

# AFTER-WORDS

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

VOLUME XXXX, ISSUE 1

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

SEPTEMBER 2018

## Mark Your Calendar: Pizza “Thing” October 25!



Be sure to sign up for the Pizza “Thing,” one of our most enjoyable events. It’s always great to see old friends—especially

when they are dressed in crazy Halloween costumes—and catch up on what they did last summer. “Valuable” door prizes will be raffled off to lots of lucky people with a special one for the best costume.

Our private dining room will be custom-decorated at Tony & Albas in San Jose (directions p.15), and, for a mere \$12, you’ll *again* get “The Deal”: Tony’s Special Pizza, Chicken Pizza, and their famous vegetarian Keep Fit Pizza. Included is Italian garden

salad, focaccia bread, soft drinks, and ice tea. Wine and beer are available to purchase at the bar. To join the party, just mail the reservation form on p. 15 by October 20, along with your check made out to FODARA. Your \$10 membership dues and a scholarship donation are also appreciated.

*Ed Burling*

## Save the Date: Holiday Party December 14!



Details and a reservation form will be included in the November issue of *After-Words*.

## June Picnic Recap



On June 14, we had a fun-filled, relaxing picnic at Cuesta Park in Mountain View. Retirees reconnected with old friends they had not seen

in years. The weather was perfect, with plenty of sunshine and a balmy breeze, and we all had a wonderful time as you can see in the pictures on p.13-14.

David (Obie) Obenour, our master chef, was assisted by Bob Muzzuca and Steve Renteria. They grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, and corn on the cob. There was salad, salsa, and chips with ice cream cups for dessert. We had

*(Continued on p. 13)*

## August BBQ & Baseball Recap

Usually by 4:00 pm we are enjoying a delicious BBQ meal from Turkey Mike’s— but not this year. The gates didn’t even open until 4:00, so we got a late start. But that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the members of our group who attended the San Jose Giants vs. Lake Elsinore Storm baseball game on August 4.



The weather was perfect, the seats were great, the sun was behind us, the company was awesome. It was a Giants backpack giveaway night, the game was

*(Continued on p. 13)*

## FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-19

<b>President</b>	Mike Paccioretti	408.274.4929	pacciorettimike@sbcglobal.net
<b>Vice President</b>	Bill Lewis	408.639.9919	billlosgatos@sbcglobal.net
<b>Past President</b>	Tom Moore	650.969.3847	tomandcary@comcast.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Thomas Roza	408.375.9515	tomroza@earthlink.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ed Burling		edburling@gmail.com
<b>Member At Large</b>	Janice Carr	650.941.2567	janicecarr@pacbell.net
<b>Member At Large</b>	Claudette Penner	408.736.6481	claudette@penner.org
<b>Member At Large</b>	Bob Hubbs	408.738.2489	jrsbbuh@comcast.net
<b>Member At Large &amp; Web/Facebook Editor</b>	Cindy Castillo	408.702.7721	cindycastillo@comcast.net
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Linda Lane		lanelinda@fhda.edu

## FODARA EVENT CALENDAR 2018-19

<b>Sept 11</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (2020)	Open to all
<b>Oct 25</b>	Thurs	Pizza Thing	3:00-5:00 pm	Tony & Alba's San Jose	
<b>Nov 06</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (2020)	Open to all
<b>Dec 14</b>	Fri	Holiday Party	TBA	DA Campus Center	
<b>Jan 08</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	Cindy's house	Open to all
<b>Mar 05</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (2020)	Open to all
<b>Apr TBA</b>	TBA	Spring Social	TBA	TBA	
<b>May 07</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (2020)	Open to all
<b>Jun TBA</b>	TBA	Summer Picnic	TBA	TBA	
<b>Aug TBA</b>	TBA	BBQ & Baseball	TBA	San Jose Giants Stadium	

## FODARA COMMITTEES 2018-19

<b>District Benefits</b>	Tom Strand, strandtom@fhda.edu Faith Milonas, milonasfaith@fhda.edu
<b>After-Words Email</b>	Cindy Castillo, cindycastillo@comcast.net
<b>After-Words Paper Mailing</b>	Janice Carr, janicecarr@pacbell.net
<b>Scholarships</b>	Mike Brandy, brandymike@fhda.edu
<b>Social Events</b>	<b>Need two volunteers</b>
<b>Mailings</b>	Maureen Gates, gates-m@sbcglobal.net

## 2018-19 FODARA BOARD ELECTION RESULTS



And the winners are... the same wonderful group of folks who have gifted their time and energy to FODARA for the past many years: Mike Paccioretti, President; Tom Moore, Past President; Bill Lewis, Vice-President; Ed Burling, Treasurer; Thomas Roza, Secretary; Janice Carr, Claudette Penner, Bob Hubbs, Cindy Castillo, Members at Large; and Cindy Castillo Web/Facebook Editor.

All board meetings are open to the public so please come by to share your ideas on how FODARA can better inform and engage retirees. Held five times per year, meetings typically convene at Foothill College in the Toyon Room 2020 the first Tuesday of September, November, January, March, May at 10:30 am (see calendar p. 2).

