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# Friends News



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

## Winter 2019

### What a Difference Some Friends Make

Where were you in 1994? Forrest Gump was playing in movie theaters that year, the Space Shuttle Columbia launched from the Kennedy Space Center, the Northridge Earthquake shook the San Fernando Valley, and on April 1, 1994, the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission: To preserve Deer Hollow Farm, an historical and working farm; to support its environmental education programs; and to lessen the burden, financial and otherwise, on the City of Mountain View and other agencies who support the Farm.

In addition to thousands of children that have received scholarships to the Farm and thousands of dollars in support for the animals, specific improvements have been made possible by FODHF and its generous donors (and the amazing work of our partners at MROSD for the labor). Here's a walk down memory lane:



**2008**— \$5,720 for a new shed to welcome Luna  
**2009**—

\$15,200 for Nature Center

**2011**— \$13,500 for milk room, Ohlone rainy-day supplies, ponchos, digital equipment for Nature Center

**2012**—\$13,100 signage for livestock



and in the Ohlone Village, Friends began to support the restroom for classes, provided

funds for picnic tables and amphitheater  
**2013**—\$10,800 Blacksmith's Shed improvements, White Barn painting, new Sweat Lodge



I'm sure the amazing volunteers that started the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, Joy Desai, Jane Griffith, Jerry Juracich, Mini Mourkas, and Donna Poulos, can remember April 1994 like it was yesterday. We are so grateful for the group that started the Friends and for every person who has contributed any amount of time or money over the next 25 years to assist us in our vision to make a difference.

It would take many pages to list all of the amazing things Friends of Deer Hollow Farm has accomplished in its 25 years.



**2010**—\$14,000 for Nature Center displays, livestock trailer, garden beds, and cow milking area



**2014**—\$17,000 for new chicken coop



*continued on page 2*

*What a Difference... continued*

**2015**—\$19,700 for duck shelter and pond, and egg washing room



**2016**—\$17,600 for



oak tree planting, student tools, and pig pen improvements

**2017**—\$26,400 for Tuff Shed addition, supplies and storage for Milk Room, and goat and sheep fencing

**2018**— \$27,200 storage for Village teaching materials, sheep and pig barn painting, and garage remodel

**2019**—\$22,000 for upper pasture barn, orchard signage, and completion of fences and gates

That totals \$202,200 for enhancements! This list doesn't include a number of Scout projects funded by the Friends like fence line improvements, Ohlone Village structures, garden



augmentations. These enhancements have made a huge impact on how the Farm operates. They are thoughtfully designed by Farm staff before presenting their proposals to the Friends for consideration and funding.

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm couldn't do what we do without the amazing leadership of the past and present FODHF Board, the hard work of Farm staff, MROSD staff, Farm volunteers, and our donors. Everyone's contributions add up. I wonder where we will be in another 5 or 10 years? We hope you'll continue to remember the Farm in your year-end giving and stick around to find out too!

## Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Short History

**1994** FODHF was established to save the Farm from threatened closure.

**1995** FODHF held first Farm Tours for the public.

**1996** FODHF held first Ohlone Day and Friends' "dancing children and animals" logo was designed by **Keith Gutierrez** and **Sara Frank**.

**2004** Two members joined FODHF who sustained and strengthened the board through 15 years.

- **Sue Gale** became president of FODHF. During and between her four terms on the board, she enlarged the funding base, grew the board of six to its full size of eleven or twelve, organized the board into committees for more efficient work, and oversaw the beginning of file storage in the Cloud plus a greatly increased presence on the Web.
- **Carla Dorow** became treasurer and has filled many other roles including events management and grants chairman; she was always willing to do what is needed during and between her four terms. Her main

contribution has been as treasurer. She set up and maintained the books, filed all the legal documents, prepared the budget, made sure that records were verified, and more.

**2008** FODHF began providing funds for Farm enhancements.

**2010** **Sue Gale** and the board led scores of Farm lovers to again save the Farm from threat of closure.

**2011** FODHF newsletter was redesigned.

**2014** Friends launched a new Website and enlarged its presence on the Internet.

**2015** FODHF moved all records to the Cloud.

**2016** Large bequests were given to both Friends and the Farm that have been designated to help renovate the White Barn.

**2017** **Lauren Merriman** becomes president, and the mission of the board grew beyond field-trip scholarships, animal support, and Farm improvements to include spreading community awareness of the Farm.

