



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
November 2024

OUR ANNUAL MEETING IS NOVEMBER 19th. SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Robin Olivier

Hello, Friends! Summer dashed by before we knew it and now we are looking toward the holiday season. During the summer, we had a very successful book sale in August and we are so grateful to the volunteers who made it happen as well as all the shoppers! On late Sunday, we were able to make free books available to a prison program, a Friends' store in the San Joaquin Valley and to our local Little Free Libraries. Everyone wins!!

Our next book sale is the first weekend of December. The Friday night sale is on December 6 from 6-8 p.m. for members only. As always, members get first chance to peruse our great book, audio and video selections. There will also be specially priced books that will be wonderful holiday gifts. **New membership cards will also be available to purchase at this time.** The sale on Saturday, the 7th, is from 10-4 and on Sunday, December 8, we will have our \$5 a bag sale from 12-4. If you are buying children's books, please be sure to look at the collection of audible children's books. The library discontinued these and gave them to the Friends to sell. It's a great selection from pre-school to middle school levels. You'll find them in the children's section of the sale. **Watch for a \$2 off coupon in the December 4 Forum for use at Saturday's sale!**

Our eBay team has continued to bring in over \$1000 a month in sales. We recently sold a book to a person in Puerto Rico! Our team of Amy Fain, Scott Morgan, Wayne Ainsworth, Amber Marsh and Nancy Gee work diligently to identify books and other material that is better placed on line than in our bookstore. They are supported by the volunteers who spot potential sale items. Then the hands-on work begins as items sell, members of the team box, weigh, label and mail them. It is labor intensive! We are so grateful that our volunteers have really entered into this endeavor with enthusiasm!

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, at 6:00 in the Chabot Room. We will be electing Vice President, Secretary, Recording Treasurer, and three At Large Board members for 2 year terms. Other items on the agenda include our Annual Financial Report and budget for the fiscal year, the Library's Wishlist and any other items requested by the Board or attendees. You are invited to attend and participate in the discussion.

A Volunteer Dinner was held in October to which all volunteers were invited. This had been an annual event before

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.

Mystery Book Club: First Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Reg. Required

Practice Your English: Sundays 2:00-3:00 p.m. Reg. 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):

November 2: iPhone Basics 10:30-12:30; iPhone Keep in Touch 1:30-3:30 (separate classes, registration required.)

November 16: iPhone Stay Organized 10:30-12:30; iPhone Managing Passwords & Security 1:30-3:30 (separate classes, registration required)

Events are subject to update or change. Some events require advance registration. Please check the library website for the latest information or registration requirements.

Upcoming Holidays:

The library will be closed on the following days:

November 11th for Veterans Day

November 28th for Thanksgiving

December 25th for Christmas

January 1st for New Year's Day

January 20th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Covid. It is a way to thank our volunteers for their service to our organization and to the community. Since we all work different shifts in the store, we don't always see the others. It was so much fun seeing each other in a different setting and also meeting some spouses. We had food catered by El Rancho and everyone enjoyed it as well as the homemade cookies provided by Board members. Best of all, the weather cooperated!

Looking forward to seeing you at our Bookstore soon! If you can volunteer time to work at our December book sale, sign up sheets will be in the office in early November.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

We just celebrated our 15th birthday at the “new” library on Norbridge Ave! It’s difficult to imagine how quickly the time has gone, and I still meet people who have lived here a long time and are visiting for the first time.

We had a great summer! Summer Adventure programming and our Summer Concert Series were the highlights for me. We had 3 concerts this summer in our parking lot after closing. Hundreds of people came to listen to live music and commune. Bands ranged from local performers, Dee Dee Coco and Mark Hummel to Broken Compass Bluegrass. If you missed out, please check in next summer.

I’m pleased to share that your library is the new home of an Artemis Generation “Moon Tree.” Out of hundreds of applications, NASA selected local nonprofit ForestR.org with Castro Valley Library as the recipients of one of the seedlings generated from seeds that flew around the moon aboard Artemis I in 2022.