## GET INVOLVED IN FODARA!

### Host or Help Plan a Social Event



If you enjoy parties, volunteer to be a party planner. The Valentine's Day Luncheon, for example, needs a host. This former February event was always a sweet treat for retirees. Tap into your creative side by selecting a restaurant, menu, decorations, and a guest speaker or other form of entertainment. To sign up for this or any event, email Mike Paccioretti [pacciorettimike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pacciorettimike@sbcglobal.net).

### Contribute to FODARA's Facebook Page

See recently uploaded photos, answer "quiz" questions, or join a discussion:

- Sign on to your own FB page;
- In the "search" window at the top of the screen, type in "fodara foothill-deanza";
- If the page name doesn't appear, tap "see all," then tap our name and the thumbs up ("like") logo.



### Be Featured in the *Where Are They Now* Column

Email your responses to the following questions—subject to editing for space and content—along with a photo(s) to *After-Words* editor Linda Lane ([LaneLinda@fhda.edu](mailto:LaneLinda@fhda.edu)):

- ❖ *Former FHDA position(s) and why and when you retired;*
- ❖ *First years in retirement—"smooth sailing" or an adjustment;*
- ❖ *How you keep busy—interests and activities you enjoy;*
- ❖ *Volunteer "work" or projects to promote;*
- ❖ *2-3 words best describing your life as a retiree;*
- ❖ *Advice to those considering retirement or newly retired;*
- ❖ *Other information, e.g., website/blog.*

## HEALTH CARE BENEFITS NEWS: 6 ITEMS

Below is a summary combining the May and June 2018 meetings of the Joint Labor Management Benefit Committee (JLMBC) with updates recently provided by the District Benefits Office.

### 1. Open Enrollment is Happening Now: September 10 – October 5, 2018, 5:00 pm

As an FHDA retiree, you should have already received the District's Benefits Open Enrollment letter. Open Enrollment is your opportunity to review your current health care plan and either keep it as is (by doing nothing), or enroll in another District-sponsored CalPERS health care plan. As you read this article, please remember there are two types of plans, **Basic** (meaning non-Medicare) and **Medicare**.

### 2. CalPERS Premiums Increase But Contributions Unchanged for Plan Year 2019

*In August, retirees should have received a letter from CalPERS stating 2019 rates will go up; these increases do NOT apply to FHDA retirees—our contribution rates are negotiated via JLMBC.*

JLMBC decided to maintain the current 2018 employee/retiree contribution rates for plan year 2019. The unions reasoned that the projected hit of about \$1.7M on the Rate Stabilization Fund (approximately \$9M) is justified since it leaves a balance of \$7.3M. The District reluctantly agreed but warned JLMBC that because of significant recent student enrollment declines, with attendant drops in State ADA funding, members should wisely attend to the remaining RSF balance over the next few years.

For FHDA active employees and Pre-'97 retirees, the table below shows the health care plans available in Plan Year 2019 along with the corresponding CalPERS Bay Area premiums (rounded to the nearest dollar) and the net monthly contributions (exactly) from employees/retirees. Recall that retirees normally pay the full CalPERS premium up front each month for their chosen plan, then the District reimburses the difference between the CalPERS Premium and the required contribution to an account of the retiree's choosing. In each case, the values shown are monthly for single/double/family coverage, while the percentages indicate the 2018 to 2019 premium changes.

2019 Plans	Premiums	Contributions
<b>Basic Plans for Actives/Non-Medicare Retirees</b>		
PERS Care	\$1132/2263/2942 (+28%)	\$480/960/1440
PERS Choice	\$866/1733/2252 (+8%)	\$152/304/456
PERS Select	\$543/1086/1412 (-24%)	\$89/178/267
Kaiser	\$768/1537/1997 (+9%)	\$108/216/324
Anthem Select HMO	\$831/1663/2162 (-2%)	\$81/162/243
Anthem Traditional HMO	\$1111/2222/2889 (+20%)	\$214/428/642
Health Net SmartCare HMO	\$902/1803/2344 (+4%)	\$167/334/501
Western Health Advantage HMO	\$767/1534/1994 (-3%)	\$108/216/324
<b>Medicare Plans for Medicare Retirees</b>		
PERS Care	\$395/790/1184 (+3%)	\$480/960/1440
PERS Choice	\$360/721/1081 (+4%)	\$152/304/456
PERS Select	\$360/721/1081 (+4%)	\$89/178/267
Kaiser	\$324/648/971 (+2%)	\$108/216/324
UHC Medicare Advantage	\$299/599/898 (-10%)	\$81/162/243
Anthem Medicare Preferred	\$357/715/1072 (NA)	\$152/304/456

**NOTE 1:** CalPERS discontinued three plans for FHDA members in 2019: for actives and non-Medicare retirees, (1) United Healthcare HMO (no current FHDA members) and (2) Blue Shield Access+ HMO (12 FHDA members—CalPERS directed FHDA to transfer these 12 to

*(Continued on p. 5)*

(From p. 4)

the Health Net SmartCare HMO plan, the closest network with similar providers); for Medicare retirees, (3) Anthem Traditional HMO (no current FHDA members).

