrooms and introducing books that



kids simply can't resist, including exciting adventures, suspenseful mysteries, hilarious comedies and eye-popping nonfiction. During these class visits, students hear

a 30-minute program of read-alouds and booktalks and are introduced to about 5 or 6 books. Bookleggers make magic!

Booklegger is an award-winning program, now in its 32nd year with Alameda County Library. Currently, Booklegger is at Fremont Unified and Pleasanton Unified. Through this partnership with the Castro Valley Unified School District Bookleggers will be in a classroom near you during the 2017-2018 school year and beyond.

Booklegging is not only an excellent way to promote the joy of reading. It's also a great outreach opportunity for the Library. Bookleggers will encourage kids to get library cards and visit us!

Our inaugural class completed a six-week training. They learned to use props and dramatic and comedic flair to create engaging presentations. We are so pleased that among our graduating class are two very active members of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library: Carol Lyke and Kay Wetherwax!

We'll be training a new group of Bookleggers in the spring of 2018. If you love kids and books, and have some free time during regular school hours, please consider this fulfilling volunteer opportunity.

Contact Chris Selig (cselig@aclibrary.org; 510/608-1137) for more information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

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, DVDs, and music CDs in good, saleable condition, as well as magazines that are no more than 6 months old. 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).

Funds received from the sale of these items pay for library programs and amenities that would not otherwise be available.

If you have questions about donating or how the donations are used, please let us know! Donation guidelines are available at the BookStore or on our website.

TWISTED TITLES!

Twisted Titles is a game in which one letter of a title or common short phrase is replaced with another, creating a completely new and often hilarious result. These used to appear in the Cal Alumni magazine. Here are some offered by members:

Two Yearn Before the Mast: Unrequited love on a sailboat.

Treed: Kilmer is stuck on the last line.

The Ego and I: Autobiography of a megalomaniac

Catcher in the Wye: Stuck in the Castro Valley I-580 traffic.

A Sale of Two Cities: Flat broke St. Paul & Minneapolis

The Coldfinch: Didn't fly south for the winter

Wager for Elephants: I'll see your peanut & raise you a macadamia

The Toad Not Taken: Afraid I'd get warts

You get the idea! These are compliments of Helen Sowers, Carol Lyke, and Ginger Russell. Feel free to submit your own clever twists to our e-mail address or drop off at the BookStore.

Remember that memberships now renew on an annual basis. Your renewal request and the mail-back envelope will appear in the November issue!

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:

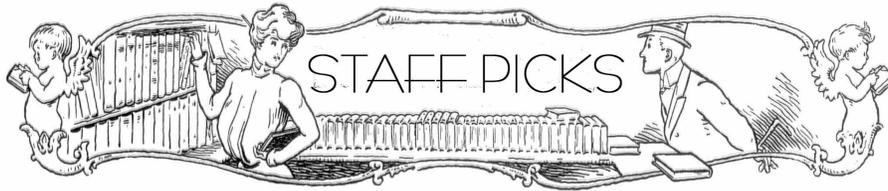
- \$10 Individual \$20 Family \$5 Youth \$35 Corporate Sponsor
 \$50 Benefactor \$200 Lifetime—Individual \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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 Fifth Woman (a Kurt Wallander Thriller) by Henning Mankell (2011 fiction): A complicated thriller, with very little at first to engage the reader, does just that. It helps to have an image of BBC TV actor Kenneth Branagh, who plays Kurt Wallander, the persistent Swedish detective. As with Branagh, there is nothing attractive or sexy here, but an extraordinary pursuit of an elusive monster. A criminal commits horrifying crimes. True. But there is a pervading suspicion that victims get desserts, that totally disparate events are linked somewhere, that excessive evil is actually measured and tailored to prior events. The crimes are dissected, the victims slowly revealed in their true colors. The case quickens. Mankell has a way of slowing things down annoyingly, inarguably. The reader shares the mundane challenges of overworked and sickly and exhausted police, driven by civic conscience, distracted by family crises, alarmed by an uprising of civic militia. Progress is infinitesimal, but beguiling. These awful crimes are somehow connected. There is a linkage somewhere. There may even be a timetable, a schedule of retribution. Fortunately, Mankell slowly introduces the murdering monster, exploring her (!) motivation. The plot inches forward, two forces moving toward each other. As always with Mankell/Wallander, there are familial and domestic demands and developments to hinder clear forward thinking. This is a paean to retributive justice. The Fifth Woman is killed in Africa. Who cares? Find out. This is a wonderful read, not to be rushed, not to be forgotten. (Martin Waldron)

