



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library  
November 2019

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 13th. PLEASE SEE NOTICE ON PAGE 6.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Kay Wetherwax

Every year at this time we remind you to renew your membership in the Friends of the Library. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Your continued support helps us fund our library's community programs, including computer classes for adults, special speakers and concerts, wonderful children's programs and much, much more.

In the past we have included renewal forms with this newsletter. This year we will send your renewal information separately. New membership cards will be available on October 31. You can return your renewal by mail in the return envelope we provide, or you can stop by the store and pay for your membership and pick up your new card on or after that date. As always, your membership includes discounts on purchases in our bookstore and at our three times a year book sales.

The final book sale for this year will be December 6 to 8. As always, Friday night will be for members only from six to eight PM. Saturday hours are 10 to 4. And Sunday afternoon is the "Bag Sale," when you can purchase a grocery bag full of books for only \$4! We provide the bags.

As always, please stop by our BookStore when you are looking for a gift or just a book to treasure for yourself. We have a wide variety of quality books, including novels, mysteries, biographies, and non-fiction books on many topics. We have a section of non-English language books that includes novels as well as learning materials and dictionaries. And our children's book section has books for toddlers, school-age children, and teens.

I especially encourage you to take a look at the outer shelf of the bookstore (facing the parking lot), where we have a rotating selection of excellent high quality books.

In closing, I want to invite you to our annual meeting of the Friends of the Library on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00 PM in the Chabot Room of the library. We will approve the library's Wish List for the coming year and we will be electing a President, Secretary, Operational Treasurer, and two At-Large Directors. Please join us if you can.

## 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](http://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.)*  
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 November

11/2 11:00-11:30—Saturday Storytime  
11/2 12:30-1:30—STEAM Lab  
11/3 1:30-3:10—Sunday Cinema "They Shall Not Grow Old"  
11/4 6:30-7:00 Paws to Read  
11/9 10:30-12:30 Adult Computer Class—Gmail Basics (reg. reqd.)  
11/9 1:30-3:30 Adult Computer Class—MS Word 2016 (reg. reqd.)  
11/16 10:00-2:00 ACT Practice Test (reg. reqd.)  
11/17 2:00-3:30 Shakespeare on Tour: Macbeth  
11/23 2:00-3:00 Make a Paper Stained Glass Window

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 November 11th for Veterans Day  
Thursday November 28th for Thanksgiving  
Wednesday December 25th for Christmas  
Wednesday January 1 for New Year's Day  
Monday January 20 for Martin Luther King's Birthday

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

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

We recently celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the "new" building on Norbridge Ave. On Halloween 2009, so many community members participated in our opening day activities. We passed books from the old library on Redwood Rd to the new location. We called it "The Great Book Pass", and I'm so thankful to have been a part of the community celebration. It's not very often a new library opens. I was an intern at the time and played a role in planning the book pass. I ran up and down Redwood Rd between the two libraries, several times that day. My family was in the crowd passing books as were many friends. There was really something special in the air. Everyone who participated has their memories of opening day. Our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in this building passed without much fanfare, since we enjoyed a big party for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, but I know most of the staff and much of the community are reflecting on how quickly 10 years can pass. Since then, the library has seen several retirements, one death, and most recently, a wedding and a first baby (the first ones since before 2009!).

I'm particularly thankful most of our original staff has remained over the past decade. Our Older Adult Services Librarian, Lyn, began back in 2009. Lyn is the quintessential librarian; she really knows her stuff. Lyn's Savvy Senior programming is providing an essential array of classes for local seniors. Nathan Silva, our Teen Librarian, has been at Castro Valley for more than twelve years, and continues to provide new and relevant programming to our teen members. Mitzi, Andre, Gina, Vicki, and Renee all opened the library in 2009, and continue to keep the library running smoothly. I really enjoy when a member stops by to chat and tells me they were here that day in 2009. It was truly a special day for a much deserving community.

We have grown into our building, and although our circulation has never been as high as it was that first year, the number of people coming to the branch for programming, to study, meet friends or a respite from the weather, continues to grow. Our parking lot seems to get smaller and smaller as the years go by.