**NOTE 2:** Beginning 2019, the District now pays a Mandatory Minimum Monthly Employer Contribution of \$47.60 to partially pay the CalPERS Premiums of FHDA members who retired before May 17, 2012. Pre-'97 retirees in the group will not initially pay the full CalPERS premium, but rather, the full CalPERS premium reduced by \$47.60. The District will then reimburse these retirees the difference between this reduced premium and the negotiated required contribution. Example: A single coverage Pre-'97 Medicare Bay Area retiree in the PERS Select plan who retired BEFORE May 17, 2012 would pay a monthly premium of \$360.41 – \$47.60 = \$321.81, and the District then reimburses the retiree for \$321.81 – \$89.00 = \$223.81 for a net monthly contribution of \$89.00. In contrast, the same person retiring AFTER May 17, 2012 would pay the full monthly premium of \$360.41, and the District then reimburses the retiree for \$360.41 – \$89.00 = \$271.41 for a net contribution of \$89.00, the same in both cases.

**NOTE 3:** The District's Benefits Open Enrollment letter inadvertently did not include the Anthem Medicare Preferred Plan in their table with CalPERS premiums of \$357/715/1072 and required contributions of \$152/304/456. This plan is available to Bay Area Medicare retirees.

The FHDA Benefits Unit encourages retirees who are currently enrolled in the PERS Choice-Medicare or PERS Select-Medicare plans to consider switching to UHC Medicare Advantage Plan. Before making any changes, however, retirees should carefully compare the coverage offered by each plan including the requirement that retirees and their dependents must enroll in the same plan—that means unless all are Medicare eligible, the UHC plan is **not** an option. The following items highlight some plan differences:

- ◆ The required monthly contributions are less for UHC (\$81/162/243) than for Select-Medicare (\$89/178/267) and Choice-Medicare (\$152/304/456);
- ◆ The PERS Select-Medicare plan is not available to retirees living out-of-state (in California, the PERS Select-Medicare and Choice-Medicare plans provide identical coverage), but all FHDA Medicare retirees in the United States can enroll in the UHC Medicare Advantage plan;
- ◆ The network for all three plans is the same: all healthcare providers (physicians, hospitals and labs) who accept Medicare assignment;
- ◆ Unlike Select- and Choice-Medicare, UHC allows members to add additional vision and dental coverage (billed separately, \$38/month in 2018), which, for example, would effectively double the annual dental limit from \$1500 to \$3000;
- ◆ The maximum annual out-of-pocket for UHC is \$1,500/single (everything including copays and coinsurance excepting prescriptions) versus \$5,900/single for Select- and Choice-Medicare.
- ◆ No copay for Select-Medicare and Choice-Medicare versus a \$10 UHC copay for all office visits.

### 3. CalPERS 2019 Basic (Non-Medicare) Plan Changes

- ◆ For all three plans—**PERS Choice, Care, and Select**—Urgent Care and Specialist Visit Copays increase from \$20 to \$35.
- ◆ For **PERS Care only**, deductibles increase from \$500/\$1000 for individual/family to \$750/\$1500, while the annual Maximum Co-Insurance Out-of-Pocket goes from \$2000/\$4000 for individual/family to a flat \$3000.
- ◆ For **PERS Select only**, deductibles change from \$500/\$1000 for individual/family to \$1000/\$2000, but five healthful incentives everyone can meet, e.g., smoking cessation) reduce the deductible back to \$500/\$1000; Primary Care Copays are \$10 if enrolled with a Primary Care Physician (PCP Enrolled), \$35 if not; Inpatient Maternity Delivery waives the deductible if PCP Enrolled, 20 percent copay if not; Mental Health/Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse Physician visit is \$10 if PCP Enrolled, \$35 if not.

(Continued on p. 6)

(From p. 5)

#### 4. Additional CalPERS Changes

- ◆ CalPERS will introduce a pilot Drug Referenced Based Pricing Program for three therapeutic drug classes: Nasal Corticosteroids, Thyroid Medications, and Estrogen. Example: A non-generic medication in this class costs \$150 while an equivalent generic drug costs \$5. If a CalPERS member chooses the \$150 medication but it has not been specifically prescribed by his/her physician, the member pays \$150 – \$5 = \$145 for the drug. If the physician prescribes the \$150 medication, the member pays \$5.
- ◆ CalPERS plans to eliminate the Castlight Program sometime in 2019; this 2014 program was intended to guide and help its members make informed decisions about different health care providers.
- ◆ A new mobile application (internet tool) will be free to all CalPERS health care members; details will be given in a future *After-Words* issue.

#### 5. Current FHDA Retirees Receiving District Healthcare Benefits

As of May this year, here's a breakdown of FHDA retirees who are enrolled in District sponsored healthcare.

Pre-1997 Hires on Medicare: 699  
 Pre-1997 Hires not on Medicare: 97 (eligible but not yet 65 or ineligible)  
 Post-1997 Hires on Bridge Program: 10  
 Post-1997 Hires receiving VEBA Fund assistance: 2

The Bridge Program provides health care cost assistance (\$400/month single, \$800/month family) to Medicare-eligible retirees who were hired Post-'97, are 55 or older, have been employed by FHDA continuously for at least 15 years prior to retirement, and who are not yet Medicare-qualified (under age 65). The VEBA (Voluntary Employee Benefits Association) Fund currently provides approximately \$100/month in health care assistance to Post-'97 retirees on Medicare. VEBA is currently funded by the District and the \$2/\$4/\$6 monthly contributions from FHDA employees/retirees enrolled in District sponsored health care programs. Actuarially, the Pre-'97 retiree cohort reached its peak in 2017 and will decline as members depart this vale of tears while the Post-'97 cohort (with fewer District paid health care benefits) will continue to expand.

