



FODHF  
Board  
News  
page 4



Ducks  
page 5



Chicks  
page 7



New Lead  
Teacher  
page 8

# Friends News



**Friends of Deer Hollow Farm is a non-profit organization supporting Deer Hollow Farm and its educational programs.**

## Winter 2018 Year-End Donations

**W**e are thankful for all who support the Farm in so many ways—the volunteers like those who are pictured below and the wonderful friends who donate to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. On page 4 you will read about all the ways your donations to Friends have helped this year and what they are continuing to do. Thank you!

Now as the year is ending we are seeking your donations to continue to make the Farm a better place for all to enjoy.

You may donate through our website

[www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org) using your credit card or Paypal. Donors receive thank-you cards and large donations receive additional recognition. When your donation is made in honor of another, that person or their family receives a beautiful card.



## Other Ways to Support Friends

**B**ring your family and friends to Farm events, such as the 2019 Spring Farm Tours on March 23 and April 13. Purchasing Friends merchandise at these events provides further support.

Think about investing in Deer Hollow Farm's future by including FODHF in your will or trust.

Consider joining the FODHF Board to help raise funds.

## FALL EVENTS

In October, the Ohlone Village was visited by 234 explorers who played games, made cords, watched fire started, ground acorns, and much more. We earned \$1,582. Thank you, volunteers. The group of volunteers is pictured on page 8.



Decorations, crafts, costumes, and, of course, time in the pens with the animals brought 573 visitors to the Farm for Spooky Times. We earned \$3,358. Pictured are some of the volunteers. The volunteer group picture is on page 8.



# Letters

*Linda's kindergarteners sent these pictures with their thank-you notes.*

Dear Deer Hollow  
Farmers and Docents,

Thank you for a  
wonderful visit on  
December 6th. As I  
was reminiscing during  
the trip, I have been on  
this field trip more than  
20 times over the past  
20 years and I always  
enjoy it!

I hope there will  
always be Deer Hollow  
Farm tours for school  
children.

Sincerely,  
Linda Lopez  
Huff Elementary School



Dear Ohlone Program Docents,

Thank you for working so hard  
with my class. You made my life  
more fun.

3rd grade teacher  
Kaitlin Kim  
Nimitz Elementary School

Dear Deer Hollow Farm Ohlone  
Program,

I attended the Ohlone Program  
and Deer Hollow Farm on Thurs-  
day November 9, 2017 with my  
third grade class, and I found it to  
be not only informative and enrich-  
ing, but also fun and exciting. The  
students in my class have written  
letters of appreciation to thank you  
for your time and expertise as well  
as to describe some of the things  
that they learned. I hope you enjoy  
reading them.

Thank you for donating your  
time to enrich and enhance the  
learning of my students.

3rd grade teacher  
Jim Rhee  
Nimitz Elementary School

*Kaitlin and Jim helped students structure their letters, asking them to write three paragraphs, an introduction, a paragraph listing three things they learned, and a conclusion. Here are some of the things students said they learned.*

The Ohlones  
learned to talk to the  
rocks. They believed  
everything had a  
spirit.

They had a soul and  
they talked to it.

They used acorns  
from Oak trees for  
food.

Buckeye nuts were  
emergency food.

They planned  
before they hunted.

Men stayed in the  
sweat house for three  
days until they went  
hunting.

They first planned  
their fast, that was  
cool.

They used  
elderberry as the  
stick for their spears.

The Ohlone used  
hardened lava to  
make spear tips.

They used  
arrowhead obsidian  
as the point of the  
arrow.

Ohlones had to  
trade to get obsidian.

Ohlones used spears  
before they made  
arrows.

They used buckeye  
nuts to put into  
the water so the  
fish would become  
paralyzed (stunned)  
and would float to the  
top.

If they didn't catch  
enough fish, they ate  
nuts.

Hoop and spear was  
how kids learned to  
hunt and aim.

They made lots of  
things like toys with  
cattails.

Elderberry bark  
stops headaches.

The elderberry  
bark was used to cure  
a runny nose.

They knew that bay  
leaves cured runny  
noses.

Ohlones made face  
paint by rubbing soft  
rocks and they put it  
on when there was a  
celebration.

Oak galls trapped  
wasp eggs and the  
wasps ate their way  
out.

It was hard to do,  
but they made fire  
by rubbing two sticks  
together.

They used all of the  
animals' skins.

They learned to  
make a sling shot.

The houses were  
separated, like the  
sleeping house.



# FamiliarFace at the Farm—Ellen Schwartz

by Nina Wong-Dobkin

Before Friends of Deer Hollow Farm was founded, before this newsletter's inaugural issue was printed, before there were Farm events such as Spring Farm Tours, **Ellen Schwartz** was volunteering at the Farm. She is Deer Hollow Farm's longest-serving volunteer, and it all started on a walk at Rancho San Antonio where she met and talked with **Mary Gilman**. Mary invited Ellen to volunteer, and she is still volunteering today, more than 30 years later! Ellen has put in hundreds



of hours of volunteer work at Deer Hollow Farm, enthusiastically sharing with countless kindergarteners her vast knowledge of Deer Hollow Farm and the animals, what each animal gives people, and how carrots and beets grow.

I accompanied Ellen as she led a group of eleven kindergarteners on the Farm and Garden tour. Starting at the permit



parking lot, she followed the trail over the bridge, where she began with the important lesson of how to spot poison ivy, "leaves of three, let it be." As she headed toward the Farm she'd pick out interesting things for the kindergarteners to observe. A woodrat's nest was fascinating to the children. The tree where bay leaves grow got her students thinking about delicious spaghetti dinners. Even the parents in the group appreciated knowing a hen can lay only one egg each day. The 100-year-old wooden fence along the trail that Ellen pointed out made such an impression that one of the children remembered it on our way back to the bus at the end of the field trip.

Ellen loves Deer Hollow Farm partially because it reminds her of the farm her aunt and uncle had in the early 1900s. Ellen's father was in the military, and her family moved around often as she was growing up. To give her a sense of family and community, she spent her summers with her aunt and uncle on their farm. Ellen enjoys sharing with her students the experience at her aunt and uncle's farm. When she wanted milk with her cereal, she had to get up at 4AM to help milk the cow. If she wanted eggs, she would collect them from the

chicken coop. Ellen is passionate about teaching children where their food comes from.

In addition to volunteering at Deer Hollow Farm, Ellen is a dedicated, long-time member at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills and has been a volunteer since 2015 with their East Palo Alto Creative Montessori Learning Center's Equal Start program. The preschool program serves 130 students who come from families that are unable to provide enriching extra-curricular activities. Most of these children have never been on a bus for a school field trip, visited Rancho San Antonio, been on a trail, or ever seen live farm animals. With the help of **Sue Gale**, who secured funding for the trip, Ellen worked out logistics to bring the children to the Farm.



**Jessica Morgan**, senior coordinator at the Farm, and **Lisa Cornelius**, the Farm's livestock coordinator, recruited 14 volunteer docents to join Ellen in leading small groups of Equal Start preschoolers. Seeing the children's excitement and awe as they met and petted our goats, sheep, rabbits, and chickens, and their attention as they watched Lisa milk Luna made all the hard work worthwhile for everyone involved.

When Ellen is not volunteering, she enjoys swimming, hiking, gardening, dancing, reading, Zumba, and jazzercise. She also finds time to spend with her four adult children and five grandchildren who all grew up loving Deer Hollow Farm.



# 2018 in Review

by Lauren Merriman

It's been another busy year for the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. Here's a look at what the eleven-member FODHF Board has been up to.

## Funding Report

This year the FODHF Board provided \$25,500 in Farm field-trip tuition scholarships and busing for 2,304 students from low-income areas to attend 98 Farm field trips. The Board is able to fund these scholarships through grants from Santa Clara County, the Packard Foundation, the Merrimac fund, and other sources. In addition, for the second year, FODHF Board voted to provide scholarship funding to 13 Deer Hollow Farm summer camp participants. These students were recommended by the West Valley Community Services Agency; they increased the proportion of low-income students experiencing Deer Hollow Farm.

FODHF provided \$33,500 in funding for Farm enhancement projects. This year, staff took on a remodel of the garage area, including additional storage solutions.



Friends purchased new storage containers for the Ohlone Village and paid for the painting of the Sheep/Pig Barn.

Next year there are plans to add a barn

to the upper pasture area, replace and add new signage to the orchard, complete the replacements of all the remaining gates on the property, and last, but not least, the continued funding of the portable restroom located at the Ohlone Village for school year programs.

FODHF donors provided an amazing \$40,000 towards the Animal Fund.



The Animal Fund pays for animal feed, medicine, and supplies, including straw for bedding, the acquisition of new animals, including chicks, geese, and heritage animals, and veterinary care.

Continuing the effort to secure the Farm's future, funding came from community organizations and municipalities. The City of Cupertino, FODHF's Farm enhancements funding partner, provided \$15,000 again this year, along with \$5,000 from Los Altos Hills for operations. The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department continued to provide \$75,000, and FODHF provided approximately \$20,000 to help offset the cost of the Farm for the City of Mountain View, which funds the remaining \$150,000 in net costs.

## Outreach Efforts

You could find the FODHF out in the Community this past year. In the spring,

Board members attended the Sunnyvale Fit and Fun Fair for the first time. In addition, the Friends Board, along with Farm volunteers, attended the City of Mountain View's Thursday Night Live events in June and July. In September, our crew joined the Cupertino Fall Festival. Our booths include animals when it's safe to transport them. Of course, our Board members were also part of the annual Farm events, Spring Farm Tours, Ohlone Day, and Spooky Times.

## Luna Retires in Style

Everyone loves seeing the gentle jersey cow Luna when visiting the Farm.

Farm staff have determined that Luna is past her prime reproductive years, which makes it impossible to use her for milking demonstrations. Luna has entered her retirement years. Congratulations, Luna! The FODHF has committed to funding Luna's senior years so that she can live out her days greeting Farm visitors as she has for the past 10 years. In order to continue the educational milking demonstrations, a third jersey cow, named Henrietta, has joined the team. Henrietta has fit in nicely with Roxy and Luna and will pick up where they have left off with the milking demonstrations.



## White Barn Update

Last year I was happy to report that both Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) and the Friends of



## Friends Board September 2018

from left to right  
Nina Wong-Dobkin, vice president  
Dick Walker  
Park Chamberlain  
Kate Rainwater  
Tara Sreekrishnan  
Nancy Stuhr, secretary  
Carla Dorow, treasurer  
Lauren Merriman, president

not pictured:  
Pamela Baird, David Fung, Wai Mo



2018 in Review continued

Deer Hollow Farm had earmarked funds received from the sale of Walter Tindal's estate in 2016. This year MROSD completed the structural assessment of the White Barn. Additional plans and the scope of work have been evaluated. Currently the design is being finalized, and permits are being acquired for this important project.

The construction is expected to begin



in the fall of 2019. Both boards of FODHF and MROSD, along with the City of

Mountain View, have formally approved a funding partnership. The project will likely cost \$450,000–\$600,000. Between the three agencies \$365,000 has been committed to date. In the spring of 2019, Friends will launch a funding campaign for the preservation of this iconic barn.

### Join us

The FODHF Board is currently accepting applications for new board members. If you or someone you know is passionate about the Farm and wants to get more involved, please contact me at [Lauren@DeerHollowFarmFriends.org](mailto:Lauren@DeerHollowFarmFriends.org). We would love to gain team members who have solid communication skills, and it would be a bonus if they have experience writing grants, preparing financial information, and/or marketing.

### More to Come in 2019

More grant writing, outreach events, fundraising for Farm programs and the White Barn, along with the search for new Board Members, are items at the top of our list. On behalf of the FODHF Board we thank you for your continued support of our efforts to promote the Farm to the local community and raise funds through donations, grants, and public events that will:

- Preserve Deer Hollow Farm, an historical area and working farm, for the community and future generations.
- Support the Farm's regional environmental education program for the benefit of school children.

## Animals at the Farm

Although the Farm only has about 15 ducks, there is an interesting array of breeds living around the duck pond. Probably the most intriguing of the five breeds is the Chocolate Runner.



These ducks stand upright (like a penguin) and run rather than waddle. The birds have a wedge-shaped head and a long slender neck and body. The breed was originally domesticated in the East Indies and became popular in Europe and the United States in the late 1800s. Runners are prolific egg layers.

The White Pekin duck looks like what most people think of as a duck. It has a sturdy white-feathered body with orange beak and legs.



The breed was first brought to this country in the late 1870s and is the most common duck in the United States. Primarily used as a meat producer, the breed is also a fair egg layer. The birds are hardy and fast growing.

The black ducks at the Farm are the Cayuga breed, an exceptionally hardy American breed. This breed, which

## JUST DUCKY ON THE FARM

by Pamela Baird

originated in New York, is thought to be a cross of wild black ducks and domesticated ducks. The breed is exceptionally quiet with a docile nature.

Another prolific egg layer is the Khaki Campbell. This breed is the result of a cross of the Runner, Mallard, and Rouen breeds.

Females can produce as many as 300 eggs

in their first year of maturity. The Khaki Campbell is smaller than other breeds of ducks.

The other breed at the farm is the Gold Star Hybrid, a breed developed for egg production from crossing several breeds.



All of the ducks are fed a pelleted feed called layer pellet, which has the right nutrients to support healthy egg laying. The color of the eggs varies depending on the breed. Eggs produced at the Farm are white, green, or black.

A duck egg is about 50% larger than a jumbo chicken egg. Duck eggs also have a higher protein content and a slightly richer flavor due to the high yolk to egg white ratio. The egg has a thicker shell, which means the eggs will stay fresh longer. Duck eggs are great for cakes and other baked goods because of a higher content of albumen, which makes a fluffy consistency. Duck (and chicken) eggs are sold at the Farm when seasonally available, with spring and summer months being peak production time.

## Friendly Inquiries by Tom Lustig



Adam and  
Nadine

San Jose

About five years ago, we came here with our parents for a hike and discovered the Farm. It's fun to walk around and see all of the animals. The goats are our favorite. Do you still have rabbits here? We once saw a coyote up on a hill where there were a lot of ground squirrels.

Jon

Mountain  
View



Back in the 1980s I came here for summer camp. A few years ago, two friends and I were hiking on the Chamise Trail above the Rogue Valley pond. All of a sudden, my friends turned and ran past me screaming. Up ahead on the side of the road was a mountain lion sitting. He stood up, and I raised my arms above my head in order to look large. I slowly walked backwards, and the mountain lion sat back down.



Julie

Manchester,  
New  
Hampshire

This is my third consecutive day at the Farm. It's been fascinating. First day we saw a deer with antlers and two fawns. The second day we had the great experience of seeing Henrietta being milked. And today we're here and flying back on Monday. I like the Farm's friendly and educational atmosphere. It displays our connection to animals and their importance to us. The animals are beautifully maintained in a very humane way.

Aliel and  
Simone

Santa Clara



We recently learned about the Farm on the internet. We were looking for places to hike. One time we had to wait 15 minutes for a parking spot, but today was no problem. We like seeing all the Farm animals.



Ivy

San Jose

I bring my daughter to the Farm to see all the different animals and the little garden over there. I also like the hiking trails. I've seen a bobcat and coyotes. I'm from New Jersey, and we have Jersey cows there, just like the Farm's Luna, Roxy and Henrietta. My husband's family also owns a dairy farm.

Neil

Palo Alto



Coming to the Farm is a nice way to get a bit of fresh air. It keeps our son occupied, and he benefits from a little education. My folks are visiting from Ireland. My mother grew up on a farm. Her farm was out in the countryside, much like Deer Hollow Farm.



Linda

Cupertino

It's almost a 3-mile round trip from where I live at the Forum. I've seen wild turkeys, deer, and coyote. Years ago we would see foxes. There once was a bobcat that would follow people in the area of the water tank. Everybody would try to ignore it, but keep a watchful eye just in case.