In January, we will pay our respects to the late quilter and Castro Valley resident, Marion Coleman, by displaying one of her quilts and offering commemorative bookmarks to our members. Marion's amazing work was recently displayed at the Hayward Historical Society Museum. Please come by and see one of Marion's beautiful and historical quilts during the month of January.

2020 will bring the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Castro Valley Reads. Castro Valley Reads is our community reads event. We will be announcing the book choice for Castro Valley Reads 2020 on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, something to look forward to after the holidays! Until then, enjoy the holidays with your friends and family. We'll have a lot of great programming going on during the school break for all our wonderful library community. Stop in and say hello!

## CONSUMER RESOURCES – BEYOND CONSUMER REPORTS

By Lyn Leone, Librarian II

Many of us routinely consult *Consumer Reports* magazine for reliable, objective ratings when we're shopping for big ticket items such as cars or appliances, and even for inexpensive items such as toasters or blenders. But do you know where to look for reviews when shopping for a new bank, credit union, insurance company, doctor, house painter, or auto body shop? If you're looking at websites like Yelp or Nextdoor, you should know that studies indicate social media reviews are unreliable. So where do you go for reliable, objective ratings? Most people don't even know this is possible, but it is, and it's FREE with your Alameda County Library Card!

**Financial Ratings Series:** How do you know if your bank or credit union is financially stable? Did you pick the best life insurance company? Can your property insurer cover the losses of a large-scale fire? Are you getting the best deal on your Medigap Insurance? Which mutual fund will give you the best return? Which stocks are the best to choose? These questions and more can be answered by visiting the library's online subscription to **Finance Ratings Series (FRS)**. **FRS** is designed to direct you toward safe banking and insurance options and strong investments while helping you avoid unnecessary risk. You can create your own Personal Profile to build your own Watchlist, get Upgrade/Downgrade Alerts, and log in from anywhere. To use **FRS**, visit the library's website at [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org), click on the **LEARN** tab, and select **eLibrary**. Scroll down to find Financial Rating Series and login with your library card and pin number.

**Bay Area Consumers' Checkbook:** Published by the Center for the Study of Services, an independent nonprofit consumer organization, **Checkbook** is where to go for objective, reliable ratings of local doctors, dentists, auto repair shops, carpet cleaners, contractors, electricians, roofers, and much more! **Checkbook** surveys consumers and evaluates the quality and prices of local service companies. **Checkbook** is available both in print and online (in-library use only) at the Castro Valley Library Information Desk. Visit, and we'll show you how to use this important resource.

**Consumer Reports:** Did you know you have FREE access to this important resource with your library card? You do! *Consumer Reports* is available to Alameda County Library card holders through **MasterFile Premier**. To use **MasterFile**, visit the library's website at [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org), click on the **LEARN** tab, and select **eLibrary**. Scroll down to find **MasterFile Premier** and login with your library card and pin number. Type the item you're researching in the search box, followed by the words, "consumer reports." Scroll through the results to locate the most recent article. It couldn't be easier!

## DONATION GUIDELINES

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 more than a few bags or 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 for a two week period 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 many 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.

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW!

Please pay close attention to your "snail" mailbox! This year, your Friends of the CV Library membership renewal notice is arriving mid-November in an **envelope** rather than in your *Circle of Friends* newsletter!

**Complete instructions** and timelines for renewing are included in the notice but will be similar to previous years in that you can renew by mail, at the



BookStore beginning on October 31st, or at the book sale on December 6th—8th.

Your membership will be for the 2020 calendar year and will include the usual discount coupons for the BookStore and the 2020 book sales. You will also continue to receive *Circle of Friends* on a quarterly basis.

Your membership dues help pay for library programs and amenities that would not otherwise be possible, so please send in your renewal right away. If you don't get your notice, please use the form below or pick one up at the BookStore. If you have any questions about memberships, please feel free to call us at 510-733-3285 or email us at [Friends.CVL@gmail.com](mailto:Friends.CVL@gmail.com).