#### 6. Medicare Part B (Outpatient) Reimbursement Cost Update

The District fully reimburses Pre-'97 retirees for the Medicare Part B premiums they must pay to Medicare. The premiums range from \$134/month (Basic Rate for individuals/couples earning \$85K/\$170K or less) up to \$428.60/month (\$160K/\$320K and above). Lockton's premium reimbursement estimate for 2019 is \$249.73 per retiree per month, an increase of 27.7 percent from the 2018 estimate. Lockton opines that most of the increase is due to changes in the Part B tiers and premium increases above the Basic Rate. Any potential effect of this projected increase in the District's reimbursement costs has not been discussed at JLMBC.

*Faith Milonas, Tom Strand*

FODARA Benefits Representatives

[MilonasFaith@fhda.edu](mailto:MilonasFaith@fhda.edu), [StrandTom@fhda.edu](mailto:StrandTom@fhda.edu)

Benefits Fair for the 2019 Plan Year			
event	date	time	location
Open to all <b>benefits-eligible</b> active employees, PT faculty, retirees, survivors, COBRA enrollees; refreshments available.	Friday Sept 21, 2018	11:30 am-2:00 pm	De Anza Campus Center, conference rooms A&B (Benefits staff and vendors available for assistance/Q&A)
	Friday Sept 28, 2018	11:30 am-1:00 pm	Foothill Hearthside Lounge, room 2313 (Informational only—no vendors)



Are you enrolled in one of the District's Anthem Blue Cross Medicare Supplemental plans—CalPERS Care, Choice, or Select? If so, your health care plan entitles you to a free **basic** membership in a gym near you. Signing up online and finding a nearby gym is easy. Log onto [silversneakers.com](http://silversneakers.com), provide your name, birthdate, Zip Code, and email address. The website then verifies your eligibility, lets you create an account/password, and assigns you a SilverSneakers Member ID. Use the website to find a participating gym near you (there are about eight near Foothill and De Anza Colleges, over 14,000 nationwide; I chose Crunch Fitness in Sunnyvale), go to the gym and give them your SilverSneakers Member ID, and, voila!, you have a free basic gym membership\* in perpetuity.

My Crunch Fitness basic membership entitles me access to a clean, friendly, well-lit and ventilated facility with lockers, showers, exercise rooms, multiple silenced TVs, and music designed to get you moving with their free weights and an impressive array of modern strength and cardio equipment (treadmills, stationary bikes, programmable stairs and tons of equipment stations designed to strengthen specific muscle groups). It also entitled me to a one-hour orientation session with a trainer to familiarize me with the equipment. Its hours are Monday–Friday, 5 am to 11 pm, Saturday–Sunday 7 am to 7 pm. The people who use the gym are a community cross-section: young and old, body builders and the infirm (like me), moms (they like to show up after dropping the kids off to school), students, working stiffs (usually before 8 am and after 6 pm), retirees and exercise freaks. I'm not promoting this specific gym, but hopefully providing enough detail of my experience to encourage FHDA retirees to take advantage of this free benefit, at a gym near you, that might add years to your life while subtracting a few unwanted pounds.

I also love reading informative emails from SilverSneakers focused on retirees that discuss diet, posture, mobility, agility, core strength, balance, aging, ailments and a plethora of other “Golden Years” issues (both welcome and unwelcome). Go ahead. It's free. Give it a try!

*Tom Strand*

\* *The **Basic** Sunnyvale Crunch Fitness membership costs the public \$10.95/month and a **Select** Membership costs them \$21.95/month; SilverSneakers retirees pay only \$11.00 per month for the **Select** option, which entitles members access to group fitness classes, live online video workouts, water massage beds, tanning, multi-club access, and guest privileges.*

The screenshot shows the MyPortal interface. At the top, there is a header for "Staff" with a dropdown arrow. Below it, there are several icons representing different services: Canvas, ClockWork, SANS | ACLP (Advanced Security Learning Platform), Exchange (with a red arrow pointing to it), Nuventive / Tracdat, Payroll, and ProCard. Below the Staff section is a "Technical Support" icon. At the bottom, there is a "Favorites" section with icons for Academic Dates & Deadlines, FHDA Foundation, Look Up Classes, Open Class Finder, Payroll, and Campus Bookstore.

### MyPortal Changes

Retirees who access the FHDA Portal will see a new look: the Banner system is “in the cloud,” so portal links are now icons grouped below faculty, staff, or students headers, though “Favorites” can be created to make access quicker. The Outlook Exchange icon is located under “Staff”; however, if you use the Portal *only* to access your FHDA email, here's an easier option: paste the URL below into your browser then, when the login screen appears, add the page to your browser toolbar.

