



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library

May 2019



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax

Springtime greetings! Earlier this week I had the pleasure of attending the grand finale of this year's "Castro Valley Reads!", a library program that encourages everyone in Castro Valley to read and discuss the same book. This year's book was *A Backpack, a Bear and Eight Crates of Vodka*, the story of one Ukrainian Jewish family's escape from the USSR in late 1989. Author Lev Golinkin was with us at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts, leading a conversation about the immigrant experience. As I stood on the stage and looked out at nearly 200 people who just read the same book I had enjoyed, sharing their thoughts about this important and timely topic, I was so appreciative of our great library staff and the creative programs they offer that bring us together as a community. And I was especially proud to be a part of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library and our sponsorship of wonderful events like this one!

We were also at the CV Reads finale to sell memberships to the Friends, and I'm happy to share that we have now surpassed our goal of adding 100 new Friends at our "pop-up" membership sales this year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, it's not too late to do so. Just stop by the Book Store or come to one of our large book sales.

And speaking of book sales, the next event will be our Dog Days of Summer sale on August 16, 17, and 18. The usual excellent selection of novels, children's books, and all kinds of non-fiction will be available. Friday night is for members only (memberships sold at the door), and Sunday will be the usual Bag Sale, offering all the books that will fit in a grocery bag for only \$4. It's the best deal in town. Be sure to come by and check it out.

With spring comes Spring Break for our local schools, and during Castro Valley Unified's week long holiday, the library offered programs for children every day, ranging from a family movie to craft programs to a performance by the Circus of Smiles. As always, these programs will be free to all because of the sponsorship of the Friends of the Library.

At our annual meeting last November, we voted to change our By-Laws to add two Directors-at-Large to our Board of Directors. I'm happy to announce that one of those positions has been filled by Rose Kish. Rose works regularly in the

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 May

5/1 10:00-10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytime

5/1 10:45-11:15 a.m. Baby Bounce

5/4 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. SAT Practice Test

5/5 1:30-3:45 p.m. Sunday Cinema "A Star is Born"

5/7 12:15-12:45 p.m. Tuff Tumblers

5/7 7:00-7:30 p.m. Family Storytime

5/9 10:00-11:30 a.m. Baby Prom

5/11 10:30-11:30 a.m. STEAM Lab

5/11 10:30-11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners

5/11 2:00-4:00 p.m. Meet the Author—Matt Johansen

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 May 26th for Memorial Day

Thursday July 4th for Independence 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.

BookStore and is one of the PICs for children's books. We're delighted to have her join us on the Board and look forward to working with her!

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Our second annual community reads event, Castro Valley Reads, recently ended with the author's visit to the Castro Valley Center for the Arts. *A Book, a Backpack and Eight Crates of Vodka* by Lev Golinkin was our 2019 Community Reads title. The book tells the story of escape and survival through the life of a Jewish child caught in the last gasp of the Soviet Union.

More than 400 people signed up for discussion groups. The Library hosted 14 groups and 28 private groups across the valley, including the high school, hosted discussions. We also featured many special programs related to the book that were enjoyed by hundreds of people. This year, we introduced a Kid's Book, *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang including book club and other programs.

While Lev Golinkin's story is specific to one era and one group of people, his experiences resonated with most of our members who participated in book discussion groups. We looked at more than two dozen books before we chose *A Backpack*. What made this an amazing choice for Castro Valley Reads is Golinkin's wit, his honesty and openness, his unflinching look at the experiences of refugees and immigrants, and, perhaps most importantly, his stories about good people doing good things for strangers in need.



A lively Q & A was facilitated by Lev Golinkin on April 14. The positive feedback is still coming and based on the number of people who wanted their book signed, the program was a resounding success.

We have so many people to thank: Library staff including Chris Selig and I, Lyn Leone, Chelsey Roos, and Nathan Silva all worked together to create programming and lead discussions. Thanks to them all!

