



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
August 2019



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax

I'm happy to share the news that our Board of Directors is now complete! Nancy Hollister has been appointed to be a Director-at-Large. Nancy works regularly in the bookstore. She has lots of positive energy, and we all look forward to working with her. You can read more about Nancy in another column in this newsletter. Welcome, Nancy!



Our summer book sale is coming up on August 16, 17 and 18. Be sure to stop by and browse our huge selection of books, both fiction and non-fiction. And in the meantime,

don't forget to visit the bookstore when you are at the library. The store always has a lovely selection of books. Whether you are looking for a book for yourself or need to buy a gift, you will find something of interest. The books in the store are in excellent condition at a very reasonable price. And the dollars spent in the bookstore directly fund the many wonderful programs offered at our terrific Castro Valley Library!

Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life. – Mark Twain

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 August

8/1 10:00-10:45 and 10:45-11:15 Musical Storytime
8/4 1:30-3:45 p.m. Sunday Cinema—*Blackkkkiansman*
8/5 6:30-8:00 p.m. Paws to Read
8/6 7:00-7:30 p.m. Family Storytime
8/10 10:30-12:30 Adult Computer Class—Intro & Internet. Reg. required
8/10 10:30-11:45 Yoga for Beginners
8/10 1:30-3:30 Adult Computer Class—MS Windows. Reg. required.
8/24 10:00-2:00 SAT Practice Test—Reg. required
8/25 2:30-4:30 Paint Like Frida Kahlo—Reg. required

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 2nd for Labor Day
Monday November 11th for Veterans Day
Thursday November 28th 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

Summer is winding down at the library and it has been a busy one as usual. It's so gratifying to see all the families visit the library to enjoy the programming and keep up with their reading during the school break.

Castro Valley Children's Services is fully staffed! We are so pleased to welcome so many new staff in such a short time. Chelsey started just over a year ago, and is transforming the Children's Area, she's also getting married this fall. Chris started on the last day of 2018 and has been a great addition to the staff, and he and his wife are welcoming their first new addition this fall. Leo is a proud Castro Valley High School graduate and is very pleased to work for the library he spent many hours at as a child.

Castro Valley lost a true artist in 2019. The quilter Marion Coleman passed away earlier in the year. Marion spent many hours at the library as a member, educator and supporter. Marion exhibited both nationally and internationally. She was on Oprah and the cover of Costco's magazine. Most recently, Marion was given the 2018 NEA National Heritage Fellowship – the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. She was generous with her time and taught classes to children and adults alike. Two of her beautiful fiber collage quilts adorn the quiet area wall; *Keeping Step*, and *Play On!* She also remembered the library by donating her collection of art and African American books to the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. Losing Marion has left a hole in the community and we are planning a small remembrance of her early next year. If you would like to see more of Marion's work, please visit: www.marioncoleman.com.



Men in Black Series—*Spirit of a Man* c. 2012
38.5 x 43
Fiber collage portrait in Men in Black—Changing Perception Series that showcases positive traits of African American men. First exhibited at Quilt Week Yokohama November 2012.

Children's Services Summer Activities

By Leo Liang, MLIS

Every year, the Alameda County Library System's Summer Reading Program continues to expand. It's a labor of love for us to create events, classes, and provide educational opportunities that help kids continue to learn and grow over the summer. This is especially important because studies show that kids who don't participate in educational activities in summer lose valuable skills during the summer months. Ideally, summer should be seen as a gift, an important time to foster deeper connections with the community and read for fun. The learning that happens during these experiences is as important as the content and skills learned during school.

Our Children's Services launched with the 2019 Summer Reading Program. The theme this year was *A Universe of Stories*. We had almost 100 Kid Power volunteers that helped facilitate the game. At just the halfway point through summer, Alameda County Library has had over 2,840 members collect their first prize! This year, the first prize was a coupon packet with coupons from Lego Land to Round Table, and a book. Our final prize is also a book and entry into our drawing for more prizes.

Our weeks have been jam-packed with many hands-on activities. Build-It Mondays provided kids a chance to explore their innovative sides with activities such as Lego-building and construction with building blocks. Game Day Tuesdays brought out fierce competition as kids played video games and board games. But that's not all! Every Wednesday we had appearances from some of our most popular performers, including Tracy the Animal Show Guy, Magic Dante, Miss Vanessa, and more. The Chabot/Canyon room was packed weekly for each performance, with attendance often times surpassing 200 attendees. We wrapped the week up on Thursdays with newly released movies for kids and teens.

There were so many programs and we've only just begun. None of this would be possible without the help of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. Their continued support allows us to create new programs! The fun doesn't stop with summer. We're starting the school year off with 3 offerings of storytime. Come join us for family storytime on Tuesday nights, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings. Finally, new this quarter is the addition of a book club for children's programming, and we'll have plenty other programs to engage curious minds!



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.

