



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
May 2023

THE NEXT BOOK SALE IS MAY 5-7—SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Robin Olivier

Happy Spring, Friends! We have endured the storms of winter and deserve the flowers of spring! So much to look forward to! Castro Valley Reads is winding up after two months of discussion groups, art activities and programs for kids. The Grand Finale on April 30 features the author of *Peach Blossom Spring* on Zoom from her home in London. Many people who participated in discussion groups at the library have commented on how rich and meaningful the discussions were. Thanks, Chris Selig and Dawn Balestreri for doing a great job!!

Our Spring Book Sale is right around the corner on May 5, 6, and 7. The Book Sale Committee has been meeting to ensure a great experience for our members! Remember that Friday night, from 6-8 pm, is for members only. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, it will be possible to do that on Friday night. Again, we will offer our children's and teens' books in the Bookstore area, as well as specially priced and antiquarian books. Our adult fiction and non-fiction books will be in the large Chabot and Canyon Rooms. Saturday's hours are 10-4. Sunday is the popular \$5 Bag Day from 1-4. We have a great inventory of books in every category as well as DVDs, CDs, and audio books. **Don't miss this book sale!!!**

Our eBay account is up and running, thanks to volunteers Amber Marsh, Amy Fain, Sari Weis, Ginger Russell, and Vice President Joan King. eBay is where we place books of special value for sale. It's wonderful to have these enthusiastic volunteers managing this lucrative program!

Special thanks go to Wayne Ainsworth, our web master for several years, who has turned the job over to Amber Marsh. We really appreciate the time and energy Wayne devoted to this job over the years—keeping the website information up to date and relevant. We are so fortunate to have members who are willing to share their talents!

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.

Job Lab: Mondays from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

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

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

5/6 11:00—12:15 Art for Kids—registration required.

5/11 2:00—4:00 Senior Traffic Safety Seminar—reg. required.

5/31 2:00—4:00 Senior Traffic Safety Seminar—reg. 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:

Monday May 29th for Memorial Day

Tuesday July 4th for Independence Day

Volunteers are always welcome! We have been able to add some trained volunteers to our office staff but could use more. Please stop by for a volunteer form if you'd like to work in our Bookstore. If you speak a language other than English, we would love to put you on a resource list to help us when we receive donations of non-English books. Just call our office (510)733-3285 if you would be willing to help!

Looking forward to seeing you at the Book Sale!!

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Our 6th annual Castro Valley Reads is officially over. Our theme this year, Chinese history, was close to home for some of our participants who saw their own family history reflected in the novel. We had a well-attended finale/interview with the author, Melissa Fu at the Castro Valley Performing Arts Center. First time since 2019 we have been able to meet in person and it was great to be back! We are already starting the process to choose our 2024 Castro Valley Reads selection.

Our 2nd annual Earth Day event with ForestR took place on Saturday, April 22nd. Great information and demonstrations about gardening, woodworking, the environment, free fruit, and a membership drive and pop-up book sale by the Friends of the Library.

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) is back in person the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays. The Eden Area MAC is also meeting at the library now on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Most of our programs are back. There are a few exceptions, but we were happy to have the AARP back in person to provide Tax Aide this season. The AARP provided tax assistance for nearly 400 participants. This is such a great example of what libraries can provide to our communities. We really appreciate our AARP volunteers!

Homework Help is also back and finally fully staffed. Math and science tutoring is back on Monday evening. Both our CHP driving programs are back for teens and seniors. Storytime is fully back.

The Job Lab has restarted! Every Monday from 12-2pm you can get assistance with your job search. The volunteers have strong professional backgrounds and can help you create a job winning resume, cover letter or complete an online application.

Summer is just about here and will hopefully be a relief from the much-needed stormy season we just experienced. Summer should look a lot like pre-2020 at the library, and we are all looking forward to bringing programming inside and more of it. The Summer Adventure theme this year is **A Magical Journey**. Summer Adventure runs June 1 through August 15 this year. Our theme celebrates the power of imagination and magic in everyday life. Players can complete activities, read and more to receive a book gift and be entered into a drawing for prizes. All ages are welcome!

