

AFTER-WORDS

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



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January 2025

Another Holiday Party Success!



Chancellor Lee Lambert with his Executive Assistant, Carla Maitland. Carla is holding her

Patrick Gannon, De Anza's Director of Dining Services, delayed his retirement, allowing FODARA to hold a second "last holiday party" at De Anza on Thursday, December 12th. The amazing decorating committee (Melodie Cheney, Maureen Gates and Gail Paccioretti) made sure Conference Rooms A & B were once again decked out with festive holiday decorations and poinsettias. At this end-of-the-year event, forty-six Foothill-De Anza College retirees and guests came together to socialize and enjoy a delicious lunch. Patrick Gannon's team prepared salmon, prime rib and vegetarian plates, followed with a slice of apple pie and coffee for dessert. After retirees and guests greeted each



Marilyn Booye, Patrick Gannon and Linda Conroy at the Holiday Party

other and socialized prior to the meal, FODARA President Mike Paccioretti welcomed the group and introduced FHDA Chancellor Lee Lambert and newly elected State Assemblyman and former President of the FHDA Board of Trustees Patrick Ahrens, who took time out of their busy schedules to join us for some holiday cheer. Chancellor Lambert shared that Foothill College was ranked the #1 Community College in California and De Anza College is ranked #1 in transferring students to four-year Universities, and to UC and CSU campuses in California. He also shared the exciting news that De Anza College is preparing to welcome newly hired President Omar Torres to the district during the new year. One of the highlights of the event was a raffle where guests were given a ticket and an



Patrick Ahrens addresses the crowd



Gourmet food from Patrick Gannon and his team was enjoyed by all.

treasurer Barbara Illowsky's home from 3-5 pm, and at our annual St Patrick's Day Lunch to be held at De Anza College on March 13.

opportunity to win various gifts displayed on a table thanks to raffle organizer La Donna Yumori-Kaku. When Larry Ching was asked what he enjoyed most about the Holiday Party this year, he said he enjoyed chatting with people, and was very happy with his prime rib lunch and winning a Uniglo scarf from the raffle. Per tradition, the beautiful poinsettias decorating each table were awarded to a lucky person seated at that table. At this time the FODARA board will be looking for a new place to hold our holiday event next year and would appreciate any suggestions from members. We hope to see many of you at our Valentine's Day Wine Cheese & Chocolate Party on Thursday February 13th, at FODARA

Linda Cowroy – member-at-large

The Holiday Singers!



In December, Bill Lewis, FODARA Board member, sang to a full house at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. It was the **South Bay Holiday Gospel Concert** with the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, of which Bill is a founding member and has traveled with them to concerts nationwide. Find Bill in the bottom left picture above in the back row, second from the left.

-Cindy Castillo

The Holiday Winners!



Have you ever won an auction item? Well, FODARA member and former chancellor (and San Francisco resident) Judy Miner won the bidding at a fund-raising event for the **San Francisco Historical Society** recently. She won a lunch with former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. And, her guest was Donna Jones-Dulin (also a San Francisco resident), FODARA member and former Associate Vice President of College Operations at De Anza. Willie even has his name on his regular chair! Judy was sorry to miss the Holiday Party this year but hopes to attend some FODARA events in 2025.

Cindy Castillo

Congratulations to the Following Recent FHDA Retirees:

Jorge Rodriguez, *College Operations, De Anza*

Miguel Baez-Acevedo, *Operations, Central Services*

Bill Baldwin, *ETS, Central Services*

Paula Norsell, *Chancellor's Office, Central Services*



Save the Date



St. Patrick's Day Party

WHAT: delicious buffet lunch of corned beef & cabbage, carrots, colcannon, beverages & dessert; "TO GO" meals also available.

WHEN: Thursday, **March 13** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

WHERE: De Anza Campus Center, Fireside Room

OUR ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT IS COMING!

It's that time of year again! Dry January will have ended and FODARA love is in the air! Please join us on February 13th for our third annual wine, nonalcoholic drinks, chocolate, and cheese tasting. And if none of those options appeal to you, come join us for friendship!

