



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
May 2025

OUR NEXT BOOK SALE IS AUGUST 1—3



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Robin Olivier

Happy Springtime, Friends! This is a busy time in our BookStore! Spring cleaning results in lots of donations for us! We're especially happy when we receive newer novels (2018 copyright and up). For some reason, we are receiving fewer of these than in the past. Kindle and online reading perhaps? Jigsaw puzzles have become very popular in our BookStore. We are grateful for these donations. Lots of happy customers!

The library itself is humming with activities for children and adults alike. It's so exciting to see the daily list of programs being offered. By the time you receive this newsletter, all the Castro Valley Reads activities will have been completed for this year. Hopefully, you enjoyed the Mexican food at the Hayward Senior Center before actually hearing our author, Luis Alberto Urrea speak at the Morrison Auditorium. The discussion groups were well attended and certainly enhanced our understanding of the book, *The House of Broken Angels*. Special thanks to Chris Selig, who had major responsibility for this program that the Friends sponsor!

Our spring book sale will have just been completed when you read this. We had a very large number of books for this sale, more than usual. Happily, we have contracted with a local company, Prime One, to pick up our leftovers. It means a lot to have them right nearby in San Leandro.

Each year, the Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors an event honoring Student Citizens of the Year from our area's schools. For the past two years, the Friends have provided books to the honorees. We are proud to be a part of this special event and congratulate the 37 Student Citizens of 2025!

COMING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!

Ongoing Events:

Homework Help Center: Monday through Wednesday 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):

May 1st—10:30-11:30 a.m. Toddler Storytime

May 7th—10:30-11:30 a.m. Signing & Music Storytime

May 17th—10:30-11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners and Beyond

June 30th—6:30-8:00 p.m. Death and Dying 101

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 26th for Memorial Day

Thursday June 19th for Juneteenth

Friday July 4th for Independence Day

On a sad note, one of our BookStore volunteers passed away quite unexpectedly. Connie Coughran worked on Tuesday afternoons as well as at book sales for several years. We will miss her.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

Our 8th annual Castro Valley Reads is officially over. Our theme this year, Mexican American culture and history, was as well timed with the recent immigration exchanges as we could have made it. We had a well-attended the finale/interview with the author, Luis Alberto Urrea, in person! We are grateful to Luis Urrea for meeting with us, having a stimulating conversation about his book and Mexican American culture, and we enjoyed a delicious treat of tamales from La Guerrera's Kitchen in Oakland.

The programming around Castro Valley Reads was thought provoking and relevant. We offered a program on Mexican migrants in California with Dr. Pablo Gonzalez from the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, multiple Tamalada for Book Lovers where culinary instructor and author Annelies Zijderfeld taught us to make tamales, and Francisco Jiminez, author of *The Circuit*, spoke to a crowd of over 100 about his autobiography. We're already thinking about next year's title!

Our 4th annual Earth Day event with ForestR took place on Saturday April 26th. It was a beautiful day filled with great information and demonstrations about gardening, woodworking, the environment, free fruit and seeds.

AARP was back in person to provide Tax Aide this season. The AARP provided tax assistance for over 300 participants. This is such a great example of what libraries can provide for our communities. We really appreciate our AARP volunteers.

We had a wonderful new program this past March with Mick LaSalle, Reel Talk. A movie club with the San Francisco Chronicle's long-time film critic Mick LaSalle. Participants watched a movie and considered questions from LaSalle, then everyone gathered to discuss the film. We hope to offer another program before the year is out.

This June we offer a program on Navigating Death and Dying 101. This frank conversation with two death doulas will cover pragmatic preparations to pondering the mystery. Death is the one life event that awaits us all and there will be something for everyone.

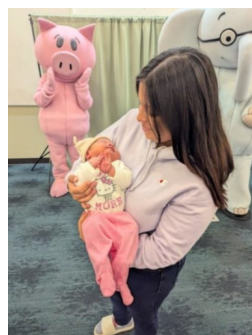
Of course, the Friends have played a primary role in providing funding for most of the events we offer. As usual, this library wouldn't be the vibrant community gathering place without the funding of our Friends. Thank you for continuing to support their efforts.

