

AFTER-WORDS

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



FODARA
Foothill-De Anza
Retirees Association

VOLUME XLIII, ISSUE 2

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

NOVEMBER 2021

December Holiday Party

We hope everyone is staying healthy during these challenging times. Some *good news*: we **are** holding our annual Holiday Party on **Thursday December 9 11:30am-1:30pm at De Anza's Hinson Campus Center, Conference Rooms A&B**. Bring your spouse and/or a friend and invite former colleagues to attend; please note FHDA District policy requires everyone who comes to an on-campus event to be vaccinated. At our luncheon—for only \$25 per person—there will be delicious food to eat, new people to meet, old friends to greet, and door prizes to win. Menu choices and other details are on the reservation form p. 14. Please mail it along with your check no later than Wednesday, November 24; voluntary FODARA dues and a scholarship contribution are greatly appreciated. See you there!

—*Bill Lewis*

FODARA Vice President

Recap of Zoom Event

Our first FODARA event of the year was a fun ZOOM gathering called "Travel Adventures and Fun." On October 28, fourteen members who enjoy traveling across the country and the world shared photos and their favorite travel adventures.

After introducing themselves, presenters described their favorite travel places. The stories were very personal and interesting. Tina Woo has traveled both to the very coldest (Iceland) and hottest (Thailand) places in the world, and Joanne Araki told us about her medical travels to Africa, Myanmar, and Peru, as well as RV camping in the United States. Cheryl Hylton showed a list and photo of all the countries she has traveled to—around 54! Most folks prefer to travel by plane, but



Continued on p. 3

FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

President	Mike Paccioretti	408.274.4929	pacciorettimike@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Bill Lewis	408.639.9919	billlosgatos@gmail.com
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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	Claudette Penner	408.736.6481	Claudette@penner.org
Member-At-Large	La Donna Yumori-Kaku	408.482.8879	Yumorikakuladonna@fhda.edu
Newsletter Editor	Linda Lane	--	lanelinda@fhda.edu

FODARA EVENT CALENDAR 2021-2022

Dec 09	Thurs 11:30am	Holiday Party	De Anza Hinson Campus Center Conference Rooms A&B
Jan 11	Tues 1:00 pm	Board Meeting*	Zoom / Webmaster's house
Mar 01	Tues 1:00 pm	Board Meeting*	Zoom / Treasurer's house
April	tbd	Spring Social	
May 03	Tues 1:00 pm	Board Meeting*	Zoom / location tbd
June	tbd	Summer Picnic	
Aug	tbd	BBQ & Baseball	

* If you would like to participate in a Board meeting, please email FODARA Secretary Tom Roza for meeting location or Zoom link/password.

FODARA COMMITTEES 2021-2022

District Benefits	Tom Strand, strandtom@fhda.edu , Faith Milonas, milonasfaith@fhda.edu
After-Words Email	Cindy Castillo, cindycastillo@comcast.net
After-Words Paper Mailing <i>(currently on-hold)</i>	Janice Carr, janicecarr@pacbell.net
Scholarships	Mike Brandy, brandymike@gmail.com
Zoom Social Events	Linda Conroy, lsiqcon@aol.com La Donna Yumori-Kaku, Yumorikakuladonna@fhda.edu

Zoom Travel and Fun Event—continued from p.1

some of Suzanne Chan's favorite trips were traveling across Canada by train. George Beers and others shared information about international travel with different travel groups; Bill Lewis' international travels occurred while his sons were in the military; nature-lover Vicky Criddle detailed her international travel to Australia, Canada, and Norway; and La Donna Yumori-Kaku spoke about her trips to Japan. Mary Kay Englen's travels took her to the Mojave Desert and Disney World in Florida, Linda Conroy has traveled across the United States with the San Jose State Spartan Football Team, and Tom Roza shared his adventures camping in New England, Wisconsin, the Sierras, Grand Canyon, and Hearst Castle.

Due to a couple of Zoom technical problems, we had to end our session earlier than planned, but before that, participants shared emails to connect with each other and offer travel advice and resources. Based on the event evaluation, there is high interest in having another Travel Zoom event, and next time we plan to have two or three experienced travelers provide more information about their personal trips along with tips for traveling and cruising overseas. Don't miss it!

Many thanks to Tom Roza, our Zoom guru, Linda Conroy, and La Donna Yumori-Kaku for coordinating this event. Happy Travels until we meet again!

