

AFTER-WORDS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RETIREES OF THE
FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



VOLUME XLX, ISSUE 1

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

SEPTEMBER 2023

Summer Picnic Recap

June 15th FODARA held its annual summer picnic at Cuesta Park in Mountain View. The perfect weather provided a great opportunity for 32 retirees to spend a few enjoyable hours interacting with former colleagues. Newly retired Marty Kahn joined us for the first time with a surprise visit by Pat Sherwood and Zeus, Bill Lewis's dog. The picnic brought a touch of Italy with red and white checkered tablecloths and Italian music. The delicious Italian buffet, catered by Tony & Alba's, included Chicken con vino, Penne Marinara, Italian salad, and



focaccia with beverages and dessert provided by FODARA. The photographs on p. 4, and the FODARA website, show how much everyone enjoyed themselves—at one point the group sang along to Dean Martin's "That's Amore"! Thanks to everyone who attended the picnic. And a special **thank you** to Larry Ching for making the park reservation, Cindy Castillo for sending out picnic reminders, Bill Lewis for collecting picnic registrations and money while recovering from knee surgery, Margaret and Dave Obenour for ordering the food, Maureen Gates for making signs and labels, and to Barbara Illowsky and Mike and Gail Pacciorretti for bringing drinks.

— *Linda Conroy*

FODARA Member-At-Large

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!



October 19, 4-5 pm: Estate Planning Seminar (hybrid). Learn the basics of estate planning: the use of living trusts, wills, durable powers of attorney, and advance health care directives. Beneficiary designations for life insurance and retirement accounts and estate and income tax considerations in the estate planning process will also be discussed. *Featured Speaker: John Wunderling, J.D., LL.M in Taxation; partner in the law firm of Ferrari, Ottoboni, Caputo & Wunderling.* In person: Foothill-De Anza District Board Room (free parking in Lot 7). Virtual: Zoom room will open at 3:45 pm, program begins at 4:00 pm. Questions: email foundation@fhda.edu or call 650.949.6230. **PLEASE RSVP:** <https://forms.office.com/r/EH8Q1QbyUk>



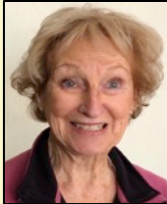
October 26, 3-5 pm: Pizza "Thing"; Tony & Alba's in San Jose; for details and directions, see registration form p.15.



December 14, 11 am: Holiday Luncheon; details and the registration form will be in the November issue of *After-Words*.

FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-24

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Mike Paccioretti | 408.274.4929 | pacciorettimike@sbcglobal.net |
| Vice President | Bill Lewis | 408.639.9919 | billlosgatos@gmail.com |
| Past President | Tom Moore | 650.969.3847 | tomandcary@comcast.net |
| Secretary | Thomas Roza | 408.375.9515 | thomas_roza@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer | Barbara Illowsky | -- | illowskybarbara@fhda.edu |
| Webmaster/Listserv Administrator | Cindy Castillo | 408.702.7721 | cindycastillo@comcast.net |
| Member-At-Large | Janice Carr | 650.941.2567 | janicecarr@pacbell.net |
| Member-At-Large | Linda Conroy | 408.966.5703 | lsiqcon@aol.com |
| Member-At-Large | Maureen Gates | 408.736.7504 | gates-m@sbcglobal.net |
| Member-At-Large | La Donna Yumori-Kaku | 408.482.8879 | Yumorikakuladonna@fhda.edu |
| Newsletter Editor | Linda Lane | -- | lanelinda@fhda.edu |



Claudette Penner, long-time FODARA Board Member, has decided to step down to spend more time with family and to travel. Since 2008, she held several positions on the Board, including President, Vice President, and recently as Member-At-Large. A **BIG THANKS** to Claudette for her many years of service to the Board and dedication to FODARA! We hope to see her often at our upcoming social events.

FODARA COMMITTEES 2023-24

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| District Benefits | Susanne Chan, George Robles, Lisa Markus (Zoom backup) chansusanne@fhda.edu , roblesgeorge@fhda.edu , markuslisa@fhda.edu |
| After-Words Email | Cindy Castillo, cindycastillo@comcast.net |
| After-Words Paper Mailing | Janice Carr, janicecarr@pacbell.net , Linda Conroy, lsiqcon@aol.com |
| Scholarships | Mike Brandy, brandymike@gmail.com |
| Social Events | Linda Conroy, lsiqcon@aol.com La Donna Yumori-Kaku, Yumorikakuladonna@fhda.edu |

FODARA EVENT CALENDAR 2023-24

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Oct 19 | Thurs 4:00 pm | Estate Planning Event | on campus and via Zoom |
| Oct 26 | Thurs 3:00 pm | Pizza Thing | Tony & Alba's Pizza |
| Nov 7 | Tues 1:00 pm | Board Meeting | Cindy Castillo's house |
| Dec 14 | Thurs 11:00 am | Holiday Party | De Anza Campus Center |
| Jan 9 | Tues 1:00 pm | Board Meeting | Board member's house |
| Mar 5 | Tues 1:00 pm | Board Meeting | Board member's house |
| May 7 | Tues 1:00 pm | Board Meeting | Board member's house |

For location of Board meetings, email Tom Roza.

FODARA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

The position of *After-Words* Editor is **now** open! After 9 years, I am stepping down from this FODARA volunteer position. The newsletter could use a “refresh” and a new editor can offer new ideas on how best to inform and connect retirees.

