

Winter 2021

# FriendsNews



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



Spooky Times Volunteers

## Deer Hollow Farm Reopens

by Lauren Merriman

**F**arm reopens after 19 months! The Farm welcomed back summer campers to its camp program in June 2021. They were able to accommodate only a fraction of their pre-pandemic registration numbers, but these days, we have all learned to celebrate the small things. After the camp's successful completion in mid-August, the Farm opened its main gate once again to the public.

On Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Farm held its first event in 19 months hosting Spooky Times at Deer Hollow Farm. The consistent flow of visitors enjoyed a beautiful day being able to get up close and personal with the Farm's resident animals, learning from the volunteer docents.

A total of 440 people participated in Spooky Times and nearly \$3,000 was raised for the livestock that day. We make it a point to ask our visitors what they liked most from their visit, and we get a mix of answers, but 100% of them say they had a good time and there is no clear winner for favorite part. You'll have to attend our next event to determine your favorite part for yourself.

The next in-person events will be the Spring Farm Tours on March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Make sure you save the dates, arrange a ride and get ready for cuteness, because spring is when the babies are born and you get to meet them!



# How It All Began

by *Carla Dorow*

**D**eer Hollow Farm continues as a community treasure due to a partnership among City of Mountain View, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserve, (“MROSD”), County of Santa Clara, and the nonprofit Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. The nonprofit is obvious, and the Farm is in both a MROSD preserve and Santa Clara County, but how is it that Mountain View runs the environmental programs when it’s miles away? The truth is, there would be no Farm without the City stepping up. All of us who love Deer Hollow Farm have cause to applaud the foresightedness of those folks within the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Mountain View in the 1970s.

I had a chance to sit down with **Glenn Lyles**, Recreation Supervisor during that time, to talk about how it unfolded.



Glenn Lyles

First, a recap of the Farm pre-1976. Both the Spanish and Mexican governments granted land in Alta California to individuals, both to reward loyalty and encourage northward migration. Rancho San Antonio, within which Deer Hollow Farm lies, was one such grant. Once California became part of the United States in 1847, the huge ranchos were often sold and broken up into smaller farms. That’s how the Grant brothers, Theodore and George, came to own their homestead. They originally came from Boston for the gold rush, but in 1853 came to Santa Clara Valley to raise first beef cattle, then grow wheat, and finally have a dairy. Theo married and had 3 children while George remained a bachelor. Theo’s youngest daughter, Sally, ran the operations until she sold it in 1937 to the Perham family and it ceased being a working farm. MROSD acquired the land in 1975.

In 1976 MROSD held a gathering at what is now employee housing at the top of Mora Hill and invited representatives of

Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties and all the cities within to attend. Their statement essentially was: “It is not our mission to run an educational facility, but we’ll make the farm property available if any entity wants to do so – any takers?” Glenn was at that meeting and remembered thinking that this could be interesting. He had an appreciation of farms and the great outdoors after spending childhood years in a farm cottage outside of DC while his father was in the Navy. After moving around as the Navy decreed, the family ended up in Stockton, California. In his teen years he began working for Stockton Parks & Recreation. With a degree from San Jose State in Leisure Studies, he was hired by the City of Mountain View in 1965.

By the 1970’s, most children’s recreation programs consisted of teen-agers employed to supervise/coach children after-school at the school. In budget terms, this was not making much sense anymore. At the school level, music, art, and science camps were being cut for lack of funds. At the same time, the economy was floundering with high unemployment and inflation out of control. So, while the Farm proposition sounded interesting for children’s programs, how to do it with very few dollars was the question. No other public entities were showing any interest.