If you have an idea for a Zoom or other social event, email Linda (lsiqcon@aol.com) or La Donna (Yumoriakuladonna@fhda.edu).

Tina Woo- Iceland**George Beers- Porvoo, Finland****Cheryl Hylton - Jaipur India****Linda Conroy
Cooperstown Baseball Hall of Fame**

NEWS / UPDATES

FODARA BOARD

One of the fun things about having a new Board member is discovering some interesting historical stuff in the binders passed down from prior Board members. Our new Treasurer, Barbara Illowsky, discovered lists of Board members going back to 1984. We have posted them on our website by year in the hopes that some of you will see your own names there and, perhaps, by reading over the names, may remember some friends you have forgotten who volunteered their time and energy to FODARA. To look over the lists, go to <https://www.deanza.edu/fodara/board.html> and go to the bottom of the page (past the pictures of current Board members and the Bylaws) and click on the year you are interested in seeing. For me personally, it was fun to see my mother's name, Wilma Wolgast, serving for three years from 1992-95. And two of our current Board members, Claudette Penner and Janice Carr, go back to 2008 and 2009 respectively.....wow about thirteen years of service each! Thank you ladies for your service to the retirees of Foothill-De Anza College District. And for any of you out there who might want to join the fun, send me an email or come to our next Board meeting in January. We support each other and welcome new folks. FODARA can continue only if retirees volunteer to help out.

—Cindy Castillo

FODARA Webmaster/Listserv Administrator

FOOTHILL COLLEGE



At their October 25 meeting, the FHDA Board voted unanimously not to renew the contract of Foothill President Thuy Thi Nguyen, who has served as president since 2016. At this meeting, the Foothill Academic Senate presented a resolution of "no confidence" in Nguyen, which stated "*In contrast to her job description, President Nguyen has failed to cultivate increased involvement in shared/participatory governance, and as a result we have a governance process that renders the voices of faculty to be of no possible consequence or value other than to rubber stamp or validate decisions that have already been made.*" In an October 26 article in the *Los Altos Town Crier*, Board president Peter Landsberger summed up the decision as follows:

While I am limited in what more I can say about the action and what led to it, I can say the board believes this action is needed to allow the college to move beyond the current state of conflict. The Board of Trustees respects President Nguyen's accomplishments and recognizes that she is admired by many. Nevertheless, the board's priority must be to take steps to establish the conditions under which administrators, faculty, staff, and students can work collaboratively to achieve student success with universally equitable outcomes. The board has placed the achievement of the district's equity and student success goals at the heart of its board priorities. Nothing in this action should be interpreted as a retreat from Foothill's equity agenda.

District Chancellor Judy Miner added, "*I believe it is in the best interests of Foothill College to seek new leadership that can reinvigorate collaborative approaches to being student centered and equity minded. Going forward, let us focus on the future and recommit to nurturing a collegial environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. We owe it to our students.*" Miner said she, Landsberger, and former Foothill president Bernadine Fong, who will replace Nguyen as of November 1, 2021, will hold a college wide meeting "to begin the healing process."

HEALTH BENEFITS

The next meeting of the Joint Labor Management Benefits Committee (JLMBC) will be November 18. If any items discussed are of interest/relative to retirees, the information will be emailed via the FODARA listserv; otherwise, a summary will be included in the January 2022 issue of *After-Words*.

FODARA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

For 2020-21, FODARA awarded four \$1000 scholarships, two at De Anza and two at Foothill. Below are the winning students' inspiring personal essays (edited for privacy and space).

