CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Friends of the Castro Valley Library friendsofcvlibrary.org +510-733-3285



Upcoming Events

- **Family Story Time**
  Mon Nov 2, 6:00 - 6:30 pm
- **Singing and Music Story Time**
  Wed Nov 4, 10:30 - 11:30 am
- **Finding Your Taiwan and China Roots**
  Wed Nov 4, 10:30 - 12:30 pm
  Registration Required.
- **Toddler Story Time**
  Thurs Nov 5, 10:30 - 11:30 am
- **Tai Chi for Wellness & Balance**
  Sat Nov 14, 10:30 - 11:30 am
- **Accesible Yoga**
  Tue Nov 17, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
- **How to Organize and Declutter**
  Thurs Nov 19, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
  Registration Required.
- **Yoga for Beginners and Beyond**
  Sat Nov 21, 10:30 - 11:45 am
  Registration Required.
- **FALL BOOK SALE**
  Fri Dec 4, 6 - 8 pm (Members Only)
  Sat Dec 5, 10 am - 4 pm
  Sun Dec 6, 1 - 4 pm

Upcoming Holidays and Closures

The Library will be closed on the following days:

November 26 -27, Thanksgiving
December 25, Christmas
January 1, New Year's Day
January 18, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

President's Report

by Scott Morgan



Greetings, Friends! It's been a busy fall, soon to be winter! Our biggest event since the last newsletter was the very successful August book sale, where we sold more than $5,000 of books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and games, all at great prices.

The Friends supports many types of programs and improvements at the Library. Some recent examples:

- Teen book club
- Author visit to the Page Turners Book Club
- Mister Softee Ice Cream at the final summer concert
- Tiny canvases for the 5th Annual Tiny Art Show
- Educators Speak Up About Book Bans event
- Abstract Painting with Roberto Souza, by the Friends' Carol Lyke Memorial Program
- Movie in the Park with the Rotary Club of Castro Valley in Adobe Park

Some other important events coming up, covered elsewhere in this newsletter:

- 2027 new and renewal memberships available starting Monday, November 16
- The Friends annual meeting on Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00 in the Library
- Our next big book sale from Friday, December 4 through Sunday, December 6

We're updating our newsletter! You'll notice it has a different look, and in this edition, we changed our longer book reviews to staff recommendations, aligning with the calendar to highlight a "cozy" winter theme. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out a survey to ask what you'd like to see in future editions. I'm very grateful to our small team comprised of volunteers Claire Coelho, Mel de Leon, Jessie Brooke, and Tammy Durston, who are planning and implementing these changes.

And finally, from Kay Wetherwax, Book Sale manager, to Book Sale volunteers:
A huge shout out to the many volunteers who commit their time to help make our tri-annual book sales such a great success. Volunteers fill many different roles: making and hanging signs; loading, hauling, and unloading books; spending the day before the sale organizing tables of books; breaking down hundreds of boxes; helping customers find a great bargain; staffing our cashier's table; counting money; cleaning up after the sale! It truly takes a village (or perhaps even a small town) to make these events happen. It is only because of your commitment and efforts that we are able to support the wonderful programs our library staff offers the Castro Valley community. Thank You!!



Ongoing Events

- **Homework Help**
  Monday through Wednesday 3:30 - 5:00 pm when school is in session. For primary and secondary students.

- **Advanced Math and Science Tutoring**
  Mondays 5:30 to 7:00 pm when school is in session. High school and college level tutoring in math, physics, and chemistry.

- **Computer Crew**
  Saturdays 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

- **Page Turners Book Club**
  Second Tuesday of the month 7:00 pm. Registration required.

- **Mystery Book Club**
  First Tuesday on the month 6:30 pm. Registration required.

- **Practice Your English**
  Sundays 2:00-3:00 pm. Registration required.

- **Read the World Middle Grade Book Club**
  Second Thursday of the month 4:00-5:00 pm. Registration required.

- **Creative Writing Group**
  Every other Tuesday 1:00-3:00 pm. Registration required.

- **CV Library Teen Advisory Group**
  Every other Monday 5:00-6:00 pm.

Letter from the Library Manager

Seventeen Years and Still Growing

by Dawn Balesteri, Branch Manager

It's hard to believe that Castro Valley Library has now been serving our community at the Norbridge site for seventeen years! Seventeen years ago, we moved into a building that felt enormous compared with our former library. Our old library served us well, but our community had grown—and so had our need for space. The old library appears to be heading to serve the community again as well. More to come, but the County is planning the second life for the building and I'm sure we are all looking forward to seeing it back in business soon.

