



Letters
page 2



Friends
2016 News
pages 4



Oak Galls
page 6



Visiting
the Farm
page 6

Friends News

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



“Be a Friend” Donor Campaign

Winter 2016

Year-end holidays are a great time to celebrate the Farm with your support. The non-profit Friends of Deer Hollow Farm is conducting its annual “Be a Friend” donor campaign. Spread the love and the important message about Deer Hollow Farm’s environmental education programs.



for several hours of exciting hands-on education. **\$50** supports the goat herd for two days.



Follow the donation link at www.deerhollowfarmfriends.com to make a donation easy. Your support is vital to Deer Hollow Farm, a regional environmental education center hosting more than 100,000 visitors annually for free. Visitors from 14 Bay Area cities come to view the Farm animals and take a walk through the “living history” barnyard. Nearly 5,000 students from 52 schools in 12 Silicon Valley cities will attend more than 200 classes this year. About 40% of those students receive scholarships and busing from Friends donors.



\$100 supports the sheep for about a week. **\$350** supports Luna the cow with feed and care for a month.

\$400 pays for busing for a field trip. This year, Friends is providing Donor Appreciation gifts to individual donors. Every donor receives a photo thank-you card featuring Farm scenes or animals and two newsletters annually. Donors through January 2017 will receive a handy calendar featuring Farm events.



Here are some ways your donation helps:



\$20 buys one bale of hay or alfalfa feed, the main staple of most Farm animals.

\$25 sends four students on an outdoor field trip



FODHF offers free passes to Farm events such as the Spring Farm Tours to donors giving \$250 or more in the past year.

All donors who

provided more than \$1,000 in the past fiscal year will have their names on the Deer Hollow Farm Donor Wall.

You might make a donation to remember a friend or family member on their birthday or to honor someone.



AND your recipient will receive a beautiful hand-made card acknowledging your gift.

Other ways to support the Farm include purchasing FODHF gifts from the Nature Center, open **December 17 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm**. The guides to the plants and animals of Rancho San Antonio would be great stocking stuffers.



Join our “Be a Friend” Donor Drive to support our Farm. Your Friends at Deer Hollow Farm, the staff, animals, students, and fellow Farm visitors all thank you!



Letters



Note: The image at the left shows the page students completed in a dual immersion Spanish-English class. Students traced over the letters in the words already on the page and filled in the blanks. Here is the letter from the teachers, some of the pictures students drew, and some of the things they said they learned.

April 2016
 Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,
 Thank you very much for your generosity! We were so fortunate to receive BOTH program and bus scholarships for our three Kindergarten classes and our K-2 SDC (Special Day Class). Two classes went in March and the other two went in April. Our students had such an amazing experience seeing and petting all of the animals. Most of our students would've never had the experience without your generosity! On the way back to school and even on the last day of school before break it was deemed by most "The best day ever!" Gracias!
 Warmly, Colleen Lynch Espinoza,
 Daisy Mendez, Ann Lopez, Laurie Noyes,
 San Miguel Elementary School

Aprendí que pueden saltar, brincar, y comer.
 I learned that bunnies jump, hop, and eat.



Aprendí que las abejas pueden comer y caminar de una vez.
 I learned sheep can walk and eat at the same time.



Aprendí que no tienen dientes abajo y a ellos les gustan la sombra.
 I learned that bunnies don't have teeth below and they like the shade.

Aprendí que los venados pueden correr, y brincar, y comer hierba.
 I learned deer can run, jump and eat grass.



Aprendí que las vacas dan leche.
 I learned that cows give us milk.



Aprendí que los patos pueden nadar muy bien.
 I learned ducks are very good at swimming.



Aprendí que los chivos pueden brincar muy alto.
 I learned that goats can jump very high.

Familiar Face at the Farm

Susan Casner-Kay

by Nina Wong-Dobkin

After devoting 33 years to a rewarding career as a physical therapist, **Susan Casner-Kay** retired in August of 2014. Encouraged by her husband, **Jack**, she promptly shifted her dedication to taking care of animals at Deer Hollow Farm as a livestock volunteer. Susan and her family have often hiked on trails at Rancho San Antonio over the years; they would walk through the Farm to enjoy the animals on these hikes. Susan is now enjoying her time on the other side of the



fences, taking care of and working with the animals.

Volunteering at the farm is a great way for Susan to clear her mind of any troubles! Focusing on cleaning pens or feeding and milking the animals allows her to feel connected to something very real and tangible. She enjoys the different animals and their characteristics and unique personalities. Her two favorite animals are Trudy, the Nubian goat, and



Purl, the Finn sheep. Both of them are quick to come and greet Susan, wanting to get their share of scratches and rubs from their loving caretaker.