Austin (De Anza) Major: Psychology for Transfer



Throughout my childhood, I was raised with a constant reminder of the importance of service. The religion I was born into ingrained within me the value of close community and support. Everyone was expected to be there for each other and to offer what they could. This regular practice of being there for others has stayed with me, even after I had left the faith. Middle school was difficult. As I adjusted to a new school, I also had to adjust to a new me. After being closed within a tight-knit Mormon community, I discovered for the first time what it meant to be gay. I quickly discovered that I no longer belonged to the group who brought me up. I took a major risk and opened up to my mom. I finally found the words and was surprised to be met with so much love. She expressed that she didn't know what this meant, but that she would always love me and always had my back. I knew then, I would be ok. The remaining two years of middle school dragged on. Eventually, relief finally came with a move to California. I was ecstatic by the fresh start high school offered. Unfortunately, there was no pre-established LGBTQ club. After meeting some friends, we decided to begin one ourselves during our sophomore year. The room was packed at our first meeting, and instantly the group began to unite. As I looked around the room, I heard struggling teenagers giving the support and advice that they themselves needed; we were able to offer each other advocacy and help. That was the moment I knew this was something real. After losing the community I had grown up with, it was magical to build my own that I knew I could truly fit into. I continued to pursue my love of service as time went on. I volunteered at the LGBTQ Youth Space where I was exposed to real life community advocacy. At this same time, I fell in love with my high school AP Psychology course and discovered a field committed to improving the lives of others. At De Anza I have continued to explore the vast diversity this field has to offer and pinpoint my own passions. As I prepare to transfer to a four-year university in pursuit of my future in psychology, I have worked to develop the skills I need through my classes and work as a tutor in the Writing and Reading Center. My dream is to serve others on the most personal level possible, as a counselor/therapist, to listen to and be there for others just like my mom was there for me. This world is so full of sorrow and rejection, and we need as many people working one-on-one on the ground level as possible in order to heal. I am devoted to continuing this journey of being a part of this movement: a push for connection, empathy, and hope.

Dear Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association,

Thank you so much for the incredibly generous scholarship! I am honored to have been recognized, and I greatly appreciate the support. As a student of De Anza College over the last two years, I have learned and grown so much. I am so grateful for the many professors who have only continued to fuel my passion for my studies in psychology. I am also grateful for my time working at the Student Success Center as a writing tutor and the experience of being a part of the De Anza community at large. As I prepare to transfer to Long Beach State to continue my pursuit of psychology and a career in helping others through the field of mental health support, I will continue to look back on these formative years with gratitude. Thank you again for your financial and educational support as I push forward to pursue my dreams.

*Sincerely,
Austin*

Annalise (De Anza) Major: Journalism

Tucked away in the upper portion of my closet rests my favorite childhood stories-- *Goose Girl*, *Walk Two Moons*, and *Holes*. They were the early catalysts for my love of literature. I have far outgrown their plots and should probably gift them to a new home. But I can't. I can't let go of these books because they have shaped me into who I am today. Enraptured by their stories, I formed my empathetic morals and values that I hold today. They are the pillars of who I have become at De Anza and outside of it. I like to think that my path, both academic and career-driven, is uplifted by these first novels.

Currently, I am pursuing a journalism degree, with hopes of continuing my education all the way to a master's degree in journalism. Journalism may not seem to have much of a connection to my bibliophilia, but it does. As a journalist, I am empowered through my ability to empathize with people who I interview, which in turn allows me a greater connection to the stories that I write. For instance, I listened to an undocumented student illustrate her trek through the desert, drawing on my ability to empathize with an experience I have not had and will never personally endure. This deep emotional connection I develop with my sources drives my yearning to uplift unheard voices; I believe my success as a journalist was all formed through the empathy I learned from stepping into characters' shoes in the novels I devoured. I am able to see outside perspectives other than my own, and this path that I'm on is truly rewarding.

Additionally, my ability to empathize propels me forward in my path in journalism. I was diagnosed with social anxiety and depression in my freshman year of high school, which seems so at odds with my career choice. As a journalist, I have to talk with people every day, and my empathy allows me to triumph over my anxieties. My hands still shake a bit and my thoughts can't help from racing when I talk to someone new, but I am much better than I once was, incapacitated by my social fears. My need to understand others outweighs the anxieties that I face on a daily basis, and I am more resilient because of it. However, the academic and professional path I am headed down is not cheap. My family is classified as middle class, but with the rising tuition rates of the universities coupled with the inflated prices of living in the Bay Area, I will have to take out an exorbitant amount of student loans. My family simply cannot support my academic endeavors. If I had the privilege of being granted a scholarship, I would use it to pay off some of my future tuition fees, with less worry about student loan debt. Ultimately, I am a journalist through and through, fueled by my own personal empathy and curiosity. I am resilient. I am determined to use my power as a journalist to uplift voices that are not being listened to through receiving a degree in journalism.

Moksha (Foothill) Major: Psychology

I have always believed education allows me to reach for the stars because of the values my immigrant parents instilled in me regarding its importance. I knew I had to succeed in my studies, so when my family's personal and financial struggles stripped my life of comfort and consistency, I learned to become resilient and adaptable in the face of challenges. I was inspired to pursue my degree in psychology because of its amazing capacity to explain the social world from the perspective of the human brain. At Foothill College, I have explored my interests in the field of psychology without any economic burden. This has allowed me to plan my long-term educational and career goals of earning my Ph.D. to understand the inner workings of the mind in order to help others. Through financial assistance, I will be able to fulfill my dreams of studying psychology further and benefitting the communities I enter.

