

# AFTER-WORDS

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

VOLUME XXXX, ISSUE 3

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

JANUARY 2019

## Mark Your Calendar: Spring Social

The FODARA annual spring social will again be a wonderful wine tasting get-together at Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards in the Saratoga hills. The date and time for this event is Thursday, April 25, 1:00 pm. More information, along with a reservation form, will be in the March issue of *After-Words*.

*Bill Lewis*



## December Holiday Party Recap



It is always fun to see retirees at the end of the year and hear about their recent activities and travel adventures. Seeing so many familiar smiling faces and people giving hugs makes this event special. To add to the festiveness, tables were decked out in red and white, with a beautiful red poinsettia centerpiece (see photos p. 8-9 and on the FODARA website).

Sixty-nine retirees—sixty-five last year—attended the luncheon, and it was nice to meet and greet four recent retirees. We enjoyed a meal of prime rib, baked salmon, or a vegetarian entrée followed by a delicious dessert of apple pie topped with whipped cream. I doubt anyone left feeling hungry after the meal and many retirees commented the food was the best ever! Patrick Gannon and his staff, at De Anza College Food Services, did an excellent job preparing for and hosting our party. FODARA appreciates the excellent service by student employees, and the tasty, hearty festive meal.

Giving away the door prizes was fun, especially for the winners of wine and poinsettias. As always, the Holiday Lunch was a great event for catching up and renewing friendships. If anyone asks you about the party, tell them what a great time they missed and encourage them to attend next year! HAPPY 2019!

*Mike Paccione*

## FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-19

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<b>Vice President</b>	Bill Lewis	408.639.9919	billlosgatos@sbcglobal.net
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## FODARA EVENT CALENDAR 2019

<b>Mar 05</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (2020)	Open to all
<b>Apr 25</b>	Thurs	Spring Social	1:00 pm	Cooper-Garrod Winery	Open to all
<b>May 07</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (2020)	Open to all
<b>Jun 13</b>	Thurs	Summer Picnic	3:00 pm	Cuesta Park, Mt. View	Open to all
<b>Aug 10</b>	Sat	BBQ & Baseball	3:30 pm	San Jose Giants Stadium	Open to all
<b>Sept 10</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (2020)	Open to all
<b>Oct TBA</b>	TBA	Pizza "Thing"	TBA	TBA	Open to all
<b>Nov 05</b>	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (2020)	Open to all
<b>Dec TBA</b>	TBA	Holiday Luncheon	TBA	TBA	Open to all

## 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

## HEALTH CARE BENEFITS UPDATE

The Joint Management Labor Benefits Committee (JMLBC) met briefly November 29, 2018. The agenda included these items:

- ◆ A review of the final CalPERS plan rates for 2019, which were previously presented at the JLMBC meeting in June;
- ◆ An update on CalPERS' on-going discussion whether or not to redraw the boundaries for the five regions used to determine plan rates. One option is to reduce the number of regions, perhaps to as few as two—northern and southern California. Currently, the regions in southern California enjoy lower rates than those in northern California, primarily because the Sutter Health Group, which is located only in northern California and includes the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, has higher rates compared to those of the southern California plans; in fact, the Bay Area is the most expensive region overall. However, since CalPERS has been considering such a change for the past four years, a final decision is not likely imminent.

The next JMLBC meeting is scheduled for February; if any items discussed are time-sensitive or critical for retirees, FODARA will send out an email alert; otherwise a summary will be included in the March *After-Words* issue.

