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# Friends News

A non-profit organization supporting  
Deer Hollow Farm and its educational programs



## "Be a Friend" Donor Campaign

## Winter 2015

**H**oliday time is a good time to support the Farm we all love. Support the Farm in the way you choose: animal care and feed, field trip scholarships, farm improvement projects, and general Farm operations.

Your support is vital to Deer Hollow Farm, an important regional environmental education center, allowing free access to more than 100,000 visitors from 14 Bay Area cities. Visitors view the Farm animals and take a walk through the "living history" barnyard. Nearly 4,900 students from 48 schools in Silicon Valley cities will attend nearly 200 classes this year. Half those students receive scholarships from Friends of Deer Hollow Farm donors.

Here are some ways your donation helps:

- **\$25** sends four children on a field trip for several hours of exciting outdoor education that is the basis for further learning in the classroom.



- **\$100** feeds Luna, the cow, for 10 days.
- **\$500** helps pay for steel fencing for the new pig enclosure.

- **\$1,000** feeds the Farm animals for a month or feeds a flock of sheep for three months.
- **\$2,000** pays for hay for the Farm for two months.



This year, Friends is providing donor appreciation gifts. Every donor receives a photo Thank-You card featuring the iconic White Barn and three newsletters annually. Donors through January 2016 will receive a bookmark calendar featuring Farm events.

For a \$500 gift, a donor receives two tickets to the 2016 Farm Tour April 16. Donors giving \$1,000 or more per year receive four tickets and a laminated card showing local animals and birds. Donors providing more than \$2,500 per year receive a "behind the scenes" Farm tour for up to 19 people and FODHF water bottles.



All donors providing more than \$1,000 in the past year will have their name on the Donor Wall at Deer Hollow Farm. The



Friends Donor Wall is updated twice a year.

Other ways to support the Farm include purchasing FODHF gifts from the Nature Center, open December 19 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Join our "Be A Friend" Donor Campaign to support our Farm. Use the handy enclosed donation return envelope. Your Friends at Deer Hollow Farm, the staff, animals, students, and fellow Farm visitors all thank you!



**F**riends of Deer Hollow Farm was honored by the Mountain View City Council in October for the Board's fundraising efforts, particularly for grants from the County of Santa Clara, Cupertino, and the Town of Los Altos Hills. Receiving the City's Proclamation were **Nina Wong-Dobkin**, secretary, **David Fung**, grants committee chairman, **Sue Gale**, president, **Pamela Baird**, grants committee member, and **Park Chamberlain**, treasurer.



- **\$50** buys worms for the teaching garden and seedling supplies or feeds a goat and her kid for 2 weeks.

# Letters

Dear Deer Hollow Farm,  
 The kindergarten students at Walter Hays in Palo Alto want to **Thank You** for an excellent field trip.

Each student wrote about their favorite part from visiting the farm.

We had a lot of fun and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Sincerely,  
 Kindergarten classes at Walter Hays Elementary School, Mrs. Guiriba, Mrs. Bolos, and Mrs. Lee

*(Enjoy the student pictures of "Me at the Farm" and their words about something they learned.)*

A rabbit can jump.

A cow can make milk.

A pig can roll in the mud.



Rabbits are soft.  
 Rabbits are cute.

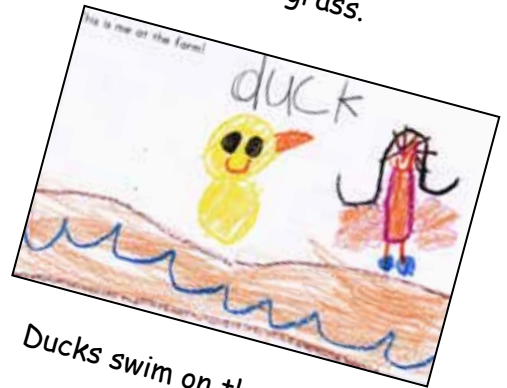


Rabbits can hop.



Goats make milk.

A goat can eat grass.