Look for the registration form for the Valentine's Party in this newsletter. It is also posted on our website at <https://www.deanza.edu/fodara/calendar.html> to print and mail in. There are different prices for wine drinkers and nonalcoholic drinkers. Come and join us!





Snapshots

If you have a picture or photograph you'd like to share with FODARA members, send it to Cindy Castillo, cindycastillo@comcast.net, and include a short caption or brief description of the moment you'd like to share. We know FODARA members are out there in the world doing interesting things or visiting interesting places or just puttering around in your yard. We'd love to stay connected by sharing your moment with FODARA members in our newsletter, After-Words.

-Cindy Castillo

United Healthcare Scam

Please do not fall for phony offers of a free Oral B Series 8 toothbrush from United Healthcare (UHC)! A recent retiree has been receiving daily emails inviting her to click the link to claim her prize, but she was not fooled. Blocking the email has not worked as the address changes each time and are not legitimate UHC addresses. UHC has been notified and said they would notify their members to beware.

The Social Security Fairness Act

The Social Security Fairness Act was recently signed into law by President Joe Biden on January 5, 2025. This legislation repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO)—provisions that previously reduced Social Security benefits for public-sector workers who also received pensions from non-Social Security-covered employment. The changes are set to take effect for benefits payable for months after December 2023, with retroactive payments owed from January 2024. With the act's passage, affected retirees will now receive their full Social Security benefits without reductions, marking a significant and positive change for many in our communities.

We will be sending the annual retiree survey, along with a courtesy reminder to submit Medicare proof of payment, in early February.

That said, my knowledge on this topic is relatively limited and not comprehensive enough to produce an authoritative article. I would not want to risk providing incomplete or inaccurate information on such an important subject.

For expert insights and reliable resources, I encourage you to consult the following organizations:

1. Social Security Administration (SSA)

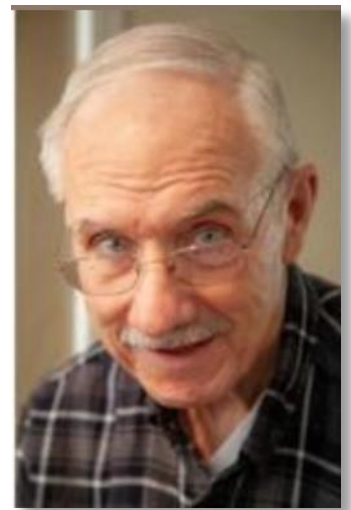
<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>

2: National Public Radio (NPR)

<https://www.npr.org/2025/01/06/nx-s1-5249689/social-security-fairness-act-biden-signed>

Beijing Li

Director, FHDA Benefits



William James Burns

William James Burns (Bill), 84, passed away peacefully on January 3rd at 11:15 pm due to respiratory failure. He had been bravely battling Parkinson's Disease for the past 12 years, and remained a positive influence on his family and friends throughout. Born in Detroit, Michigan in 1940, Bill was a highly educated chemical engineer who graduated from UCLA with a Master's degree in Mathematics. Driven and motivated, he found his purpose in life founding Resource Publications in San Jose and teaching computer science at De Anza College in Cupertino.

Bill lived his life to the fullest with joy and laughter, finding deep appreciation in those around him. He had a notable sense of humor, and even in difficult or painful moments, he was quick with a joke to try and make everyone smile - including himself. He enjoyed many basketball games with his three sons while living on Rainbow Drive, near the courts. He always stayed active by walking, running, and hiking. Family dinners were important to him, and he never missed one. Music was another passion. He published a songbook, and on Christmas Eve the entire family joined in caroling. He played guitar, leading the first folk music Mass at Ascension Parish in Saratoga in the early 1970s. Additionally, he started a book discussion club where he relished stimulating lively debate. Bill's legacy endures through the countless lives he touched, the knowledge he generously shared, and the love that continues to inspire those who knew him.



What: Wine & Nonalcoholic Drinks and Chocolate Tasting!

When: Thursday, February 13, 3:00-5:00 pm

Where: Barbara Illowsky's house: 21363 Dexter Drive, Cupertino, CA

Please join us for this 3rd annual FODARA event! Chocolates and a variety of wines and cheeses, along with nonalcoholic beverages, will be offered for tasting. Wear warm clothing—we will be in a heated building but with the garage door open for fresh air. Spouses, partners, guests, and designated drivers are happily invited, too!

