



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library
August 2026

THE NEXT BOOK SALE IS JULY 31-AUGUST 2



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Scott Morgan

Happy Summer, Friends! Our big book sale is imminent, from July 31st to August 2nd. I hope you can visit us and get great deals on books, DVDs, CDs, audio books, and puzzles. We have over 400 boxes of items to sell, and all proceeds go back into library, literacy, and community programs.

People ask about how we spend the money we collect through book sales and donations. Not surprisingly, we are first and foremost dedicated to the Castro Valley Library. While the Alameda County Library system funds staff, operating expenses, and some Library programs, the Library relies on the Friends to support a great number of programs throughout the year, such as CV Reads, children's, teen, and adult programs, Bootlegger Program, as well as a stipend for interns. We have been able to fund all the Library requests for many years.

But there's more. The Friends' official purpose is: "To promote literacy, serve our community, and support the Castro Valley Library, by providing funds for library programs, organizing fund raising and community activities, advocating at the local, state and national level for public support of libraries, and developing an active and well-informed membership." Yes, it's long, but it expresses what the Friends organization is all about. Some examples of extending the library and literacy efforts: we have provided modest scholarships to students who are interested in library science at Castro Valley High School and Chabot College, students in San Jose State University's master's program in library sciences, as well as to the California Library Association's Scholarship in Memory of Edna Yelland. We have also provided books to non-profit and other community organizations, such as Little Free Libraries, Eden Housing, Books for Prisoners, as well as to Castro Valley School District teachers.

Finally, did you know that our bookstore is open for more than 1,850 hours a year? We usually have 3 people volunteering in the store for all those hours, so that totals to over 5,550 volunteer hours per year! And that doesn't count the

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.

Page Turners Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Registration required.

Mystery Book Club: First Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Registration required

Practice Your English: Sundays 2:00-3:00 p.m. Registration required.

Read the World Middle Grade Book Club: Second Thursdays 4:00-5:00 p.m. (registration required).

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

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

August 6 10:30-11:30 a.m. Toddler Storytime (ongoing)

August 13 2:00-3:00 p.m. Fall Prevention Workshop

August 13 6:30-7:30 p.m. Summer Concert "The Sun Kings"

August 15 10:30-11:45 a.m. Yoga for Beginners

August 16 2:30-3:30 p.m. Understanding Stress, Inflammation, and Food in Midlife

August 18 12:00-1:00 p.m. Accessible Yoga

August 27 10:30-11:30 a.m. Advance Health Care Directives

August 27 2:00-5:00 p.m. Play Mahjong

Upcoming Holidays and Closures:

The library will be closed on the following days:

September 7—Labor Day

October 15—Staff development day

additional hundreds of hours put in to support our three large annual book sales, weekly hauling of books to storage, online team listing and mailing of books, and other special projects. I am so impressed and thankful for the generosity of spirit and dedicated hours of our volunteers.

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

By Dawn Balestreri, Branch Manager

It's been a great and busy summer at the Castro Valley Library! We've been seeing large crowds for all our programming, including weekly: Build It Day, Game Day, and Performers. Reel Talk with Mick LaSalle was in July, it's like a book club, but with movies! Debate 101 for tweens and young teens, a 4-week program created by teens. In Full Swing Big Band was also here in June.

Speaking of concerts, this year marks our 6th annual Summer Concert Series this summer, in fact, you can still catch a couple if you like. The Big Blu Soul Revue kicked off the summer with their unique blend of blues music on July 9. It was a great show, and we had a big crowd of nearly 200. The Sun Kings will perform lots of great Beatle covers on August 13 (this community always turns out for the Beatle cover bands). Scarlett Fyre, is our last concert of the summer on September 10 and we'll relax with the sweet sounds of the Dead. 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! Register in person and pick up a 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 September 22. August will be the start of our Fall Storytime lineup, 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.

The other day I helped a gentleman who had lived in Castro Valley for many decades. He had never been to the library before and needed help finding some information online and printing. He

(Continued on page 5)

TEEN ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

By Nathan Silva, Teen Librarian

August is here already, and if it felt like the summer flew by, you are not alone. With all of our summer programs and games wrapping up, and the sweet smell of textbooks and schoolwork wafting in on the horizon, now would be a good time to both look back and glance ahead at what the Friends of the Library Organization has generously helped with regarding teen services. This summer saw some new programs as well as some old favorites return.

One new and exciting development that took place in the beginning of summer was the creation of our Castro Valley Library Teen Advisory Group (CSVTAG). CSVTAG is a group of teenagers who create, plan and ultimately facilitate library programs. It is their way to give back to their community and make their voices heard and we hope that by their contributions, this library can become the ultimate, for teens, by teens spot. By giving young people a voice in the future of the library, we hope to foster greater engagement and create programs that truly reflect the interests and needs of our teen patrons. We are always on the lookout for new members so if anybody knows anybody from 8th to 12th grade who is interested in making their voice heard, please send them our way.