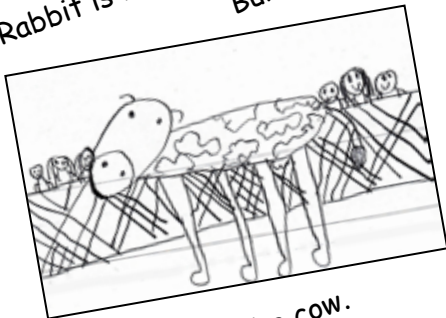
Ducks swim on the pond.



The cat was silly.

Rabbit is my favorite animal.

Bunnies are cute.



I saw them milking the cow.

The cow's name is Zoe.

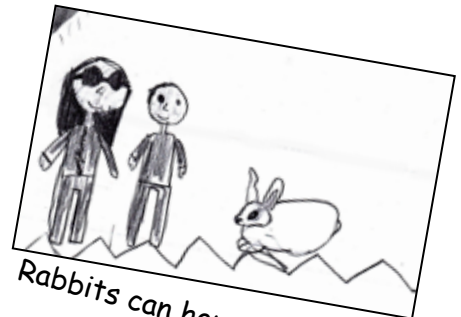
Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,  
 My students, volunteers, and I would like to thank you for a fantastic and educational field trip to the farm in April.

We appreciated your grant to enable us all to go. We wouldn't have been able to go without it!

This was our second year and we are now looking forward to it every year! It is so hands-on and engaging.

Thanks again,  
 Marci Sebastien, kinder teacher  
 San Miguel Elementary School

*(Enjoy the student pictures and their words about their favorite animal.)*



Rabbits can hop and run.

Goats have horns.



Sheep fur is soft and good.

I like the rooster because it is loud.

# FamiliarFace at the Farm

by Nina Wong-Dobkin

**G**inny Kaminski began volunteering at Deer Hollow Farm in 1980, when Deer Hollow Farm first started recruiting teaching docents for school field trips. She heard about Deer Hollow Farm while attending De Anza College. Ginny and a friend joined the ranks of teaching docents under **Linda Newberry**, the first Farm Naturalist. A few years later the staff developed a summer camp program, and that is where Ginny met **Mary Gilman**. Mary later took over the Farm Naturalist position after Linda moved on. Ginny went on to help with five years of summer camp; one summer Ginny was hired to fill Mary's place as she recovered from an accident.

Ginny's career continued to include environmental education, not returning as a teaching docent to Deer Hollow Farm until she retired. Ginny worked for Redwood Glen (now called Walden West), a resident outdoor education program through the Office of Education, Santa Clara County; and she taught environmental workshops to Mountain View elementary school children. Working for the City of Mountain View at Shoreline, Ginny spent 20 years developing programs, managing volunteers, dealing with environmental issues, and overseeing Rengstorff House.

Now retired from Shoreline, she is back to volunteer at Deer Hollow Farm. As a teaching docent, Ginny particularly enjoys working with kindergarten and first-grade children in Farm and Garden classes because everything is new and exciting to them. Ginny enthusiastically



shared, "It is important to introduce kids to the outdoors so they can appreciate it, be comfortable in exploring and learning about it, especially at the Farm where they can see and learn where their food comes from." She also welcomed the special opportunity to help feed baby lambs at the Farm last spring.

Over these years, Ginny has witnessed many changes.



When she first started volunteering at Deer Hollow Farm, there were not as many animals. The Farm did not have a cow, there was no pig barn, and the garden

was where the Ohlone Village is now. The Village was not developed until some years later. The Farm was small and easily manageable with a few volunteers who formed a very close-knit group and often socialized outside of the Farm. Now the Farm is much bigger with more animals,

old structures are being renovated, and many more volunteers are needed to help support daily operations, yet friendships with other volunteers is still a great by-product of volunteering.

Volunteering at Deer Hollow Farm is a family affair for Ginny. **Jerry**, her husband, volunteers restoring old farm equipment and helping with maintenance when needed. Ginny also volunteers at the Rengstorff House serving on The Friends of "R" House Board of Directors, and on the education committee for Audubon. Together they volunteer with POST and Jerry is always there to support all of Ginny's volunteer involvements.

Ginny and Jerry are avid hikers, both on local trails, in the Sierra, and traveling from Pole to Pole with many places in between. This year she and Jerry traveled to Southeastern Asia, which included a memorable trip to Camp Leakey in Borneo. They got to tour the camp and interact with the orangutans.