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

I hope to see you at the library!

SPRING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

By Leo Liang, Children's Librarian

We're going full swing in both old and new programs at the Castro Valley Library! Our library welcomed toddlers and families to Miss Vanessa's Musical Storytime. Each of her sessions easily reached 80 members in attendance! It's been a wonderful experience watching the little ones blossom and pursue their curiosities. In addition to Musical Storytime, the children's librarians have been hosting Toddler and Family Storytimes. Storytimes are fun and engaging ways to improve early literacy and an excellent way to unplug and spend time with our families. If you haven't had a chance to participate in one of our storytimes, we highly recommend giving it a try!

We also offered our very first Stuffed Animal Sleepover this year. 50 well-loved stuffies spent the night with the children's librarian and were reunited with their best friends in the morning. Kids were given their own photo album detailing their friend's night time adventure. Excitement and laughter filled the air as they searched for their stuffie in the photos. Our hope is these moments help shape them into life-long library members. Keep an eye out on our calendar for our next grand sleepover this summer!

Science Saturdays has quickly become one of our most interactive and well attended programs. One of our local science teachers, Charles Reyes, has been hard at work providing a fun experience for children and families. Our meeting room transformed into an interactive science museum where kids can wander and explore different activities. Each program has explored a different scientific topic such as magnetism and pushes and pulls.

June is always one of the best times to visit the library. This year's Summer Adventure theme is **A Magical Journey** and it will take place from June 1st to August 15th. We will discover new worlds, create our own magical journeys, and connect with other adventurers at the library. We'll be bringing back familiar programs such as Build It, Game Day, and Movie Day! Members will find something special taking place on Wednesdays as we welcome special performers (including guests that have more than 2 legs or even wings!) from around the Bay Area. If you know an interested kid entering 6th through the 8th grade in fall, encourage them to become a Summer Volunteer. The Castro Valley Library is looking forward to our next grand adventure and we hope you'll be join us!

Turn to page 6 for a photo of the Stuffed Animal Sleepover!

DONATIONS NEEDED!

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, 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 or cassette tapes (music or audiobooks) or vinyl records. 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.

Time to Renew Your Membership

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:

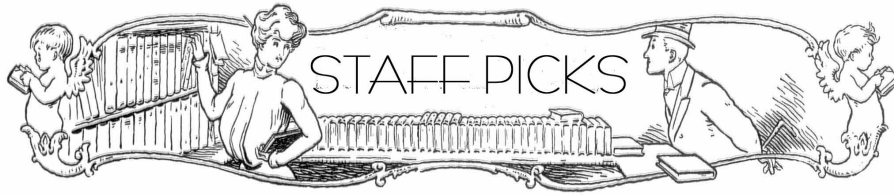
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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: _____



Horse by Geraldine Brooks (2022 fiction): In 3 interconnected stories, Geraldine Brooks tells the saga of antebellum era racehorse Lexington and the people who surrounded him, painted his portrait, and studied his legacy. In 1850, an enslaved groom forges a bond with a foal who would become the record-setting stallion. When the Civil War breaks out, an itinerant artist who paints Lexington's portrait joins the Union Army and eventually reunites with horse and groom in very different circumstances. In 1954, a New York gallery owner known for taking risks becomes obsessed with an equestrian painting of mysterious provenance. And in 2019 Washington, D.C., an Australian scientist working at the Smithsonian and a Nigerian art historian find themselves connected through their shared interest in Lexington, one studying the horse's skeleton to find the secrets of his speed and endurance, and the other discovering the lost history of the Black horsemen who were critical to his success. This is a captivating book with unexpected revelations about the exploitation of both people and horses in the pre-Civil War era south, art history and scientific study, as well as current-day racism. It is enlightening and somewhat sad. I could not put it down. (Ginger Russell)