## Friends Board Members

These volunteers served on the FODHF board over the 25 years.

<b>Mimi Mourkas</b>	<b>Jerry Juracich</b>
<b>Donna Poulos</b>	<b>Jane Griffith</b>
<b>Joy Desai</b>	<b>David Groll</b>
<b>Christine Welsh-Buck</b>	<b>Jack Shepherd</b>
<b>Janet Rosselle</b>	<b>Mike Hammes</b>
<b>Tom Lustig</b>	<b>Betsy Young</b>
<b>Sue Gale</b>	<b>Carla Dorow</b>
<b>Sharon Bancroft</b>	<b>Carol Jossi</b>
<b>Dorothy Schafer</b>	<b>Gail Nyhan</b>
<b>Mike Coggiola</b>	<b>Dan Graviano</b>
<b>Joan Ferguson</b>	<b>Donna Aronson</b>
<b>Liz Montgomery</b>	<b>Joan Lewis</b>
<b>Deb Maniar</b>	<b>Judith Stewart</b>
<b>Nina Wong-Dobkin</b>	<b>Zulah Eckert</b>
<b>Timothy Wood</b>	<b>David Fung</b>
<b>Kevin Henrikson</b>	<b>Jenise Henrikson</b>
<b>Tara Sreekrishnan</b>	<b>Dick Warlker</b>
<b>Lauren Merriman</b>	<b>Nancy Stuhr</b>
<b>Kate Rainwater</b>	<b>Pamela Baird</b>
<b>Wai Mo</b>	<b>Katie Stern</b>

# FamiliarFaces at the Farm ... Over the Years

by Nina Wong-Dobkin

As you hike Rancho San Antonio trails near Deer Hollow Farm, you might notice a group of children with a docent looking up at a tree to observe the branches or sniffing a leaf the docent had collected and passed around. Led by **Jessica Morgan** and our new lead teacher **Jennifer Adams**, the dedicated and knowledgeable teaching docents make these educational opportunities possible.



**Karen Iwamoto**, teaching docent since 2018, is rewarded for her volunteer hours when she sees “children in awe at seeing a blue jay and squirrel,” experiencing nature for the first time at the field trip.

Volunteers use hands-on activities from which students learn almost without realizing it. They hear how the Ohlone pounded acorns in preparation for a meal; then students try their hands at cracking open an acorn, removing the shells, and grinding the nut. **Dorothy Schafer**, a docent since 2004, articulates the passion of many docents for sharing the importance of “respect for land, wildlife, and farm animals and reinforcing the idea of the interdependence of all life.” **Sonja Marcus** says what she enjoys most about teaching is “looking at the material through the eyes of the children.” **Ginny Kaminski**, who was in the second docent training class, wants to “see our kids ‘unplugged’ and outdoors!” Docents all enjoy the volunteer job that gets them outside in the beautiful setting of Rancho San Antonio and gives them the opportunity to share nature with the next generation.

When you visit Deer Hollow Farm, rain or shine, you might see the livestock

volunteers cleaning animal pens, hauling feed, or giving an animal a nice scratch on the back. The livestock volunteers find working with animals to be a great break from the hustle and bustle of life in Silicon Valley. “Interacting with the animals and learning about the individual animals is always a joy,” says **Susan Casner-Kay**, a volunteer since 2014. Our livestock coordinator, **Lisa Cornelius**, trains and works closely with livestock volunteers. **Becky Bradshaw**, a relatively new



volunteer, attests to the effectiveness of this training by expertly milking Roxy, and then moving on to milk one of the goats. Becky had no experience with animals until a few months ago when Lisa trained her.

If you’re lucky, you might find the Nature Center open thanks to volunteers such as **Gary Guiffre**,



**Larry and Donna Aronson, Christine Green, Lee Winchell, or Christine Ludwick.** They answer questions and share what they know about the exhibits and the environment around Deer Hollow Farm. **Dee Wood** cleans the Nature Center. If you see her cleaning, she will welcome you in for a quick look around. The Nature Center is generally open the

third Saturday of the month. For a detailed schedule, please check our website [www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org).

Dee also serves as the farmyard docent every other Saturday when she happily shares with visitors her love for the Farm and knowledge of the animals. On Sundays, you will find **Carol Jossi** and **Lee Winchell** as farmyard docents, greeting



visitors and passing on their love and knowledge of the Farm and its animals. Lee has been a teaching docent since 2000.

