On two beautiful spring Saturdays, the Farm opened the pens to visitors and provided experts to talk about the animals and the Farm. In March, 322 adult visitors and 273 children contributed $3,990 for care of the Farm animals. In April, $3,115 was raised from the 282 adult and 206 children visitors. All had fun, including volunteers pictured here.

We are excited to welcome Miguel Ojeda to the Farm as the new Farm Maintenance Worker. Miguel worked previously as seasonal maintenance staff with the Midpenninsula Regional Open Space District and the City of Campbell. He has plenty of farm experience, working on his family farm for 10 years. Stop by the Farm and say hello; he will be there Wednesdays through Sundays.
We came to the Farm with our children and then grandchildren beginning 30 years ago. All of them are adults now. So today was a beautiful day, and we decided to see if we remember where the Farm was. We found it! Rediscovered it. The Farm seemed further than it used to be. It’s great to see all the families and children here.

This Farm is well taken care of. My grandmother grew up in a little cottage in the middle of the mountains, kind of like here, away from everyone. She had a barn with cows, chickens, and pigs. My visit today brings back memories of her.

I see there’s a lot of unique buildings that look like they’ve been here a real long time. You don’t see barns like this as much as you used to. We have a small farm in Mexico. My relatives there grow vegetables and have cows, goats, and sheep. And yes, they drink goat milk.

For two years back in the 1980s, I lived at that house on the top of Mora Drive, just down from the water tank. My friends and I rented the place from Open Space. There was a pool and hot tub. I had my own room, bath, garage and unbelievable view of the valley. My share was $400 a month. They eventually booted us out and put rangers in. This Farm was our backyard. Whenever there were new animals, we were the first to see them.

When human beings get close to nature, they make fewer mistakes and get over any anger they may have. I prefer to stay close to nature. When I have the time, I bring my family here. It is beneficial. I work at a tech company. It’s a materialistic life, but as you get close to nature, you can restart your life in a real fresh mode.

This Farm is well taken care of. My grandmother grew up in a little cottage in the middle of the mountains, kind of like here, away from everyone. She had a barn with cows, chickens, and pigs. My visit today brings back memories of her.

We hiked into the area in 1973 before the Open Space purchase in 1975. Back in those times, there were far fewer established trails. Over the years, we visited the Farm all the time by either hiking in or riding our bikes. We often saw coyotes and bobcats, which we referred to as wildcats.
On a typical work day, Dennis Haas would leave his San Jose home at 6:30AM to avoid commute traffic, stop by a restaurant near his office to have breakfast, and review materials he had prepared for a 10AM meeting with VIPs. Now, substitute materials with “Deer Hollow Farm class curriculum,” 10AM meeting with “10AM field-trip class,” VIPs with “students,” and you have Dennis’ new routine as volunteer teaching docent. He brings the dedication he brought to business to his teaching and is always well prepared for his students. Dennis has been a volunteer teaching docent since 2015; he is one of the special docents who teaches all the classes Deer Hollow Farm offers: Ohlone Habitat, Ohlone Village, Farm and Garden, Fleece and Milk, and Life Sciences Hike.

On a recent Life Sciences Hike, Dennis arrived well before the school group, and he checked out a good poison oak sample on the side of the path where he would start with his group. To teach children how to identify poison oak, he uses the popular mnemonic that points out a key difference between poison oak and a blackberry bush, “Leaves of three, leave them be; if it’s hairy, it’s a berry.” “Blackberry stems have thorns,” Dennis explained, “hence ‘hairy,’ while poison oak stems are smooth.”

All along the hike, Dennis captures the attention of his students as he pulls props out of his pockets: an acorn with the cap attached, a buckeye, two oak galls—a whole one and one that’s been cut in half. Students could see the wasp larva holes inside the halves. Often, curious children smell the oak gall when they have their turn to look at it, and Dennis would explain that the smell was from the lacquer he used to coat the oak gall to prevent decay; that smell was not natural. The collection of props he carries on these hikes also includes bay nuts (which contain caffeine and provided energy boosts to the Ohlone people) and bay leaves (which students could smell and appreciate their use as decongestants, deodorants, and insect repellent). He points out the moss on tree trunks that helped hikers figure out directions; the side of the tree trunk where moss grows shows where the sun does not shine, that is the north.