With only five issues per year (January, March, May, September, November), the time commitment is minimal, the timelines are flexible, and all work can be done on your home computer. The production process is creative and fun: you choose the color schemes, overall design, font styles, photos/graphics, and page layout. Writing and editing articles are the primary tasks, and, if you enjoy perusing the internet, you can look for and include “extras” on topics of interest to retirees.

To apply, contact Mike Paccioretti or Cindy Castillo **now** and/or email me with any questions. I will be happy to share processes and schedules I've used along with my files of photos, graphics, and forms.

— *Linda Lane*

FODARA Newsletter Editor

According to the online FHDA District Board minutes, 17 people will have retired by the end of Summer Quarter; apologies if anyone was inadvertently excluded or included.



Renee Augenstein, DA Academic Services
Tung Duong, FH Enrollment Services
Naoko Harada DA Child Development Center
Araceli Kaliangara, CS Human Resources
Catherine Kuebler, FH Counseling/Student Success
Ester Lew, DA Child Development Center
Lisa Markus, DA PSME
Cara Miyasaki, FH Health Sciences/Horticulture
Robert Nash, CS ETS

Betsy Nikolchev, FH Student Services
Kelly Pettit, CS ETS
Carmen Ponce, FH Student Services
Francisco Rocha, CS District Police
Anna Lisa Rodriguez, DA Student Services
Mark Sherby, DA Bus/CS/AT
Xiujuan Wang, FH, Science Tech, Eng/Math
Joseph Woolcock, FH BSS

We wish all retirees a happy, healthy post-employment life! New and “old” retirees are invited to join and support FODARA: sign up for the listserv (email cindycastillo@comcast.net), contribute voluntary dues (see below), and attend FODARA's many social and Zoom events (see calendar p. 2). Visit our website regularly (<http://www.deanza.edu/fodara/index.html>) to see all of the information and great services FODARA provides to retirees: Scholarship winners, After-Words Newsletter archives, Board and Committee Members, In Memoriam, Calendar of Meetings and Events, Email Listserv, Pictures and Photos of recent events, and more!



Sign up for or renew your **FODARA membership for 2023-24!** The \$10 per year voluntary dues go to incidental operating expenses with remaining funds to student scholarships. FODARA usually offers four \$1000 scholarships per year, two at De Anza and two at Foothill, but this year we will offer four \$1,250 scholarships. Please consider donating more than the \$10 minimum so that we can increase the number of scholarships awarded. Submit your dues (for one or multiple years) by sending a check, made out to FODARA, to Barbara Illowsky, 21363 Dexter Dr., Cupertino, Ca., 95014. Or donate to the FODARA scholarship fund online via the FHDA Foundation: <https://secure.donationpay.org/fhda/>; under Designate Your Gift, type in "FODARA scholarship fund."

More Summer Picnic Photos / BBQ & Baseball Recap and Photos

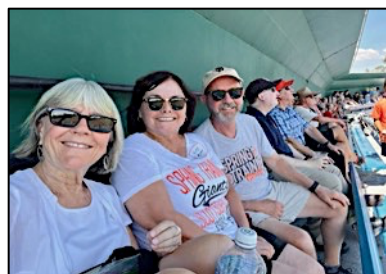
more on the FODARA website: www.deanza.edu/fodara/pictures



On August 23, ten of us (including two first event members) gathered at noon in front of Excite ballpark. We then enjoyed a delicious meal at Turkey Mike's before the first pitch of the SJ Giants vs Modesto Nuts 1:00 game. As soon as we arrived in our seats, it was apparent that we were in for a very warm day. Shortly three people moved to the top row under the shade. Two people stayed in the ADA section near the BBQ and five of us stayed in our assigned seats. By the third inning, two people left the stadium and three of us stayed in our seats until the 4th inning when we joined the two who had stayed under the shade in the ADA section until the game ended. By the 3rd inning the Nuts had a 3-0 lead. In the bottom of the 4th and 5th innings, the Giants staged mini rallies to trail 3-2. From the 6th inning on, the Nuts scored two more times and the Giants two more to make the final score Nuts 5 Giants 4. Overall it was an exciting, close game, but way too hot and our group was divided up trying to find a cooler place. In the future, games earlier in the season or later in the day or maybe SF Giants or Oakland A's games might be a consideration.

— *Bill Lewis*

FODARA Vice President



OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

2024 CalPERS OPEN ENROLLMENT

September 18-October 13, 2023

Effective Dates for Changes: January 1-December 31, 2024

Those who wish to change current benefits must participate in Open Enrollment (OE); those who wish to restart benefits after a gap in coverage must apply as a new member. Changes can be made online via your myCalPERS account (see [A Guide to Changing Your Health Coverage](#)), by calling CalPERS at 888-225-7377, or by mailing a written request to Health Benefits at P.O. Box 942715, Sacramento, CA 94229-2715. Note: if you change your health plan, you'll receive new ID cards from your new health plan. ID cards are issued by each health plan, not by CalPERS. Contact your health plan directly if you need additional cards.

Those who do not wish to make any changes to their current benefits do **not** need to participate in OE—their current benefits will automatically rollover.

By September 18, eligible retirees will receive an email from the District (MyBenefits@fhda.edu) on OE for Plan Year 2024; if you don't find it, check your junk/spam mailbox, or, if your email address has changed, contact MyBenefits.