My parents' personal problems, combined with our family's financial struggles, required me to attend three high schools. For years, I felt lost and out of control, but then in my final year of high school, I took an AP psychology course which granted me command over my fate and ignited a deep passion in me to study psychology further. Through uncovering the secrets of the human psyche, and its impact on behavior and relationships, I could comprehend my circumstances and figure out how to change them for the better. My desire to study psychology to a further extent was dynamic, as my ability to see the world had transformed into an ability to understand it. Attending a four-year school was not feasible at first due to my parents' economic situation, but my determination to succeed academically brought me to Foothill College. With unwavering persistence to make it in higher education, I closely engaged with my academic community through taking part in the Honors program, working two jobs, creating close relationships with my peers, and participating in clubs. These enriching experiences have prepared me for my transfer to a four-year college or university. UCLA is my top choice school for transferring, and I have also applied to other UC and CSU schools. My long-term goal is to earn a Ph.D. in neuroscience, so I can understand-- the brain from both social

and biological perspectives. Psychology widened my world-view, and it motivated me to want to help others who are navigating turbulent conditions. Through firsthand experience of knowing how a troubled childhood can impact young people, I want to assist others in combating hurdles to attain an education and take care of their mental health. My plan is to create an organization where individuals can learn non-invasive techniques, such as yoga and meditation, to reduce stress, and access therapists, counselors, and coaches who can guide them through their personal journeys to happiness and success. Scholarships would help me pay for college, course materials, and living expenses. With the security of knowing I need not worry about money, attaining scholarships will help me to not only enter but flourish in future academic settings where I can focus on my goal of learning psychology.

Dear Donor,

Thank you so much for your generosity in providing this FHDA Retirees Association Scholarship. It has been my dream to attend UCLA since I was a young girl, and this year I was accepted. This scholarship will help me on my path to earning my degree and fulfilling my goals. I am a Psychology major, and I plan on owning an alternative medicine business. Having a degree in psychology will help me understand the relationship between the mind and the body, and I plan on using this knowledge to create a business that can help others. I am extremely grateful for your support on my journey to achieving my aspirations.

*Best,
Moksha*

Luis (Foothill) Major: Economics for Transfer

I am Luis, a sophomore at Foothill College looking to transfer this fall to a University of California or a California State University. I am the first-generation American in my family to attend an American college. I'm accustomed to change and adaptability; this allows me to diligently work on any task with determination as I've learned to adapt my goals to become the most efficient and hardworking person I can be. COVID-19 significantly affected our lives and has forced us to adapt to a virtual world. Regardless, I was able to adapt to the challenges of everyday life and school by balancing working from home and a job. Adaptability is a quality that I will continue to apply in my life.

I chose economics as my major for my expertise in math and its application to the real world. My passion for math sparked an interest in economics as it taught me how math was applied to real-world situations on a small and large scale. My interest in economics then sprouted as I fell in love with analyzing graphs, calculating formulas, and understanding its application to the real world. After I obtain an associate's degree in economics at Foothill, I plan to transfer to a university to work towards a bachelor's or master's. A scholarship would greatly assist me in achieving my academic goal by providing a method of payment to pay for my degree, housing, books, and more; it would provide a much needed crutch to help me finish my education. My career goal is to be an economist or financial advisor for a small local business to promote small businesses and to find methods to induce economic prosperity. I wish to be a positive impact to whomever I work for by using my skills and knowledge gained from my degree to apply them meaningfully and professionally. The largest obstacle I am working to overcome is my financial situation. My immigrant parents are burdened with two teenagers trying to get an education in the Bay Area. They each dedicate endless work hours to put food on the table and to keep us satisfied. My father works full time and my mother works two jobs. Coming from Mexico and France, my parents are unaccustomed to the high tuition rates. Moreover, my brother who is in high school will soon start his college career, putting more financial pressure on my parents. My parents will not be able to support both our educations at once. A scholarship would greatly aid my parents by providing relief in paying for my tuition.

