



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library  
August 2023

THE NEXT BOOK SALE IS AUGUST 4—7 —SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS!



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Robin Olivier*

**Happy Summer, Friends!** While the weather has not been the seasonal warmth we expect here in the Bay Area, nonetheless, summer brings vegetables growing in our gardens, free outdoor evening concerts and Sunday movies at our library! We are gearing up for our summer book sale on August 4, 5, and 6. As usual, Friday night is limited to members of the Friends. Sunday is \$5 a bag day. I hope you have put the dates on your calendar!

**Our BookStore Committee** has come up with a couple of new features. We have a multicultural section that includes both fiction and non-fiction, adult and children's books. Each of our people in charge of categories will place books in this new section. Please take a peek at it on Aisle 2B. The other innovation that I'm excited about is our Staff Favorite flyers. When our volunteers come across a book they really enjoyed, they will fill out this short, goldenrod paper and tuck it into the top of the book. You might find these in any section. I saw some in the new release area on the outer shelf as well as in the history and children's sections. Our volunteers love to talk to our customers about books, so this is a perfect way to spread their thoughts around. Watch for these bright quarter sheets sticking out of books!

**Have you thought about volunteering** in our Book Store? The volunteers working shifts in the store develop a great camaraderie. It's fun to meet our regular customers, hear about their day, watch children pick out their books. On a recent Saturday, a family came in to donate books. With them were their children whose books were being donated. The little girl removed the books from the big bag for us. Her mom said that these had been read by both the older brother and the little girl. She said it was hard for them to give them up, but it was time. This is one of the moments that stands out

## 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.

Computer Crew: Saturdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

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

8/3 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. How to Age in Place

8/7 6:30—7:00 p.m. Paws to Read Session 1

8/7 7:00—7:30 p.m. Paws to Read Session 2

8/12 1:00—2:30 p.m. Tiny Monoprinting Workshop

8/13 2:00—4:00 p.m. Suburbia and Beyond

*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 September 4th for Labor Day**

**Thursday October 12th for a Staff Development Day**

**Thursday November 23rd for Thanksgiving**

in our volunteer experience. Why don't you consider joining the volunteer team at our BookStore? Volunteer forms are available at the office.

**Watch for a \$2 coupon** for use at the sale or at our store in the August 2nd Castro Valley Forum!! Looking forward to seeing you at the Book Sale!!!

## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

*By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager*

**It's been a great and busy summer** at the Castro Valley Library! The crowds are back for the Children's programming as we had hoped. We had 240 attendees for our first Wednesday program this year, Bubble Show with Sterling the Bubblesmith. The children (and grown-ups) enjoyed watching the magic of the Bubblesmith with small, large, and even kid sized bubbles. The following week's program had a similar sized crowd when the East Bay Vivarium and their Traveling Reptile Show wowed the crowd with a giant monitor lizard among other reptiles.

**We had hundreds of people** show up for our Pop-Up Park in June. The Alameda County Sheriff brought their rock-climbing wall, and there was a line all day. We also had lots of games and prizes. One of the Sheriff's cars was open for kids to check out, and one of them even found the siren 🚒

What great sports the Deputies were! They must have helped more than 100 kids climb the rock wall. A few library staff even made it to the top!



**Another popular event** this summer has been our Summer Concert Series. We are offering 4 concerts this summer in June, July, August, and September. It's not too late to join us in August for local band Dee Dee Coco and their blend of rock and soul on August 24. Our last concert in September features Bollywood Blues with Aki Kumar on September 28. All concerts are in our parking lot and start at 6:30pm. Bring a lawn chair, and dinner. Give us a call for more information.

**Our very popular Tiny Art Show** is back! A tiny art show is a community art project bringing miniature art to unique spaces. We invite folks 13 and older to participate in Castro Valley Library's second annual tiny art show! Interested people should register in person and pick their free 3x3 canvas or modeling clay between July 15 and August 20 (or while supplies last). Participants can use materials from home such as paint or items for a mixed media project; just be sure your art is tiny. We will also be hosting three art classes in July and August. Please visit our website for more information and to register.