- 2024 CalPERS health plan **COVERAGE DETAILS**, including any applicable net-work or geographical restrictions, are available only on the CalPERS website (<https://www.calpers.ca.gov/>) and from the individual health plan providers.
 - The health plans available for eligible retirees are all in CalPERS Region 1; non-Medicare retirees who live outside Region 1 can use the search feature on the CalPERS website to find health plans in their zip code: <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/active-members/health-benefits/plans-and-rates/zip-search>.
- For FHDA actives and eligible retirees, the **MONTHLY PREMIUM COSTS** of 2024 CalPERS health plans are negotiated via the Joint Labor Management Benefits Committee (JLMBC) so differ from CalPERS' premium rates noted on its website. For 2024, the JLMBC MOU agreement stipulated that all active employees, eligible retirees without Medicare, and eligible retirees with Medicare will contribute 15% of each plan's monthly cost. Therefore, though all 2024 CalPERS monthly plan premiums increased an average of 10.8%, FHDA costs increased for some plans but decreased for others.
 - Prior to the 2024 JLMBC agreement, the EE+family rate was triple the single employee rate. With the 15% flat rate contribution, premiums for families is lowered to 2.6 times the single rate;
 - All actives and eligible retirees will continue to contribute \$10 per month to the VEBA for Post 97 retirees, which is included in each plan's monthly premium.
 - There are no changes to Delta Dental or Vision Service Plan, which are both included with the health plan chosen;
 - The 2024 negotiated rates for retirees are available on the District's HR 2023 Open Enrollment webpage (https://hr.fhda.edu/benefits/a_2024_Open_Enrollment.html) and listed in charts on the following page.

Onsite Open Enrollment Benefits Fair

Wednesday, September 20, 12pm-2pm
Foothill College Campus Dining Hall

Employees and retirees are invited to attend this workshop; benefit vendors and insurance carriers will be available to share information and answer questions.

2024 CalPERS Health Plans

If you have questions about FHDA's 2024 health benefits or plan contribution rates, contact MyBenefits@fhda.edu.

| Active Employee / Pre-97 Hired Retiree without Medicare | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Basic Plans | 2024 Contribution Rate (includes \$10 for VEBA Fund) | | | \$ Increase/Decrease from 2023 | | |
| | single | 2-party | family | single | 2-party | family |
| Anthem EPO Del Norte new (Del Norte county only) | 207 | 404 | 523 | --- | | |
| Anthem Select HMO | 181 | 352 | 454 | +82 | +164 | +177 |
| Anthem Traditional HMO | 211 | 412 | 532 | -38 | -76 | -195 |
| Blue Shield Access+ HMO | 172 | 333 | 430 | -14 | -29 | -108 |
| Blue Shield Trio HMO | 152 | 294 | 379 | +23 | +46 | +12 |
| Health Net SmartCare HMO plan terminated * | --- | | | --- | | |
| Kaiser HMO | 163 | 316 | 408 | +34 | +68 | +41 |
| PERS Gold PPO (California only) | 147 | 284 | 367 | +40 | +80 | +66 |
| PERS Platinum PPO | 207 | 404 | 523 | +20 | +40 | -18 |
| PORAC PPO (Peace Officers) | 150 | 328 | 408 | -37 | -36 | -133 |
| UnitedHealthCare Harmony HMO new | 151 | 291 | 376 | --- | | |
| UnitedHealthCare Signature Alliance HMO | 174 | 337 | 436 | -12 | -25 | -102 |
| Western Health Advantage HMO | 131 | 252 | 325 | +2 | +4 | -42 |

* If you are currently enrolled in Health Net SmartCare HMO and **DO NOT** participate in Open Enrollment, you will be automatically transitioned to the Blue Shield Access + HMO plan except for those residing in Napa who will be transferred to the Western Health HMO plan.

| Pre-97 Hired Retiree with Medicare | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------|--------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Medicare Plans | 2024 Contribution Rate (includes \$10 for VEBA Fund) | | | \$ Increase/Decrease from 2023 | | |
| | single | 2-party | family | single | 2-party | family |
| Anthem Medicare Preferred PPO | 211 | 412 | 532 | -38 | -76 | -195 |
| Blue Shield Medicare PPO | 211 | 412 | 532 | -38 | -76 | -195 |
| Kaiser Senior Advantage HMO | 163 | 316 | 408 | +34 | +68 | +41 |
| Kaiser Senior Advantage Out-of-State HMO new | 163 | 316 | 408 | --- | | |
| Kaiser Senior Advantage Summit HMO | 173 | 336 | 498 | +22 | +44 | +65 |
| Kaiser Senior Advantage Summit Out-of-State HMO new | 173 | 336 | 498 | --- | | |
| PERS Gold Medicare Supplement PPO (California only) | 147 | 284 | 367 | +40 | +80 | +66 |
| PERS Platinum Medicare Supplement PPO | 207 | 404 | 523 | +20 | +40 | -18 |
| PORAC PPO Medicare Supplement (Peace Officers) | 150 | 328 | 408 | -37 | -36 | -133 |
| UnitedHealthCare Medicare Advantage Edge PPO | 211 | 412 | 532 | -38 | -76 | -195 |
| UnitedHealthCare Medicare Advantage PPO | 113 | 215 | 316 | +14 | +27 | +39 |
| Western Health Advantage Medicare Advantage HMO | 131 | 252 | 325 | +2 | +4 | -42 |

Covid-19 Campus Policy Update

The Board of Trustees for the Foothill-De Anza Community College District voted on April 3, 2023, to rescind the COVID-19 vaccination requirement enacted in August 2021. The change took effect July 3, so proof of vaccination is not required for Fall Quarter. Face masks are still strongly recommended and may be required in some classrooms or offices on campus. The District is following current guidance from Santa Clara County and encourages everyone to stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations, including boosters if eligible.