WANTED! GREETING CARDS

Do you receive unneeded greeting cards in the mail from various charities? Have you purchased cards and then not found a use for them? Please donate them to the Friends!



We are able to package the cards and sell them in the BookStore for a nominal charge, which is yet another way to make money for library programs. The cards sell quite well, as do extra envelopes, stickers, and notepads. (Please, no personalized items though.)

We also accept smaller stationery items such as writing paper, post-its, current pocket calendars, unused postcards, and bookmarks.

So please don't throw those cards away; think of us and drop them off at the BookStore.

(And if you're looking to purchase any of these items, check the BookStore near the honesty box!)

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:

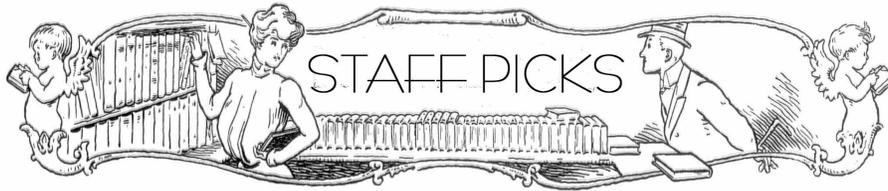
- \$10 Individual \$20 Family \$5 Youth \$35 Corporate Sponsor
 - \$50 Benefactor \$200 Lifetime—Individual \$300 Lifetime—Family
- Membership renewals are due January 1st.*

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 Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson (2019 fiction): In the 1930's and 40's, the WPA sponsored the Pack Horse Library Service, which was a group of (mostly) women who delivered library books and other reading materials in rural areas. Cussy Mary Carter is one of those women. There is an inherited condition called methemoglobinemia which causes the skin to turn blue. Cussy Mary has that condition and is persecuted by most of her neighbors for it. This story takes place during the depression, and in rural Kentucky, many people suffered from starvation and lived a hardscrabble existence, so the visit from the Book Woman was anticipated by most. The bright spots in Cussy's life are the visits to the homes and school that look forward to their next read. The dark spots are the prejudice against her skin color and the way women are treated. Her story is that of many women during that time, and the reader is well able to share her joys and sadnesses. At the end of the book, the author has included the facts pertaining to the Book Women, methemoglobinemia, and some of the other trials of living in rural America during the depression. This is not only a wonderful story, but it is also *interesting*. Especially recommended for those of us who love books, but it's a valuable history lesson for anyone. (Ginger Russell)

Defending Jacob by William Landay (2012 fiction): I was initially offended by a 15-page Readers' Guide from Random House Readers Circle, which I ignored. But now that I am reviewing, I am grateful. *Defending Jacob* is an unforgettable story, superbly told. Factually, a Junior High boy is murdered, and a classmate Jacob Barber is the prime suspect. Jacob's father Andy, a well-known local attorney, undertakes his son's defense. There are three concentric communities. Family – only child Jacob, parents Andy and Laurie Barber, and Andy's dad, Bloody Billy Barber, an incarcerated murderer. The local middle school, a hot-house of competing teenagers. Jacob and Ben were in different groups. Ben called other people names. He was in the dominant class, and Jacob was a geek, a member of the victim class. Lastly, the town, concentrated in the legal community – judge, opposing counsels, jury, and townspeople. Also, a convicted pederast, Leonard Patz. The family stands solidly behind Jacob, with Andy's non-disclosure to Laurie of the existence of Grandpa Billy Barber, a source of significant strain. This also encourages the consideration of a murder gene, an inherited inclination to homicidal violence which somehow explains and excuses Jacob's behavior. The school setting is simply described. Ben Rifkin was big and handsome. He bullied and teased. Jacob was just ordinary, but he had a temper, and friends knew he had a knife. The story is developed as a trial, and Jacob's future looks doomed. The court transcripts are

riveting reading. The ending is completely unexpected. (Martin Waldron)

In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir by Neil White (2010 nonfiction): From 1991-94, under the same roof of an old Louisiana plantation house lived minimum security federal prisoners, the residents of a leprosarium, the last one in the continental United States for people with Hansen's disease ("Don't call us lepers!"), and the nuns who cared for them. During his 18 month sentence at Carville, the author, convicted of bank fraud, decides to act as a journalist, interviewing prisoners and residents alike, to validate his time there. Over the course of the year in Carville, he discards his former arrogance and status seeking for a simpler, more compassionate view of and relationship with the people in his life. In the process, we meet a spectrum of interesting characters, some comical, some intriguing, some despicable which overall gives an insightful perspective on his time there. It is, however, the life-long residents of Carville, those who were brought to the leprosarium as children and who spent the rest of their lives there, never seeing their parents or families again, that are the most fascinating and compelling. To learn their stories and that of their home, Carville Plantation, is the most valuable part of this book. It belies stereotypes and puts human faces on the those disfigured and maimed in body but strong and resilient in spirit. Despite its topics of incarceration and Hansen's disease, it is an enjoyable and informative read, one you may continue to mull over long after you've finished the book. (Carol Lyke)

