



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library  
February 2023

OUR NEXT BOOK SALE IS MAY 5 THROUGH 7!



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Robin Olivier*

**Happy 2023, Friends!** I feel so optimistic beginning this new year. Our organization, like so many others, was negatively impacted by the pandemic. But now, both the library and our BookStore are seeing more traffic. Our December Book Sale was very successful, despite torrential rain on Saturday. We saw many of our former clients and members, who were excited to see our traditional three-day book sale return. Many renewed their memberships or joined for the first time. The committee, led by Kay Wetherwax, did a terrific job, and has already met to review the event and recommend changes for the May sale. We had inadvertently planned to have the spring sale on Easter weekend in April. That has been changed to **May 5, 6, and 7**. Please put the dates on your calendar!!

**Castro Valley Reads** is coming!! The kick-off event is February 5 at 2:00 PM. Save the date!! As always, the Friends are providing books to the community for this special experience. Put the date on your calendar!!

**Joan King, our Vice-President**, has been busily training our BookStore volunteers in the use of our tablet for credit card charges. She has also enlisted our Assistant Web Master, Amber Marsh, to create a QR code for our membership materials and online. I am very grateful to both of them for keeping us up to date with technology—challenging as that might be!!

**Please stop by the store regularly.** We are putting out new material each week. Talk to your friends and neighbors and suggest they stop by the “only bookstore in town”! We hope more people will get back into the habit of shopping with us and donating books.

**Interested in volunteering?** We are eagerly accepting applications for volunteers. We could extend our hours if we had more trained staff. Could that be you?

## COMING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!

### Ongoing Events:

Homework Help Center: Monday through Thursday 3:30 to 5 p.m. when school is in session. For primary and secondary students.

Advanced Math and Science Tutoring: Mondays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. when school is in session. High school and college level tutoring in math, physics, and chemistry.

Young at Heart Book Club: First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Registration closes on February 6th.

Page Turners Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Registration closes February 14th

### February Events (check the library website for a complete list and description of events):

February 1st to February 5th—all day Lunar New Year scavenger hunt.

February 2nd—10:00-10:30 or 10:45-11:15 a.m. Musical storytime. Registration required.

February 9th—10:00-10:30 or 10:45-11:15 a.m. Musical storytime. Registration required.

February 14th—11:00-11:30 a.m. Year of the Rabbit family storytime.

February 26th, 2:00-3:30 p.m.—LaDoris Hazzard Cordell. Registration required.

*Events are subject to update or change. Some events require advance registration. Please check the library website for the latest information or registration requirements.*

### Upcoming Holidays:

The library will be closed on the following days:

February 13 for Lincoln's Birthday

February 20 for President's Day



## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

*By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager*

**Our book choice(s)** for our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Castro Valley Reads were announced in early January. *Peach Blossom Spring* by Melissa Fu is our selection for 2023. We are so pleased to be able to provide the community with another 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. Tell your neighbors. We'll provide the books!

**We have had a lot of wonderful programming** for CV Reads this year. In February and March, we have programs to discuss AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) history and issues addressing bigotry and violence directed towards these communities. We are also having multiple art classes focused on Chinese culture for adults. Both hands on classes and a workshop by the Asian American Art Museum will teach about Chinese art and the meanings and fascinating messages hidden in many pieces.

**This is also our 4th annual Tweens Read event.** The tweens are reading *Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee. A family mystery full of intrigue and a kidnapping, and Maizy Chen must track down the culprit. Tweens will have the option among three discussion groups to discuss the selections.

**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 a vibrant community gathering place without the funding of our Friends. Thank you for continuing to support their efforts and consider volunteering if you are able.

**Two years ago**, we were in discussions to bring a vaccination pod to the branch, which the Department of Public Health did. We saw thousands of people vaccinated against Covid-19 in our meeting room. As I write this, the Red Cross is setting up the same meeting room as an evacuation center in preparation for the incoming atmospheric river storm. The library has been meeting the needs of the community in so many ways. We are so much more than a book place! I don't know what this storm will bring, but I hope all of you and your families stayed safe and dry and 2023 brings health and much happiness.

**Hope to see you at the library!**

### Castro Valley Reads 2023

*By Chris Selig, Librarian II*

**On February 5**, we will kick off the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Castro Valley Reads! We want to thank the Friends of the Library for their generous and continued support of this community-wide literary program. With your help we bring people together to talk about stories that are meaningful and relevant.

**This year we will be highlighting** Chinese history and culture with a beautiful and poignant work of historical fiction entitled *Peach Blossom Spring*, a debut novel from author Melissa Fu.