Warnings: Finding Cassandras to Stop Catastrophes by Richard A. Clarke and R. P. Eddy (2017 nonfiction). Readers may remember from Greek mythology the beautiful princess Cassandra, given the ability by the god Apollo to foresee impending doom, but also the inability to persuade anyone to believe her. Such is the premise of this important book in which the authors describe a number of 'catastrophes' in which a modern-day Cassandra attempted to alert citizens, politicians, government and military officials to an impending problem which, in their view, would have major impacts if nothing was done to address the warning. Clarke and Eddy present seven examples of major warnings such as before the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster (incontrovertible data about earthquakes and tsunami levels was ignored in the planning for the nuclear station); before the Bernie Madoff Ponzi Scheme where an accountant warned for years that the financial data was all a sham; and before the Upper Branch Coal Mine Disaster where a coal mine inspector warned that dangerous conditions in the mine were being ignored by companies seeking to increase coal production and profits to the detriment of miner safety. The authors have developed a "Cassandra Coefficient" consisting of 1) the warning, 2) the decision makers, 3) the possible Cassandra, and 4) the critics, and then the characteristics of each category. Following this discussion, and after noting some false Cassandras whose warnings were not valid, Clarke and Eddy present seven current "Warnings" describing the reasons for such concerns. These include extremely serious issues that are currently confronting citizens of the world: Artificial Intelligence,

Pandemic Disease, Sea-level Rise, a Nuclear Ice Age, the Internet of Everything, a Planetary Meteor Strike, and Gene-editing. The book presents the scientists, engineers, biologists, journalists, etc., that are making these warnings and asks the readers to become informed and address these predictions in thoughtful and comprehensive ways. There are important recommendations about how these discussions must go forward and it is incumbent on everyone concerned about the future of humanity to think about, discuss and take actions to ensure that we as humans have the ability to respond to modern day Cassandras. We have been warned! (Ned Lyke)

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver: The author lives with her family on a farm in southern Virginia. She has seen with her own eyes what the Oxycontin epidemic has done to the poor, under-employed and minimally educated people of Appalachia. Inspired to some extent by *David Copperfield*, we meet Damon (later Demon) on the day he was born in the bathroom of his mom's trailer. Despite every obstacle, Demon persists through the death of his mother, the brutal treatment by his stepfather, horrors of foster placement, moments of glory on the football field, but eventually to fall into the clutches of drug addiction. These are endemic in his community thanks to the efforts of Big Pharma and the Sachler Family in particular which rewarded rural doctors for prescribing pain killing drugs. This book is a hard read, but an important one. We read in the newspapers about addiction problems. Kingsolver makes it personal by introducing us to Demon Copperhead. For more information on the Sackler Family, please read *Empire of Pain* by Patrick Radden Keefe. (Robin Olivier)

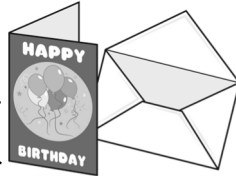
Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt (2022 fiction): After the death of her husband, Tova Sullivan takes a janitorial job on the night shift at the local aquarium. She becomes acquainted with Marcellus, an elderly octopus who wants nothing to do with his human captors until he becomes acquainted with Tova. Over 30 years ago, Tova's 18 year old son Erik mysteriously vanished on a boat trip in Puget Sound, and keeping busy at the aquarium is her way of coping with her loss. Marcellus decides to help her figure out what happened. I came across this book shortly after watching a program on PBS about an octopus living in a scientist's home aquarium. While this book is fiction and some parts of it are improbable, it is still a fascinating story about the "remarkably bright creature" Marcellus, as well as friendship and family. (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.

WE HAVE GREETING CARDS (ETC.) !

The Friends of the CV Library BookStore has a limited stock of greeting cards and other stationery items at bargain prices. Our supply depends on your donations.

