



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
February 2019

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE ON SATURDAY MARCH 30TH! (SEE PAGE 5)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax

The start of a new year always causes me to reflect on the one that has just ended. 2018 was a good year for the Friends of the Library. We had several "pop-up" membership sales and promoted joining the Friends in other ways as well, and as a result we were able to increase our membership by more than ten per cent. In the coming year, we want to sustain and even grow that number, both by adding new Friends and by retaining those already a part of our organization. And it is time to renew **your** membership if you have not done so already!

All Friends were sent our last newsletter of 2018 via "Snail Mail." That mailing included a renewal form and a return envelope. There also are forms available at our BookStore located in the Castro Valley Library, and you can renew there any time the store is open. Our volunteers will be happy to assist you.

2018 was a year in which some wonderful library programs were offered, including Castro Valley Reads, the ever-popular Children's Musical Story Hour, many classes for adults, terrific concerts, and great events targeting children. The Friends support all these programs. Please help us continue to do so.

We are looking forward to the second year of Castro Valley Reads. This year's book is about one person's experience as an immigrant from Russia to the United States, and this timely topic will be emphasized in numerous discussions and programs at the library for both adults and young people. I encourage you to participate in this great community-wide event.

Our large book sales, held three times a year, continued to be very successful. We were able to offer thousands of great books at bargain basement prices to the community. The first book sale of 2019 will be held on April 26-28. Mark your calendars now!

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. *eBestseller Book Club* (registration req.)
Third Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. *Real Reads* Nonfiction Book Club
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

2/2 11:00—12:30 Finding Inner Peace & Calmness Through Meditation
2/2 2:00—3:00 Chinese New Year Celebration
2/3 1:30—3:30 Sunday Cinema "Mission Impossible"
2/4 6:30—8:00 Paws to Read
2/7 10:00—10:30 Musical Storytime (every Thursday thru 3/14)
2/9 10:30—11:30 STEAM Lab
2/16 10:30—11:30 Oakland Zoomobile

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:

Tuesday February 12th for Lincoln's Birthday
Monday February 18th 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.

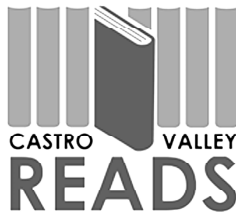
Also, remember to visit the quarterly art displays near the BookStore and the special features in the lobby display cases.

And don't forget to stop by the BookStore when you are in the library. We continue to have a wonderful selection of books, both fiction and non-fiction, and many books for children of all ages.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Happy February to all of you! The library is off to a great year. Our book choice has been announced for the 2nd 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! Some of my favorite programs around the event are the film screening of *Human Flow* by the Artist, Activist and Filmmaker Ai Weiwei on Sunday, March 17. *Human Flow* captures a year of displacement and urgent human stories in 23 countries around the world due to war, climate change, famine and more. Another favorite is the program "Words and Color: Postcards from Your Past" where participants will create a beautiful piece of frameable or mail-able art at this writing and art workshop on Sundays, February 17 or March 24. Check out the Chris Selig's column in this newsletter for more information about **Castro Valley Reads**.



We are also in our 2nd year of participating in the Castro Valley Community Alliance. The next film will be *The Resettled* about lives of refugees admitted to the U.S., after the film, a panel of high school students will share their stories of growing up as immigrants in our community on Sunday, March 10. This also ties in with Castro Valley Reads. Come into the branch or go online for the event program.

Maybe you have noticed all the above programming is on Sunday. This past year, we have been able to place permanent staff in the library on Sundays (in the past more temporary staff had been assigned). This has allowed us to provide more meaningful and regular programming on Sundays.

One of the most recent changes I'm really excited about is our digitization of the *Castro Valley Forum* newspaper. Phase I of the project has been completed and phase II is underway. Soon, the community will have the opportunity to peruse more than 30 years of the *Forum* online. More information coming.

Of course, the Friends have played a primary role in providing funding for most of the events this year. As usual, this library wouldn't be the vibrant community gathering place without the funding of our Friends. Thank you for continuing to support their efforts.

I hope your year is going as well as ours is, and I hope to see you at the library!

CASTRO VALLEY READS 2019

Let's make it bigger and better!