## Computer Crew and Other Volunteers

*By Nathan Silva, Teen Librarian*

**One of the questions we get asked** a lot at the Information Desk is, "when will Tech + Gadget come back?". Tech + Gadget was our program in which you could bring in various tech equipment (laptops, phones even cameras) and get assistance using or even fixing them. Not to instill a sense of false hope, but no, this isn't going to be some big grand announcement of its impending return (sorry to disappoint). However, we have just started a program that we hope can fill some small measure of the void left by Tech + Gadget, and that is our brand-new Computer Crew Program.

**Computer Crew** meets on Saturdays from 2:00-4:00pm and is composed of teenage volunteers who will sit with you and assist with computer questions you may have. No, they can't rebuild your laptop or reformat your hard drive, but if you need help with things like printing, scanning, setting up an email account, filling out a job application, or just tips and tricks navigating around the web, they are here to help you out. Our patient and dedicated helpers' aim is to take the stress out of any possible computing adventures you may wish to embark on. The program was rolled out a couple of weeks ago, and we have been fortunate to have a great group of volunteers!



**Speaking of volunteers**, the other cool thing about both summer at the library and Computer Crew is that it offers teenagers the opportunity to give back to their community and volunteer their time with a multitude of activities. A large majority of all the daily events we have during the week are run and facilitated by our volunteers. Our Summer Adventure Reading Game is entirely staffed by Middle School kids. In activities during the week like Crafternoon, Build Day and Game Day, volunteers are the ones who make the magic happen and make those programs run. In a testament to all the help we get during the summer, incredibly we see our volunteer hours nearly quadruple from where they normally stand the rest of the year.

**Volunteers are the backbone** of all of the summer events and activities we do here. If you know of any middle or high school aged individuals who would love the opportunity to give back to their community, gain some community service hours, or even just pad their college resume, send them our way so that they are able to participate and join in the fun next summer at the Castro Valley Library.

**As always, the Friends** have played a primary role in providing funding for most of the events we offer. The Castro Valley 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!**

## DONATIONS NEEDED!



**Time for Summer Cleaning!** 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 (see page 8 for BookStore hours). 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. Bring your donations directly to the BookStore office door. **Please do not leave donations elsewhere in- or outside the Library.**

**At this time, we are accepting** donations of most types of books, DVDs, and music CDs as well as magazines that are **no more than 4 months old**. We may also accept jigsaw puzzles, board games, unused greeting cards, and stationery items. We **do not accept** sets of books such as encyclopedias or 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 audio-books) or vinyl records. A good rule of thumb on condition: if you would purchase the item yourself, we will most likely accept it.

**Your donation is tax-deductible.** We are happy to give you a receipt for your donation. The receipt will specify the number of cartons or bags of books or other items received (so you don't have to stand there and wait for them to be counted.)

**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:

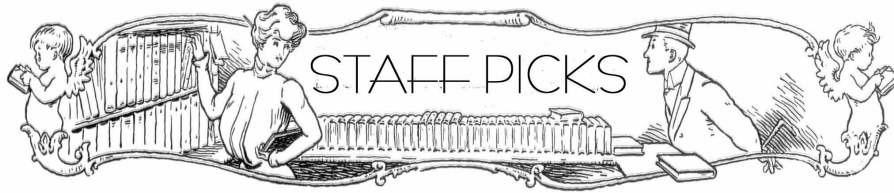
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor  
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family  
*Membership renewals are due January 1st.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_



***When Death Becomes Life: Notes from a Transplant Surgeon*** (2019) by Joshua Mezrich: The author introduces the reader into the world of transplanting organs or parts of organs from one human to another human. While efforts to accomplish these often life-saving procedures began years ago, it has only been in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century where remarkable advances have been made by pioneering surgeons and other dedicated medical personnel. Transplants of kidney, liver, heart, pancreas and other vital tissues and organs have become almost routine with the development of immunosuppressive drugs that ward off rejection of these parts of the human body. Mezrich writes of this history and his experiences in a compassionate voice, fully recognizing the roles played by the medical community, but also, most importantly, those of the donors, their loved ones, and the grateful recipients. (Ned Lyke)