I hope to see you at the library.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM NEWS

By Leo Liang

Children's services continue to grow with a diverse range of programs! Since last quarter, we've introduced several new events, including an Elephant and



Piggie Party, a Dog Man Celebration, a Pokémon Party, and Star Wars Day. Program turnout is always unpredictable, but we hope for the best – and the response to Elephant and Piggie exceeded all expectations! We were thrilled to welcome Elephant & Piggie in person for photos with all the little ones, including a one-month-old! The line stretched from our program room to the

far corner of the children's area. Our goal is to continue providing a space where our community can come together, celebrate shared interests, and connect with fellow fans!

We've expanded our Storytime offerings to create more engaging experiences for young children! Our new additions include Toddler Storytime, designed to foster early literacy through interactive stories and movement, and Signing & Music Storytime, which introduces basic sign language through songs and playful activities. These special Storytimes also provide a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to connect and learn together.

There's something happening at the library every day this summer! Our summer programming runs from June 9th through July 24th, offering a variety of activities for kids and teens. Mondays are all about creativity with Build It Mondays, where children can experiment with Legos and other building materials. Tuesdays bring friendly competition with Game Day, featuring both classic and modern board games, along with video gaming fun. Wednesdays will be full of excitement as special performers take the stage, including wild animal shows, magicians, puppet shows, and an interactive music performance. On Thursdays, kids can unwind with an afternoon movie, featuring newly released films.



We're looking forward to another wonderful summer with our amazing community.

A special thank you to our wonderful Friends of the Library, who continue to support all our endeavors.

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 encyclopedias or similar books, condensed books, older textbooks, 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. 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.

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:

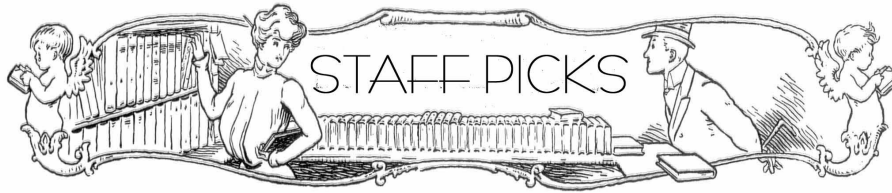
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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

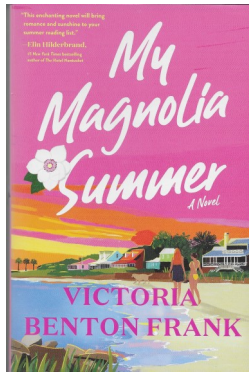
☐ Book store ☐ Sales events ☐ Membership ☐ Publications
☐ Information Technology/Website ☐ Public Relations/Advocacy

**FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY:**

Card Issued
By _____
Date: _____



My Magnolia Summer by Victoria Benton Frank (2023 fiction): For many years, one of my favorite authors has been Dorothea Benton Frank. When she passed away a few years ago, I was bereft. Lo and behold, though, I recently discovered that her daughter

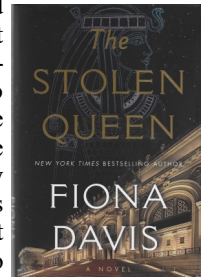


Victoria had come out with a novel in 2023. While her writing style is not exactly the same (nor would you want it to be), *My Magnolia Summer* takes place in the South Carolina Lowcountry on Sullivan's Island, and it is a delightful family-oriented story. Magnolia Adams, a professional chef, has been living in New York and working at a Michelin star restaurant when her beloved grandmother is injured in an accident. Magnolia returns to her

home on Sullivan's Island to find many changes have taken place, including that the family's restaurant, The Magic Lantern, has been taken over by her alcoholic mother and her mother's boyfriend Buster and changed into a seafood shack which has lost all of the local customers. While the family is waiting for Grandmother Rose to regain consciousness, Buster dies of a heart attack, making the bad situation worse. Magnolia had fully intended to return to New York, but she and her sister Violet take back the restaurant and try to change the menu and regain the customers. This is a heartwarming story with many subplots and endearing characters, totally predictable, but enjoyable all the same. Victoria Benton Frank is a graduate of the College of Charleston and the French Culinary Institute, sharing many cooking techniques and tips in the course of the novel. Her second book will appear later in 2025. (Ginger Russell)