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (2018 fiction): Written by a biologist and animal behaviorist, this novel chronicles the life of "Marsh Girl" Kya Clark, who grows up largely on her own in the coastal marshes of North Carolina. Abandoned by her mother and siblings at age five and by her father shortly thereafter, Kya avoids the truant officer and social services workers and manages to make a meager living in spite of scorn and bullying from the townsfolk. Her best friends are the seagulls she feeds daily. She forms relationships with but few of the locals, and one of them leads to a near disaster. When a murder occurs, the townsfolk are all too quick to blame the "Marsh Girl." This is one of those books that is better read without too much advance information, but suffice to say that the descriptions of the marsh and its denizens are unparalleled, and Kya's life is an extraordinary one. There are surprises throughout, and Kya is someone you will wish you had known. Recommended! (Ginger Russell)

BOOK REVIEWS WANTED! Send your reviews of books, movies, and music to our email address or drop them off at the BookStore at any time. We will print as many as possible in each issue. Reviews should be approximately 100 words in length and include the publication date.

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

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

American Buffalo, a Play (Mamet)
Artistry in Fiber, Vol. 1
Rulers of Mecca
Waisted Efforts, *Illus. Guide to Corset Making*
Football Secrets of the Split T Formation
Guitar Electronics
The Art of Joan Brown
The Secret Front
Bahamian Art
A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary



Our name on Amazon is Friends of Books, 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.

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



September: School's back in session, celebrate Labor Day and Patriot Day, the Autumn Equinox, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.



October: It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month, take a look at Columbus Day vs. Indigenous People's Day, and find a sweet treat for Halloween.

November: Time to Fall Back, it's Native American Heritage Month, celebrate Thanksgiving and family gatherings, and look forward to Black Friday.



December: Get started on those DIY gifts, Cyber Monday, start baking for those cookie exchanges, and December Holidays—Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, and more!

Notes for Beach Readers (From the Reader's Digest)

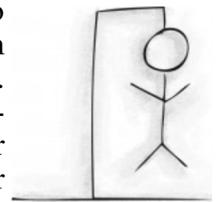


I'm gonna write a book about the difficulties of watching *Pride and Prejudice* dubbed into French; it will be called *L'Austen Translation*. - @Greg_Jenner

People found guilty of not using punctuation deserve the longest sentence possible. - @sixthformpost

"Zyzyva, zyxst, zyst"—Noah Webster's last words.
 - @meganamram

The hardest word to guess in Hangman is *JAZZ*. According to mathematician Jon McLoone, who built a computer program to simulate nearly 15 million games of Hangman, players are far more likely to guess vowels than uncommon letters, such as *J*, *Q*, *X*, and *Z*. Because *jazz* has those uncommon letters, and shorter words give guessers fewer chances at being correct, it's a statistically perfect word for annoying your friends.



- Wolfram.com

Thank You CORNER

By Kay Wetherwax, President

A big thank you to Ginger Russell, who produces this very interesting newsletter three times a year. Ginger does a wonderful job of keeping us all informed and connected. It's a huge job that she does cheerfully and very well. Thank you, Ginger!

And also a thank you to our wonderful Castro Valley Library staff. They provide creative and informative programs year round for children and adults. And they are a joy to work with. The collaboration between the Friends of the Library and the library staff is one of the closest and best I have observed anywhere. It is a pleasure to work with them!



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 Nancy Hollister

Nancy is a relatively new member, having joined the Friends earlier this year. She works in the BookStore on Wednesday afternoons and assists in the Health and Diet section, which can be a daunting task. And she has just joined the Friends Board as an At-Large Director.

She grew up in East Oakland and lived in San



Leandro for 30 years before moving to Castro Valley in 2005. She's a retired Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and worked at Highland Hospital and its neighborhood clinics for 45 years.

Nancy loves volunteering! She works at the St. Vincent DePaul dining room in Oakland, on Castro Valley's trash pickup program, and with an arts and crafts program for seniors at Baywood and Eden Villa.

Her hobbies include crocheting and refurbishing old dolls for donation to charity. She also enjoys Zumba, swimming, and Silver Sneakers classes. She's an active member of her church.

Meet Nancy on Wednesday afternoons at the BookStore or at the next book sale.



In the library, time is dammed up—not just stopped but saved. The library is a gathering pool of narratives and of the people who come to find them. It is where we can glimpse immortality; in the library, we can live forever.

- Susan Orlean, from *The Library Book*



Mark your calendars now—
the **Dog Days of Summer** 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.
(Meet Tavish the Black Lab Friday night only)
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!

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

Kay Wetherwax, President
Wayne Ainsworth, Vice President
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Elizabeth Rinehart, Operational Treasurer
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Ka'ai Jensen, At-Large Director
Joan King, At-Large Director
Rose Kish, At-Large Director
Nancy Hollister, 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

