



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library  
May 2024

THE NEXT BOOK SALE IS AUGUST 2ND—4TH!



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Robin Olivier

### Happy Springtime, Friends!

We've made it through another winter and now can enjoy the flower blooming and vegetable planting time of year. We've had a very successful winter in our bookstore and with our online sales. Our bookstore volunteers try to identify books that may be more valuable than others. Sometimes we have found real treasures! Our online team has accomplished so much! Many new bookstore volunteers (15!) have been recruited, trained, and are now manning our store! We're now open every day the library is open, even Sundays. We're so glad to have our new volunteers, young and older alike.

By the time you receive this newsletter, several significant activities will have taken place. On April 14, the culmination of our 2024 Castro Valley Reads program was held following several discussion groups, a panel discussion, and a lecture about one of the real characters in our book, *The Cold Millions*. The Friends provided 400 books to the community for this program! Can't wait for next year!

Our Spring Book Sale has taken place as well. As you know, we ran into a problem with what to do with the leftover books. I want to thank you for the prompt responses and helpful suggestions. It's inspiring to have seen how our members value our book sales and want to help.

## 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.

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

Genealogy Study Group : First and third Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. (registration is not required)

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

5/1 (and ongoing) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wee Ones Storytime for Pre-Walkers—registration required.

5/6 6:30-7:00 or 7:00-7:30 p.m. Paws to Read (2 sessions—registration required.

5/14 6:00-8:00 p.m. Start Smart Teen Driving—registration required.

5/18 10:30-11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners and Beyond (every 3rd Saturday)

5/18 2:00-4:00 p.m. Gardening Series: Compost Happens

5/19 2:00-4:00 Digitize & Document Your Family History

*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 27th for Memorial Day

Thursday July 4th for Independence Day

**Without your donations** of books, CDs, and DVDs, we wouldn't be in business. Thank you for continuing to support our bookstore! Please let your friends and neighbors know we are here!

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, PAGE 2

### MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

*By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager*

**Our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Castro Valley Reads** is officially over. Our theme this year, The Labor Movement and Income Inequality, was as well timed with the recent Union movements as we could have made it. We had a well-attended finale/interview with the author, Jess Walter via video call. Our best laid plans were waylaid at the last minute by unavoidable issues. We are grateful to Jess Walter for meeting with us online, Bill Sokol for interviewing Jess, and we did enjoy meeting in person, eating delicious desserts and gathering as a community together.

**The programming around Castro Valley Reads** was through provoking and relevant. We offered a program on The First Amendment with a local educator, journalist, and the Executive Director of the First Amendment Coalition, which educates, advocates, and litigates to advance government transparency and First Amendment protections for all. Local labor lawyer, Bill Sokol, spoke to us about Income and Inequality at another program.

**Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Earth Day event** with ForestR took place on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Great information and demonstrations about gardening, woodworking, the environment, and free fruit!

**AARP was 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!

**We also served as a Registrar of Voters** training center and 11-day Voting Center in the Presidential Primaries during February and March. So nice to see people coming out to vote. Our parking lot was the fullest I've seen in it a long time on March 5<sup>th</sup>!

**I'm sorry to report** we have lost out Job Lab volunteers. If you know someone who has a background in Human Resources/Recruitment and would like to volunteer a few hours per week at the library, please send them our way.

**Summer is just about here** and will hopefully be a relief from the much-needed stormy season we just experienced. The Summer Adventure theme this year is **Engaging the Senses**. Summer Adventure runs June 1 thru August 1 this year. Our theme encourages members to go on an adventure of the senses—from the physical to our unique sense of humor, pride, and curiosity! Players can complete activities, read and more to receive a book gift and be entered into a drawing for prizes. All ages are welcome! As always, we will be offering school aged programming daily.