The Stolen Queen by Fiona Davis (2025 fiction): Fiona Davis novels are based on buildings. She has written such novels as *The Dollhouse* (the Barbizon), *The Address* (the Dakota), *The Masterpiece* (Grand Central Terminal), *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* (the New York Public Library), and now *The Stolen Queen*, most of which takes place in the New York Metropolitan Museum. In 1978, Charlotte Cross is an Egyptologist, curator of the Museum's Egyptian collection, but in 1936, she participated in archaeological digs in Egypt, where she discovers what may be the tomb of a female Pharaoh. After tragedy strikes, she returns to New York to recover and bury herself in the Museum. A relic from her long-ago dig shows up as a donation, setting off a new search for her Queen of Egypt. At the same time, Annie Jenkins falls into the position of assistant to Diana Vreeland, curator of the Museum's fashion collec-

tion, where she is immediately but briefly successful until the Met Gala is sabotaged and a damaged bust of the same Queen, one of the most celebrated items in the Museum's Egyptian collection is stolen. In an attempt to trace the stolen sculpture and reconcile events in Charlotte's past, she and Annie embark on a trip to Egypt, where they discover astonishing information. This is a well-researched, fast-moving novel that grabs your interest and doesn't let go until the end. I highly recommend it, as well as any of the other Fiona Davis books. (Ginger Russell)



Susan, Linda, Nina, & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR by Lisa Napoli (2021 group biography): It seems fitting in a time when the very existence of NPR and PBS is being questioned to read the historical beginnings of these important public stations. Even after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it was hard for women to find jobs other than secretarial in the workplace. If there was a token woman in the office, that was all that was needed. Especially in the news business, women were rarely hired. In the preface to the book, an NBC network radio executive in 1964 is quoted as saying: *Many women may be fine in everyday conversation but put them in front of a microphone – and a camera as well – and something happens to them. They become affected, overdramatic, high-pitched . . . But with a man you seldom have this problem.* However, when National Public Radio was established in the 1970's, a new opportunity opened for women and these four jumped into the new world with both feet. Susan Stamberg was the first woman to anchor a nightly news program. Linda Wertheimer, having won a National Merit Scholarship, left New Mexico for Wellesley and later an exchange program introduced her to the BBC, which gave her an edge for a radio job back in the USA. Nina Totenberg started out as the only staff writer to a minor newsletter and eventually was assigned to the legal beat. Cokie Roberts was the daughter of Representative Hale Boggs of Louisiana and eventually made her way to NPR. Each of these women faced gender discrimination in finding work in the new industry. The story of their challenges, successes, and lasting friendships makes this book fascinating to read. (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. New contributors are always welcome, so please let us know if you've read a wonderful book!!

ONLINE SHOPPING

By Scott Morgan

Did you know you can get great deals on used books online at businesses such as eBay? Prices are not as good as in our BookStore, but for certain books, such as recent mysteries and adult fiction, you can often buy them for \$4 to \$5 each. You can also find unusual or rare items at competitive prices.

eBay was started in 1995 with a broken laser pointer as its first sale. When it went public in 1998, a strong part of its success was hosting resales of Beanie Babies. They now sell everything from cars to gold bars. Amazon and Walmart also sell used books, and there are internet vendors who specialize in books.



Popularity of books for sale on eBay is tracked by the WatchCount website by counting how many people put them in their account watchlists. Currently, the most watched books relate to herbal remedies, prepping for disasters, and foraging for wild foods.

March was a banner month for Friends eBay sales, with over 50 items sold. There were 28 nonfiction books, including several medical and fishing books. In fiction, 11 adult and children's books were sold. Plus one pharmaceutical plastic model head.

