

AFTER-WORDS

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



VOLUME XLX, ISSUE 8

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

September 2025

SUMMER PICNIC IS AN ANNUAL SUCCESS!



On Thursday, June 12, thirty-six FODARA members and guests gathered at Cuesta Park in Mountain View for our annual summer picnic. The weather was perfect, and the food and drinks were plentiful.

Golden Harvest Catering provided a delicious Asian buffet featuring egg rolls, lemon tofu, pot stickers, fried rice, fresh fruit, salad, sweet-and-sour meatballs, teriyaki baked chicken, and almond and fortune cookies for dessert.

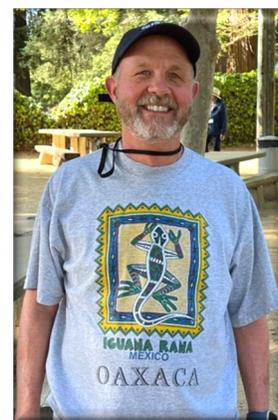
This year's event had a

"T-shirt" theme, encouraging everyone to wear one of their favorite shirts. Some guests wore vintage De Anza shirts from past years, while others showcased shirts from events they attended, places they traveled, or shirts with personal meaning.



Highlights included Vice President Bill Lewis in a vintage De Anza Day shirt; Cindy Castillo and Roland Savellano in De Anza's 25th Anniversary shirts (1967–1992); President Mike Paccioretti in his 30th Anniversary shirt (1967–1997); and Treasurer Barbara Illowsky in a stylish De Anza shirt.

Dolores Chasuk proudly sported her Indianapolis Speedway shirt from the Indy 500, while Linda Conroy's "It's a Bobby Thing, You Wouldn't Understand" shirt



sparked curiosity until she revealed a photo of herself with her teen idol Bobby Rydell, whom she met on her 60th birthday.

As always, it took a team effort to make this event a success. Special thanks to:

Bev Buranek – park reservation,
Bill Lewis – registration, collecting fees, picking up ice from De Anza, and bringing sodas -
Cindy Castillo – picnic reminders and photography
Maureen Gates – signs, labels, setup, and cleanup
Linda Conroy – catering arrangements, tablecloths, paper goods, sodas, and fortune cookies
Barbara Illowsky, Mike & Gail Paccioretti – water, wine, setup, and cleanup
La Donna Yumori Kaku – cookies and cleanup
Melodie Cheney – setup and cleanup
Marty Kahn – photography

Thank you to everyone who helped make this picnic such an enjoyable and memorable event!

Linda Conroy



Notes from the Joint Labor-Management Benefits Committee

Meetings between the labor groups and the District for JLMBC started in earnest at the start of summer quarter after CalPers announced their 2026 health insurance rates. The District and the labor groups utilized interest based bargaining strategies and were able to reach “TA’s-temporary agreements” relatively quickly. Bottom line, health benefits rates will increase across the board. However, the percentages depend on the “luxuriousness” of the plan. Please refer to the vital information being sent out by the District’s health benefits unit and be mindful of deadlines. Deep gratitude is extended to the leaders of the labor units and to the District Human Resources Department especially the Benefits unit for their hard work and efforts.

District Benefits Office
MyBenefits@fhda.edu

FHDA will be hosting an Open Enrollment Benefits Fair

- Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025
- Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Location: Foothill College Student Center



Healthcare vendors will be present to answer questions, and raffle prizes will also be offered at the event.

- The open enrollment period will run from September 15, 2025 to October 10, 2025, for coverage effective January 1, 2026.
- This is a passive enrollment, meaning no action is needed if retirees wish to keep their current elections.
- Please note that retiree elections are processed directly through CalPERS; FHDA does not have access to retirees’ health accounts.

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

Foothill's Foucault Pendulum



In this photo from 1962, Cal Flint (left) and Bob Smithwick have a talk near the pendulum.

When Foothill College opened its Los Altos campus to students in 1961, it was acclaimed for its architecture, its brilliant campus layout and a focus on being the best.

In the section of campus once called the Science Quad could be found a large concrete pit with a wooden structure that held a giant brass pendulum on a cable. The pendulum would swing and, as the earth rotated, would change the position of its swing. It was called a Foucault (pronounced “foo-co”) Pendulum.

Named after French physicist Jean Bernard Léon Foucault, the pendulum was introduced in 1851 and was the first experiment to give simple, direct evidence of the Earth's rotation. Foucault followed up in 1852 with a gyroscope experiment to further demonstrate the Earth's rotation. In 1851 Foucault made his most famous pendulum when he suspended a 28-kilogram (62 lb) brass-coated lead bob with a 67-metre long (220 ft) wire from the

dome of the Panthéon, Paris.

The pendulum at Foothill was, at the time, the only outdoor Foucault pendulum in the world. Sady, it did not last long. The automatic swinging mechanism was damaged more than once in the first two years of operation. It was discovered that students were climbing down into the pit and riding giant brass bob. To avoid injury, it was removed in 1963. The brass bob had been damaged. Since the Academy of Sciences had been called upon to manufacture the original one at Foothill, it was sent back there for repair.