**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 a 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!**

### FUN CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

*By Leo Liang, Children's Librarian*

**The past year at the library** has been an exhilarating whirlwind of excitement as we continue to expand our program offerings! We feel incredibly fortunate to maintain a longstanding partnership with the Valley Humane Society. Their dedicated volunteers regularly bring their certified therapy dogs, enriching our Paws to Read program. This program provides children with a unique opportunity to enhance their reading skills through one-on-one sessions with the dogs. Numerous studies have demonstrated the positive impact of reading to dogs on children's literacy development and self-confidence. If your little ones haven't yet had the chance to participate in our program, we encourage you to give it a try!



**This year also marks** the beginning of our monthly LEGO Club for kids. We're thrilled to introduce this awesome program designed to inspire young minds and foster a love for innovation through the beloved medium of LEGO bricks. With LEGO, children have the power to construct entire worlds limited only by their imaginations. Each session of our LEGO Club features a challenge for kids to tackle. Our first challenge invited builders to construct a boat, but it wasn't just any regular boat—the boat had to float and successfully navigate across a tub of water! LEGO isn't just about stacking bricks; it's about problem-solving. As they encounter challenges and setbacks during their builds, children learned to think critically, adapt their designs, and overcome obstacles. Whether your little one is a seasoned LEGO enthusiast or a newcomer to the world of bricks, our LEGO Club welcomes builders of all skill levels and backgrounds. Every creation is showcased in our children's display case.

**As the beginning of spring arrived,** the library unveiled its first official StoryWalk®. A StoryWalk® offers a blend of literacy promotion and being outdoors. There are 17 posts along the pathway around the library, each one featuring a segment of the story paired with an engaging activity or question. Our vision is to refresh the story displayed every few months, ensuring there's always something new to discover and enjoy! Keep your eyes peeled for our upcoming stories—we might even have the pleasure of hosting a local author to guide us through their own story.

**June is always one of the best times** to visit the library. This year's Summer Adventure theme is **Engaging the Senses** and it will take place from June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>. **Engaging the Senses** encourages members to go on an adventure of the senses—from the physical to our unique sense of humor, pride, and curiosity. We are excited to get the theme out to the public and have bookmarks and flyers we hope will help do just that. The Castro Valley Library is looking forward to our next grand adventure and we hope you'll be joining us!

*(See page 5 for more photos!)*

## DONATIONS ALWAYS 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—note we are now open Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00!). 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.

## 2024 Memberships Available Now!

**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:

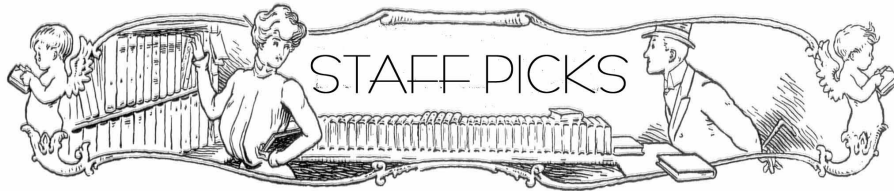
- \$10 Individual    \$20 Family    \$5 Youth    \$35 Corporate Sponsor  
 \$50 Benefactor    \$200 Lifetime—Individual    \$300 Lifetime—Family  
*Membership renewals are due January 1st.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_



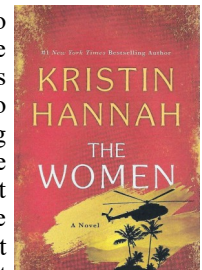
***Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane** (2023 fiction) brings back memories of his 2001 unforgettable *Mystic River*. This is also set in Boston, but at a very specific time—summer of 1974 when forced integration of Boston schools was about to go into effect. The people of Southie, the Irish American enclave, were infuriated that their high school children were to be sent to a predominantly African American school. Public protests were loud and sometimes violent. Senator Edward Kennedy was spat upon for favoring bussing. At the same time as the political temperature was rising, a young black man had car trouble and left his car on the street as he went to the subway. He was seen by a group of white teenagers, chased, and later found dead near the subway tracks. This is just the beginning of this gritty novel that spares no time sugar coating crime and loss. Mary Pat is a mom who has lost a son to drugs and lives in an environment where crime surrounds her. As she searches for her missing daughter, she recognizes the racist foundation of the attitudes she grew up with and passed on. Lehane uses every bigoted slur imaginable. This is a hard-hitting novel, not for the weak of heart. Yet, in our day, there may be lessons to be learned. (Robin Olivier)

