



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
February 2018

There are no meetings scheduled at this time.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax

I am extremely grateful to the many Friends and volunteers who have offered advice, encouragement and support, as I begin my term as President of the Friends. I am especially thankful for the helpful information shared by out-going President Roger Caswell, and by former Presidents Jane Kraut and Ned Lyke. I am learning more every day and look forward to a positive, rewarding experience.

We currently have several opportunities for new volunteers, including working in the BookStore. There are a few openings for regular bookstore shifts. We are also looking for two or three volunteers to work on a Publicity and Communications Committee, as we try to make the role of the Friends more visible in the community and to increase our membership. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact me or any member of the Board.

Our December Book Sale was a great success! We made over \$4000 in one weekend! The gift quality books sold well, and many Friends renewed their memberships for the coming year. If you have not yet renewed, now is the time to do so! Stop by the BookStore any time it is open to renew your membership. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to become members of the Friends as well. Our all-volunteer organization funds and supports so many wonderful programs that our terrific Castro Valley Library offers to our community!

One new program we're all excited about is *Castro Valley Reads!* Everyone in Castro Valley is encouraged to read the same book and then to come together in small groups to discuss it. This year, for the first *Castro Valley Reads!*, we are reading *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. All who attended the Kick-Off Event January 21 and signed up for a discussion group received a free copy of the book and may have an opportunity to meet the author, thanks to funding supplied by the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. (If you missed the kick-off event, you can still join the program—contact the Library for information.)

Another new program that we support is Bookleggers, a group of trained volunteers who visit elementary classrooms throughout Castro Valley to promote reading and to encourage students to visit the library. Several Friends members and volunteers (myself included) are active Bookleggers, and we are thoroughly enjoying our experience. A second group of Bookleggers will be trained this year. If you're interested, check with the Chris Selig of the Library staff for dates.

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*
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. (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. (preregistration required for this group).

Partial List of Events Coming Up in February

All Thursdays—Musical Storytime at 10:00 and 10:45, and Playtime at 11:15
February 3 10:30-12:30 Adult Computer Class Windows 10 (2 part class, continues on February 17) Registration Required.
February 3 1:30-3:30 Adult Computer Class—the Internet (reg. req'd.)
February 3 2:00-4:00 p.m. CV Community Alliance presents *Viva La Causa* including discussion session following the film
February 5 6:30-8:00 p.m. Paws to Read
February 6 12:15-12:45 p.m. Tuff Tumblers
February 7 (and ongoing) AARP Tax Help—contact the library to make an appointment for this free service (see page 3 for more info).
February 10 10:30-11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners
February 10 1:00-4:00 p.m. CV San Fix-It Clinic and Swap-O-Rama (priority given to those who register in advance)

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 12 for Lincoln's Birthday
Monday February 19 for President's Day

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

I know it's already February, and 2017 seems far away, but I didn't have the opportunity to reflect on all the amazing programming we did last year. Many of us have already bid adieu to our resolutions, but the library has great plans for 2018 and we will follow through. Naturally, our Friends are a major part of our success and give us the ability to follow through with their generous funding. They are truly the frosting on this amazing library.

Thanks to the Friends, we had programming for children all through the winter break in 2017. We have been able to continue offering our children's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) workshops every other Saturday. One of our most popular and highest attending programs, Musical Storytime, was a regular program on Thursday mornings. Mick La Salle discussed the Academy Awards and French actresses. We offered (and continue to offer) free computer and yoga classes, free movies and music (incidentally, all our programming is FREE!). Summer reading games, programming nearly every day during the summer, and great prizes for all ages. Petting zoos and parades at the library too. We even had the Great American Eclipse here at the Castro Valley Library and waited with hundreds of community members for the sun to show itself (it finally did, but barely).

We rolled out our fantastic Castro Valley Booklegger program in 2017, and our 11 volunteers gave 125 book talks in 26 classrooms at 7 Castro Valley elementary schools. These talks are exciting and encouraging children to read; we've seen many of them back in the library looking for the books. Our Bookleggers are getting noticed in the community too, practically superstars to the kids!

