



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
August 2025

OUR NEXT BOOK SALE IS AUGUST 1—3



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Robin Olivier

Happy Summer, Friends! So much has happened since our last newsletter. Our Spring Book Sale was our most successful since Covid! Thanks to all of you who volunteered and/or made purchases. Sandy Martinez, marketing director for the Castro Valley Chamber Of Commerce came by our bookstore the day before our last sale and also attended the Friday night sale. She created a short video promoting our bookstore and showing the enthusiasm of our Friends! If you would like to see it, this is the link: https://youtu.be/KwpPkc4r3tw?si=8Z-6p_QrX8VzKbhg Board Member Wayne Ainsworth organized this event and is featured in the video!

So many exciting activities have been happening this summer here at the library. The Friends hitched on to an amazing Rain Forest presentation (featuring a macaw, an anteater and more!) to have a Pop-Up Children's Book Sale in June where we charged book sale prices for the books—a quarter apiece. Thanks to Sue Israel's organization, we made over \$200 and dozens of happy readers. Buyers were so enthusiastic that by the time we brought the second table outside, the first one had almost sold out!

Two Thursday evening concerts have occurred, with the third one scheduled for August 14. Do think about attending it! Just bring a folding chair and sit in the parking lot and enjoy a free concert! Children's summer programing has kept the building hopping 4 days of the week. Our children's librarians, Leo and Angela, do a super job of program planning and the children love it. Even a bit older students have been trained to help out with the younger ones. The Friends are so proud to help make these events possible.

Have you noticed the decorative enclosure around the Moon Tree in our parking lot? This was designed and created by the same artist whose work welcomes us into the library. We were glad to support this creation along with Forestr, a public service organization that cleans, greens and gleans in our community. For more info, go to Forestr.org.

Our summer book sale is scheduled for August 1, 2, and 3. As usual, Friday night is for members only from 6-8 pm. (Membership sales will be available). Saturday is open for all from 10-4. Sunday is our regular Bag Day where we give

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):

August 1—3 Book Sale

August 4 6:30-7:30 Paws to Read (2 half hour sessions)

August 6 10:30-11:30 Signing and Music Storytime

August 7 10:30-11:30 Toddler Storytime

August 14 6:30-7:30 Summer Concert—Bobby Young Project

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 1 Labor Day

October 9 Staff Day

November 11 Veterans Day

November 27-28 Thanksgiving

December 25 Christmas

you a bag and you can fill it for \$5! Watch for a \$2 coupon good for Saturday's sale in the Castro Valley Forum on July 30.

We look forward to seeing you at the Book Sale as well as in our Bookstore!

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, PAGE 2

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 our Children's programming as we had hoped. We've been seeing large crowds for all of our programming, including weekly: Build It Day, Game Day, Movie Day and Performers. Reel Talk with Mick LaSalle was in June, it's like a book club, but with movies! Debate 101 for tweens and young teens, a 4-week program created by teens. Death and Dying 101 gave us an opportunity to discuss the great beyond and to think about what we would like the end of our lives to look like. In Full Swing Big Band was also here in July.

Speaking of concerts, this year marks our 5th annual Summer Concert Series this summer, in fact, you can still catch the last one if you like. Emily Day and the Cosmo Alleycats kicked off the summer with their unique blend of vintage swing on June 12. It was a great show, and we had a big crowd of nearly 200. Jimbo Scott and Yesterday's Biscuits performed their own combo of Americana music on July 10. Jimbo is a local musician, and he was one of our first acts in 2021, great to have him back. Our final concert, The Bobby Young Project, is our last concert of the summer on August 14 and we'll relax with the sweet sounds of rhythm and blues. Summer 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 6 years and older to participate in Castro Valley Library's fourth annual show! People interested register in person and pick their free 3x3 canvas between July 12 and August 24 (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.

Coming up, the Red Cross will be here for another blood drive on August 19. August will also be the start of our Fall Storytime line up, Genealogy, Tech Classes and more. If you haven't visited for a while, you should. Everything is free at the library, one of the last free places.

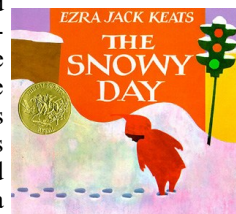
As always, the Friends have played a primary role in providing funding for most of the events we offer. The Castro Valley Library wouldn't be the vibrant community gatheringplace without the funding of our Friends. Thank you for continuing to support their efforts.

I hope to see you at the library!

CALDECOTT MEDAL SELECTION

By Angela Moffett, Children's Librarian

The Caldecott Medal is the award issued annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, for the "most distinguished American picture book for children." Previous winners have included such classics as *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats (1963), *Where the Wild Things Are* (1964) and *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel (a 1971 Honor title).