We had a wonderful summer, with our Summer Adventure programs and Summer Concert Series among the staff favorites. Tweens and teens tested their skills in The Happiest Escape Room on Earth—you can probably guess the theme! We also welcomed hundreds of people to three outdoor concerts in our parking lot after closing.



The lineup included Big Blu Soul Revue, The Sun Kings: Songs of Lennon and McCartney, and Scarlett Fyre, a Grateful Dead tribute band. Our concert series began during Covid, when we couldn't welcome people inside, and we've now completed our sixth annual series. What started as a way to bring people together has become a wonderful summer tradition. More than 140 people attended the last concert with Scarlett Fyre even though it was over 90 degrees earlier, and there was a 49er game on! They were treated with a Mister Softee soft serve, compliments of the Friends.

Our Tiny Art Show recently wrapped up, featuring more than 400 entries from artists of all ages. I especially enjoyed Tiny Plants art. We offered multiple classes, including the tiny plant, tiny collage and tiny pottery workshops. There are no prizes—just the opportunity to have your art displayed for hundreds of community members to enjoy.



We continue to offer several technology classes each month, including recent programs on iPhones and next year we plan to bring programming around AI. Homework Help and Monday evening Math and Science Tutoring are also back for the school year, and we are grateful to have our amazing instructors back for another year.

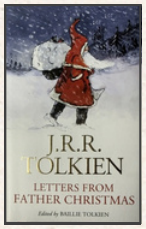
Meanwhile, planning is underway for the 10th Annual Castro Valley Reads! We're excited to announce next year's title soon. Teasers are coming, with the finale planned for May. I hope you'll join us and discover what happens when a community reads the same book together.

Finally, December is almost here! Be sure to check this issue's staff column for all our upcoming holiday programs.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season and thank you for making the library such an important part of our community.

Staff Picks

Cozy Books for the Winter



Letters from Father Christmas

JRR Tolkien
Fantasy, Picked by Scott Morgan

This book features letters and artwork sent from Father Christmas to J.R.R. Tolkien's children from 1920 to 1943. Illustrations feature charming pictures of the North Pole, the Northern Lights, and the characters depicted in the letters. The letters are written in Tolkien's distinctive spidery style and the stories are heartwarming, featuring characters like a well-intended but mischievous polar bear and the Man in the Moon. Other characters more familiar from Tolkien's works include troublesome dragons and battling elves and ogres.



Before the Coffee Gets Cold

Toshikazu Kawaguchi
Fiction, Picked by Sara Kinoshita

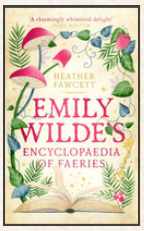
A short novel about love, loss and missed opportunities. All relatable stores with a fantastical twist that retains the humanity and painfully human experiences of loving someone else.



What You Are Looking For is in The Library

Michiko Aoyama
Fiction, Picked by Mel de Leon

A wonderful, funny, and delightful book about escaping the existential dread of how to live a meaningful life. This is a collection of short stories about unsticking yourself with a little help from the library.



Emily Wilde's Encyclopedia of Fairies

Heather Pawcett
Cozy Fantasy, Picked by Jessie Brooke

This is such a charming, low-stakes fantasy about a scholar attempting to write the world's first comprehensive encyclopedia of faeries. It has a little romance, wonderfully endearing characters, and just the right amount of magic and adventure. It's the perfect short, cozy read to curl up with!



The Hunter

Tana French
Mystery, Picked by Tammy Durston

Need something to read this winter? Tana French's The Hunter is a very atmospheric mystery set in Ireland. It is book 2 of the Cal Hooper series. It has richly drawn characters involved in a fascinating crime mystery with a very strong sense of place. You won't want it to end!

Community Notice

Financial Statement

by Barbara Kissling, Recording Treasurer

This has been an excellent fiscal year for the Friends. We had three successful book sales. The funds generated from these sales together with the bookstore proceeds, donations, memberships, and investments resulted in the highest income in our history. As a result, we were again able to completely fund the library's wish list.

The Board of Directors will be presenting the 2025-2026 Annual Report, 2026-2027 budget, and the Library Manager's wish list at the annual meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00 pm. 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 the Library and Friends.

Community Notice

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm. in the Chabot Room.

Agenda items include the election of officers (Vice President, Reporting Treasurer, and two At-Large Board Members) for two-year terms following 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 and comment on the issues being discussed.

From the Library Staff

Dinovember to Dickens: Winter Fun for Kids

by Angela Moffett, Children's Librarian

Here in the children's room, we are looking forward to enjoying Dinovember this November. The scavenger hunt is one of our most popular events every year, and kids who haven't quite grasped the order of the months ask when it's returning all year long. We'll be mixing it up a bit this year and in addition to the scavenger hunt, we'll be hosting dino puppets and offering kids a chance to dig for "fossils."