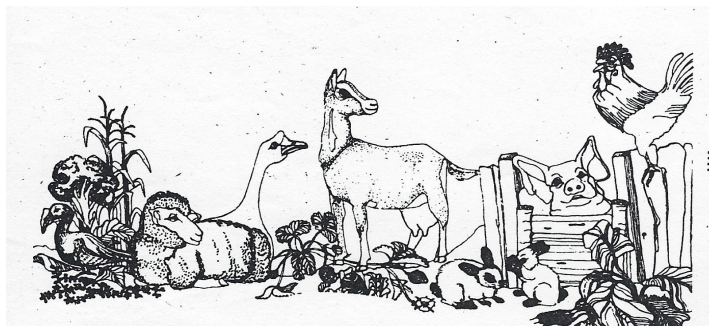
The answer was the 1973 Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA), where full-time jobs were provided for a period of 12 to 24 months in public agencies. The intent was to impart a marketable skill that would allow participants to move to an unsubsidized job. CETA dollars were used by Mountain View to hire Linda Newberry as resident naturalist and Michael Groethe for farm maintenance. But they also needed tools, animals, and food/care for same. This is where creative thinking was called for. As Glenn points out, times were different back then. For better or for worse, you acted and hoped nobody had a problem with it later. Linda would take a city truck and go pick up donated animals all over the state. Dollars squeezed out of a budget would be used to buy other necessities. Pleas were sent out for donations. A deal made with Whisman School District (pre-merger with Mountain View School District) called for summer camp for its students in return for use of their buses.

By hook or by crook, in 1977 they had the first successful year of summer camp and during the rest of the year, school and family group classes/tours. To placate council members who wondered why they had a program NOT in Mountain View, there was a large sign at the bridge before the farm with Mountain View on it. It was pointed out that the Farm was costing the City (almost) nothing. There was some objection by Los Altos council members about Mountain View essentially planting a flag in Los Altos, but a compromise of bringing down the sign in exchange for the help in purchasing some animals brought harmony back.



## How It All Began (cont'd)

Oh, and the name? Glenn and Linda were sitting in the Quail Garden (now the Native American Village) and decided yes, it was a hollow so maybe Quail Hollow Farm? Just then a deer walked by, and it was decided Deer Hollow Farm sounded perfect. When a logo was needed, Glenn called on Linda, an art major, and she produced the wonderful sheep, goose, goat, rabbit, pig, & chicken logo that we've all worn proudly.



Original Deer Hollow Farm Logo

Alas, it was not the end of the turmoil. 1978 was year of Prop 13 and according to the Los Altos Town Crier, July 12, 1978, edition "With the passage of the Jarvis-Gann Initiative, the future of Deer Hollow appears uncertain". Budget cuts were the order of the day, and no one wanted to commit to the new farm. In the same article Liz Atkinson, supervisor in charge of Deer Hollow Farm in 1978, said there have been donations of money and animals in the past and she hopes additional funding can be acquired from local service clubs and individuals.

The good news is that they did manage to get support. MROSD assumed the cost of the farm maintenance worker which is still in place today. Donations came in. And, according to Glenn, many people came to council meetings to voice their support. Deer Hollow Farm lived to delight another day. There have been a few tough economic times since then when people once again became creative. Over the years, Santa Clara County has upped its financial support of operations, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm was created, donations dollars have increased, and when push comes to shove, people show up to tell the City how much they love and appreciate the Farm. A big tip of the farmer's cap to Glenn and Linda and all the many people with whom they worked to make the Farm a reality. A great big thank you to the City of Mountain View for continuing their support for this great place even though it's not within their city limits. I hope they see that it was a great bargain.





# Farm Updates

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## New Hairy Residents

by Pam Baird and Nancy Stuhr



George

Two new unusual looking pigs have joined the other animals at the Farm. **Martha** and **George** are Mangalica pigs (pronounced mang-a-leet-sa) a rare, hairy Hungarian breed of domesticated pig. According to Wikipedia, the breed was developed in the mid-19th century by crossbreeding Hungarian breeds from Nagyszalonta and Bakony with the European wild boar and the Serbian Šumadija breed.

The breed nearly became extinct in Europe, but interest in the rare breed has increased the number of animals. The Mangalica pig was first brought to the US in 2007, where the breed is raised by specialty farmers. It is unknown how many Mangalica pigs are now in the US. These pigs are raised by specialty farmers for their unique properties of the meat. The distinctive woolly hair has no practical use because of its coarseness.

The average number of piglets per litter is seven, whereas domestic pigs can produce ten to twelve piglets. The Mangalica sows make good mothers. Sows achieve an average weight of 440 pounds and boars weigh up to 600 pounds.