<https://email.fhda.edu>

## NEW RETIREES



According to the online District Board meeting minutes, twelve people will have retired by the end of Fall Quarter 2018 (apologies if anyone was inadvertently included or excluded):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| + Doris Agee, DA Student Services         | + Carol Josselyn, FH FineArts/Communications |
| + Judith Baker, FH Online Learning        | + Marsha Kelly, Central Services             |
| + Shannon Bracy, DA PE                    | + Kevin McElroy, Central Services            |
| + Lisa Hocevar, Central Services          | + Sherri Mines, FH International Students    |
| + David Howard-Pitney, DA Social Sciences | + Brian Murphy, DA President                 |
| + Patricia Hyland, Central Services       | + Donna Wolf, FH Workforce/Institutional Dev |

We wish all retirees a happy, healthy post-employment life and invite everyone to join FODARA by signing up for the email listserv (send your email address to [cindycastillo@comcast.net](mailto:cindycastillo@comcast.net)); serving on the FODARA Board or other committee (email Mike Paccioretti [paccioretimike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paccioretimike@sbcglobal.net)); or just attending the great parties scheduled throughout the year (see calendar/committees p.2).

### AFTER-WORDS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RETIREES OF THE  
FOOTBALL/DEANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

VOLUME XXXIX, ISSUE 4      WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA      MARCH 2018

---

#### NEW SPRING SOCIAL EVENT

You will definitely want to attend our new Spring Social On Thursday, April 26, at 12:30 pm, we will gather at Cooper-Garnod Estate Vineyards, "a destination worth knowing" only twenty-five minutes from San Jose or Palo Alto ([www.cgv.com](http://www.cgv.com)). It is a lovely, secluded, family-owned and operated winery located in the hills above Saratoga. All of the vineyards are located on 120 acres above the village of Saratoga and have been in the Cooper-Garnod family for over 100 years. They grow seven varieties from the four principal grape-growing regions of France: Bordeaux, Loire, Burgundy, and Rhone. Wines produced include Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Viognier. Their first vineyard, Geopline, was COOP-certified organic in 2009 and other vineyards were later awarded that prestigious status.



Our group will enjoy a flight of five wine tastings and, after the tasting, gather for platters of meats, cheeses, and crackers on the patio to tell stories, catch up, talk about the wine we purchased, and share summer plans. The weather should be great and the company even better! The vineyard encourages visitors to enjoy the views on the patio after the tastings so bring family and friends (over 21)! Please complete and return the reservation form on page 6 to me by April 19.

*Bill Lewis*

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE PICNIC**

Thursday, June 14, 3:00-5:00 pm  
Cuesta Park, Mt View

This year's picnic is on Flag Day so will have an all-American theme and menu. More detail and the reservation form will be included in the May After-Words issue.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**BBQ & BASEBALL**

Saturday, August 4  
8:00-3:30 pm, Game 5:00 pm  
SJ Municipal Stadium

Come cheer on the San Jose Giants with your friends and family. Details and the reservation form will be included in the May After-Words issue.



If you're not already reading *After-Words* online, to receive an email the same day each issue is posted, join FODARA's listserv. The email will include highlights of the newsletter and a link to the entire issue; *occasionally* you'll also receive alerts about time-sensitive events or information. Email Cindy Castillo ([cindycastillo@comcast.net](mailto:cindycastillo@comcast.net)) to say "sign me up for the listserv!"

### Flint Center

### Celebrity Forum 2018-19 Season

Tickets/details available at  
[www.celebrityforum.net](http://www.celebrityforum.net)



For all you travel enthusiasts, on October 18 Rick Steves, host of *Rick Steves' Europe* and best-selling author, will share some of his most memorable experiences trekking the world.



And for fans of the classic British comedy shows—*Monty Python* and *Faulty Towers*—John Cleese is appearing November 15 and 16.

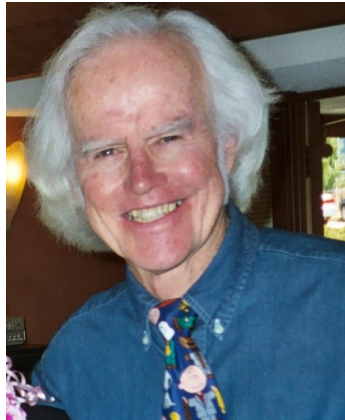
Other featured guests this season are Ian Bremmer (January 17, 18); Diane Keaton (February 21, 22); James Comey (March 21, 22); and Dan Buettner (April 18, 19).



## IN MEMORIAM

*William V. Skyles*

This page would have to be as big as Texas for me to find and write the words that would at least suggest, if not state clearly, my loving memories of my best friend William Skyles. Much of these



memories are very private, the kind that only two best friends know and keep, but I'd like to share a few public chapters in Bill's and my relationship. One is all the blood, sweat, and tears we shed over the four or five years when we, together, created a world-class film festival, the Foothill Film Festival (FF). It eventually brought in repeat viewers, such as famous Hollywood director Jimmy Murakami, who brought several other film people with him.

Another is as an offshoot of the film festival, Bill and I—before Siskel and Egbert—did a weekly film review show over the college's radio station. To listeners, our radio show might have seemed casual and easy, but Bill and I did much preparation before we went on the air. It was when getting ready for that show I finally discovered in real depth the critical

genius of William Skyles. It was just amazing how he could disassemble and reassemble a film, as only someone like Alfred Hitchcock or our friends Father Culkin (American Film Institute.) and Jimmy M. might have done. I had several famous authors as teachers when a graduate student at Columbia, but I learned more about critical thinking from Bill than from all the renowned authors and professors, like Andres Iduarte or German Arciniegas.