After returning to Earth, the tree seeds germinated under the care of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service as the work to identify their new homes was underway. NASA chose institutions based on criteria that evaluated their suitability to care for the various tree species and their ability to maximize educational opportunities around the life and growth of the tree in their communities.

The tree was named “Lana Luna” after local resident Lana Carlos. Lana Carlos was a bright, young community member who was tragically killed in February 2020. Lana loved space, nature, reading and writing and the library. We were honored to name the Artemis tree after her. We also had a storytime, Storywalk®, a child car seat safety check with the CHP and more to provide families with children an opportunity to learn about traffic safety.

We planned lots of educational opportunities at the library to celebrate our new addition, including a solar system family storytime, and other space related author events.

We were also joined by Jessica Cruz, Atmospheric Scientist from the Atmospheric, Earth, and Energy Division of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Ms. Cruz shared information about her work preparing the Mars Rover and other vehicles for travel in space, human preparation for space travel, eating and growing plants in space, and more.

We are also actively planning for the 8th 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! Our author event will be in person at the Douglas Morrison Theatre in April 2025.

We’ve Got More Than Books at the Library!

By Lyn Leone, Older Adult Services Librarian

This November we kick off the return of our computer classes! We have been unable to offer computer classes since Pre-Covid and are pleased to bring them back this fall. We’ll begin with a Saturday series focused on iPhones and iPads. With a new, more relaxed pace, these classes will cover the basics of using your iOS device, creating calendars and reminders, and managing those pesky passwords. Future series will include Google Workspace, Microsoft Office, Windows 11 and more! Visit our events calendar at <https://aclibrary.org/locations/CSV/> to see more about what’s on offer and to enroll.

Our Savvy Senior program continues to offer relevant topics for local Seniors. We recently partnered with HICAP to offer a Consumer Fraud program about scams targeting seniors. On October 23, HICAP presented their yearly program to educate members about Medicare & the annual enrollment period: Changes for 2025. We’ll restart these important informational programs in 2025.



Come in and check out our seed library! Created in partnership with ForestR.org, the seed library is free to use, and seeds can be picked up any day the library is open. By borrowing seeds, growing a plant and sending seeds back to our seed library, you’ll be helping us keep our seed library program going. In addition, we’ll be hosting workshops and events on gardening, composting and more at the kickoff to the growing season this spring. You can also find resources for growing and harvesting food and seeds on the library’s website.

The holidays are upon us so mark your calendars for holiday concerts coming this December! Saturday, December 14th local favorites, **In Full Swing Big Band**, perform seasonal classics with a fun, big-band twist! The fun continues Sunday, December 15th with **FunSq**, a saxophone quartet performing holiday music the whole family can enjoy! On Saturday, December 21st the **Hillside Woodwind Quintet** and the **Montecito Brass Ensemble** return performing classics and seasonal music.

Have a wonderful holiday season!



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. 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.**

Please note that we may not accept donations the 2 weeks prior to a big book sale due to time and space constraints. If at all possible, save your donation until the weeks after the sale. (Thank you!!)

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 audiobooks) 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.

2025 Memberships Available Now!

Your Friends of the Castro Valley Library membership is renewable as of January 1st each year. **Membership cards for 2025 will be available November 4th!** Even if you are already a member, we still need a new application form filled out in order to verify that your information is correct. You may renew at the Friends BookStore office inside the library, by mail, or through our website. When renewing by mail, if you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, we will mail your membership card to you; otherwise, please arrange to pick it up from the office. Please allow a couple of weeks for processing time before picking up your card.



Even if you have used your BookStore coupons, your 2024 card still includes a coupon for the December book sale, so don't dispose of it until after the sale.