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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

May: Mother's Day, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, National Bike Month, Memorial Day



June: Preferred Month to Wed, LGBTQ+ Pride Month, Father's Day, Juneteenth



July: Park and Recreation Month, National Ice Cream Month, Independence Day, Vacations



August: American Artist Appreciation Month, National Golf Month, Vacations Continue, Back to School

September: Library Card Sign-up Month, National Preparedness Month, Banned Books Awareness, Labor Day



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: *Glen Dick-ey's 49ers*, *Understanding the Borderline Mother*, *Disney Studio Story*, *Ladybird Tales*, *Fishing Hawaii Style*, *Fermentation for Life*, *Medieval Swordsmanship*, 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

For our BookStore to run efficiently and effectively, we must have well-trained, knowledgeable volunteers on duty every shift. People's lives change and some may have to resign from their shift. Thankfully, we continue to receive volunteer applications. When those come in, Susan Robertson is the first to read them. She contacts each one by phone and briefs them on the role of a BookStore volunteer. Those who continue to be interested are referred to Joan King, our BookStore trainer. Joan has trained dozens of volunteers, each one requiring 2 hours of practice. She brings a positive spirit to the role of a volunteer and a clear set of instructions to each person. After training, Joan assigns them to a team where they will continue to receive support as they actually do the job of cleaning and processing books, meeting the public, selling books, and utilizing our credit card tablet. It's a lot to learn for a newcomer and **there is no better trainer than Joan King! Thank you, Joan, for the countless hours you have devoted to training volunteers for our BookStore.**

Gloria Bonora has volunteered in our BookStore and for book sales for at least 14 years! She has worked the Tuesday afternoon shift for years with her sister and has been the person in charge of the Food and Wine section. Gloria is retiring from the BookStore, and we all want to thank her so much for her years of devotion and hard work! Gloria, there will always be a spot for you if you want to return! Thanks, Gloria!

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

Anna Koch

Anna joined the Friends this past November and has already taken on some awesome responsibilities. She works in the BookStore on Sunday and Tuesday afternoons. In addition, she will be maintaining the membership roster and also serving as Volunteer Coordinator. Way to go!

She and her husband have lived in Castro Valley for 14 years. She retired in 2024 after having worked in libraries for over 40 years. For the past 20 years, she worked in various systems as a Library Manager.



In her spare time, Anna enjoys road trips to our National Parks, taking long walks, listening to entertaining podcasts, connecting with family and friends, binge reading, and watching thought-provoking series on a number of streaming platforms.

Anna was born and raised in San Francisco. After receiving her BA in History from SF State, she moved to Boston to attend Simmons College, receiving a Master's in Library and Information Sciences. She received a second Master's in History/Archival Studies. She says she has had the privilege to work in many library systems, including Boston Public Library, Harvard University Libraries, Contra Costa County Library, and the San Mateo County Libraries.

In 1997, she and her husband adopted a sibling group from India, three wonderful girls, and now they have five grandchildren they adore.

Welcome Anna!



Mark your calendars now—the Summer Book Sale is

AUGUST 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.

Look for our \$2 coupon in the July 30th Castro Valley Forum (good on Saturday only).

We anticipate having over 300 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 may 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?

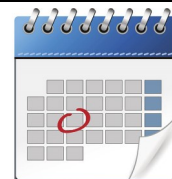
Please remember to bring your current (2025) Friends of the Castro Valley Library membership card in order to take advantage of your \$2.00 discount. You can join or renew at the door or purchase a membership ahead of time.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Remaining Book Sale Dates for 2025 are:

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.

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

Robin Olivier, President
Amy Fain, Vice President
Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer
Elizabeth Rinehart, Operational Treasurer
Rose Kish, Secretary
Scott Morgan, At-Large Director
Roger Caswell, At-Large Director
Wayne Ainsworth, At-Large Director
Joan King, 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 is held in November.

Printed by:
Select Imaging

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www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