By Chris Selig, Librarian II

Castro Valley Reads is back! Castro Valley Reads seeks to get hundreds of community members to read and discuss the same book. With this program, we celebrate reading and great literature, and we build community through a thoughtful exchange of ideas. Once again, the program is generously funded by the Friends of the Library!

"Our first Castro Valley Reads in 2018 was a great success with more than 400 participants," said Dawn Balestreri, branch manager. "We hope you'll join us to grow the program in 2019. What can we learn from each other? What can we learn together? Let's find out!"

This year's theme is immigration. A loud and fractious debate about immigrants and refugees has gripped the country recently. Against this backdrop, the Library proposes that we have a quiet, thoughtful conversation about the experiences of immigrants and refugees. Let's also learn about each other's backgrounds, celebrate the diversity of our community, and build connections.

Our springboard is the intercontinental refugee and immigration story *A Backpack, A Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka* by Lev Golinkin. In the twilight of the Cold War, nine-year-old Lev Golinkin and his family cross the Soviet border with only ten suitcases, six hundred dollars, and the vague promise of help waiting in Vienna. Years later, Lev, now an American, sets out to retrace his family's long trek to locate and thank the strangers who fought for his freedom.

Golinkin's memoir is a thrilling tale of escape and survival and a deeply personal look at the life of a Jewish child caught in the last gasp of the Soviet Union. Written with acerbic wit and emotional honesty, Golinkin's story speaks of overcoming the power of hatred and searching for acceptance and belonging.

Golinkin, a graduate of Boston College, came to the US as a child refugee from the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkov (now called Kharkiv) in 1990. His op-eds and essays have appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and *Forward*, among others. His essay "Guests of the Holy Roman Empress Maria Theresa" recently appeared in *The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives* edited by Viet Thanh Nguyen.

The Library is offering a wide range of programs and discussion groups for Castro Valley Reads. Visit the Library today to sign up and get a free copy of the book while supplies last. Attendees of discussion groups will get an invitation to meet Golinkin on Sunday, April 14 at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts.

We're also excited to announce an expansion of the program with the selection of a book on the same theme for kids in grades 4 to 7. *Front Desk* by local author Kelly Yang is a work of fiction that explores the lives of a family of Chinese immigrants from the perspective of daughter Mia. Kids can register for their own special version of Castro Valley Reads beginning March 1.

Please join us for this exciting program!

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.



PLEASE NOTE that we cannot accept donations the week prior to a book sale due to space constraints.

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 3 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.

DID YOU RENEW? The renewal date for 2019 Friends memberships was January 1st. If you have not renewed your membership yet, this is just a reminder that your \$10 basic membership includes \$13 in discounts for the BookStore and book sales. To renew, drop by the BookStore any time we are open, or you may mail your application form (below) to the Castro Valley Library with your check. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want your membership card mailed to you. Membership dues help pay for library programs and amenities that would not otherwise be available. Thank you!

PAGE TURNERS

Four librarians share conversations that made their days (reprinted from the Reader's Digest):

During story hour, I read a book that mentioned doughnuts growing on trees.

Me: "I want to live in a world where doughnuts grow on trees."

Child: "I want to live in a world where bananas grow on trees."

A patron's question for the reference desk: "Can you come and get a raccoon out of my house?"

A patron came up to the desk to check out a book.

Me: "I'm so sorry, but you won't be able to check out since you owe \$173."

Man: "173? That's how much I weigh too."

A six year old girl asked me: "Do you have any books about how to make boys cry?"

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:

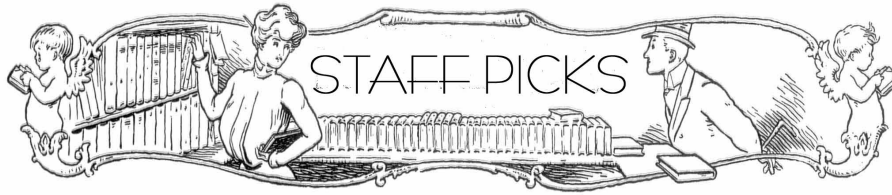
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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: _____



