

Spring 2024

FriendsNews



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

Celebrating 30 Years of Support!

By Lubab Sheet-Davis

Once upon a time, 30 years ago, Deer Hollow Farm was at risk of becoming history rather than preserving it. But thankfully a wonderful group of individuals banded together and formed Friends of Deer Hollow Farm (FODHF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to raise funds to help save the farm. "It was one of the best experiences of my life. There were no egos involved, everyone was in it to save the farm," said Donna Poulos, a founding board member of FODHF along with Joy Desai, Jane Griffith, Jerry Juracich and Mary (Mimi) Mourkas. Today, Deer Hollow Farm is a vibrant environmental educational center with ~130,000 visitors per year from across the Bay Area.

Education

Deer Hollow Farm is an educational center where the public, school classes and community groups can observe and participate in an historic working farm. The hope is that by connecting people with the natural world and helping them understand our interdependence, people's lives are enriched and in turn, they want to protect and preserve the land. About 5,000 pre-K thru 4th grade students from 40-45 Bay Area schools take a variety of experiential educational classes each year, with FODHF providing scholarships for approximately 50%. Topics include Life Science, Ohlone Habitat, Farm & Garden, Sheep & Goats, and Fleece & Milk. In addition to the field trip classes, seven weeks of summer camps are offered for 6-14 years old as well as a very popular Summer Camp Internship for high school-aged volunteers. Visitors are welcome to take a self-guided tour and learn about the history of the Farm at no charge. The friendly farm animals, garden and orchard are available for viewing during regular Farm hours.

History and Community

Deer Hollow Farm is one of the last working homestead farms in California and has a rich history. The Grant Brothers settled what is now Deer Hollow Farm and about 360 surrounding acres in 1853. They ran businesses on their land: ranching, dairy farming, and grain growing, and as such, were wealthier than the average 19th century American homesteader. They could afford to hire a foreman, who lived in the Foreman's cabin, the oldest structure at Deer Hollow Farm. The Grant Family sold the property to George Perham in 1937, who ran a construction company on the land. The property was acquired by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) in 1975. How-

ever, it was not part of MROSD mission to run an educational facility, but they were willing to make the farm available to any agency willing to do so. Thankfully, Glenn Lyles, Recreation Supervisor for the City

of Mountain View at the time, had an appreciation for farms and vision to leverage the 1973 Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) to fund a naturalist, Linda Newberry, and Michael Groethe for farm maintenance. They scraped together funds and accepted donations for tools, animals and food/care for the same. Glenn and Linda also named the farm. They were sitting in the Ohlone Village (Quail Garden at the time) and decided yes it was a hollow, so toyed with the idea of Quail Hollow Farm, but just then a deer walked by and they liked the sound of Deer Hollow Farm, and so it was decided. A budget crisis in 1978 put the farm at risk, but donations came in and community members voiced support at council meetings. MROSD assumed the maintenance costs and funding for a maintenance position, which continues today. Funding was a concern again in 1994 and FODHF was formed to raise funds to help offset the City of Mountain View's costs. And this proved invaluable in 2010, when once again the City's budget challenges put farm funding at risk, so FODHF alleviated the shortfall.

Looking to the Future

For the past 30 years, the strong partnership between the City of Mountain View Parks & Recreation Department, who in turn receives funding from Santa Clara County, MROSD, and FODHF has persisted. The partnership and shared funding model, while more complex, provides greater stability and will preserve Deer Hollow Farm as an active environmental education center. We owe a debt of gratitude to the pioneers, advocates, donors, board members, volunteers, staff and partners who have worked together to protect Deer Hollow Farm. We are committed and energized to continue the work of preserving history, supporting impactful environmental education, and strengthening community for generations to come.



Celebrating 30 Years Together

Supporting Deer Hollow Farm - 30 Years of Impact (1994 - 2024)



Raised \$2.5 million

for the 170-year old teaching farm which has ~130,000 visitors per year from cities across Silicon Valley and beyond.



Funded over \$1.1 million in capital improvements and farm operations,

including more than 50 farm enhancement and 30 volunteer projects.