Dennis enjoys the Life Science Hike classes because he can share so much about animal habitats, life cycles, adaptations, and food chains all along the hike. His favorite route is up the steep hill to the Mora water tower where he can point out various mountain ranges in the Bay Area. His students and their chaperones alike marvel at that view, which this winter has included snow-capped mountain tops! On lucky days, Dennis and his group will see hawks, vultures, woodpeckers, squirrels, deer, turkeys, and perhaps even a coyote or a fox.

Even when woodpeckers don’t make an appearance during the hike, Dennis brings the group’s attention to the holes woodpeckers make on a tree trunk. The entire hike is filled with illustrations and samples of nature everyone can experience. Dennis’ enthusiasm and passion in sharing his knowledge and love for nature are inspiring and deeply felt by his field trip students.

After retiring from his career at Lockheed Martin, where he led a department of orbital mechanics (delivering and maintaining satellites), Dennis is happy to have the opportunity to give back to his community through volunteering as a teaching docent at Deer Hollow Farm. He believes the educational programs at the Farm make an important and positive impact on the lives of the participating students. Dennis says, “I hear many students say that their Rancho San Antonio and Deer Hollow Farm outdoor excursion and animal interactions are the first they’ve had.”

Dennis also finds time to volunteer with Lockheed Martin Blood Bank, joining other Lockheed Martin retirees who provide refreshments and encouragement to blood donors during the monthly blood drives.

He carves stone as a hobby, using hammers, chisels, files, sandpaper, and power tools, usually working on alabaster. He has also worked on marble. His creations are typically under 100 pounds and can take six months to two years to complete, working on them for a few hours a week. He and his wife, Joan, enjoy traveling locally and abroad, and they are looking forward to more traveling when Joan retires in May.
Jaime Retires from Deer Hollow Farm

In January, scores of volunteers and friends gathered to say goodbye to Jaime Villarreal as maintenance worker for the Farm and to wish him well in his next endeavors. We talked with many friends as we listened to music by Joe MacKessy and ate good food from one of Jaime’s favorite restaurants. Everyone had a good laugh over the plaque from the Farm staff featuring a hammer.

There was time for Jaime to share his thoughts. Then friends shared their stories and memories.

Jessica Morgan was also pleased to present Jaime with a 36-page scrapbook showing him serving the Farm in many ways. The scrapbook was put together by volunteers under the leadership of Debra Maniar.

Pages from the scrapbook show the variety of Jaime’s activities.
Before the Farm, I was part of the high-tech industry here in Silicon Valley. I worked many years as an engineering technician for Intel, Envision, and Sun Microsystems. During this time, I volunteered with Santa Clara County Parks as a Trail Watch Volunteer, focusing on Stevens Creek County Park; I also did trail maintenance and group projects with them. In late 2004 when Sun folded, I wasn’t excited about going back to high tech. I took a few classes in park management. From there, I heard about Open Space hiring; I was very happy to find a position that I had volunteered for.

I started at the Farm part-time the last part of 2005 and became full-time in May 2007.

After leaving the Farm last year, I joined a government contractor who is tasked with getting parolees back into society. The purpose of this program is to place participants with rehabilitation services that will help them overcome their criminogenic tendencies. I entered the second month of this start-up as the first driver, but I also did some building, vehicle maintenance, and clerical work. I feel good helping them establish operations.

My hope is to start working part time/on-call for my previous employers and perhaps the school district where Lynn, my wife, works. In the summer, it may be possible for me to be covering the Farm from time to time.

Working at the Farm was a real blessing. My stress level changed for the better, and I enjoyed going to work again. It was great starting to work at the Farm when Mountain View classifications changed and role/responsibilities began to be defined. The maintenance position evolved, going from daily livestock chores with some maintenance time to mainly maintenance and less livestock.

I also greatly appreciate all of the proponents of the Farm I have met, whether volunteers or Rancho/Farm visitors. Some have become good friends of mine.