Susan's whole family enjoys the Farm. Her husband, Jack, enjoys visiting with the sheep and often comes to the Farm to spend time with them at the end of Susan's volunteer shift. Her three adult children visit the farm whenever they can. Thanks to Susan, her family have all had the fun of trying to milk animals at the Farm.

In addition to volunteering at Deer Hollow Farm, Susan is a Santa Clara Master Gardener and an active member of the California Rare Fruit Growers. She loves gardening in her own backyard and has four lovely hens at home. She has also shared her hobby of making cheese when she teaches cheese-making classes at Deer Hollow Farm. Susan said, "Turning milk into cheese is a continual learning process, and is both an art and a science." As an avid cheese-maker, getting to work with the animals that produce milk is a special

bonus for Susan.

As Susan does her farm chores, she welcomes the opportunity to interact with the public, talking to those interested in the animals and the Farm. She shares her knowledge about animals and milking with Farm visitors and school children. One of her favorite questions came from a 4-year-old girl, "How does the cow turn grass into milk?" What a delightfully inquisitive and observant child!

Susan has successfully encouraged some of her friends to volunteer with the

animals. She shared, "The connection to the Farm that comes from caring for animals is very uplifting. I am thankful for the opportunity to volunteer at the Farm. I feel really lucky!"

Susan is usually at the Farm Tuesday mornings.

Contact the Farm office at deerhollowfarm@mountainview.gov if you have questions about our cheese-making classes or volunteering.



New Lead Teacher

Joanne Lewis is the new Lead Teacher at Deer Hollow Farm. Born and raised in Mountain View, she visited the Farm many times during her childhood. Joanne majored in Environmental Studies and Agriscience at Michigan State and says she's always had a passion for animals, especially cows, so she's happy to be with Luna and Roxy.

"I am very excited to be in this position and further enhance my teaching experience. I absolutely love this job." Joanne also works at McClellan Ranch in Cupertino.

Previously she taught at Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge in Alviso, the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley, and with Shoreline/City of Mountain View.

FODHF Board Wraps Up a Great Year

by Sue Gale,
FODHF President

The all-volunteer Friends of Deer Hollow Farm (FODHF) Board is pleased to report a record year of support for the Farm.

The 13-member Board ended its fiscal year with \$303,000 revenues thanks to a special bequest from the estate of Walter Tindal, who gave the Farm \$155,000. This special bequest is being applied to a multi-year project to renovate the Farm's iconic White Barn.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), the barn's owner, also received a \$155,000 Tindal bequest and has pledged their donation to the barn renovation project, currently in the planning phase. The barn requires a foundation, flooring, new stairs and loft reinforcement, as well as a new roof. Due to the extensive planning required, including heritage building and structural evaluations, the renovation will likely start in 2018.

This year the FODHF Board provided \$28,578 in Farm field trip tuition scholarships and busing for 2,380 students



from low-income areas to attend 98 Farm field trips. Grants from the County of Santa Clara, the Packard Foundation, and others provided support for this program. The FODHF Board voted this year to provide summer camp scholarships for 2017.

FODHF also provided \$17,752 in farm enhancement projects. This year the pig enclosure project was completed. The next



project will replace the goat and sheep fencing to match the new pig fencing and provide farm tools including equipment for the milk room.



The Animal Fund pays for: feed; supplies for care including straw for bedding; acquisition of new animals including chicks, geese and heritage animals; and vet care and medicines.

The Board staffed a FODHF booth at four summer Mountain View Thursday Night Live evening events to introduce more people to the Farm and FODHF's work. Pippin, one of the Farm's dwarf



goats, and rabbits and chickens served as popular Farm ambassadors.

FODHF partnered with the MROSD volunteers on several Farm projects with FODHF providing materials funding. The



MROSD volunteers built new fencing along the Farm road and a fire pit in the Farm's replica Ohlone Village. They will complete a new farm front entrance fencing and gate this December.

The City of Cupertino, FODHF's Farm

donors provided \$30,240 for the Animal Fund. Funding for the more than 100 animals and

operations funding partner, increased their Farm support this year to \$15,000 and Los Altos Hills provided \$5,000. Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department provided \$75,000. Friends provided \$35,141. The City of Mountain View's net costs were about \$91,000. FODHF believes that the Farm's future is better ensured if many community organizations share in its support.