Of course, I could continue on here about me and Bill, but like I said at the onset, it would take several volumes, enough to paper the state of Texas. For those of you who know of the Marvin/Skyles friendship, I must say, remorsefully, that Fran and I (now in our 80's) were unable to fly in to attend the memorial on June 21. The regret of not being there with Kerry is somewhat, and only somewhat, mitigated by remembering that we flew in four or five times to visit with them before and during his illness.

So much more history of me and Bill comes to mind, but these endless memories are only to be shared by two best friends, one of whom has passed and is now at rest, so I end, for the moment, with this all too short note, an expression I learned once from an ex-Marine: "The best go first!"

*Denos Marwin*



*Robert Allen  
Barbara Tadlock  
Emma Walker*

*If you know of an FHDA retiree who recently passed away and is not already listed on FODARA's [In Memoriam](#) webpage, please email the name to Cindy Castillo ([cindycastillo@comcast.net](mailto:cindycastillo@comcast.net)); tribute articles and photo are welcome—email draft to After-Words editor Linda Lane ([lanelinda@fhda.edu](mailto:lanelinda@fhda.edu)).*

## FODARA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

For 2017-18, FODARA awarded four scholarships, two at De Anza and two at Foothill. Below are the winning students' amazing and inspiring essays (edited for space).

### Foothill College Scholarship Winners

#### **Kannon, Major Biological Sciences**

My mom tells a story of me as a little boy sitting on the pavement in the backyard dropping pennies into a puddle to watch the ripples. I have always wondered at the gears and mechanics of the world. All of my career interests have revolved around this amazement. First I wanted to be a paleontologist, later a chemist, and now a molecular biologist. I want to contribute to the knowledge of mankind and feel that whatever I discover, whether stupendous or unimportant at the time, will construct a basis for future revelations.

Of course, becoming a scientist is a long process, one complicated by my family's financial challenges. My mother has always told me when faced with challenging circumstances to ask myself, "what *can* I do?" To be successful, Mom said, one needs to take initiative, seek out possibility, and work hard. At fourteen, I graduated high school and registered at Foothill. We discussed how my brother and I could do two years of our baccalaureates here for an affordable cost then transfer to a four-year university. Still, I knew I needed to do more to familiarize myself with my intended career and recommend myself for transfer and scholarship money. What *can* I do?

I reached out to a graduate student I met at an educational event, and she generously allowed me to shadow her in a cancer biology laboratory at Stanford University for almost two years. She showed me the often grueling reality of being a scientist and I loved every bit of it. This inspiration helped fuel my efforts in all of my classes and I currently have a 4.0 GPA. Then my father lost his job again. What *can* I do? I became an embedded tutor for an English 1A class. Working as a tutor was stimulating and brought in almost enough money to cover college for that school quarter. Eventually, my parents divorced and Mom started an in-home preschool and childcare to pay the bills. What *can* I do? I applied for scholarships. I read twenty books in three months for the San Mateo Library's summer reading scholarship. But money was still a roadblock to my education. What *can* I do?

Interestingly enough, the question of how I will achieve my life goals is answered by another question: implicit in "what *can* I do?" is the belief that I *can* do, and the conviction that I *will* do. I *will* continue to be proactive. I *will* work as hard as necessary to get the grade. I *will* apply for dozens of scholarships. Most importantly, I *will* never stop asking myself "what *can* I do?"

#### **Aidan, Major History**

Weary from the climb, I reach the top of the hill in my San Mateo neighborhood. Looking over my shoulder, I admire the view of the Bay Area stretched out like a postcard. With a tug on the strap of my bag, I continue my walk home from the Caltrain station. Three days a week I take transit into San Francisco for my job and the other two days I head in the opposite direction to Foothill College.

My plan is to receive a PhD in History, and Foothill is a first step. I also want to expand my horizons and gain new experiences at an institution that could provide challenging new opportunities to help me develop as an individual. At Foothill, I have been a history and English tutor, and I work part-time at the Department of Homeland Security. My objectives are to teach history at a university level, be politically active, and become a well-rounded individual. Ever since I was little, I loved learning about history and thought it would be a joyful subject to teach. From Jericho to the modern age, I could imagine the settings and people. As a tutor, I gained insight into the power of teaching. I enjoyed helping others overcome their own personal hurdles so they have the confidence to complete their assignments. Another objective I have is to be instrumental as a public servant. When I interned at a local Assembly member's office, I spoke with a man who was upset about his local beach. As a child, he had visited the beach with his family and as he grew older he saw the increasing trash left on the sand. Every day, he would walk down to the beach and pick up the trash, only to return and find it in the same state. He wanted to know how the Assemblyman could help him fix the issue. I realized then I wanted to act in a capacity that enabled me to listen to people and find productive ways to assist them.

There are four issues I care most about. I want to address women's rights because women represent 50 percent of the world's population, yet continue to be stifled. I would like to fix healthcare so that people like my single mother won't need to worry about the additional burden of paying for insurance. I would like to pursue court reform so that checks and balances are present at all levels. Finally, I want to fix campaign finance laws to prevent the abuse of money. My final objective is to become a well-rounded individual by being a lifelong learner and achieving a higher education is part of climbing that personal hill.