Broken Harbor by Tana French (2012 fiction): Tana French has garnered superlative praise for her police procedural thrillers. *Broken Harbor* is one of five, unforgettable and brilliant. The Spain family is introduced and then, dead or alive, expanded and developed. The plot surges tidally, sustained by extraordinarily convincing dialogue between police operatives, family members, nosy neighbors, and significant others such as the post mortem pathologist, computer experts and internet habitués. French lets the conversations limn the plot. Mental illness is presented, not only in the Spains, but also in Chief Detective Kennedy's family, with his sister Dina's unpredictable and uncontrollable craziness, his mother's ancient suicide, and his dad's heart-breakingly simple Alzheimer's. Ireland's economic recession is a pathetic backdrop as the Spain family is slowly eaten alive. The oxymoronic title tells all. A harbor is a haven. Broken, it betrays, abandons. The promised community, Brianstown, is destroyed. The hope implied in its original Irish *breacadh*, or day-

break, is never delivered. I found *Broken Harbor* harrowing. The only character achieving a measure of satisfaction is Cooper, the obnoxious pathologist. In *the Woods*, *The Likeness*, *Faithful Place*, and *The Secret Place* are French's other four novels. (Martin Waldron)



The Clockmaker's Daughter

by Kate Morton (2018 fiction): I'm a big fan of Kate Morton's books and wait eagerly for each new one. As with her other novels, this is a "time slip" book, which flips back and forth through time periods to tell the story. Elodie Winslow is an archivist for a philanthropic endowment, and upon finding an old leather satchel and a mysterious photograph, embarks on a quest for information about an old house that she thought was only a fairy tale. The house is, in fact, real, and at one time belonged to a famous artist with a scandal in his history, as his fiancée was killed in a robbery, with his mistress and a valuable family jewel disappearing in its wake. As the story unfolds, Elodie discovers that her own family is involved in the house's mysterious history. While there are a lot of characters to keep straight and the time slips can seem a bit confusing, the book proceeds to an astonishing conclusion. Not to be missed! (Ginger Russell)

Faceless Killers (the first Kurt Wallander Mystery) by Henning Mankell (2003 fiction): An awful double murder lands at the feet of Wallander. Mankell supplies details of the crime in ever-deepening circles while restricting geo-

graphical boundaries and personal relationships. He even provides a helpful local map, and details of Wallander's tortured family – father, sister, estranged wife and daughter – to help the reader experience the slow unravelling of the chase. I was fascinated by the plausible plot, inching along in spite of Wallander's ill health and self-destructive drinking. Wallander ponders hints and traces and clues, revisits and revives ancient relationships. The focal crime has wide anti-immigrant effects, including a second murder and political pressures. I found myself carried along, sharing Wallander's occasional lapses and unexpected bursts of frenetic activity, grateful for positive surprises like a bank teller's memory and colleagues' understanding. This is as satisfying a thriller as I have read. Violence is brutal but short-lived. Characters are complicated but convincing. Life histories are intriguing. Swedish women are not what they seem. Police community life and Wallander are authentic and beckon the reader to return for more. (Martin Waldron)

The Trust by Ronald H. Balson (2017 fiction): Estranged from his family in Northern Ireland 16 years ago, Private Investigator Liam Taggart receives a phone call asking him to return for his uncle's funeral. Upon arriving, he discovers (1) that the death was no accident, and (2) that he has been designated trustee for his uncle's trust. The terms of the trust provide that its provisions remain secret until his uncle's killer has been identified and brought to justice. While he would have preferred to decline the duty and return to his wife and child in Chicago, Liam feels bound to follow his family's wishes and try to determine who killed Uncle Fergus. Was this revenge from a 40-year-old feud from the time of the Irish Troubles? Was it one of the beneficiaries of the trust? All Liam knows is that all of a sudden the other family members begin receiving death threats, including his wife in Chicago, and so he begins his quest. This is a detailed and well-written mystery that includes a great deal of this history of the Troubles as well as the convoluted investigation itself. While many theories are presented, the reader doesn't find out who is behind the murders and threats until the exciting climax. Recommended. (Ginger Russell)

REVIEWS WANTED! Have you read a wonderful book, heard some marvelous music, or seen an outstanding film? Please consider sharing with your Friends. Circle of Friends accepts reviews of books, films, and music at any time. Send your reviews to our email address or drop them off at the BookStore. We will look forward to hearing from you!

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

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

Rosetta Stone Homeschool program, Vietnamese Level 1—3 \$149.00
 The Father Christmas Letters (Tolkien) \$21.00
 Fisher-Price Little People "Let's Play Music" \$45.00
 The Art of Bonsai \$175.00
 General Custer and His Sporting Rifles \$30.00
 B-17 Flying Fortress in Combat Over Europe \$28.00
 Nine Billion Names of God \$65.00
 Men Without Women \$192.00
 ABC Book Designed and Cut on Wood \$69.00

Our name on Amazon is **FriendsofBooks**, and you can access the store by clicking on our name when viewing one of our listings. When you reach the welcome page, click on "Products" to view all of the books.

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.



SPECIAL CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE SATURDAY MARCH 30 FROM 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

There will be a special Children's Book Sale on Saturday, March 30th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Chabot/Canyon Room. Most books will be 25¢ to 50¢. This is a great opportunity to stock up early before the big book sale in April. Hope to see you there!



CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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

February: Library lover's month, Groundhog Day; St. Valentine's Day; Black History Month.



March: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day, March into Literacy, study Women's History, create a Craft.

April: April Fool and Beyond (a selection of humor all month!), Passover, Easter, and Earth Day.

May: It's May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, the 500's (Daytona and Indy), and Memorial Day.



If you're a child, you are curious about your environment. Period. You're overturning rocks. You're plucking petals off flowers. And you're doing things that create disorder. Then what do adults do? They say "Don't pluck the petals . . . Don't play with the egg." Everything is a don't. We spend the first year teaching them to walk and talk and the rest of their lives telling them to shut up and sit down. Get out of their way!

- Neil deGrasse Tyson

Thank You CORNER

By Kay Wetherwax, President

I continue to be amazed by how much the Friends of the Library is able to accomplish as an entirely all volunteer organization. Our volunteers are very dedicated and put in many, many hours staffing our BookStore, cleaning donated books, selling books on-line, keeping the shelves of the BookStore stocked with quality books, hauling books back and forth from our storage site, etc., etc. etc. Thank you all for your commitment and effort. Because of you we are able to support so many great programs at our wonderful Castro Valley Library.

A special Thank You to Sara Accornero, who left our Board of Directors after serving as both Vice President and as At-Large Director for several years. Sara continues to volunteer each week in the BookStore.

I also want to thank two long-time volunteers who have had to leave our ranks for other endeavors. Ruby Stanton has worked with the Friends almost since our store opened in 2009. She worked a weekly shift in the BookStore and was the Person in Charge of Art books. And Colleen Kim was the Person in Charge of books for school age children, a very big job! Thank you both. You will be missed!

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 two weeks prior to the issue dates: the first of February, May, August, and November. 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 if you have any questions or want to submit an item.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS

Ellen and Harry Carter

Ellen and Harry Carter have been members of the Friends for 10 years. At this time, Ellen is the PIC for non-English books, and Harry works a weekly shift in the BookStore. They have lived in Castro Valley since 1967.

Harry was Director of Choral and Vocal Music at Cal State Hayward from 1967-1994. Prior to that, he directed choirs at Chabot College. He was also one of the founding directors of the SF Symphony Chorus under Seiji Ozawa. He also founded the San Francisco Bay Area Chamber Choir, which still exists.

Ellen taught elementary classrooms in Riverside CA and from 1967 in the Hayward Unified School District.

In 1982, she became a General Music specialist and children's choir director for HUSD until retiring in June 1997.



Both Ellen and Harry attended graduate school at the U. of Illinois from September 1962—June 1965. They met in a class for interpretation of Baroque music at USC, where Harry completed his Master's in clarinet and Ellen her Bachelor's in vocal performance.

The Carters enjoy attending concerts, operas, museums, and plays here in the Bay Area. They walk regularly at Lake Chabot and travel as often as possible.

Look for Ellen and Harry in the BookStore or at the book sales.





Mark your calendars now—the next Book Sale is

APRIL 26—28

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 have our usual wonderful selection of fiction, nonfiction, and children's books, as well as audio books, CDs and DVDs, at bargain prices.

We anticipate having at least 350 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 (2019) 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 2019 BOOK SALES:

April 26—28

August 16—18

December 6—8

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 (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

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Carol Lyke, Secretary
Ka'ai Jensen, 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. Our annual meeting will be held in November. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

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925-829-7750.

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Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

