



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library  
November 2023

THE ANNUAL MEETING IS NOVEMBER 14th ! PLEASE SEE PAGE 5 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Robin Olivier

**Happy Fall, Friends!** Autumn is bringing its usual changeable weather. Just when we're thinking about turning on the furnace, we have an 80 degree day. Hopefully, those days will give a final growth spurt to our garden vegetables!

**We had a very successful book sale** in August and were grateful to both our many volunteers who helped and to our loyal customers. Our last book sale of 2023 is coming up on the first weekend of December. The Friday night sale on December 1 from 6-8:00 is as always for members only. Members get the first peek at our amazing book selection. New membership cards will also be available to purchase at this time. The sale on Saturday, December 2, will be from 10-4 and on Sunday, we will have our \$5 a bag sale from 12-4. Be sure to put these dates on your calendar!

**We have new volunteers** staffing our Bookstore which is great news! It means our store's hours have been increased. We are now open on Mondays from 12-7 and on Wednesdays from 10-5. Thanks go to Roberto Souza of CV News who has been posting information on our Facebook and Instagram pages and to Joan King who has tirelessly trained the new volunteers.

**The CD Pop-up Sale** in late September was very successful! Carl Stanley, Joan King, Barbara Kissling and Janice Palmer organized and sold \$335 worth of CDs! Great job!!

**Our Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14 at 6:00 in the Chabot Room. We will be electing four officers: President, Operational Treasurer, and two At Large Board members each for two year terms. Other items on the agenda include the annual financial report and budget for the fiscal year, the library's wish list and any other item requested by the Board or attendees. You are invited to attend!

**A special event** is scheduled for Thursday, November 16 at 2:00 in the Chabot Room. James Roethe, a lifelong bird-watcher, will be sharing his new book, *Poetry Takes Flight: Birds of California*. He will read several of his poems and share many of his adventures hiking in California in search of birds. This event is funded by donations made to the Friends in memory of Carol Lyke. Carol was one of the founders of the Friends and she delighted in birdwatching.

## 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.

Paperwork Clinic: 2nd Mondays from 5:00 to 7:00 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

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

11/1 10:30—12:30 Genealogy Study Group (ongoing group—registration required)

11/2 11:00—12:00 Medicare Open Enrollment Presentation

11/16 2:00—3:30 *Poetry Takes Flight* (see page 6)

11/18 10:30—11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners & Beyond

12/7 11:00—12:00 Long Term Care Insurance Presentation

*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:

**Wednesday November 22nd: Close at 5 p.m.**

**Thursday November 23rd Closed for Thanksgiving**

**December 25th Closed for Christmas**

**January 1st Closed for New Year's Day**

**January 15th Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Copies of the author's book will be available to purchase. This program is free, but we ask that you contact the library to reserve a spot. Light refreshments will be served.

**We look forward to seeing you** here at our Bookstore soon. If you can volunteer time to help at our December book sale, signup sheets will be available in our office early in November.

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, PAGE 2

### MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

*By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager*

**It's spooky** that we have been open on Norbridge Ave for 14 years now! Where did the time go! On Halloween 2009 we passed books from the old library to the new location on Norbridge Ave. We called it "The Great Book Pass," and I'm so thankful to have been a part of the opening celebration. We all felt the pride and community connection that day, it was wonderful!

**We had a great summer!** Summer Adventure game, fun programming, and our Summer Concert Series. We had 4 concerts this summer in our parking lot after closing. Hundreds of people came to listen to live music and commune. Bands ranged from the beloved Hey Jude (Beatles' music) to Aki Kumar (Bollywood Blues). If you missed out, please check in next summer. We are an amazing resource for the community if I do say so myself.

**We had a very successful** American Red Cross Blood Drive in September. All appointments were full and the Red Cross was pleased with the attendance.