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi (2016 nonfiction) is a remarkable book about the death of a young, Stanford neurosurgeon at the age of 37. More than that, however, are the life-affirming messages throughout. Everyone asks and will answer in different ways, "What makes life worth living?" An insight into how one man and his loving and supportive wife answered that question is a gift to all readers. Paul Kalanithi began to write this book after he received the diagnosis of Stage IV lung cancer. His life journey though a number of seemingly disparate academic degrees is brought to closure with his very premature death. His goal in life, to be a brain surgeon and a neuroscientist, was realized during his last years of life; his other important goal was to finish his book. He almost had it completed upon his death; his wife Lucy, also a doctor, completed it for him. The introduction by another brilliant surgeon and writer at Stanford, Abraham Verghese gives the reader an enticing glimpse as what awaits in the book to follow. Elegantly written, *When Breath Becomes Air* is full of wisdom, insights from both a doctor's and a patient's perspective; Paul Kalanithi was both. It makes a grand companion piece to Atul

Gawande's *Being Mortal*. Both books face issues of life and death of loved ones and self with grace and positive strength. Sad, yes, but upon completion the reader can feel fulfilled and positive about "what is now and what lies ahead". Available in the Castro Valley Library in the usual format plus large print and eBook. (Carol Lyke)

The Forgotten Room by Karen White, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig (2016 fiction): Normally I am wary of collaborations, but this one is different. The story concerns 3 women in 3 different eras and their relationship with a special room in an 1890's New York mansion. In 1892, Olive goes to work as a maid in the Pratt Mansion in order to discover why her architect father was never paid for his work designing the building. In the 1920's, Lucy Young takes a room in the mansion, which is now a boarding house for single professional women. And in the 1940's, Doctor Kate Schuyler is employed in the mansion, which has been converted to a hospital for returning World War II wounded. Each of them meets and forms relationships with men, and each discovers something in the special room at the top of the building, The Forgotten Room. The book is constructed in alternating chapters, and each author has written the story of one of the characters. As each character's story unfolds, the various relationships to each other and to the building reveal themselves. This is a fascinating story with both mystery and romance. Recommended. (Ginger Russell)

The Likeness by Tana French (2008 fiction). This is a hypnotic read, a gripping murder mystery, an incredible yet irresistible story. Trinity College, Dublin, County Wicklow, Ireland's neverending struggle for real freedom, all are sketched accurately as background to an undercover operation that skates over myriad difficulties. The main cast of five characters is sketched in excruciating adequacy, leaving the reader to fill in potential gaps. Then there is a supporting cast of detectives and policemen, problematic, uncertain, and challenging. French's County Wicklow, immediately south of Dublin City, is a relatively undeveloped rural environment. There is a Big House, decrepit but still a symbol of centuries of oppression to the local peasantry. Its five occupants are unlikely but interesting individually and as a group. The plot places detective Cassie Maddox in their midst as a replacement for murder victim Lexie Madison. The police deny and conceal her death. Cassie is to become Lexie in order to solve the crime. There are outsiders, and she has regular communique with her police handler, but the plot becomes her absorption into the community and her acceptance. I thought that this situation was impossibly difficult, but French conjures up a marvelous inexorable tidal development of factual and personal relationships that carried me for 500 glorious pages. (Martin Waldron)

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

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

Fabre's Book of Insects, Stawell and Detmold, 1937, \$35.00

1949 Blue and Gold Cal yearbook \$28.00

The Wind from the Mountains, Gulbranssen, 1937, \$29.00

Emergency Medical Technician Exam Review, 2012, \$89.00

New Masters of Poster Design Volume 2, Foster, 2012, \$20.00

Natasha and the Bear, Ustinov, 1985, \$69.00

The Akiba, Manga Guide to Akibahara, JPT Staff, 2008, \$115

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.

From The Reader's Nook Facebook Page:

We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion.

- *Dead Poets Society*

A library is the great gymnasium where we go to make our minds strong!

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.

- Cicero

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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

August: Continue the summer travel, bark at the Dog Days, celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, and get ready for school.

September: It's Labor Day, Grandparents' Day, 9/11 Remembrance, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the Autumn Equinox.