JLMBC REPORT

The last meeting of the Joint Labor Management Benefits Committee (JLMBC) for academic year 2022-2023 took place on July 27, 2023 via Zoom. Members of the negotiating teams represented the bargaining groups, and administration representatives and consultants from Lockton group continued their discussion regarding medical benefits. Previous meetings had reviewed research data which showed significant increases in premiums. Alternatives to CalPers had been discussed. Bottom line, to change out of CalPers and to contract with comparable “brokers” or consortium groups would cost more due to punitive “withdrawal” fees rather than to remain with CalPers.

Like other price increases of the past few years felt by everyone, premiums for medical benefits will also increase. It is vitally important that all retirees read through the information regarding Open Enrollment for medical benefits options that has been sent out by CalPers. Some increases are higher than others. Be prudent and gain understanding of personal medical benefits needs.

When active employees return to work in fall, they will be asked to ratify new contracts for the bargaining groups. The District has proposed picking up 85% of the medical plans’ cost. Retirees will wait for the results from these votes.

At this meeting, the groups broke out to caucus some specific aspects from the negotiations. It was a privilege for George Robles and me, Susanne Chan, to listen in awe to ACE and FA, the employee negotiating teams, whose knowledge and advance planning of strategies was amazing; Personally speaking, I am grateful to have them on “our” side!

— *Susanne Chan*

FODARA Benefits Representative

FODARA Trivia Question: Have you wondered why we have an event called "Pizza Thing"? I have and recently, when I spoke to FODARA founder and our favorite 100+ year old retiree Lescher Dowling, he told me how the Pizza Thing began:

When De Anza first opened the "THING" was created as an off campus gathering for new hires and old faculty and staff from both campuses to meet and socialize. After a few years, the two campuses grew apart, attendance at "Things" dropped off and, having served its initial purpose, it was discontinued. Then came FODARA with new social programs for retirees: the Holiday Party in December, the Valentine Party at the Blue Pheasant in February, and the New Retiree Picnic in June. The FODARA board felt that a social event was needed for October, and, although several different events were tried, nothing stuck. That is until Dave “Obie” Obenour came up with The "Pizza Thing" which stuck.

So with October just around the corner make sure to SAVE THE DATE for the "Pizza Thing" on Thursday October 26 from 3-5 pm. See the registration form on page 15 and sign up early for this very popular event.

— *Linda Conroy*

FODARA Member-At-Large

INCOMING/OUTGOING DISTRICT CHANCELLORS



The Board of Trustees has selected Lee Lambert as Foothill-De Anza Community College District's eighth permanent chancellor since the district's founding in 1957. Lambert, formerly chancellor of Pima Community College in Arizona, started his new role August 1.

"Lee Lambert is a transformative leader with an impressive record of accomplishments," said Board of Trustees President Patrick Ahrens. "We are confident that he is the right person to build on Foothill-De Anza's legacy of educational excellence and excited to have him lead our exceptional team into a new era of equity and innovation."

"I am honored to have been selected by the Board of Trustees to be the next chancellor," said Lambert. "The district's commitment to student success and educational excellence driven by an equity agenda and guided by a set of core values rooted in integrity, inclusion, care for students' well-being, and sustainability aligns with my personal and professional values."

"I am so grateful to know that I am leaving Foothill-De Anza in good hands," said Chancellor Judy C. Miner, who is retiring after 35 years with the district and eight years as its top executive. "Under Lee Lambert's leadership, Pima Community College emerged from accreditation and financial challenges to national recognition for its innovative workforce education programs and partnerships. His demonstrated skill at collaborating with campus and community partners to focus on the needs of students will serve him well here. Students, employees, and community members will find in him a champion who leads with head and heart."

On June 3, the FHDA Foundation held a gala event to celebrate Judy Miner's retirement; the event raised more than \$180,000 for the Hope Initiative, which provides funds for students' basic needs. To see the many photos taken at this event, go to

<https://foothillcollege.smugmug.com/Foundation/Judy-Miner-Retirement-Gala>



BENEFITS & HEALTH NEWS – 3 ITEMS

Post-'97 Retirees: If you meet the three requirements below, you could qualify for the VEBA Benefit Plan.

- Hired after July 1, 1997
- Worked for the District half-time for at least 15 years of continuous service
- Medicare-eligible

Qualified retirees receive \$100 per month as partial reimbursement for their Medicare premium. Details of VEBA Benefits Program are posted on the District's Post-'97 Retiree webpage

(https://hr.fhda.edu/benefits/downloads/veba_benefits.pdf) and the VEBA FHDA Benefit Application Enrollment Form can be downloaded at <https://vebatrust.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/enrollment-application.pdf>.

CalPERS LTC Latest Update

Note: all information below is from the CalPERS Class Action webpage:

<https://www.calpersltcclassaction.com/Home/>

Notice of Entry of Judgment and Order Approving Class Action Settlement

On July 28, 2023, the Court in *Wedding v. CalPERS* granted final approval of the CalPERS Long-Term Care Class Action Settlement. The Court's Orders [documents] approving the settlement, the plaintiff's Motion for Fees and Costs, and the Final Judgment can be accessed on the CalPERS website:

<https://www.calpersltcclassaction.com/Home/Documents>.