Funded \$362k in scholarships,

supporting 40,259 students across 1,751 classes.



Funded \$396k in animal care and feed.

The farm is home to 80-100 animals depending on the time of year.



Hosted 15 Ohlone Days, 39 Spring Farm Tours and 15 Spooky Times Events,

raising over \$145k for the Farm.



Reached thousands and raised awareness,

through an award-winning film, newsletters, outreach events and social media (Facebook and Instagram).

Iron Ranger Gets a Refresh



Have you ever wondered what the red, white and blue sculpture is used for at Deer Hollow Farm? It is the Iron Ranger, a donation collector, created by Dr. Hardin “Hardy” Jones, to help raise funds for the farm. We check the Iron Ranger every month, and are always thankful for what is inside.

Visitors to the farm donate anywhere from ~\$1,000-2,000 per year via Iron Ranger, all of them anonymous. We welcome donations of any size, anonymous or not, in support of the farm. If you would like to make a donation via the Iron Ranger, but also receive recognition, you can place your donation in one of the envelopes in the plastic holder near the office door (near the bulletin board), fill out the information requested, and place it in the Iron Ranger. We will be sure to recognize you along with other donors in our newsletter and provide you with an IRS donation receipt. You can also mail the envelope to us or make a donation on the website at www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org.

Thanks to Jaime Villarreal for a much needed paint and sign refresh!

Celebrating 30 Years Together

Farm Projects Enhance Educational Programs

by Jaime Villarreal

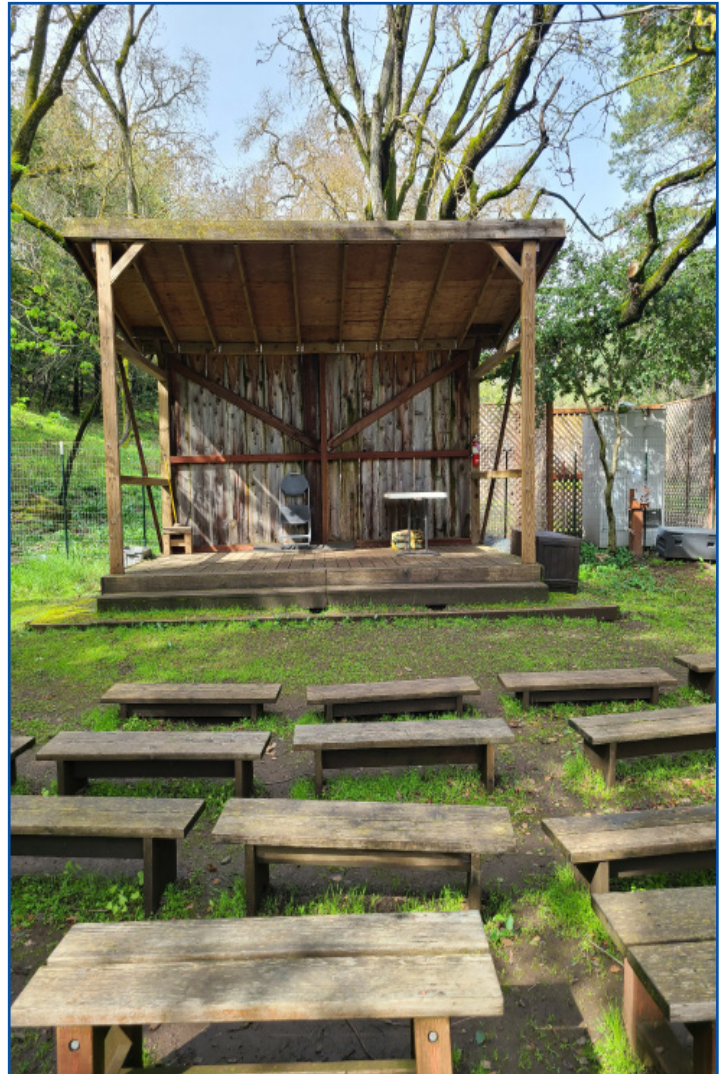
Since 1994, Deer Hollow Farm has undergone a multitude of enhancement projects focused on making the farm safer, enhancing the educational experience, and protecting investments. Each year FODHF, using available funding, reviews and approves staff recommended enhancements to the Farm. Over the past 30 years, FODHF has funded approximately \$500k in capital improvements and \$650k in operations and farm enhancement projects.