Over the years, volunteers have seen changes at Deer Hollow Farm: added and upgraded buildings and fencing, changes in staff, and an increase in the livestock population. Long-time teaching docent, **Donna Aronson**, remembers when “there was only Michelle. Then Luna came to Deer Hollow Farm from Hidden Villa and was our solo cow for several years. Now we have Luna, Roxy, Henrietta, and sometimes we have a calf around.”

What has remained the same over these years is the especially close-knit community of volunteers who have lived through ups and downs in life with each other. Friendships have been made through work in the outdoor classrooms and animal pens. Volunteers experience the joy of being with like-minded people who care about animals and the environment, who enjoy working outside in the lovely setting of Rancho San Antonio, and who want school children and other Farm visitors to learn about and appreciate Deer Hollow Farm. **Carla Dorow**, a 20-year veteran teaching docent, sums it up well, describing her experience, “Enjoying the camaraderie of Farm staff, volunteers, local teachers, and visitors has given me a great deal of satisfaction; and I hope anyone who enjoys nature and children will consider joining us.”

# 2019 in Review

by **Lauren Merriman**

The 25th year of the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm brings many successes to share and lots to look forward to in 2020. Here's a look at what the FODHF Board has been up to in 2019.

## Funding Report

The 11-member board ended its fiscal year in June with \$193,000 in revenue.

This year the FODHF Board provided \$37,000 in Farm field trip tuition scholarships and busing for 2,613 students from low-income areas to attend 109 Farm field trips.

FODHF funds these scholarships through generous grants from Santa Clara County, the Packard Foundation, Merimac Fund and other sources. For the third year, FODHF Board provided scholarship funding to 14 Deer Hollow Farm summer camp participants. These students were recommended from the West Valley Community Services Agency.

FODHF provided \$24,000 in funding for Farm enhancement projects. This year Friends funding allowed staff to build a new barn in the upper pasture for the Farm's male animal residents, and the remaining gates have been replaced with metal gates



that are safer to operate. Friends funded new interpretive signage for the orchard area and last, but not least, Friends continued funding of the portable restroom located at the Ohlone Village for use by educational programs.

FODHF donors provided an incredible \$48,000 towards the Animal Fund. 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; and vet care and medicines.



We can continue to thank organizations

and municipalities like the City of Cupertino (\$15,000) and Los Altos Hills (\$5,000) who donated again this year. The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department continues to provide \$75,000 of funding, and the Friends provided approximately \$25,000 to help offset the cost of the Farm for the City of Mountain View.

## Outreach Efforts

We try to raise awareness about the Farm out in the community whenever we have the opportunity. We continue to be present at Mountain View's Thursday Night Live, Cupertino's Fall Festival, and other surrounding cities. 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 at Deer "Halloween" Farm.

## White Barn Update

Additional assessments of the iconic white barn are being completed and presented to the MROSD Board of Directors with a variety of recommendations to rehabilitate the structure. At the time this newsletter went to print, no formal decisions regarding this structure have been made. Our original anticipated date for work to begin has been pushed out about one year, as we continue to make strides to preserve this important structure in late summer or fall of 2020.

## Looking for Farm Lovers!

The FODHF Board said goodbye to long-time board member (and treasurer)

**Carla Dorow** in September and plan to say goodbye to other important members of the team, **Park Chamberlain** and **Nina Wong-Dobkin**, vice-president, in January as they have reached their term limits. With the recent and upcoming departures 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 [Lauren@DeerHollowFarmFriends.org](mailto:Lauren@DeerHollowFarmFriends.org). We would love to gain team members who have solid communication skills. It would be 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 in person 4-times a year (January, March, May, and September).

## More to come in 2020...

We hope to maintain our board with 11 to 12 members in 2020 as well as continue our mission to fund the vital programs that Deer Hollow Farm provides our region. More news to come on the White Barn project. As soon as we have funding goals for that project, you will likely hear more from us.

Be sure to save the dates for the 2020 Spring Farm Tours: March 21st and April 18th! 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.



## Board September 2019

*Seated left to right:*

**Nancy Stuhr**, secretary; **Pamela Baird**; **Katie Stern**, treasurer; **Lauren Merriman**, president

*Standing left to right:*

**Dick Walker**; **Wai Mo**; **Park Chamberlain**; **Nina Wong-Dobkin**, vice president and **David Fung**

*Not pictured:* **Kate Rainwater** and **Tara Sreekrishnan**

# Meet the “moosers” of Deer Hollow Farm

by Pamela Baird

For several years, Deer Hollow Farm has kept at least two milk cows to use for demonstrations for Farm classes and visitors. Summer campers get hands-on milking lessons. Volunteers also get to milk the cows.