***Nettle and Bone* by T. Kingfisher** (2022 fiction): Marra is the youngest princess of her kingdom. Her eldest sister was married off to the prince of a neighboring kingdom and died under suspicious circumstances. Her second sister was then married off to the same prince and even sheltered Marra, since sent off to live in a convent, can see that something is very wrong. If nothing happens, her sister will die and then she will meet the same fate. There is no one to save them but Marra herself. So off Marra goes to the dust-wife, who requires her to complete three impossible tasks before she will commit to helping Marra on her equally impossible quest. Marra is thirty years old. She isn't fantastically beautiful, intelligent, clever, or talented. But she is a kind soul, and she's persistent. And somehow she seems to have a knack for the impossible. Perhaps the little group she's pulled together has a chance at success, and just maybe they won't all die in the process. Though there were some points where the pacing felt off, and places where explanations would have been appreciated, I found that I greatly enjoyed this novel. It's a standalone, so there's no waiting for the next in the series. (Amber Marsh)

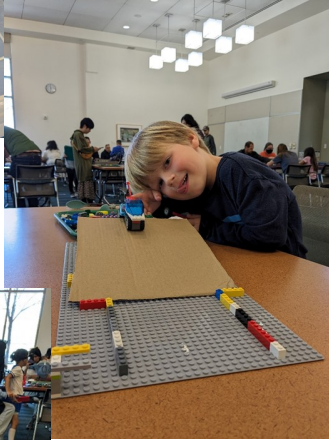
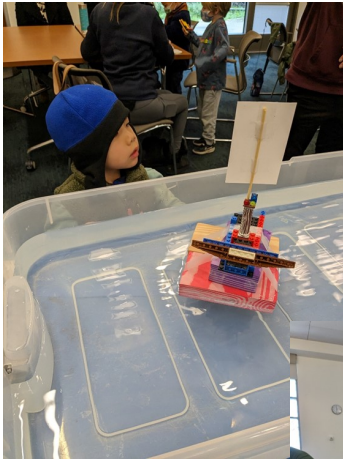
***The Women* by Kristin Hannah** (2024 fiction): This is just as good a read as all the other Kristin Hannah books. Twenty-year-old nursing student Frankie McGrath has been raised to understand that women are born to be wives and mothers, and possibly to take on "female" jobs like nurse or secretary. Her brother, by virtue of being male, has the chance to become a hero when he enlists to join the Vietnam conflict. However, he loses his life early on, and

Frankie determines that she can transfer her nursing skills and her courage to join the military as a nurse. Even enlisting is difficult, but she is able to join the Army, and with a minimum of practical training to add to her nursing degree, she finds herself in Vietnam and in the middle of a war. The first half of the book takes place in Vietnam, and includes the prejudices but also the hard work and sacrifice that Frankie faces. The descriptions are sometimes graphic (which they need to be in order to convey the continuing peril). After serving her time, as well as an extension, Frankie comes home to find that not only is she not considered a hero, but her family and the government don't even acknowledge that she was in Vietnam at all. The second part of the book outlines Frankie's struggle to resume her career and co-exist with her family in a country that seems to abhor anyone who served in Vietnam. She suffers from PTSD. The VA will not help her. Her only sources of encouragement are the two friends and fellow nurses who served with her. Eventually, the Vietnam Memorial is built, and the nurses achieve some recognition, but it is hard-fought. Even though I lived during this time in our history, I have to confess I did not know that most of this was happening to the returning troops, so I am grateful to Ms. Hannah for telling this story. (Ginger Russell)