Improvements were made to the Historic White Barn. The Milking Room was enhanced by adding equipment to more fully address sanitary conditions, and creating a small area for goat milking demonstrations as well as providing storage space for animal medical and care supplies. Additionally, a generous donor provided funding for a new roof, new flooring, improved access to the loft, and repainting the exterior. The White Barn has been transformed from a building which only provided a view from the outside looking in, to now being a fully inclusive hands-on experience for all students; toddlers all the way up to the teenage summer campers.

Other improvements include adding an amphitheater and sweat lodge to the replica Ohlone Village, an outdoor cow milking demonstration platform, upgrades to fencing and gates, and improvements to the Blacksmith Shed. An enclosure was built that enables classes to enter a garden area directly from the dwarf orchard. The Nature Center has enhancements that benefit the Life Sciences classes as well as occasional visits from the general public. Minor things like adding restrooms and cleaning basins extends the students' learning time. A second goat barn was built to house male goats and for breeding purposes. Additional seating and interpretive signage have benefited both classes and public visitors.

The Farm is an historic educational and recreational gem that has been enjoyed by numerous classes and the public for decades. Only by the hard work and generous contributions of many individuals, the surrounding communities, and numerous agencies and partners does it continue to thrive and grow. Thank you to the City of Mountain View, Santa Clara County Parks, and MROSD for their continued support and partnership.

Images: An amphitheater (top) and sweat lodge (bottom) have been added to the replica Ohlone Village. These enhancements have boosted students' learning experience while visiting Deer Hollow Farm.



Celebrating 30 Years Together

Key Partners and Friends Extend Congratulations on 30-Year Anniversary



“Deer Hollow Farm provides a unique outdoor learning space for the community to enjoy. Through its partnership with Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department, Deer Hollow Farm serves as a valuable community resource, connecting people to nature, and preserving a piece of local history. The City of Mountain View is proud to partner with these organizations to ensure Deer Hollow Farm continues to be a regional, environmental education center.”

John Marchant, Community Services Director, City of Mountain View Parks and Recreation



“On behalf of the entire team at Midpen, I want to congratulate the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm on their 30-year anniversary. Deer Hollow Farm is an invaluable partner helping plant the seeds of knowledge, grow future leaders and harvest a brighter world. Thousands of our young community members enjoy the farm’s outdoor camps and programs each year, learning the history of agriculture in our region and how to respect land, native wildlife and local food sources. Happy anniversary!”

Ana Maria Ruiz, General Manager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District



“Since 1996, Santa Clara County Parks has provided over \$1.5M in support of Deer Hollow Farm. Deer Hollow Farm’s education programs provide a wide range of community benefits. Much like other historic features in the county’s regional park system, the farm allows visitors to learn how homestead families lived in the 1800s, about local natural resources, and the history of the Bay Area’s indigenous people.”

Don Rocha, Director, County of Santa Clara Department of Parks and Recreation



“The Farm helps tell a living history tale to the community: a 170-year-old working homestead farm and outstanding environmental education center right here in our urban Bay Area. There’s a sense of wonder and delight on kids’ and adults’ faces as they see spring lambs, walk the old barnyard, and hear the cows moo and the chickens call out. I am so proud of the Friends Board as a grass-roots, all-volunteer passionate group of people who have brought more than \$1 million worth of improvements to the Farm over the past three decades.”

Sue Gale, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board Member (2003-2012, with a year off), who wore several hats as Board President, Secretary, Grant Writer and Newsletter Editor.



“I got to know so many tremendous people while working at the historic farm and preserve. Educating the youth, being a part of a strong community, caring for farm animals, and seeing wildlife will always be treasures in my life! Thank you, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, donors, community, staff and volunteers for being the main ingredients of Deer Hollow’s success yesterday, today and tomorrow.”