Ginny also enjoys time with her children (one daughter in Sunnyvale, one daughter in Gilroy, and a son in Redding) and her three grandsons.



## Friends Board of Directors September 2015

Seated: Park Chamberlain, Treasurer; Sue Gale, President; Nina Wong-Dobkin, Secretary. Standing L to R: Jenise Henrikson; Pamela Baird; Timothy Dylan Wood; Elizabeth Montgomery; Wai Mo; David Fung; Kevin Henrikson. Missing: Deb Maniar and Zulah Eckert.

# Donors Transform Deer Hollow Farm

## Visitor- & Animal-Friendly Changes Improve Farm

by Sue Gale, FODHF Board President

**F**riends of Deer Hollow Farm has funded more than \$100,000 in Farm project improvements since 2008, preserving and improving the Farm for Silicon Valley visitors and students for decades to come. The 163-year-old Farm still retains its historical feel, but is now more visitor-friendly and runs more efficiently. The animals are also more comfortable. The projects are proposed and managed by Farm staff, who recommend Farm enhancements to the non-profit Friends Board for a vote each year. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District staff manages and builds the construction projects. “We are grateful to Friends donors who have enabled these wonderful Farm improvements over the past seven years,” says **Jessica Morgan**, Farm Senior Coordinator who oversees Farm operations. “These projects have immediately improved daily Farm life for everyone: the animals, visitors, students, volunteers, and staff.”

Projects funded by Friends include a new amphitheater in the Farm’s replica Ohlone



Village used by thousands of students and summer campers each year. The covered teaching center includes benches for the audience. Also in the Village is a solar-powered restroom for students, volunteers, and staff.

Farm animals and the 40 volunteers who care for them have benefitted by upgrades



This view of Deer Hollow Farm shows the cow milking station where visitors and students can easily view demonstrations.



in the Milk Room located in the Goat Barn. A new sink and hot water tank allow more efficient cleaning after goat and cow milking.

The new automated cow-milking machine provides safer and easier milking for both the cow and milker.



animals to and from the Farm for vet care and breeding.

When Luna came to the farm, Friends



bought a new cow barn, which Farm volunteers painted.

A new chicken coop was completed last year. The existing coop, decades old and rickety with low-ceilings, was dismantled;



and the new coop, which also houses the rabbits, was relocated on the other side of the poultry barnyard.

Also in the poultry barnyard, a new duck pond and duck house have been

*Farm Improvements  
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# \$100,000 in Farm Improvements

## Farm Improvements continued



built. The new duck pond is an environmentally friendly and safe structure with drainage into the pasture. Trees and seating for visitors and students to view the birds have been provided. Aviary volunteers are now enjoying a new egg-washing station.

Another Farm structure that received major renovation was the old Apple Shed, which now houses an outstanding Nature Center with exhibits of local wildlife, trees, and fauna and stuffed animals, including a bobcat, mountain lion, fox, and many birds of prey.



Friends and Farm volunteers staff the Nature Center on the third Saturday of each month to give the public access to this learning center, used in Farm field trips.

The Farm's replica Ohlone Village sweat house was rebuilt and expanded to accommodate more students and Ohlone Day visitors. Like other large Farm construction projects, the sweathouse was designed and built by Farm and Midpen staff.



The Farm's teaching garden, used primarily for the kindergarten field trips that draw more than 1,000 students each year, has received many renovations. Over the years the garden beds and irrigation have been redesigned to protect the plants from predators and drought.



A new sink was installed to wash vegetables freshly picked by students in their classes. Kids sample the

veggies while sitting on new benches in the corner of the garden.

The Farm's iconic White Barn has received a fresh coat of paint thanks to Friends donors.



Children who come for the Farm's Ohlone field trips enjoy the new picnic tables provided by Friends. Here they eat their lunch after class.



Friends also provided students and

volunteers with many teaching tools, including audiovisual equipment.

New barnyard signage has helped visitors and students alike learn about the Farm and



animals. Posters illustrating wool processing and weaving around the world adorn the Blacksmith Shed classroom, used by first graders in their Milk and Fleece classes.

Students who come to Farm field trips on rainy days wear ponchos provided by Friends. Visitors enjoy benches throughout the barnyard.