During the Thanksgiving break, we'll also be hosting the beloved early reader book characters Elephant & Piggie. A few years ago, a whopping 675 people lined up to meet them and we're eager to give their newest fans the opportunity as well.

Come December, we will host a winter reading challenge to keep kids engaged with reading through the winter school break. Santa Claus will be visiting us twice this season: once during a regularly scheduled storytime and again during the break, so school-aged children will also have a chance to share their Christmas wishes. Leaning into the branch-wide theme of Dickensian London, we will also be hosting a viewing of the Muppets Christmas Carol and leading a workshop for children to make fairy houses. Come enjoy some holiday caroling in festive Victorian costumes with The Other Reindeer. There will be two shows on December 12 beginning at 2 pm.

Of course, we'll have some live music in December for the holidays as well. Saturday, December 19 we will host a holiday concert with Hillside. Check out our calendar for more information.

Themes

Bookstore Monthly Themes

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



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



January: New Year's Day, Healthy & Financial Wellbeing, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, National Mentoring Month



February: Lunar New Year, Groundhog Day, Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday, Valentine's Day, Black History Month, American Heart Month



March: St. Patrick's Day, National Women's Month, Irish Heritage Month, American Red Cross Month

Community Billboard

Donations Always Needed!

The Friends of the Castro Valley Library depend on your generous donations of books, CDs, and DVDs. We're happy to receive donations any time the bookstore is open. Bring them directly to the bookstore office door rather than leaving them elsewhere in or outside the Library. If you're dropping off more than a few bags or cartons, please contact us ahead of time so we can have staff on hand, and we're happy to lend you a cart or help carry things in.

What we accept:

Most books, DVDs, and music CDs, along with magazines no more than 4 months old. We may also take jigsaw puzzles, board games, unused greeting cards, and stationery items. A good rule of thumb: if you'd purchase the item yourself, we'll most likely accept it.

What we can't accept:

Encyclopedia sets or similar reference collections, condensed books, and anything dirty, moldy, smoky, or otherwise damaged. We also can't take VHS tapes, cassette tapes, or vinyl records.

Have a question about a specific item? Feel free to call us.



Community Billboard

The Fall Book Sale is December 4-6



The 2026 Fall Sale will be in the front of the library at 3600 Norbridge Avenue, during the following times:

- **Friday, Dec 4 is the Member Preview Night from 6 pm to 8 pm.**
- **Saturday, Dec 5 from 10 am to 4 pm.**
- **Sunday, Dec 6 is the Bag Sale from 1 p.m. to 4 pm, $5.00 for all the books you can put in a grocery-size bag that we provide.**

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.

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. **We anticipate having over 300 cartons of books at the sale. You will be glad you came!**

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 starting on November 16.
Please bring your own bags on Friday and Saturday.

Mark your calendars! 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.

Thank You Corner

From Scott Morgan to Ginger Russell

Ginger Russell is a volunteer extraordinaire who has been helping the Friends since we were in the old library. She is planning to move to Dublin next year, so it's time to thank her for the very important contributions she's made over 15 years.

Ginger has been responsible for several functions since the new library opened in 2009, including this newsletter the whole time! Every quarter, she internally published the "NNN," the *Newsletter Nag Notice*, to rally contributors to finish by their due dates. She was always firm but understanding when there were delays, wrote certain sections herself, and in the end we always met publication deadlines.

Ginger has also been responsible for our older, "antiquarian" books. Their value ranges from those that are worth selling online to others to be sold at the book sale at her special table and $1 cart. She also has been the "Person in Charge" for military and transportation books, as well as the ever-growing category of non-book items such as puzzles and games. Finally, she is the creator of our special flower pens for sale at the bookstore window.

Ginger, you've made a great difference to the Friends! We're grateful for everything you've done and hope you can continue with us in some way after you move!

eBay Store Updates

The Friends continue to sell many books and other items on eBay. Community members often donate books that are worth more than our low prices in the bookstore, but our eBay prices are very competitive too! Our eBay seller name is *friendscvlibrary*.

We recently received a collection of graphic novels, which have been selling well. At the time of writing, some of the items we have listed are:

- Dark Reign: Hawkeye - Marvel Comics
- The Flash: The Fastest Man Alive - Full Throttle - DC Comics
- Pokemon Adventures Volumes 1-7 by Hidenori Kusaka
- Archie Digest Library Comics Lot of 16 issues
- Ohtani's Journey by the L.A. Times
- The Guild Guitar Book by Hans Moust
- Bay Area Forager by Mia Andler/Kevin Feinstein

You can see our entire online store by scanning this QR or use the link https://www.ebay.com/usr/friendscvlibrary

More items are added every week.