**The year is 1938**, in China. With the Japanese army approaching, Meilin and her son, Renshu, are forced to flee their home. Relying on their courage, wits, and an illustrated hand scroll that offers solace and wisdom, they must travel through a ravaged country, seeking refuge.

**Years later**, Renshu has settled in the U.S. as Henry Dao. Though his daughter, Lily, is desperate to understand her heritage, he refuses to talk about his childhood, and the weight of his history threatens to drag his family down.

**Spanning continents and generations**, *Peach Blossom Spring* is about the power of our past, the hope for a better future, and the search for a place to call home.

**"We hope you will join us** to read and discuss this year's selection," said Dawn Balestreri, Manager of the Castro Valley Library. "I found myself lost in this story, both a page turner and tear-jerker. It may remind you of the stories in your own life and the importance of sharing the messy tapestry we call family."

**Discussion group registration** is open. You can register for a Library-facilitated group, or you can form your own group with three or more people. Book distribution begins February 5. To register, visit [aclibrary.org/castro-valley-reads](https://aclibrary.org/castro-valley-reads)

**Our drop-in Kick-Off Event** is Sunday, February 5 from 2 pm to 4 pm. You'll learn more about the book and be able to pick up a free copy, while supplies last. You can make a wish for the Lunar New Year on our Wishing Tree and enjoy a concert of traditional and contemporary Chinese music. The music and video presentations will repeat throughout the 2-hour event. Please register so we know you are coming and drop in when you like!

**From February through the end of April**, in addition to discussion groups, we have a great line up of programs for all ages related to the themes of the book, including presentations about history, art, and even art classes.

**The finale will be Sunday, April 30** at 11 am at the Castro Valley Center for the Arts. We will come together for light refreshments and conversation. Author Melissa Fu will join us live via Zoom from her home in the UK. Attendees will leave with a signed bookplate, while supplies last, to stick in your own copy of the book. Please join us!

## DONATIONS NEEDED!

Now that we have had some successful post-pandemic book sales, our storage facility is almost empty, and we are anxious to receive book and multi-media donations.

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library depend on your generous donations of books, CDs, and DVDs. We are happy to receive your donations any time the BookStore is open. If your donation is more than a few bags or cartons, we will appreciate your contacting us ahead of time to make sure we have staff available to receive it. We are happy to lend you a cart or help you bring your donation inside. **Please do not leave donations outside the Library** as they are subject to weather or vandalism damage and detract from the appearance of our beautiful Library.

At this time, we are accepting donations of most types of books, DVDs, music CDs, and vinyl records 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, text-books older than 3 years, or books that are dirty, moldy, smoky, or otherwise damaged. We also **cannot accept** VHS or cassette tapes (music or audiobooks). A good rule of thumb on condition: If you would purchase the item yourself, we will most likely accept it.

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.

## Have You Renewed?

Your Friends of the Castro Valley Library membership is renewable as of January 1st each year. You may renew at the Friends BookStore office inside the library, by mail, or through our website. Scan the QR code below for more information. Individual memberships are only \$10, and you receive the following:

**\$7 in discounts** for the Friends' BookStore. (\$14 in discounts for Family memberships.)

**\$2 discount** for each of our 3 book sales. (\$4 discount for Family memberships.)

**Our quarterly newsletter** *Circle of Friends* (e-mailed or snail mailed). The newsletter contains timely announcements, library news, book reviews, and more.

**Remember** that your dues support library programs that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

**Not a member yet?** New memberships may be purchased any time of year.



**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:

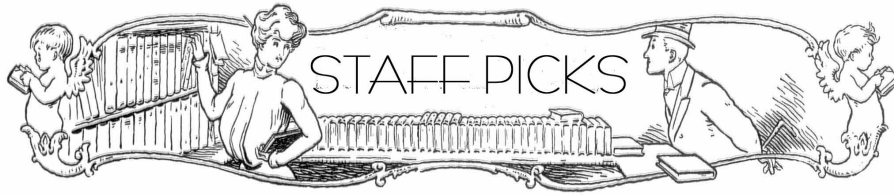
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor  
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family  
*Membership renewals are due January 1st.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_



***Two somewhat different takes on the same book:***

***Cloud Cuckoo Land*** by Anthony Doerr (2021 fiction) : With this dedication, “For the librarians then, now, and in the years to come”, the author focuses us on the value of books, knowledge and the power of shared stories. Doerr, who wrote the Pulitzer Prize winner ***All the Light We Cannot See***, takes us into the past, present and future in this book. We travel from Constantinople to Lakeport, Idaho to outer space, meeting several people in each location and time who are struggling to learn, to survive, to teach. Using a fictionalized ancient Greek farce, our main characters are bound together. Each is challenged by the situation facing them—poverty, war, autism, environmental disasters. Books and libraries bind them together. Doerr writes, “But books, like people, die too. They die in fires or floods or in the mouths of worms or at the whims of tyrants. If they are not safeguarded, they go out of the world. And when a book goes out of the world, the memory dies a second death”. This is a book that mustn’t die! (Robin Olivier)

***Cloud Cuckoo Land*** by Anthony Doerr (2021 fiction): How to describe this book? Really big, for one thing. The common thread running through this book is a fantastic tale by a BCE author, Antonius Diogenes. Its hero, Aethon, goes on a journey in which he becomes a donkey, a fish, and a bird, all in an attempt to reach the golden utopia in the sky which is Cloud Cuckoo Land. The characters in Doerr’s story span six centuries, beginning with Anna, a 13-year-old orphan in 16<sup>th</sup> century Constantinople and a village boy, Omeir, in the same time period. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Zeno learns Greek in a POW camp and translates the story, sharing it with five children in the local library. Also occupying their space in time is Seymour, an idealistic teenager, who plants a bomb in the library in order to punish a subdivision developer. In the 22<sup>nd</sup> century, Konstance is on the spaceship Argos bound for a far distant planet after Earth becomes uninhabitable. The Argos is run by AI, which manages everyone’s life and allows them access to knowledge via virtual reality (think Alexa on steroids). When I started to read *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, I wondered where all of these diverse stories were going, but eventually all becomes clear. In the meantime, it is a beautifully written, detailed book that holds your interest until the end. (Ginger Russell)

***Shetland Island series*** by Ann Cleeves. (Fiction/ Mystery): *Raven Black* is the first in the series published in 2006, however, there are 9 books total in the series, ending in 2018. Ann Cleeves is best known for her Vera Stanhope series, but *Shetland* takes us to a subarctic archipelago in the Norwegian Sea between the Faroe Islands and

Norway. It is a part of Scotland and the northernmost land in the U. K. (I had to look it up!). The location intrigued me and we find Detective Jimmy Perez as the quiet but competent investigator to cover murder on this small group of islands. (Elizabeth Rinehart)

***Lessons in Chemistry*** by Bonnie Garmus. (2022 fiction): Elizabeth Zott is a brilliant, but underpaid, research chemist in a man’s world in California in the early 60’s. Misogyny abounds in the all-male team at the research institute except for Calvin Evans who falls in love with her mind! True chemistry results. A few years later she finds herself not only a single mother but a star on an American cooking show. And she is teaching women not only the chemistry of cooking, but she is daring them to challenge the role of women, before feminism took off. A funny and delicious read. (Elizabeth Rinehart)

***The Cartographers*** by Peng Shepherd (2022 fiction). Cartography is Dr. Nell Young’s passion. Her father, Dr. Daniel Young, is a legend in the field. But she has not seen or spoken to him since he fired her and destroyed her reputation seven years ago, seemingly over a cheap gas station highway map. When Daniel Young is found murdered in his office at the New York Public Library, Nell finds the same map hidden in his desk and can’t resist investigating. To her surprise, the map appears to be extremely valuable, and she may have the only copy left in existence. But a mysterious collector is looking for it and will stop at nothing to take it from her. At this point, this seems like a fairly normal mystery, set in the fascinating worlds of cartography and the NYPL. It’s not. In the process of trying to discover the map’s importance, Nell unlocks a family secret and an adventure that puts her and everyone around her in danger. This book is full of magical twists and turns that are fascinating and completely unexpected, where the worlds of ancient and modern cartography collide. I could not put it down! (Ginger Russell)

***The Henna Artist*** by Alka Joshi (2021 Fiction) The story of young Lakshmi who escapes an abusive marriage and goes to the city of Jaipur in the 1950’s newly-independent India. It is rich in colors and textures, weaving insights of caste, class, the Indian diaspora and gender equality to show the human perspective. Every page is a delight. (Elizabeth McCune)

***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.

## GIFT QUALITY BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

**Gift quality books** are now available in the BookStore year-round. We have normally featured gift quality adult and children's books at our December book sale, but we have such a good selection that we are now offering these nearly-new books in the BookStore.



**Look for the gift quality books** in the following store locations:

**Children's gift quality books** are located in the children's section. We may also have pop-up children's book sales in conjunction with certain library events. Follow us on Facebook or ask at the BookStore to receive timely notice of the pop-up sales.