The breed that was selected for the Farm is the Jersey, a breed originated on the Island of Jersey, a small British island in the English Channel off the coast of France. The Jersey is one of the oldest dairy breeds, having been reported by authorities as being purebred for nearly six centuries. Jersey cattle were brought to the United States in the 1850s, although records show that early settlers took a breed similar to Jersey to the colonies in 1657.

A Jersey cow is typically light brown in color with a black nose bordered by a light-colored muzzle. A dark switch (long hair on the end of the tail) and black sturdy hooves are other markers of the breed. The cows are good tempered and docile. The Jersey cow has a high fertility rate and little or no calving problems. Both bulls and cows usually have thin and curved horns.

The most famous Jersey is Elsie the Cow, the trademark image for Borden Dairy.



Adaptable to a wide range of climatic and geographical conditions, outstanding Jersey herds are found

from Denmark to Australia and New Zealand, from Canada to South America, and from South Africa to Japan. They are excellent grazers and more tolerant of heat than other breeds. Today the Jersey is the second largest breed of dairy cattle in the world.

With an average weight of 900 pounds, the Jersey produces more pounds of milk per pound of body weight than any other breed. The milk contains 18% more protein, 20% more calcium, and 25% more butterfat than that of other breeds. In many markets, milk from the Jersey commands a premium price.

Currently there are three Jersey cows at the Farm. **Luna** will be 12 years old this winter; she was born at nearby Hidden Villa. Friends is providing funds for her retirement.



**Roxie** was born here to Luna in 2013.



**Henrietta** is a 3-year-old from nearby Claravale dairy. She was purchased in July 2018 with donations from a Farm visitor.

The cows are fed twice a day a diet of alfalfa hay and forage hay (a blend of oat hay and grass hay). Cows that are producing milk are also fed grain to help support the high caloric needs required for making milk. The grain is a mixture of corn, oats, and barley. At their peak, just after calving, a cow can produce as much as 6 gallons of milk a day.

At the Farm, milking happens only once a day, contrary to production dairies where cows are likely milked 2 or 3 times a day. Farm staff will let the calves nurse as much as they want, which takes care of the second milking. However, even with the calf drinking fully, most dairy cows over produce, and once a day milking is still needed in order to keep the cows comfortable and healthy.

In the United States today, the Jerseys have been bred to be larger than the cows first brought to the United States. They tend to range in weight from 800 to 1,200 pounds. Two of the cows at Deer Hollow Farm weigh about 1,200 pounds, and the other is about 900 pounds.

On your next visit to the farm check out the three girls. Their long eyelashes and sweet dispositions will have you charmed in no time!



**Jennifer Adams** joins the staff as the new lead teacher. She grew up in Willow Glen and has lived in the Bay Area her whole life. She comes to us with experience at a non-profit called Latino Outdoors and has worked for and done events with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. She has worked Deer Hollow Farm Tours the last two years, seeing how the Farm works and engages with the community. She is glad to be here.

# Friendly Inquiries

by Tom Lustig



Fran and Amanda – San Jose

Our family were farm people. We had a pig, rabbits, chickens, and fruit trees. We sold eggs. Amanda now has three chickens and lots of fruit trees. She's a city farmer. It's worth it to come here. The one-mile walk is just enough to get you tired and then you rest. You've got to work for it. We really like how you've opened up the Farm so that you can visit many areas. Hopefully you're going to milk that poor cow who's been waiting patiently. Her udder looks pretty big. Oh, she was milked earlier? Oh my goodness.



David – Minneapolis, Minnesota

This is my first visit here. On the walk we saw birds, and the creek is beautiful. The Farm is awesome. I assume there are educational programs. Nice to know where your food comes from. There are farms in Minnesota, but not farms to visit like this. I assume you get some tax dollar support and donations to make ends meet.

For more than a dozen years, Tom has been providing newsletter readers with interesting comments from Farm visitors. Like many former board members, Tom continues to help Friends. He writes this column and often sells merchandise at events. His many volunteer activities for the Farm include teaching docent and orchard maintainer.



