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

Winter 2020

Hindsight is 2020? An Interesting Year in Review

by Lauren Merriman

This year has been... well, it's been a little different. As I was ringing in the new year, I spent time thinking about my personal and professional goals for the year. Our Board did the same as we met at the Mountain View Community Center on January 21st where we've been meeting since it opened its remodeled doors. The Board talked about spring Farm Tours, summer camp scholarships, the white barn construction, and more. Not long after that Board meeting, it seems like all the wheels fell off the 2020 bus, and, well, things got a little sideways.

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health and good spirits as we close the chapter that is 2020. Despite all the challenges this year has provided, the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board has been meeting virtually and has continued to secure funding from several grant sources. The Farm, as you know, has been closed to the public since mid-March and will remain closed during the White Barn renovation. Even livestock volunteers couldn't visit the Farm to assist with chores and tasks until mid-October.

Our year, though without in-person events, was still successful in our eyes! Over \$11,000 was provided for in-person scholarships that took place before March 13th. The Friends secured over \$50,000 in grant revenue and about \$100,000 in other donations for the Farm.

One of the largest ever enhancement

projects for the Farm is currently underway—the historic and iconic White Barn is receiving much needed renovations to address the safety of the facility and improve functionality. This project has been in the works for many years and thanks to an amazing bequest from the Tindall Trust, to both the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm and to MROSD, we put those funds together to make a huge difference for the Farm. Weather pending, this project should be completed by the Spring of 2021.

In-person field trips aren't happening, but students from across our county and region continue to feel the magic of DHF thanks to a series of videos the staff and volunteer docents have created. The FODHF remain committed to making these virtual field trips accessible for all students and will provide funding in the amount of \$4,700 to low-income schools. Check out Joan's article about the school-year program on page 3.

As always, a huge thank you to our donors for stepping up to provide funding for the animals. Without our events like the Spring Farm Tours and Spooky Times, where 100% of the funding goes to the livestock, we looked to our supporters; and you all came through for the animals. I know they would say "moooo, baaaah-hhh, cluck cluck" etc., which of course means "thank you". Don't forget it's not too late to contribute to our efforts for 2020! Our donor envelope is included in this issue of our newsletter and you can

always donate online at:

www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org/donate

Last, but certainly not least, a HUGE thanks to two outgoing FODHF Board members David Fung and Kate Rainwater. David spent six years on the Board and dedicated much of his time to grant writing. Many new funding efforts were explored with David's help, and we thank him for his six years of service to our Board. Kate was on the Board for three years and helped with merchandise and event management during that time. New t-shirt designs and colors were explored with Kate's help, and the Board will take many of her ideas and suggestions into the future. Our all-volunteer Board is seeking new members! If you have questions or any interest, please reach out to us so we can determine if it would be a fit! We welcome all backgrounds to our Board.



Left to Right: 1st row: **Pam Baird, Lauren Merriman, Nancy Stuhr**; 2nd Row: **David Fung, Katie Stern, Jack Kay**; 3rd Row: **Kate Rainwater, Barbara Cole, Wai Mo** 4th Row: **Tara Sreekrishnan** not pictured: **Dick Walker**

Wonderful Friends

We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organization that contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between May 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020.

Grants

City of Cupertino (\$15,000)
Los Altos Community
Foundation (\$5,000)
Town of Los Altos Hills
(\$5,000)
Santa Clara County (\$917)
Mountain View/Los Altos
Service Award (\$500)

Donations

Red-Tailed Hawk (\$1,000 to \$12,000)

Lee Winchell
Coleman and Betsy Youngdahl,
with Dell match
Shannon Hegg, with Apple match
Al and Suzanne Kaiser, in
memory of Suzanne Kaiser
Carol Luckhardt, in honor of
Lee Winchell

California Thresher (\$500 to \$900)

Timothy Dylan Wood
Alice Gutman
Richard and Diane Horn
Tom and Susan Kempe,
BMS match
Kevin Lu, in honor of the
Hanson Family
Laura Seaman
Anonymous