FODHF secured grant requests from several local community organizations including the Los Altos Community Foundation, the Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund, the Mountain View Kiwanis Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department, the Merrimac Fund, the Intero Foundation, and the Sereno Properties Group of Los Altos. Many private donors have contributed.

A new FODHF Donor Wall is now on the Farm's Garage Wall honoring those generous patrons who have given more than \$1,000 in the past fiscal year. They account for more than 80% of our total revenues.



FODHF has provided more than \$1,422,000 in Farm support since its founding in 1994, including more than \$166,000 in Farm capital improvement projects. FODHF looks forward to another great year.

FODHF's Mission Is to

- Preserve Deer Hollow Farm, an historical area and working farm, for future generations.
- Support the Farm's regional environmental education program for the benefit of schools and the community by raising funds through donations, grants, and public events.

Meet Your New Board of Directors



Officers seated: L to R
Carla Dorow, Treasurer;
Sue Gale, President;
Nina Wong-Dobkin,
Secretary.
Standing, L to R:
Dick Walker,
Park Chamberlain,
Lauren Merriman,
Nancy Stuhr,
Wai Mo,
Timothy Dylan Wood.

Members not present:
David Fung, Pamela Baird,
Kevin Henrikson, and
Jenise Henrikson.

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, has welcomed new faces and helping hands to raise funding for Deer Hollow Farm.



CARLA

Carla Dorow has returned to the Board and has been elected treasurer. Carla has volunteered at the Farm for 17 years, wearing many hats. Her extensive financial management experience supports the Board's financial decisions.

Nancy Stuhr, a five-year veteran Farm livestock volunteer and a local realtor for the past two decades, has joined the Board to work on grants. Nancy brings business and marketing skills and nonprofit board experience, having volunteered on the Friends of R House Board and the Board of Mountain View Education Foundation's Realtor Fund-Raising Board.



LAUREN

New Board member **Lauren Merriman** not only knows the Farm well, but also has extensive management and leadership skills. Lauren was the former City of Mountain View Recreation Division Supervisor responsible for both the Farm and FODHF for many years. She is now Recreation Supervisor with the City of Campbell and is terming out soon as President of California Parks and Recreation Association for the 4th District (SF to Gilroy).

NANCY



In January, the Board will hold officer elections. Sue Gale, Board president, will be stepping down. Under Sue's leadership, the Board has doubled in size, and revenues have increased tenfold. She focused Board work in operating committees, reducing the number of meetings required for the



SUE

Board. She also ensured that all operating procedures were documented and all FODHF documents archived online in a Board database. She brought new grantors and funding partners to the Board, including Santa Clara County scholarship grants for \$75,000 over three years, and helped increase the County's annual contribution to \$75,000 from \$50,000. Sue served two terms with the Board, and in those 10 years, she raised nearly \$175,000 for the Farm.

Ask the Nature Lover

About Oak Galls

by Donna Aronson

On Saturday, August 20, 2016, **Christine Green** and I staffed the Nature Center at Deer Hollow Farm. The Center is open to the public on the third Saturday morning of almost every month. We saw over sixty visitors that day. The “Touch Table” (please feel free to touch and handle) is in the center of what was once an apple storage shed. The table has a variety of objects to explore. There are snakeskins, many different feathers, two turkey tails, a flicker, barn owl and Mallard duck wings, skulls, antlers, a rattlesnake rattle, buckeyes, and a basket of oak galls.

Of all the articles on the table, the galls were the least recognized or identified.

Christine and I must have had a dozen visitors ask, “What is that?” pointing to the galls. An oak gall is the tree’s response to



the irritation a tiny wasp causes when her eggs are laid on the branch of the oak tree. When the female wasp lays eggs, a hormone is excreted that causes the tree to produce a growth around the eggs. The gall protects the larvae which hatches from the eggs. They eat the gall tissue and may remain inside the gall for weeks, months and even years, depending on the weather and type of wasp. When the larvae become winged, they bore a tunnel out of the apple- or potato-shaped gall to exit as new wasps. Holes on the surface are left.

Galls range in size from 1 cm to 6 cm and have many shapes and colors.

Galls are found year round, but many form in the fall. When walking to the Farm look for small oak trees along the trail to see oak galls for yourself.

Planning to Visit the Farm

by Jaime Villarreal

Going to a destination such as Deer Hollow Farm is enjoyable, but your experience can be enhanced if you know what to expect. The Farm is inside Rancho San Antonio County Park and Preserve, managed by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). Part of this agency’s mission is to “provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education,” available when visiting the Farm.