The committee of folks choosing the winner rotates each year and is comprised of ALSC members who are primarily youth services librarians in public and school libraries. A committee of 15 people are working year-round to discover, read and evaluate picture books published in the United States and illustrated by a citizen or resident of the United States.

I am thrilled to be serving on this year's committee and am enjoying seeing all the picture books. The first few months of the year was an agonizing wait and then they started trickling in. First a couple in an envelope, then a box, then five boxes, then ten! I've received well over 250 picture books now and more arrive almost daily. A couple of secrets about me: I love snail mail. And I love presents. Imagine my delight that both are arriving constantly. I've never been so excited to see the delivery people!

While the committee members have been meeting online to get to know each other and practice the work of respectful and thoughtful discussions, the real work begins this month when we begin to discuss the books under consideration. The fifteen of us come from all over the U.S. and we will finally meet in person for the first time in June at the American Library Association annual conference in Philadelphia.

The work will intensify throughout the fall and culminate at a meeting in January 2026 when the 15 of us will be sequestered in a hotel in Chicago examining, re-examining and talking about the eligible titles until we reach a consensus. Until then, our lips are sealed, and we are only allowed to discuss eligible titles with each other (and then only when all of us are present; no side conversations allowed). If it sounds a little like a courtroom jury, that's because it is!

In the end, I will rejoice in the hard and meaningful work, have fond memories, new friends, and few more favorite books. I also see a very large donation of gorgeous, brand new picture books coming for the Friends' Bookstore in early 2026! I love to talk about this process and picture books. Feel free to ask me any questions when you see me around the branch.

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. Please feel free to call us if you have questions about acceptance of specific items.

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.

JOIN US!

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:

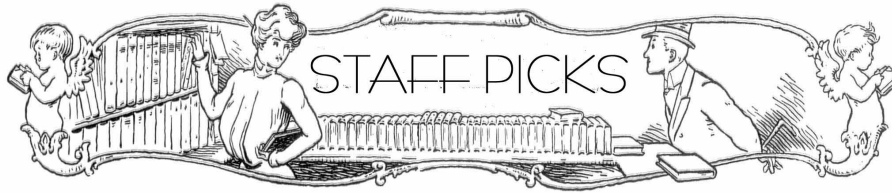
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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

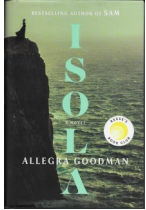
☐ Book store ☐ Sales events ☐ Membership ☐ Publications
☐ Information Technology/Website ☐ Public Relations/Advocacy

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Card Issued
By _____
Date: _____

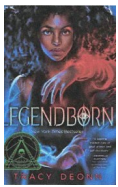


Isola by Allegra Goodman (2025 fiction): This story of Marguerite de la Rocque de Roberval is based on that of a real person who lived in France in the 16th century. Born to privilege, she was orphaned at an early age, and her wealth and inherited lands placed under the control of a guardian. Her guardian strips the estate of its wealth in order to finance voyages to the New World, so that Marguerite becomes impoverished and under his control. When Marguerite is about 20, he determines to take



her and her nurse Damienne to the New World in a voyage similar to that of Cartier, to the eastern edge of Canada. On the voyage, Marguerite becomes involved with her guardian's secretary, Auguste, incurring her guardian's anger. As punishment, he maroons Marguerite, Damienne, and Auguste on a small unnamed island known on maps simply as "Isola." With little food and only the clothing and items in the trunks they brought with them, the three carve out an existence on the small island. During the warmer months, they are able to hunt and fish, but the winters are extreme and survival is difficult. Auguste becomes ill and dies, with the two women forced to live on their own. Later, Damienne also perishes, leaving Marguerite alone. This is a story of spirit and faith, of a courageous woman who survives against all odds. It makes fascinating reading and perhaps a desire to know more about her. (Ginger Russell)

Legendborn by Tracy Deonn (2020 YA Fantasy): *Legendborn* is about a 16-year-old girl named Bree who decides to go to UNC-Chapel Hill's Early College Program with her best friend Alice. When the story begins, Bree's mother has just passed away in a car crash, but Bree doesn't think it was an accident. Bree and Alice start the school year



with a beach party at night with all of their new classmates. This party is where she first realizes that something is seriously off, and witnesses magic with her own eyes. Later, when she starts classes, she finds a hidden organization based on King Arthur and his Round Table. She finds that this organization can do magic, and so she joins, suspecting that this organization knows something about her mother's death. So the story is about her learning about this organization and finding her own magic. This story was a lot of fun to read, and I liked it a lot. The story line was very interesting and the different plot twists were very surprising and fun. The first book is a little over 500 pages, and there are two more books in the series so far. It is a very interesting series, and if you like YA fantasy, I recommend reading this book. (Evan Marsh)

Last Twilight in Paris by Pam Jenoff (2025 fiction): It is 1953, and Louise finds a necklace in a box of donations for the thrift store where she works part-time. It is mostly unremarkable, half a heart on a chain, but she feels certain she has seen it before, in Germany, at a POW camp. The necklace is certainly one that a prisoner gave to her friend Franny when they both worked for the Red Cross during the war. But Franny was killed, and her death written off as a tragic accident. Louise is not so sure. Travel back in time with Louise to find out. Meanwhile, in 1938, a young Jewish woman, Helaine, meets the love of her life and marries him against her parents' wishes. He is an accomplished cellist with the symphony orchestra. They live an idyllic, if frugal, life until 1941 when he is fired from the orchestra and subsequently disappears, leaving her with her half of a heart necklace. In 1942, Helaine is arrested and imprisoned in a little-known camp located inside the Levitan department store, where the prisoners sort and display fine furniture and home goods that were taken from the homes of deported Jews and made available for purchase by the Nazi elite. She manages to hide her necklace in a crack in the wall. This is a fast-moving mystery, complete with plot twists and an unexpected conclusion. Pam Jenoff is the author of 9 previous novels, many of which are set during World War II. She was formerly a diplomat handling Holocaust issues and now teaches law in Philadelphia. (Ginger Russell)



How to Solve Your Own Murder by Kristen Perrin (2024 fiction). This is a perfect summer read for someone who enjoys mysteries set in quaint English villages. In 1965, three sixteen-year-old girl friends went to an English county fair and decided to have their fortunes told. And with the fortune told to Frances Adams, her life changes forever. She is told that her future "contains dry bones" because she will be murdered. This haunts her for the rest of her life as she questions the actions of people around her and becomes known as eccentric and difficult. In present day, her great niece who has never met Frances is summoned to Castle Knoll to "discuss the responsibilities that will come with being the sole benefactor of her estate and assets." When Annie Adams arrives at Castle Knoll, Frances is found dead. Annie is determined to discover who committed this crime and thus, the story continues. Will Annie solve the crime or will she inherit her aunt's fate instead of her fortune? This is a fast read. Enjoy! (Robin Olivier)

BOOK REVIEWS WANTED! Book reviews should be 150 to 200 words in length and can be submitted at any time.



Castro Valley Reads



May the Fourth Be With You

CHECK OUT OUR BOOKSTORE MONTHLY THEMES!

By Marie Blackmon

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



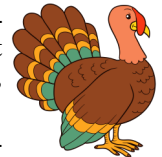
August: American Artist Appreciation Month, National Golf Month, Vacations Continue, Back to School

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



October: Diversity Awareness Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Family History Month, Indigenous People's Day, Halloween.

November: Native American Heritage Month, National Novel Writing Month, Gift making and Crafts for the holidays, Thanksgiving



December: Learn a Foreign Language Month, the Holidays, Write to a Friend Month, Pearl Harbor Day.



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



February: Black History Month, American Heart Health Month, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, 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 many listings.

Our seller name is *friendscvlibrary*. Some of the items we currently have listed are: Art of Woodworking 25 vol. set, Sandra and Woo signed copy, The Long Range War, Think and Grow Rich, Dungeons and Dragons books, 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

Sometimes we don't notice the routine activities that keep an organization like ours working efficiently. How do all those sale boxes move from the library to storage? How do new boxes arrive in the cafe to be filled again? Where do the Prime 1 boxes go? The Friends are so fortunate to have our haulers who manage this critical job for all of us. David Livingston, Victor Fujii, and Roger Caswell take turns moving our sale and Prime 1 boxes twice a week. Up they go to the storage area on Fairmont Drive. When needed they also bring empty boxes back to our store. When enough have been collected, Roger takes the Prime 1 boxes to their site in San Leandro. It's a well-oiled machine and we're all so grateful to them!



A special note of thanks to Roger for repairing our storage unit. A master carpenter, he reinforced the walls and secured the aging unit. Ned Lyke "inspected" the job and said that if we added electricity and water, we could rent it as an ADU! Thank you, Roger, for your expertise and willingness to go the extra mile!

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.



Programs!



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

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Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer
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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!!!

Board Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, January to October, at 5:00 p.m. in the library.

Our annual meeting is held in November. The date and time will be posted in our BookStore two weeks before the annual meeting.

Circle of Friends is published quarterly.

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Select Imaging

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925-803-1210

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
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Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