Stellar Jay (\$300 to \$400)

Carol Jossi
Amazon Smile Foundation
Christy Awbrey, 50th
anniversary gift in honor of
Tom and Linda Odell
Joan Lewis
Katrina Johnson Secoy

California Quail (\$200 to \$250)

Jack Borok
Carla Dorow
Christine Ludwick
Stan and Jackie Hall
Gerry and Ginny Kaminski
Monty Simpson
Brett Degner and
Nora Singer, with Apple match

Acorn Woodpecker (\$100 to \$150)

Tom Humphrey
Kimberly Jorgensen, in honor of
Roberta Jorgensen
Elaine Myers, in memory of
Rosie Falsetto
Fred Offenbach, in memory of
victims of Covid 19
David Kaskowitz and
Susan Kahn
Olga Bruce, in memory of
Bill Bruce
Benjamin Casmer, in honor of
Susan Casner-Kay
Leigh Durlacher
Christel Fliss
Kirk Hargreaves
Paresh and Debra Maniar,
in honor of Susan Casner-Kay
David and Theresa
Mathiasmeier
Kristin Perry, in honor of
Deer Hollow Farm Staff
Barbara Reul, in honor of
Lee Winchell's birthday
Arthur Robertson, in memory of
Anne Robertson
Sophia Rose
Linda Thomason
Jaime Villarreal
Victoria Voinigescu

Acorn Woodpecker continued

Nina Wong-Dobkin and Daniel
Dobkin, in honor of the Friends of
Deer Hollow Farm

Phoebe (\$50 to \$80)

Ann Cerniglia, in honor of Susan
Casner-Kay
Marianne Gregersen, in honor of
Lee Winchell's birthday
Roger and Peggy Masini
Jesse Imbach
Joseph and Susan Mingione
Sherry Udstuen
John and Sandy Bressler
Tracy Hughes, in memory of
Eleanor Jensen's birthday
Vincent and Patricia Kot, in
honor of Susan Casner-Kay
Jeffrey Richards

Hummingbird (\$20 to \$25)

Tanya Bishop
Austin Marx, in honor of
Ruth Gillespie
Anita Krishnan and
Krish Ellath
Christopher Ortez
Timothy and Leigh Stevens
Elise Pomerantz-Watzka, in
honor of Susan Casner-Kay
Evaline Tsai

Thank you also to those who contributed cash at the Farm or gave a donation through PayPal.

Thank you to **Hassan Lashari** and his team at **Pine Press.**

They have printed this color newsletter for the price of black-and-white.

Zoom Field Trips

by Joan Lewis

Planning for the 2020-2021 school year started early as Farm staff brainstormed, created videos, and talked with teachers. The result is a school-year program that **Jennifer Adams**, lead teacher at the Farm, is presenting to about 3,200 students from 139 classrooms. Virtual Farm trips are offered for kindergarten through fourth grade. The curriculum is the same as it is for field trips to Farm and Garden, Sheep and Wool, Life Sciences: Adaptation and Life Cycles, or Ohlone Village.

The classes are a combination of Zoom interactions between Jennifer and the class with their teacher, parred with videos created by knowledgeable Farm docents and edited to fit the structure of the class. For example, in the kindergarten class, students will see **Donna Aronson** sharing facts about the goats that are surrounding her and climbing on her. The students are

entertained, but they are also learning.

After the video, Jennifer will ask yes/no questions and the students answer with thumbs up or thumbs down. “Do we get milk from goats?”—thumbs up. “Do goats give eggs?”—thumbs down. More questions, another video with its interaction with Jennifer . . . for an hour of class.

Older students who go on the virtual Ohlone Village Tour have a longer class, and they are asked to bring a journal to take notes and answer prompts from Jennifer. They are shown five videos of trees and six others of stations in the replica Ohlone Village. In between Jennifer talks, asks questions, and sometimes shows an object such as part of a tree or a tool.