October: It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month and National Hispanic Heritage Month. Get ready for Fall and pumpkin festivals, Cookie Month, Timothy Leary's Birthday, and Halloween.

November: It is Diabetes Awareness and Native American Heritage Month. Thank a servicemember on Veterans Day. The Great American Smokeout is the 15th. And Thanksgiving!

Coming up:

December: The holidays! Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa. And believe it or not, it's Stress Free Month!!

January: Time for New Year's Resolutions, Reaching Your Potential, Organizing and Living, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream.



Thank You CORNER

By Roger Caswell, President

4-H Donation: Thank you to East Hills 4-H for your Story Lines contribution to the Friends. Great sense of community!

Pop-up Sale: Many thanks to Elizabeth McCune, Joan King, Kay Wetherwax, and Melanie Courchaine who conceived and organized a 'pop-up' sale of children's books in front of the main entrance to the library on Thursday morning, the 13th of July. The timing was to coincide with the children's Musical Storytime event being held in the Chabot/Canyon Room which attracted over 300 participants.

A very respectable count of 400 books were sold in the space of two hours but the main purpose of the event was to acquaint folks with the Friends and the BookStore. Surprisingly, there are library patrons that aren't aware of the BookStore that is just a right turn inside the main entrance. We want to increase our patronage and membership through increasing our visibility to the public. Better signage and wider publicity are two possibilities.

Book Sales: As you know, the Friends have three book sales a year in the Chabot/Canyon Room. The books offered are not quite up to the standards that are sought for the BookStore shelves. They are either dated, a bit worn, or sometimes a bit esoteric. As a result, those who relish going through thousands of titles have the opportunity to do so at the sales.

The books for the sales are accumulated and stored away from the library itself, in shipping containers on county property. A peak accumulation would be typically 8,000 to 10,000 books, all of which are transported back to the library in one morning for the sale setup. This takes dozens of volunteers and requires usually a whole day and then some before the Friday night members-only opening. Many, many thanks to those who join in on this effort.

Book Storage: As I mentioned above, our current storage situation has been in old shipping containers for some years. The containers are deteriorating and the distance between the library and the storage location is some five miles one way. We are looking for a more permanent location and more weatherproof situation nearer to the library.

HOW TO CONTACT *CIRCLE OF FRIENDS*

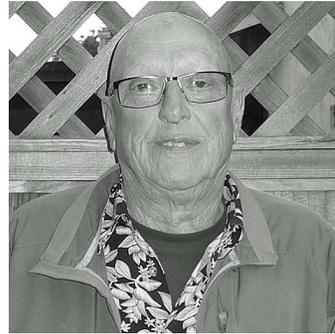
If you have any comments or suggestions for regular columns or features that you would like to see in *Circle of Friends*, please let us know.

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 Les Harrington

Les has been a member of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library since early 2011. He is a very essential and difficult to find person—he



accomplishes the very hard work of moving donated books to and from our offsite storage unit and helping set up the big book sales.

Les moved from San Leandro to Castro Valley in 2008. He has

been an East Bay resident since the early 1970's, coming here from the Central Valley. He has a daughter and two grandsons.

An "Old Blue" Cal graduate, Les was an electronic engineer until exiting the business in 1999. He belongs to a Friday walking group that goes by the name of "Walkers, Talkers, and Huggers." The group uses public transportation to get to their various walking venues all over the Bay Area.

A friend influenced Les to begin traveling outside the U.S. So far, he has been to Morocco, Burma (Myanmar), Europe (Germany, Czech Republic and Poland), the Scandinavian countries, and recently Iceland.

Traveling fits in with another hobby, photography, which has been an interest since 1959. He uses Photoshop CS5 to process his images.

Look for Les on Monday mornings picking up boxes of books from the library and on book sale setup and breakdown days. His work is greatly appreciated!





Mark your calendars now—the next Book Sale is

AUGUST 18-20

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.

*Planning to attend?
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.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW. THE REMAINING 2017 BOOK SALES
WILL BE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

**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!**

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, PAGE 8

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday & Tuesday 12 noon to 8 p.m.
Wed. & Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday Closed
Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please call 667-7900 or visit the Library website at www.aclibrary.org 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

Roger Caswell, President
Sara Accornero, Vice President
Ka'ai Jensen and Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurers
Kay Wetherwax, Secretary
Elizabeth McCune, Director-at-Large
Wayne Ainsworth, 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. The Annual Meeting will be held on November 14th.

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Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