However, this does not mean the Settlement is Final. At the earliest, the Settlement will not become Final until September 28, 2023. However, the Final Settlement Date could be later if one of the Class Members who objected to the Settlement appeals the Court's ruling. If there is an appeal, the Settlement will not become Final until the appeal is concluded.

Importantly, all Category A Class Members who elected Option 1 must continue paying premiums to CalPERS until the Settlement becomes Final to remain eligible to receive the 80% premium refund. This is because Class Members' Final Categories and Final Awards will be determined on the Final Settlement Date. Therefore, if you are a current policyholder in Category A but you stop paying premiums and let your policy lapse prior to the Final Settlement Date, you will no longer be entitled to the 80% premium refund and, instead, will be recategorized into the category of Class Members who let their policy lapse (Category E). Although we understand this is an inconvenience, it is being done this way for an important reason. If, at any time before the Settlement becomes Final you need to file a claim on your policy, you will be permitted to reverse your selection of Option 1 and keep your policy in place. It is not until the Settlement is Final that your policy will be surrendered.

New Medicare Tool

You can now use a new search tool for finding hospitals and other service/facilities that accept Medicare based on your zip code: <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?providerType=Hospital>

On this page are links to doctors/clinicians, hospitals, nursing homes including rehabilitation services, home health services, hospice care, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, and dialysis facilities. If you choose "hospitals," for example, you will see the following information:

- A hospital's overall and patient star ratings. The overall rating is based on how well a hospital performs across different areas of quality, like treating heart attacks or safety of care. The patient survey rating measures patients' experiences of their hospital care.
- A hospital's performance against national averages for patient experiences, timely and effective care, complications, and more.
- Hospital contact information, distance from your home, and directions.

2022-23 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

For 2022-23, FODARA awarded four \$1000 scholarships, two at each campus. Below are edited excerpts from the winning students' personal essays; the complete versions are on the FODARA website.

Foothill – Miguel, Biology for Transfer



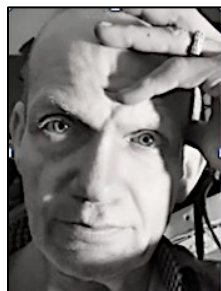
If there is one thing that I'd say defines me, it is my desire to help others. I've always felt that my future career should have some sort of impact on people's lives. What form that would take I wasn't sure but my experience volunteering as a tutor over the pandemic helped me figure it out. I want to work in education. In March, I learned about "Smash High", a local non-profit looking for high school volunteers to tutor underprivileged kids in the Bay Area. I felt if I could be that person a student turns to for help outside of school it would be satisfying and I signed up feeling both excited and nervous. I met with my student twice a week over the course of 3 months. The both of us were older brothers living in a chaotic household full of younger siblings. I know the struggle that comes with an environment like that and how difficult it is to work at home. He had fallen behind in math so we focused on the concepts he was currently learning. I watched him improve by leaps and bounds and as he got better I felt myself growing more and more fulfilled. Being able to positively impact someone's life through education opened a new world to me. Through my time at the foothill, I hope to network and make connections with people with whom we can mutually help each other along our life paths. In my two years here I intend to enrich my mind with knowledge and equip myself with the skills to thrive in a 4-year institution and post-grad education. I want my life to have implications bigger than mine. I want to be a part of something that will be remembered and have an impact on the world. I want to make sure no first-gen student ever feels alone as I did. I made it through high school with good grades, but once I got to Foothill I felt I had to do things differently. Throughout my senior year, I applied for many scholarships and thankfully had the honor of being a recipient of a couple. The scholarship money I've won has allowed me to stop working and focus entirely on being a full-time student.

Dear Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association,

Thank you so much for the honor of being chosen as a recipient of the FHDA Retirees Association Scholarship. My name is Miguel and I'm currently in my third quarter here at Foothill, I graduated from Los Altos High School last year and coming to Foothill was the best decision I've made in my life so far. I have met so many amazing people in my time here so far through the Puente Club and Puente Program. I have also begun coming out of my shell thanks to my job as a student ambassador for the outreach department. As I am finishing my first year at Foothill I am beginning to look ahead to next year when I hope to apply for transfer to a 4-year university. This scholarship will have a huge impact on my ability to get into my dream school of UCLA. With this scholarship and others that I have won I will be able to continue focusing solely on my academics and not worry about my financial situation. I will be able to continue my academic success thanks to your generous donations. Once I graduate with a degree in biology plan to dedicate my career and life to researching and furthering the biological sciences to benefit mankind while also teaching others. Once again from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for this award.