The wooden tower structure and the pit remained. Eventually, the tower deteriorated and was removed, but the empty pit stayed in place for many years until the area was eventually remodeled and became the Veterans Plaza.

The pendulum did live on for many years in another building. In 1971 it was removed from storage and reinstalled on the lower floor of Krause Center, which was then known as the Electronics Museum. It remained there until the closure of the Electronics Museum.

If you'd like a pendulum of your own, you can still place an order today:

<https://academypendulums.com>



In this photo from 1965, Foothill's Planetarium Director Paul E. Trejo looks up from the site of the pendulum, which had to be removed after it was damaged.

FODARA & the San Jose Giants - A Winning Combination!



On August 22, 2025, 31 FODARA members and guests gathered for a baseball game with the San Jose Giants hosting the Fresno Grizzlies at Excite Ballpark in San Jose.

Because this was our first weeknight event, we weren't sure how many would attend—even with the added draw of a postgame fireworks show. Most of us arrived early to enjoy a meal together and socialize before heading to our seats for the national anthem and the 7:00 PM first pitch.

The Giants took an early 2-0 lead in the second inning and added one run each in the fifth and sixth, sealing a 4-0 shutout victory in the first game of the series. After the game, fans participated in a tennis ball toss to the pitcher's mound, followed by a spectacular 45-minute fireworks display.



Parking was easy, seating was plentiful, and the weather was perfect. Our group included two first-time FODARA participants and seven invited guests. Thank you to everyone who joined us for a fun and memorable evening!

Bill Lewis



FODARA Author's Corner

One of our FODARA members, Joe Lampo, has recently had his second book of short stories published. He has been a member of FODARA since retiring and most recently came to our picnic. I had a chance to ask him a few questions about his writing since his career at FHDA was in ETS, seemingly unrelated!



When did you start writing short stories?

I had been writing on and off for a number of years after college, but I became more serious about short story writing after I retired in 2014.

Do you think a good writer must be a good reader?

I think reading exposes a writer to new thoughts and ideas as well as different styles and writing techniques. I don't know if a good writer must be a good reader, but I think reading is beneficial whether you choose to write or not.

What was your college major?

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in German Language and Literature from the University of Illinois and an Associate of Science degree in Data Processing from West Valley College.

Did you take creative writing as a college course?

I did not take a creative writing class in college, but I wrote a lot of papers related to the literature I studied as a part of my undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois.

How do your story ideas come to you?

Most of my story ideas are based on personal experiences or random observations I have in my everyday life. I spend a lot of time at coffee shops reflecting on life and its strangeness.

How do you think writing is similar to your professional skills as a computer programmer and manager?

Both programming and writing require a creative imagination. They are similar in that both are largely iterative processes, requiring a degree of persistence and perseverance until a goal is reached.

What are the steps you take when writing a short story?

I start out with a topic or event I want to explore. Then I consider the background environment for the story, the character or characters involved, and the events to take place. Then I start telling a story and try to put all the pieces together and hope it makes sense and is interesting.

How would you describe your style?

I make use of the narrative style, suitable for storytelling. I try to add imagery and dialogue along the way.

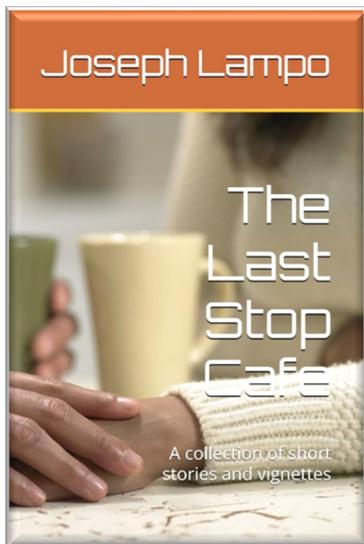
Do you have favorite authors or books you like to read?

I find reading crime mystery novels enjoyable. My favorite authors are John Sandford and John D. MacDonald. I also like Elizabeth Strout and Ann Tyler and have recently added F. Scott Fitzgerald and Joseph Conrad.

Is this the first book you've published?

This is the second book I've published. My first book was published in 2022.

Is it difficult to share your writing now with others?

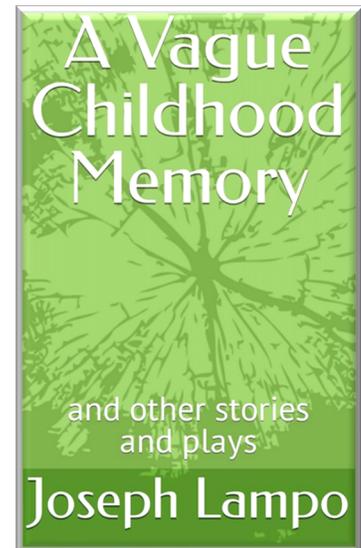


It can be difficult to share my writing with anyone who is offended by the actions or point of view of a story's character. I sometimes have to emphasize that I am writing fiction, and that the actions or point of view of a story's character are not necessarily my own.