**Adult or general readership gift quality books** are located in the middle aisle near the travel and food & wine sections. Many different subjects are available, and the stock changes frequently.

**Be sure to check the front wall** of the store opposite the windows, where you will find current fiction releases and other special books or multimedia items. If you don't see what you're looking for, leave a request at the office window, and we will call you if the item becomes available.

Losing yourself in a book is the ultimate relaxation. - Dr. David Lewis

Great books help you understand, and they help you feel understood. - John Green

Books are a uniquely portable magic. - Stephen King

If you are going to get anywhere in life, you have to read a lot of books. - Roald Dahl

## CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

*By Marie Blackmon*

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

**February:** American Heart Health Month, Black History Month, National Library Lovers Month, Groundhog Day.



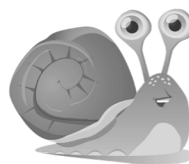
**March:** National Women's History Month, Read Across America Month, Irish Heritage Month.

**April:** April Fool's Day (humor), National Poetry Month, Autism Awareness Month, Earth Day.



**May:** Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, National Bike Month and Bike to Work Day, Mental Health Awareness Month.

**POSTAGE IS INCREASING AGAIN!** If you are currently getting *Circle of Friends* via "snail mail" and are able to receive it by e-mail, please let us know. We would be happy to add you to our e-mail list and direct the cost of postage to another use (like library programs). Thank you for your consideration!



## Thank You CORNER

By Robin Olivier, President

It's "all hands on deck" in order to have a successful three day book sale. We need people to bring books from storage to the library, to set them up for the sale, and then to sell books and memberships for three sessions.

After all of that, we need people to clean up and on Monday to help move the leftovers into bins for Discover. Rick and Priscilla Kalish do it all! Thank you, Rick and Priscilla, for your time, hard work and commitment to our organization!!



### 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 two to three 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.

### MEET YOUR FRIENDS

Stephanie Dorward

Our newest Board member is Stephanie Dorward, who was elected at the general meeting this past November.

Stephanie has been a volunteer for the past five years. She serves as a substitute in the BookStore as needed and also helps staff the book sales.

She has lived in Castro Valley for 40 years and is a retired attorney. Her favorite past-times are gardening, birdwatching, and reading.

Stephanie and her husband of 42 years have one daughter.

We welcome Stephanie to the Friends Board. Watch for her in the BookStore or at the next book sale.

### CAROL LYKE

Our dear friend, Carol Lyke, passed away on July 28, 2022. A memorial was held in October. Carol and her husband Ned had been involved with the Friends of Castro Valley Library since 2005. From the early Monday Morning Packers at the Redwood Road library, to the Great Book Pass when the community symbolically moved the books from Redwood to Norbridge Road in 2009, to playing a pivotal part in developing the procedures and trainings for our BookStore,

Carol was the heart of our organization. We miss her dearly. Many memorial donations have been received by the Friends, and our Board of Directors is considering the best ways to honor Carol. If you have suggestions, please share them with us. If you would like to make your own contribution in Carol's memory, please send it to:

The Friends of Castro Valley Library  
3600 Norbridge Avenue  
Castro Valley CA 94546.



Mark your calendars now—the Spring Book Sale is

**MAY 5—7**

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. (\$5 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 anticipate having over 300 cartons of books at the sale.  
You will be glad you came!**

**Volunteers will be needed for all sale days  
as well as for the set-up and clean-up days.**

**Contact us at 510-733-3285 or *Friends.CVL@gmail.com***

**if you can volunteer or if you have any  
questions about the work or requirements.**

**A signup sheet will be available in the  
Friends office approximately one month  
prior to the book sale date.**

***Planning to attend?***

***Please remember to bring your current  
(2023) 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 CALENDAR:**

**Book Sale Dates for 2023 are:**

**May 5—7**

**August 4—6**

**December 1—3**

**We may have pop-up sales of certain types of books from time to time. Follow us on Facebook to get timely notice of pop-up sales.**

## 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 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Friday Closed  
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday Closed

Please call 733-3285 or e-mail [Friends.CVL@gmail.com](mailto:Friends.CVL@gmail.com) for more information.

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

Robin Olivier, President  
Joan King, Vice President  
Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer  
Elizabeth Rinehart, Operational Treasurer  
Rose Kish, Secretary  
Stephanie Dorward, At-Large Director  
Roger Caswell, 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. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

Printed by:

Minuteman Press of Dublin

6735 Sierra Court, Suite C, Dublin CA 94568  
925-833-9400.

**Friends of the Castro Valley Library**  
3600 Norbridge Avenue  
Castro Valley CA 94546  
[www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