## De Anza College Scholarship Winners

### Lin, Major Accounting

A dream is heavy, and achieving one's dream is never easy. I come from a low-income family in China, and I am the only child. When my father was laid off and when my mother, a person with a disability, was a cashier at a cafe, I could not afford college tuition. I had to drop out as a freshman to work to feed my family. In spite of my responsibilities, attaining a higher education has always been my dream. I feel blessed that I am married to my husband and have immigrated to the U.S. Now I have an opportunity to chase my dream. My parents are proud of me because I am the first and only person in our family to attain higher education.

Once settled in the US, understanding the English language and culture became an obstacle to fulfilling my dream. It was difficult to fully understand what people were saying. Even if I understood, I only had an idea of how to respond in Chinese but didn't know how to express myself in English appropriately. I knew if I couldn't overcome the language obstacle, I could not survive in the US. I realized I must learn how to translate Chinese to English. During my first two quarters at De Anza, I enrolled in three English classes for non-native speakers. I attended my professor's office hours to discuss materials I didn't understand in class, and I signed up for tutoring and used the walk-in tutoring service. I pushed myself to become more exposed to English, taking every chance I could to speak and write in English. Learning and practicing a little every time, added together, turned into major progress. Now an acclimated English speaker and De Anza college student, I see how I can realize my dream of becoming an accountant with a CPA credential. I plan to transfer to a four-year university—UT/Austin—to attain a bachelor's degree in accounting. I intend to finish all transfer required classes at De Anza by Spring 2019. In preparation for this career, I will earn additional job skills as an IRS volunteer, helping to file tax returns for low-income families. I will practice my knowledge and skills and contribute to my community. In addition, I am applying for a summer internship in public accounting firms to gain hands-on experience in a corporate accounting setting.

The heavy weight of my dream is the education-related costs. With the financial support from this scholarship, I will be able to focus on the classes I take and put more effort into learning, which will help me to finish the coursework with a great performance, establishing a solid foundation of accounting knowledge for my future career. My dream of attaining a higher education is heavy and is not easy to attain. Once I set on my journey, giving up is not an option. Once I achieve my career goals, I will pay forward this opportunity to others in my community—immigrants to the US who have had similar struggles, such understanding the English language and culture as I have.

### Yi Ting, Major Business Administration

In Taiwan, instead of solving the philosophical question of "why", my schooling was more focused on the question of "how." My days were spent on learning how to prepare for tests instead of learning the application of the subjects. I soon realized when we ignore the most important question of "why", we start losing our passion and motivation and the ability to carve our own paths through our own decisions. I felt that in this environment, I was limiting my ability to pursue a career in business where executive decisions are made constantly. I decided to study abroad first at a community college close to my relatives to minimize the cost and have more time to improve myself as an ESL student and a new immigrant.

But the shift of environment was only the beginning of the many challenges I would soon face. I experienced a huge culture shock. Getting the highest score in the class did not directly correlate to being the most successful. No longer were my courses planned for me and no longer did they exactly match all my peers. School was not the only priority anymore, as the students around me all participated in extracurricular activities. While processing and working on this adjustment, I have learned to be more open-minded and active. I am a member of the Honors program where I am challenged and able to explore a breadth of courses. Through the Honors program, I have not only learned deeper in my courses but also started as a teaching assistant for my economics instructor. This experience has given me knowledge outside the classroom and has helped me in many ways from major decisions to transfer opinions. I came to understand how economics is responsible for all our actions and for controlling our worldview. From then on, my interest in economics has grown and, as a result, I have been drawn to seek out ways to be involved in this subject. My desire to explore is now reflected in my Economics/Business major, and I am excited to explore business and economics in upper division courses.

However, coming from a single parent family and as a first-generation immigrant, I have to work two part-time jobs to support my financial need. And it still does not pay well enough for me to afford a four-year university tuition. That is why I am applying for this scholarship. I am inspired to continue my work by exploring deeper in economics/business. My passion, my drive, and my strong academic past are why I am ready to carry what I have learned to the next level and am looking forward to having my higher education in economics/business.

## Thank you notes from scholarship winners!

from Aidan:

Dear Foothill Retirees Association,  
 I would like to express my  
 gratitude for the scholarship  
 I received from the association.

from Lin:

Dear Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association,  
 I am sincerely honored to have been selected as  
 the recipient of the De Anza Foothill-De Anza  
 Retirees Association Scholarship. Thank you  
 for your generosity, and I am deeply appreciative  
 of your support.

from Yi Ting:

Dear Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association,  
 I am honored to have been selected as the  
 recipient of the Foothill-De Anza Retirement  
 Association scholarship. Thank you for your  
 generosity and support.

(from p. 1 - **June Picnic**)

four types of beer, sodas, water, and lots of wine!

Thanks to those who attended this year's Summer Picnic and made it a great success! For the 2019 picnic, I would love someone to come up with a different theme and a new, delicious menu to encourage more retirees to attend. If anyone has ideas, please email me or another board member the theme and type of food, so that it can be presented to the board.

I'm looking forward to the 2019 picnic, which will be held on Thursday, June 13-- save the date! I hope to see lots more retirees next year, the more the merrier! Again, a big high five to Obie for a job well done!



(from p. 1 - **BBQ & Baseball**)

competitive, and the Postgame Q&A with former San Francisco Giants pitcher Dave Dravecky was insightful.