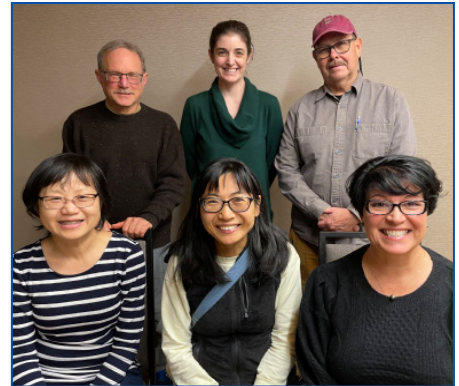
Mary Gilman, Former Director of Deer Hollow Farm (1985-2005), who was a Senior Coordinator that fostered partnerships and brought stability to the Farm organization, including splitting her position by creating a Livestock Coordinator position.

Sharing News from the Board

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm board of directors is a volunteer group focused on raising funds and awareness for Deer Hollow Farm.

In January, we elected a new slate of officers and in March we were delighted to welcome two new members, Esther Jeng and Michael Droeger. Our officers for the 2024 calendar year are Lubab Sheet-Davis - President, Jaime Villarreal - Vice President, Charlotte Xia - Treasurer and Renee Blitzer - Secretary.

We are actively recruiting new board members with fundraising, grant writing, marketing, legal and librarian skills along with a passion to preserve Deer Hollow Farm. Board service has several requirements and generally takes approximately 10 hours per month. The Board is also looking for volunteers to serve on its six committees including: Donor Relations & Outreach, Grants & Lobbying, Events & Merchandise, Finance, Marketing Communications, and Volunteer Projects. Committee service is a smaller time commitment, generally 1-2 hours per month. To learn more, please contact lubab@deerhollowfarmfriends.org.



Upper left: Jack Kay, Lisa Griswold, and Jaime Villarreal; Bottom left: Charlotte Xia, Renee Blitzer, and Lubab Sheet-Davis.

Welcoming New Members and Staff



an important remembrance of the way life was more than 100 years ago and enables me to appreciate the hard work and simple joys of the past as well as the technological advances of today." She has a background in chemical engineering and has worked in the semiconductor industry for 15 years in engineering roles and more recently in university research engagements. Esther is excited to support our grants committee focused on supporting scholarships for student field trips and summer camp.

Esther Jeng has fond memories of attending camps at Deer Hollow Farm as a child, having grown up in Los Altos. She wants her children and others to have similar experiences in the natural world. "Deer Hollow Farm looks very much like it did 40 years ago when I first visited as a child. Deer Hollow is

potant lessons about conservation and our natural surroundings. Growing up in San Francisco with a large empty lot as part of his family's property, he had a pet goat for over 15 years. Michael is eager to lend his marketing and communications expertise to help advance visibility and awareness of the farm, increase engagement between the farm and community, and outreach to potential donors and corporate sponsors.

We are delighted to welcome both Esther and Michael to the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board!



The Board welcomes our new part-time bookkeeper, Cheryl Sui, replacing Barbara Cole who served in the role for the past three years. Cheryl is a part time office manager in the tech industry and enjoys working with people and problem solving. She spent six years working in customer service for the Sunnyvale Public Library. Cheryl volunteers for Turning Wheels for Kids and HYSTA of Silicon Valley. We are delighted to welcome Cheryl to the team, and send our sincerest thanks to Barbara and wish her the very best!

The Board welcomes

The board also recognizes and appreciates the countless hours of training and guidance from Carla Dorow who continues to serve on the finance committee. Carla has provided essential insight and continuity through this transition. Thank you, Carla!!!



Michael Droeger is a lifelong citizen of the Bay Area, current resident of San Jose and frequent visitor to Rancho San Antonio Preserve. He believes Deer Hollow Farm fulfills an important role for the Peninsula and Santa Clara Valley, preserving the region's past and connecting residents and visitors to im-

Wonderful Friends

Thank You to Our Wonderful Friends!