Sincerely, Miguel

Foothill – David, Studio Arts for Transfer



I'm sure everyone's story is unique. My story starts in Pennsylvania in 1960 when I was born. My father deserted my family and my mother was an alcoholic. We moved around a lot and things were not good. I ran away from home in the 8th grade and was sent to juvenile hall. Upon release I ran away again and never went home again. I hitchhiked from Florida to California when I was 17 and have been here ever since. I ended up doing the best I could and found myself addicted to drugs and doing petty crimes, to survive; I ended up in prison and collectively did 10 years in several of the state's penitentiaries. I felt like I was going to die and so in the last ditch effort I went to The Delancey Street Foundation. I stayed there 3 years and graduated successfully. It's hard to put into words the self-respect and accountability they're instilled in me. In the last 21 years I've not had

so much as a traffic ticket and it remains sober and I'm a productive member of society. It has always bothered me to not have an education. I received my GED in Folsom prison and after working for a number of years decided to go back to school to get my degree. I enrolled at Foothill College at the advice of a friend of mine who had graduated successfully in the fall of last year with the long range goal to transfer to the U.C. system with a major in Art. My work that I've done at Foothill has made me extremely proud. I carry a GPA of 3.9. I networked with the underground scholars at Berkeley and have a transfer coordinator there. I'm completing my necessary transfer requirements this year and it's my hope to eventually get a Bachelor of Arts. I am passionate about Art and eventually work curating, substitute teaching, and representing unrepresented artists from the community. I have consistently received straight A's at Foothill and intend to transfer with a 4.0. I struggle financially daily. Balancing bills, medication and school needs is challenging. I am on academic probation for a maximum time frame but have, and will, manage that successfully. I've worked so hard in my life to live my life as a decent person, taking responsibility for my mistakes but more importantly, not repeating them. Completing my education means everything to me.

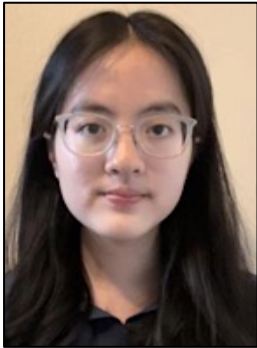
To the Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association,

I am writing this letter to the Foothill – De Anza Retirement Association to express my sincere gratitude for choosing me as this year's scholarship winner. I have worked so hard for years to get to this point in my life and your validation means a great deal to me. There have been times when I have thought about giving up on my dream of being a college graduate but it is determination and support from kind and thoughtful people like yourselves that have helped me persevere and succeed. I just want you to know that this scholarship will fill some very necessary needs, and it truly makes a difference. I am proud and grateful to accept the Foothill Retirees Association Scholarship. I want you to know how much I appreciate this and how it will help ease financial worries and concerns, that I have presently allowing me to focus on my education. Thank you.

Sincerely, David

De Anza – Lily, Business Administration for Transfer

I moved to the United States in 2018 with my family. As Vietnamese immigrants who did not attend college in the



States, my parents could not offer me much help with the college navigation process.

Furthermore, I started college in the midst of the pandemic, with all resources moving online making it even more convoluting to navigate. As excited as I was for my new life in America, it was a great deal of pressure to put on the shoulders of an 18-year-old. My goal is to become a successful business professional that could use the skills and knowledge I have learned in class to improve my community, especially that of immigrants or first-generation students. I wanted to lower whatever structural barriers there are for people like me in a collegiate environment. During my time at the De Anza Guided Pathways Villages, I organized and hosted in-person and online events in order to facilitate connections between students and campus resources, clubs and programs, counselors, faculty members, or other like-minded peers. Seeing my peers' faces lit up when they heard of an interesting program that they never knew existed, a major that was more suited for their goals, or a campus resource that they were in dire need of, empowered me to continue giving back to the community. Next, I applied to become a peer tutor at the Student Success Center. Lastly, to familiarize myself with the work in the business field, I applied for an accounting internship at a mid-sized cybersecurity firm in my sophomore year and landed the job, becoming one of the youngest interns at the firm and erasing the stigma around community college students within the company. As a full-time student who also works two jobs and an internship on the side, though rewarding, it can be extremely challenging to manage my time effectively. Despite the many hardships being presented to me as a first-generation college student, I believe that I am on the right track to success with the opportunities that De Anza has presented to me. With confidence, compassion, and persistence, I am happy to have made an impact on the community that I hold near and dear to my heart, while being excited for what the future holds. I'm grateful for the opportunity to reflect upon my journey and present my story as an immigrant and a lifelong student passionate about the study of business.

To the Donors of the Retirees Association Scholarship,

No words could express my utmost gratitude for the chance of being a recipient of this De Anza Retirees Scholarship, but I'll try. I thank you all so much for your generous donation and for your dedication towards higher education in the community. With additional tuition and rent now that I'll be moving out soon, we have been living on the edge for the past few weeks, not knowing whether or not we could pay for my new tuition. This award will truly lighten the financial burden that we are currently facing, and has instilled in me a greater sense of determination to succeed. I will be getting my Associates Degrees in Business Administration,

Accounting, and Economics this Saturday, and I will finish my undergraduate journey at the University of California, Berkeley for the next 2 years. I have found an awesome community here at De Anza – a community that is filled with selflessness and compassion, who I will miss dearly when I depart for the next steps in my academic journey. I will always be grateful for the doors that De Anza as well as this scholarship award have opened for me. I will be getting my CPA after graduation and I might consider grad school as well. Wherever I go, I will forever carry your kindness and generosity in my heart, and I hope one day, I too will have the privilege to pay it forward and support aspiring students in achieving their dreams, just as you have done for me. With sincere appreciation and warm regards, Lily