Farm staff have had fun building in chances for the students to laugh, participate, and learn.

The first weeks have gone well; small adjustments are being made as Jennifer works with teachers. She has found

that it works best if the teacher brings the class together before Jennifer does her introduction. Teachers are in on the Zoom call and can solve any issues with student participation. She has also added opportunities for students to get up and move to a song. Hard-to-spell words are being added as captions for older students.

So far 26 videos have been created. The Life Sciences curriculum was still in development when I wrote this article, so there will be more.

When this is done, the Farm will have an amazing set of videos that can be used for training new docents and sharing with the community.

For a sample of videos created since spring, search for Deer Hollow Farm on The City of Mountain View website, click on School Year Classes, then Teacher Resources.

Thank you, Farm staff, for your creativity, enthusiasm, and ingenuity that is keeping the Farm healthy and growing.

Deer Hollow Farm Tours Go Virtual!

by Tara Sreekrishnan

Although the Farm has been closed since March, staff and a few volunteers have worked to bring us digital content and keep us updated with the latest animal activities. The Virtual Farm Tour held on August 28, 2020, was led by Deer Hollow’s Recreation Coordinator **Lisa Cornelius**. She presented a behind-the-scenes look of the Farm. The virtual event was held in partnership with the City of Mountain View Recreation Division and the Mountain View Public Library. Viewers registered through the City of Mountain View Library events calendar and were sent a log-in link and passcode to enter the virtual meeting. Over 80 viewers, including local students, were able to explore the Farm. After the tour, viewers were able to ask questions through a chat feature and Lisa provided them with answers.

Lisa guided viewers into each of the

animal pens. Many curious animals came up-close to the viewers!

In the cow pen, we visited the miniature Jersey cow, Jellybean, and the full-size Jersey cow, Henrietta, who was seven



months pregnant in August.

Then we visited the goats, one of the oldest domesticated animals, domesticated over 9,000 years ago. Lisa shared that around the world, more people drink goat milk than cow milk. We even got to feed the goats alfalfa hay.

The sheep were a lot more “sheepish” as they are known to be, so Lisa and the camera had to approach them slowly.



While several sheep fled in the other direction, Bowie and her lamb were more approachable. We learned that the sheep are sheared once a year in April and their fleece is then sent to a mill to produce yarn.

Then on to the chicken pen where we



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learned about how the baby chickens are slowly integrated into the adult chicken area to make for a smoother transition; chickens in a flock are known to peck one another, hence the term “pecking order”.

At the duck pond we met geese Athena, Ryan, and Lucy. Geese, we learned, can live up to 20 years and are very territorial. Known as “watch dogs”, they commonly alert the others of any unusual activity they witness.

We met Peaches and Banana, the Farm’s Flemish Giant rabbits (one of the largest breeds of rabbits).

Lastly, we completed the tour by visiting our male goats, or bucks, that are separated



from the female goats and live in their own “bachelor pad.” They closed the tour by giving everyone a “kiss goodbye.”

Viewers learned that Farm animals smaller than a cow are kept inside a barn at night to protect them from the mountain lions and coyote that roam the nature preserve at night. Stay tuned for more virtual Farm opportunities that will be posted on the Friends’ website and emailed through our e-newsletter.

A virtual tour for Halloween, “Spooky Times at Deer Hollow Farm,” aired on October 24, but you can see it anytime on YouTube at the MV Recreation site (<https://tinyurl.com/y43ursft>).

You’ll not only get a look at the Farm animals, you’ll also see creepy critters in the barns and hear spooky sounds all around. Plus you’ll find out why Lisa is finding bananas in each pen. I know staff and volunteers had a good time making it, and you’ll be entertained as you watch it.

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 want to preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm. Find up-to-date information at www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org Find news at www.facebook.com/FriendsOfDeerHollowFarm. **Sue Gale** adds great videos to the latest news. Contact: info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org.

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To Our Friends

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