If you have unused greeting cards that you don't intend to use and would like to donate, we accept all holidays and occasions. The donation must include the envelopes and can be store-bought, handmade, or those cards you receive free from charities.



We also accept donations of stationery supplies such as stickers, note cards, postcards, unused wrapping paper and ribbon, note pads, etc. Donations should be in good clean condition and a sufficient size or quantity to be usable.

These items are sold in the BookStore and are located on the honesty shelves.

We may also accept miscellaneous items to be sold at the big book sales that are held 3 times a year. These items may include jigsaw puzzles, games, educational items such as flash cards or unused workbooks, unused journals, unused coloring or activity books, crayons, markers, pens, pencils, and so forth. We will appreciate these items being complete and in good condition. Journals or calendars must be current or undated. We are not able to accept items that are incomplete, broken, or outdated. If you have questions about specific items, please check with us.

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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



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

June: Pride Month, the best wedding month ever, dads and grads, Juneteenth.



July: Independence Day, National Ice Cream Month, National Park & Recreation Month, vacation travels.

August: American Artist Appreciation Month, National Golf Month, more vacation travels, back to school.



NOW SELLING ON eBay

The Friends of the CV Library are now selling books, DVDs, and CDs on eBay. Selected unusual, rare, and higher-value items are offered at reasonable prices.

Our seller name is **friendscvlibrary**. Some of the items we currently have listed are: *The Unsung Heroes of World War II* (Great Courses); *Pokémon, the Electric Tale of Pikachu*; *The Silver Surfer*; *Greene & Greene, the Passion & the Legacy*; 1960's vintage Durant *Story of Civilization* set; *The Ballad of Halo Jones*; and several manga and graphic novel sets. You can see our entire online store by scanning this QR code, or by searching one of the titles and then clicking on our name when you reach that page. More items are added every week. We are happy to have these items available for you. Please let us know if you have any questions.



Thank You CORNER

By Robin Olivier, President

Special Thanks to These Volunteers

For the last couple of years, Marianne Bagai has been creating packets of cards for sale in our store. Reasonably priced, they are very popular! In fact, recently a patron stopped by our office to say how much her friends enjoyed the cards she has sent them! We really appreciate the time and effort Marianne has devoted to this activity. If anyone has extra cards, stickers, or postcards, you may bring them to our office. They will show up in one of Marianne's packets!!

CV News editor, Roberto Souza, is now the creative force behind our Facebook page. Many highlights of our store have been featured. Thanks so very much, Roberto, for sharing your expertise with us!! If you haven't been following our Facebook page, be sure to "like" us and see what's new here at the only bookstore in Castro Valley!!

It is with sincere sadness that we report that BookStore volunteer, Harry Carter, passed away in March. He and his wife Ellen have been members of the Friends and spent many hours working in our store. Our heartfelt thoughts go out to Ellen and the other members of Harry's family. He will be missed.

HOW TO CONTACT CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

If you have any comments or suggestions for regular columns or features that you would like to see in *Circle of Friends*, please let us know.

We also welcome brief news items or articles. Deadlines are typically 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 if you have any questions or want to submit an item.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS Amber Marsh

Amber became a member of the Friends last summer when she inquired about our website. After training for a short period, she became our Webmaster in January. She also helps with other IT-related functions and with our online sales.

She and her family have lived in Castro Valley for nine years. She and her husband of 30 years have two young children who attend one of the local elementary schools.

A software engineer by training, Amber previously worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab. She is now taking a break to spend more time with her family.



She enjoys reading, especially fantasy, sci-fi, and paranormal, preferably all three at once. She also enjoys role-playing, video games, knitting, creative writing, and the arts. She also volunteers at her children's school.

If you have any questions or comments about the website, Amber would love to hear from you. Contact her through the website (<https://friendsofcvlibrary.org/>) or by calling or emailing us as noted on this page.



STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER!



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 about 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 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 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:
Select Imaging

6398 Dougherty Road Suite 27, Dublin CA 94568
925-803-1210

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