Martha and George come to the Farm from a breeder in Sonoma. Martha is a swallow bellied variety, with a blonde belly. She is slightly smaller and more narrow bodied than George. George is darker and larger, and has a very stout body.

Mangalica are good foragers. Our mangalitsa pigs are fed a carefully measured blend of corn, wheat, bran, soybeans, ground safflower, vitamins, and minerals that are all compressed into

small pellets. The volunteers and staff measure the right amount at each meal to keep them at a healthy weight. Be sure to look for the pair in their separate pens - probably in the mud wallow. You will be seeing a wonderfully rare breed of pigs. They are already a farm visitor favorite.



Martha

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## New Lead Teacher

by Jessica Morgan



Lisa Swarbrick

With the start of the 2021-22 school year program, Deer Hollow Farm welcomed a new Lead Teacher, **Lisa Swarbrick**. Lisa joined the farm staff in early September and has been busy preparing School Year Docents for the start of in-person classes, recruiting and training new docents, and implementing new weekly Tots & Family Farm Tours. Lisa comes to the Farm a newly retired elementary teacher, working in the Los Altos and Cupertino School Districts for over 20 years. As a long-time Los Altos resident, she has enjoyed the farm with her family and students over the years. She is thrilled to combine her love of working with young students and enthusiasm for farm animals to create her dream job. Lisa has already picked up a few new skills, she learned to milk a cow during her first week working at the Farm and how to start a friction fire for the Ohlone Habitat program. Lisa is at the Farm most mornings during the week, stop by and meet our newest staff member!

# Friends Board News

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## 2021 in Review - Slow and Steady Wins the Race

by *Lauren Merriman*

In person events may have just returned, but it has been another busy year for the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. Here is a look at what the FoDHF Board has been up to.

### Funding Report

The nine-member Board ended its fiscal year in June 2021 with \$136,000 in revenue.

Field trips were virtual for the remainder of the 2021 school year and the FoDHF Board provided \$4,400 in funding to help make sure virtual farm field trips continued to be accessible to students around the area. The Board is able to fund scholarships through grants from Santa Clara County, the Packard Foundation, and other sources. Thankfully all our donors have been flexible and understanding with the temporary changes required in the delivery method of these learning opportunities.

FoDHF provided \$29,000 in funding for farm enhancement projects. This year, staff took on a remodel of the pig enclosure adding areas of concrete for staff to deliver food while providing areas for the pigs to be pigs (aka get muddy). They improved the drainage throughout the area and replaced all the fencing. Of course, the biggest change at the Farm was the White Barn construction which we focused on in our June 2021 newsletter. The Friends also continue to fund the portable restroom located at the Ohlone Village for school year programs, which resumed in the Fall of 2021.

FoDHF donors provided \$28,000 towards the Animal Fund, which is less than years past, but let's remember that without visitors we have been unable to host in-person events. The Animal Fund pays for: animal feed; supplies for care including straw for bedding; the acquisition of new animals including chicks, geese and heritage animals, as well as vet care and medicines for the animals. This year, two new pigs, George and Martha, joined the DHF family of animals. To learn more them, see page 3.

Continuing the effort from past Boards to secure the Farm's future includes funding from other community organizations and municipalities like the City of Cupertino, FODHF's Farm enhancement funding partner, who provided \$15,000 again this year to support the White Barn enhancements along with \$5,000 to offset operating costs from the Town of Los Altos Hills. The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department continues to provide \$75,000 to the City of Mountain View

and the Friends provided approximately \$23,000 of funding to help offset the cost of the Farm for the City of Mountain View.

Overall, it has been a productive year considering it continues to be a learning experience for everyone. What we know for certain: people love the Farm! If you haven't had the chance to visit, we highly recommend you do so soon.

### FoDHF Board Members

In September, two Board members reached their term limit of six consecutive years. We said goodbye to Pamela Baird and Wai Mo who both served on the Donor Relations committee for many years. Thankfully both continue to contribute to the Farm in different ways (Wai is assisting with the newsletter production and Pamela contributed an article and assisted with editing). We are grateful for their six years of service to our Board!