There isn't much you can say about two teams in last place in their respective divisions, except you hope for a competitive and entertaining game. And that is exactly what we got.

In the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning a foul ball was really close to our group. Up until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, when the score was 4-1, all the scoring by both teams was by homeruns. During the 6<sup>th</sup> inning Smash-For-Cash promotion, a San Jose Giant player smashed both headlights on the van with only 2 pitches. I am sure that has happened sometime before, but most of the fans had never seen that happen before.

The San Jose Giants finally came alive in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning with a mini rally to make the score 5-3 Lake Elsinore (which is what the final score was).

Usually we have about twenty retirees and guests that attend the SJ Giants game. For a variety of reasons our group consisted of only eleven this year. If you have an idea how to increase that number next year, please email one of the board members. Please plan on attending the Pizza "Thing" at Tony and Alba's in October and the Holiday Luncheon in December.

*Bill Lewis*

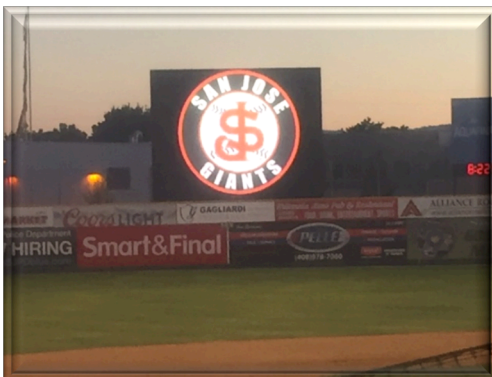
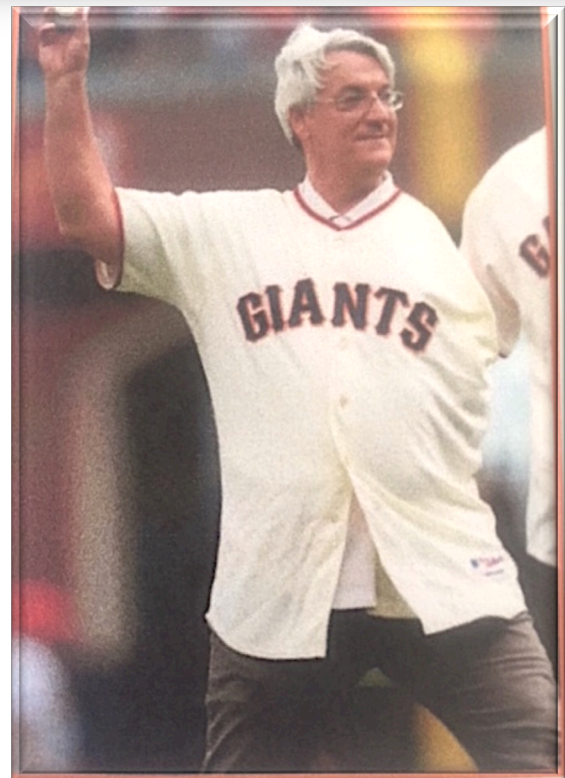
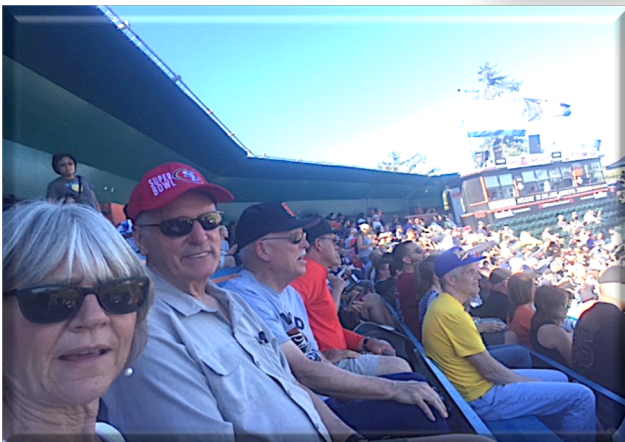


## MORE SUMMER EVENT PHOTOS

⌘ Thanks to everyone who attended the June Picnic and many thanks to our chefs Bob, Obie, Tom, and Steve for all the delicious food.

⌘ Thanks also to those who attended the August BBQ & Baseball Social and to Bill Lewis for arranging this fun social event.

Email your photos of recent FODARA events, or noteworthy news of you or your FHDA colleagues, to Webmaster Cindy Castillo ([cindycastillo@comcast.net](mailto:cindycastillo@comcast.net)).



**Dave Dravecky**

# PIZZA "THING"



**What:** Pizza Party!

**Cost:** \$12.00 for pizza, salad, bread, soft drinks (wine/beer extra)

**When:** Thursday, October 25, 2:45 – 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 20 or earlier**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ total places for the picnic.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate dollar amounts below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Picnic per person (\$ 12)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FODARA voluntary membership dues (\$ 10)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FODARA Scholarship Fund

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

Mail check and form to Ed Burling, FODARA  
17700 Bruce Ave.  
Monte Sereno, CA 95030

If you miss the deadline, email Ed ([edburling@gmail.com](mailto:edburling@gmail.com))

**FODARA**

**Foothill-De Anza Retirees Association**

**Foothill-De Anza Community College District**

**12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022**