Another highlight on our summer calendar was the return of our Theme Park Escape Room experience. Participants worked together to solve puzzles, uncover clues, and complete challenges inspired by the excitement and adventure of a classic theme park that may or may not have a certain mouse as its mascot. This event brought out teens and tweens en masse for 2 days as they worked their way through the "second happiest place on earth" and overwhelmingly emerged victorious having ultimately escaped. This Escape Room was a labor of love, seeing as I really enjoy escape rooms, the real place that inspired the room, and having the freedom to be creative and create the set pieces and props. All of the props and decorations were generously paid for by the Friends.

(Continued on page 5)

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.**

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, 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!

2026 Memberships Available

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.

JUST A REMINDER— PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR REUSABLE BAGS WHEN SHOPPING AT THE BOOKSTORE OR OUR BOOK SALES. THANK YOU!

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:

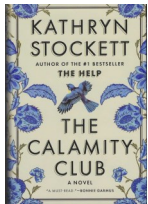
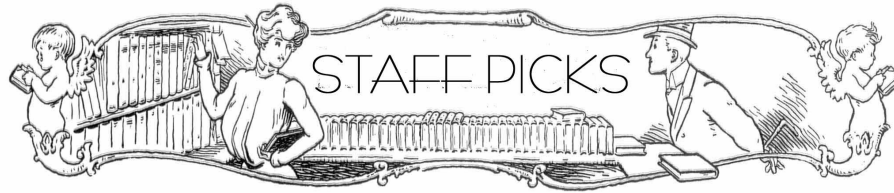
☐ \$10 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$5 Youth ☐ \$35 Corporate Sponsor
☐ \$50 Benefactor ☐ \$200 Lifetime—Individual ☐ \$300 Lifetime—Family
Membership renewals are due January 1st.

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

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

**FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY:**

Card Issued
By _____
Date: _____



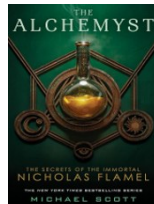
The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett (2026 fiction): In her first book since *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett returns us to small-town Mississippi. Set in the 1930's depression era, the story explores hard times, class and racial prejudices, and the treatment of women. Twenty-four-year-old Birdie travels from her home in the tiny town of Foot-

ley to visit her sister Frances in Oxford for the purpose of asking for money to help save the farm. Frances married into a wealthy family, which suits her snobby self just fine. But when Birdie arrives, she finds that things are not what they seemed, and due to a set of unexpected circumstances, Frances' family is also having financial troubles. Eleven-year-old Meg lives at an Oxford orphanage for girls. She is mistreated by the volunteers that run the organization for reasons unknown to her. Other than having her mother come back to get her, Meg's greatest hope is to be adopted by a loving family. But most of them are looking for babies, not older children. Charlie LeFleur shows up at the house where Frances and Birdie are living, looking for work and information. She is bright, talented, and helpful, but what does she really want? How these folks relate to each other and what measures they take to solve their troubles add up to an entertaining and fascinating read. Yes, there are villains. But the preponderance of characters in this book are likeable, and you want them to succeed in the end. The story is both humorous and heartbreaking. This appears to be a long book (650 pages) but it reads quickly, and before you know it, you wish it hadn't ended. I thoroughly enjoyed it and recommend it! (Ginger Russell)



The Names by Florence Knapp (2025 fiction): This is a powerful novel which includes family love, abuse, tradition and some gut-wrenching emotion. Set in England, Cora has just had a baby and she and her nine-year-old daughter are walking to register his name. There was a family tradition that any male child was named

Gordon like her husband, but Cora was reluctant to agree to that. She mentions to her daughter that she had looked at other names and found Julian, which means Sky Father. Her daughter liked that, but had another suggestion—Bear. They go on to the Registry and give his name. At this point, the story evolves in three ways, with the baby given each name. We follow the child and the family over the next thirty-five years, alternating the future by his name. Can a name choice change the course of a life? The book explores the effects of domestic abuse, family loyalty and supportive love. Knapp's prose is rich and sensitive. I agree with some of the reviews that suggest this is a modern classic. (Robin Olivier)



The Alchemyst [The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel] By Michael Scott (2008 Young Adult): *The Alchemyst* is about two twins, Sophie and her brother Josh, who meet the infamous Nicholas Flamel after being attacked by a mysterious man going for an all-

powerful book that Flamel seemed to be protecting. The mysterious man successfully steals the book, and the story is about the two working with Flamel and other immortals to retrieve the book and unlocking their magical talent along the way. As they travel, they learn about a prophecy that they will both save and destroy the world. Their journey is full of exciting events and fantastical creatures that try to kill them at every turn, and as a fantasy lover, this book was amazing. It is a six-book series, and all six books were fantastic and full of adventure. The first book is exactly 375 pages, if you include the author's note and such. You might also enjoy this book if you like mythology, as it has many characters like Odin and Ares, or even history fans, as it has characters like John Dee and Joan of Arc. I enjoyed this book and highly recommend it to anyone interested. (Evan Marsh)



Theo of Golden by Allen Levi (2023 fiction):