### **For retirees receiving District medical benefits:**

- *Starting January 2019, you will see an increase in the CalPERS insurance plan amount deducted from your pension, but, as noted in the September After-Words issue, because FHDA retiree contribution rates did **not** increase for 2019, the District's reimbursement increases by the same amount.*
- *If unsure whether or not one of your OptumRx mailorder prescriptions has been recalled—the manufacturer's name is given after "Mfg" on the left side of the bottle label—call OptumRx for verification using the phone number on your ID card. Though OptumRx will notify you if it becomes aware of a particular recall, you'll no doubt find out much sooner via the news/internet. If your pills are recalled, OptumRx sends a substitute if one is available but, if not, requires a new prescription for a different drug from your doctor.*

The FODARA Board wishes everyone a happy and healthy new year! We hope you will join/support FODARA by volunteering to serve on the Board or a subcommittee, hosting a social event (or attending our annual get-togethers!), donating to our Student Scholarship Fund, and/or posting on our Facebook page.



top row from left: Ed Burling, Cindy Castillo, Claudette Penner, Bill Lewis, Tom Roza, Bob Hubbs  
bottom row from left: Maureen Gates, Mike Paccioretti, Janice Carr

## NEWS FROM A FODARA MEMBER: THE CAMP FIRE



*From 2006-12, Fred Sherman was Chief Technology Officer at FHDA, among other executive positions. After retiring, he returned to his home in Chico, where he enjoys a semi-retired life with his wife, Francine, including traveling, fishing, research, and writing. Currently, he is the executive director of the Chief Information Systems Officers Association, which educates and certifies technology leaders for California community colleges, and he does consulting work for various colleges.*

If you have news or photos to share with other retirees, please contact Cindy Castillo ([cindycastillo@comcast.net](mailto:cindycastillo@comcast.net)).

Thursday, November 8, began normally, no different than any other Fall day in Chico, except, as my wife exclaimed around 8:00 am, an ominous looking dark cloud was moving over the house. We live in Chico, nestled at the base of the Sierra Nevada mountains, where several valleys and fingers of the Sierra head southwest towards us. The town of Paradise lies about nine miles to the east and slightly north at higher elevation. Beyond Paradise and further east are the mountain hamlets of Magalia, Concow, and Pulga.



The cloud was a wide tongue of midnight black smoke extending from the mountains and hovering about a thousand feet above us. On either side and to the west, you could see blue sky and the air around us was still crisp and clean except for a faint smell of fire. To say it appeared eerie would be an understatement of the truth. I checked the Internet for some news, but the only thing I could find was a mention of a vegetation fire in the town of Pulga, about 19 miles to the northeast. No one around us was very concerned at that time.

However, with 50 mile per hour winds raging through the mountain passes, the fire moved faster than anyone could imagine. By late afternoon the fire had already destroyed Paradise and was threatening other towns. We packed both of our cars, gathered my mother-in-law and son with us and glued ourselves to the TV and Internet for the latest

*(Continued on p. 5)*

*(Camp Fire-- From p. 4)*

news. I stayed awake most of the night. By the next morning the air was so full of acid smoke that the sky at noon provided about as much light as evening twilight.



Neighborhoods on either side of us received evacuation warnings and one was soon given the order to evacuate. The fire approached our neighborhood within a mile or two, when it was finally stopped. During the first day and continuing into the next, all four lanes of the Skyway (both directions) were choked with cars trying to evacuate Paradise. It took hours to make the normally 15 to 20 minute ride down the mountain into Chico. The fortunate ones were able to find shelter with friends and family; others gravitated to the Walmart parking lot, which became a tent city almost overnight. Vacancies for apartments, hotel rooms, homes for rent, etc., evaporated into nothing as all available housing was quickly occupied.

The town of Paradise is so completely devastated it will take years to recover. Many evacuees say they will not return. It's essentially a ghost town, with only memories left of buildings and homes. The few whose homes were saved in Paradise find it difficult to return—there is no electrical power or water service available.

It was amazing to see the number of churches and other organizations as well as individuals from as far away as the Midwest pitch in to provide services and resources to assist the evacuees. We were able to fill the parish hall of our church completely full of donated clothes (much of it new), food and other items for the evacuees as well as give out gift vouchers. It doesn't come close to addressing the long-term problems that evacuees will face in rebuilding their homes and their lives, but it is a start.