Another struggle to overcome is financial independence. I realized at 17 that I will soon have to be financially independent from my parents to alleviate their burdens and to begin leading my own life. I began working while going to school to finance my hobbies and begin saving. As I graduated I began riding motorcycles with

my dad; I am beginning to get a taste of adult life by having to pay the yearly expenses for registration, insurance, and maintenance. I am working to educate myself on financial freedom while battling with bills and payments. A scholarship would greatly help me in establishing savings while using scholarship money for tuition, textbooks, and shelter. It would greatly assist me in allocating money for future use while still being able to pay for my college tuition. In conclusion, I would like to leave you with this: I am a motivated individual who is willing to sacrifice and adapt to become the best version of himself. The next step in my life comes at college, and a scholarship will provide me with a path to success that is crucial for me to fulfill my academic and career goals.

Dear Donor,

I am writing to you to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation in selecting me as a recipient of the FHDA Retirees Association Scholarship, from the FODARA. One does not know how much a scholarship will positively impact my university experience, especially when it comes to paying bills. My parents already overwork themselves to keep my brother and I happy at home, so any additional financial supplements as such relieves a lot of pressure for them. In turn, I will be able to use the money I received from this scholarship to use it for books and tuition and other university costs. On to a little bit about myself. I am currently a sophomore at Foothill College studying Economics for transfer. My educational background involves elementary and high school in Palo Alto, and middle school and part of high school in Austin, Texas. I am in the Honors Institute at Foothill as I strive for the best grades and knowledge in each class. My educational background has prepared me to transfer to a UC and work diligently towards achieving a degree. Additionally, I am currently working as a math instructor at Mathnasium. I deeply enjoy spending time outside of class to educate the younger generation and make math fun and engaging. Outside of school, I love to ride my motorcycle with my dad, play basketball, go mountain biking, and go hiking. I am very much an outdoors person and love spending time in nature. I also deeply enjoy camping. Moving on, I know that this degree will help me in realizing my dream of finding success in university. My aspiration is to work to achieve a Bachelor's degree in two years, and this scholarship will allow me to pay the fees to accomplish this goal. By paying for books, food, and other expenses in college this scholarship will allow me to sustain myself without diving into my savings. I plan to use my economics degree to become a financial analyst. My other aspiration is to start a business with my friends and use my economic knowledge to create a successful and profitable business. Being savvy with mathematics and graphic interpretation, I find economics invigorating and exciting as it is applicable to the real world. Hence, my future plan is to use my degree to find job security as a financial analyst or economist, while working to start up a business and make it successful. My degree will provide me with such an education to find success in my career. I cannot express how much this scholarship helps my family and I in covering expenses for school. As aforementioned, my parents already work long hours to keep our family afloat, so any supplements like this are greatly helpful in funding my education. Such a scholarship, no matter the size, relieves a lot of pressure on my parents to work in funding my degree. I aspire to dedicate myself to my education and major, and use this scholarship to boost me to success. I am immensely grateful that this scholarship was awarded to me, and I look forward to keeping in contact with this organization for a potential scholarship renewal the following year. I appreciate your support in achieving my educational goals. Once again, thank you. My family and I greatly appreciate your decision in aiding us to cover such expenses.

According to the online FHDA District Board minutes, eleven people will retire by the end of Fall Quarter 2021; apologies if anyone was inadvertently excluded or included.

- *Marcy Betlach, DA Language Arts*
- *Susanne Hinds, FH Learning Resources Center*
- *Christine Mangiameli, FH Enrollment Services*
- *Kent McGee, FH Enrollment Services*
- *Carlos Mujal, DA Social Sciences & Humanities*
- *Stephanie Nunes, FH Finance & Administrative Services*
- *Hao Pham, FH Enrollment Services*
- *Gerald Rosenberg, DA PSME*
- *Thomas Schott, DA Creative Arts*
- *Alan Simes, DA Language Arts*
- *Karen Smith, FH Learning Resources Center*



We wish all retirees a happy, healthy post-employment life! New and “old” retirees are invited to join and support FODARA by signing up for the listserv (email cindycastillo@comcast.net) and by volunteering to serve on the Board or committee—meetings currently held off-campus or via Zoom (email pacciorettimike@sbcglobal.net). Keep in touch by attending events/parties! For more information about the many great services FODARA provides to retirees, visit <http://www.deanza.edu/fodara/index.html>.



Don't forget to sign up for or renew your **FODARA 2021-22 membership**! Your \$10 per year voluntary dues go directly to student scholarships, and these days students definitely appreciate financial assistance. 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."