We are grateful to have such an amazing community of donors and supporters of Deer Hollow Farm. For the three months ending Jan 31, which covered our Become A Friend Campaign, we received donations of ~\$108,000 from 128 individual donors and two grants, a 40% increase for the same period of the prior year. Approximately \$64K was designated for the General Fund, ~\$20K for the Animal Fund, ~\$13K for Scholarships, ~\$11K for Farm Operations & Enhancements.

With your support, we will preserve the farm for future generations, maintain accessibility to all members of our community, care for our beloved animals and continue to support impactful environmental educational programs. Thank you to all our wonderful friends for your support!

Grants

Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund
Santa Clara County

Donations

Red-Tailed Hawk - (\$1,000 to \$25,000)

Elizabeth Bartholomew, In Honor of
Samantha Goldlust for Animals
Joy Desai for Scholarships
Barbara Goodwin
James & Diane Bordoni - Donor Advisors
Bordoni Family Fund
Julia Kahan, In Honor of Cali & Bear Kahan
Al & Suzanne Kaiser, In Honor/Memory of
Suzanne Kaiser for Animals
Pamela Lillquist for Animals
Liu Blitzer Charitable Fund, In Honor of
Peter, David and Amy Blitzer, with
Benevity match
Manfroy Family Fund - Lori Manfroy,
In Memory of Dewey Halligan
Ellie & Dick Mansfield
Andrey Petrov with Benevity match
Darwin & Donna Poulos for Animals
Edward Reed & Johanna Schmid,
In Memory of Anita Reed Simpson
Donna Segal & Burt Podbere
Jonathan Davis & Lubab Sheet-Davis
for Animals
Judith & Joe Stewart for Animals
Elizabeth Stinson
Richard & Jane Walker

California Thresher - (\$500 to \$750)

Pamela Baird
Cindy Castillo for Animals
Rob Colwell
Penny Gardner
Chris & Genevieve Halvorsen

Richard & Diane Horn
Susan Casner-Kay & Jack Kay for Animals
Tom & Susan Kempe, In Memory of
Matt Kempe, with BMS match via
Cybergrants
Christine Ludwick
Paresh & Debra Maniar for Animals
Mary Anne Rohde
Ellen & Marvin Schwartz, In Honor of
Jessica and Staff
Bonnie Stearns
Jeffrey & Barbara Taylor

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

Patricia Campbell
Joan Ferguson, In Honor of Farmer Jen
for Animals
Indradeep Ghosh for Animals, with match by
Micron Technology

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

Brandy Batch, In Honor of Lubab & Jonathan
Sandra Bergan for Operations
L&L Borok Foundation - Jack Borok
for Animals
Olga Bruce, In Honor of Jen & Jessica
Park Chamberlain
Paul & Sarah Donahue for Animals
Sue Gale, In Honor of Deb Maniar for Animals
Chris & Bill Green for Animals
Karen & Jack Griswold for Animals
Marge Haley, In Memory of Boyd Haley
for School Field Trip Scholarships
Raymond & Elsa Heald
David Hemker, In Honor of Lubab Sheet-Davis
Sreenivas Kollu with Google match
via Benevity
Micah & Carrie Laaker
Joan Meyer, In Honor of
Lee Winchell for Scholarships
Chris & Amy Migdal

Doug & Karen Morgan
Tim Petersen
Ron & Dorothy Schafer
Ann Schmitt, In Honor of Carla Dorow
Monty Simpson
Jaime Villarreal
Don Weden, In Memory of Kim Weden
Betsy Young, In Memory of George Young