## In Memoriam



*Paul Calgher  
Phil Mattson  
Janet Singer*

If you know of an FHDA retiree who 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 with photo are welcome—email draft to After-Words editor Linda Lane ([lanelinda@fhda.edu](mailto:lanelinda@fhda.edu)).



The eleven people listed below retired Fall Quarter 2018 (apologies if anyone was inadvertently excluded or included). Many more will be retiring over the next six months: last fall, to generate savings and flexibility, the District with faculty and classified unions negotiated a Supplemental Retirement Plan (SRP), aka “golden handshake”; eligible employees who signed up must retire before/in June. According to the January 7 District Board meeting minutes, eighty-eight people are retiring via the SRP, most at the end of Spring Quarter 2019.

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| ✦ <i>Kristine Bricmont, DA Child Dev</i> | ✦ <i>Sherri Mines, FH Int. Students</i>    |
| ✦ <i>Norbert Debler, CS ETS</i>          | ✦ <i>Jose Rueda, CS ETS</i>                |
| ✦ <i>Douglas Grant, CS Police</i>        | ✦ <i>Anthony Sullivan, CS Operations</i>   |
| ✦ <i>David Howard-Pitney, DA SS</i>      | ✦ <i>Shirley Treanor, FH Bio/Health</i>    |
| ✦ <i>Yuan Kuo, DA Learning Resources</i> | ✦ <i>Monika Winn, CS Business Services</i> |
| ✦ <i>Parvin Lonbani, DA Child Dev</i>    |  |

We wish all retirees a happy, healthy post-employment life and invite everyone to join FODARA by signing up for the email listserv (email [cindycastillo@comcast.net](mailto:cindycastillo@comcast.net)), serving on the FODARA Board or other committee (email [pacciorettimike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pacciorettimike@sbcglobal.net)), or attending the fun annual parties (see calendar p.2).



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

## THINKING ABOUT A WINTER VACATION?

After the holiday parties are over and the decorations are down is a great time for a winter getaway.



To delve deeper into a winter wonderland, take a Canadian train tour—avoid the hassles of driving and ride comfortably through spectacular wilderness. Many different packages are available, ranging from one to several weeks, and most begin and end in either Vancouver or Toronto, with both one way and round trip options.

To soak up some sun, reserve a room in a chic mid-century modern hotel in Palm Springs. Besides great restaurants, there's plenty of golf, spas, and hot springs, and, for hours of entertainment, simply meander or bike the streets to see modern architecture at its best.



For a journey back to the past, visit Williamsburg, Virginia, along with Jamestown and Yorktown, the triad cities of American history. The winter weather is usually *relatively* warm, in the 60's, and golf courses and museums abound. The top attraction is Colonial Williamsburg, which recreates the atmosphere of the late 1600s, but, for those feeling more "spirited," check out the ghost and vampire tours.



For a more exotic, scenic trip, take a Douro River cruise through Portugal. Cruises are now *the* travel trend because they do all the work while you gaze at beautiful scenery drifting by; in this region, you'll see steep terraced vineyards, spectacular castles, baroque mansions, and historic monasteries.

To refresh and renew—and remove any extra holiday pounds—try a "destination" spa, not inexpensive but worth the cost if you return healthier and happier. In California, such resorts are located mostly along or near the coast from Napa to Big Sur to San Diego, but Arizona and New Mexico have several, too; all provide excellent service, delicious low-calorie meals, a wide range of fitness activities and classes, plus the usual array of pools, steam rooms, hot tubs, and saunas.



## HOLIDAY PARTY PHOTOS

Thanks to everyone who attended our annual Holiday Luncheon and many thanks, as always, to Mike Paccioretti for arranging this great party and to Ed Burling for taking photos—more are posted on the FODARA website.

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







**FODARA**

**Foothill-De Anza Retirees Association**

**Foothill-De Anza Community College District**

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