***The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies* by Alison Goodman** (2023 fiction): Lady Augusta Colebrook (called "Gus") is unmarried by choice, tired of being dismissed because she's a woman, and bored with life. So is her twin sister Julia, who is grieving the death of her betrothed. They need a distraction, and what could be better than rescuing their friend's goddaughter Caroline from her abusive husband. On the way to accomplish this, they are accosted by a highwayman, whom Gus accidentally shoots (not fatally). The highwayman soon becomes part of the rescue plot. There are two more "rescues" in this book, each one more complicated than the previous one. The stories are both thrilling and humorous. The ladies are very likeable and somewhat preposterous. Set in the early 1800's, the book is well-written and true to the time period. I can see this becoming a series. I thoroughly enjoyed it. (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 can be up to approximately 250 words in length and should include the publication date.



## LEGO CLUB!

(See Page 2)

## 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 Islander Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, National Bike Month, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day



**June:** Father's Day, Flag Day, Juneteenth, Best Ever Month to Get Married, Pride Month, National Safety Month

**July:** Independence Day, National Ice Cream Month, Family Vacations, Summer Reading



**August:** American Artist Appreciation Month, National Golf Month, 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 Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis Collection DVD, Under the Air, Jigsaw Jones Mystery Box Set, The Saffron Tales Persian Cookbook, Our Bodies Ourselves, The History of the 94th Infantry Division, Dinosaurs First & Second Seasons DVD, 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

**In an organization like ours**, there are many people who provide critical support, but are not that visible. Two of these are our Operational Treasurer, Elizabeth Rinehart and Recording Treasurer, Barbara Kissling. Elizabeth picks up the daily receipts from the store and honesty box and deposits them in our bank as well as paying bills. Barbara reconciles our finances each month and provides a report to the Board, as well as filing forms as needed. Obviously there are even more responsibilities that I haven't enumerated! These are ongoing tasks that these women have performed over several years. We are so grateful to them for their commitment and willingness to serve! Thank you, Elizabeth and Barbara!!

**We value our volunteers** so much that when a faithful, long serving volunteer moves, it is such a loss. Sheila Keisner was our most senior volunteer. She served on the Board a number of times, working as treasurer and holding other positions. For many years, she has been the Person In Charge of our fiction and mystery sections. We celebrate all her contributions and wish her much happiness in her new home!

**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**

Susan Robertson

Sue has been with the Friends of the Castro Valley Library for about two years. She works in the BookStore Saturday mornings and also reviews incoming volunteer applications and contacts the prospective volunteers to explain the details of various positions that are available.

She has lived in and around Castro Valley since 1960 when her dad was transferred to the Alameda Naval Air Station from Patuxent River, MD.

A retired program specialist from San Lorenzo Unified School District, Sue taught Special Needs children for 34 years.

Sue volunteers with the library's Booklegger program, reading books to second graders at Castro Valley schools. She loves to read murder mysteries. Her favorite authors are Louise Penny and Jodi Picoult. She also loves to garden and takes watercolor classes through the adult school.

Her son and his wife and children live in Tennessee. Her twin granddaughters are 12 years old, and their younger sister is 9.

Stop by the BookStore on Saturday mornings to say hello to Sue. You may also see her at the upcoming book sales.

**So please, oh please**, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall.

- Roald Dahl

**The more that you read**, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.

- Dr. Seuss



Mark your calendars now— the Spring Book Sale is

## AUGUST 2—4

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.

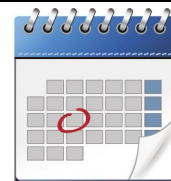
***Planning to attend?***

***Please remember to bring your current (2024) 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 remaining 2024 book sale dates are:

**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** 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD**

Robin Olivier, President  
Joan King, Vice President  
Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer  
Elizabeth Rinehart, Operational Treasurer  
Rose Kish, Secretary  
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Roger Caswell, At-Large Director  
Wayne Ainsworth, At-Large Director  
Amy Fain, 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. Our annual meeting will be held in November.

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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