FHDA Staff Parking Permits

If you are planning to attend the FODARA **December Party**, or other campus event, and your staff parking decal has expired, you can get a new one by bringing your **Foothill-De Anza Staff Card** or **FODARA Retiree Gold Card** to either the Foothill or De Anza campus police station. If you don't have a Staff or Gold Card, bring your 8-digit employee ID number, the one used to access MyPortal, to the Foothill College Smart Shop (Room 2016) or the Office of College Life at De Anza College (lower level of the Campus Center) and wait while your card is made. NOTE: at these locations, you'll need to wear a mask and bring proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

My Love of Writing

by Tom Roza, FODARA Board Secretary

Background

I developed a love for writing in the third grade starting when I joined the Boys' Choir at St. Rita's Catholic school in Milwaukee. Many songs that we sang told a story and often used rhyming patterns to create a more melodic effect. My first poems were simple and for family:

*The roses are such a pretty red
And the violets are a shimmering blue
Because this is a very special day
Dear Mom, wishing a very Happy Birthday to you!*

Over time, my poems evolved to telling stories such as this one that I recently wrote for National Grandparents Day:

Grandparents – A Child's Gift

*On this Twelfth Day of the month of September
As cool mornings signal the beginning of the Autumn season
We take the time to reflect on a special role in people's lives
Recognizing the role of Grandparents, there is no better reason*

*Turning back the pages to those days of our childhood
When we went to visit our dear Grandma and Grandpa
Who always greeted us with so much love and caring
And spoiled us to excess, such a fundamental aspect of
Grandparent's law*

*After the many years of our lives have evolved
And our children brought into this world their own gifts of life
The role of Grandparents took on new meaning for us
Having our own grandchildren that served as a remedy for any strife*

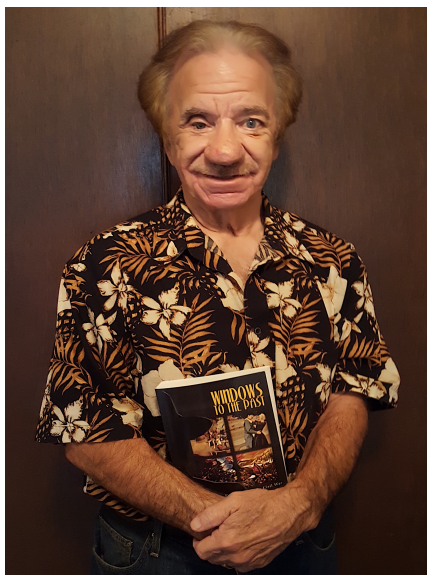
*However, during these past nearly two years
When the COVID-19 Pandemic laid waste to so many lives
Too often the access to our darling grandchildren
Was limited to ZOOM and Face Chat sessions as a way to survive*

*Not being able to enjoy the hugs and kisses
That our grandchildren bestowed on us
Resigned to blowing kisses to a computer or smart phone screen
That demonstration of affection just never was enough*

*Now our thoughts for those darling grandchildren
Are fraught with concerns for their mental and physical welfare
When can they be vaccinated and protected from infection
Will others practice common sense, or create more despair?*

*Grandchildren are one of life's most special gifts
Their childlike innocence serves as a window to our nostalgic pasts
But as loving and caring grandparents
We are also a gift to our grandchildren providing a love that lasts*

*So on this Twelfth Day of the Autumn month of September
We pay homage to those in the grandparent's role
Who provide the required love, caring and compassion
That every grandchild needs to enrich their souls*



As I got older, I started writing short stories as school projects. I didn't have ambitions at being a full-time writer; I just enjoyed putting on paper my thoughts and feelings.