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

Phyllis Anderson
Eric Helfenbein & Cheryl Anton
Merry & Steve Astor, In Honor of
Susan Berman
Hans Bernhardt, In Honor of Sprite
the working cat
Sumit Vijaykumar Biyani via Benevity
Pamela Brands, In Memory of
Tom Oberhelman for Animals
Christine Burns
Ann Cerniglia for
School Field Trip Scholarships
James Chin & Silvia Cen
Eugene & Clare Cordero for
School Field Trip Scholarships
Doug Cox
Drew Dara-Abrams, In Honor of
Elizabeth Phillips
Claude & Gudrun DeBuhr, In Memory of
Kermit Skromme
John & Mary Jane Edwards
Anita Krishnan & Krish Ellath, In Honor of
Tara Sreekrishnan
Christel Fliss, In Memory of Andrew Fliss
Cathleen Gale, In Honor of Sue Gale
Virginia Gelczis & Mitchell Diamond
Ivan Gendzel
Christine Goritschnigg
Dennis Haas
Kevin & Lesley Hall, In Memory of
Stanford Hall for Scholarships

Wonderful Friends

Donations - Continued

Acorn Woodpecker - (\$100 to \$150) Continued

Susan Hanson
Benjamin Haskell, In Honor of
Lubab Sheet-Davis via Benevity with
Lam Research match
Carl Baeuerlen & Jim Hulseman
Esther Jeng, In Honor of
Lubab & Jonathan's Soiree
Haifeng Jiang for Animals
Jerry & Sandy Juracich
Susan Kahn & David Kaskowitz
Stephen Lin for Operations
Neal & Sonja Locke
Andy Lott
Beatrice Birman & Mary Malgoire,
In Honor of Sue Gale
Virginie Metivier
Katherine Miller Wasilenko
Anne Miller
James Morales
Everett & Rebecca Palmer
Gary Schlueter
Katrina SeCoy for Animals
Timothy & Leigh Stevens
Sue Stewart, In Memory of Lulu Saber
Linda Thomason

Lee Winchell, In Memory of
Phydelis McMullen
Kim Wong, In Memory of
Priscilla Sarinas, MD

Phoebe - (\$50 to \$99)

Sally Cappucci
Marianne Gregersen, In Honor of Lee Winchell
Sherrie Gutierrez, In Honor of
Lubab Sheet-Davis
Walter Keutgens
Al & Ineke Ligtenberg
Carol Peters
Jeffrey Richards
Tomasz Jasionowski & Esin Salter
Sergey Schekochikhin, In Honor of
Kay Family
Martin & Roberta Schwartz
Nancy Stuhr for Animals
Fred & Nancy Witteborn

Hummingbird - (\$20 to \$30)

Meili Kao for Animals
Thomas MacDonald
Bo Sun
Glenn & Linda Wegner

Thank you to Pine Press -- Hassan Lashgari
for printing this newsletter in color for the
cost of black and white.



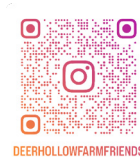
Please join these Wonderful Friends
and donate to
Friends of Deer Hollow Farm.

You can make your gift via
credit card or PayPal at
www.DeerHollowFarmFriends.org.

Follow Friends on social



Facebook



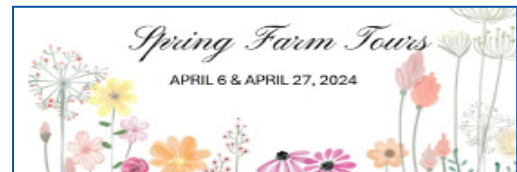
Instagram

Upcoming Calendar of Events

EARTH AND ARBOR DAY — Celebration —

April 20, 2024, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Rengstorff Community Center

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm will host a booth at the City's first Arbor and Earth Day combined celebration themed "Rooted in our Environment." We'll have an educational display and giveaways to raise awareness of Deer Hollow Farm. Admission is free and you can learn more about the event on the City of Mountain View website.



April 6 & 27, 2024, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Deer Hollow Farm

Come meet our new farm animals while supporting Deer Hollow Farm. Enjoy fun interactive exhibits and admire the orchard in bloom and the bounty of the garden. Admission is \$7 per person, kids under 1 are free, and all proceeds support the Animal Fund. Learn more at www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org.



Deer 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 email info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org



Newsletter Contributors

Lisa Griswold, Sherrie Gutierrez,
Lubab Sheet-Davis and
Jaime Villarreal

Your next **FriendsNews** will be mailed in Summer-Fall 2024

To Our Friends



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