De Anza—Thomas, Economics

A combination of inadequate educational preparation due to being incarcerated, a lack of discipline, former foster youth status, and unhealthy expectations created barriers that once completely deterred me from pursuing an undergraduate degree. I have overcome my obstacles and am on the path to educational success by utilizing the availability of resources, increasing work efficiency, and setting realistic expectations. Today, finances are still a roadblock toward success as a fully independent full-time student. As I set out to overcome my fear of school and my own educational inadequacy, I recognized my shortcomings and identified the means of resolving them. As a resourceful individual, I realized the availability of tutoring programs, financial aid, and counseling services at my community college. Through these resources, I have been able to maintain a high GPA with A's. Another key factor to overcome my educational barriers was the personalization of learning methods and time management. Knowing I was disorganized, I planned my days using timeblocks and establishing reward systems. After work, I set restrictions on my devices to avoid distractions. The most important factor was releasing unrealistic expectations. I realized that it was unreasonable to compare myself to people who had different circumstances in life, and to find gratitude and contentment in my own achievements, as long as I tried to the best of my abilities. I am planning and am on track to transfer to a four-year university this fall, aiming to secure an undergraduate degree in economics. I am confident that my resourcefulness, tenacity, and grit will help push me through any obstacle I may face in the coming years. The past few years in my life have been the toughest that I have ever faced, but I can always look back at the progress I made and continue to push forward.

Dear Donors,

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the FODARA Scholarship. The relative success of my educational journey thus far has been made possible by people like yourselves, whose generosity allows me and others of similar backgrounds to pursue academic goals and have the financial burden significantly reduced. Since I submitted my application earlier this year, I am glad to let you all know that I have been accepted and committed to UC Berkeley this fall! The funds from this scholarship will help me supplement the costs I have sustained to secure housing in the midst of a severe housing crisis in Berkeley. If I haven't mentioned already, I will be majoring in the study of Economics at Berkeley. In the future, I plan to leverage this degree to work as a business analyst or consultant. Once I develop sufficient corporate experience and gain enough capital, I plan to open my own businesses in the food and beverage industries, aiming at revitalizing local economies and providing another source of employment opportunities to those who may be in need. Before it is my time to leave the earth, I will have achieved my life's purpose if I could help just one person realize their potential and set them in the right direction to achieve their goals and dreams.

In Memoriam

E. Louise Abatecola, De Anza College
Sandy Acebo, De Anza College
Ed Bressoud, De Anza College
Kenneth Bruce, De Anza College
Dave Davies, De Anza College
John Fleming, De Anza College
Barbara Kessler, De Anza College

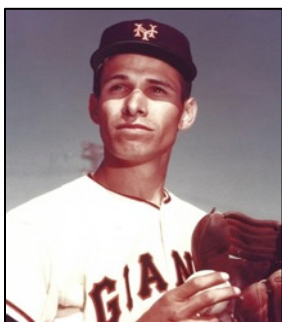


Please note: FODARA is not informed by the District of retirees' deaths due to confidentiality. Only if family or friends email information to Cindy Castillo (cindycastillo@comcast.net) will names and tributes be published in After-Words.



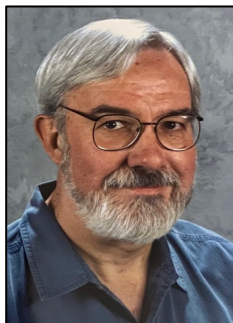
Sandra C. Acebo, a leading advocate for community college education, died on June 30 at 79 from Alzheimer's disease. In a wide-ranging educational and academic career, Dr. Acebo was probably best known for her role as Superintendent/President at Butte College from 1998-2003. Today, Butte is one of the largest and most successful community colleges in California. As a scholar, Acebo published numerous articles and book chapters highlighting the importance of ethical learning and shared leadership. She proudly argued for community colleges' central role in advancing the lives of first-generation college students, low-income students, students of color, veterans, and single parents. Dr. Acebo's teaching career began in 1968 at Florida Correctional Institution, the first Florida prison for women. Her community college experience began at Santa Fe Junior College in Florida, where she taught composition and literature courses. She moved to Oakland, California in 1971 and taught English courses at Chabot

College and Diablo Valley College, and tutored the UC Berkeley football team. Dr. Acebo earned a doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Texas in 1988. Her thesis focused on the moral reasoning and ethical development of community college students. She completed an internship at Miami Dade College before being recruited to De Anza College, where she served as vice president for instruction from 1989-98. Former De Anza president and FHDA Chancellor Martha Kanter said, "She was a great leader at De Anza College. She set the instructional mission at the entire campus." In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome in Dr. Acebo's honor: the Butte College Rising Scholar, which supports incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and system-impacted students (<https://butte.edu/give>); and Cure Alzheimer's Fund (<https://curealz.org/giving/donate/>).



Edward Francis Bressoud passed away in July, 2023, at the age of 91 in Walnut Creek, CA. Born in 1932, in Los Angeles, CA, Ed was a loving husband, father, and respected member of his community. In his early years, Ed attended Washington High in Los Angeles before pursuing higher education at UCLA, where he earned his bachelor's degree, and later obtained a Master's Degree at San Jose State. Ed served in the Marine Corps at the end of the Korean War and played on the corps baseball team as did others who had signed professional contracts. After serving his country, he returned to the States to play baseball. Ed's dedication and love for sports led him to a successful career as a Major League baseball player. From 1956 to 1967, he played for various teams, including the NY Giants, SF Giants, Boston Red Sox, NY Mets, and St. Louis Cardinals. Ed was named the Boston Red Sox MVP in 1963, an All-Star shortstop in 1964, and a World Series champion in 1967. After retiring from professional baseball, Ed became a respected baseball coach and instructor at De Anza College, eventually becoming the Dean of Athletics. His

coaching career saw the development of numerous players who went on to become major league baseball players. He was an avid golfer and his love for golf extended beyond his own game, as he served as the President of Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton. A man of faith, Ed was a member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in San Ramon for over 30 years. His spirituality provided him with comfort and strength throughout his life. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that contributions be made to Guide Dogs for the Blind, an organization close to Ed heart. Edward Francis Bressoud will be dearly missed by all who knew him.