Reservation form due by **February 6**

Retiree:

Phone/email (if new):

Guest(s):

Indicate number of choices:

Red wine only ___ White wine only ___ Red & white wines ___ non-alcoholic beverages only ___

Indicate number of people for each category:

___ Red and/or white wines: \$20 per person ___ Non-alcoholic beverages: \$10 per person

_____ \$10 FODARA 2024-25 membership dues (voluntary)

_____ Donation for FODARA scholarship fund (voluntary)

_____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

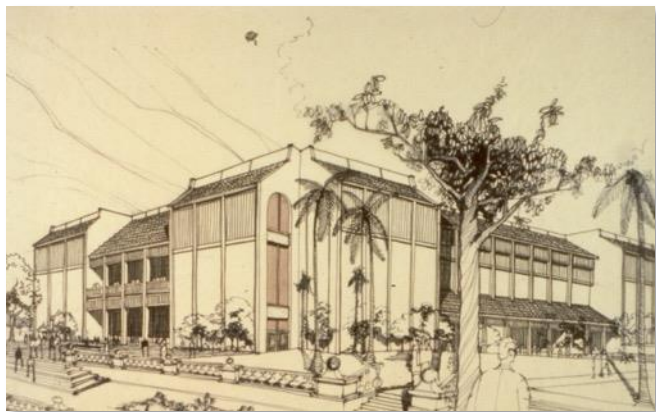
Is this your first FODARA event? _____

Make check payable to "FODARA" and mail it along with this reservation form to Barbara Illowsky, 21363 Dexter Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014; for questions, contact Barbara at illowskybarbara@fhda.edu.

From the Archives...

The Flint Center for the Performing Arts

From Conception to Closure



An artist's rendering of the planned auditorium at De Anza College.

Cal Flint, Bob DeHart and Bob Smithwick always seemed to aim higher than community college administrators at other colleges. They helped make Foothill and De Anza Colleges two of the best in the nation and, as such, the colleges needed campus facilities that were extraordinary. When Foothill opened in Los Altos Hills in 1961, it was nationally acclaimed for its beauty as well as its functionality. De Anza was planned to be even more distinguished.

When plans for De Anza College were created and shown to the public in 1962, voters overwhelmingly approved a bond for the construction of the college, which would include a “symphony sized” auditorium on the campus. The construction of the college was budgeted at about \$14 million, which included \$2 million for the massive theater. Construction of vital instructional buildings was quickly begun in 1965 and the campus opened to students in the Fall of 1967, without the new theater. That \$2 million dollar allocation for a theater was set aside as the college added another \$1.5 million accrued from a five-cent Community Services Tax as well as a small Federal grant.

With funds now available, construction was set to begin in April of 1968. The chosen site for the new performing arts center was the location of a building that had been built on the property back in the late 1800s, commonly called Le Petite Trianon or The Pavillion. Le Petite Trianon was temporarily moved to an empty space behind the library while local funds were raised to restore the building. It was then moved to its present location and still stands today as The California History Center.



The white building in the center of the photo is Le Petite Trianon, now the California History Center. The road running horizontally behind the building is Stevens Creek. To the right of Le Petite Trianon, the Baldwin Winery building can be seen.

The new De Anza College Auditorium was designed to be the premier performing arts facility in the south bay area: 2,571 seats, a soaring five story exterior, a huge stage with

state-of-the-art lighting and fly space, excellent acoustics, make up rooms, green rooms, administrative offices and much more.



This artist's rendering of the interior shows the huge auditorium, the floor seats, two balconies and box seats, totaling 2,571 seats.

determined to be a priority. The district had previously convinced the San Francisco Symphony to perform in the men's gym at Foothill. The symphony was pleasantly surprised to find that the acoustics were quite good in the gym, and it was determined that the acoustics in the new Flint Center must be the best in the area to attract top talent. This goal did cause some design changes, one of which would haunt the theater for the remainder of its life. The luxury boxes were originally designed to jut out from each side, facing the stage and stacking higher as they went back to improve the view of the stage. Upon closer inspection by the architects, it was determined that this arrangement would harm the acoustics of the venue. The decision was made to rotate the luxury boxes toward the main seating area and away from the stage, improving the acoustics but harming the sightlines to the stage. The sightlines were so bad that the theater posted disclaimers regarding the box seats, stating that these seats did not provide a good view of the stage and that seats on the floor of the auditorium were much better.