**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:

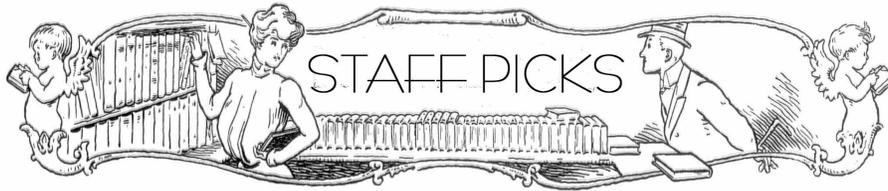
- \$10 Individual    \$20 Family    \$5 Youth    \$35 Corporate Sponsor  
 \$50 Benefactor    \$200 Lifetime—Individual    \$300 Lifetime—Family  
*Membership renewals are due January 1st.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_



***Finding Dorothy*** by Elizabeth Letts (2019 fiction): Maud Gage Baum was born in 1861, the daughter of Matilda Gage, who was a prominent women’s rights advocate and a contemporary of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. So it’s no wonder that Maud had a free and enriching childhood and resisted many of the conventions of the time. She was one of the first women to attend Cornell University. When she married L. Frank Baum, an actor and the head of a traveling theater troupe, it was a case of “opposites attract.” This is the story of Maud and Frank’s sometimes troubled but always entertaining marriage, and their struggle to survive over many years until he finally achieved success with his *Wizard of Oz* book series. It is also the story of Maud’s attempts in 1939 to make sure that the movie stayed true to Frank’s book and her relationship with Judy Garland. It is a very entertaining fictional biography of a woman that I would like to have known. What I found particularly interesting and almost magical are the events in Maud’s and Frank’s lives that sparked events and characters in the *Wizard of Oz* books. While this is indeed a novel, the author explains in her Afterword that she took very few liberties in telling Maud’s story. I really enjoyed reading it. Recommended! (Ginger Russell)

***Travels with Charley: In Search of America*** by John Steinbeck (1962 nonfiction): Over 50 years ago, Americans were captivated by John Steinbeck’s road trip around the US with his blue standard poodle, Charley. Does his journey still resonate many decades later? Some of the dirt roads he traveled are now asphalted highways; the people he met are long gone, but others with similar stories, opinions and lifestyles remain in our midst; his eyes and ears, as conveyed

by his descriptive pen, bring nods of recognition. He still is capable of taking us along on his contemplative journey, filled with beauty, insights and humor. *Travels with Charley: In Search of America* by John Steinbeck is a delightful return to yesteryear as we recognize truths that aptly apply today. (Carol Lyke)

***The Help*** by Kathryn Stockett (2009 fiction): This is an unforgettable story, the record of a Southern township’s loosely knit community of black house servants’ experiences in white families. They cooked family meals, cleaned every item and corner, and mothered the children until they reached preschool age. The times were the 1960’s, the burgeoning of civil rights. The story is told by the nannies, organized by Eugenia Phelan, a highly intelligent but socially inadequate and unprepossessing white girl. Their charges bonded with the nannies. The white wives and mothers lived socially pretentious lives, and

their attitude toward the nannies is best illustrated by the *Home Help Sanitation Initiative*: “Every household has to provide separate toilet facilities in the garage or shed for the help, as a disease preventative measure.” The story is a thriller. Eugenia, Miss Skeeter, makes contact with the *New York Times* and is encouraged to write. She slowly makes contact with the nannies, and transcribes their stories, not all bad, all identifying names changed. Their book is published, written by *Anonymous*. The town is reading and recognizing itself. I invite you to read and relish the delicious denouement. (Martin Waldron)

***The Long Flight Home*** by Alan Hlad (2019 fiction): This debut novel by Alan Hlad appears to be yet another novel about World War II and the bombing of Britain, but the story is that of the National Pigeon Service, the civilian group who in another life raised and raced homing pigeons. In 1940, the British military requisitioned the pigeons with the idea that they would be dropped by parachute into occupied France, where they would be picked up by the Resistance and used to transmit messages about Nazi locations and activities. It was expected that most of the pigeons would not survive, but that a few would return to England carrying vital information. Susan Shepherd and her grandfather are members of the NPS, contributing 1,000 of their flock. Due to a set of circumstances, she meets Maine crop duster Oliver Evans, who had hopes of joining the RAF and instead ends up working for the Shepherds and their pigeon enterprise. Duchess is Susan’s pet pigeon who was never meant to be part of the group, but she is accidentally caged and loaded onto the transport plane. While Oliver is attempting to get her back, the plane takes off and both Oliver and Duchess end up on their way to France, where the pigeons are released and the plane is shot down. Oliver is able to attach a message to Duchess and send her home, whereby begins a correspondence between himself and Susan via pigeon. While this is fiction, the basis of the story is true, and another heroic war operation is revealed. I truly enjoyed this book. It is well written and holds your interest until the end. (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.