By Jaime Villarreal

Friends Board News

No surprises here—the FODHF Board is staying busy in 2019. Between grant writing, spring tour events, and presentations to City Commissions, the members of the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm hit the ground running in 2019, and there is more to come. This summer Friends is offering scholarships to the Deer Hollow Farm Summer Camp experience through West Valley Community Services. Our goal is to sponsor 20 kids ranging in age from 6-14 years old. Summer camp at Deer Hollow Farm is a magical experience, and children who attend remember the experience for years to come. Later in the summer you’ll find the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm participating once again in the Downtown Mountain View Thursday Night Live series. The City will host the event Thursdays, July 11 to August 15; they provide live music, a car show, small farmers market, and community tables sharing valuable resources. We hope you’ll stop by our table to say hello and pick up a sticker or a trading card. The dates we’ll attend will be listed on our website once we confirm. In the fall, you’ll find us at the Cupertino Fall Festival in Memorial Park. And we’ll assist with Ohlone Day and Spooky Times at Deer Holloween Farm.

In addition to the events and community outreach, we continue to keep updated with the status of the White Barn project. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is moving this project along, and the Friends will be planning a special funding campaign to raise additional funds for this important renovation project.

Staff are completing their enhancements for the year, which the Friends fund with the support of our wonderful donors. This year staff have built a barn in the upper pasture, created new signage for the orchard, and replaced the remaining gates within the Farm.

From all of us on the Board, we wish you and your family a happy and healthy summer and look forward to seeing you at the Farm!

Our New Board Member

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

New Board member Katie Stern joined the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board in January 2019. Katie remembers visiting the Farm as a child and has recently moved back to the Bay Area. She wants to give back to her community. Katie currently works at NASA on their Climate Change Team. She is looking forward to assisting on the Board with grants and marketing.

By Lauren Merriman
We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between November 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019.

### Grants
- Santa Clara County—$13,562 for buses and field-trip scholarships
- Los Altos Community Foundation—$5,000
- Mountain View Kiwanis Foundation—$2,500
- Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund—$1,500

### Donations
- **Hawk ($5,000)**
  - Marcella Stauber

- **California Thresher ($2,000 to $4,000)**
  - Connett Ahart and Clint Severson
  - Manfroy Family Fund
  - Timothy Dylan Wood, with Apple
  - Esther John and Aart De Geus

- **Stellar Jay ($1,000 to $1,999)**
  - Thomas Han, with match from Apple
  - Judith and Joe Stewart, with Cisco
  - Joy Desai
  - Kevin and Jenise Henrikson
  - Julie Raymond and Neil Hunt
  - David and Karen Jessen
  - Al and Suzanne Kaiser
  - Carol Luckhardt, in honor of Lee Winchell
  - Richard and Jane Walker

- **California Quail ($500 to $999)**
  - Ruth Kaempf
  - Coleman and Betsy Youngdahl, with match from Dell

### California Quail continued
- Joan Anderson, in memory of Mary and Ralph Kane
- Park Chamberlain
- Kris and Kate Edwards, We have loved visiting the Farm for years.
- Chris and Genevieve Halvorsen
- Richard and Diane Horn
- Iwamoto Family Fund
- Carol Jossi
- Laureen Merriman
- Katherine Miller Wasilenko, with match from Google
- Curtis and Wai Mo
- Radar Foundation, in honor of David Fung and family
- Bob and Sallie Rogallo
- Don Weden, in appreciation of Jaime Villarreal’s work at the Farm
- ANONYMOUS (2)

### Acorn Woodpecker continued
- Rachel Colton, in honor of Sierra Colton
- Rob Colwell
- Daniel and Nina Dobkin
- Neil and Ruth Foley
- David Fung
- Chris and Bill Green
- Marge Haley, in memory of Boyd Haley
- Raymond and Elsa Heald
- Darwin and Donna Poulos
- Kate Rainwater
- Edward Reed and Johanna Schmid
- Tara Sreekrishnan
- Kathryn Stern
- Nancy Stuhr
- Tim and Gail Sullivan, in honor of Sue Gale
- Jeffrey and Barbara Taylor
- Prasad Udupa, in appreciation for our neighbors
- Marion and Fred Sotcher
- Vaswani Family Fund