Desire to Write a Novel

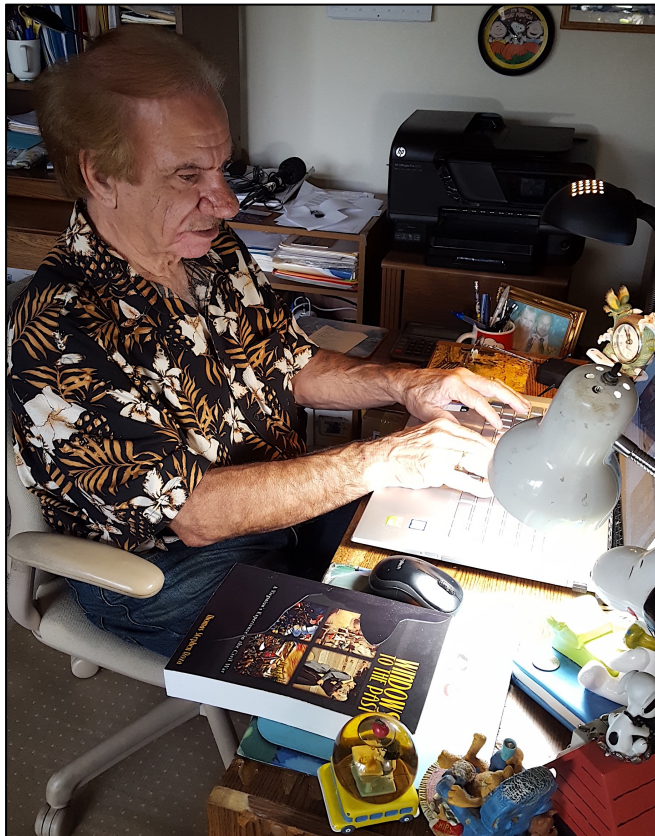
My outlook on life has mostly been centered on people and relationships – I value family and cherish my friendships. During my formative years, I developed a love for history and found it to be a very effective instructive tool. By studying history, one learns what others did before, and whether what they did made things better or worse. British statesman Winston Churchill once wrote, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." This adage remains true today.

My study of history included the American Civil War and, beginning in the 1990s, the concept of a story about the Civil War began to formulate. My ideas were influenced by the hundreds of letters and diaries I read that were written by people who

participated in or lived during the Civil War. They described what life was really like for everyday people. Over time, I found myself reading more about people from the South and specifically Virginia. But, I still needed some type of catalyst to unlock how I was going to write my story.

Cold Mountain Influence

In 2010, Kathleen Moberg of De Anza College loaned me her copy of *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. The book takes place during the Civil War, but its focus is human interests. I was captivated with descriptive writing style used by Frazier. After reading *Cold Mountain*, I wrote a 20-paragraph scene where an aging ex-Confederate soldier who participated in Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg returns there in search of the body of his boyhood friend who died in that charge.



Writing the Novel

Because I was still working for FHDA, some time passed before I started writing. First, I re-read that 20-paragraph short story to stimulate my thoughts. I then sketched out the storyline and chapters and began to write. I had my wife and a very good friend review my first draft. They thought it was a nice story but said it read like a textbook. I realized I didn't know how to write a story that would keep the reader engaged. I found a book entitled *From Where You Dream*, by Robert Olden Butler and Janet Burroway. I took over 250 handwritten notes, then created the second draft focusing on character development, storyline, and converting descriptive narrative into dialogue.

Editing the Novel/ Searching for a Publisher

I then worked with a professional editor and my third draft was completed in August, 2016. With the assistance of a faculty member from Mission College, I created a "Query Letter" whose purpose is to entice agents and publishers to show interest in my novel. Over

a 6-month period, I submitted my book to over 75 different publishing organizations. The only responses I received were from what are called "Vanity Publishers," companies who claim they love your work as an inducement to sign an agreement to purchase thousands of dollars in publishing services with no guarantees of selling a single book.

I decided to self-publish with the then publishing function of Amazon.com which helped me design a cover, performed interior page formatting, and created both a hardcopy and e-Book version. In June 2017, my book went on sale, and, in October 2017, it was accepted by the Library of Congress into its Master Catalog. *Windows to the Past: A Virginian's Experience in the Civil War* is available on Amazon in both Kindle/ebook and paperback versions: [Amazon.com : windows to the past%3A a virginian%27s experience in the civil war](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B075L3L3L3). I am currently seeking a publisher for my second novel, *Lost Cause-Justice Found*, a sequel to my first novel.

Writing, whether poems or stories, provides me the opportunity to become a mental traveler to places I have never been to and may never get to and for encounters with people and personalities that I find intriguing. I hope my story helps to inspire others to write—it's a wonderful and stimulating experience!



In Memoriam

*Gloria Finston
Malcolm Gutter
Gloria Mitchell
Denise Swett*



Gloria Jo Finston passed away September 6. She was 83. Born in Chicago, Gloria earned a BA in Teaching from Earlham College followed by a Master's Degree in teaching learning disabled students from Santa Clara University. A Palo Alto resident since 1966, she worked at Van Auken Elementary School in Palo Alto and then at De Anza College as a learning disability specialist. She enjoyed hiking at Foothills Park and in the Bay Area foothills, gardening, aerobics, swimming, attending TheaterWorks Productions at the Lucy Stern Community Center, tandem biking with her husband Roland, and tea with friends. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Palo Alto Community Fund.