***River Sing Me Home*** by Eleanor Shearer (2023 fiction): Rachel is a slave on a plantation in Barbados in the 1830's. When Britain passed the Emancipation Act of 1834, affecting the plantation owners in Barbados, said owners advised the slaves they were emancipated but would instead become apprentices for a period of six years. Therefore, their position didn't change. So Rachel runs. Her five children had years ago been sold away from Providence Plantation. She desperately wants to find them and undertakes a journey from Barbados to British Guiana to Trinidad, becoming acquainted with many friends and a few foes on her quest. I found this book to be extremely interesting because I knew very little about Caribbean history. I also found it ultimately to be extremely uplifting. (Ginger Russell)

***The Light Pirate*** by Lily Brooks-Dalton (2022 fiction): It is a point in the not-too-distant future, when storms in Florida have become extreme, and the ocean is beginning to reclaim the land. With a powerful hurricane approaching, Kirby Lowe, an electrical lineman, his pregnant wife Frida, and sons Flip and Lucas prepare for the worst. As the storm nears, the boys go missing, and Kirby heads out to look for them. At the height of the storm, Frida goes into labor and gives birth to an unusual child, whom she names Wanda after the hurricane. As Wanda grows up, she forms a bond with a local woman who is both an environmentalist and a survivalist. Florida continues to unravel, and Wanda learns to live off the remaining land. She loses family but gains community. This is a fascinating and somewhat horrifying story that everyone should become aware of. (Ginger Russell)

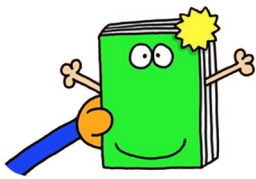
***The Covenant of Water*** By Abraham Verghese (2023 fiction): For readers of *Cutting for Stone* back in 2009, it was a long wait for Verghese's second novel. It was worth the wait! *The Covenant of Water*, published in May, is a family saga set in southwest India between 1900 and 1977. In it, we first meet a twelve-year-old girl who faces an arranged marriage to a widower with a young son. By book's end, she is the beloved matriarch, Big Ammachi. Many joys and tragedies occur in the family but hope never fades. We also meet Digby, a native of Glasgow, who joined the Indian Medical Service after being denied surgical training in London. In Madras, Digby faces the caste system where he will be responsible for "natives" in crowded wards while the Senior Physician is in charge of the British ward which is empty and the Anglo-Indian ward which has one patient. Digby is a memorable character who will touch your heart. Don't let the length of the book (715 pages) deter you! It's worth your time!! (Robin Olivier)

***Standing in the Shadows*** by Peter Robinson (2023 fiction): This is his latest and the last of his 28 novels, as he passed away in October of 2022. As always with his DCI Banks series, he keeps the reader guessing until the last pages. An ex-girlfriend went missing in 1980, but her body isn't found until an archaeologist discovers it in 2019, which sets off an investigation with twists and turns that is very well plotted in spite of its "now and then" narrative. (Barbara Kissling)

***Beyond That, the Sea*** by Laura Spence-Ash (2023 fiction): This is a tale of a young English girl who is sent to America during the Blitz in London. Beatrix is eleven years old and sails away for Boston where the Gregory family meets her. She is right between the Gregory boys in age and to her relief, they hit it off. The author tells this story through the eyes of each of the family members. Chapters are short but compelling. Observing the feelings of her family left in England—her father relieved, her mother resentful—sets the stage for later chapters in the book. Beatrix is forever changed by this experience as are her parents and the Gregory family. I can't wait for another book from this author! (Robin Olivier)

**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.

## BOOKSTORE NEWS



**Staff Favorites:** Watch for a bright yellow slip of paper stuck in various books in our BookStore. Our staff members are letting you know in a few words that they enjoyed the book and are hoping you will too. Of course, you can always ask the volunteers in the BookStore office for recommendations as well.

**Requests:** Due to the volume of book donations we receive and the rapid turnover, it's not possible for us to keep an inventory of our stock, BUT if you're looking for a certain author or title, we are happy to check in the store or office to see if we have it. We also keep a "request book" and can notify you if the item you're looking for comes in.