The district set up a theater management and policy team that consisted of staff and community volunteers. The group even included a student from each campus. Myla Roselaar, a member of the San Francisco Symphony Association, was appointed Program Manager for the Flint Center. The policy committee was made up of Roland K. Chase, Director of Community Services for FHDA, Roy Clay, Software Development Manager for Hewlett Packard, Municipal Judge William Fernandez, Edwin Meyers of the American Institute of Architects, Robert Noyce, President of Intel Corporation and Mrs.

De Anza students and staff, as well as the local community, buzzed with excitement as they watched the massive building being constructed. Just as the new theater was about to be completed, Cal Flint announced that he would be retiring from the college District on June 30 of 1971. Dr. Flint had such an enormous impact on the creation of both colleges that the Board of Trustees decided to name the new theater the Calvin C. Flint Center for the Performing Arts.

Since the new theater was designed to accommodate symphonies, ballets and other musical and cultural events, acoustics were



This drawing shows the original plan for the box seats, which were stacked and faced the stage. This was changed for acoustic reasons.

Frank B Sandgren, president and founder of the Sunnyvale Council for the Arts. When asked about the Flint Center, Ms. Roselaar had this to say:

“With the expanding population, the need for a true performing arts center remained obvious; a hall where theater and opera, ballet, and concerts of top quality could be accommodated and be economically feasible. This is why, and how, the voter of the Foothill College District voted to build the Clavin C. Flint Center for the Performing Arts.”

When the theater opened in 1971, there was a period of time set aside for acoustic “tuning.” This allowed the architects to make adjustments so that the acoustics would be something that musicians would talk about for years to come. The Flint Center opened to the public on June 4, 1971 with superb acoustics. Tours were offered to community members and potential acts for booking purposes, but the first real show occurred on June 30, 1971: The Stuttgart Ballet Company. That very first show sold over 2,000 seats and was considered a great success. Next up was the San Francisco Symphony, which sold over 2,200 seats. That first year included rock acts such as Boz Skaggs and Leon Russell, both selling out the theater. The crowds were careful and treated the new theater respectfully. But these acts set a controversial precedent – rock shows sell tickets, but later rock crowds in the 1970s and 1980s were not the kindest crowds in taking care of the seats or parking lots, causing damage and leaving trash. As the decades wore on, whenever attendance was down, rock shows would be booked, crowds would cause damage and that type of show would be banned, at least until the next attendance drop.

The first half-year of operation, from June, 1971 through January, 1972, was deemed a great success. The next three years provided a clear view of what to expect. A 1975 district report on the use and finances of the Flint Center stated that –

- 1) *The facility is heavily used by district, community and commercial tenants.*
- 2) *Programming by district segments (Instruction, Associated Students, Community Services) appears to have reached a stable level of events produced of around ninety per year, or about half the total programming in the hall.*
- 3) *Community use is growing significantly as community organizations realize the potential of using Flint for presentations either of their own events or of name performers for fund raising purposes.*



The original Flint Center sign, announcing the big names who would be appearing on stage.



The Flint Center was designed for ballet, symphony concerts and other cultural events.

- 4) *Use by commercial promoters, while it has provided the community with many fine events during the past years, has tended to be erratic.*

The findings of this 1975 report were illuminating and a plan was made to deal with the expenses that the Flint Center was accruing. Sadly, there were troubled waters ahead.

In 1978, California voters approved Proposition 13, officially named the *People's Initiative to Limit Property Taxation*. The proposition reduced property taxes by assessing property values at their 1976 value, limiting the taxation to 1% of

the assessed value and restricting annual increases to an inflation factor, not to exceed 2% per year. There was much more to Prop 13 than this brief description, but the result was disastrous to the Flint Center. The funds for operation of the Flint Center for campus, community and public service use, were gone. Without funds for those events, the Flint Center needed to break even or make a profit each year based on professional shows and rentals. The income and expenses of the Flint Center made it clear that this might not be possible. Serious consideration was given to closing the Flint permanently. The district decided to do a number of things to raise funding – apply all available funds from the year's Community Services budget, increase campus user fees and reduce staffing and supplies. The Foothill College Planetarium and the observatories on both campuses were closed and about 25 employees were let go. Student events at the theater were now treated as rentals. This allowed the Flint to stay open, but only provided enough funding for the next year or so. This was the first of many crises that the Flint Center would endure.

After Prop 13, the district brought in outside management to run the Flint Center and operations were up and down over the next several decades. Many successful programs and events happened at the Flint Center over the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. The Celebrity Forum, which began at Foothill as the Guest Speaker Series, moved to the Flint Center and was a continued success. (For a full list of Celebrity Forum speakers, go to <https://foothill.edu/celebrity-forum/speakers.html>.) Steve Jobs took the stage in 1984 to introduce the first Macintosh and, again, in 1997, to introduce the first iMac. But there were many years in which the Flint Center lost money, which had to be provided by the college or district. Instructional funds could not be used for this purpose, so funding was still erratic. This series of ups and downs continued for many years until the final blow, which came in 2019. A careful inspection of the Flint Center revealed that it needed expensive seismic upgrades as well as changes to comply with ADA rules and regulations. The updates were estimated to cost between fifty and sixty million dollars. On June 10, 2019, the Board of Trustees voted to permanently close the Flint Center and schedule demolition.

The current plan is to build an Event Center on the Flint site. The budget for such an endeavor is tight, but the college and district are reviewing all possible options for the creation of a new facility. Keep an eye on that empty space vacated by the Flint Center. You might see something new coming in the next few years.



The Flint Center, as it appeared in 1979. This photo was taken near the spot where the parking garage stands



FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| President | <i>Mike Paccioretti</i> | 408-274-4929 | paccioretmike@sbcglobal.net |
| Vice President | <i>Bill Lewis</i> | 408-639-9919 | billlosgatos@gmail.com |
| Secretary | <i>Thomas Roza</i> | 408-375-9515 | thomas_roza@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer | <i>Barbara Illowsky</i> | --- | illowskybarbara@fhda.edu |
| Webmaster/Listserv | <i>Cindy Castillo</i> | 408-702-7721 | cindycastillo@comcast.net |
| Member at Large | <i>Janice Carr</i> | 650-941-2567 | janicecarr@pacbell.net |
| Member at Large | <i>Linda Conroy</i> | 408-966-5703 | lsiqcon@aol.com |
| Member at Large | <i>Maureen Gates</i> | 408-736-7504 | gates-m@sbcglobal.net |
| Member at Large | <i>La Donna Yumori-Kaku</i> | 408-482-8879 | yumorikakuladonna@fhda.edu |
| Newsletter Editor | <i>Marty Kahn</i> | 408-966-6419 | kahnmarty@fhda.edu |

FODARA COMMITTEES 2025

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| District Benefits | <i>Susanne Chan</i> (chansusanne@fhda.edu), <i>George Robles</i> (roblesgeorge@fhda.edu), <i>Lisa Markus</i> (markuslisa@fhda.edu) |
| After-Words email delivery | <i>Cindy Castillo</i> (cindycastillo@comcast.net) |
| After-Words postal delivery | <i>Janice Carr</i> (janicecarr@pacbell.net), <i>Linda Conroy</i> (lsiqcon@aol.com) |
| Scholarships | <i>Mike Brandy</i> (brandymike@gmail.com) |
| Social Events | <i>Linda Conroy</i> (lsiqcon@aol.com), <i>La Donna Yumori-Kaku</i> (yumorikakyladonna@fhda.edu) |

FODARA CALENDAR 2025

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Valentine Party | Thurs, Feb 13, 3pm | Treasurer's |
| Board Meeting | Tues, March 4, | Treasurer's |
| St. Patrick's Party | Thurs, March 13, 11am | De Anza Campus Center |