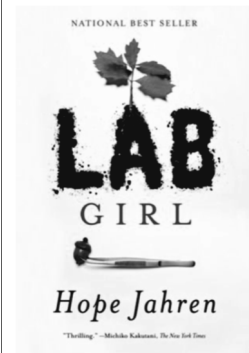
We also began planning and announced our book choice for our first annual Castro Valley Reads event. We are so pleased to be able to provide the community with an opportunity to come together, read and discuss the same book. Please consider joining other community members for a book discussion group at the library or in your homes. We'll provide the books! We joined the Castro Valley Community Alliance and will provide a community gathering place for a series of social justice films and panel discussions beginning January 14. We also offered fine forgiveness for two weeks in June. All you had to do was come in and ask. Finally (although not nearly all) we were able to provide 200 new books and prizes to the Ashland Community Center for their annual holiday party for low income youth in the unincorporated area. I could go on and on, or you could stop in and see us this year! It's not too late to make a resolution, and I suggest spending more time with your community at your library.

CASTRO VALLEY READS *Lab Girl*

New Library Program Celebrates Reading and Community Discussion

By Chris Selig, Librarian II

The **Castro Valley Library** is pleased to announce the first annual Castro Valley Reads! So far the interest has been robust and we are excited to be able to offer this program to the community.



Following the lead of successful city-wide read programs from across the country, Castro Valley Reads seeks to get as many people as possible to read and discuss the same book to celebrate reading, great literature, and to build community through a thoughtful exchange of ideas.

The 2018 book selection is *Lab Girl* by acclaimed scientist Hope Jahren. Starting from the broad

goal of choosing a book about science and the environment, we were delighted to find this best-selling memoir. *Lab Girl* is the witty and moving coming-of-age story of an American geobiologist. Jahren has spent her life studying plants, seeds and soil to learn about our environment both past and present. She's a fierce advocate for funding of scientific research and wants all of us to be good stewards of the green things on this earth. This book is also about her life, the ups and downs she's experienced on her journey to becoming an award-winning scientist, and her quirky friendship with her lab partner Bill.

Jahren is the winner of many prestigious awards, including three Fulbright Awards, and is the only woman to have won both Young Investigator Medals given within the earth sciences. After she finished graduate school at UC Berkeley, she built four labs from scratch including the one she now leads in Norway. Her book was called one of the best books of 2016 by *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, NPR, *Slate*, *Time*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. She is a great writer who is serious about her work, open about her life, all while employing a wicked sense of humor.

The library is offering a wide range of programs around CV Reads. Programming begins in January, ends in April and will include discussion groups, four different opportunities to meet a scientist, art programs, films and even a nature walk at Lake Chabot. There's truly something for every age group and we hope to see the community come out for the programming.

Castro Valley Reads is generously funded by the Friends of the Castro Valley Library.

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.

TAX HELP AVAILABLE

The AARP tax preparation service is available again this year at the Castro Valley Library. Appointments are available on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

You must bring the following items to your appointment:

- A photo ID and Social Security Cards or other official documentation for yourself and your dependents.
- A copy of last year's tax returns.
- All 2017 tax documents, including W-2, 1099, and any other forms.
- Child care provider information (name, employer ID, SSN).
- Records of any estimated tax payments made during 2017.
- A summary of receipts or checks for deductible items (if itemizing).

There is no charge for this service, but you must have an appointment. Please call the Library at 510-667-7900 to reserve your time. Appointment slots fill up fast.

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:

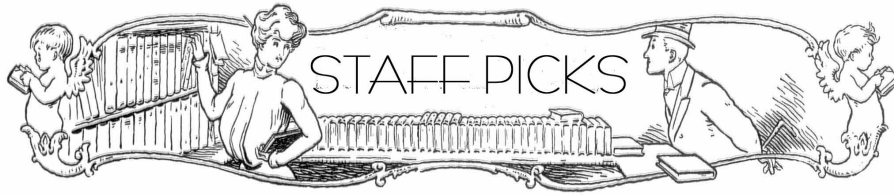
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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 Snowman by Jo Nesbo (2010 fiction): This is the most infuriating thriller I have ever read. I am an experienced devotee of detective stories, and I am usually able to accompany the plot line to a satisfying conclusion. Not here. I thought I had the solution in my sights on at least three occasions, but I hadn't. Nesbo led me up garden paths, and then abandoned me, exposing me to unsuspected but convincing depths of character and plot development. The characters, located in various stages of relationship to Inspector Harry Hole, are compelling. The locations are cinematic in detail and design. The story line is ghoulish, Grand Guignol, either hypnotic or disgusting. Details are accurate and attest to a Hieronymus Bosch view of the human condition. I recommend *The Snowman* for a most challenging read, and as an introduction to an incomparable author. (Martin Waldron)