This book is a remedy for the trials and tribulations of current life. It's an uplifting, positive story about an 86-year-old man who moves to Golden, Georgia and begins to interact with the community. He visits a coffee shop where many pencil portraits are hung on the walls. He finds that these are portraits of people who live in Golden and he decides to buy them and return them to the "rightful owners", the subjects of these drawings. He invites each one to meet with him privately and learns about them. He is genuinely interested in them and they respond to his kindness. In time, we meet a range of people including the coffee shop owner who is a Vietnam veteran, a homeless woman, a janitor and many more. As each meets with Theo, their lives change and Theo is reenergized to continue sharing their drawings in exchange for hearing their stories. Allen Levi is a first time author who had difficulty finding a publisher. He ended up self publishing and now the book has been on the top of Amazon's and the NYTimes' paperback best seller lists for weeks! Don't miss it! It will do your soul good! (Robin Olivier)

BOOK REVIEWS can be submitted by anyone. If you'd like to send us one, please email it to the Friends address on page 8 or drop off a copy at the Bookstore office. If you read something wonderful, share it with your Friends!

(Message from the Library Manager, cont'd.)

looked around and mentioned what a beautiful library it was. He was surprised by the level of customer service he received and tried to give me a tip! I hope you visit more often than he does, but if you don't, just know we are here and we provide so many services. The Library is a safe and welcoming space and I'm proud to serve this community.

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!

(Teen Activities, cont'd.)

Speaking of using your wits, we were pleased to welcome back one of our more popular events, Monday Night Trivia during the summer as well. This event brought community members together for an evening of friendly competition. Participants tested their knowledge across 7 categories covering a variety of topics with one team ultimately taking home 1st place. For me, this program continues to be a favorite way for community members to gather, learn something new, and have fun. We look forward to another session of friendly competition and great fun in the future.

The Friends of the Library play a vital role in making all of these programs possible. Every membership, donation, sale and act of support helps to fund these events and strengthen our connection to the community.

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, South Asian Heritage Month, Back to School.



September: Banned Book Awareness, National Wilderness Month, National Preparedness Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month.

October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Diversity Awareness Month, Halloween.



November: Veterans Day, Native American Indigenous Heritage Month, Academic & Novel Writing Month, National Alzheimer's Awareness Month, Thanksgiving.

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



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: The Classic Pinup Art of George Petty, PeeWee Herman DVDs, Cat Kid Comic Club, Ralph the Baker, The Bookstore Diaries, The Shadow Bride, Mary Poppins Magic Cookbook, and more. 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 Scott Morgan, President

Carl Stanley has been volunteering for the Friends for over 10 years and has been responsible for our CD and music book sales since then. He is a longstanding professional musician who performs regularly with various musical groups, so he's a perfect fit. We handle and sell several hundred CDs every year, all cleaned and inspected by Carl. There are several dedicated customers who come looking for Carl to see the latest stock. In addition to working a bookstore shift on Saturday mornings, he regularly comes on other days to stay on top of things. So glad to have you as part of the Friends, Carl!

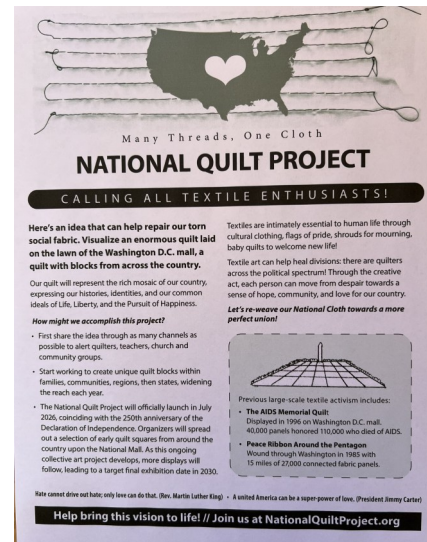
Roger Caswell is a former Friends president and current Board member. As an engineer, he has been the go-to design and fix-it man for many years, recently enhancing a cart for greater durability and problem-solving various latches and locks around the bookstore. Much more than that, however, is his responsibility for all things hauling and storage. Offsite storage enables us to hold our large book sales, but there is a considerable amount of work required to haul the books from the Library to storage twice a week and then back again for a book sale. We are also very happy to have Craig Hopkins as our other hauler for many months now. We are very grateful for everything you do, Roger and Craig!

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 about 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.



Responding to the invitation from the National Quilt Project, Friends volunteer and board member Joan King created a quilt block that features the Friends of the CV Library logo.

Her quilt block was submitted through Amador Valley Quilters and will be displayed in front of the Washington Monument.

Congratulations Joan, and thanks for highlighting our Friends organization!



Mark your calendars now—the Summer Book Sale is

JULY 31 - AUGUST 2

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 29th 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 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 last book sale in 2026 will be held December 4—6

Book Sale dates for 2027 are:

April 9—11

August 6—8

December 3—5

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

Scott Morgan, President
Amy Fain, Vice President
Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer
Elizabeth Rinehart, Operational Treasurer
Rose Kish, Secretary
Stephanie Dorward, At-Large Director
Roger Caswell, At-Large Director
Sue Israel, 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