### Acorn Woodpecker ($250 to $499)
- Susan Casner-Kay and Jack Kay, with match from Plantronics
- Mike Hammes
- East West Yoga, charity yoga class
- Kristin Forster, in honor of Judy Webster
- Dennis Haas, in honor of Deer Hollow Farm docents
- Brian Pahl, with VISA match
- Katrina Johnson Secoy, for Roxie
- Betsy and George Young
- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Larry and Donna Aronson
- Pamela Baird
- Ava Lee and David Bellshaw
- Jack Borok

### Phoebe ($100 to $249)
- John Atwood, in memory of Kim Weden
- Pamela Carlton
- Christine Goritschnigg, with HP match
- Stan and Jackie Hall
- Jerry and Sandy Juracich
- Pamela Lillquist
- Paresh and Debra Maniar
- Tim and Julia O’Keefe
- Monty Simpson
- David Vieira, 2 orange trees
- Richard and Marcia Baugh
Phoebe continued
Sandra Bergan
John and Mary Jane Edwards
Joan Ferguson, with Black Sheep Handweavers Guild
Sue Gale
James Morales
John and Brenda Robbins
Gary Schlueter
Sylvia Weiser
William Ortlieb Michele Morrison
Virginie Metivier
Cheryl Anton and Eric Helfenbein
Merry and Steve Astor
Hans Bernhardt, on behalf of Rubber Chicken
Olga Bruce
Christine Burns
Eugene and Clare Cordero
Christel Fliss
Robert Friedman
Ivan Gendzel, in honor of Fred Offenbach and Penny Gardner
Laura Grant
Marianne Gregersen, in honor of Lee Winchell
Robert Hauge, in memory of Virginia Grant Murphy, Louis Grant and Margaret Grant Shea
Wayne and Judith Hooper
Carol Howard
Jim Hulserman and Carl Baeuerlen, for Luna
Catherine Kastner, in honor of Mimi Mourkas
Rebecca Lee, in honor of Donna Larsen Eideâ, Thanks Donna
Joan and Greg Loney, in memory of Ulf Stauber
Andy Lott
Mary Malgoire

Phoebe continued
Ellie and Dick Mansfield
Bridgette Mguinness, in memory of Gizmo Mguinness
Chris and Amy Migdal
Anne Miller
Susan Purcell, in honor of Lee Winchell
James and Andrea Sandstrom
Ann Schmit, in honor of Carla Dorow
Shelby Solid, with match from Oath Inc.
George Stanley
Bobye Sunday
George Bunting and Barbara Titel
Lee Winchell, in honor of Marianne Gregersen and Joan and Jim Jordan
ANONYMOUS (4)

Junco continued
Robert Jorgensen
Paul Kostka
Margaret Lanphier
Neal and Sonja Locke
Joan Meyer, in honor of Lee Winchell
Helene Pier
Michael and Susan Plass
Martin and Roberta Schwartz
Fred and Nancy Witteborn
ANONYMOUS (2)

Hummingbird ($10 to $49)
Walter Keutgens
Elizabeth Trahan Berry, in honor of Sue Gale
Kelly Enos, in memory of Marian Gfroerer
Thomas MacDonald
Roger and Peggy Masini
Frederick and Suzanne McDonough, in memory of Fred McDonough
Sam and Anne Ng
Stephen Lin

Thank you for Iron Ranger and other cash donations of $998.

Thank you to Hassan Lashgari and his team at Pine Press, who have printed this color newsletter for the price of black-and-white.

Join us for these fun fall events:
Ohlone Day, October 5
Noon to 3PM
Spooky Times, October 29
10AM to 3PM
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. 

*Friends News* is published for donors who preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm. Find up-to-date information at [www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org) 

Contact: info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org

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**Development:** Nina Wong-Dobkin  
**Staff:** Dan Fillin, Tom Lustig, Gail Nyhan, Lauren Merriman, Jaime Villarreal

Your next *Friends News* will be mailed on December 1, 2019.

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**Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board**

**Officers** seated, L to R  
Nina Wong-Dobkin, Vice President  
Carla Dorow, Treasurer  
Lauren Merriman, President  
Nancy Stuhr, Secretary

Standing, L to R  
Park Chamberlain  
Tara Sreekrishnan  
Dick Walker  
Pamela Baird, Katie Stern  
Wai Mo, David Fung  
Member not present  
Kate Rainwater