Malcolm Gutter passed away October 2 in San Francisco due to complications resulting from a stroke three weeks earlier. He was 88. As a young UC Berkeley graduate, Malcolm was one of the expanded faculty that opened the new Los Altos Hills campus in 1958. Malcolm taught Economics at Foothill College for thirty-eight years before retiring in 1997. Although business education was his chosen profession, his interests varied widely. Born and educated in New York City, music was an important part of growing up, especially having a brother with an established career as a musicologist and symphony conductor. Early on, Malcolm developed a passion for antiques. He haunted auctions and estate sales, avidly studying catalogs and spending summers in Europe visiting museums and collections. These quests led to an appraiser's license and for many years teaching Art & Antiques Appreciation classes through UC Extension. Porcelain, particularly 17th-18th century Meissen, became his focus and he began avidly collecting. Over the years he built what is recognized internationally as one of the most important collections of early Meissen. In 2018 The Palace of the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco mounted an exhibition and published a catalogue raisonne, *A Princely Pursuit: the Malcolm D. Gutter Collection of Early Meissen Porcelain*, with color plates of the entire collection, along with his recollection of his adventure in acquiring each piece. Malcolm left all of them to the Museum, where they will be shown in the newly renovated Porcelain Gallery. He is survived by Timothy Thornburn, his partner for over thirty years, and three nieces.

If you know of an FHDA retiree who passed away but is not listed on FODARA's In Memoriam webpage (<http://www.deanza.edu/fodara/memoriam.html>), please email Cindy Castillo (cindycastillo@comcast.net). Tributes submitted to Cindy by family, friends, or former colleagues will be published in After-Words, and, if available online, short tributes for others who passed will also be included.

RESOURCES FOR RETIREES

Have a technology question? Call the National Senior Planet Technology Hotline: 888.713.3495, 9am-5pm EDT, Monday-Friday

Technology tips/videos, e.g., how to use ZOOM, are also available online: <https://seniorplanet.org/>

If you have a resource to recommend to FODARA members, please email details to *After-Words* Editor, Linda Lane (lanelinda@fhda.edu).



Got Books?

No recommendations were submitted.

Dear Retirees,

This issue of *After-Words* does not include several of the newsletter's regular features: Favorite Things, Retiree Update/Where Are They Now, Retiree Resources, or Got Books?. Though a primary purpose of this newsletter is to provide information and updates on retirement systems (CalSTRS, CalPERS) and FHDA District policies and benefits, it also aspires to create a sense of community by keeping retirees connected and in touch with each other.

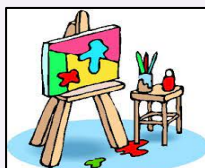
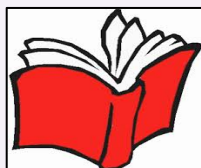
To the over 900 members of FODARA who receive this newsletter, please consider contributing your "news" to the upcoming issues of *After-Words* (January, March, May 2022, and beyond):

- retiree update: an article or Q&A on what you are doing these days;
- details on volunteer work or other projects;
- favorites—places to go/things to do;
- book reviews;
- resources/tips for retirees;
- creative endeavors (poem, artwork, photographs);
- idea for new columns, such as "Advice Forum," in which questions from retirees could be posted and answered by others.

To submit any of the above items, email me (LaneLinda@fhda.edu). Thank you!

—Linda Lane

FODARA *After-Words* Editor





FODARA HOLIDAY PARTY



What: A delicious lunch!
 When: Thursday, December 9, 11:30 am–1:30 pm
 Where: De Anza Hinson Campus Center, Conference Rooms A&B

Please Note: to attend this event, you will be asked to show proof of vaccination for Covid-19 at the door; if you need a new staff parking decal, see p. 9

RESERVATION FORM

Please mail by or before **November 24**

Retiree Name _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Address/Phone/Email (**only if new**): _____

Indicate number of menu choices:

Retiree: Prime Rib _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

Guest(s): Prime Rib _____ Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

Please reserve _____ total places for the HOLIDAY PARTY

\$ 25.00 for each person attending \$ _____

\$10.00 for 2021-22 FODARA dues (voluntary) \$ _____

Donation for FODARA scholarship fund (voluntary) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Make check payable to "FODARA" and mail to Bill Lewis: 1380 Elwood Dr.,
 Los Gatos, CA 95032; any questions, contact bill at billlosgatos@gmail.com
 408.639.9919.