What is your next project?

I'm looking into developing a screen play.

Thanks for your insights, Joe. If you have questions, he can be reached at lampojoel@fhda.edu. And, if you are interested in his books, they can be found at your friendly bookseller, Amazon!



Cindy Castillo



Congratulations to the Following Recent FHDA Retirees:

- Rob Mieso, Student Services, De Anza
- Maryalice Bonilla, English, De Anza
- Manish Goel, Computer Science, De Anza
- Rick Andrews, Operations, Central Services
- Lisa Kirk, College Fiscal Services, De Anza
- Shawna Santiago, Instruction and Institutional Research, Foothill
- Vickie Annen, Biology, De Anza
- Judy Yamamoto, Dental Hygiene, Foothill
- Maria Serrano, College Operations, De Anza
- Carmen Lizardi-Folley, De Anza, International Studies
- Manish Goel, De Anza, Computer Info Systems
- Brandon Bailey, De Anza, Communications and External Relations



Elizabeth Zoltan

Elizabeth “Liz” Zoltan, a university administrator and teacher who co-hosted University of Maryland events for business leaders and benefactors died June 19 of head trauma following an accidental fall. She lived in Naples, Florida and was 67.

Born in Camden, New Jersey, she lived with her parents after they lived in displaced persons camps in Poland and Germany after WWII. She earned three degrees in engineering psychology at the Johns Hopkins University. Her doctorate was in computer interface design. She taught courses in statistics, research methods, industrial psychology, and ergonomics.

She met her future husband, Robert L. Caret at Towson University where both started their careers as faculty. She became their assistant dean of liberal arts and associate dean of liberal arts and undergraduate studies. She worked to develop the Honors College at the school. “She was a problem solver and had a genuine concern for others,” said a friend. They left Towson to move to San Jose, CA where she became a faculty member in engineering.

Later she became dean of business social sciences at Foothill College in Los Altos. They returned to Towson in 2003 when her husband was named president and she became vice president of academic affairs at Frederick Community College. She met many famous people but Bruce Springsteen was one of the highlights of her life according to her husband.



Janet Rindfleisch

Janet Rindfleisch passed away on March 8, 2025, after a courageous, years-long battle with cancer.

Born in Chicago, she grew up in Illinois and earned her B.S. in Physics from Purdue University. After marrying, she and her husband moved to Altadena, CA, where she raised her family and worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory during the early years of the U.S. space program.

In 1971, she relocated to the Bay Area and began taking art classes at Foothill-De Anza. Her background in physics informed the analytical approach she brought to drawing, painting, and sculpture, often exploring themes of human connection. She later earned her MFA from San José State University.

From 1978 to 1985, Janet taught art and art history at De Anza College. In 1979, she became Executive Director of the Euphrat Museum of Art, a position she held until 2011. During her tenure, she helped establish the Cupertino Arts Commission and went on to serve on the Santa Clara County Arts Council, the California Arts Council Visual Arts Panel, the Arts Council Silicon Valley Local Arts Grants Review Panel, and participated in the Getty Museum Management Institute at UC Berkeley. Even after retirement, she remained an active member of the artistic community.

A memorial exhibition, *Re-deconstruction: Jan Rindfleisch and the Building Together Collaborations*, was on view at Works/San José from June 6–28. A retrospective of her time at De Anza is also available through the Euphrat Museum of Art archives: <https://distarch.fhda.edu/s/primary/page/euphrat-museum-of-art-archive>.

FODARA PIZZA "THING"



What: Pizza, Pizza, Pizza!

Cost: \$22 for pizza, salad, soft drinks (wine/beer extra)

When: **Thursday, October 30**, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Where: Tony and Alba's Pizza & Pasta 3137 Stevens Creek Blvd, S.J.

RESERVATION FORM: **Please mail by October 17 at the latest**

Your Name _____

Your Phone # _____

Guests _____

Please reserve total places for the Pizza Thing _____

Indicate dollar amounts below:

_____ \$22 per person for Pizza Thing

_____ \$10 FODARA membership dues (voluntary)

_____ FODARA Scholarship Fund (voluntary)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Make check payable to "FODARA"

Mail check and reservation form to:

Bill Lewis, FODARA, 1380 Elwood Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032.

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



FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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Social Events	<i>Linda Conroy</i> (lsiqcon@aol.com), <i>La Donna Yumori-Kaku</i> (yumorikakyladonna@fhda.edu)

FODARA CALENDAR 2025

Soccer Game & Tailgate	Sunday, Sept 21, 3pm	PayPal Stadium
Pizza Thing	Thursday, Oct 30, 3pm	Tony and Alba's
Board Meeting	Tuesday, Nov 4, 1pm	Treasurer's