



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
August 2024

THE NEXT BOOK SALE IS AUGUST 2ND—4TH!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Robin Olivier

Happy Summer, Friends! It's hard to believe that we're halfway through summer already. Lots of activities are planned for the summer here at the library. Children's activities are scheduled daily, many of which are funded by the Friends. The first of three outdoor concerts has taken place, with one scheduled in August and another in September. For us, of course, our summer book sale scheduled for August 2, 3, and 4 is foremost in our minds. As always, Friday night from 6-8 is reserved for members of the Friends so that you get first choice of the books, DVDs, and CDs. Saturday is from 10-4 and Bag Day on Sunday from 1-4 is when you can fill one of our paper bags for \$5! I hope the dates are on your calendar. **Watch for a \$2 coupon for use at the sale on Saturday in the July 31 Castro Valley Forum.**

Thanks to your donations and the eagle eyes of our volunteers, the Friends are having great success selling on eBay. Our eBay team of Amy Fain, Scott Morgan, and Amber Marsh post pictures and descriptions of interesting donated materials on eBay. When someone buys an item (we have had more than one buyer in Europe!), one of the team comes into the store, boxes and wraps the item, weighs it and places postage on it and then takes it to the post office. We are so fortunate to have these hardworking team members willing to put in so much time and effort in creating this offshoot of the Bookstore! There have been times when eBay sales have exceeded those of our Bookstore. Volunteers are always thrilled when they find out that a book they identified as a possible eBay candidate is sold!

Speaking of volunteers, have you considered volunteering in our store or at one of our book sales? The yellow volunteer form is available right in front of our office. Volunteers usually work one three-hour shift a week. We have a volunteer trainer who works with new people to help them learn the procedures. Having been a volunteer myself since 2011, I can tell you that it's a great way to feel part of the community. We have regular customers and it's fun to talk about books with them. I've also become good friends with my coworkers. Please pick up and submit a volunteer form if you're interested. For those who might like to help out at the August book sale, there will be sign-up sheets in our office early in July. If you come by, just ask a volunteer for the sign-up sheets.

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 required.

Page Turners Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Registration required.

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):

July 28 2:00-3:30 p.m. Create a Bird Collage (reg. required)

August 2—4 Friends of CV Library Book Sale

August 8 6:30-7:30 p.m. Summer Concert—Mark Hummel

August 11 2:00-3:00 p.m. Creating a Bird Friendly Garden

August 17 10:30-11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners

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:

September 2nd for Labor Day

October 10th for Staff Training

The Carol Lyke Memorial Program is offering its second presentation on Sunday, July 28. Please read the article about it in this newsletter. We're glad to once again honor the memory of our dear friend, Carol.

Looking forward to seeing you at the August 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 saw large crowds for all our programming, including weekly: Build It Day, Game Day, Movie Day and Performers. Alameda County Firefighters visited us for two separate story times, we did Yoga, debated, wrote poetry and managed a lot of volunteers. We also explored our senses with a lot of hands-on activities like secret smells and a mystery box challenge.

In July we invited the Red Cross back for a blood drive in our Chabot/Canyon room. It's so interesting to see our meeting room transformed into a lifesaving medical space. It was fun to see some of our regular members come in and give blood, and to see new faces who are regular donors in our community.

We offered another Summer Concert Series this summer, in fact, you can still catch a couple if you like. All of our summer concerts are in our parking lot, bring your own chair, and we have been blessed with lovely evenings so far. Dee Dee Coco and their blend of rock and soul kicked off our series on July 11. Mark Hummel's grammy nominated West Coast jazz is happening on August 8 and our final concert, Broken Compass Bluegrass (BCB), rapidly recognized for their tight arrangements, tasteful picking, and distinguished songwriting. BCB have quickly established themselves as one of California's most prominent up-and-coming string bands. They have performed at the High Sierra Music Festival, Strawberry, Winter WonderGrass, Hang Town and more! Come see them pick live and experience the magic in real time on September 12! All concerts are in our parking lot and start at 6:30pm. Bring a lawn chair, and dinner. Give us a call or visit our website for more information (aclibrary.org).

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 5 years and older to participate in Castro Valley Library's third annual 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 art classes in July and August for all ages. Please visit our website for more information and to register.

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!

BEHIND THE SCENES IN YOUR LIBRARY

By Patty Mangel, Library Assistant Manager

Do you ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes in your library? Have you ever thought about how the books get to where they belong? Let me tell you! When you see us working at the membership desk, you're seeing a fraction of what we do each day.

In the backroom here at Castro Valley, we have an AMHS (our return machine.) Each hour we have someone scheduled to take the books out of the trolleys they fall into and place them in order on the carts. This person also empties the book drop, checks items in, and places them on carts. When carts get full, our pages wheel the carts out and shelve them. In between shelving, our pages pull all the books that are on hold, to go on our hold shelf or to another branch.

We get deliveries each weekday. These come from all the other branches to fill the holds our members have placed. Our clerks check in all the books and DVDs from the delivery bins. We get anywhere from 20-45 bins daily. All the items checked in either get put on the hold shelf for members to pick up, or they are put on carts to be shelved. Sometimes it takes all day to get through our delivery!



Our morning duties include pulling items for the Link Plus system and pulling all the expired holds off the hold shelves. These items get checked in and sent to the next person in line, or they go back to their home branch to be re-shelved.

We also deal with any problems that come up, such as books returned with damage or books from a different library system being returned here. We find books that need to be cleaned, books with stickers on them, books stained with food and drink, books with barcodes peeled off, and many other odd things that pop up.

Every day is different for us, and we like it that way! We happily serve our community by being the "keepers of the books" and we love it when we get to interact with our members. We love our library!

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:

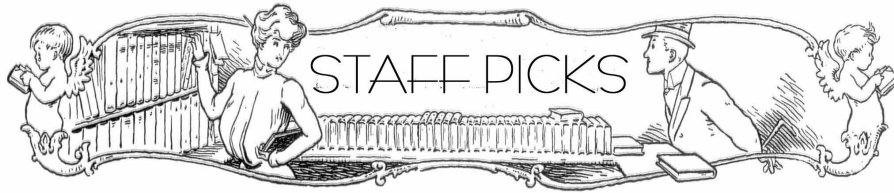
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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

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

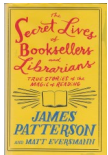
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The Serpent and the Wings of Night by Carissa Broadbent (2022 fiction): As a current lover of all things Sarah J. Maas and Rebecca Yarros, and a former *Twilight* fanatic, I find this book to be a pure gem. Set within an empire-building age of familiarity, the protagonist is a woman like no other, Oraya. Her struggles and successes in finding her power had me cheering her on each page as she balanced a gauntlet-like challenge with the imposing struggle of the creatures within the world around her – vampires and humans – and an epic love story that gives Bella/Edward, Bryce/Hunt, and Xaden/Violet a run for their money. I could not put it down. (Andrea Struve)

The Secret Lives of Booksellers and Librarians, edited by James Patterson, et.al. (2024 nonfiction): This is a collection of many anecdotes (from 3 to maybe 10 pages each) written by booksellers and librarians across the U.S. and Canada. Inspiring and enlightening, funny and wise, each selection describes a part of the writer's life – how their career began, an especially wonderful event that happened, how their particular job helped someone, or how someone helped them. Topics include banned books, a library's or bookstore's place in the community, encouraging children to read, researching and finding information, and other tasks encountered in the course of a day or a year. This was the perfect book for a volunteer in a library bookstore. Perhaps it would also be the perfect book for you! Even if you're not in one of these professions, you will appreciate them all the more. (Ginger Russell)

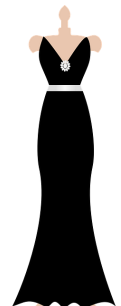


The Fox Wife by Yangsze Choo (2024 fiction): In 1908 Manchuria, a courtesan is found frozen to death in a doorway. There are rumors of foxes, who are said to take the form of beautiful women and handsome men. Bao, a detective with the ability to discern when people tell lies, is hired to find the woman's identity. Meanwhile, a family who owns a famous medicine shop can cure ailments, but they aren't able to find a way to escape a curse that has caused the death of eldest sons before their 24th birthday. Hiring a beautiful servant named Snow seems to change their luck. Snow has many secrets, but mostly she is seeking vengeance for the death of her daughter. She follows the trail of the murderer from China to Japan, while Bao doggedly follows the same path, as they encounter old friends and spirits. *The Fox Wife* is a fantastic and stunning novel about mortals, spirits, and love. (Ginger Russell)



The Good Girl Complex by Elle Kennedy (2022 fiction): Elle Kennedy does not disappoint with this contemporary romance! She sets the scene early on in a tale as old as time: a quiet beach town engaged in a battle between the tight-knit locals and the wealthy tourists and college students. However, the tense setting is the last predictable thing about this romantic read. From a revenge bet to finding one's voice and what it means to feel at home. Mackenzie (Mac) and Cooper Hartley's love story is one for the books (pun intended). (Andrea Struve)

The Paris Novel by Ruth Reichl, (2024 fiction): If ever there was a summer novel to read, it is this one! Do you dream of spending some time in Paris? Do you love gourmet food? Would you consider becoming a "Tumbleweed" in the famed Shakespeare and Company bookstore? How about vintage clothes, possibly trying on a Dior? All of this is happening to Stella in 1983 whose estranged mother leaves her a ticket to Paris as her inheritance. For Stella, this is definitely out of her comfort zone. She is a copy editor for a small printing company who plans every moment of her life. Once she arrives in Paris, she begins to meet interesting people and tries doing things on the spur of the moment. Ruth Reichl, the author and former editor of *Gourmet* magazine and restaurant critic, of course places Stella in many culinary spots throughout the novel and her description of food few of us have regularly tasted add to the adventure. There is also a search for an artist which takes Stella to fascinating libraries and bookstores. Losing her hotel room, takes her to the famed Shakespeare and Company bookstore where George Whitman, the legendary owner allows her to stay in an alcove as a Tumbleweed, someone who stays for free, but does odd jobs as needed. There's so much more—romance, looking for her father, but hopefully just this is tempting you. Please give this book a try. You know it can't be real, but wouldn't it be fun? (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 can be up to approximately 250 words in length and should include the publication date.

Carol E. Lyke Memorial Program

A Memorial Program that honors the legacy of Carol E. Lyke will be held on Sunday, July 28th, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM at the Castro Valley Library. The program is entitled **Create a Bird Collage** with Castro Valley artist Peggy Maurer as the guest presenter. Registration is limited. Visit the library's events page to sign up.

This program continues a series of events and donations by the Friends of the Castro Valley Library in Carol's memory to the programs of the Alameda County Library System and the local Castro Valley branch. Carol was a beloved long-time member of the Friends, instrumental in establishing, with her husband Ned and other volunteers, the very successful BookStore in the new Castro Valley Library in 2009. She volunteered hundreds of hours to the administration and programs of the Friends, promoting especially the joy and value of books for children, as well as adult literature.



Carol was a life-long bird watcher, lover of the natural world, and enthusiastic educator for the Book Leggers, for reproductive health at Planned Parenthood, and local and state agencies, for classes in human sexuality, medical terminology, and human health at Chabot College and CSU East Bay. She was a superb cook and a founding member of the Sunset Luncheon Group, as well as enjoying the company of many friends in the community. She and Ned were enthusiastic travelers with Road Scholar, visiting many areas of the world, expanding their knowledge of the natural world, people of other countries, and making many new life-long friends.

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, Back to School



LABOR DAY **September:** Labor Day, Banned Books Awareness, National Hispanic Heritage Month, Civic Awareness Month



October: National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Family History Month, Halloween



November: Native American Heritage Month, National Novel Writing Month, Picture Book Month, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving

NOW SELLING ON eBay

The Friends of the CV Library are now selling books, DVDs, and CDs on eBay. Many selected unusual, rare, and higher-value items are offered at reasonable prices. We have over 400 listings.

Our seller name is *friendscvlibrary*. Some of the items we currently have listed are: Dean Martin Celebrity Roasts DVDs, Bead Stitching Handbook, Rough Justice Sketches of Alex Ross, Wings of Pride TWA Cabin Attendants, Madonna Nudes, This is Elvis 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.





CORNER

By Robin Olivier, President

Sometimes an organization gets lucky and one of its members is multi-talented. That would be someone who could create a wooden donation box, who could build a new computer table for the bookstore so that volunteers would have access to two computers. It would be someone who delivers sales boxes to the storage units weekly and returns with requested items, who on book sale weekends, rents a truck and organizes volunteers to bring 200+ boxes to the library for the sale. This same person rents the tables needed for the sales and is the main communicator with the business that takes our discards at the end. Recently, after Discover Books left, this was a major undertaking to make our new arrangements with DR3. The Friends of Castro Valley Library have just such a person in **Roger Caswell**. Roger is also a Board member and longtime Friend. I cannot imagine how we would fare without him. Thank you, Roger for all the things you do to benefit the Friends!

This newsletter that you are reading is created by one of our longest serving Friends. **Ginger Russell** makes this all look easy! Her organization, beginning with her NNN (Newsletter Nag Notice) provided to all contributors well in advance of deadlines, her skill in incorporating library and Friends' information, designing an attractive and easy to read format, as well as including book reviews makes our Newsletter both useful and interesting. In addition to this editorial responsibility, Ginger also works a weekly shift in our BookStore and is in charge of antiquarian, transportation and military categories. At our book sales, you can usually see Ginger hosting a table of unusual and fascinating antiquarian books as well as special gift quality books. Our organization is blessed to have a loyal volunteer like Ginger Russell. Thank you for everything, Ginger!

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
Sue Israel

Sue began working in the BookStore this past November. She is the co-PIC for preschool children's books and works on Mondays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

She retired last year from teaching kindergarten at Chabot Elementary School. She taught for 30 years in all and loved it. She still helps out in the kindergarten several days a week and also with Chabot Elementary's annual school musical.

With her husband Jeff, Sue works with ForestR, gleaning residents' excess fruit and taking it to food pantries in Castro Valley. They also volunteer at the Alameda County Food Bank. Her hobbies are gardening, hiking, and swimming.

They have lived in Castro Valley since 1992, raising 3 children, and now have 5 grandchildren, all local so they can spend lots of time together.

Sage Park Returning to the Library!

Coming soon is the revitalization of the library's little pocket park affectionally called "Sage Park". Sage Park will wrap around the front entrance of the library, both east and west sides and will showcase native plants in the Bay Area. The natives will display both the beauty of native gardens and their benefits including drought



resistance, reduction of pesticide use, and protection of the environment, mainly our creeks and waterways.

Heading up the work to bring Sage Park back is ForestR.org, a non-profit group with a pas-

sion for greening Castro Valley and nearby areas. ForestR will be conducting workdays to clean, construct, and replant Sage Park. Please contact them if you are interested in volunteering your time to help or to learn more about Sage and other pocket parks and gardens ForestR has created. ForestR always welcomes more members of the community to help green and maintain parks and gardens. Stay tuned for more updates as this project develops.



Mark your calendars now—the Summer 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 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

2025 dates will appear in the November issue

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 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 for more information.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

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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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Select Imaging

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925-803-1210

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Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