**Our Booklegger training is complete,** and we have 18 new Bookleggers, who will start visiting our local schools soon. Bookleggers make magic! These trained volunteers visit K to 5 classrooms to share books, from exciting adventures to suspenseful mysteries to eye-popping nonfiction. Bookleggers have presented to classrooms in every school across the District, sharing their love of reading with the next generation. Teachers and students love it when the Bookleggers come to visit, and students come running in to request the books they hear about. We are so pleased to be able to provide the school district with this beloved program again.

**Since the last newsletter,** Advanced Math & Science tutoring is back on Monday evenings. We have also brought back Genealogy on the first and third Wednesdays. Almost all of our programs and more are back since March 2020, and we are delighted to be able to provide our community with lots of valuable and interesting programming again.

**Visit us for some live,** free music this holiday. December is a big month for concerts at your library. We are still scheduling but hoping for three concerts to ring in the winter holidays.

**Planning is in full gear** for the 7th Annual Castro Valley Reads! We are excited to share next year's title with our members. I encourage you to join our community reads event and see what happens when we all read the same book. Teasers coming soon!

### A Bit of Tiny News

*By Angela Moffett, Librarian II*

**This summer we hosted** our second annual Tiny Art Show at the Castro Valley Library. A tiny art show is a community art project bringing miniature art to unique spaces. We have hosted this program for the past two years and invite folks aged 13 and older to submit tiny art for the show. We start to distribute supplies and accept submissions beginning in mid-July and conclude with a display throughout September in the main lobby.

**In partnership with local artist** Ann Maloney-Mason we also offered art classes in acrylic painting and monoprinting so community members could learn a new skill or refresh an old one. Over 40 participants were able to participate to create art for themselves or to submit for the exhibit.

**This year 127 people from the community** shared tiny art crafted from multiple mediums using a variety of different processes. One of the instructors from the Strides Day Program at Castro Valley Adult school guided her students in creating their own submissions and we have a small portion of our display dedicated to their art.

**The community is enjoying** the exhibit of acrylic, oil and watercolor paintings, clay and stone creations, figures made from wire, wool, papier-mâché, and more. We hosted an artists' reception on September 10 and over sixty people came to admire and celebrate our wonderful, artful community. We hope to welcome even more submissions in 2024!



Tiny Art originals pictured here include modeling clay and acrylic on canvas.

These are made from ink, pencil, watercolor, acrylic, collage and ink.



## 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 (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:

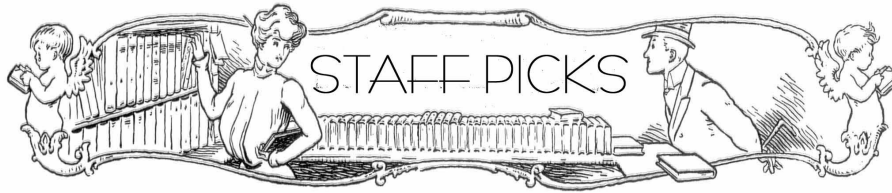
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor  
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family  
*Membership renewals are due January 1st.*

I would like to be an active Friend and help with:

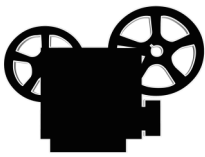
☐ Book store ☐ Sales events ☐ Membership ☐ Publications  
☐ Information Technology/Website ☐ Public Relations/Advocacy

**FOR OFFICE  
USE ONLY:**

Card Issued  
By \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



***The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece*** by Tom Hanks (2023 fiction): This is one of those books that you don't realize is a really good book until you're almost done reading it. The story begins with a comic book. The first character is the comic artist, and there are actual comic book pages bound into the book so you can see what the drawings look like. When you start reading about the comic artist, you have no idea where his story is going. And that is the format for the rest of the book, as you meet the director, the producer, and various actors and participants in the making of the



film. When you meet these people, you get a fairly detailed description of their lives, their backgrounds, and eventually how they fit into the film company and the film itself. The descriptions of filmmaking are thorough and possibly more than you needed to know, but the information is interesting. Another very uncommon detail in this book is that there are many, many footnotes that are used to explain an action or an acronym. I thought this was a very well-written book, and the characters and scenes are realistic. You don't need to be a fan of comic books or superheroes or movies made from comic books to enjoy reading this. (Ginger Russell)