Community Spotlight

Meet the Volunteers

Each newsletter, we'll ask volunteers a question to learn more about who they are, what drives them, and what brought them to the library. This quarter, we asked: "What motivated you to volunteer at the Friends of Castro Valley Library?"

"When I was laid off from my job, I had more free time than I knew what to do with. I was stuck not knowing what to do with my career, and in general, with my life LOL - but, what I did know was that the library was always there for me, so why not be there for the library! My love of the library stemmed from childhood, where my dad would take us after school and on the weekends to read and rent movies. Being low income meant being creative with how to entertain two young kids. I looked at several different libraries, but there were no volunteer positions open, until I saw a Facebook post from the Friends looking for a volunteer for the bookstore! I've never signed up for anything as fast as I did then! My love for the library also translates with my decision to go back to school and get my masters in Archival and Records Administration, so I feel like I'm right where I want to be now!"—**Paulina Cadena**

"Libraries were a big part of my childhood. I've always felt like they're the major organ in the system of a community. I used to volunteer with the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, but wanted to find something more local, especially since I was working remotely and didn't have much in-person social time. When I heard a volunteer spot had opened up this year, I was thrilled to get the call and get started. It's such a wonderfully supportive group of volunteers, and it's so nice to spend a few hours a week doing something for the community with lovely people." —**Mel de Leon**

"Libraries have always been a place where I can gather my thoughts and feel grounded. As a kid, the library was somewhere I could go when I had nowhere else to be, and it often kept me out of trouble. When I lost my job in 2025, I knew I needed something meaningful to fill my time, so I decided to see if the library bookstore needed volunteers. I had also recently gone back to school to earn my master's in Library and Information Science, so being in a library and surrounded by books felt especially comforting. I had plenty of free time then, so I was able to quickly fill an open shift. It's been almost a year now, and my volunteer shift has become my favorite day of the week." —**Jessie Brooke**

Contact Us

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 or email us if you have any questions or want to submit an item

- friendsofcvlibrary.org
- Friends.CVL@gmail.com
- +1-510-733-3285
- 3600 Norbridge Ave
  Castro Valley, CA 94546

Community Billboard

Join Us! 2027 Memberships Available Starting November 16

Your Friends of the Castro Valley Library membership renews as of January 1st each year. Even if you're already a member, we need a new application form filled out to verify that your information is correct. You can renew at the Friends Bookstore office inside the library, by mail, or through our website.

For mail, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we'll mail your membership card to you. Otherwise, please arrange to pick it up from the office.
Please allow a couple of weeks for processing before picking up your card.

Scan the QR code to renew online.

Individual Memberships are only $10, and you receive the following Benefits:

- $7 in discounts at the Friend's Bookstore ($14 for family memberships)
- $2 discount for each of our 3 book sales ($4 for family membership)
- Our quarterly newsletter (email or post)

Your dues support library programs that wouldn't otherwise be possible!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY TO ENSURE WE HAVE ACCURATE INFORMATION

I want to join the Friends of the Castro Valley Library as a ❑ new ❑ renewing member

First Name: _____ Last Name:_____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

You can make a tax-deductible check payable to:
Friends of the Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546

I wish to receive the newsletter by: ❑ email or ❑ post

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:
❑ $10 Individual ❑ $20 Family ❑ $5 Youth ❑ $35 Corporate Sponsor
❑ $50 Benefactor ❑ $200 Lifetime - Individual ❑ $300 Lifetime - Family

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:

_____

Library Hours

Monday & Tuesday	**12 noon to 8 pm**
Wednesday & Thursday	**10 am to 6 pm**
Friday	**Closed**
Saturday	**10 am to 5 pm**
Sunday	**1 pm to 5 pm**

Please call 510-667-7900 or visit the Library website at http://www.aclibrary.org for more information.

Bookstore Hours

Monday	**12 noon to 7:30 pm**
Tuesday	**12 noon to 5:30 pm**
Wednesday	**10 am to 5:30 pm**
Thursday	**10 am to 5:30 pm**
Friday	**Closed**
Saturday	**10 am to 4 pm**
Sunday	**1 pm to 4 pm**

Please call 510-733-3285 or visit the Friends website at https://www.friendsofcvlibrary.org/index.php 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
Joan King, At-Large Director
Roger Caswell, At-Large Director
Stephanie Dorward, At-Large Director
Sue Israel, 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.

Board Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, January to October, at 5:00 pm in the library. Our annual meeting is Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm. in the Chabot Room. *Circle of Friends* is published quarterly.

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Friends of the Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley CA 94546
www.aclibrary.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL