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

We 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 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

Bring 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.

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.
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 Thursday November 9, 2017 with my third grade class, and I found it to be not only informative and enriching, 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

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.

FriendsNews Winter 2018
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

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
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. 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.

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.

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.

Animals at the Farm

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 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.
Friendly Inquiries by Tom Lustig

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

San Jose

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.
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

Adding to the Chicken Flock

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.

by Joan Ferguson
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.

**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)

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