#### Current Board Members –

Lauren Merriman (President), Katie Stern (Treasurer), Nancy Stuhr (*Secretary*), Jack Kay, Tara Sreekrishnan, IdaRose Sylvester, and Dick Walker.

### More to Come in 2022

More grant writing, in-person events, fundraising for Farm programs along with the search for new Board members are items at the top of our list. Be sure to save the dates for our Spring Farm Tours on March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

On behalf of the FoDHF Board we thank you for your continued support of our mission 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.*

# Wonderful Friends

We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between May 1, 2021 and October 31, 2021.

## Grants

Packard Foundation (\$30,000)  
City of Cupertino (\$7,000)  
Town of Los Altos Hills (\$5,000)

## Donations

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

Esther John & Aart De Geus  
Jackie Hall,  
In Memory of Stan Hall  
Iwamoto Family Fund  
Ken Kreidl,  
In Memory of Fen Choi  
Shannon Hegg,  
with Apple match  
Edward Reed &  
Johanna Schmid,  
In Memory of Anita Reed Simpson

### California Thresher (\$500 to \$900)

Quota International of  
Mountain View/Los Altos  
Carla Dorow  
Tom & Susan Kempe,  
In Honor of Matt Kempe  
Larry & Donna Aronson  
Tom & Barbara Lustig  
Murari Mani,  
with Apple match

### Stellar Jay (\$300-\$400)

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Katrina SeCoy  
Betsy & George Young

### California Quail (\$200-\$250)

Kimberly Jorgensen,  
with PayPal match  
Joan Lewis  
Dee Wood,  
In Memory of Chris Wood  
Martha Young  
The Levy Family  
Monty Simpson  
Brett Degner & Nora Singer,  
with Apple match  
Darwin & Donna Poulos,  
In Honor of Barbara O'Reilly and  
In Honor of Jessica Morgan

### Acorn Woodpecker (\$100 to \$150)

Black Sheep Handweavers  
Guild  
Sally Cappucci  
Leslie & Anita Nichols  
Todd Prager  
Sherry Udstuen  
John & Sandy Bressler, CRFG  
Irene Abrams

Christine Burns  
Ivan Gendzel  
Carol Jossi

David & Theresa  
Mathiasmeier  
Doug & Karen Morgan,  
In Honor of Jude & Jozy

### Phoebe (\$50 to \$80)

Santa Clara County  
Margaret Lanphier  
Robert & Paula Lawrence  
John & Karen Lemes  
MJ & Nancy Mayo,  
In Honor of Jessica  
Jeffrey Richards  
Josephine Vincent

### Hummingbird

### (\$20 to \$25)

James Li  
Sam & Anne Ng  
Elizabeth Moore

Please join these amazing Wonderful Friends and donate to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm.  
You can make your gift via credit card or PayPal at [www.DeerHollowFarmFriends.org](http://www.DeerHollowFarmFriends.org).

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

## Looking for New Ways to Give Back?

### 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 email [Lauren@DeerHollowFarmFriends.org](mailto:Lauren@DeerHollowFarmFriends.org).

We would love to gain team members that have solid communication skills and a bonus if they have experience writing grants, preparing financial information, marketing, event management and/or general fundraising experience.

Terms are 3-years in length and the Board currently meets four times a year (January, March, May and September).





**D**eer Hollow Farm is a ten-acre educational farm in Rancho San Antonio County Park & Open Space Preserve, 22500 Cristo Rey Dr, Cupertino, CA 95014. For information, call 650-903-6430.

**FriendsNews** is published by FoDHF for donors who want to help preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm. website [www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org) email [info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org](mailto:info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org)



#### Newsletter Contributors

Pamela Baird, Barbara Cole,  
Carla Dorow, Lauren Merriman,  
Wai Mo, Jessica Morgan,  
Nancy Stuhr and Tara Sreekrishnan  
*Photos by* Lauren Merriman  
and Nancy Stuhr

Your next **FriendsNews** will be  
mailed in June 2022

*To Our Friends*



**Friends of Deer Hollow Farm**  
PO Box 4282  
Mountain View, CA 94040