John Fleming died December 2022 at age 79. He taught ESL at De Anza from 1974-2007 and during that time was also Department Dean and scheduler. He was a beloved teacher who could reach and relate to a student body that spanned 55 languages—those who knew him best, knew he loved to keep track of such things. He was well-liked by his students, telling clever anecdotes and drawing doodles on the overhead projector to illustrate tricky English concepts, and he maintained friendships with some former students for decades, one who later became an ESL teacher in Tokyo, largely inspired by John. He was born in 1943 and grew up between Pasadena and rural Missouri. Shortly after graduating from UC Berkeley, John needed a way to avoid the draft and joined the Peace Corps, heading to the Philippines from 1967-1969. After returning to the United States, he was offered a job teaching English to military officers in Saigon and left on a new adventure. When he returned to the Bay Area, he met Patricia Fewer at a small Saint Patrick's Day dinner party for returned Peace Corps volunteers. They had a wonderful partnership together for

the next nearly 50 years and raised three daughters in Palo Alto. John lived a happy and interesting life and was grateful for his long and fulfilling career at De Anza.



Barbara Goodman Kessler was born in 1931 in Washington, D.C., and passed away in June 2023 in Palo Alto, CA. She was 91. She attended Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. where she studied the Clarinet and graduated in June 1953. Barbara married Floyd Kessler in 1952 in Washington, D.C. They moved to California and eventually settled in Palo Alto in 1958. While raising a family with three children she earned a M.A. Degree in Music from San Jose State University, a M.S. Degree in Psychology from San Jose State University in 1974, and her PhD from Saybrook Institute in 1984. Barbara's career included teaching private clarinet lessons to children out of her home. She developed and taught classes in the application of existential philosophy at Canada Jr. College and at De Anza College. Barbara was a licensed marriage, family and child counselor in private practice in Palo Alto. She enjoyed playing clarinet in the Foothill College Symphony Orchestra, and traveling with her husband to Europe for vacations.

Widows & Widowers



THE MID-PENINSULA WIDOWS & WIDOWERS ASSOCIATION IS A NON-PROFIT, NON-SECTARIAN GROUP FOUNDED IN 1976. THE CLUB ORGANIZES SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE LOSS OF A SPOUSE.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- Weekly In-Person Meetings: with guest speakers and entertainment
- Games: Bocce Ball, Bowling and weekly card games such as Whist & Samba
- Weekly Walks: Rancho San Antonio and Shoreline Parks
- Weekly & Monthly Gatherings: breakfast, lunch, & dinner at local restaurants
- Monthly Discussion Groups: followed by potluck or restaurant meals
- Events: Seasonal parties, annual picnic, and installation dinner and dance

The group meets every first Tuesday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. and every remaining Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Visitors are welcome to join our meeting and should arrive 30 minutes before the meeting starts. Ask for Lloyd, Gerda or Barbara M.

Membership is \$66/yr. and is available exclusively to widows and widowers. Proof of vaccination is currently required to attend the meeting.

Gloria 408-246-4642 Jan 408-439-0776 ☎

www.mpwwa1.org 🌐

mpwwa.info@gmail.com ✉

Los Altos Lutheran Church 📍

460 So. El Monte Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022



EXCLUSIVELY FOR AGES 50 AND OVER

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

Thursdays, 9-10 a.m.

| | |
|---------|----------|
| May 25 | Aug. 24 |
| June 22 | Sept. 28 |
| July 27 | Oct. 26 |

Presented by
KAISER PERMANENTE

happyhollow.org/seniorsafari

San Jose's Happy Hollow Park & Zoo has two upcoming **Senior Safari** dates: September 28 and October 26. Visitors age 50 and up are invited to take over the park and feel like a kid again! Get some fresh air and exercise as you enjoy:

- Early entry into the park and zoo (9- 10 a.m.)
- Animal Meet & Greet
- Zookeeper chats
- 10,000-step challenge and other activities
- Healthy breakfasts and coffee available for purchase

FODARA PIZZA "THING"



What: Pizza, Pizza, Pizza!
Cost: \$20 for pizza, salad, bread, soft drinks (wine/beer extra)
When: Thursday, October 26, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Where: Tony and Alba's Pizza & Pasta (408.246.4605)
 3137 Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose
 (northwest corner of Stevens Creek and Winchester,
 next to BevMo and close to Santana Row)

 RESERVATION FORM: **Please mail by October 12 or earlier**

Your Name _____

Your Phone (for any last minute changes to schedule): _____

Guests _____

Please reserve _____ total places for the Picnic

Indicate dollar amounts below:

_____ \$20 per person for Pizza Thing

_____ \$10 FODARA membership dues (voluntary)

_____ FODARA Scholarship Fund (voluntary)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ Make check payable to "FODARA"

Mail check and reservation form to Bill Lewis, FODARA
 1380 Elwood Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032.

For questions or last-minute reservations, contact Bill Lewis at 408.639.9919 /
 billlosgatos@gmail.com