Notice the warning signs as you enter the preserve. They cover information such as the importance of staying on the main trail to avoid poison oak and ticks, keeping an eye out for rattlesnakes in warmer weather, and being aware of the presence of predators like mountain lions. The signs provide information about these topics and more.

The preserve is open ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset; however, the Farm is open only from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed all day Mondays and at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. It is suggested you bring water, food/snacks, and wear good walking shoes and weather appropriate clothing. If you plan on riding a bicycle, you are required to wear a helmet and stay on the designated service road. It takes about half an hour to walk the one mile from the parking lot to the Farm on the main (Lower Meadow) trail. This path crosses the service road used by authorized personnel, staff, volunteers, contractors, and emergency vehicles.



Parties of 20 or more require a free group permit obtained from MROSD. Please use wilderness etiquette by taking nothing but pictures and leaving nothing but footprints. Help keep the preserve beautiful by packing out all your litter. Pets are not allowed.



As you get close to the Farm, there is an area to the left with outdoor structures made from natural materials such as tule, willow, and redwood. This is a replica of an Ohlone village and is used to teach visiting classes. It is open to the public only one day in October. Next is a parking lot used by staff and volunteers bordering a farmhouse that is a PRIVATE residence.

As you approach the Farm entrance you’ll pass an old cabin and the Nature Center. Farm entrance is free but please observe the Farm guidelines which are posted



at the entrance. The Farm is not a petting zoo, so buildings and pens are closed to the public. Interpretive signs are posted throughout with information about the Farm and its animals. Eggs, seasonal fruit, and compost are sometimes available for purchase. Just past the Farm is an open-air barn, which can be used as a picnic area. A water fountain and public restrooms are also available nearby. The fastest way back to the parking lot is by returning on the Lower Meadow Trail.

By preparing for your visit you can focus on the important things: the trails, nature, and the Farm animals, ensuring you have a wonderful time.

Wonderful Friends **W**e gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between August 1 and October 31, 2016.

Bequest

Tindall Family Trust (\$15,000)

Grants

City of Cupertino (\$15,000)
 Los Altos Community Foundation (\$5,000)
 Town of Los Altos Hills (\$5,000)

Donations

Hawk (\$5,000)

Marcella Stauber, in memory of Ulf Stauber

Stellar Jay (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Dewey and Doris Halligan
 Manfroy Family Fund

California Quail (\$500 to \$999)

Tom and Susan Kempe, Bristol Myers Squibb match
 Timothy Dylan Wood
 David Weigand
 Richard and Jane Walker

Acorn Woodpecker (\$250 to \$499)

Mary Gundelach
 Anonymous

Phoebe (\$100 to \$249)

Katrina Johnson, for Roxie Sylvia Weiser
 Doug Cox, in memory of Ulf Stauber
 Alice Martineau
 Ann Schmitt
 Anne Miller
 Christine Goritschnigg, with HP match

Phoebe continued

Jack Borok
 Lee Winchell, in memory of Fran Alfson
 Robert and Nedra Skyles
 Robert Friedman

Junco (\$50 to \$99)

Amazon Smile Foundation
 Dee Wood, in memory of Ulf Stauber
 Inling Chou
 Marianne Gregersen, in honor of her sister, Lee Winchell, for her birthday
 Sue Stewart
 Thomas Goosmann

Hummingbird (up to \$49)

Margaret Lanphier

The volunteers and staff are also wonderful friends to the animals and to all who enjoy the Farm. Here you see some of the volunteers who worked at the fall events (more on page 8).



Ohlone Day



Spooky Times



2017 Farm Tours March 11, April 8, May 6

Mark your calendars for three spring Deer Hollow Farm tours. These public events, sponsored by the City of Mountain View, benefit the Farm Animal Fund for feed and care.



The Farm tours on **March 11, April 8, and May 6** start at 10:00 am and pens close at 2:00 pm. Entrance fees are \$7 each, with children under 1 free.

You'll find docents inside the pens to

introduce you and your family to the Farm animals. The new Farm babies, kids and lambs, will be frolicking in their pens.

The public may enter the pens only during the public Farm events, so this is a rare chance to meet the animals up close. Carpooling is encouraged due to limited parking.

Credit cards are accepted. Strollers are welcome in the barnyard, but not in the pens. Come and enjoy the Farm.



Deer Hollow Farm is a ten-acre working farm in 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 is published for the donors who want to preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm. Find the color **FriendsNews** at www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org.

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Your next **FriendsNews** will be mailed on June 1, 2017

Volunteers and Staff Have Fun at Fall Events