The current Farm renovation project is a new pig enclosure and shelter with standard industrial hog fencing and metal posts. The pig area will be divided into four sections with multiple gates between the pens. An 18-by-18 shelter will straddle the interior fence to create shelter for each section of the pen. This will provide safer, more comfortable housing for the pigs.

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm has supported the Farm with **one million dollars** since its founding in 1994 with more than \$100,000 going directly to Farm projects recommended by staff to improve the daily Farm life for the animals, staff, volunteers, visitors, and students.

We thank our wonderful friends for your support in preserving and enhancing this historical teaching Farm, a truly outstanding regional educational center.

## Friends Board Welcomes New Member

The Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board of Directors welcomes Mountain View resident **Pamela Baird**, the local business owner of KB Associates, who believes in the preservation and enhancement of the Farm. “I think



that it is imperative that Deer Hollow Farm remains a vital asset for the surrounding communities. The opportunity for

children to see farm animals, learn local history, and interact with others is a community treasure. I want to help maintain the viability of the Farm and its programs.”

Pamela’s 35 years of business experience and interest in marketing and public advocacy will be great assets to the Board. “Through my business experience, I understand the importance of marketing, financial planning, setting goals and getting along with people. As a business professional I have been active in the local industry trade association.”

Pamela and her husband Greg Unangst regularly hike and run at Rancho San Antonio and stop by for animal visits. “We’ve seen excited children and families on their way to or from the Farm and marveled at what a great place it is.”

Pamela and Greg are both active volunteers in their community. Pamela serves on the Mountain View Human Relations Commission, while her husband serves on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the Mountain View City Council. “Serving on the commission has provided me with the opportunity to meet many local people and become acquainted with a variety of organizations and groups.”

As with many Farm advocates, there’s a bit of farmer in Pamela’s roots. “My mother’s extended family are farmers in Southwestern Iowa. I have fond memories of visiting the various farms as a child and seeing the animals and crops.”

## Friendly Inquiries

by Tom Lustig



**Michael, Mountain View**

We’re here for the first time. We like the decorations

(for Spooky Times). What is special is the authenticity of the Farm. It is not just a petting zoo. We are surprised, and thankful, by the sign that says the Farm is operated by **The City of Mountain View.**

**Carine, Sunnyvale**

We enjoy jogging and visiting the Farm. My last time here, the Nature Center was open,



and I was interested in seeing the mountain lion. You see signs to be careful about the mountain lion. Where we live by the bay there are a lot of houses; and here, just a few miles away, we are at the Farm out in nature.



**John, San Francisco**

Back in the 1970s, we often walked all the trails around these hills. The hikes are healthy and the country is pretty. Our grandchildren now are the reason for our visit. Forty years ago, there was only one parking lot and you had no problem parking.



**Karolina, Kasia and Dorota, Mountain View**

We especially like the Farm’s Halloween decorations. We are enjoying taking many photos. Our favorite animals are the pigs.

**Yumi, Kaz, and Mak, Los Altos**

I run by here all the time and it is very interesting to watch the cycle of goats growing up. Sometimes we bike up here. The Farm is a great biking destination



**Cuie, Mountain View**

It is good that my children learn about the Farm during



field trips and summer camp. Before I had children, I hiked here. But nowadays we visit, and my kids are able to get a very close look at the animals. It is a better education than from pictures in books.

**Devendra, Vatsel and Vihaan, Cupertino**

We place a lot of value on the Farm. We like the appearance of the Farm. Much of it looks like it would have in the 1800s.



# Ask the Nature Lover

## About Tarantulas

Arachnids (Spiders)  
Family: Theraphosidae

by Donna Aronson

Although you won't be reading about these large, hairy spiders until after Halloween, I am writing about them as I see big, phony spiders adorning front yards, in preparation for the scary night of October 31st. Did you know, in reality, tarantulas are very mild-mannered and gentle spiders? Even if a tarantula were to bite you (and that would most likely happen only if you provoked it), the venom is rather weak and wouldn't cause much harm. But tarantulas have another very effective and efficient way to protect themselves. There are barbed hairs on the abdomen, used for defense. If attacked, the spider rubs off some of the hairs with a leg and flings them at the offender. They are sharp and irritating. Ouch!