In addition, we need to thank: Deb Sica our deputy county library for joining us to lead discussion groups; Chandra Lee, one of our great patrons, who volunteered to help us lead 5 discussion groups: Ian Rodrigues, history teacher at CVHS who got *A Backpack, a Bear and Eight Crates of Vodka* into the hands of 40 CVHS students; and School Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi, Center for the Arts staff, David Judson and Patrick Brandon who helped us host this event which is too large for the library to accommodate.

But most of all we need to thank the Friends of the Library. When we came to them to ask for the funding for Castro Valley Reads, they did not hesitate. The Friends fund nearly all our programs. Without the Friends, the Castro Valley Library would be unable to offer the range of programming we do. Thank you!

A BUSY SPRING AND SUMMER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

By Christopher Ota, Children's Librarian

It's been busy in the Children's Services Department with educational and cultural programming for families and kids. Musical Storytime has finished for the winter/spring and will return in June. Did you know that the two Musical Storytime presentations each Thursday draw about 300 attendees? That's 300 young children, parents, and caretakers sharing music and stories each week at the Castro Valley Library. And Musical Storytime is only one of four storytime offerings provided at the Library. We also offer Preschool Storytime, Baby Bounce Storytime, and an evening Family Storytime. Hundreds of families are sharing in a community storytime experience thanks in part to the generous support of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. Thank you!

Every Saturday, an average of 75 kids and adults come to the library to participate in STEAM Lab. STEAM stands for *Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math*. Our STEAM Lab events have challenged young minds to create and build problem solving projects. Some recent STEAM Lab projects include building floating ships, constructing sturdy houses, making pop-up books, and discussing the mathematical concepts. Children's librarians work diligently to develop curriculum for new STEAM LAB programs with materials provided by the Friends of the Castro Valley Library.



There will be something going on every day at the library this summer! Summer programming begins June 10 through August 15. Build It Mondays provides kids a place to explore various building materials like Legos and more. Game Day Tuesdays will offer classic and newer board games & video gaming fun! A fun children's performer will showcase each Wednesday. The kids will enjoy wild animal shows, magicians, puppet shows, science shows and more! Thursday afternoons will be movie day featuring newly released films for kid and teens. All of this programming is possible due to the generous funding by the Friends of the Library.

A Universe of Stories is the theme of the 2019 Summer Reading Program. Children read books to move through a library game board, earning prizes along the way. Weekly prize drawings will be held for all those who register. Preschool, teen and adult reading games are also available. If you know an interested kid entering the 6th through the 8th grade in the fall, encourage them to become a Summer

(continued on Page 5)

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.

MENSA WORDSMITHS

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational asks readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some of the results:

Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to begin with.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray painted very, very high.

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Caterpallor: The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

Beelzebug: Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at 3 in the morning and cannot be cast out.



The great thing about ideas is that every new idea leads to two more. Ideas breed.
- Jeff Bezos

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:

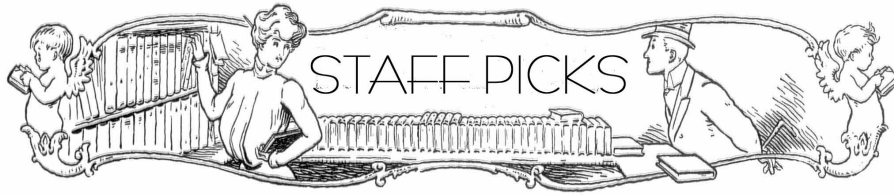
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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: _____



Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann (2018 nonfiction) is a thoroughly researched and captivating story of an essentially unknown chapter in Oklahoma and US history. The Osage Nation (Flower Moon) was removed from their tribal lands by the United States government and “dumped” into areas that no one else wanted, the same fate as other tribal nations. By sheer coincidence, the land given to the Osage later became recognized one of the richest oil lands in the nation. With the development of this land, the neighboring white citizens and even some tribal members became upset with the “uppity Indians” who dared to wear good clothes, build showy houses and drive large cars. The government declared that the Osage were not capable nor experienced enough to handle the large amounts of money coming to them, so they put the money in trust with the white trustees parceling out small amounts for their immediate needs. Envy. Greed. Lies. Arrogance. Silence. Murder. All and more are part of this cruel, deplorable and yet riveting era of history. As local investigators comb through the web of Osage murders, the newly installed J. Edgar Hoover in Washington uses their work to promote his new bureau. This award winning true crime account, which reads like a well-written novel, of the tumultuous time in the 1920s in Oklahoma is a compelling story. Highly recommended. Available in several formats in the Castro Valley Library. (Carol Lyke)

The Troubled Man by Henning Mankell (2012 fiction): I was making my entrance, slowly and appreciatively, through this multilayered story, when my eye caught one of the advertising blurbs, “A moving portrait of a man entering old age,” from the *London Times* Literary Supplement. This was key. No wonder I was fascinated by Wallander’s erratic pace, pessimistic world view, interpersonal challenges, and above all, traitorous memory. This detective story, Henning Mankell’s last, included many incidents and observations I am experiencing. Kurt Wallander has beginning dementia, and his failing powers and miscalculations are pitted against a Swedish situation which should not have been nearly as difficult. I have experienced many of the dementia moments – forgetfulness and lack of recognition, and in my case, crying like a baby, uncontrollably – which knock Wallander off his detecting stride. There is a story, a search for a missing couple, one of whom is *The Troubled Man*, which did not engage me. The search is conducted by Wallander, whose personal odyssey did not only engage but also unmanned me with shared experiences. Wallander’s family circumstances eventually deliver him into the dark night of dementia. And overshadowing these two developments, this is Henning Mankell’s last book. He dies as he releases demented Wallander into retirement. What does a retired policeman do? I recommend *The Troubled Man* for a worth while

read, but I am pondering the word “worthwhile.” I am retired from at least three livelihoods but had never come to terms with retirement. It took a mental health specialist of very few words to spell out the non-negotiable negatives. No driving in spite of 70 blameless years. No adult decision-making, especially in a law practice! Maybe I should be grateful to Mankell for publicizing common features of forced retirement and beginning dementia, features I find more and more people recognize and accept. Live one day at a time, in the present moment. Exercise as much as makes sense, and drink plenty of water. (Martin Waldron)

The Book of Speculation by Erika Swyler (2015 fiction): Reminiscent of such novels as *The Night Circus* and *Geek Love*, this debut novel concerns a carnival sideshow family and its dark 200-year history. Simon Watson, whose mother drowned when he was a child, receives an ancient carnival logbook seemingly out of the blue and discovers its links to his mother's past. While tracing the names in the book, some familiar and some not, he finds an alarming trend – that the women in his family have been sideshow mermaids and have all drowned on July 24th, a date that is imminent. Simon's sister shows up unexpectedly, and while she isn't performing as a mermaid, she does perform as a seer and tarot card reader for a carnival, so he escalates his research in the hope of preventing her death. There are a lot of subplots in this book, concerning Simon's job as a librarian, his relationships with neighbors and co-workers, and the history of his Long Island Sound home. It is an interesting tale, just slightly creepy but one that takes unexpected turns and twists to lead to its conclusion. A prequel short story about Simon and his mother is included in the "Target Club Pick" edition that I read, and it is helpful to read the short story first. (Ginger Russell)

REVIEWS WANTED! 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!

What do you call someone who devours books? A bookworm, of course. But that might be the wrong term after all. It turns out paper-eating insects chomping their way through your favorite novel are actually beetles and moths. In the early 20th century, scientist William R. Reinicke identified more than 160 different insect species that can be destructive to books, and he found that they have discriminating tastes indeed. Mexican book beetles prefer a fiber-rich diet of paper, cardboard, and wood shelving. Book lice like a little mold. And carpet beetles prefer leather, hair—and dried blood. (They're probably Patricia Cornwell fans.)

- Sciencehistory.org

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

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

Geology of National Parks 5th Edition \$35.00
Football Secrets of the Split T Formation \$23.00
The Basics of Corset Building \$26.00
Tattoo Time—Art from the Heart \$42.00
Clones Lace \$43.00
The Ark \$44.00
Guitar Electronics Workbook \$35.00
Elfquest Book 1 \$28.00
A Field Guide to American Houses \$30.00
The Cat Who Stamped His Feet \$25.00
The Bobbin Lace Manual \$43.00

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.

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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

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



June: Wedding bliss frenzy, grads and dads, the Summer Solstice, Juneteenth, and LGBTQ Pride.

July: Independence Day, Wimbledon, vacation or staycation?—that is the question, National Grilling Month,



August: Boomers Making a Difference Month, National Wellness Month, National Win with Civility Month, and National Read a Romance Novel Month.

AMAZING ANAGRAMS!

Is it mere coincidence that you can rearrange the letters in the words on the left to get the words on the right?

DORMITORY:	Dirty room
THE MORSE CODE:	Here come the dots
SLOT MACHINES:	Cash lost in 'em
SNOOZE ALARMS:	Alas! No more z's
ELEVEN PLUS TWO:	Twelve plus one

(From the *Reader's Digest*)

(Continued from page 2)

Volunteer. Summer Volunteers assist the children playing the Summer Reading Game, and on Build It and Game Day programs. Summer Volunteer sign-ups will begin in early May and each Kid Power volunteer must attend an orientation session to be held in late May or early June. We will finish off the summer with a volunteer party for those who have volunteered a minimum of 8 hours. Come visit us this summer to volunteer, play, or just read!



Thank You CORNER

By Kay Wetherwax, President

So many volunteers contribute so very much to make our work successful. This month I'd like to especially recognize a group that gathers every Monday morning before the BookStore opens to sort, clean, pack and haul books. The cleaners and sorters include Carol L, Sheila K, Sue C, Sue W and Ned L. Ginger R and Kay R often join them. I'm sure others sometimes help then as well, and I apologize if I've missed someone. The book haulers deserve a very special thank you for moving heavy boxes of books back and forth to our storage unit on Monday mornings as well as often throughout the week. Ned L, Roger C, Les H and Jack K deserve our highest praise! Without their efforts, the BookStore would be overrun with books and our store volunteers would have nowhere to work!

I also want to thank Janice, Robin, Barbara and Carol, who joined me at the Center for the Arts to sell memberships at the Castro Valley Reads finale. Our efforts paid off and we definitely met our goal!

Lastly, thanks to those volunteers who staff the BookStore on holidays so we can remain open, and especially to Jane Kraut, who does a terrific job of keeping the book store staffed! It definitely takes a village!

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 Rose Kish

Our newest Board member Rose Kish has been a member of the Friends for about a year. She works in the BookStore as an on-call substitute and as the PIC for Children's 1st through 8th grade books. She was recently appointed to one of the new At-Large Board Member positions.



Rose has lived in Castro Valley since 2004. She grew up in Minnesota, moved to Denver for her job, and then to California for work and family. She

is a software sales engineer for Salesforce, focusing on their Health Cloud features, which help health care payers and providers build stronger relationships with their members and patients.

In her spare time, Rose enjoys gardening, hiking, bird-watching, and outdoor photography. Her favorite books are cozy mysteries. She recently visited New York City for the 4th of July holiday.



While Rose does not volunteer for any other organizations specifically, Salesforce employees participate in a number of volunteer activities. Rose participated in events for the Audubon Society, Meals on Wheels, Texas Food Shelf, Benioff Children's Hospital, and others.

Rose is a cat lover, with two special kitties, Lim and Peppa.

You can meet Rose by attending a Board meeting or catch her at the BookStore.



You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.

- Dr. Seuss



Mark your calendars now—the next Book Sale is

AUGUST 16—18

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:

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!

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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
Rose Kish, 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.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