Sagar and Family – San Jose

I enjoy the one-mile trail that leads up to the Farm. It's not as if you just park your car and you're here. It allows the experience to build. I appreciate how the Farm is nestled in this valley and the variety of animals you have. The staff is phenomenal. I can tell that you guys really love what you do. I like how this is maintained and the experience it creates for visitors. It's a good time for the family.



Dan – Mountain View

I do my hike and end up here at the Farm. I walk around and see all the animals. The Farm is a reward after my hike. I've been going to the gym to build up my strength so that I can ride my bike here, instead of having to use a car. For one year I lived and worked in a kibbutz (collective farm) in Israel where I did agricultural work. There were chickens for meat and cows for milk.



Hugo and Son – Livermore

We like to hike trails and heard about the Farm. The trails here are outstanding. We're here at the Farm today for the benefit of my baby daughter. This is the perfect place. It is safe and clean. We really admire the Foreman's cabin. It must have been a nice place to live in times past. My son hopes someday to have a farm like this.



Piyush – Brooklyn, New York

We were visiting a friend in Mountain View. We did a search for popular hikes and decided on Rancho San Antonio. We walked in and discovered this delightful Farm. We just saw its newest addition, Cleopatra, the kingsnake. Now that's something children will remember.

# Wonderful Friends

We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between May 1, 2019, and October 31, 2019.

## Grants

City of Cupertino (\$15,000)  
Town of Los Altos Hills  
(\$5,000)

Santa Clara County (\$11,437)

Los Altos Rotary  
Endowment Fund (\$1,500)

Quota International  
of Mountain View and  
Los Altos (\$500)

## Donations

### Red-Tailed Hawk (\$20,000)

Dewey and Doris Halligan

### Hawk (\$5,000)

Manfroy Family Fund

### California Thresher (\$2,500)

Aart De Geus and  
Esther John

### Stellar Jay (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Thomas Han  
Austin Kropp,  
with Apple match  
Shannon Hegg  
Iwamoto Family Fund  
Al and Suzanne Kaiser  
Tom and Susan Kempe  
Boby Sunday

### California Quail (\$500)

Pamela Baird  
Erica Kenworthy and  
Carla Murray

### California Quail continued

Curtis and Wai Mo  
Vaswani Family Fund

### Acorn Woodpecker (\$250 to \$499)

Timothy Dylan Wood,  
with Apple

Patricia Campbell  
Katrina Johnson Secoy,  
for Roxie

Jack Borok

Kris and Kate Edwards  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
Alan and Laura Gunshor  
Rachel Colton, Google match  
Carla Dorow

Ron and Dorothy Schafer  
Dolores Wood

### Phoebe (\$100 to \$249)

Cheryl Chang  
Tom Humphrey  
Frances and Stephen Conley  
David and Theresa  
Mathiasmeier  
Jessica Morgan, for rabbit  
Brett Degner and Nora Singer  
Linda Thomason  
Daniel Dobkin and Nina Wong-  
Dobkin, in honor of Father's Day  
for Robert Wong  
and Daniel Dobkin

Dee Wood, in honor of  
Father's Day

Gary and Mary Tietz

### Junco (\$50 to \$99)

Susan Kahn and David  
Kaskowitz

Barbara Reul, thanking and in  
honor of Lee Winchell

Pareesh and Debra Maniar, in  
honor of

Dorothy Schafer's birthday

Helen Thompson

John and Pat Sheehan

Sue Stewart, in memory of  
Robert and Gordon

Marianne Gregersen, in honor of  
Lee Winchell's birthday

Anonymous

### Hummingbird (\$10 to \$49)

Sue Gale, in honor of  
Dorothy Schafer's birthday  
Roger and Peggy Masini

Thank you to those who donated  
\$673 in cash or put money in the

Iron  
Ranger



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

Please join these amazing Wonderful Friends and donate to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm using the enclosed envelope, or make your gift via credit card or PayPal at [www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org).

# Wonderful Fall Event Volunteers



## Ohlone Day

Attendance:  
222

Earned:  
\$1,470

## Spooky Times

Attendance:  
476

Earned:  
\$2,860



Join us on March 21 and April 18 for the 2020 Spring Farm Tours.

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 help preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm. Find up-to-date information at [www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org](http://www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org)  
Contact: [info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org](mailto:info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org)

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Your next **FriendsNews** will be mailed on June 1, 2020.

*To Our Friends*

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