***The Imposters: How Republicans Quit Governing and Seized American Politics*** (2020 nonfiction) by Steve Benen. In the plethora of books that have inundated the reading public about the current Republican Party and Trump administration this author takes a different view from the scandals, personal attacks, and questionable decisions that have titillated the reading public. He undertakes to demonstrate that Republican politicians since the beginning of the Obama years, even when they wielded power in the Senate and/or House, abandoned any pretense of governing, developing programs and helping all citizens. Rather those in power gutted their experienced staffs who knew how government is supposed to work and replaced them with marketing types whose primary mission was to denigrate, obstruct, and defeat almost all attempts to provide missions and programs of their political rivals. Some readers will find good examples of the author's thesis and will say "I told you so", while others of a different persuasion will counter with the old saying "to the victor belong the spoils". It is unfortunate that the vast number of citizens have not achieved any improvement in their lives through the failure of the Republican Party to take its role in the government seriously. One example will suffice: the failure of the Republican House and Senate, in spite of all their grandstanding and promises, to introduce a health

care plan to counter their objections to the Affordable Care Act. Why not? (Ned Lyke)

***Lady Tan and the Circle of Women*** by Lisa See (2023 fiction): This is yet another well-researched historical novel by Lisa See. According to Confucius, "an educated woman is a worthless woman" but Tan Yunxian, born into an elite 15<sup>th</sup> century Chinese family, is raised by her grandparents to be of use. She learns medicine from her grandmother and the daughter of a midwife becomes her best friend. However, through an arranged marriage, she finds herself in a traditional family that denies her both her friend and her knowledge of medicine. How does she break free of tradition and go on to treat and serve many women and lead a life of much importance? This is a fascinating novel, full of information about early Chinese medicine and childbirth, as well as family relationships and traditions. The characters are completely lifelike and real, and the story is based on historical fact. (Ginger Russell)

***The Oeuvre of Daniel Silva***: As an avid reader, one of the greatest joys is being introduced to a new author and seeing the whole list of books that I get to read! I have been reading Daniel Silva's spy fiction since his first book featuring Gabriel Allon was published. That was *The Kill Artist* in 2000. His most recent book published this year is *The Collector*. Gabriel Allon is an art restorer who also works part-time for "The Office", a semi-official Israeli intelligence agency. His books often take you to museums and cathedrals where he works to restore paintings. However, that is always interrupted by political intrigue, murder, and espionage. His books also draw on current events. In his most recent book, Allon is charged with finding a stolen Vermeer and ends up uncovering a conspiracy by Russia to use a nuclear bomb in Ukraine. If these are subjects and settings that interest you, I encourage you read Daniel Silva! (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.





## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Chabot Room.

**Agenda items include the election of officers** (President, Operational Treasurer, and two At Large Board Members) for two-year terms after the election; the annual Financial Report and budget for the next fiscal year; the library's wish list; and other subjects that may be determined by the Board 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.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

By Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer



The past fiscal year ending September 30 saw our usual three successful book sales, pop-up sales and on-line book sales. The funds generated from these sales together with the BookStore proceeds, donations, memberships and investments amounted to over \$60,000. As a result, we were able to completely fund the Library Wishlist.

The Board of Directors will be presenting the 2022-2023 Annual Report and the budget for the coming year, as well as the Library Manager's Wishlist at the Annual Meeting, to be held on the evening of Tuesday, November 14th. As always, details of the financial condition of the Friends are available to members by request or 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.

## CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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

**November:** Native American Heritage Month, National Novel Writing Month, Thanksgiving, Holiday and DIY Crafts.



**December:** Pearl Harbor, Computer Science Education Week, Hanukkah, the Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa starts, New Year's Eve.



**January:** New Year's, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, New You, National Hobby Month, National Mentoring Month.



**February:** Black History Month, American Heart Health Month, Groundhog Day, Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras.



## 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 Annotated Shakespeare*, Martin & Lewis Collection DVD, Bill O'Reilly's *Killing Crazy Horse*, *The Yiddish Alphabet Book*, *A Piece of My Soul—Quilts By Black Arkansans*, *Art Record Covers*, 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

I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our Online eBay Team! **Amber Marsh, Amy Fain and Sari Weis** have been successfully listing, selling and mailing books, CDs and DVDs to online customers. At our last treasurer's report, we saw that online sales have been averaging over \$600 a month and one month it was \$1200!! This is a time-consuming job and we are so lucky to have skilled and devoted volunteers doing it. Thank you, Amber, Amy and Sari!!

As you know, volunteers are the life's blood of our Bookstore. Since Covid, we have experienced a drop-off in the number of volunteers, which has impacted the hours we can be open. Now, thanks to our Vice President and Volunteer Trainer, **Joan King**, many new people have been trained, Monday evening is staffed as is Wednesday afternoon. Several PIC positions have also been filled. Joan has been relentless in advertising our needs, following through and interviewing each applicant, scheduling training and then training each person. This has been a monumental task and I honestly can't think of anyone else who could have accomplished it. Thank you, Joan, for always being there!

**Nancy Hollister** is leaving her post as Director at Large at the end of this year. Nancy fulfilled many responsibilities with the Friends. For several years, she posted our information on Facebook and screened volunteers for our Book Store in addition to being the Person In Charge (PIC) for our Health and Diet and New Age sections. It's people like Nancy that keep our Book Store thriving. Many thanks, Nancy!!

### 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.

### POETRY TAKES FLIGHT: BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library are honored to present James Roethe, author and poet, in a discussion of his latest book, *Poetry Takes Flight: Birds of California*, on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 2:00 PM in the Chabot/Canyon Room of the Castro Valley Library. This program is dedicated to the memory of Carol E. Lyke and is funded by donations that were made to the Friends of the Castro Valley Library in Carol's memory.



**James Roethe is a life-long birdwatcher** with a life list of over 750 different species seen in his travels throughout the world. In his many miles of hiking in California, he has often observed our local birds, and he decided to write about these familiar species in verse. The resulting book of poems about birds focuses on the lives of birds we often see in our familiar surroundings that we take for granted. Jim will read several of his poems and will talk about his many adventures as a dedicated birdwatcher.

**Jim's book focuses on** some of the interests of the person we honor with this program. Carol Lyke was a dedicated birdwatcher who, with her husband Ned, spent many years enjoying birds around the world. She was also fascinated with the written word. She was a strong proponent of the value of books, especially to children. She dedicated much of her life to teaching and exploring the natural world. She would have greatly enjoyed reading these poems! Carol was a beloved member of the Friends of the Castro Valley Library. Those of us who knew her are pleased that this program in her honor explores subjects very dear to her.



**This program is open** to all at no charge, but advance reservations are required. To register visit the events page at [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org) or call the library at 510-667-7900. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us for this interesting presentation!



**Paperback books** are like velveteen rabbits—there to be loved and squeezed and read and stuffed into shoulder bags and left in the sun and read again until there is nothing left but the best kind of memories.

Jonathan Edward Durham



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

## DECEMBER 1—3

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 250 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 gift quality, 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. Memberships purchased at this sale will be for 2024.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

The 2024 book sale dates are:

**April 26-28**

**August 2-4**

**December 6-8**



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 7:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday** 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday** 10 a.m. to 5:30 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. See Page 5 for information about our Annual Meeting on 11/14. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly. Please check your newsletter or our website for upcoming meeting dates and other events.

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