There are many kinds of tarantulas in the world, and they live in many parts of the planet. They live in burrows. Tarantulas do not make standard spider webs with silk. They make silk and use it to line their burrow, wrap their eggs, or make "trap lines" outside the burrow which vibrate to announce predators, or food.

The exoskeleton of these spiders can be really big, the size of a dinner plate with a leg span of 10 inches. Our local tarantulas are not nearly that size, but big compared to other spiders. Usually these spiders are in their burrows or on the ground, but they have ingenious claws on the feet, like a mountain climber using crampons, to grip the surface of anything to be climbed. They also have two extra appendages in front, called "pedipalps" to help crush and cut their food, which is mostly insects.

Annually, male tarantulas migrate seeking a female for mating. Some places in Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, and California capitalize on "Marching Tarantulas" as the males leave their burrows in great numbers, even crossing roads, looking for love. Mt. Diablo, across the San Francisco

Bay, sometimes has "Tarantula Days."

The female can live as long as 30 years in the wild. The male has a shorter life span. The tarantula has eight eyes, but not very keen vision. They see only light/dark and movement. Those barbed hairs, described earlier, are also an important sense. The hairs are very sensitive and can detect vibration, wind, sound, and possibly chemicals, like pheromones. You might be lucky enough to see a tarantula at Rancho San Antonio Preserve. I did indeed see one about a year ago, in a chaparral area. For sure, a fine Chilean



Rose Tarantula can be seen easily, in an exhibit at the Palo Alto Junior Museum. Go check her out!

## Wonderful Friends

We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between August 1 and October 31, 2015.

### Grants

**\$25,000 from Santa Clara County**  
(for field trip busing and scholarships)

**\$5,000 from Los Altos Community Foundation**  
(for Farm operations)

**\$1,000 from Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund**  
(for the Animal Fund)

### Donations

**Steller's Jay (\$1,000 to \$2,499)**  
Manfroy Family Fund

**California Quail (\$500 to \$999)**

Timothy Dylan Wood  
Tom and Susan Kempe, match from  
Bristol-Myers-Squibb

Carol Ryall, with match from  
Applied Material  
Anonymous

**Acorn Woodpecker (\$250 to \$499)**

Shannon Hegg  
Martha Norberg, in memory of  
Anna Gallant

**Phoebe (\$100 to \$249)**

Raymond and Elsa Heald  
Dwain and Susan Aidala, in honor of  
Sophia, Abigail, and Toby  
Katrina Johnson  
Robert Friedman

**Junco (\$50 to \$99)**

Ann Schmitt  
Paresh and Debra Maniar  
David Bruner  
James Chin and Silvia Cen  
Marianne Gregersen, in honor of  
Lee Winchell's birthday

**Hummingbird (up to \$49)**

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Margo Plageman-Lee  
Anonymous

Thank you to those who put a total of \$899 in the Friends donation box at the Farm.

Thank you to **All Things Printed.**



# Friends 2016 Fundraising Events

**O**hlonne Day 2015 hosted 351 guests, raising a total of \$2,366 for the Farm's programs. This annual event would not be possible without the efforts of volunteers shown here. Below are pictures of this year's fire starting, acorn grinding, dancing, face painting, archery, cording, and Ohlone tools.

Spooky Times at Deer Hollow Farm, a Farm event supported by FODHF, also was a great success, drawing 563 guests,

many of whom wore amazing costumes. The event raised \$3,354 for the Farm Animal Fund.

Friends will hold two fundraising events in 2016. The one **Spring Farm Tour** will be on **April 12 from 10 am to 2 pm**. This is one hour longer than the 2015 Farm Tour to give more visitors a chance to visit the animals and learn about the Farm. Next year's **Ohlone Day** will be on **October 1 from noon to 3pm**.

**D**eer Hollow Farm is a ten-acre working farm in the Los Altos foothills. The Farm is part of the 3800-acre Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve 22500 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, 94024. For Deer Hollow Farm information, call 650.903.6430.



**FriendsNews**  
**T**his newsletter is published for the community of individual and community donors who want to preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm and its outstanding environmental-education program. The Farm is one of the last working homestead farms in California. Find the color **FriendsNews** at [www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org). contact: [info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org](mailto:info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org) by mail: P.O. Box 4282, Mountain View, CA 94040

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