Scan the QR code 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:

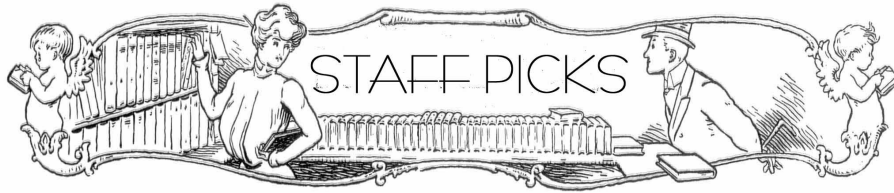
- \$10 Individual \$20 Family \$5 Youth \$35 Corporate Sponsor
 \$50 Benefactor \$200 Lifetime—Individual \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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

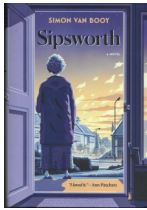
- Book store Sales events Membership Publications
 Information Technology/Website Public Relations/Advocacy

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Card Issued
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Sipsworth by Simon Van Booy (2024 fiction): After a tragic loss, Helen Cartwright has left her home in Australia and returned to the village in England in which she grew up. In a very pragmatic way, she prepares for her end. The author empathetically helps us imagine the loneliness of aging. Helen becomes curious about what others are throwing out and inspects a neighbor’s curbside discards. A fish tank is there, and it brings back memories of her son’s childhood. She brings it in with the deep-sea diver doll inside. In time, she notices something about a box which had been inside the tank. She sees “a pair of tiny eyes and a pink nose”. Now a dilemma—how to dispose of this mouse without injuring him. This is a charming story, recommended by author Ann Patchett, who puts out a list of summer books to read on NPR. She said she loved it and I did too!! (Robin Olivier)



By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult (2024 fiction): Having been a Literature major in college and familiar with Shakespeare and his cohorts, I was surprised (and pleased) to learn that one of the Bard’s alleged collaborators was a woman named Emilia Bassano. This is her story, as well as that of Melina Greene, a fictional present-day relation. As a struggling playwright, Melina is convinced that the theater community is prejudiced against women, but 10

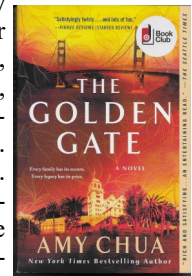


years out of college, she discovers Emilia and writes a play about her. Melina’s roommate Andre submits the play to a festival without her knowledge and under a male pseudonym. The play is accepted with accolades, creating a situation neither of them had foreseen. In another era, Emilia lives

as a mistress to the Lord Chamberlain and later forcibly married to the husband nobody wanted (especially Emilia). She becomes acquainted with the theater community through the Lord Chamberlain and begins to write poetry. She also falls in love with the young Earl of Southampton and begins an affair that shapes the rest of her life. Eventually, she writes plays, which she sells to William Shakespeare in order to keep her married home solvent. This is a book that is steeped in the language of Shakespeare’s plays; lines of dialogue appear both as quotes and as words spoken by the characters. The author challenges the reader to pick them out and provides an index at the end. While it seems that someone who studied Elizabethan literature might get more out of the book, this isn’t necessarily so, as Melina’s story is completely contemporary and draws parallels between present and past. The more I read, the more I enjoyed this book, and I shed a few tears at the end. (Ginger Russell)

Outrage by Brian Copeland (2024 fiction): *Outrage* is a mystery about the murders of police officers who killed unarmed Black men and were never held to account. The main characters are brother and sister – an investigative reporter on TV and a San Francisco homicide cop - with a combative/protective relationship that will probably sound familiar to anyone with a sibling. The author, Brian Copeland, is better known for his one-man comedy shows, including “Not a Genuine Black Man”. He brings that same humor to this novel which tells the story with a serviceable plot. But the best part of the book for me, and maybe for all other local residents, is that it’s set in Castro Valley. Local references are sprinkled throughout. I enjoyed having familiar locations and businesses pop up in the story. There is a surprise ending that ties up the story neatly. (Stephanie Dorward)

The Golden Gate by Amy Chua (2023 fiction): What initially caught my attention was that this book is set in the Bay Area, and most of it in Berkeley and its environs. The mystery concerns two deaths that take place at the Claremont Hotel, one in the 1930s and one ten years later in 1944, during the height of WWII. Coincidentally, the same prominent family is involved in both. The first was a child who seemingly accidentally fell down a laundry chute. The second was a candidate for President of the United States. The main, first-person character is a police detective, Al Sullivan, a tough cookie who sometimes does things right and sometimes not. The narrative reminds me of Joe Friday. Tasked with bringing the murderer to justice, Sullivan discovers the link with the Bainbridge family and oddly, with Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, whose brief residence in Berkeley coincides with the time frame. Some murder mysteries are described as having twists. Reading this one is more like playing a ping-pong game, as each suspect is on-again, off-again, leading one through a convoluted series of truths and lies as Sullivan chases lead after lead. There are a number of subplots, including Sullivan’s 11-year-old niece Miriam, who is just shy of delinquency, and the undercurrent of racism against not only the Japanese but anyone who isn’t white. This is a gripping novel that is quite readable but pay attention lest you miss something important. (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.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Chabot Room.

Agenda items include the election of officers (Vice President, Secretary, Recording Treasurer, and three 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.



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, Picture Book Month, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving

December: Holiday season celebrations, Learn a Foreign Language Month, Write to a Friend Month



January: New Year's, National Hobby Month, Financial Wellness Month, Health Wellness, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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



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: *Andy Warhol, the Factory Years*; *The Illustrated Dune*; *Union Pacific's Big Boys*; *Cult of the Spiral Dawn*; *Robin Williams, a Singular Portrait*; and many sets of comics and graphic novels. You can see our entire online store by scanning this QR code, using the link <https://www.ebay.com/usr/friendscvlibrary>, 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

Many of our experienced bookstore volunteers have agreed to work as "PICs" (people in charge of specific categories of materials). This newsletter, I want to focus on our Audio-Visual pair.

Carl Stanley has been in charge of CDs for several years and he has built up a fan club of audio fans who know that he can show them the types of CDs they want. Carl inspects the donations and often plays them to ensure they are in good condition for his clients. As a musician who has been a member of the Oakland Symphony and currently the California Symphony, Carl has real expertise with classical music. As a jazz fan, he also can select CDs in that genre as well. As a music lover, he is helpful in every category. Carl has a regular shift in our BookStore on Saturday mornings, but he often stops in during the week to be sure his inventory is up to date. We are so grateful for his knowledge and involvement in our bookstore!!

Sheila Jones is in charge of DVDs and audible books. Like Carl, Sheila previews videos before putting them on the shelf. Recently, the library donated its entire collection of children's audible books to us and that required many hours of evaluating and organizing. At the last minute, we included some in our summer book sale. Be sure to look for them in December in the children's section of the sale. Sheila carefully checks when we receive sets of DVDs to see if we can sell them on eBay. She has been very successful in doing so. Sheila has a regular shift on Monday afternoons, but don't be surprised to see her on other days as well. She's often here backing up other PICs and being quite helpful to new volunteers who need help with the scanner or other things. Thank you so much, Sheila, for your commitment to the BookStore and the Friends!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

By Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer



During the past fiscal year ending September 30 we had three successful big book sales and e-Bay on-line book sales. The funds generated from these sales together with

the BookStore proceeds, donations, memberships and investments amounted to over \$80,000. As a result, we were able to completely fund the Library Wish-list.

The Board of Directors will be presenting the 2023-2024 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 19th at 6:00 p.m. 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.

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.



Mark your calendars now—the Winter Book Sale is

DECEMBER 6—8

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.

Look for our \$2 coupon in the December 4th Castro Valley Forum (good on Saturday only).

We anticipate having over 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 office approximately one month prior to the sale date.

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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. Starting November 4th, memberships will be for 2025.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Book Sale Dates for 2025 are:

April 25—27

August 1—3

December 5—7



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.

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

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
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 November 19th.

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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