**Current Releases:** Look for our selection of current releases, both fiction and nonfiction, on the shelves facing the window and also the top shelf in the "fiction" section. These 2022 and 2023 books are usually priced at \$4.00, which is a great savings from the suggested retail price. If you're still not sure what to read, we also provide a free copy of the Book Page newsletter each month while supplies last. Look for it to the right of the BookStore office window.

## CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

*By Marie Blackmon*

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

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



**September:** Banned Books Awareness, back to school continues, Labor Day, National Hispanic Heritage Month, Library Card Sign-Up Month.

**October:** National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Halloween. BOO!



**November:** Native American Heritage Month, National Novel Writing Month, Thanksgiving, Black Friday.

## 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: *I Me Mine* by George Harrison, *The Real History of Secret Societies* (Great Courses), *The Fortune Teller's Mahjongg*, *Harry Potter* complete hardcover set, and many sets of comics and graphic novels. 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

**Elizabeth McCune** was one of the early members of the Friends, before our new library opened. In these past years, Elizabeth has been involved on every level—Board Member, Chair of the BookStore Committee, PIC for History and Political/Social Commentary, and a weekly volunteer on Wednesday mornings. Last month, we had to see Elizabeth off to her new home in Southern California where she will live closer to her sons and grandchildren. While we're excited for this new chapter in her life, Elizabeth has left a huge hole in our organization. Thank you, Elizabeth, for all you contributed to the Friends!!

**Jane Kraut** is one of those quiet people who is always working behind the scenes to ensure that our bookstore and organization are running smoothly. Jane watches over staffing of the BookStore, recruits substitutes, and often fills in when no one else is available. In addition, she manages our Friends' email account, forwarding important information to the appropriate people as well as sending out emails to volunteers and members throughout the year. In addition, Jane works in the BookStore weekly and is PIC for children's non-fiction books. We are so lucky to have someone like Jane in our organization! Thanks, Jane!!

### 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

Sari Weis

**Sari joined the Friends** earlier this year. She is part of our online sales staff and also serves as a substitute in the BookStore. She has also helped us with some graphics projects that you may see later in the year.

**She has lived in Castro Valley** for two years, working as a management consultant in the healthcare and science fields. She also provides operational and financial assistance for her husband's business.



**Sari loves to read**, and she enjoys hiking, yoga, and spinning. She is also learning to cook!

**She also volunteers** at Stanton Elementary, where her children attend school.

**Sari says her mom** has volunteered with the Orinda Friends for many years, so Sari is a second-generation Friend. Her children (ages 8 and 10) love visiting our BookStore and have asked when they can start volunteering.

**You may see Sari** in the BookStore at any time! Stop by and say hello.

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read. - Groucho Marx

If you only read the books everyone else is reading, you can only think what everyone else is thinking. - Haruki Murakami

You have to write the book that wants to be written. And if the book will be too difficult for grown-ups, then you write it for children. - Madeleine L'Engle

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors; and the most patient of teachers. - Charles Eliot





Mark your calendars now—the Summer Book Sale is

## AUGUST 4—6

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, all at bargain prices. We may also have jigsaw puzzles, board games, journals, and other educational and stationery supplies.

**We anticipate having about 200 cartons of books at the sale. You will be glad you came!**

Prices for most books and media items are as follows:

Hardback and Large Paperback	\$1.00
Small Paperback	\$ .50
Harlequin Romances	\$ .25
Children's & Young Adult Books	\$ .25
Comic Books	\$ .50
DVDs (per disc)	\$ .50
Music CDs (per disc)	\$ .50
Sheet Music	\$1.00

There will be a limited selection of antiquarian and special price books that are priced as marked.

**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?*

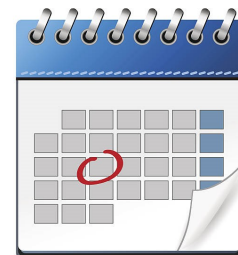
*Please remember to bring your current (2023) Friends of the Castro Valley Library membership card in order to take advantage of your \$2.00 discount. You can join or renew at the door or purchase a membership ahead of time.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**The Fall/Winter Book Sale will be**

**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.  
6 p.m. to 7:30 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.

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925-803-1210

**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