The Alice Network by Kate Quinn (2017 fiction): In post-war 1947, pregnant American college student Charlie St. Clair is sent to Europe to have her "little problem" taken care of. Her beloved cousin Rose disappeared in Nazi-occupied France during the war, and, harboring a faint hope that Rose can be found alive, Charlie obtains the name of Eve Gardiner as someone who might be able to help. Leaving her mother at their hotel, Charlie takes off for London, finds the crusty and reluctant Eve Gardiner and her ex-convict man of work, and the three set off on an adventure to France to look for Rose. In flashbacks to 1915, we learn Eve's story as an English spy during World War I and her courageous work with a female spy group, The Alice Network. The two stories merge when it appears that the same French collaborator who helped the Germans in World War I and the Nazis in World War II may be involved not only in Eve's past but also in Rose's disappearance. By turns funny and suspenseful, this story is made all the more incredible because it is based on the true stories of female operatives in World War I. This is one of those books that I wished would go on a bit longer. Recommended. (Ginger Russell)

Camino Island by John Grisham (2017 fiction): This is a tightly choreographed thriller. John Grisham leads his readers step by step through an interesting tale of original F. Scott Fitzgerald manuscripts. The story is straightforward, involving a cast of credible characters, plenty of good meals and liquor, engaging conversation, mildly titillating sex, and minimal physical violence. I was disappointed in the inevitable unfolding of the plot. Having recently rated Jo Nesbo's *The Snowman* as infuriating and challenging, I found *Camino Island* pleasantly soporific. (Martin Waldron)

Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing with Others by Stacy Horn (2013 nonfiction): Whether you have been or are part of a chorus, choir, or group sing-along, have played a musical instrument with a group, or just enjoy listening to performances of classical music, this is a book waiting for your discovery. Stacy Horn writes of her 30 years singing with the Choral Society of Grace Church in New York City and the complete joy – and at times healing – that accompanies being a part of an amateur singing group with its soaring fortissimo exuberance and pianissimo dulce conclusions. Interspersed in her autobiography are lengthy sidebars of biographical backgrounds of composers, the evolution of tones and rhythms over centuries from a few chanting monks to large choirs, and even the neurological science behind how music affects the brain, not only of the performer but the listener as well. Horn, by her own admission, is not a gifted singer, but she writes with wit, enthusiasm, and candor about the joy that comes from being a part of something larger than self, of being in harmony with fellow singers, history, and the music of all ages. Available in the Castro Valley Library. Highly recommended. (Carol Lyke)

Flight Patterns by Karen White (2016 fiction): Georgia Chambers enjoys a career as an antique appraiser and expert in fine china in New Orleans after leaving her home in Apalachicola, Florida, due to a quarrel with her family. When a client appears with a request to evaluate a set of Limoges, she feels she has seen the pattern before at her home. Despite her estrangement from her family, she feels she must visit them in order to determine whether the china is a custom pattern or if additional sets exist. The provenance of the china is not the only mystery to unravel. Georgia's mother has not spoken for several years, and her grandfather hides a crime that was committed 70 years ago. In researching the bee-patterned china, Georgia discovers a link between her family and that of her client. And there is the set of circumstances that caused her to leave home ten years ago. Karen White is a master of novels that involve both convoluted mysteries and family relationships. This one is no exception, and it is a page-turner with surprises in every chapter. Recommended. (Ginger Russell)

BOOK REVIEWS WANTED. If you recently read a book, saw a movie, or listened to a CD that you'd like to share with your Friends, send us a review! Your reviews can be e-mailed to us at Friends.CVL@gmail.com or dropped off at the BookStore any time. We will print as many as will fit in the space.

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

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

Catalog of Fantastic Things \$33.00
Roald Dahl Splendiferous Story Coll. \$38
Best Engravings Volume 1 \$32
Gregory's Dictionary 3 vols. (1800's!) \$159
East Coast Victorians \$29.00
Ency. Of Early Amer. Sewing Machines \$32
Hofner Guitars and Violins \$27
History of Humboldt County CA \$65
Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships \$99

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

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



CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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



February: See your shadow on Groundhog Day, send a Valentine to your sweetheart, remember our Presidents, party for Mardi Gras, recognize Black History Month, and celebrate Wedding Month.

March: Eat well for National Nutrition Month, celebrate National Irish Heritage Month and St. Patrick's Day, and here's a new one—If Pets Had Thumbs Day on March 3rd! Passover begins at the end of the month.

April: No foolin'. Happy Easter. Take time to help during National Volunteer Month. Listen to some great music for Jazz Appreciation Month. And if you're not already done, take a look at the tax manual.

May: Preview some wedding books. Celebrate May Day and Mother's Day. Honor someone special on Memorial Day.



To be concluded: The magazine which published *The Old Curiosity Shop* came to America by sailing vessel. As interest in Dickens' story mounted from week to week, the crowds became larger on the New York wharf waiting to buy copies as soon as the boat docked. By the time the story reached its last chapter, these crowds had grown to such numbers and to such a pitch of suspense that they swarmed, five or six thousand strong, upon the wharf and could not wait until the ship docked. When they spied the captain on the deck, they called out across the narrowing water the question that burned in everyone's heart: "Did Little Nell die?"

- Fred Eastman, *Men of Power Vol. 1*

The above was featured in the May, 1939, issue of the *Reader's Digest*. Interesting to note—there were NO ads in the magazine at that time. You could purchase a year's subscription for \$3.00, or two years for \$5.00.

Thank You CORNER

By Kay Wetherwax, President

First of all, a huge thank you to two retiring Board members, both of whom contributed greatly to the Friends' success during their terms of office. Roger Caswell served as our President for the past two years, and as Director at Large before that. Thank you, Roger, for a job well done. Roger continues to be our go-to Mr. Fix-it for so many issues that crop up in the BookStore and at our storage site. Elizabeth McCune was Director at Large for the past four years and worked on many projects. Elizabeth continues to work each week in the BookStore and to offer her wise insights at Board meetings.

Thanks to Library Manager Dawn Balestreri and her terrific staff. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful library in our community and such a great staff to create and implement so many programs that benefit all ages throughout the year.

And last, but surely not least, a giant Thank You to our many volunteers, members and donors. Without your hard work and your financial support, we would not be able to sponsor so many valuable programs.

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 Colleen Kim

Colleen joined the Friends in November of 2016. She currently works in the BookStore every other Monday afternoon and also as an on-call substitute. She is the PIC for children's books (grades 1-8), which can be a daunting task.

Married to her husband Mitch for 15 years, Colleen has lived in Castro Valley for 25 years. (Mitch is a 61 year resident!) She and Mitch have four grown children

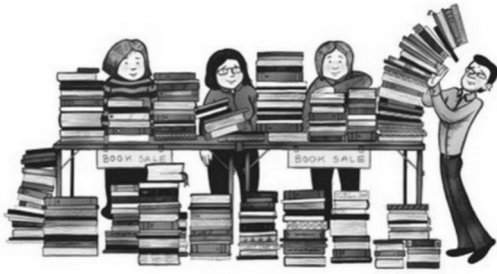


between them, and one active grandchild. She retired in 2016 from her job as a Senior Executive Assistant at VF Corporation (owner of several chains of outdoor clothing stores). Mitch is a retired firefighter who substitute teaches, coaches high

school baseball, and is the announcer at CV High sporting events.

An outdoor person, Colleen enjoys hiking at some of our local parks and also swims at the Hayward Plunge several days a week. When she's not at the BookStore, Colleen hangs out with friends and family shopping, walking, bowling, and going to movies. She and Mitch are avid SF Giants fans and go to many games. They also travel and have made several trips to Hawaii. One of Colleen's favorite trips was to Banff, British Columbia. She also loves reading and spending time with her grandson.

You can meet Colleen at the BookStore every other Monday afternoon and some other days as well.



Mark your calendars now—the next Book Sale is

APRIL 20-22

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. (\$4 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
(2018) 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 2018 BOOK SALES
WILL BE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

April 20—22

August 17—19

November 30—December 2

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 (1st & 3rd) 12 noon to 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday (2nd, 4th, 5th) 12 noon to 5:30 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

Kay Wetherwax, President
Wayne Ainsworth, Vice President
Ka'ai Jensen and Barbara Kissling, Co-Treasurers
Carol Lyke, Secretary
Sara Accornero, At-Large Director
Joan King, At-Large Director

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.

Printed by:

Acclaim Print and Copy Center
6345 Scarlett Court., Dublin CA 94568
925-829-7750.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