# Thank You CORNER

By Kay Wetherwax, President

A special Thank You! to Sue Choquette, our Bookstore Office Manager, who does so many things to make this all volunteer organization run smoothly.

And many thanks to Elizabeth McCune, Ka'ai Jensen, Rose Kish and Kay Runyon who are the new members of our Bookstore Committee.

Joan King, who has served as a member of the Friends' Board of Directors as Co-Treasurer and most recently as Director-at-Large, will be leaving the Board this year. Joan has contributed so much to the Friends, especially spearheading our "pop-up" book and membership sales. Her energy and her organizational skills have made such a difference. Joan will continue as a bookstore volunteer and will still be involved with other projects. She will be greatly missed on the Board!

**Like us on Facebook** to get all of our BookStore and book sale updates. At-Large Board Member Nancy Hollister will be actively posting not only our pop-up book sales but also special items or collections that are available in the Friends' BookStore. Don't be left out!



**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](mailto:Friends.CVL@gmail.com) if you have any questions or want to submit an item.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold its annual meeting on **Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Chabot/Canyon Room of the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley, California.

**Agenda items include election of officers** (President, Secretary, Operational Treasurer, 2 At-Large Board Members) for two-year terms that begin following the election; the annual Financial Report and budget for the upcoming fiscal year; the library's wish list; discussion regarding the Fall/Winter Book Sale; and other subjects as may be determined by the Board of Directors or requested by attendees. .

**Members of the Friends** and members of the general public are invited to attend this meeting and comment on the issues being discussed. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to provide input, please feel free to contact the Friends at the Castro Valley Library BookStore, in person or by calling 510-733-3285 or e-mailing [Friends.CVL@gmail.com](mailto:Friends.CVL@gmail.com).

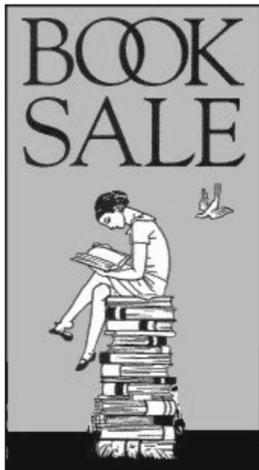
## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

By Barbara Kissling

September 30th was the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and the Board of Directors is pleased to report that our total income increased from the prior year due to higher sales in the BookStore, on-line sales, and special sale events held throughout the year. Additionally, pop-up membership sales were also successful. The funds generated from these sales combined with the three well-attended book sales provided the opportunity to completely fund the Library Wish List. The Board of Directors will be presenting the 2018-2019 Annual Report and the budget for the coming year, as well as the Library Manager's Wish List at the Annual Meeting (see notice above). We anticipate additional funding to the library in the coming year, particularly for the Wish List, which we have been able to increase each of the past several years. As always, details of the financial condition of the Friends are available to members in the BookStore office. We hope that any of you who may be interested in what the Friends are all about will attend this meeting and continue to support our library.



**MEET YOUR FRIENDS** will return in February.



Mark your calendars now—the Fall/Winter Book Sale is

## **DECEMBER 6—8**

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

We will also have a wonderful selection of GIFT QUALITY books, lots of holiday books, holiday cards, and a special section of STAR WARS books.

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](mailto: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. Memberships purchased in December will be full 2020 memberships.***

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE 2020 BOOK SALES:**

**April 17—19**

**August 14—16**

**December 4—6**

**SPECIAL SALES AND EVENTS MAY OCCUR AT OTHER TIMES DURING THE YEAR. LIKE US ON FACEBOOK TO GET UPDATES!**

**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](http://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](mailto:Friends.CVL@gmail.com) for more information.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD**

Kay Wetherwax, President  
Wayne Ainsworth, Vice President  
Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer  
Elizabeth Rinehart, Operational Treasurer  
Carol Lyke, Secretary  
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 November 13th. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

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**Friends of the Castro Valley Library**  
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[www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org)

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