# Wonderful Friends

We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between May 1 and October 31, 2018.

## Grants

Moore Foundation Community  
Fund awarded for DHF food  
education (\$25,000)  
City of Cupertino (\$15,000)  
Town of Los Altos Hills  
(\$5,000)

## Donations

### Hawk (\$10,000)

Merrimac Fund

### California Thresher (\$2,000 to \$4,000)

Manfroy Family Fund

Helene Hills

Timothy Dylan Wood,  
with Apple

Dewey and Doris Halligan

Tom and Susan Kempe,  
with Bristol-Myers Squibb

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

Dirk and Venny Hoekstra, to  
purchase new cow "Henrietta"

### Stellar Jay (continued)

Erica and Denis Baylor  
Shannon Hegg, with Apple

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

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Tom and Barbara Lustig  
Katrina Johnson Secoy,  
for Roxie

Brett Degner and Nora  
Singer, with Apple

Daniel and Nina Dobkin

Carla Dorow

Ann Schmitt, in honor of  
Carla Dorow  
Dee Wood

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

Sally Cappucci

Martha Young

Monty Simpson

Anonymous (2)

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

David and Theresa  
Mathiasmeier

Irene Abrams  
Friedman, with IBM  
Thomas Goosmann

Marianne Gregersen, for  
Lee Winchell's birthday

Tracy Hughes, in memory of  
Eleanor Jensen for her birthday

Anonymous

### (Hummingbird \$10 to \$49)

Hari Ravi, with Google

Madhvi Bhatia, with Google

Chris Knight

Elizabeth Moore

Deeptha Mathavan

Thank you to those who  
left cash donations totaling  
\$952

## Adding to the Chicken Flock

by Joan Ferguson

The post office calls and says, "Come and pick up your box." The large box is full of air holes and peeps loudly. The baby chicks have arrived!

This year Farmer Lisa ordered 30 baby



chicks. She chose from an online list of chicken breeds shipped from Iowa. Some breeds are new to the farm. Lisa picked

the Whiting True Blue chicken, because it's a good layer of green and blue eggs. A second breed already living at the farm is the Black Star. This breed is calm and a highly productive layer of brown eggs.

The chicks are quite hardy. They can survive for two days without food or water immediately after they pop out of their shells. It's typical to lose one or two chicks in transit.

The new flock always includes a heritage chicken that is a surprise. That's how we got "Jimmy Hendrix." The black crested Polish chicken was picked on by other chickens, but she held her own in the chicken yard for several years.

The chicks stay in their protected space in the egg room for several months, until they are strong enough to handle the chicken yard pecking order. **Jaime Villarreal** built an outdoor space for the chicks this spring, so they can enjoy more room and take a snooze in the sunshine.

Those chicks are now being integrated into the flock. Look for new chicks next June.



## New Lead Teacher

Deer Hollow Farm's educational program welcomes a new Lead Teacher, **Afsheen Khosraviani**. Afsheen worked as a Farm summer camp counselor this past summer. He loves working with children and has a passion for nature. A resident of Los Altos, Afsheen grew up in the area and has visited the Farm often. He graduated from UC Davis with a BA in Sociocultural Anthropology and a minor in Managerial Economics. Afsheen previously worked for the City of Mountain View Recreation Programs. He has been Lead Teacher since early September, meeting with new and returning docents at this year's training and welcoming field-trip classes to 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 donors who preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm. Find the color **FriendsNews** at [www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org). contact: [info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org](mailto:info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org)

## Spring Farm Tours 2019

**March 23 and April 13 from 10AM until 2PM**

Come with family and friends, or volunteer to work.

See the new Farm babies, enjoy access to animal pens, and talk with knowledgeable volunteers.

For directions and the latest news about the events go to

[www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org)

### Editing and Production:

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Joan Ferguson, Dan Fillin,  
Tom Lustig, Gail Nyhan,  
Lauren Merriman

Your next **FriendsNews** will be posted on June 1, 2019.

